

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Groups reveal recommendations from climate survey

Recommendations related to results from the 2015 myGVSU Climate Survey were discussed at an open forum March 30 in the Kirkhof Center.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said faculty, staff and student action teams submitted recommendations in early March after delving through survey results.

Recommendation reports for each action team are posted online at www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu. Several recommendations for each group are listed below.

- Students: Upgrade Banner to accommodate name preferences; secure funding for additional victim advocate; ensure all syllabi include and reflect university diversity and inclusion policy; revise admissions application to collect information about sexual orientation and gender identity.

- Faculty: Hire faculty/staff ombuds; expand

and standardize family leave policies; review full-time faculty salaries to ensure equity.

- Staff: Create strategic plans for each department to address climate; audit annual salary adjustments to determine disparities; implement consistent family leave policy; enhance exit interview to include climate questions.

Bernal reiterated climate survey results, stating most respondents (87 percent) reported feeling comfortable with the campus climate. Disparities in the report came from segmented groups: transgender, LGBTQA, people of color, people with disabilities, religious minorities and women.

"It's those disparities among populations that do not feel as comfortable on campus that drive us to seek a deeper understanding of their experiences," he said.



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, discusses climate survey recommendations.

Across Campus

Provost Davis earns Lifetime Achievement Award

Provost Gayle R. Davis received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Grand Valley's Women's Commission at the annual Celebrating Women Awards ceremony March 30.

In her remarks, Davis said she was honored by the recognition, particularly because it came from an organization that promotes the same ideals as she does.

Davis called Grand Valley "the school of my heart" and said she is grateful to be able to fully implement her feminist leadership style, working collaboratively with faculty and staff members. Davis joined Grand Valley in 2002, after serving as associate vice president for Academic Affairs and Research at Wichita State University.

Davis said she and President Thomas J. Haas have worked well together, leading efforts to create an inclusive campus. "We share the same values to flatten the hierarchy that has, at times, been in place so that equality can thrive," she said.

The commission presented its Maxine Swanson Award to Jennifer Palm, assistant to The Graduate School; Unsung Hero Award to Autumn Gorsline-Davis, academic department



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Provost Gayle R. Davis gives remarks at the Celebrating Women Awards ceremony March 30.

coordinator for Modern Languages and Literatures; and the Community Impact Award to Allison Ford, head coach of Grand Valley's synchronized skating team.

Susan Sloop, Work Life consultant, was recognized for her dedication to promoting emotional and physical health on campus. Sloop will retire in May.

Positive Black Women awarded scholarships to Kari Bonner, Courtney Holland and Chaka White.

The Women's Center honored its Outstanding Student Award recipients: Kourtney Ondayko,

Jaquelyn Harmon, Chelsea Ortiz and Noemi Jimenez.

The Women, Gender, and Sexuality department awarded its Jean Enright Scholarship to De'Chelle Richards.

Grand Valley announces Design Thinking Academy

A newly established program at Grand Valley will help students become innovative thinkers and problem solvers who are able to make lasting impacts in the world by utilizing the design thinking process.

John Berry, director of Grand Valley's Design Thinking Initiative, said the Design Thinking Academy for undergraduate students is unique in the U.S.

"The academy will create a framework for focused study and application of design thinking that integrates student learning through high-impact activities that contribute to social, civic and business innovation."

Fifteen students, who will be referred to as Design Thinking Academy Fellows, will be initially accepted into the program during its inaugural year beginning in fall 2017.

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Students interested in applying for the academy can do so by visiting gvsu.edu/designthinking/dta. The deadline for applications is May 5 and the Design Thinking Academy is open to all Grand Valley undergraduate students, regardless of major.

When new academy fellows join the program, they will first participate in a Design Thinking Deep Dive session. These intensive problem-solving sessions will introduce students to the design thinking process.

Each academy fellow will then be assigned to a small team of approximately five students from different majors. These teams will each work on solving a need within the university, or a community-based problem from a list of more than 25 academy partners.

"Employers are looking for well-rounded students who have applicable experiences beyond their specific majors, such as collaboration, empathy, rapid prototyping and adjusting to new information," Berry said. "The Design Thinking Academy will provide those applied experiences using design thinking to address issues and often discover new issues that hadn't been recognized before, leading to real innovation."

The academy will additionally host topical sessions surrounding the different facets of design thinking and one speaker each semester from an organization that uses design thinking. Students will also participate in educational trips to local institutions that utilize the design thinking process, such as the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Newell Brands, Steelcase, Herman Miller and the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation.

"Design thinking training cultivates a host of skills, including empathy, collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving," said Sara Armbruster, vice president of strategy, research and new business innovation at Steelcase. "These capabilities are in high demand at Steelcase and many other firms, so we're pleased to see that Grand Valley is developing opportunities for students to gain such experiences."

