

FORUM

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

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Former city mayor to join sustainability office

Former Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will join Grand Valley's sustainability team in February.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grand Valley is a leader in sustainability, and has been nationally recognized for its best practices and culture by the Princeton



Former Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, left, is pictured at a 2015 Sustainability Champions event with Norman Christopher, executive director of the Office of Sustainability. Heartwell will join the sustainability team next month.

Review, Sierra Club and Best Colleges. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/sustainability.

Across Campus

United Way campaign totals increase for 2015

The 2015 Grand Valley United Way campaign raised approximately \$173,000, an increase of more than \$6,000 from the 2014 campaign.

The campaign also saw more faculty and staff members return pledge forms and participate in giving. Overall, 76 percent of faculty and staff chose to return a United Way campaign form, a 4 percent increase from 2014.

While most of the campaign funds were directed to United Way organizations in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties, faculty and staff helped raise funds for the United Way in nearly two dozen counties.

"The response we got to the United Way campaign this year was better than we had hoped for. We know that the contributions provided by our faculty and staff will go a long way toward helping serve communities around West Michigan," said campaign co-chair Ruth Stegeman.

Donations to the Grand Valley United Way campaign will be distributed through the United Way to organizations that work to improve the lives of people in local communities, focusing specifically on education, income and health.

"We want to thank the university community for showing support for worthwhile United Way programs that make a difference," said campaign co-chair Damon Arnold. "Our communities will be better places because of your generosity."

Personnel changes announced in Provost's Office

Gayle R. Davis, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, announced personnel changes within the Office of the Provost.

Ed Aboufadel, professor of mathematics, and Suzanne Benet, professor of marketing, were named assistant vice presidents for Academic and Student Affairs. They will begin their new appointments in January.

Aboufadel will focus largely on faculty issues, including personnel policies and practices. Benet will be responsible for a variety of student success policies and practices.

"I am confident that Drs. Aboufadel and Benet will make great contributions to the initiatives of our division, each having been highly



Ed Aboufadel



Suzanne Benet

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successful, long-standing faculty members and unit heads in their respective colleges,” Davis said.

They replace Jon Jellema, who retired, and Nancy Giardina, who returned to her faculty role in January.

Mary Albrecht was promoted in the fall to an Administrative/Professional role, special associate to the provost. Jan Aussicker was hired in December to replace Albrecht as confidential PSS. Aussicker most recently held similar administrative roles at Florida State University.



Mary Albrecht

Money magazine ranks university as high-value

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

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

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

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

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

Campus mourns death of longtime professor

The Grand Valley community is mourning the death of Professor Emeritus William (Bill) Peterson, who died in his home December 24. He was 84.

Peterson was among the early faculty at Grand Valley, teaching economics for nearly 25 years and serving several years as department

head. His daughter, Virginia (Ginny) Peterson, is currently an associate professor and chair of the Geology Department at Grand Valley.

“Bill was a super colleague who enjoyed working with students and was always available to assist colleagues. He maintained high academic standards,” said John Reifel, professor emeritus of economics. “Bill was a computer whiz; he loved learning about new computer programs and was an early adopter of the latest computer technology.”

The family said those who wish to give gifts in his memory can consider a donation to the Chuck Peterson Memorial Film and Video Endowed Scholarship at Grand Valley or to hospice.

A celebration of Peterson’s life will be held Saturday, January 16, at 10 a.m. at Stegenga Funeral Chapel in Belmont, followed by an open house visitation. For more information, visit www.stegengafuneralchapel.com.

New Music Ensemble to perform in national parks

The New Music Ensemble will travel across the U.S. to perform at some of the country’s most famous parks thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. This grant marks the first time the university has received an NEA grant.

Through the “Imagine Your Parks” grant, Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director, said the group is commissioning eight composers to write original compositions inspired by Yellowstone, Badlands, Grand Teton and Wind Cave national parks. During the summer, the New Music Ensemble will perform the compositions in the parks through interactive and educational performances.



