

SPRING 2012

GRAND VALLEY

MAGAZINE



Take 5 to find
your career path

Contents

GRAND VALLEY MAGAZINE VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4, SPRING 2012

Features

12

Building global relationships

Increasing numbers of Lakers serving in Peace Corps

15

Alumnus Max Bush: Crafting 40 years of success on stage and beyond

18

Take 5 to Ask 5

Which way to go? New program designed to help pick career path

20

Catching on to chemistry

Transforming the classroom

22

Johnson Center for Philanthropy gains attention, exposure

Departments

4 Letters & Books

5 Campus News

9 Athletics

10 Donor Impact

25 Focal Point

26 Research

27 Sustainability

28 Q&A | Ralph Hauenstein

30 Arts

31 Alumni News

38 Off the Path



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Connect with students, faculty, staff and alumni
through Grand Valley's official social media channels.

On the cover:

Illustration by Corey Miller

Corey Miller, a freelance artist, graduated from Grand
Valley with a bachelor's of fine art degree in 2009.

On these pages:

photo by Elizabeth Lienau

The Electric Car Club is trying to convert a 1999
Subaru into an electric vehicle. Pictured are the car's
electrical schematic and compressed air valve. Read
more on page 26.



The Grand Valley Magazine is printed
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Bookmarks

Looking for a good book? Check out these recommendations from Grand Valley faculty and staff members:



The Alchemist (Harper, 1993) by Paulo Coelho

Brian J. Bowe, visiting assistant professor of communications, remains a big fan of this graphic novel, which tells the story of Santiago, a young Andalusian shepherd who dreams of buried treasure in Egypt and embarks upon a challenging and enlightening journey to find it. “It has a simple and inspiring message that I seem to always need to revisit,” he said. “I also tend to give the book as a gift to new graduates.”

Paper Dollhouse: A Memoir (Globe Pequot Press, 2011) by Lisa M. Masterson, M.D.

This memoir, which was written by a physician and co-host of the TV’s “The Doctors,” was recommended by Keesha Hardiman, office coordinator in the CLAS Dean’s Office. The book details the author’s journey from a young child born in the South to an accomplished young woman, whose successes stem largely from the sacrifices of her mother. “The story is very inspirational and shows that one is able to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds in order to achieve their dreams,” said Hardiman. “It is an amazing story of love and triumph. I recommend this book to anyone who believes in the importance of hard work, determination and maintaining a vision.”

Left to Tell: Discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust (Hay House, 2006) by Immaculée Ilibagiza

Sister Lucia Treanor, FSE, affiliate professor of writing, recommends this autobiographical account of the atrocities that occurred during the Rwandan genocide of 1994. “It is both historical and spiritual,” she said. “Ilibagiza’s courage in the face of the loss of her family and the devastation of her country, and her ability to hope and forgive are truly amazing. Her kindness reminds us of our responsibility to move beyond retribution to love.”

Past Bookmarks are archived online at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine/books. Submit a book recommendation online, or view books written by campus authors.

Special order these books at University Bookstore and receive a 20 percent discount. Contact: ubsbooks@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3521.

New initiative encourages students to give back

Grand Valley is introducing a new, student-centered initiative that will help the university embark on its next 50 years and beyond.

The “Laker for a Lifetime” initiative aims to strengthen the Grand Valley connection for students and alumni by building awareness about Grand Valley’s needs and creating a long-lasting spirit of giving.

“For us to maintain the level of quality we have at Grand Valley, it’s important we receive support from those who are experiencing Grand Valley right now,” said Chris Barbee, director of Alumni Relations.

The program will primarily reach incoming and current students, as well as alumni,

parents, and faculty and staff members, said Barbee. The goals are to help connect students to the campus and help them realize their importance in shaping the university’s future.

“There are many ways to give back,” he said. “Whether it’s volunteering time in the community, participating in a student organization or giving to the Student Legacy Scholarship, it all supports Grand Valley’s future.”

Extensive research and student involvement went into planning and shaping the initiative. Last summer, students from a variety of backgrounds participated in focus groups and helped craft key messages for the initiative. “We want students

to help drive this. Who better to know how to speak the language of students than the students themselves,” Barbee said.

Barbee explained that the initiative is a long-range plan, and he hopes when students find their own connection to the university, giving back will follow.

“From the moment you start here, and for the rest of your life, you’re a Laker for a lifetime.

“And that’s the exciting part, you can play a role in Grand Valley’s future, whether you’re a student, alum, administrator, faculty or staff member – we’re all in this together,” he said.



Grand Valley works to improve soldiers' quality of life

Representatives from Grand Valley attended the grand opening ceremony of the Mary Walker Army Strong Community Center in Walker March 3.

Grand Valley was the only university from West Michigan to sign an agreement to participate in the Community Covenant program, which is designed to foster state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for soldiers and their families.

The covenant was signed by Steven Lipnicki, assistant dean of students, Jack Stultz, commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve, and community and government members. The community center is one of five in the U.S. and the first in the Midwest.

Lipnicki said Grand Valley and WGUV Engage were

important partners in helping the center establish itself in West Michigan. "We were originally contacted this past fall about the benefits the center would have for the community," he said. "Grand Valley and WGUV Engage are gaining recognition and receiving requests to help address veterans' concerns in the community, as well as regional and statewide initiatives."

Lipnicki anticipates that active service members and veterans who attend Grand Valley will take advantage of and benefit from the center. "By signing the covenant, the university is demonstrating a broader and deeper commitment to the veteran population in West Michigan," he said.

Grand Valley continues to provide support for service members and veterans through on-campus Veterans



photo by Amanda Pitts

Pictured at left is Steven Lipnicki, assistant dean of students, talking with a group of student veterans and their family members during a reception. Lipnicki signed an agreement with the new Army Strong Community Center in Walker stating that Grand Valley will partner with the center to provide resources and support to soldiers.

Network services and the university's involvement with the Wounded Warriors Traumatic Brain Injury Project, a partnership with Mary Free

Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. Grand Valley has been named "A Military Friendly School" by *G.I. Jobs* for three straight years.

Snyder's budget would net bonus for Grand Valley

Under the higher education budget proposed by Gov. Rick Snyder, state universities would receive a one-time bonus for meeting performance requirements.

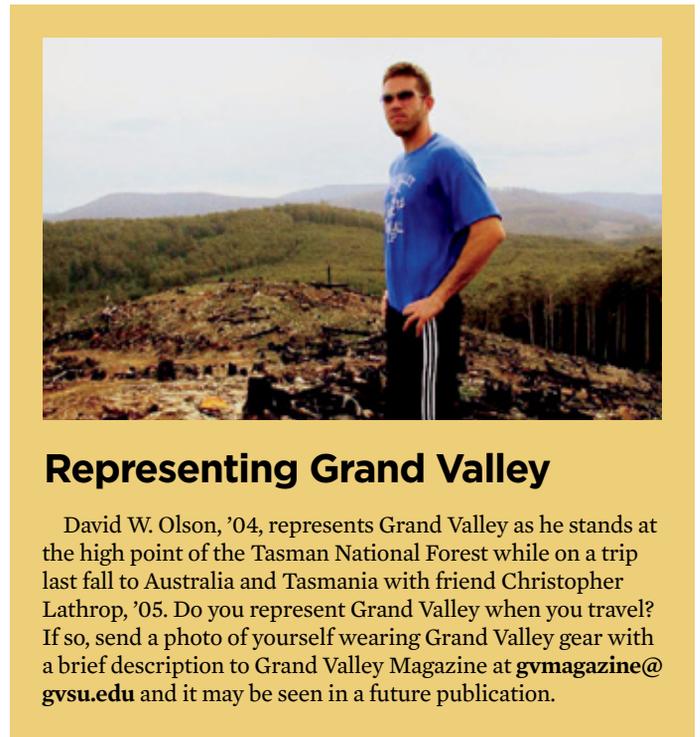
Grand Valley administrators have reason to celebrate. If Snyder's proposed budget is accepted by state legislators, the bonus would net Grand Valley \$3.9 million, which is more than all other 15 public universities in the state.

"Grand Valley's high quality, our talented students and our administrative efficiency is confirmed for all to see," said Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations.

McLogan said the one-time

bonus is based on the following factors: number of degrees awarded over the past several years, degrees awarded in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math), number of students who receive Pell grants and compliance with tuition restraint.

Grand Valley has the fourth highest graduation rate among the 15 public universities in Michigan, at 61.1 percent. Tuition is among the lowest of state institutions and Grand Valley has increased efforts in offering financial aid. More information about the university's access and affordability is online at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.



Representing Grand Valley

David W. Olson, '04, represents Grand Valley as he stands at the high point of the Tasman National Forest while on a trip last fall to Australia and Tasmania with friend Christopher Lathrop, '05. Do you represent Grand Valley when you travel? If so, send a photo of yourself wearing Grand Valley gear with a brief description to Grand Valley Magazine at gvmagazine@gvsu.edu and it may be seen in a future publication.

Women's track and field wins second consecutive national title

The Laker women's track and field team won its second straight NCAA Division II Women's Indoor Track & Field National Championship after dominating the field in Minnesota on March 10.

Grand Valley scored 94 points; second-place Adams State had 51 points. The 94-point team total was the fourth-best championship total in Division II indoor national championship history.

"I am so proud of our team and this was a total team effort as

we scored points in so many events from the field events and the running events," said head coach Jerry Baltes.

Senior Lauren Buresh, from Stanwood, won first place in the shot throw with a throw of 52 feet 10.25 inches. Rachel Patterson, a senior from Rochester, won the 5000-meter run with a Division II record time of 16:07.28.



courtesy photo

The women's track and field team celebrates its second straight NCAA Division II indoor championship in Mankato, Minnesota.

Women's Center celebrates 10 years

Giving to the Women's Center was very natural for alumna Ann Marie Klotz. She was the Women's Center's first student employee and she said her experience at the center helped shape who she is today.

Klotz was one of many individuals who were recognized at the Women's Center 10th anniversary celebration on March 16. "Our Stories," a visual showcase of past and present students, was displayed, and 18 women who are part of the Women's Center Enrichment Circle were recognized.

The Enrichment Circle was established this year to provide the center with necessary resources to achieve plans for the next 10 years. About \$34,000 started the circle and the donations will go toward the Women's Center Endowment Fund.

Since the Women's Center was founded in 2001, it has assisted hundreds of students each year, hosted more than 600 programs, raised more than \$100,000 for organizations that work with women and girls, and

provided dozens of non-profit agencies with volunteers.

"When the university initially began thinking about starting a women's center, they weren't sure if it would be used. But since it was founded, I've talked with many students who told me they can't imagine life without it," said Klotz, now assistant director of residential education at DePaul University.

Marlene Kowalski-Braun, assistant vice provost for Student Affairs and director of the Women's Center, said looking ahead, the center has many exciting plans, including a study abroad trip to South Africa, a new residential Women's Leadership Living and Learning Academic Community, and new and innovative projects and initiatives.

"The Enrichment Circle will help sustain the programs and initiatives at the center long after we leave," she said. "Establishing this group will help the center extend its reach at Grand Valley, throughout West Michigan and beyond."



photo by April Joy Galbreath

Ann Marie Klotz stands next to her "Our Stories" poster during a 10-year anniversary celebration at the Women's Center.

Art Gallery mobile app could reach cultural institutions worldwide

The Art Gallery has launched a new, free mobile application for the iPhone that provides access to the more than 10,000 pieces of art in the university's collection.

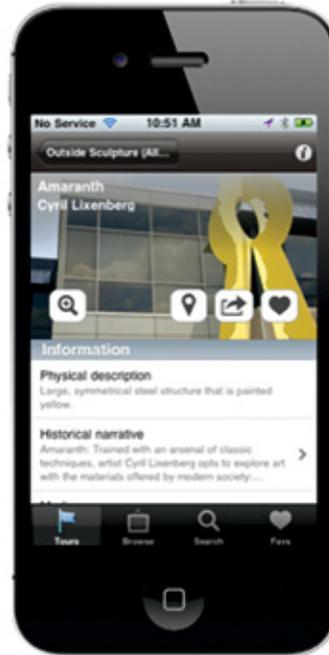
The Art at GVSU app, which features tours, browse and search functions, was built by students in the Mobile Applications and Services Lab in the School of Computing and Information Systems. It is the sixth product developed in the lab, under the direction of associate professor Jonathan Engelsma.