Students who complete the academy programming will earn a Design Thinking Academy certificate.

For more information about the Design Thinking Academy, contact John Berry at berryjr@gvsu.edu.



John Berry

Campus community mourns death of faculty member

The Grand Valley community is mourning the death of Steven Hecht, associate professor of biomedical sciences, who died April 5.

Hecht collapsed while walking near the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus. He was 60.

Hecht joined Grand Valley in August 1999 as assistant professor in the Biomedical Sciences Department; in 2004, he was promoted to associate professor. He earned a bachelor's degree from Emporia State University and a doctorate from Tufts University School of Medicine.

"Steve was a gifted scholar and wonderful colleague," said Fred Antczak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "He was dedicated to his students, advising many who aspired to study nursing or the health professions. He did great service to his colleagues across the college, including several terms on the Personnel Committee. He will be deeply missed."

Support services are available through the University Counseling Center for students. Visit www.gvsu.edu/counsel or call x13266. For faculty and staff members, support services are available through Encompass.



Steven Hecht

Sustainability champions recognized

Sustainability leaders in West Michigan were recognized March 31 at the ninth annual Sustainability Champion Awards.

Nearly 40 awards were given to students, faculty, and staff members who practice sustainability and use a triple-bottom line approach (social, environment, economic) to solving problems and issues.

Grand Rapids City Manager and Grand Valley alumnus Greg Sundstrom congratulated award recipients and discussed the university's important relationship with the City of Grand Rapids.

"We hire Grand Valley students to complete internships on sustainability-related research and projects, and many times employ them

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Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web at www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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

GVFaces

Nykia D. Gaines, Director TRIO Student Support Services STEM

Nykia Gaines brings her experiences in academic advising and student services to her new position as director of one of Grand Valley's TRIO programs.

The TRIO Student Support Services STEM-Health Sciences program was established with a new grant in 2015 to support qualified students who are interested in pursuing careers in health professions, science, technology, engineering or mathematics. TRIO is a federally funded program that provides services to students who are first-generation in college or have limited incomes.

The TRIO STEM program is the only one of its kind in Michigan, and one of three TRIO programs on campus for Grand Valley students.

Gaines said the services and resources offered help students remove barriers to their success. The program offers tutoring services, workshops on financial literacy and counseling sessions, in addition to offering trips to college campuses or cultural sites. In March, students from the three TRIO programs visited Washington, D.C., to tour sites including

the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Before moving to the TRIO office in August, Gaines had worked in CLAS advising and for housing and residence life. She earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in education from Grand Valley, and a doctorate in higher education administration from Bowling Green State University.

Much of her time is spent recruiting students for the program and sharing information with faculty and staff members.

"The majority of our students are first-generation and have very limited information about the rich resources they have access to here on campus," she said. "Our role is simple: support them academically and socially and encourage them. Whatever social-cultural background they come from, they are just as successful as their peers."



Nykia Gaines



What's Ahead

Baby shower expo provides information about benefits

Information and resources for new or expecting working parents will be available at the first "GVSU Baby Shower," hosted by Health and Wellness.

The expo-style event is set for Tuesday, April 11, from noon-2 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2263.

Representatives from Grand Valley's benefits office will be available with information on maternity leave.

Vendors are Priority Health, Moms Bloom, Encompass and Grand Valley's Child Enrichment Center. Representatives will offer information on care management, health coaches, lactation services, child care resources and referrals.

Participants can stay for the entire event, or a short time; prizes and gifts will be offered. RSVP for the event online at www.gvsu.edu/sprout.

Laker Remembrance to be held April 12

Members of the Grand Valley community who died during the past year will be remembered during a series of events April 12 on the Allendale Campus.

Laker Remembrance is meant to honor all students, alumni, faculty and staff members who have died. Events are free and open to all campus community members, including alumni.

The day will begin with a service event at the Sustainable Agriculture Project, from 2-5 p.m. A shuttle will be available at the Kirkhof Center. It is an open service event; participants do not have to stay the entire time. Register at <https://orgsync.com/67353/forms/253816>.

A memorial service will take place at 6 p.m. next to Zumberge Pond, where campus community members will read poems and light a tea candle for every Laker who died during the past year. A silent march will take place after the service, followed by a reception at 6:45 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. The Cook Carillon Tower will chime once in memoriam for each person.

The first Laker Remembrance took place in 2013. The annual event is organized by the Laker Traditions Team.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/remember for more information.

Undergraduate researchers highlight annual event

Hundreds of students will present their research findings during the 21st annual Student Scholars Day on Wednesday, April 12.

