

FORUM

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

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Convocation speakers challenge, advise new students

HAAS DELIVERS ANNUAL ADDRESS, OUTLINES VISION

Convocation speakers welcomed new students to Grand Valley by offering them advice while presenting challenges.

President Thomas J. Haas told students who gathered in the Fieldhouse August 22 that the faculty members sitting in the front rows will become critically important to them.

"These people, who are renowned in their fields, have chosen to teach you and to challenge you to learn," Haas said. "In doing so, they will change your lives."

He said that was a lofty goal, then reminded students that they came to campus with their own goals.

"Find your passion, so you will contribute to our campus life and to your communities and to your professional areas," he said.

He followed speakers Karen Gipson, chair of University Academic Senate, and Andrew Plague, Student Senate president, who offered their own advice to first-year students.

Gipson, professor of physics, said faculty members will not only challenge and teach students but also offer them the tools necessary

for lifelong learning.

Gipson said change is "an essential feature of a liberal education."

Plague said he spent the summer collecting advice from returning students before deciding what to say during the ceremony. He found three themes in those pieces of advice: get involved in campus activities and organizations, get help by utilizing campus resources, and be yourself.

"It took courage for me to be myself," Plague said, who added he found support at the LGBT Resource Center as a first-year student to be able to come out as gay.

"Through friends, professors, and campus resources, I found the courage to be myself during my first year at Grand Valley and it



Photo by Amanda Pitts

PRESIDENT THOMAS J. HAAS ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE AT CONVOCAATION IN THE FIELDHOUSE ON AUGUST 22.

changed my life," he said.

For the first time at Convocation, an alumnus

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Marilyn E. Zumberge Garden dedicated

The Marilyn E. Zumberge Garden was dedicated in a ceremony outside of Zumberge Hall August 19.



Photo by Adam Bird

JOHN ZUMBERGE AND MARCIA HAAS UNVEIL A RENDERING OF THE MARILYN E. ZUMBERGE GARDEN DURING A DEDICATION CEREMONY AUGUST 19.

Marilyn, wife of the late James H. Zumberge who was Grand Valley's first president, served as first lady during their six years at the university from 1963-1969. Marilyn died in June 2008. The ceremony was attended by several family members, including the couple's three sons: Mark, Jim and John.

During the ceremony, President Thomas J. Haas said Marilyn represented the university and community with dignity and grace. "She was a great confidant to her husband as he wrestled the issues of the day," said Haas.

Marcia Haas said: "It is fitting that Marilyn's name graces this beautiful garden and building.

"The garden is designed to look beautiful in every season and captures her beautiful spirit and contributions to Grand Valley."

John Zumberge spoke on behalf of the family. "This is so special for us. It is exciting to see the growth of this whole campus," he said. "My mother loved gardens, both formal and wild. She would have approved of this garden."

College of Education celebrates 50 years

Grand Valley's College of Education is celebrating 50 years of providing quality teacher-education programs.

A kickoff ceremony was held August 12 at the Eberhard Center with a Blue Apple Ceremony, recognizing 12 outstanding alumni.

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In its earliest plans, Grand Valley was intended to be a liberal arts college with little or no professional emphasis. As needs grew, Grand Valley adapted accordingly to provide teacher preparation programs. The initial cohort of Grand Valley students included 45 elementary and 39 secondary candidates.

Today, the College of Education is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and is one of the leading providers of teacher preparation programs in the state of Michigan.

Laker Blue Apple Award recipients were Jenny (Yonkman) Bangma, teacher at Creative Technologies Academy; J. Peter DeWitt, teacher at Catholic Central High School; Eric Fey, teacher at West Michigan Aviation Academy; Jason Grubaugh, teacher at Plainwell High School; Tom Hosford, principal of Rockford Freshman Center; Audra Kowalski, teacher at Bryon Center Charter School; Tricia McPheron, dean of students at Eastern Middle School; Jaymie Perry, teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School; Sara Sposaro, teacher at Zinser Elementary; Christopher Stabile, teacher at East Grand Rapids High School; Mark VanderKlok, teacher at Alamo Elementary; and Colleen Waite, teacher at Ottawa Hills High School.

Special events are planned throughout the year highlighting people, programs and partnerships. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/coe/50th.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

ELAINE COLLINS, DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE AT THE BLUE APPLE CEREMONY, A KICKOFF EVENT TO THE COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

Helping hands



Photo by Elizabeth Lienau

MORE THAN 600 ALUMNI, STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS HELPED MORE THAN 6,000 NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS MOVE INTO THEIR LIVING CENTERS AUGUST 18-20. PRESIDENT THOMAS J. HAAS, MARCIA HAAS, AND TRUSTEE SHELLEY PADNOS SERVED ICE CREAM TO FAMILIES AND NEW STUDENTS ON AUGUST 20 NEAR KLEINER COMMONS.

