

FORUM

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

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Renaming department emphasizes its services

Grand Valley leaders said the decision to rename its Continuing Education department puts an emphasis on service to current and prospective students.

The new name — Center for Adult and Continuing Studies — was announced at the November 1 Board of Trustees meeting. Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, said the name change reflects Grand Valley's ongoing commitment to student success.

"It signals our commitment to remaining current and relevant in providing innovative and flexible programming that meets the evolving needs and interests of community members and the West Michigan region," Hiskes said.

Simone Jonaitis, executive director of the center, said the new name provides a more accurate description of the services provided at the center, which range from degree completion to professional development to community engagement.

"In addition to providing an umbrella for all

of our programs and services, it is a visible illustration of Grand Valley's commitment to the nontraditional student," Jonaitis said.

About one-fourth of Grand Valley's students are nontraditional, which generally means students who are over the age of 24.

The name change also helps launch a new accelerated degree program in Grand Rapids. Jonaitis said an 18-month bachelor's degree program in liberal studies, with an emphasis on leadership skills, will begin in the fall 2014 semester.

"The name change is important as we launch the Grand Rapids degree program," she said. "It's a more visible illustration of the value and importance Grand Valley places on the adult learner in our community."

Michigan lags behind the nation (No. 32)



Students are pictured in a class at the Traverse City Center. The Traverse City and Muskegon centers and the Meijer Holland Campus fall under the umbrella of the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies, which was recently renamed.

in numbers of adults that hold at least an associate's degree. Thirty-six percent of Michigan adults have at least a two-year degree, the national average is 38.3 percent.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/learn for more information about the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies.

Across Campus

GVSU teams win big at business competition

Team Soletics, from Seidman College of Business, took first place and won \$25,000 at the Accelerate Michigan Innovation competition November 14 in Detroit.

Grand Valley alumnus Ryan Vaughn took first place in the Company Award category, winning \$500,000.

Accelerate Michigan is an international business competition designed to bring together later-stage entrepreneurial companies with local, national and international investors.

Soletics competed among 35 teams in the student competition. Three undergraduate students were on the team, including Michael Kurley, chief executive officer; Lindsay Noonan, chief marketing officer; and Vanessa Gore,



From left are Michael Kurley, Lindsay Noonan and Vanessa Gore, who took first place at the Accelerate Michigan Innovation competition.

public relations specialist.

Soletics creates smart, outdoor athletic gear. The team is creating a jacket system for skiers and snowboarders that will cool the core, heat the extremities, and provide excess power that can be used to charge a mobile device. The

system uses solar and thermoelectric fabrics and materials to provide power.

Vaughn, formerly an entrepreneur-in-residence at Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, is the co-creator of Varsity News Network. Varsity News Network is described as the ESPN.com of high schools sports. Local media coverage can be limited so the network allows fans to promote their teams on the Web.

Groundswell funding helps school projects

Funding for Groundswell will help environmental projects continue at area schools.

Groundswell, housed in the College of Education, is an initiative to help young people

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learn about the Great Lakes and local watershed systems and become active stewards of the environment. The program helps students and teachers collaborate with local organizations to address environmental issues in their communities.

Groundswell has received renewal funding from the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (GLSI) for \$145,000 with a local match of \$136,975. The grant will provide funding for operations, professional development for teachers, and area school projects.

Groundswell also received a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration B-WET grant of \$70,000 with a local match of \$86,762. This grant will allow the Forest Hills Public School District to expand Groundswell to seven schools. It will also help accomplish mapping of school property and the planning of new uses of the property to cut maintenance costs and improve the environmental quality and usefulness of the land.

Grand Rapids Public School’s CA Frost Environmental Academy will use its funding for in-depth restoration work around the school, and at Blandford Nature Center and in downtown Grand Rapids.

Groundswell also received a Baldwin Foundation grant for \$9,000 over two years.

Since 2008, Groundswell has worked with 17 schools to develop service-learning projects, involving nearly 1,500 students each year.

Lecture introduces first civil discourse professorship

When talking about civil discourse, Jack Lessenberry said it means more than listening and speaking politely to others.

Lessenberry, senior political analyst for Michigan Radio, gave the inaugural lecture during the introduction of the Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professorship of Civil Discourse November 20 at the DeVos Center.