A browse feature provides the option to peruse art collections on any campus or university center. Where applicable, there is a link to any additional works at Grand Valley by the same artist. The app draws data from the online database (Collective Access) of the university's art collection, which was developed

by Nathan Kemler, Art Gallery collections manager, in 2008.

"Grand Valley is leading the pack as the only university and museum in Michigan using the open source Collective Access, and one of the first worldwide to create a native mobile application that draws data from the Collective Access database," said Kemler.

Plans are underway to take the project to the next level, including release of the source code as open source and determining interdisciplinary uses by faculty and students. Open source is a free distribution that encourages community development. Kemler said that Grand Valley would be contributing a very significant application for all cultural institutions in the world.



Freedom Rider closes Black History Month events

Civil rights pioneer Diane Nash told a campus audience that the movement in the 1960s was similar to hot metal — malleable when the metal was hot, but wait too long and the metal was immovable.

Nash closed Black History Month events at Grand Valley with a presentation February 28 in the Kirkhof Center that was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

While a student at Fisk University in Nashville, Nash coordinated the 1961 Freedom Ride from Birmingham, Alabama, to Jackson, Mississippi. She was not among the original Freedom Riders, Nash said, but she stepped in while the metal was hot.

"When the buses were burned in Alabama and the original Freedom Riders beaten so bad that they couldn't continue," she said, "I recognized that it was critical that the ride not stop."



photo by April Joy Galbreath

Diane Nash discusses the 1961 Freedom Ride during a presentation February 28 in the Kirkhof Center.

Alumna works red carpet at Oscars

Jocelyn (Josie) Goldberg didn't take home an Oscar, but she had plenty of attention from Twitter followers and Facebook fans viewing her work as the digital strategist for Diet Coke during the Academy Awards ceremony. See her photos at twitter.com/dietcokeus.

The Grand Rapids native graduated in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in public relations and advertising. Goldberg lives in Portland, Oregon, where she works for the agency Wieden & Kennedy. Goldberg had a front row seat at the Oscars Red Carpet and got to shake hands with some of the stars, including George Clooney, while doing live digital postings for one of her clients, Diet Coke, which sponsored the event.



courtesy photo

Jocelyn (Josie) Goldberg overlooks the red carpet at the Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles. The 2010 graduate works for an advertising agency in Oregon.

Report shows impact of housing foreclosures on state

A Grand Valley report that detailed the impact of the foreclosure crisis on the state of Michigan was released in late February.

Researchers in the Johnson Center for Philanthropy's Community Research Institute and the Seidman College of Business worked on the report, along with the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force.

The report reveals significant findings:

- Housing value in the state of Michigan decreased by \$63 billion between 2006 and 2010;
- The drop in housing value in Detroit and Grand Rapids was even larger, with decreases over 40 percent;
- In rural areas, the average monthly foreclosure rate tripled between 2005 and 2010;
- Between 2005 and 2010, 416,116 residential units in Michigan faced a foreclosure auction filing.

The full report is available online at tinyurl.com/7b22n7u. Read more about the Johnson Center on page 22.

Final beam raised for Seidman Center

Pioneer Construction raised the final beam February 21 to complete the steel erection for the L. William Seidman Center on Front Avenue in Grand Rapids.

Before the beam was raised, students, faculty and staff members from the Seidman College of Business had an opportunity to sign it. President Thomas J. Haas, Seidman Dean H. James Williams and Seidman Campaign Co-Chair David Frey also signed it.

The new Seidman Center will support the college's growing reputation as the premier business school in the Midwest. It will also house the Small Business and Technology Development Center, a federal/state/university-sponsored program that creates and sustains jobs across Michigan.

The building will be Grand Valley's 16th LEED-certified building; it will open for classes in the fall of 2013.



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

H. James Williams, dean of the Seidman College of Business, signs the final beam at the L. William Seidman Center.

Student wins Ms. Wheelchair Michigan

Grand Valley student Stephanie Deible was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Michigan following a daylong competition held at Aquinas College March 3.

Deible, originally from Grant, is a journalism major and plans to graduate in December. Deible has cerebral palsy and has been an advocate for people with disabilities since she was in high school.

Last year, Deible drew media attention after she was advised to leave a bridal boutique and denied access to a fitting room because of her wheelchair. She contacted area TV stations to bring awareness to discrimination issues she and others face.

Deible said she wanted to attend Grand Valley, in part, because of its strong disability support services.



courtesy photo

Stephanie Deible, a journalism major, was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Michigan in early March.

She was a member of the student organization Disability Advocates and is currently a member of Campus Crusade for Christ.

After graduation, Deible hopes to pursue a master's

degree in sports management.

As Ms. Wheelchair Michigan, Deible will make appearances throughout the state to raise awareness for people with disabilities.

Baseball team travels to Cuba on humanitarian mission

— by Michele Coffill

Laker baseball coach Steve Lyon said his team felt like they were playing in the Olympics when Grand Valley first took the field in Havana, Cuba.

After three years of planning, the baseball team traveled to Cuba in early January on a humanitarian mission with First Hand Aid, a Grand Rapids nonprofit organization that brings medical supplies and aid to Cuba.

The Lakers played three games against a team of Cuban All-Stars who ranged in age from 22-24. Although the Lakers lost all three games, Lyon said he was pleased with his team's performance, on the field and off. "We weren't really sure what to expect," Lyon said. "Turns out, they hand-picked top players from all over the country."

The games were played during the day. Although each stadium was outfitted with light towers, they were not working. Lyon said they played in one stadium that was home to the Cuban Industriales, the New York Yankees of Cuba. It sat 50,000 fans; Lyon said it reminded him of old Tiger Stadium.

"Before we played our first game, the Cubans found an American flag and we marched out along the baseline. The guys said it felt kind of like the Olympics," Lyon said. "They played both teams' national anthems and I think that was when our guys first knew they were really representing the U.S."

About 1,500-2,000 fans came to the games, cheering for both Grand Valley and Cuba, Lyon said. "They only booed the umpires and they booed when they made bad calls for Cuba and for us," he said.

Catcher Jared Cowan, a senior from Davison, said



it was the trip of a lifetime. "Not everybody gets to go to a country most people can't visit and see a culture that most people can't see," he said.

One of Cowan's favorite memories was not listed on their jam-packed itinerary. On their way to a church to deliver medicine, they stopped to watch a pickup baseball game on the side of the road and give equipment to the players. "I wondered what they thought of us, suddenly a bus stops and all these guys get out. But our interpreter ran ahead and explained what we wanted to do," he said.

The Lakers gave wooden bats, gloves and other equipment they had collected to the Cubans. Cowan said the rag-tag team wanted to play the Lakers but Lyon thought otherwise. "We were wearing our flip-flops and coach didn't think it was such a good idea," he said.

The wooden bats used on the trip were donated by the West Michigan Whitecaps and Detroit Tigers because collegiate



photos courtesy of Jared Cowan

At top, Laker baseball players Giancarlo Brugnoli, left, and Ryan Garman pose with a Cuban boy following a game in Havana. Above, catcher Jared Cowan makes new friends after delivering medical supplies.

players use metal bats. Lyon said they went to Cuba with 80 bats, used about 35 and gave the rest to Cuban youth.

Tim Selgo, director of athletics, said preparations for the trip began in 2009. The team was bused to Toronto, Canada,

and took a direct flight to Cuba from there. The University of Alabama baseball team is the only other collegiate team to play baseball in Cuba, Selgo said, adding that one Laker team travels internationally every four years or so.



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Molly Steensma, nursing major, discusses how to take a more comprehensive case history of a patient with Dr. John N. Sheagren, special assistant to the president at Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners, during a PIPES meeting in March.

Teaming up for better health care

What nursing student Molly Steensma remembers most about a recent “Promoting Interprofessional Education for Students” program is that many minds are better than one when it comes to patient care.

PIPES is the student program created under the West Michigan Interprofessional Education Initiative, a partnership of 140 individuals from 20 health care organizations and agencies, including founding members Grand Valley, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners,

and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. WMIPEI has become a model for interprofessional education and practice with recognition at both state and national levels.

Students like Steensma who attend monthly PIPES programs represent a wide variety of health professions including nursing, physical therapy, physician assistant studies and medicine. They work together on case studies to find solutions that better meet patient needs.

“We reflected on how we

could have interacted with each other better to arrive at a possible diagnosis faster,” said Steensma. “It was a fantastic learning experience and one that I will take with me as a nurse when working with other disciplines in planning for the care of our patients.”

Steensma’s enthusiasm for the PIPES program was not surprising to Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health. As the top educator of health care professionals in West Michigan, Grand Valley initiated

the WMIPEI program to fill a growing need for patient-centered, accessible and coordinated care.

“The majority of errors in a hospital setting come from a lack of communication across disciplines,” Nagelkerk said. “It is our responsibility to graduate health professionals who work at the top of their education and scope of practice, and know how to work together to provide better care at a decreased cost.”

Private gifts to Grand Valley for facilities, programming and

State, regional health care by the numbers

20,000+

additional health care jobs projected for Michigan by 2018

21 percent

percentage of Michigan jobs related to health care

\$1.3 billion

investment in Grand Rapids’ “Medical Mile”

500+

donors who contributed to the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences

Giving Matters

Volunteers help build a legacy

The Faculty and Staff Campaign, with the theme “A Lasting Legacy,” is going strong in its 29th year, thanks to the efforts of nearly 130 volunteers who give their time to help facilitate participation in the campaign. The focus for this year’s campaign was building the university endowment with all gifts to endowed funds matched.

Again this year, more than 50 percent of faculty and staff members participated in the campaign, setting a new giving record for this campaign and making Grand Valley the most generous university community in Michigan. This year’s campaign officially ends June 30. For more information on campaign progress visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/facultystaff.

Parents honor graduates

More than 200 graduates were honored by their families last year with a senior honorarium. More and more families each year choose to honor their son or daughter this way, demonstrating the giving culture at Grand Valley. Senior honorariums are part of a multi-year trend in increased gifts from parents and families of current students.

There is still time to recognize a graduate in your family this way. Honorariums established by June 30 will be recognized in the Grand Valley University Foundation’s Annual Report on Giving. Visit www.gvsu.edu/give to give in honor of your graduate.

Grand Valley Fund continues to grow

Generous gifts to the Grand Valley Fund by alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff members, and parents have grown the fund significantly each year, and this year is no exception. The Grand Valley Fund is the university’s primary source of unrestricted private funds, supported typically by annual gifts to the university. This year’s fund will help support internships, laboratory equipment, student advising and counseling, and increase opportunities for service learning. In addition, the Grand Valley Fund helps more students access a Grand Valley education.

Individuals who give to the university for three or more consecutive years, including those who give to the Grand Valley Fund, become members of the Lubbers Society. Find out more about the fund at www.gvsu.edu/giving/grandvalleyfund.

scholarships have helped the university provide leadership in developing talented professionals for the region. Grand Valley has 5,000 students who are majoring in health professions and nursing programs, more than any other university in the area. As the need for talent increases, private gifts will continue to play a major role in preserving the quality and scope of the curriculum and helping Grand Valley meet the needs of the community.

Nagelkerk said: “There is a significant need in West Michigan for more health care providers and the type of professionals that we are training. We are bursting at the seams right now and simply need additional space to produce more graduates, expand our programs in critical areas and recruit the best faculty members and researchers to the area.”

Steensma said she feels prepared for her future in nursing, thanks to her Grand Valley education and the

“There is a significant need in West Michigan for more health care providers and the type of professionals that we are training.”

**— Jean Nagelkerk
vice provost
for Health**

opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities like PIPES.

“After meeting and learning with students from a wide variety of health disciplines in a professional setting, we all have a new respect for each other’s roles and feel confident that we can work with interprofessional team members to better care for patients,” she said. “I can’t wait to become a registered nurse.”



photo by Amanda Pitts

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, speaks at a news conference for the Wounded Warriors Project, a collaborative program with Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, a WMIPEI partner.

Building global relationships

Increasing numbers of Lakers serving in Peace Corps — by Michele Coffill



This was the job description that caught the eye of graduate student Vince Lambert: organization seeks candidates who are flexible, reliable, resourceful and possess a good sense of humor.

It didn't phase Lambert that the position would be in Moldova, a small country in eastern Europe between Romania and Ukraine. Lambert accepted the job and spent two years working as a Peace Corps volunteer in a small Moldovan village — and he loved every second of it.