Sierra Club names Grand Valley greenest school for third year

Grand Valley was again named one of the country's greenest universities by the Sierra Club, the largest national grassroots environmental organization in the U.S. The university is the highest-ranking Michigan institution on the list, ahead of universities such as Texas A&M and Ohio State.

For the third year in a row, Grand Valley is included in the Sierra's Club's annual list of "Coolest Schools," a list that ranks schools that have a strong commitment to environmental improvement, are helping to solve climate

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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 University Communications include:

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

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVN^{ow}, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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

First cohort of new degree program meets

Students in the first cohort of the Liberal Studies Leadership Program met for orientation August 12 at the DeVos Center.

Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, welcomed students; the program is housed within the college. Simone Jonaitis, executive director of the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies, said students then heard from faculty members who will be teaching courses in the program in addition to other staff members who will serve as resources for the 19-month accelerated degree program.

Students enrolled in the program take one



STUDENTS IN THE FIRST COHORT OF THE LIBERAL STUDIES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ARE PICTURED AT THE DEVOS CENTER ALONG WITH FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS INTEGRAL TO THE PROGRAM.

five-week class at a time at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus; it's geared toward working adults who have earned about 72 credits and are at least 24 years old.

A second cohort will begin at the Meijer Campus in Holland in the winter semester. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/lead19.



What's Ahead



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

‘OPEN EVERYTHING,’ AN EXHIBIT THAT EXPLORES INFORMATION AS A GLOBAL COMMODITY, RUNS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 11 AT THE MARY IDEMA PEW LIBRARY.

Exhibit examines information as global commodity

“Open Everything,” a new interactive exhibit exploring the idea of information as a global commodity, is now open at the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons through September 11.

The purpose of the display is to introduce students and the public to the global issue of open access to information or lack thereof.

“The issue is that scholars create information to advance the well-being of the world, and we give away the research that we produce in our institutions that are publicly supported

to publishers, and they sell it back to us at prices we can’t afford,” said Lee Van Orsdel, dean of University Libraries. “We need to free up information, and it needs to be free to be repurposed and put together and combined with other knowledge to make the world better.”

In each of the four areas of the exhibit, visitors are prompted with a role-playing scenario to choose a path and then discover the hypothetical local, national or global implications of their choices. The four role-play scenarios are below.

- Open Access: free, online availability of research articles and the rights to use them.
- Open Software: open source software is available for modification or enhancement by anyone.
- Open Textbooks: teaching and learning materials freely available online for everyone to use.
- Open Data: data that can be freely used and shared by anyone.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

IFF to hold opening reception

International Faculty and Friends will host its opening reception on Wednesday, September 3, in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

The event will run from 4-5:30 p.m.; refreshments, beer and wine will be served. It serves as an opportunity to connect with many of the international faculty members on campus

and learn about other events.

IFF, sponsored by the Padnos International Center, was established in 2007 to build community by focusing on global countries and cultures. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/pic/iff.

LGBT Resource Center to host student welcome

The LGBT Resource Center will host its annual welcome celebration for new and returning students.

Rainbow Social will take place on Wednesday, September 3, at 7 p.m. at the center, Kirkhof Center, room 1161. LGBT and ally students are invited; there will be ice cream and entertainment.

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

New fitness class offered

Health and Wellness will offer a new fitness class for faculty and staff members who are interested in small-group training.

Lindsey DesArmo, health and wellness specialist, said working out with a small group provides added motivation and support.

Class size is limited; small groups will meet September 8-November 28 on Tuesdays and Thursdays on both campuses: 6:30 a.m. in the Fieldhouse or Kelly Family Sports Center in Allendale, and 4:15 p.m. in Winter Hall on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Register online for this or other faculty/staff exercise classes at www.gvsu.edu/seminar.

Young Professionals will sponsor monthly events

A new professional development group for faculty and staff members who are new to higher education or young at heart will kick off its year of programming with “Dress for Success.”

Young Professionals in Higher Education reaches beyond Grand Valley to include faculty and staff members from other West Michigan institutions. It stemmed from an initiative last year established by Kim Monaghan, Human Resources Career Services consultant.

The first event is set for Thursday, September 4, from noon-1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2201. Dress for Success will feature George Davis, associate director of admissions-diversity recruitment, as the featured speaker. Davis is also a wardrobe consultant and stylist.

Register for the seminar online at www.gvsu.edu/seminar. Young Professionals also has a website, www.gvsu.edu/yphe.



Courtesy photo

PICTURED, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, IS THE YPHE PLANNING COMMITTEE: WHITNEY MARSH, ANDREW BIXEL, BRITTANY DERNBERGER, LIZ COLLVER, LAURA CAULK, ASHLEY MCCARTER, CLAIRE HARRISON AND KRASHAWN MCELVEEN. NOT PICTURED IS ALEXIS RANGEL.