Oral presentations and panel presentations will run from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center; poster presentations will be in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, and Henry Hall atrium; art exhibitions and a film screening will be in the Mary Idema Pew Library. An online schedule builder, at www.gvsu.edu/ours/ssd, allows attendees to search presentations by time, presenter and other filters.

Susan Mendoza, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, said 600 students and faculty mentors participated this year, representing more than 70 disciplines.

The keynote address will be delivered by Liliana M. Dávalos, associate professor of

conservation biology at Stony Brook University in New York. Dávalos will speak at 7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. Her research focuses on the evolution of species and trait diversity, and on how to conserve ecosystems.

Dávalos is a 2013 Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow for outstanding early career, a 2012 National Academies of Sciences Education Fellow in the Life Sciences, and has advised the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime on statistical analyses of deforestation since 2007.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

The 21st annual Student Scholars Day is April 12.

Luncheon speakers for SSD participants and their mentors will be Grand Valley alumni Delia Fernandez and Nico Fernandez. They will talk about the transition to graduate school. Students who will attend graduate or professional school are invited to this new event, co-sponsored by The Graduate School.

Delia earned a bachelor's degree in history from Grand Valley in 2010, a master's degree and doctorate in history from Ohio State University. Nico earned a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences from Grand Valley in 2014 and is pursuing a master's degree at Michigan State University.

Civic action plan to be discussed at showcase

More than 55 teams, representing collaborations of students, faculty and staff members, and community members, will present their experiences and share stories at the Civic Engagement Showcase on April 13.

The showcase will run from 3-5 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium and Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall.

Ruth Stegeman, assistant dean and director for Community Engagement, said the poster and multi-media presentations will represent partnerships created by campus and community members that promote student civic engagement.

Presentations will include College of Education staff members, who will highlight a project with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and WGVU Public Media to develop videos that show best practices in teaching the MDEQ's curriculum materials in schools. An anthropology department team will detail its partnership with Bethany Refugee and Immigrant Services on several projects to assist refugees as they settle in West Michigan.

Also at the showcase, around 4:15 p.m. President Thomas J. Haas and Provost Gayle R. Davis will unveil the university's new Civic Action Plan. The plan will drive Grand Valley's future work around sustainable partnerships, student civic engagement, place-based contributions, and challenges to social and economic inequalities.

"The plan is a result of more than 75 campus and community members working in teams and create outcomes and action steps to help Grand Valley achieve the public purposes of our university," Stegeman said.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/community to learn more about the civic action plan and the showcase.

Concert to feature competition winners

An upcoming concert will feature two students who won the opportunity to present their finest solo work alongside the Grand Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Elizabeth Boyce, a senior violist majoring in music, and Lindsay Myers, a senior saxophonist majoring in music education, will perform during the orchestra's annual Orchestra in the Atrium concert on April 15. The performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium of the Mary Idema Pew Library.

The annual Concerto Competition provides students the opportunity to perform for a panel of judges from other Michigan universities in either the category of Orchestra or Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Twenty-seven students competed in this year's competition, which took place in January.

Boyce and Myers won the Orchestra category of the competition, while Niko Schroeder and Julia Bovee won the Symphonic Wind Ensemble category with a euphonium duet.

The Orchestra in the Atrium concert will begin with Otto Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor Overture" and conclude with Richard Strauss' "Death and Transfiguration."

For more information, call x13484 or email musdept@gvsu.edu.

Registration open for Will Power Shakespeare Camp

Registration is now open for Grand Valley's annual Will Power! summer education program for children.

The camp, in conjunction with the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, focuses on developing creativity and expanding campers' imaginations through the process of drama. Using the works of Shakespeare, campers will use the Bard's plays to explore improvisation, ensemble work, characterization, and language and movement.

This year's activities, including games, singing, dancing and stage combat, will center around "The Tempest," Shakespeare's final piece filled with magic, mayhem and redemption. The camp will take place June 26-30 with morning sessions from 9 a.m.-noon for campers entering grades 1-3, and afternoon sessions from 1-4 p.m. for campers entering grades 4-6. The camp concludes with a showcase for family and friends. Sessions will be held in Niemeyer Honors College.

Karen Libman, professor of theater and Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival director of community engagement, said the program uses a process-centered approach to teaching theater to young people.

To register online, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/Oqw>. Registration fees are \$110 per camper, or \$95 for two campers. Price includes class fees and materials. Scholarship opportunities are also available by emailing maybekat@gvsu.edu.

For more information, contact Karen Libman at libmank@gvsu.edu, or visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

Sketches

Jeanine Beasley, professor of occupational therapy, was named an honored professor at the annual symposium of Surgery and Rehabilitation of the Hand in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She gave three presentations: "Orthotic Intervention for the Thumb Carpometacarpal Joint," "Postoperative Management of the Metacarpophalangeal Joint Implant Resection Arthroplasty," and "Remedies and Arthritis: In Search of the Evidence."