“My horizons used to be so narrow,” Lambert said. “Being in the Peace Corps has completely opened everything up for me.”

Now a graduate assistant for the Seidman College of Business Dean's Office, Lambert graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in business administration. A vacation to Ireland and Scotland got him to think globally.

“I had no other study abroad experience,” he said. “But that trip caused me to want to diversify my life experiences, to travel and to learn a new language.”

Lambert joined a growing number of students with ties to Grand Valley who served with Peace Corps. Nearly 30 Laker alumni were stationed all over the world last year, up from 20 four years ago. The

courtesy photo

Allison Elkins is a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala. The 2010 graduate said volunteering for Peace Corps fits both her career and personal goals.

Peace Corps' regional office in Chicago lists Grand Valley as the No. 3 university in Michigan for number of volunteers currently serving, following the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

Kristin Wegner is an assessment specialist/recruiter who works in the Chicago office. She and other recruiters regularly visit Grand Valley to interview potential volunteers and lead information sessions. Wegner, who used to teach in Grand Valley's Movement Science Department, said there are multiple reasons for the rise in Laker volunteers.

"There is a climate of service learning on campus and a big push for international relations and international education," Wegner said. She also gave credit to the Padnos International Center, which coordinates and promotes Peace Corps visits on campus, and faculty and staff members who have served with Peace Corps. At each information session, Wegner arranges to have a handful of former volunteers available who can give personal accounts of their experiences.

Sean Prentiss, assistant professor of writing, is a Peace Corps alumnus who served in Jamaica in the mid-1990s. While he doesn't tout his Peace Corps experiences widely, he does counsel students who are interested in joining.

"I definitely share my experiences. I tell them about the struggles and the great parts," Prentiss said.

Even 15 years after his experience in Jamaica, Prentiss said the Peace Corps made him a better person. "In the Writing Department, we talk a lot about international experiences. I'm



courtesy photo

Peace Corps volunteer Vince Lambert stands on a hay wagon in Moldova. Now a graduate student in the Seidman College of Business, Lambert joins a growing number of Lakers who volunteer for Peace Corps.

an American but I can bring that perspective as someone who lived overseas for an extended period of time," he said.

Students attend information sessions for varied reasons, Wegner said. Some are seeking adventure or looking for international experiences that could help them launch a career. Wegner added that college students have grown up in a culture that encourages service and emphasizes international awareness.

Allison Elkins fits that bill. She graduated from Grand Valley in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in public and nonprofit administration and a minor in Spanish. Currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala, Elkins said she couldn't imagine doing anything else.

"It's long been an ambition of mine," Elkins said. "Not only does it fulfill my desire to travel the world but, more importantly, it goes hand-in-hand with my past studies and future goals."

Wanting to be a Peace Corps

volunteer is not an easy task. Wegner said it takes more than one year to process a volunteer from the initial application to the date he or she leaves for assignment. It's a selective process that includes medical and legal background checks. Wegner said about 12,000-17,000 people apply annually for about 4,000 positions.

Elkins is serving as a school health coordinator for rural schools in Guatemala. She works with school directors and teachers to establish a health program to teach students to properly wash hands and brush teeth.

In January, escalation of political unrest in Central

America caused the Peace Corps to make changes in its program status there. Wegner said Peace Corps officials are closely monitoring situations in El Salvador and Guatemala. Elkins said her area is stable.

"My area is considered safe and I seldom feel at risk where I live," she said. "There are issues of safety and security related to changes in the government here. The Peace Corps is changing and enacting new policies to improve our service."

Lambert found that being flexible came in handy while in Moldova. He was assigned to work in agribusiness, stemming from his experience growing up on a South Carolina cattle farm.

**"My horizons used to be so narrow ...
Being in the Peace Corps has completely
opened everything up for me."**

— Vince Lambert

“Within the first six months of my being there, my local organization lost its funding,” Lambert said. Lambert communicated his news to Peace Corps officials and was reassigned to work as a community organizer. Lambert said he drew on his accounting background while working with Moldovans to build a new basketball court in their village. “I wrote the grants, which was a great experience and taught me to formulate a budget and form donor relations,” he said. While in Moldova, Lambert also led English classes for young girls and worked with local officials on various improvement projects, like installing a water filter in the village school.

He also met his future wife, Grand Valley alumna Cailin Kelly. Kelly, who graduated in 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in international relations, was also a Peace Corps volunteer in Moldova, teaching English classes in a city about six hours away from Lambert’s village.

Kelly said her transition to life in Moldova was at first difficult. “There was a lot to get used to: the food, the culture, the environment,”



photo by Amanda Pitts

Peace Corps recruiter Judy Torres talks to students during an information session. Grand Valley is the No. 3 university in Michigan in terms of number of volunteers currently serving in Peace Corps.

she said. “After some time, I got past the major difficulties and it became exciting learning and experiencing something new every day.”

Kelly and Lambert met in Philadelphia during a training session before leaving for their assignments. They were able to regularly visit each

other thanks to what Lambert called Moldova’s “great public transportation system.”

“And what I mean by great is cheap, as long as you didn’t mind being on the bus with women in babushkas who have live chickens in their laps,” he said.

Lambert and Kelly plan to marry in September. Both agreed the transition back to life in the U.S. was difficult. “I remember being overwhelmed at Meijer while looking at 50 choices for a loaf of bread,” Lambert said.

Looking back at his time in Moldova, Lambert cited a few projects he was involved in that had lasting impact but named relationship building as his lasting legacy.

“Out of the 60 people who went with us to Moldova, only 30 finished the whole two years. Some people got frustrated with the cultural differences,” Lambert said. “I kept in the back of my mind the reason I was there: to learn about Moldovan culture and build lifelong relationships.”

Prentiss agreed and said global relationships are the

heart of the Peace Corps. “I am a human and American and I had connections with other humans who were Jamaican,” he said. “When we shared a Red Stripe beer and talked ideologies about politics, cricket, the weather, anything, we were communicating, and we were doing the Peace Corps mission.”



courtesy photo

Vince Lambert and Cailin Kelly, '06, met while they were stationed in Moldova; they got engaged there and plan to get married in September.

Grand Valley Peace Corps alumni

There are 208 Lakers who have served in the Peace Corps since Grand Valley was established in 1960. The Padnos International Center would like to build a Peace Corps database. Staff members encourage Peace Corps volunteers with Grand Valley ties to send an email to pic@gvsu.edu.

Max Bush:

sharing 40 years of success on stage and beyond

— by Mary Isca Pirkola

Alumnus Max Bush has made quite a successful career for himself as an educator, award-winning playwright and sought-after director. He has also returned to his alma mater many times over the years to generously share his ideas and expertise.

“I had such positive experiences here and I want to help provide that for today’s students,” said Bush, who graduated in 1972 from Grand Valley’s Thomas Jefferson College with a bachelor’s degree in English and a secondary teaching certificate.

Bush’s most recent project at Grand Valley was as artist-in-

residence to develop a new play, commissioned by the School of Communications’ theater program. He began with a visit in November and the first staged readings were performed in February. A fully-staged production will be performed at Grand Valley this fall as part of theater’s Cultural Diversity program in the 2012-2013 season of productions.

“An Identified Enemy” was developed with the aid of Iraq War veterans and with a company of 10 students in a specially created 50-hour workshop. Students not only learned what goes into the creation of a play, but their

contributions to the script will be a part of the finished work, and they’ll receive credit in the published version.

Teacher, director and playwright

Bush has often taken an innovative approach to following his dreams. After graduation he was a substitute teacher for a year in five different school districts, then landed a full-time position teaching at the high school in Marshall from 1973-1976.

“I was somewhat prepared with diverse experiences, but I was not prepared ultimately

to walk into five sections of ninth grade and try to maintain discipline while working with about 160 kids every day,” he said. “It was much better my second year when courses I developed were accepted by the administration. Some were theater classes, some were psychology classes, some were English classes. By the third year I had a great time directing theater.”

Acting was Bush’s first love and he was probably in 15 shows as an undergraduate. But he also loved directing and did about 12 shows while teaching. Bush also directed a production of “Our Town” at Grand Valley in 1978,





In his plays that are framed by war, the political issues are not the centerpiece, but serve as the backdrop for stories about relationships between the characters.

while teaching as an adjunct professor for a year. “It was fun and good to have all the tech support — a lot different from my day,” he said.

Bush recalled that things were quite different at Grand Valley when he came in 1968. He admitted he started off as just a C student, not for lack of ability, but because his primary interests were playing basketball and baseball, dating and avoiding being drafted into the Vietnam War.

“The faculty and philosophy of TJC is what changed it for me,” said Bush. He recalled how students like himself grew to thrive in an environment of independence and good instruction, despite having very little in the way of facilities.

“We did theater productions in a little Lake Huron lecture hall, that was the extent of a

physical theater that we had,” said Bush.

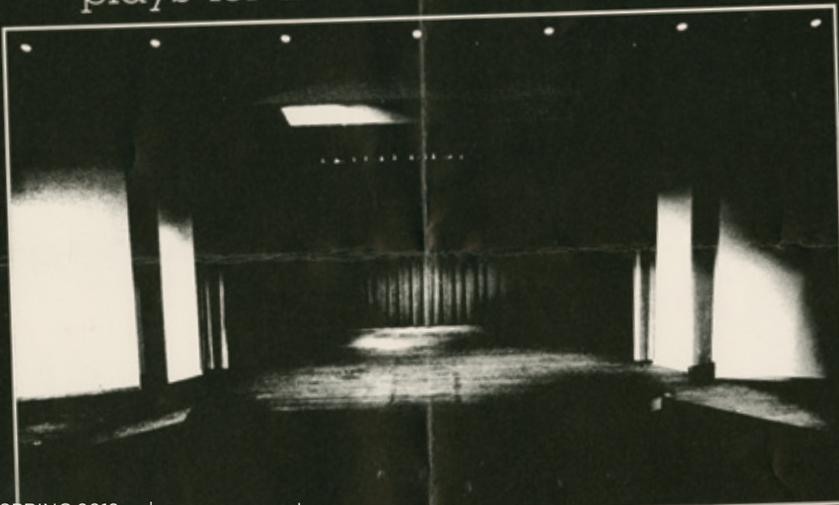
In 1975 Bush became involved with Stage 3, Grand Valley’s experimental theater in downtown Grand Rapids. He was writing plays then, including, later, a group-developed play, “Ships,” which was performed by Grand Valley students at Stage 3. “There was no actual text; It was performed by working on existing scenarios,” said Bush. The Stage 3 building was sold in 1982 and performances were moved to the Louis Armstrong Theatre on the Allendale Campus. During this time the theater programs and facilities under TJC were consolidated into the School of Communications, as part of the new College of Arts & Sciences.

After receiving a MFA degree in theater from Michigan State University in 1985, Bush continued to be a prolific playwright. His works are widely produced on professional, amateur and educational stages throughout the country and abroad in Germany, England and New Zealand. In 1995 he received the Charlotte Chorpenning Cup, the nation’s highest prize for children’s playwriting.

Three of his works have won the national Distinguished Play Award bestowed by the American Alliance for Theatre in Education. Each is quite

STAGE 3 NEW PLAYS PROJECT

plays for five consecutive weeks



May 11-13: IMMORAL PURPOSES by Joel Clark
MAY CULLEN'S BIRTHDAY
by Geary Kaczorowski
MAY 18-20: JAMES PEOPLE PLAY by Keith Riley
THE MOURNING OF RUSSELL WELDON

May 25-27: A NEW GROUP DEVELOPED PLAY by Max Bush
THE STAINED-GLASS CURTAIN by Linda Merlotti
June 1-3: WHERE IS THE OLD COUNTRY by Robert Vance
JULY 8-10: VOICES IN THE DARK by Dennis Kennedy
Ticket 50-cents general admission, \$2 project pass (all performances)
Stage 3, Corner of Racine and Fountain, Grand Rapids

At top, Max Bush as a student (center with arms crossed) poses with the cast of 'Afore Night Come,' shown in this 1971 GVSC Student Life Magazine photo. Bush also was included in the Stage 3 New Plays Project poster, circa 1978, with his group-developed play 'Ships.'

different from the other, though they all include a voyage of self-discovery. One of them, “Kara in Black,” written during 2003-2004, stands as one of Bush’s favorites because it is one of only a few with a political backdrop written for young people. The play begins just prior to the invasion of Iraq and finishes during the first weeks of the invasion. It is the story of two sisters: Kara, who learns to clarify her own voice. In his plays that are framed by war, the political issues are not the centerpiece, but serve as the backdrop for stories about relationships between the characters, in opposition to the war, and Della, who supports the war and is actively engaged in it with her Army unit.