Across Campus

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problems and are making significant efforts to operate sustainably.

Grand Valley placed 58th out of 173 institutions. The ranking was based on scores given to universities that completed a questionnaire on measurable environmental

goals and achievements, presented by the Sierra Club, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI) and Princeton Review. Since 2013, Grand Valley has been the only university in the state and is currently one of 61 in the country to receive gold status after completing the survey. Of

the 282 schools that currently hold a ranking nationwide, Grand Valley’s average score was higher than the national score. The self-reporting assessment included more than 900 questions.

Sierra Club has more than 1.4 million members and supporters nationwide.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Al Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was interviewed by multiple media outlets for stories about the algal blooms in Lake Erie.

Sketches

Peimin Ni, professor of philosophy, gave the keynote address, “Common Assumptions to be Challenged in Order to Have Common Ethics amid Different Beliefs,” keynote speech at the Nishan Forum on World Civilizations in Jinan, China. He also co-edited a book, *Moral Cultivation and Confucian Character: Engaging*, published by State University of New York Press.

Neal Buckwalter, assistant professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, wrote an

article, “The Potential for Public Empowerment through Government-Organized Participation,” published in *Public Administration Review*.

University Libraries faculty members **Elizabeth Martin** and **Lynn Sheehan** gave a presentation, “Work Management and the Academic Librarian,” at the Library Management Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Jeanne Arnold, former vice president for Inclusion and Equity, will serve as a mentor for the chief diversity officer fellows program, through the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

Diane Rayor, professor of Classics, wrote a book, *Sappho: A New Translation of the Complete Works*, which includes recently discovered poems. It was published by Cambridge University Press.

Elena Lioubimtseva, professor of geography and planning, gave a keynote address, “Understanding and Measuring Human Vulnerability to Climate Change,” at the third international Earth Science and Climate Change Conference in San Francisco, California. She also gave a workshop, presentation and chaired a session at the conference.

Michael P. Lombardo, professor of biology, and **Robert O. Deaner**, associate professor of psychology, gave a presentation, “The Ecological Causes and Evolutionary Consequences of Throwing in the Genus Homo,” at the International Society for Behavioral Ecology Conference at Hunter College, New York.

Haas outlines vision for university in address

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addressed the audience. Matthew LaVere, a freelance photographer from Royal Oak, told students their definitions of success might change over time.

Provost Gayle R. Davis began Convocation by explaining the pageantry of the ceremony and academic regalia. “This ends a week of orientation in which you learned a lot about us and gained a lot of information about the culture of Grand Valley,” she said.

Faculty/Staff Address

Before Convocation when giving his annual Faculty/Staff Address, Haas outlined his vision for Grand Valley, centered on remaining relevant in Michigan and ensuring that students and graduates will make a global impact.

He recognized recent accomplishments such as receiving an increase in state appropriations, increasing retention and graduating students at a rate above the national average.

Haas said this is not a time to rest but, rather, to introduce initiatives to continue to attract high-quality students. An example, the Design Thinking Initiative will allow a range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities to our students and faculty, he said, adding the catalyst for the idea was Davis and others in the Provost’s Office.

Haas summarized international education achievements and said a newly created team, Global Grand Valley, will move forward with plans to enhance global learning for all students. Grand Valley’s retention rate has risen to 71 percent but Haas also mentioned a report that stated the number of Michigan high school



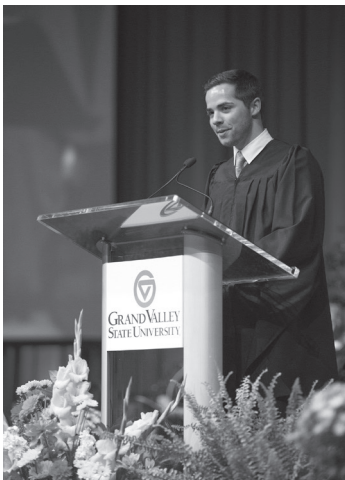
Photos by Amanda Pitts

FACES OF CONVOCATION, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MUSIC STUDENT GABRIEL REITEMEIER, PRESIDENT THOMAS J. HAAS GIVES HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS, FACULTY SENATE CHAIR KAREN GIPSON AND STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT ANDREW PLAGUE.

graduates will decrease 20 percent by 2019.

“In order for us to maintain the number of first-year students that we see coming to campus this year, with high academic credentials, we must gather even more of the market share both in- and out-of-state,” he said.

Haas reminded the audience that everyone on campus plays a role in recruiting students. He also said work has started on the university’s next strategic plan and all colleges and divisions will begin creating their road maps next year.



Texts of Haas’ Faculty/Staff Address and Convocation are online at www.gvsu.edu/president.