He recalled a time when leaders in Washington or Lansing may have been on different sides of the aisle but they cooperated and achieved legislation; and they called the other side the opposition.

“We now seem to regard the opposition as the enemy,” he said.

Lessenberry projected that the tide shifted to angry after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, in the late 1980s and early ’90s.

“For a half-century, the U.S. defined itself in relations to the Soviet Union. We were not them,” he said. After the end of the Cold War, Lessenberry said, “We were alone ... and the United States were not united.”

The event also introduced the first faculty member to hold the professorship: Lisa M. Perhamus, assistant professor of education.

The endowed professorship was a gift to Grand Valley from longtime supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik. Padnos chairs Grand Valley’s Board of Trustees.

KCON faculty member lobbies for nurse practitioner bill

Ann Sheehan, Kirkhof College of Nursing assistant dean for practice, hustled to Lansing recently when senators were preparing to vote on a



Photo by Jeff Dykehouse
Veteran journalist Jack Lessenberry discusses civil discourse during a lecture November 20 at the DeVos Center.

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

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Other publications by the News and Information Services Office include:

Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

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

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GVFaces

Eric Kunnen Emerging Technology Coordinator

Eric Kunnen has always been passionate and enamored by the potential of technology.

He is able to transfer that passion to his job at the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons. As emerging technology coordinator, his focus is to complement learning outside the classroom and help students and faculty members work more effective and efficient.

“I am excited about the potential of technology as it relates to teaching and learning and how we can best take advantage of it in order to improve how faculty teaches, and how students learn,” said Kunnen.

Kunnen’s main responsibility is transforming the Technology Showcase, located on the atrium level of the Mary Idema Pew Library, into a functional space that allows students to effectively use and learn about the technology available to them.

Currently the Technology Showcase houses a 3-D printer, a Double Robot (a tool for telecommunicating using an iPad) and a Leap Motion Controller that allows students to control the computer screen using hand motions. A new addition may be added as Kunnen has been invited to become an early Google Glass Explorer.

Kunnen earned a bachelor’s degree from Grand Valley in 1993. He earned a master’s degree in education technology from Grand Valley in 2002. He had spent 20 years at Grand Rapids Community College in a number of roles focused on teaching and learning through the use of technology.



Eric Kunnen

Kunnen said he hopes to encourage campus community members to think differently about their educational experience and the role that technology can play in it.

“Grand Valley has truly put a stake in the ground regarding emerging technology through the Technology Showcase, which is a tangible representation of the value the university places on technology and its ability to transform teaching and learning,” he said.

He was named an inaugural member of the Blackboard MVP Program, which recognizes individuals who have established themselves as thought leaders in educational technology by sharing their expertise in Blackboard platforms.

For more on Kunnen’s experiences with emerging technology, visit ekunnen.wordpress.com/.

What’s Ahead

Fitness challenge runs through holidays

Sponsored by Health and Wellness, the Hold the Stuffing Challenge 2013 is a six-week competition open to all faculty and staff members.

The challenge is intended to help keep participants in shape during the holiday season. A registration fee of \$5 is due by November 27; fees can be sent to Human Resources, Lake Michigan Hall, room 140. Each participant who successfully completes the challenge is eligible for prize drawings and has the opportunity to win their money back by splitting the registration fees collected.

Private weigh-in dates and locations are listed online at www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness, click on “Hold the Stuffing Challenge.”

Alumna to discuss how music affects healing

Grand Valley alumna Adrienne Trier-Bieniek was a graduate student at Virginia Tech in 2007 when the university was the site of the worst school shooting in the U.S. She turned to music as a way to deal with the loss and grief she experienced, which is the subject of her campus presentation November 25.

Trier-Bieniek will discuss her book, “Sing Us a Song, Piano Woman - Female Fans and

the Music of Tori Amos,” and the music that inspired her to research the relationships female fans build with feminist musicians.

Her presentation is set for Monday, November 25, at 4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2215.

After the shooting at Virginia Tech, Trier-Bieniek said she listened to Tori Amos’s music, which is often about tackling grief, loss and violence against women. “My status as a Tori Amos fan for almost half my life told me that there was something happening, particularly with her female fans, that helped them heal from whatever they were experiencing in their lives,” said Trier-Bieniek.