“I think it was particularly successful in making a meaningful political statement about a very difficult subject, and it told both viewpoints,” said Bush, who developed the play with input from active and former soldiers. “I’ve had soldiers come up to me with tears in their eyes after a performance. And I had soldiers who said they were going to kick me in the ass until the last scene of the play when I said what needed to be said.”

Bush said in his plays that are framed by war, the political issues are not the centerpiece, but rather serve as the backdrop for stories about relationships between the characters and struggles they each hold within themselves.

Not all of Bush’s plays are heavy dramas. He has also had much success adapting fairy tales into plays for young people, and in the late 1990s did an adult adaptation of the “Three Musketeers” for the Heritage Theatre in Grand Rapids. He said that it was four hours long and had three intermissions.

Bush developed a unique play with Grand Valley’s Water Resources Institute in 1996 about Bear Creek and water



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Student Jeremy Llorence works with playwright Max Bush, '72, on the development of a new play, 'An Identified Enemy,' that will be performed in the fall season.

quality issues. “They had a grant and were very specific about what they wanted to do, and were very didactic in their approach, even to the extent of calling the actors the Bear Creek Players,” he said. “I talked with them about the possibility of developing performance pieces through story theater techniques and how we could alter existing stories to fit our purposes.” They agreed to give it a try and hired Bush for a year, which turned into five.

Looking backwards and forward

Twelve years ago Bush brought the premiere of his play, “The Crystal,” to Grand Valley and welcomed feedback from faculty and the student cast. “I remember doing a lot of cutting and refining before it went into print,” said Bush. He returned in 2000 as project director for Fresh Scripts/New Plays in

Process, a national competition in conjunction with Grand Valley’s Shakespeare Festival.

In 2004, Grand Valley asked Bush for input on a performance tour for high schools in conjunction with their Shakespeare studies. “They decided to call it ‘Bard to Go’ and a couple of years later hired me to direct the first production,” he said. That project still continues today, and in recent years included Grand Valley performances in Jamaica, China and Italy.

Bush was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the December 2003 Commencement ceremonies, in recognition of his work at Grand Valley and beyond. He now lives in Holland, and was recently commissioned by the Holland Historical Trust to write a play about A.C. Van Raalte and the city’s founding. “A Vision of a New Life,” was produced last year at the Holland museum and

library. It was so successful it will be performed again during the Tulip Time Festival this year.

“Right now I have four plays on my desk that I’m writing. It’s great to produce and be successful, but it is hard to look at the future because I’m so busy and not sure what opportunities may arise,” said Bush. “I would love to take some time to travel to really different cultures – wherever that might be: Sweden, Botswana, the Galapagos – and wash out where I’ve been and find where I am.”

What strikes Bush the most about his undergraduate career is how well faculty members prepared him to go out into the world.

“They prepared us not so much to deal with a particular subject, but how to deal with ourselves, and develop and grow,” he said. “If we couldn’t find a place for ourselves out in the world, we created our own.”

TAKE 5 TO ASK

5 Which way to go? New program designed to help pick career path

— by Leah Zuber



Kelsie Jacob knew what she liked and what she didn't like.

As a first-year student, choosing a major was a big decision and she wanted to ensure her likes and dislikes were considered.

"I immediately declared a major when I got to Grand Valley, then changed my mind," Jacob said. "I didn't want to quickly jump into something else, so I reached out to the Career Services office for help."

Lisa Knapp, assistant director of Career Services, said Jacob's situation is not unique. Many students face challenges when choosing a major and career path because it can be difficult to narrow down the choices, she said.

"As a student affairs professional, one of the things I promise to do is help students develop in a variety of ways, and career development is a big part of that," Knapp said.

"As soon as students know what they want to do, they take classes more seriously and think of themselves differently, and that's all tied to how a student feels about their overall Grand Valley experience."

Two years ago as a graduate assistant, Knapp noted challenges some students and alumni were experiencing when narrowing a career path. "I remember sitting across from an alumna, who reminded me of myself at that age, and she was having difficulty deciding the next steps in her career, and I just remember thinking, 'You can do this,'" she said.

Knapp was able to apply her observations when Bart Merkle, dean of Students, approached Career Services and the Counseling and Career Development Center to establish and promote a conversation around careers. Knapp and Megan Riksen, assistant director for Career Services, teamed with

Brian Bossick and John Zaugra from the Counseling Center to create the “Take 5 to Ask 5” project. They called themselves the “5 Questions” team.

The creation of the concept involved extensive research about career development and what other institutions were doing. The team brainstormed ways students, alumni, faculty and staff members could easily and quickly start the conversation about their futures. Final touches were made to “Take 5 to Ask 5” before it launched last fall. At the core of the program is a set of questions the team created that challenges a person to discuss their abilities, passions and interests, and how to apply them when choosing a major or career.

Bossick, career outreach specialist, said the university offers many resources, but students often don’t know what they are or how to access them. He said “Take 5 to Ask 5” is a way to connect them. “We hope the program will create a common language around career development on campus,” Bossick said. “It’s a way for students and alumni to start talking about their major or the next steps in their career before they meet with an advisor or counselor.”

The group hopes the program becomes woven into the university’s culture through casual conversations, during advisor meetings and at orientation. “We hope it will eventually become a norm for new students to know there are some questions they can start exploring,” said Knapp, a former *Grand Rapids Press* reporter.

Knapp said career decisions can even start ahead of the career.

“I met with someone who said, ‘I’m doing work I trained for that I kind of love, but I have a different kind of life in mind for the 26-year-old version compared to the 18-year-old

version of me,’” she said. “We went through the five questions and he found the source of the disconnect.”

While “Take 5 to Ask 5” can be applied at any stage in a person’s life, the program can be a natural fit for nontraditional students because “they bring a lot of experience to the table,” Knapp said. Knapp said it can be difficult for a nontraditional student to suddenly be faced with choices and start from scratch, as many of their work and education experiences are based on necessity.

When Jacob scheduled an appointment with Career Services, Riksen introduced her to “Take 5 to Ask 5” and Jacob said it helped her tremendously. “Megan asked me to answer the five questions and I found out how much I enjoy business, art and fashion,” she said. “When I decided I would major in marketing, I didn’t call my faculty advisor first, I called Megan because I was so excited.”

Choosing a major was a

big step for Jacob and she said she’s confident in her decision. She said a lot of her friends are starting to decide or switching their major and she refers them to the “Take 5 to Ask 5” program.

“The questions aren’t the end-all and be-all, but they’re the door you can open to get on a sure path,” Knapp said.

Visit the “Take 5 to Ask 5” website at www.gvsu.edu/careers/fivequestions.

Kelsie Jacob’s answers to “TAKE 5 TO ASK 5”

1. What are my interests, passions and values?

Film, Fashion, pop culture, art and being creative. I have a good understanding of people and their interests and value working in a team setting.

2. What are my skills and abilities?

I am creative, outgoing, a good communicator, and I work well in a group.

3. What steps can I take to test them out?

I can look at classes that Grand Valley offers in these subjects, then research internship opportunities.

4. Where do I want to go?

I would like to go pursue something in the Fashion Industry, something that deals with peoples’ interests and why they buy certain things. I would like to work on a team and in a creative environment.

5. How do I get there?

I want to major in Marketing, intern in the Fashion Industry and learn as much as I can.



CATCHING ON TO CHEMISTRY

Transforming the classroom — by Dottie Barnes

Experimenting with fire and mixing mysterious chemicals could be highlights of high school chemistry. But often the lecture dominates the class.

An innovative program called Target Inquiry is enhancing the way middle and high school science teachers teach, giving some students a better understanding of the material and more opportunities for hands-on learning.

Deborah Herrington, associate professor of chemistry, is the project director and co-creator of Grand Valley's Target Inquiry model. She and former Grand Valley associate professor Ellen Yezierski began implementation and study of the program's effectiveness at Grand Valley in 2006.

"The initial implementation of the program for high school chemistry teachers has been successful beyond what we

had originally envisioned," said Herrington. "Not only have teachers been able to successfully implement inquiry instruction into their classes, but we also have evidence that suggests students better understand chemistry as a result of these instructional changes."

The goal of inquiry-based science programs is for students to develop their understanding of science by combining scientific knowledge with reasoning and thinking skills.

Alice Putti has been teaching chemistry for 17 years and is currently working at Jenison High School. She was part of the first TI cohort. "The Target Inquiry program has done more for my teaching than any other program," she said. "The program encompasses conceptual learning instead of memorization. It's important to know how to perform a skill but it's even more

important for students to learn the concept behind it."

Herrington said the professional development program is designed to provide teachers with an authentic laboratory research experience and integrate content-rich, scientific inquiry into the classroom — helping students to think like real scientists. She said high school teachers' practices are changing and student achievement has significantly increased.

"A strong body of evidence shows teachers using inquiry helps students meet key learning outcomes," Herrington said. "While many teachers want these outcomes for their students, they struggle using inquiry-oriented approaches because they were not taught this way."

Area middle and high school chemistry teachers who have completed the program said



their students are getting a better grasp of chemistry, are more confident and are able to better retain concepts.

Putti said it took a couple of years to restructure her lesson plans and be good at inquiry instruction. She said she took baby steps with her students. “I want my students to be confident in what they’re learning — to see the logical reasoning behind what they’re learning,” she said. “I let students figure things out, reason their way through it. This is how students become lifelong learners.”

Kevin Conkel, who teaches chemistry at Hudsonville High School, said: “Kids can have a dull sense of science. TI has changed my teaching in respect to the quality and understanding of chemistry students gain. My teaching has become so enjoyable and the students are taking ownership of their learning.”

West Ottawa High School teacher Brian VanZanten said, “I found out that small, but intentional, changes to a lesson or lab can greatly impact the outcomes achieved by my students.”

Herrington put the model to the test in her own classes at Grand Valley. “I have completely changed the way I teach my chemistry course here at Grand Valley, largely because of my work with the TI program. If you come into my classroom now, rarely do you see me standing at the front talking. Most of the time you will see students working on problems and activities, trying to explain everyday phenomena, or engaging in discussion and debate,” she said.

Teachers can enroll in the TI program through Grand Valley’s Chemistry Department. The TI program provides teachers with an authentic laboratory research experience and facilitates the

integration of their research into their classroom.

The program is translated into three major program components: a research experience for teachers, inquiry materials adaptation and action research incorporated into seven graduate courses that total 15 credits.

Herrington said one of the reasons the program is successful is because by design it gives teachers long-term support.

“Instructional change is difficult and requires adequate time and support if it is to be achieved and sustained,” she said.

Target Inquiry has captured the interest of the National Science Foundation, which has granted the program more than \$2 million in the last six years. TI was initially funded through NSF, the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation and

Grand Valley. In September, Herrington received an additional \$1.1 million, five-year National Science Foundation DRK-12 grant to support the program, along with an in-depth study of the effects of TI on teachers and students.

The grant, along with support from Grand Valley and a collaboration between Grand Valley’s College of Education and science education faculty from chemistry, physics, biology and geology, will help expand the program to middle and high school science teachers.

“Now that we have seen how successful the TI program can be for chemistry, we are excited to be able to expand this program to meet the needs of science teachers in other disciplines,” said Herrington.

Teachers who have completed the TI program are eager to share their methods. Several high school teachers have

“I LET STUDENTS FIGURE THINGS OUT, REASON THEIR WAY THROUGH IT. THIS IS HOW STUDENTS BECOME LIFELONG LEARNERS.”

— ALICE PUTTI
CHEMISTRY TEACHER,
JENISON HIGH SCHOOL

published their results in international journals devoted to education and presented their work at more than 50 regional and national conferences and workshops.



photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Alice Putti, chemistry teacher, teaches at Jenison High School. Putti was part of the first Target Inquiry cohort and said the program helps her teach the subject through conceptual learning.

Johnson Center for Philanthropy gains attention, exposure



— by Nate Hoekstra

It's one of the top-tier resources in the country when it comes to philanthropy and nonprofit organizations — and community leaders in West Michigan say the 20-year-old Johnson Center for Philanthropy is a treasure for anyone involved in the philanthropy sector.