Members of New Music Ensemble are pictured. They will perform at national parks in the summer after receiving a NEA grant.

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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.

Visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVNNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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

Tutt named CLAS associate dean

Kevin Tutt, assistant department chair for music and dance, has been named associate dean for curriculum, pedagogy and academic opportunity for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Tutt is a professor of music and dance and conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Since August, Tutt has been serving CLAS as interim assistant dean of strategic planning, assessment, outreach and community engagement.

“As you might expect from a professor of music who is focused on conducting, Kevin is both very organized and very much inclined to bring out the best in everyone,” said Fred Antczak, CLAS dean.

“His energy, optimism and collaborative spirit will fit the demands of the job, and the needs of our students for a world class education in the liberal arts and sciences.”

Tutt will be responsible for administration of CLAS curriculums and development of educational policy, as well as promotion of

academic opportunities ranging from student research, internships, and service learning to accommodations of student learning needs. Tutt will also oversee student services within the college, including the CLAS Academic Advising Center and Student Success Collaborative.

“As a former public school teacher, students, curriculum and teaching are closest to my heart,” Tutt said. “This position allows me to engage with all three areas for the betterment of thousands of students and faculty.”

Prior to his time at Grand Valley, Tutt held teaching positions at Brandon University, Penn State University, Bucknell University and the Central Dauphin School District in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



Kevin Tutt



What's Ahead

Native exhibit moves to GRPL

The urban Native American exhibition sponsored by the Kutsche Office of Local History is now on display at the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St. NE.

“Walking Beyond Our Ancestors’ Footsteps: An Urban Native Experience” will be on display through January 24 on the fourth floor of the library, in the local history department. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Part of the Gi-gikinomaage-min (We are all teachers) Project, the exhibit is the first in a series exploring the experiences of Native Americans in Grand Rapids in the 20th and 21st centuries. It was displayed at the Mary Idema Pew Library in November.

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

Interfaith leader to discuss religious diversity

One of the world’s foremost interfaith leaders will visit West Michigan to discuss the relevance

of interfaith leadership in current societies. The event, presented by Eboo Patel, Interfaith Youth Core executive director, is being co-sponsored by Grand Valley’s Kaufman Interfaith Institute and Calvin College’s annual January Series.

“Interfaith Leadership: Engaging Religious and Philosophical Diversity in the 21st Century” will take place Monday, January 11, at 12:30 p.m., in the Covenant Fine Arts Center Auditorium at Calvin College.

“The U.S. is one of the most diverse, pluralistic countries in the world, and unfortunately, this diversity sometimes leads to great division and misunderstanding,” said Katie Gordon, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager. “The challenge for us is to try to positively engage this diversity in our communities, schools and workplaces. Eboo discusses how interfaith leadership can help teach those skills and values which embraces our religious and non-religious diversity while encouraging groups to come together for the common good.”

Following Patel’s afternoon presentation, a student workshop will be held from 5-7 p.m. The workshop, which will explore the challenges and opportunities of interfaith service on college campuses across the U.S., is open to students from all academic institutions in West Michigan.

Registration is required for the afternoon workshop. For more information and to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/interfaith or call x15702.

Science on Tap will feature Furton

The next event in the Science on Tap series, sponsored by Biomedical Sciences, will feature a discussion about Mars led by Doug Furton, professor of physics.

“What Have We Learned from Martian Robots?” is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, at 8 p.m. at the SpeakEZ Lounge, 600 Monroe Ave. NW in Grand Rapids.

Furton will discuss the soil and atmosphere of Mars, and what scientists have learned from planetary rovers.

Science on Tap is a series of casual discussions about science. For more information about the events, contact Cara Ocobock at ocobockc@gvsu.edu, or find the series on Facebook. Students under 21 are welcome.