Danielle Lake, assistant professor of liberal studies, earned the Douglas Greenlee Prize for her paper, "Dialogue, Integration, and Action," at the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. The prize is awarded annually for the best paper presented at the annual meeting by either a graduate student or a person holding a doctorate for no more than five years.

Jason Crouthamel, professor of history, gave an invited guest lecture, "Gender and the First World War," at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Amy Ferdinandt Stolley, associate professor of writing and director of First-Year Writing, wrote an article, "An Invitation to Listen: Catherine

McAuley, Conversion, and Religious Difference in 19th Century Ireland," published in *Peitho Journal*.

Laurence Jose, associate professor of writing, gave a presentation, "User-Centered Design and Normative Practices: The Brexit Vote as a Technical Communication Failure," at the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing 20th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Joyce Miller, client service coordinator for Conference and Event Planning, received the 2017 Michigan Business Professionals of America Honorary Lifetime Membership Award. This award is the highest honor Michigan BPA gives to an individual who has provided significant contributions to the organization.

Timothy E. Eernisse, director of development and marketing for WGUV Public Media, gave the keynote address, "What's Your Why?" at the American Legion Auxiliary Winter Conference in Washington, D.C.

Danielle DeMuth, associate professor and chair of women, gender, and sexuality studies, gave a workshop, "Growing WGS Enrollments," at the National Women's Studies Association Annual Chairs and Directors Meeting in Chicago and a presentation, "Coming Out and Looking Out in the Library," at the Michigan Library Association Annual Meeting in Flint.

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after they graduate," Sundstrom said. "Grand Valley has a passion for sustainability both in and out of the classroom and we are thankful for that."

Community members and organizations were also recognized as Sustainability Champions. Recipients included individuals from Cascade Engineering, Spectrum Health, Nichols, New City Neighbors and Seeds of Promise.

At the event, Krista Affholter was named the second award recipient of the Dave Feenstra Sustainable Agriculture Project Internship Scholarship. The fund was established in memory of Dave Feenstra who died in December 2015. Feenstra retired from Grand Valley in 2012. He returned in 2014 to serve as adjunct manager for the Sustainable Agriculture Project. Feenstra's wife and four daughters attended the ceremony.



Photo by Jess Weal

Krista Affholter, center, and Tim Thimmesch, far left, with the Feenstra family.

Tim Thimmesch, associate vice president for Facilities Services, presented Affholter with the award.

"Dave was in his element when he was helping students," Thimmesch said. "We continue to remember Dave's wisdom and thoughtfulness, and honor his legacy by supporting an intern at the Sustainable Agriculture Project."

Two local historians earn awards

The Kutsche Office of Local History presented two local historians with the Gordon Olson Award at a recent gathering.

Wallace "Wally" Ewing and Margaret (Peg) Finkelstein each received the award at the Local History Roundtable March 23. The Olson Lifetime Contribution of Local History Award recognizes individuals for using history to give voice to diverse communities. It is named for Olson, former Grand Rapids historian.



From left to right are Gordon Olson, Wallace Ewing, Margaret (Peg) Finkelstein, and Kimberly McKee.

Ewing has dedicated more than 20 years to researching and writing about the history of West Michigan, particularly the area between Holland and Muskegon and east to Coopersville and Grand Rapids. He has written 14 books and continues a bi-weekly column in the *Grand Haven Tribune*.

Finkelstein has conducted lifelong research on logging, and is the keeper of her family history, which can be traced to the New France settlement of Quebec. She is the director of the Peg & Mort Finkelstein Archives at Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids, with a goal to preserve the Jewish history within the Grand Rapids communities.

The Kutsche Office of Local History sponsors the Local History Roundtable annually for librarians, archivists, community members, educators and others who share a passion for local history. Learn more at www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

High school students learn value of theater

Grand Valley faculty and students recently spent March 31 teaching local high school students about the value of an arts education, and career opportunities in the field of theater during High School Theater Day.

The day-long event provided approximately 20 students, accompanied by their parents, opportunities to participate in various theater-based workshops spotlighting theater games, stage movements and the technical aspects of theater, including lighting board operation and stage projections.

Allison Metz, associate professor of theater and High School Theater Day Organizer, said the event shows students the value of a theater background once they enter the professional world.

"Employers want creative people who work well with others and who are able to consider multiple perspectives when solving difficult problems in a timely manner," she said. "People learn and hone those exact skills in all aspects of the theatrical arts."



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Roger Ellis, professor of theater, guiding students through theatrical movements.

During a time when there is a national push to enlist students in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math), Metz said events like High School Theater Day promote the value of an arts-based education as well.