The Johnson Center is well known and highly respected across the country, and for good reason. It's arguably the second largest center for philanthropy in the nation, home to the Frey Chair for Family Philanthropy (the first endowed chair of its kind)

and publishes *The Foundation Review*, the country's only peer-reviewed academic journal that focuses solely on philanthropy.

It's one of the university's academic centers and focuses intently on increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the charitable sector. The center is part of the College of Community and Public Service and shares a strong connection with the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration.

Jim Edwards, executive director, said a place like the Johnson Center is rare, and increasingly important given

growing trends in giving and community service.

"Formal education and research about philanthropy and giving is relatively new, and needs to be studied and developed," Edwards said. "Nonprofits need to become stronger as the people making the grants that fund them learn more about their side of the equation, and more detailed, measured results of philanthropic efforts can help pinpoint successes or areas for improvement."

The center has nearly 40 full-time staff members and focuses on the nonprofit

sector as a whole rather than just philanthropy, making it unique compared to many other university nonprofit centers. That broad focus gives the Johnson Center the resources to impact every step of the nonprofit cycle, from applying for grant money and doing the research to determining what specific projects are working, and why.

"We are in the business of strengthening communities and we do that from a macro level down," said Edwards. "We're affecting communities through grantmakers and nonprofits."

Johnson Center staff members have helped police in Grand Rapids analyze the data behind four years worth of juvenile crime and released a comprehensive report about the impact of the foreclosure crisis on the state of Michigan — all while completing their core mission of helping grantmakers, growing nonprofit leadership, and giving results about best practices to their clients.

Various different arms of the center — including The Grantmaking School, Nonprofit Services, and the Community Research Institute — work together and complement each other to support the primary mission of building stronger communities. How the center helps various organizations

Center's name honors career of former trustee

The Center on Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership began in 1992 as a multidisciplinary, university-wide center developed with the support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Grand Valley. In 1999, the Center was renamed in honor of Dorothy A. Johnson and her distinguished career.

Johnson, of Grand Haven, served on the Grand Valley Board of Trustees from 1995-2011 and served as board chair from 2001-2004.

She is also on the board of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and has served on the Council of Michigan Foundations, which she led as president and chief executive officer from 1975-2000.



Dorothy A. Johnson

follows a roughly cyclical model. Though not all of the groups and organizations the center supports use all of its different tools, the various parts are very much linked in their operation.

The Grantmaking School

The Grantmaking School offers the first university-based program for teaching the techniques and ethics of advanced grantmaking specifically to foundation grantmaking professionals, teaching them lessons on ways to improve how they distribute grants to nonprofits who need them.

“The Johnson Center has been about innovation and impact from the very start — and it’s no different with The Grantmaking School,” said Miles Wilson, who directs the program. “We have a direct impact on charitable foundations and individual grantmakers across the nation who provide some \$58 billion annually to addressing community issues.”

Wilson said The Grantmaking School is an academic setting, but the lessons are practical and lean toward professional development.

Nonprofit Services

Another arm of the center is Nonprofit Services, led by experienced nonprofit

practitioner Matthew Downey. He oversees the technical assistance and capacity building services for nonprofit organizations in both West Michigan and across Michigan. It’s a highly customized portion of the center that provides services to regional nonprofit organizations to enhance their performance in their selected area of philanthropic work.

“In the last year alone, more than 3,000 people attended our events and got help from us, which is an amazing amount,” Downey said. “Today the Johnson Center has truly become a hub for nonprofit leadership development, providing vital resources that help organizations become more effective at meeting community needs.”

The Nonprofit Services arm offers education for nonprofit staff, one-on-one consultation, and technical assistance so they can make the most of their grant dollars to create maximum impact in their community. Work by staff members aligns with national trends and research that’s relevant to the nonprofits being served.

“It’s not limited by geography, but we try to stay in a general nine-county area in West Michigan so we don’t overlap efforts with other groups trying to do the same thing,”



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Jim Edwards, executive director, said the work being done at the Johnson Center is increasingly important, given recent trends in giving.

Edwards said. “That said, we do leave the area from time to time for trainings and other activities where we’re needed.”

Community Research Institute

The data-collecting arm known as the Community Research Institute is one of the major focuses of the center. At CRI, researchers gather useful information that helps teach best practices for nonprofits, and how to help organizations measure the impact they have on the populations they serve. The data also helps grantmakers decide where and how to use their funds,

bringing the process full circle.

One organization that uses the data and analysis provided by CRI is the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. GRFCF President Diana Sieger says they’ve come to rely on the information to measure the success of their grants.

“When you want to know if your efforts are meeting the goals and needs of what you set out to do, people have learned over the years to turn to the Johnson Center,” Sieger said. “By doing the research that they do so well, it helps us focus on the other important work that we do well.”

Edwards echoed the

importance of the data gathering efforts. “What gets done at CRI is incredibly important,” Edwards said. “Our nonprofit services depend on CRI data and metrics to determine what’s effective for nonprofits, and it helps grant makers evaluate and understand the impact they’re having in communities. Being data-driven is instrumental to everything we do.”

A good example of the data sharing the center does is an online mapping tool that’s been helping nonprofit organizations, educators, government, media groups and citizens learn more about where they live. It’s called MAPAS (gvsu.edu/s/8q) and compiles local, state and federal information into an easy-to-use map-based format, and helps identify what specific services are most needed in different areas by certain populations.

Research Opportunities

The center publishes a peer-reviewed academic journal called *The Foundation Review*, which carries articles and research about best practices for anyone involved in the grantmaking or the nonprofit sector; it is published four times each year. The journal features articles and research from dozens of public, private,

and Ivy League universities nationwide. The Johnson Center is also home to the Philanthropy Archives and Library, a clearinghouse for research materials.

A resource unique to the center is the Frey Foundation Chair for Family Foundations and Philanthropy, an endowed chair that helps guide family-based foundations across the country. Michael Moody currently holds the position, and works with a network of national advisors and partners to pursue a comprehensive program of applied research, teaching, professional development and public service, all designed to advance and promote the field of family philanthropy in the United States.

Combining Resources

Sieger, GRCF president, said she’s been waiting for a clearinghouse like the Johnson Center.

“I’ve been in this role for many years,” she said, “and for years, I wanted to have something like the Johnson Center. I did a needs assessment in a previous position and there was no single place I could go for all the information I needed. Now, we’ve got the



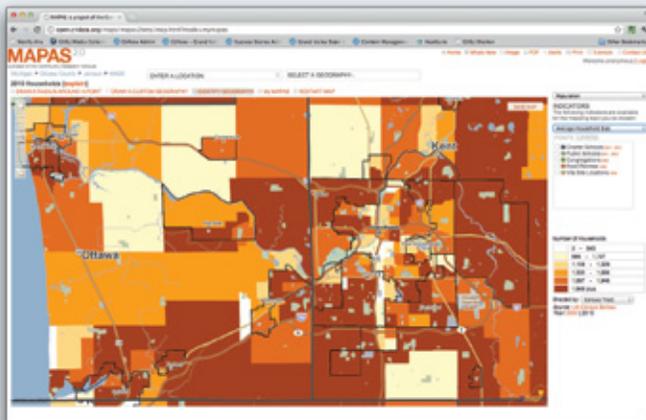
The Foundation Review is the only peer-reviewed journal of its kind; it is published quarterly by the Johnson Center.

Johnson Center and it provides us with all kinds of valuable research and information. I feel like it’s starting to truly get the statewide and nationwide attention it so clearly deserves.”

Edwards is pleased at the progress the center is making, and said his background in social work makes the process of growing with the center

a challenging but extremely rewarding experience.

“For me, it’s about the betterment of the community,” Edwards said. “The Johnson Center provides a range of tools at multiple levels to do that, and that to me, is the most satisfying part of it.”



Using data

The Johnson Center is making data on Michigan communities easier to access for nonprofits, media, government agencies and you. A wealth of data is housed in the Community Research Institute’s MAPAS program, located at www.cridata.org/mapas

You can use the program to learn more about your community, including population, housing, births and family health, education, employment and income, voting, crime, transportation and points of interest.

Initial funding for the project was provided by the Dyer-Ives Foundation and has the ongoing support of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.



Stafford Smith, assistant professor of photography School of Communications

Stafford Smith is known to take a rather unique approach to his work, whether behind a camera or in front of a classroom full of students.

His "Family Portrait Project" explores and captures each individual within a family as well as their interpersonal

relationships. He captures the attention of his students by helping them become lifelong learners, so they can adapt to the ever-changing world.

Smith said the fundamentals of vision, articulation of ideas and incorporation of meaning in

images are valuable lessons that remain relevant no matter the latest technological advancements. "I also encourage a broader view of the world through studying the work of other artists and how their historical period and socio-political

environment is reflected within it," Smith said. "It all relates to a higher standard of excellence that students can strive towards in any project they approach in the future."

photography by Adam Bird

Engineering students build electric vehicle from scratch

— by Leah Zuber

What started off as an idea quickly turned into a reality for Ron Grew, lab supervisor for the School of Engineering.

Last year, Grew donated his 1999 Subaru Outback to the engineering school after learning a group of students were looking for a new project. “My Outback was dying and I always thought it would be a fun and unique experience to build an electric car,” he said.

A group of about 20 students formed the Electric Car Club and immediately began researching ways to convert a traditional, standard-combustion car into a battery-powered electric vehicle. The group continues to meet weekly to research what engine parts are needed and determine the next steps for the conversion.

Our first goal is to get the car to start, said Andrew Twining, senior mechanical engineering

student and club president.

“There isn’t a specific manual on how to convert a 1999 Outback into an electric car, but there are general manuals out there,” he said. “We had to train on a variety of machines to learn how to create the parts and pieces for the new engine.”

Twining said the second goal is to provide students with an opportunity to develop new skills, including how to take a problem with no definitive solution and make a solution. “This is what happens in the real world. You have to find a solution, but this is so open-ended and students can take their imaginations and run wild,” he said.

Twining said the project won’t end when the engine starts. “There will always be things we can improve on, and that’s the beauty of the project,” he said. “Next year, the new president of



photo by Elizabeth Lienau

The Electric Car Club meets weekly in the Keller Engineering Labs to convert a standard-combustion car into a battery-powered electric vehicle.

the club may decide to redo the suspension or battery mounts.”

Grew said students hope the car will be running by August, when they unveil it at the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing

Design Day and Conference.

“Trying is the whole purpose of what we’re doing,” said Twining. “No one cares if it works or if it doesn’t work, as long as we’re trying to figure out better ways to do things.”

Lab brings awareness of human trafficking

— by Michele Coffill

A unique lab simulation designed for nursing students brings awareness to a hidden problem that could affect thousands in West Michigan — human trafficking.

Joy Washburn, associate professor of nursing, and staff members from the Simulation and Learning Resource Center, in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, created the lab so students would recognize possible signs that a patient has been forced to work for

a sex or labor trafficker.

“The biggest part of being a patient advocate is knowing what else is going on, to be suspicious if you think something is not quite right,” Washburn said.

The U.S. State Department estimates that annually 600,000-800,000 children and adults are victims of human trafficking and forced into brutal working conditions. Washburn said her students were surprised to learn that

human trafficking has occurred locally. Nationally, victims have been discovered at nail salons, restaurants and factories.

“It does typically affect the vulnerable populations — runaways, migrant workers — but it’s most important to realize it’s here in our backyard,” Washburn said.

To create the simulation, she researched trafficking court cases and drew on resources of Grand Valley’s Modern Languages and Literatures Department to find a student who could provide a Spanish voice for the training mannequin.

Students in Washburn’s class, in teams of four, then conducted a physical assessment on “Jose Lopez,” who presented signs

of a persistent cough and fever. Some students didn’t notice that Lopez had rope burns on his wrists and ankles and cigarette burns on his chest.

Cindy Bartman is the standardized patient program coordinator at the Simulation Center. She said a script was written for Lopez that made him very evasive when responding to questions through an interpreter (played by another student who majored in education).

“Part of being a nurse is figuring things out and picking up on the nonverbal clues,” Bartman said.

Washburn said area hospitals and medical clinics are beginning to hold training sessions for staff nurses on human trafficking.

“It does typically affect vulnerable populations but it’s most important to realize it’s here in our backyard.”