National speakers highlight King Commemoration Week on campus

Two prominent speakers will highlight a week of campus events January 18-23 to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

On Wednesday, January 20, Patrisse Cullors will speak in the Kirkhof Center at 4:30 p.m. She is a Los Angeles-based social activist who, with two other people, started the movement #BlackLivesMatter in 2013, taking their inspiration from the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

Other events are detailed below, for more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk.

• January 18 events, Kirkhof Center:

Monday’s events begin with “Upcycling for Our Community” at 9:30 a.m. in the Kirkhof Center. Participants will create upcycled crafts that will be donated to local shelters; another session is planned for the afternoon.

At 10 a.m., students will perform testimonials from the 1992 Los Angeles riots following the Rodney King verdict.



The cast of ‘Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992’ will give two performances on January 18, as part of the university’s commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy.

“Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992” captures the identities of 36 famous, infamous and anonymous individuals linked to the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict. Michael Mueller, director and visiting professor of theater, said performing these excerpts during MLK Commemoration Week fulfills one of the primary goals of the show. Another performance is set for 2:30 p.m.

A free lunch will be served in the Grand River Room from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. This will precede the silent march to the Fieldhouse for Touré’s presentation.

Drop-In Readings are set from 2:30-4 p.m. Faculty and staff members will read from King’s works then facilitate discussion.

• January 20, Kirkhof Center:

Cullors will lead a community workshop at 3 p.m., then give a presentation at 4:30 p.m. Her presentation will be simulcast to an audience in the Eberhard Center.



Touré

• January 21:

Teach-In, “Power, Privilege and Difficult Dialogues,” sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. at different locations in the Kirkhof Center and the DeVos Center. Organizers said holding the Teach-In during commemoration week activities will deepen and advance social justice work that has been inspired by King.



Patrisse Cullors

• January 23:

MLK Day of Service and Solidarity, sponsored by the Community Service Learning Center, will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Volunteers will meet in the Kirkhof Center then travel to worksites; registration is required, visit www.gvsu.edu/service.

It will mark the fourth year that classes have been canceled on the King holiday, allowing more students, faculty and staff members to participate in events.

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

Campus sponsors for the week’s events are College of Education, Community Service Learning Center, Disability Support Resources, Division of Inclusion and Equity, Enrollment Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Office of the President, Office of Sustainability Practices, University Communications, and WGVU Public Media.

Follow the week’s events on social media using #GVSUMLK.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Brian Kingshott, professor of criminal justice, was interviewed by WOOD-TV for stories about President Obama’s national address on the San Bernardino terrorist attacks and terrorism.

Len O’Kelly, assistant professor of multimedia journalism, was a guest host on WOOD Radio’s “West Michigan’s Morning News.”

Eric Kunnen, associate director of eLearning and emerging technologies, and **Erica Hamilton**, assistant professor of education, were interviewed for a story, “Technology Showcase Explores ‘Serendipitous Learning Opportunities,’” published in *Campus Technology*.

Gamal Gasim, associate professor of Middle East Studies and political science, wrote an article, “Analysis: beyond the fragile peace in Aden,” published in *Al Jazeera*.

Joel Stillerman, professor of sociology, was interviewed by the *Rapidian* for a story about homelessness and gentrification in the Heartside district of Grand Rapids.

Sketches

Eric Kunnen, associate director of eLearning and emerging technologies, gave a preconference virtual seminar, “Working with Emerging Technologies to Promote Engaging Learning,” for the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference.

Michelle Miller-Adams, associate professor of political science, was the author of an e-book, *Promise Nation: Transforming Communities*

Through Place-Based Scholarships, published by W.E. Upjohn Institute, and was interviewed by WMUK-FM for a story about it. She also organized a plenary session, “The Impact of Promise Programs: What Do We Know?” at PromiseNet 2015.

Mary O’Kelly, associate librarian and head of instructional services, gave a presentation, “Correlation Between Library Instruction and Student Retention,” at the Southeastern Library Assessment Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English, gave a presentation, “New Vistas of Dialect and Identity in the Linguistic Landscape,” at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association and Society for Linguistic Anthropology.