Trier-Bieniek graduated from Grand Valley in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies and a minor in women and gender studies; she worked for the Women’s Center as a volunteer coordinator. She is now a sociology professor at Valencia College in Orlando, and regularly contributes to organizations seeking advice or information about music and healing.

The event is sponsored by the Women’s Center.

Opera Theatre to present ‘Amahl and the Night Visitors’

Grand Valley Opera Theatre will present the special Christmas opera “Amahl and the Night

Visitors” at the Grand Rapids Ballet’s Peter Martin Wege Theatre.

Five performances of the family friendly, one-hour production are planned: Friday, November 29, at 2 and 7 p.m.; Saturday, November 30, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, December 1, at 2 p.m.

One of the most popular works ever written for the American stage, Gian Carlo Menotti’s “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” was also the first opera composed specifically for network television. Originally broadcast December 24, 1951 on NBC, the beloved Christmas special quickly became an annual holiday tradition.

This adaptation of the story of the Nativity and the Adoration of the Magi tells how a crippled, young shepherd boy’s life changes forever when he sees an amazing star. Three foreign kings following the star, in search of a wondrous child, encounter Amahl and his mother.

The Grand Valley performances are in collaboration with the Unity Christian High School Choral Ensemble and Grand Rapids Junior Ballet Company. Aidan Baas, a seventh grade student from East Grand Rapids Middle School, will be featured as Amahl.

Tickets are \$14 adults; \$12 alumni, seniors, faculty and staff; \$6 all students and can be purchased through Grand Valley’s box office at x12300 or through Star Tickets at (616) 222-4000.

Across Campus

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Ann Sheehan

bill that would properly define the role of a nurse practitioner in Michigan.

As a nurse practitioner and president-elect of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners, Sheehan has worked with other nursing leaders on this bill for several years.

The Senate passed the bill, 20-18, on November 13, sending it to the House for consideration.

Sheehan said passage of the bill would insert a definition of a nurse practitioner into the state’s public health code. Because there is no formal definition, Sheehan said it limits nurse practitioners who want to start their own business. The bill would also authorize nurse practitioners to practice to the full extent of their education and board certification credentials.

Rowland earns national recognition for anti-violence work

Theresa Rowland, coordinator of the leadership program and the Violence Against Women Act grant for the Women’s Center, received the Emerging Leader Award from the National Women’s Studies Association.

Rowland was recognized at the NWSA Women’s Center Committee pre-conference



From left are Julia Mason, Theresa Rowland, Kathleen Underwood and Brittany Dernberger at the National Women’s Studies Association conference, where Rowland received an award.

awards ceremony November 6 in Cincinnati.

As VAWA grant coordinator, Rowland organizes events and programs on campus that address sexual assault, stalking and dating and domestic violence. She was nominated by Women’s Center staff members Brittany Dernberger and Jo Ann Wassenaar.

“Theresa’s work has not only impacted our students on campus but across West Michigan and the state,” said Wassenaar. “Our communities are a better place to live because of her work.”

Rowland received a master’s of education degree in College Student Affairs in Leadership from Grand Valley in 2010. She was a graduate assistant for the Office of Student Life’s Laker Leadership Program before she joined the Women’s Center in 2011 as VAWA coordinator.

Last year, the Women’s Center received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Women’s Studies Association.

Pew Campus sees increase in car break-ins

There has been an increase in the number of vehicle break-ins this semester at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus and surrounding Grand Rapids areas.

Investigator Dan Bohle, with Pew Campus and Regional Centers Security, said suspects are becoming more brazen. He said thefts are happening during daylight hours and suspects are breaking windows to gain access.

Here are tips that can reduce the number of thefts:

- Do not leave purses, GPS units, laptops or any other valuables visible. Lock these items in the trunk or in the glove compartment, out of view.
- Close all windows and convertible tops, even parking permits are valuable.
- Always double check to make sure the doors are locked.
- Be alert to your surroundings when walking in the parking lots. You might notice someone looking in vehicles. If so, call Pew Security at x16677.
- Always look toward a car alarm going off, the sound is often ignored in today’s society.
- At night, park near light poles or well-lit areas. If you notice any lights out please report them to Campus Security at x16677.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events	Loosemore Auditorium, DEC. Call x18110 for more information.	7 p.m.: Opera Theatre production “Amahl and the Night Visitors.” Wege Theatre, Grand Rapids. Call x13484 for more information.
Mon., Nov. 25	8 p.m.: Concert Band. LAT, PAC. Call x13484 for more information.	Sports
4:30 p.m.: Women’s Center hosts “Sing Us a Song, Piano Woman: Female Fans and the Music of Tori Amos,” by Adrienne Trier-Bieniek. 2215 KC. Call x12748 for more information.	Sat., Nov. 30	Sat. Nov. 30
6 p.m.: Latin American Studies hosts film screening, “Revolution/Revolución.”	2 p.m.: Opera Theatre production “Amahl and the Night Visitors.” Wege Theatre, Grand Rapids. Call x13484 for more information.	1 p.m.: Women’s Basketball hosts Lewis University.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