— Joy Washburn, associate professor of nursing

A crash course in recycling at Grand Valley

Grand Valley started recycling in 1990 when former President Arend D. Lubbers said a new tree will be planted for every ton of recycled paper. In 1990, 33 tons of paper were recycled and today the Arboretum encompasses more than 700 trees.

STEP 1: Material is placed in recycle bin. More than 50 recycle bins are located in academic buildings.



STEP 2: Recycle team picks up material. The university owns an energy-efficient "GVSU Recycle" vehicle that transports materials to large recycle bins on campus.



STEP 3 Material goes in large multi-bin 5 multi-bins are located throughout Grand Valley's Allendale Campus.



STEP 4 Multi-bin is emptied and transported to Kent County Recycling and Education Center



20% to 40%

From 2005-2011, the number of pounds recycled from the waste stream doubled.

In the last 10 years, 5,173 tons of materials have been recycled, which equals the weight of about 430 city buses.

1,953,200 pounds

Last year, 42 percent, or 1,352 tons, of the waste stream was recycled. That's 1,953,200 pounds!

Composting is catching on quickly: 248 tons were composted last year.

A new initiative to compost pizza boxes started this year: 3,080 boxes were composted in a month.

3,080

The e-waste program — recycling printers, computer and other electronics — is quickly growing at Grand Valley: 20 tons of electronics were recycled in 2010-2011, compared to 2 tons in 2002-2003.



Q&A



Ralph Hauenstein

Born more than a century ago, Ralph Hauenstein, namesake of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley, has seen many things through the years.

He spent a few years in the Army before working as a journalist for the *Grand Rapids Herald*, a job he left to return to service during World War II. While serving overseas, he became the chief intelligence officer for the European theater and was an advisor to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Hauenstein's experience in war changed him, and when he returned, he dedicated both

time and effort to preventing future armed conflicts, while increasing the power of the U.S. to influence peace among nations — all while continuing a successful business career in Grand Rapids.

Since moving to West Michigan as a boy, Hauenstein grew to call it home and has given generously to support projects for community good. In addition to Grand Valley's presidential studies center, those projects include the Grace Hauenstein Library at Aquinas College, and the Hauenstein Parkinson's and Neuroscience Centers at Saint Mary's Hospital.

Grand Valley Magazine's Nate Hoekstra caught up with Hauenstein just before his 100th birthday to ask him about his ties to Grand Valley, Grand Rapids and the secret to his longevity.

Grand Valley Magazine:

You were born in Indiana but made a home for yourself in Grand Rapids, a city you continue to help develop. Has the city become what you might have hoped it would through the years?

Ralph Hauenstein: Yes, I came to Grand Rapids at the age of 11 and have been here ever since. I think it's grown a bit beyond what I ever expected it would grow to, but I'm quite astounded to see the progress that we have made — it's astounding, fantastic. I remember when I was the city editor and we weren't growing and George Welsh finally decided to build an auditorium. That was a great big movement for many, many years in the city, which is really miniscule compared to what's happening and being done in Grand Rapids today.

GVM: You mentioned working at the *Grand Rapids Herald*. What do you think about what's happening to newspapers and journalism today?

RH: I think it's very unfortunate. I think that newspapers, in my opinion, are a way of life. It brings daily, to your doorstep, all news covering everything in domestic life and so forth, and we're going to miss it if it doesn't continue. It's tragic. I suppose you can get it on the networks, but not quite in the same context as a newspaper does. It's a tragic thing to see newspapers being eliminated bit by bit.

GVM: You've said in previous interviews that you prefer not to talk about many aspects of your military service, but can you say why you came away from your services so committed to avoiding future conflict?

photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Ralph Hauenstein addresses the audience at the presentation of the first Hauenstein Fellowship award, given in 2011 to the Ford family to honor President Gerald R. Ford.

RH: I saw what men can do to each other, and what a nation can do to another nation, and it's absolutely incredible. It's beyond belief that such cruelty can be imposed on individuals or upon nations, and I thought that we could at least put a small measure of something in place to help eliminate this sort of thing for the future. I'm afraid I'm not doing a very good job of it.

GVM: You've helped with humanitarian needs in the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and here in the U.S. What drove you to take on such ambitious humanitarian work?

RH: Well, I don't think I was put on this earth just to do nothing. I think the good Lord expects things from us. He gives to me and I give back what little bit I can, in most measures that I can, anyway.

GVM: At Grand Valley you supported the creation of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. What do you hope people learn there, and do you consider the center a success?

RH: I think the Hauenstein Center has been a tremendous success under the direction, guidance and supervision of Gleaves Whitney. We were fortunate to get a man of his caliber to carry it on, and it's making tremendous inroads with young people. I see it all the time when people come to me who are as enthused as I am about this. I watch these young men and women and I'm absolutely certain that we are providing great, great leadership for the future of our country right from within the leadership of our university.

I think our major goal is to develop successful people



within themselves, but obviously we're also helping to make them more aware of their country as well, no question about it. It's a well-run program.

GVM: Who would you include on a list of your favorite U.S. presidents?

RH: Well, I think that two great presidents, as far as I'm concerned, were George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. That's the way I see it. We wouldn't have had a nation if it weren't for George Washington, and we wouldn't have been able to save a nation if we hadn't had Abraham Lincoln.

GVM: You celebrated your 100th birthday in March. What is one important life lesson that you've learned in your time that you would like to share?

RH: I don't think I can zero in on any one thing. I've been fortunate to have many, many good things happen to me throughout my life, but I wouldn't characterize it as one particular thing that created it. People ask me what I attribute my long life to, and I just say "stay alive," it's the best I can do.



courtesy photos

At top, Ralph Hauenstein visits with fellows at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies in 2005. Above, in this undated photo, Hauenstein's career often took him to the East Coast; he's pictured on the boardwalk in New Jersey.

Writer preserves life stories of hospice patients

— by Mary Isca Pirkola

As a writing major, Diana Nowak is accustomed to deadlines and challenging assignments. Yet, she had her moments of doubt about being able to complete one very urgent writing project on time — the life story of a dying man.

Nowak, a senior from Rochester Hills, was searching online for some meaningful way to use her writing skills. While many students look for internships, she decided to first pursue volunteer opportunities and discovered Spectrum Health Continuing Care.

Spectrum Health provides volunteer services ranging from arts and crafts and bedside music to visitors. The one that caught Nowak's attention was the My Life Story program. Established in 2007, the program provides an opportunity for patients receiving end-of-life care to have their memories written and printed in a keepsake book for their families.

While Nowak had some concerns about the emotional aspects of getting involved, she found the program's training addressed her concerns and much more. Throughout August, Nowak joined other My Life Story volunteers in weekly, three-hour training sessions led by Yvonne Elliott, a Spectrum Health Hospice volunteer coordinator.

“This experience changed my life by giving me a new perspective on death.”

— Diana Nowak

“It was important to discuss the very different pre-conceived ideas each of them had about death. We also focused on universal feelings of wanting to make a difference and how to assist a patient through processing their unique life story,” said Elliott.

Some of the questions writing applicants were asked hit close to home for Nowak. “We were asked to make a list of people close to us and how we would react if one were taken away,” said Nowak, whose father died in an car accident when she was 3 years old. “It is common to lose someone, so I’ve learned to find the positive in it. In my case, since there was only my mom and I left behind, we became really close.”

Nowak said she felt like she had some experience with death, yet now feels she has gained another perspective. Spectrum Health Hospice paired her with an elderly cancer patient, Mr. C*. “He knew the cancer was spreading and that he was terminal, yet he was so accepting of it and appreciative of the life he’d lived,” Nowak said.

Mr. C was born in 1926 and shared with Nowak many details of his life, including experiences as a merchant marine during World War II. “Our first session was about 90 minutes, and I remember wondering where I would start. But he made it so easy, and it was obvious he’d put a lot of thought into this before I came,” said Nowak.

Nowak used a tape recorder when she met with Mr. C at his assisted living residence each week. The more she learned about his life, the more urgent it was to her to get his stories written. She became very committed and often increased



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Yvonne Elliott, a Spectrum Health Hospice volunteer coordinator, left, stands with Diana Nowak, a My Life Story volunteer, at a volunteer fair on campus. Nowak volunteered to write the story of a patient under Hospice care.

her visits to twice weekly. “All the while I was working with him I had the sense that his time was running out. After each session, he would shake my hands and thank me profusely. That meant a lot to me and I really wanted to do a good job for him. I ended up writing in his first-person voice, which was quite challenging. I really had to put myself in his shoes, living his life,” she said.

Nowak presented the 15-page book of life stories to Mr. C just after Thanksgiving. She then asked to stay on with him as part of the Friendly Visitor program because she wanted to continue to spend time with him. Nowak only got in one more visit before going home for the holiday break at the end of the semester. At the beginning of January she received word that he died.

Family members from across the country welcomed Nowak at the local memorial service for Mr. C. “It was bittersweet to see so many photos on display

— many from the very life events he had shared with me,” she said. “I was nervous about attending, yet was surprised by the many warm expressions of gratitude I received. They had Mr. C’s Life Story book there and everyone was reading it.”

Nowak said she will take some time off to grieve, but wants to return to the program with another patient. “This experience changed my life by giving me a new perspective on death, and I share it in hopes that others will take part in it,” she said.

To learn more about the My Life Story program and additional volunteer opportunities, contact Yvonne Elliott, Spectrum Health Hospice and Palliative Care volunteer coordinator, at (616) 391-4240, or **yvonne.elliott@spectrumhealth.org**.

**General details about Nowak’s patient are shared here with permission from his family.*

Impacting future generations

Alumni superintendents introduce Laker excellence to their districts

— by Carrie Smith

Grand Valley's College of Education has a powerful reputation that can help graduates obtain positions in their field and continue to advance their careers. Beyond the professional success graduates are able to achieve, the impact they have on their communities is profound. A number of Grand Valley alumni are working as superintendents and making a transformative impact on the districts they serve, as they employ the knowledge, experience and passion they developed during their time on campus.

The featured superintendents below are just a few of many alumni educators from diverse backgrounds who are making a difference in school districts around the world.

Leslie Mount, '96 & '99 Superintendent, Belding Area Schools

When Leslie Mount was a student studying history and political science, the idea of being an educator was at the front of her mind because it was the profession she had the most exposure to. She could not have anticipated how rewarding and impactful her career would later become when she was named superintendent of Belding Area Schools.

"My most proud moments are seeing my students be successful," Mount said. "Having the ability to see what they've gone on to do is the best part. Some of my students have great careers and are starting families, and it's really fulfilling to see that growth."

Mount's passion for helping children succeed was nurtured by the professors she referred to as "second to none."

"The education programs at Grand Valley are so much about the actual practice of education, not just theory," Mount said. "When you get in a job and already have those contacts and experiences, you're able to get different perspectives on a situation and really analyze it before deciding how to move forward."

Mount said sound decision-making is an integral component of being an administrator. She has had numerous challenging decisions in her four years as assistant superintendent, and as superintendent since July 2011, as the school district faced several budget cuts.

Mount said she feels well equipped to lead her district. She gained years of experience as a social studies teacher, and earned master's and specialist degrees from Grand Valley. "I gained important problem-solving skills," Mount said. "That is so valuable."

Ron Veldman, '87 & '93

Superintendent,
Coopersville Area
Public Schools

Ron Veldman almost ended up a businessman but the course of his life changed after he taught swimming lessons to children one summer while in college.

"I just loved the opportunity

to teach kids and interact with them," Veldman said. "And that hasn't changed."

While Veldman has received numerous accolades, such as Michigan's Best Education Excellence Award from the Michigan Association of School Boards in 2007 and 2008, the relationships he has formed are his most valued achievements.

"I've been able to get to know so many kids and families in the community. And we're truly blessed to have such supportive, incredible people who care about their kids and care about education," he said.

Continued on page 32



courtesy photo

Leslie Mount, '96 and '99, reads with a Belding student. Mount was named superintendent of the district in July.

Continued from page 31

Veldman has a strong connection to his community. He has served the Coopersville Area Public Schools for 24 years, and in that time, he has watched children grow up and achieve their dreams. He has also watched state funding of education dramatically change. While these continual changes sometimes present difficult situations, Veldman said he is very fortunate to be an educator.

“We’re really touching the future generations of our society,” he said. “Knowing that you have such an important role in maximizing student learning is just incredible, and that’s why I enjoy the challenge.”