Jackie Doyon-Martin, assistant professor of criminal justice, gave a presentation, “The Criminogenic Industry Structure of the Electronic Waste Industry,” at the American Society of Criminology conference in Washington, D.C.

John Walsh, assistant professor of criminal justice, gave a presentation, “An Examination of Sex Differences in Inmate Misconduct,” at the American Society of Criminology conference in Washington D.C.

Criminal justice faculty members **Tonisha Jones** and **Brian Kingshott** gave a presentation, “A Feminist Response to Human Trafficking,” at the American Society of Criminology conference in Washington, D.C.

Valerie Peterson, professor of communications, gave a presentation, “Embracing Opportunities Between the Philosophy of Communication and Media

Ecology,” at the 101st Annual Convention of the National Communication Association in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Chemistry faculty members **Felix Ngassa** and **Shannon Biros** were co-authors of an article published in *Acta Crystallographica Section E Crystallographic Communications*.

Rood earns award, named to board of directors

Scott Rood, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, was elected to the Resort & Commercial Recreation Association’s Board of Directors.

He also served as journal administrator for the *Journal of Tourism Insights* and co-chaired three symposiums at the RCRA’s Annual National Conference in Captiva Island, Florida.

At the conference, he received the Debbie Regnone Service Award.



Scott Rood

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“From tranquil works evoking the starry nights and majestic anthems celebrating the vistas, to compositions that utilize recorded sounds of park wildlife, this is a music program that will leave a lasting impact on audiences,” Ryan said. “They will experience music that is truly an outgrowth of our national parks.”

Fred Antczak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said this grant will provide students with invaluable new learning opportunities outside of Michigan.

“We think sharing dynamic new music with park attendees will give our students an exceptional opportunity to engage with communities they might not ordinarily encounter under uniquely inspiring circumstances,” Antczak said. “This grant demonstrates the university’s continued commitment to the arts. That commitment has paid off over the long term with increased enrollment and student success.”

Danny Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair, explained that the New Music Ensemble is at the forefront of a movement by composers to develop new ideas and music applications.

“The pairing of the New Music Ensemble with the beauty and sounds of our national parks is another way to explore the vast creativity that

is music performance,” Phipps said. “To have our students and faculty actively engaged in the information of new directions in music is an invaluable hands-on experience that will have an enormously positive impact on the professional lives of these students going forward.”

“Imagine Your Parks” is a grant initiative celebrating the NEA’s 50th anniversary and the centennial of the National Park Service. Both agencies are working together to encourage the creation of, and greater public engagement with, art relating to the work and mission of the national park system.

Team advances to Hult Prize regionals

A team of Grand Valley graduate students and alumni will compete in March for a chance to win \$1 million during the 7th annual Hult Prize Challenge regional competition.

The Hult Prize Challenge is the largest international social innovation competition for young entrepreneurs. Participants form small start-up companies to compete for \$1 million in funding while working to solve the planet’s toughest challenges. This year’s competition theme is “crowded urban spaces.”

During a quarterfinals competition in

December at Grand Valley, 10 teams competed for a chance to advance to one of the Hult Prize regional finals taking place in 2016.

The winning Grand Valley team is Kathryn Christopher, product design and manufacturing engineering graduate student; Joseph Kissling, mechanical engineering graduate student; Briana Taylor, nursing practice doctoral candidate, and Brittany Taylor, ’14.

They pitched “Platform for Progress,” a platform that would help provide mass communication and resource sharing, as well as education and training, to residents of overpopulated and underserved communities. Christopher said that the platform would utilize text messaging as a way for these populations to receive information about entrepreneurial workshops and training sessions. These sessions would focus on teaching people how to provide basic necessities to help their communities while also creating income.

Christopher and her team will travel to Massachusetts March 11-12 to compete in the Hult Prize regional competition.

Should the Grand Valley team win the regional competition, the group will present their final pitch at the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting and Hult Prize Global Finals and Awards Ceremony in New York City in September.