Sketches

Alisha Davis, assistant professor of allied health sciences, gave a presentation, “The T.E.A.M.M. Approach to Mentoring: Community and Academic Partnerships,” at the Annual Mentoring Conference: Impact & Effectiveness of Developmental Relationships at the University of New Mexico.

Peimin Ni, professor of philosophy, wrote a chapter, “The Philosophy of Confucius,” published in a book, *Dao Companion to Classical Confucian Philosophy*.

Hermann Kurthen, associate professor of sociology, gave a presentation, “What Influences Student-Teacher Interaction in the College Classroom?” at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching and Learning in Traverse City.

Facilities Services staff members **Rence Meredith**, **Ed Simon**, and **Ed Wierzbicki** received Educational Facilities Professional credentials from the APPA, the association dedicated to leadership in educational facilities.

Political Science faculty members **John Constantelos** and **Polly J. Diven** co-wrote an article, “The Roots of Confidence in the European Union,” published in a Polish journal, *Horizons of Politics*.

Brittany Dernberger, assistant director of the Women’s Center, gave a presentation, “Feminism and Social Media: Joining the Digital Conversation,” at the National Women’s Studies Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Johnson Center for Philanthropy staff members **Megan Murphy** and **Tera Qualls** received, respectively, the Unsung Hero Award and Young Nonprofit Professional of the Year from the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Greater Grand Rapids.

Karen Gipson, associate professor of physics, gave a presentation, “Integrating Personal Practice with Classroom Instruction,” at the 2013 meeting of the Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Lara Jaskiewicz, assistant professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, gave presentations, “How Do Low-income Residents View Corner Store Owners? Implications for Healthy Store Projects” and “Developing Community Capacity to Increase the Availability of Healthy Foods in Corner Stores,” at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

Brent A. Smith, assistant professor of religious studies, gave a presentation, “The Hub and the Hole: Interdisciplinarity and the Study of Religion,” at the annual meeting of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies.

Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members **Pat Schafer**, **Sue Mlynarczyk**, **Kate D’Amour** and **Kristi Cooper** gave two presentations, “CATCHing on to Health,” at the American Nursing Association Michigan Conference in Traverse City.

Donald Mitchell Jr., assistant professor of education, wrote an article, “Quadruple Consciousness: A Literature Review and New Theoretical Consideration for Understanding the Experiences of Black Gay and Bisexual Men at Predominantly White Institutions,” published in the *Journal of African American Males in Education*.

John Kilbourne, professor of movement science, gave a presentation on Activity Permissible Classroom to the head of the Academic College and faculty from Qatzrin Ohalo College in Israel.

Craig Benjamin, associate professor of history, Honors College, is a featured specialist in a

Faculty NCAA fellow attends leadership institute

Paul Leidig, director of the School of Computing and Information Systems, is one of 16 fellows in the nation selected to represent the NCAA Division II athletics as a Faculty Athletics Representative.

In October, Leidig attended the NCAA Advanced Leadership Institute at the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis. He said the gathering allowed FARs from all over the country to develop leadership skills and discuss intercollegiate athletic issues.

As a FAR, Leidig represents Grand Valley and its faculty in the university’s relationship with the NCAA. His responsibilities include ensuring a quality student-athlete experience and academic integrity of the athletics program.

Leidig was appointed by former Grand Valley President Mark Murray in 2005, and reappointed by President Thomas J. Haas in 2006.



Paul Leidig

new 17-episode History Channel series on Big History, currently airing on Saturday nights on the H2 network. He also wrote an article, “The Great Deliverer, the Righteous, the Just, the Autocrat, the God, Worthy of Worship,” published in *Toronto Studies in Central and Inner Asia*.