Arthur Culver, '75

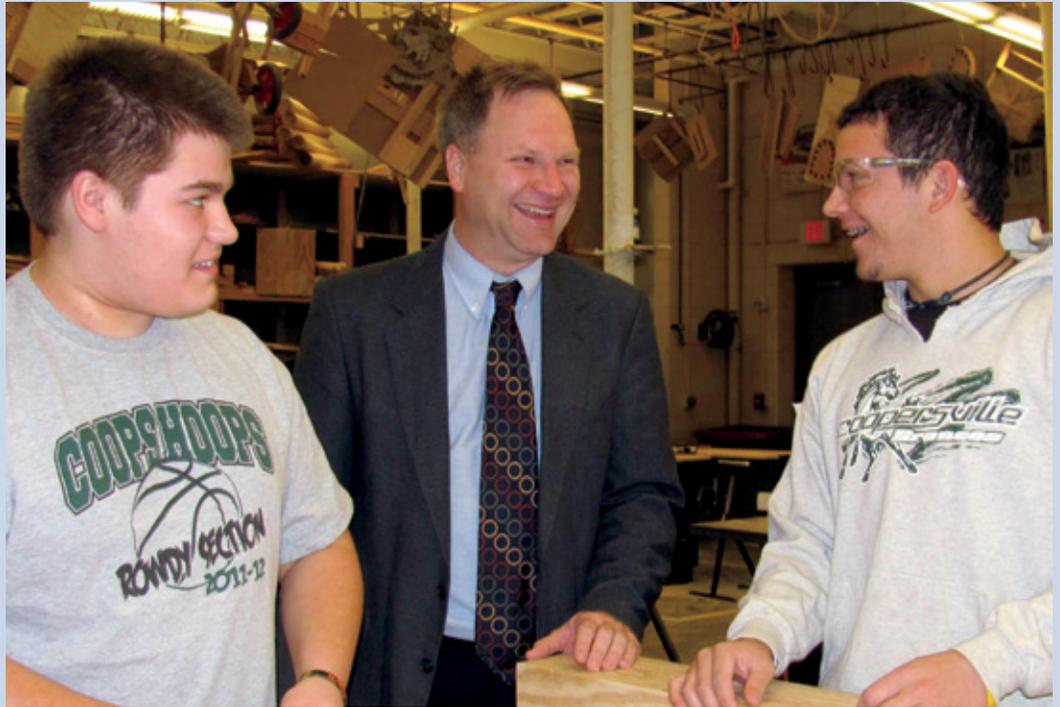
Superintendent, East St. Louis Schools, Illinois

Named superintendent for the East St. Louis School District in September, Arthur Culver empathizes with the difficulty many students in his district face. Culver himself came from humble beginnings and had to persevere through a lack of resources to complete his education.

“I know the difference that a good education can make in a child’s life,” Culver said. “It’s a great way to level the playing field and it is also the gateway to success.”

Culver’s bachelor’s degree from Grand Valley and master’s degree from the University of Houston paved the road to an impressive career. He has been an educator for more than 30 years, beginning as a teacher and administrator, then serving as superintendent for Champaign Community Unit 4 School District for nine years.

Under Culver’s leadership in Champaign, African American elementary students’ math and reading scores improved by 30 percent and 26 percent, respectively, while African American middle school math



courtesy photo

Ron Veldman, '87 and '93, talks with Coopersville students. A veteran educator, Veldman has served the district for 24 years.

scores improved by more than 50 percent.

His experience as a reform agent began with his first principal position in Texas at Tice Elementary School, where more than half of the students came from low-income households. The school had some of the lowest achievement scores in its district, but later earned the highest scores for three consecutive years under Culver’s leadership. He then became a director of elementary programs for La Marque ISD, where his leadership resulted in improved scores for all students in all population groups.

Since then, Culver’s career and tremendous influence on children’s lives has continued to grow. His motivation is rooted in a strong belief in the potential all children possess.

“Many of our children come from disadvantaged homes,” Culver said. “But they are rich in intelligence, ability and have the will to succeed.”



photo courtesy The News Gazette Inc.

Arthur Culver, '75, now leads East St. Louis Schools. He has worked with students for more than 30 years.

Geologist, management professor earn prestigious alumni awards

James W. Ashley, '87, and Star Swift, associate professor of management, were honored by the Alumni Association at commencement ceremonies April 28 at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

Ashley received the Distinguished Alumni Award. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in geology from Grand Valley in 1987, and is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at Arizona State University,

working in the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera Science Operations Center.

Swift received the Outstanding Educator Award. She came to Grand Valley in 1992 and currently works in the Seidman College of Business teaching labor and employment law, arbitration, and collective bargaining. Both award winners were recognized at a dinner at the Alumni House on April 27.



James W. Ashley, '87



Star Swift

Alumni Golf Outing set for July 21

The annual Sleep Inn and Suites Alumni Golf Outing is scheduled for July 21 at the Meadows.

Registration begins at noon with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$95 per golfer and includes a grab bag, Grand Valley alumni gift, unlimited refreshments, and 18 holes of golf followed by a barbecue and awards ceremony. A \$50 instructional program for beginners will also be available. Proceeds from the scramble

will go to the Grand Valley Fund, which helps support student financial assistance, educational opportunities and skill development.

Contact Alumni Relations at (800) 558-0541 for volunteer and sponsorship information. To register your foursome, visit www.gvsu.edu/alumni/golfouting.htm.

Pictured at the 2011 alumni outing are Bryan Lutley, '08, Amalia Matthews, '05, Dean H. James Williams and Kevin Schafer, '98.



H A P P Y
10th 25th 40th
A N N I V E R S A R Y

Wishing 2002, 1987 and 1972 graduates a happy anniversary this year!

Take a look back and share your memories with us at www.gvsu.edu/alumni/anniversary.

Clubs, Chapters and Events

Music Reception

Betsy Groendyk, '11, converses with a music student at the Music Alumni Reception on January 20 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. More than 70 Grand Valley students and alumni attended the Michigan Music Conference held that weekend.



Swinging with Sinatra

The Young Alumni Council hosted one of its biggest events on January 12 at the DeVos Performance Hall with more than 100 attendees. The event gave a sneak peek of the Grand Rapids Symphony's performance of "Swinging with Sinatra and Dorsey." Pictured are first-time attendees, Darcy Lown, '04, and Devin Clemence, '07.

New Chapter Chartered

The Alumni Association welcomes the Cross Country/Track & Field Chapter, which has the second highest number of alumni athletes. Pictured is former Laker high jumper Wade Sikkema, '91.



GVS[you]

Thirty-five Lakers attended the GVS[you] event presented by the Future Alumni Association on February 20. Students had photos taken with Louie the Laker and heard from Jim Bachmeier, vice president for Finance and Administration, who discussed how tuition dollars are spent at Grand Valley.

5 under 25

The Future Alumni Association hosted its annual "5 under 25" event February 1, featuring five successful, young alumni who answered questions from current students about life after graduation. Alumni panelists, left to right, are Josh Hulst, '09, Alexis Alt, '09, Tina Jacobson, '10, Matthew Rutgers, '10 & '11, and Jennifer Pietraz, '09.



Tampa Club at Tigers Spring Training

Tampa Club Leader Tara Crow, '97, and more than 30 others cheered on the Detroit Tigers at a spring training game against the New York Yankees in Lakeland, Florida.

NYC Brunch

Left to right are Krista Hillman, '05, Mike Schulz, '11, and Angela Antonio, '11, who enjoyed brunch and drinks with several other alumni during the New York City Alumni Club gathering at Calle Ocho inside the Excelsior Hotel in Manhattan on February 12.

College of Education Round Table

Forty-six students gathered at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus for the College of Education round table discussions. Charlie Vonk, '98, was one of 12 alumni who volunteered to be round table leaders.



CAREERS

1970s

Stuart D. Peet, B.S., 1979, was appointed to the Commission on Aging for Allegan County.

Louisa Ann Stark, B.S., 1979, received the 2011 Honorary Membership Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers.

1980s

Dennis L. Bieber, B.S., 1980, returned to West Michigan after 30 years as a software engineer at Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale, California.

William J. Sheridan, B.S., 1982, is defensive coordinator for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

James A. VerPloeg, B.S., 1983, is administrative director for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in Pontiac.

Paul J. Spindler, B.B.A., 1987, is the founder of Spindler CFO Solutions in Rockford.

Curtis L. Holt, B.S., 1985, M.P.A., 1988, city manager of Wyoming, is the president of the Michigan Local Government Management Association.

Robert P. Durkee, B.S.N., 1989, is a field representative for the hospital accreditation program at The Joint Commission.

Pamela Patton, B.S., 1989, owner of Paragraph Writing Services Inc., was one of the top six winners of the MyGR6 contest in Grand Rapids.

Laurie E. Westphal, B.A., 1989, published four new books in the Differentiating

Instruction with Menus for the Inclusive Classroom Series.

1990s

John W. VanderSloot, B.S., 1991, is wealth management advisor for TIAA-CREF in East Lansing.

Franklene M. (Hodges) Baker, B.B.A., 1992, is a trainer and facilitator for the Michigan Small Business and Technology Department Center's Fast Trac New Venture program at Grand Valley.

Frederick F. Baker, B.E., 1992, M.S., 2003, is director of digital media software engineering for Ferris State University.

Raymond Bennett, B.B.A., 1992, was named chief lodging services officer for the Americas at Marriott International.

Thomas D. Boritzki, B.S., 1992, is head of manufacturing planning and control for Chrysler LLC in Auburn Hills.

Lee M. Stacey, B.B.A., 1993, is partner, president and CEO for Britton-Gallagher & Associates.

James A. Kilmark, B.S., 1995, was appointed to the Michigan Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.

Jacqueline M. (Vogt) Perrin, B.S., 1995, is the human resources protection liaison for Michigan State University.

Michelle R. Disler, B.A., 1996, published a new book, *[Bond, James] alphabet, anatomy, [auto] biography*.

Scott G. Frederick, M.B.A., 1996, is marketing director for ParterShip LLC in Ohio.

Jennifer L. Meyers, B.S., 1996, is an attorney at Bloomfield Hills-based Dalton & Tomich PLC.

Steven J. Rinella, B.A., 1996, is host of "MeatEater," which airs on the Sportsman Channel.



Teresa L. Neal, B.S., 1997, was named interim superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Gregory M. Vargas, B.A., 1998, M.Ed., 2003, is varsity football coach for Fruitport High School.

David L. Yonkman, B.A., 1998, is president and CEO of David Yonkman Strategies in Washington, D.C.

Junzheng Ding, M.B.A., 1999, is director of supply chain for Regal Beloit.

Patrick D. Nichols, B.B.A., 1999, M.S.A., 2011, is a business analyst for Farmers Insurance in Grand Rapids.

2000s

Katherine M. Filter, B.S., 2000, was promoted to senior sales manager at Greenleaf Hospitality Group in Kalamazoo.

John T. Mauro, B.S., 2000, M.Ed., 2009, is volunteering for the Sacred Valley Project and teaching math in Peru.

Jennifer A. Loughmiller-Newman, B.A., 2000, is a professor at the State University of Albany in New York, researching ancient Mayan culture.

Matthew L. Smith, B.S., 2000, is director of marketing and communications for Healthmark Industries in Fraser.

Thomas L. Willett, M.B.A., 2000, is regional pharmacy manager for the Cancer & Hematology Centers of Western Michigan.

Anna M. Tyszkiewicz, B.S., 2001, M.P.A., 2004, is a project manager for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Travis J. Alden, B.S., 2002, is co-owner of Play Clothes LLC, a specialty children's clothing store in Manistee, and serves as director of the Manistee Main Street Downtown Development Authority.

Erin M. (McGrane) Busscher, B.A., 2002, M.Ed., 2008, is the transfer and articulation coordinator for Grand Rapids Community College.

Abby C. Heugel, B.A., 2003, published a book, *Abby has Issues*.

Angela L. (Briggs) Brown, B.A., 2004, is marketing manager for Serendipity Media LLC in Grand Rapids.

Scott R. Cramton, B.S., 2004, is owner of the Murder Mystery Company, which originated in Grand Rapids.

Joshua M. Meringa, M.P.A., 2005, M.H.A., 2009, was re-elected to the Grandville City Council.

Jessica L. (Easterday) Pulling, B.S.N., 2005, is a nurse practitioner for Bronson

Rambling Road Pediatrics in Portage.

Sharese N. Shannon, B.S., 2005, is a nominee for the Nashville ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award.

Christine L. Brown, B.B.A., 2006, marketing manager for ProQuest, received a University Fellowship from Eastern Michigan University.

Alissa C. Harvey, B.S., 2006, is director of sales and marketing for the Aloft Hotel Denver International Airport.

Marcie M. Hillary, M.P.A., 2006, is executive director for Hospice of Michigan.

Daniel M. Renne, M.S.I.S.T., 2006, is lead developer for High Resolution Systems.

Aaron J. Bir, B.A., 2007, is associate counsel for Sielatycki Law Firm PLC in Kalamazoo.

Michael A. Brower, B.S., 2007, is founding attorney for Stariha & Brower PLC in Muskegon.

Megan A. Kooops-Fisher, B.A., 2007, M.P.A., 2008, is public policy advocate for the Early Childhood Investment Corporation in Allegan.

Nicholas J. Janiga, B.B.A., 2007, is a manager for HealthCare Appraisers Inc. in Denver, Colorado.

Jerry L. McDaniel, M.Ed., 2007, Ed.S., 2010, is principal at Paw Paw Middle School.

Meahgan M. Pear, B.A., 2007, is founder of Mimi P Communications in Grand Rapids.

Rachel E. Partain, B.S., 2007, is executive director for Helping Hands Foundation.

Sandra M. Stevens, B.S., 2007, is information management and instructional technology coordinator for the North Fond du Lac School District in Wisconsin.

Elizabeth R. Walters, B.A., 2007, is branch manager for Marketplace Staffing.

Eileen (Chau) Chen, B.S.N., 2008, is a nurse clinician for Northwestern Memorial Faculty Foundation in Chicago, Illinois.

William R. Eisenhardt, B.S., 2008, plays football for the Chicago Rush.

Kylie L. Flaten, B.S., 2008, is an advanced practice provider/behavioral health fellow at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Annoesjka S. Steinman, M.S., 2008, was appointed to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

Daniel T. Vainner, B.B.A., 2008, is the downtown center manager for Jackson Community College.

Joseph S. Young, B.B.A., 2008, is commercial portfolio manager for Fifth Third Bank in Grand Rapids.

Monica L. Zsolt, B.M.E., 2008, played first clarinet for a performance at Carnegie Hall.

Jonathan E. Ashley, B.S., 2009, is a technical support specialist for Reynolds & Reynolds in Kettering, Ohio.

Tiffany L. Smith, M.T., 2009, is a tax associate for Crowe Horwath LLP in Grand Rapids.

Brittany N. Clark, B.B.A., 2010, is project accountant for The Christman Company in Washington, D.C.

Morgan E. Lind, B.S., 2010, is a business development associate for MLive Media Group.

Elijah J. Brumback, B.S., 2011, is a staff writer for MiBiz.

Alyssa M. Kendzior, B.B.A., 2011, is marketing senior account coordinator for Jack Morton Worldwide in Detroit.

MARRIAGES

1990s

Krissandra Berens, B.B.A., 1995, and William M. Darrah on October 16, 2011.

2000s

Candyce N. Covington, B.A., 2002, M.P.A., 2004, and Chase D. Barber on September 10, 2011.

Carol Jasso, B.B.A., 2003, and David Potts on October 5, 2011.

Jennifer A. Kuipers, B.A., 2006, and Nathan A. Beverwyk, B.S., 2007, on June 25, 2011.

Stephanie N. Schoch, B.B.A., 2007, and Jeffrey A. Novosad, M.S.A., 2008, on November 4, 2011.

Melissa B. Cofer, M.P.A.S., 2008, and Kyle T. Whitaker on September 10, 2011.

Lori A. Burkett, B.B.A., 2008, and Lance Gosselin on October 8, 2011.

Katherine M. Julien, M.T., 2008, and Anthony M. Leighton on July 16, 2011.

Michelle L. Frasco, B.S., 2009, and Michael Schmidt on July 30, 2011.

Sara L. Kooiker, B.S.N., 2009, and Nathan Vander Ploeg, B.S., 2009, on April 23, 2011.

Mason D. Nichols, B.S., 2009, and Deanna Kalafut on October 15, 2011.

Amanda L. Sterenberg, B.S., 2009, and Ryan J. Mitchell, B.F.A., 2009, on July 30, 2011.

Megan D. Bahr, B.B.A., 2010, and Frederick C. Shier, B.S., 2009, on October 22, 2011.

Brittany L. Goodman, B.S., 2010, and Thomas J. Van Maastricht, B.S., 2011, on July 9, 2011.

Jessica J. Klein, B.S., 2010, and Ross M. Nagelkirk, B.E., 2011, on August 20, 2011.

Elizabeth M. Koopman, B.A., 2010, and Christopher L. Slagh, B.B.A., 2010, on October 22, 2011.

Emily A. Nyland, B.S., 2010, and Mitchell T. Sydloski, B.S., 2010, on August 20, 2011.

Melissa M. Berry, B.S., 2011, and Zachary S. Fillmore on August 20, 2011.

Alyssa A. Polhill, B.S., 2011, and Kyle P. Naumann, B.S., 2009, on May 4, 2011.

BIRTHS

1990s

Heather A. (Francis) Zeoli, B.A., 1997, M.P.A., 2008, and husband David, announce the adoption of Layla Marie, on October 7, 2011. The family resides in Walker.

2000s

Amy E. (Duerksen) Sherrard, B.B.A., 2000, and husband Josh announce a son, Joshua Rajkumar II, born November 12, 2011. The family resides in Gilbert, Arizona.

Megan E. Fox, B.S., 2001, M.P.T., 2003, and husband David announce a son, Henrik Nicholas, born August 17, 2010. Henrik is welcomed by siblings Tyler, Emma and Hayden. The family resides in Muskegon.

Mary E. (Hutt) Tanis, M.S.W., 2001, and Darrell W. Tanis, B.S., 1997, announce the adoption of a daughter, Abigail Marie, born November 10, 2011 and adopted on November 22, 2011. The family resides in Hudsonville.

Elizabeth K. (Vruggink) Faraci, B.A., 2002, and Robert A. Faraci, B.B.A., 2004, announce a daughter, Kamryn, born December 31, 2011. The family resides in Osceola, Indiana.

Caroline A. Maj-Ramseyer, B.B.A., 2002, and Adam J. Ramseyer, B.A., 2003, announce a son, Henry Adam,

born September 27, 2011. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Lisa M. (Wezeman) Beard, M.P.T., 2003, and Jeff P. Beard, B.E., 1998, announce a daughter, Elise June, born October 14, 2011. Elise is welcomed by sister Sarina. The family resides in Hudsonville.

Amanda A. (Bongard) Rogalski, B.B.A., 2004, and husband Adam announce a daughter, Ella Grace, born November 28, 2011. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Amanda J. (Butler) Pitts, B.S., 2005, M.S., 2010, and husband Thomas announce a son, Emmett Thomas, born November 15, 2011. The family resides in Jenison.

Jacqueline L. (Donnally) Lin, B.S., 2006, and husband Eric announce a son, Zachary Christopher, born May 24, 2011. The family resides in Houston, Texas.

Landry S. Coffey, B.S., 2007, and wife Jennifer announce a son, Meric Shea, born October 3, 2011. Meric is welcomed by

sister Kylie. The family resides in Hudsonville.

Jamie L. (Skene) Gillespie, B.S., 2007, and husband Matt announce a son, Jackson Thomas, born October 10, 2011. The family resides in Niles.

Nichole K. (Stroud) Neumann, B.A., 2007, and Dennis J. Neumann, Jr., B.S., 2007, announce a daughter, Ava Noelle, born December 17, 2011. The family resides in Warren.

Erin (Murphy) Hartman, B.S., 2008, and husband Scott announce a son, David Vincent, born October 20, 2011. The family resides in Clarkston.

IN MEMORIAM

1970s

Jeffery L. Van Tol, B.S., 1978, of Comstock Park, on December 15, 2011.

2000s

Patrick F. Millard, B.A., 2005, of Grand Rapids, on December 19, 2011.

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Math professor helps others tackle elephant in the room

— by Dottie Barnes

He and his students solve problems from discrete mathematics, advanced calculus and abstract algebra, but now Jonathan Hodge, associate professor and assistant chair of mathematics, is helping people solve life problems. When it comes to being right brain-left brain, Hodge is both.

The Traverse City native has been teaching in Grand Valley's Mathematics Department since 2002. He enjoyed math, physics and engineering while growing up

in northern Michigan, so it was no surprise when he decided to pursue math as a career.

"My research is in the mathematical social sciences, and I've always gravitated toward problems that involve people," Hodge said.

When he worked as a graduate assistant, Hodge discovered his love for teaching and the good rapport he had with students.

"I don't know if I was always good at relating to people, but I always enjoyed relating with people," he said,

jokingly. "I don't know that I was particularly skillful at my reactions with others. I'd say my real interest in conflict resolution came out of looking at my own contribution to certain conflicts."

Hodge said he wanted to pursue conflict resolution as a way of professional development, while preparing for his role as assistant chair. "I wanted to be more effective, so I started with a book on tape," he said. "The material resonated with me in many ways. Soon after, I attended a workshop on conflict resolution in Boston; it enlivened something within me. I wanted to immerse myself in it."

That immersion involved enrolling in a master's program in negotiation, conflict resolution and peace building through California State University-Dominguez Hills. Hodge also became a mediator for Ottawa County District Court.

"This process has changed the way I handle conflict in many ways," he said. "I have certainly changed how I interact with my wife. I am reminded that my way isn't the only way.

There are ways of framing challenges and differences in ways that aren't competitive, but set us up to be able to work together to solve problems."

Hodge said he has also become more open-minded. "I have become a lot less certain about a lot of things that I used to feel more certain about. I've learned to listen to different perspectives. There is a lot of value in hearing what others have to say," he said.

In February, Hodge gave a presentation as part of a Health and Wellness series at Grand Valley. During his discussion, "The Elephant in the Room: How to Talk About Difficult Issues," Hodge told faculty and staff members about the four ways people respond to the elephant: charge at it, get out of the room, do what the elephant wants or talk to the elephant to work something out. These four responses reveal whether a person tends to compete, avoid, yield or problem solve, he said.

He then gave tips for conflict resolution using the acronym S.L.O.W. — set the tone, listen and acknowledge, observe and organize, work toward a solution.

SLOW the elephant in the room

Set the tone

Listen and acknowledge

Observe and organize

Work toward a solution



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Jonathan Hodge leads a presentation on conflict resolution for faculty and staff members. Hodge, associate professor and assistant chair of mathematics, is pursuing a master's degree negotiation, conflict resolution and peace building.

"It's important to legitimize other people's feelings; people need to be heard," he said. "There is great value in hearing other perspectives and celebrating them. When you engage in dialogue about significant differences you discover the underlying thread of common humanity behind all of it. When you better understand another person, your world gets a little bigger."

Hodge said he is sometimes reluctant to tell people he studies conflict resolution. "I'll think back to a time when I handled something terribly and did everything wrong,"

he said. "I taught an honors class on conflict resolution and found that every time I came to class, I had another failure to talk about. This is hard work. It's a process. You can learn all this but it's enormously difficult to apply in real life and takes a lot of practice."

Hodge said traveling internationally has helped him gain perspective. "In the last few years, my wife and I have been to Europe, China and Africa. I have traveled to Kenya three different times to work with a children's rescue mission," he said. "We all have our own cultural perspective. We see the

world through our own little lens. I don't have to abandon my own beliefs or values, but we all need to realize that others with different experiences may come to different views about the same issues."

Hodge said while conflict resolution can be painful at times, it's fulfilling when done right. "It's almost like a spiritual discipline or spiritual pursuit," he said. "There is a discipline involved in reflecting and constantly growing and becoming more self-aware and more introspective."

"It's important to legitimize other people's feelings; people need to be heard."

**— Jonathan Hodge,
associate professor
of mathematics**

Inaugural LAX season

Allyson Fritts, a junior midfielder from Howell, looks to pass the ball during Grand Valley's lacrosse home opener March 16 against Lindenwood. The Lakers lost 18-8. In its inaugural season, Grand Valley played as a Division II independent team against teams from Missouri, Colorado and Ohio.

courtesy photo

