

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Naming ceremony for Blue Connection on April 9

Lynn “Chick” Blue, ’86, vice president for Enrollment Development, will be honored for her longtime dedication to students and support for Grand Valley during a naming ceremony for the Lynn M. Blue Connection on the Allendale Campus.

The ceremony will be held April 9 at 3 p.m.; remarks will be made by President Thomas J. Haas and Jodi Chycinski, director of Admissions.

The building is named in honor of Blue, who is the longest-serving employee at Grand Valley. She achieved the 50-year mark in September 2018. Blue has built a legacy of enriching the lives of students, helping many overcome academic and personal obstacles.

She and her husband, Herb, are longtime supporters of the university. Together they established the Blue Working Family Endowed Scholarship to assist Michigan high school graduates who face financial barriers to attend college.

Blue was instrumental in designing the Connection, which opened in 2010 on the south end of campus. The building includes classrooms, study areas, the Disability Support Resources office and dining.

She was hired as a clerk typist in 1968 and has held several positions at Grand Valley, including director of Records and Registration, registrar, and vice provost and dean for Academic Services.

Blue was named vice president for Enrollment Development in May 2015, a newly created position focusing on enrollment management.



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

The Blue Connection is named in honor of Lynn M. Blue, who is the longest-serving employee at Grand Valley. She achieved the 50-year mark in September 2018.



Photo by Rachael Mooney

AWRI professor Rick Rediske was one of the presenters at a March 29 meeting about indoor air quality tests on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Air quality in Pew Campus buildings found in safe range

Grand Valley experts told audience members at a March 29 meeting that results from indoor air quality tests at select buildings on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus were found to be safe.

The meeting was held in the L. William

Seidman Center to share the test results and information regarding an MDEQ study of emissions of ethylene oxide from Viant Medical, Inc. in Grand Rapids.

Grand Valley hired an independent company, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., to test the indoor air quality in the L. William Seidman Center, The Bicycle Factory, the DeVos Center, and Winter Hall, which are all located near the Viant facility.

Officials said measured results from testing on February 16 were low and considered to be in the safe range.

Grand Valley scheduled additional testing March 16 which verified the initial results.

Panelists at the meeting included Grand Valley experts Dave Huizen, occupational health and safety program director; George McBane, professor of chemistry; and Rick Rediske, professor and researcher at the Annis Water Resources Institute.

They said the results were “very low, either below or just above the detection limit.”

They said based on all of the sampling

information, as well as the results of two sets of modeling, all the risk levels for Grand Valley employees and students using the most conservative model for estimating total cancer risk are less than the risk threshold for public health intervention.

Grand Valley experts said they agree with the MDEQ that the measured and modeled concentrations do not pose a short-term health concern to faculty and students at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus; and additional lifetime cancer risk, while not zero, is too small to warrant concern.

The experts also said it is highly unlikely that even one GVSU person will contract cancer because of ethylene oxide from Viant.

Other panelists included Deb Alderink, occupational safety and health manager with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., and Tammi VanTil, air dispersion consultant and president of Madison Consulting.

Ed Aboufadel, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, served as moderator of the meeting.

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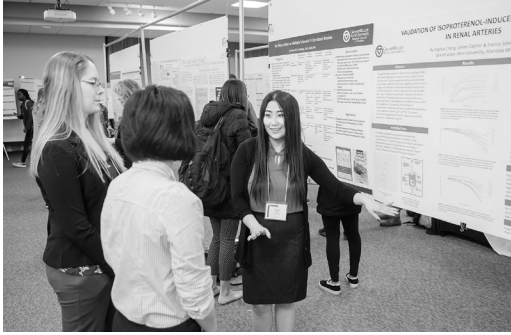


Photo by Rachael Mooney

Student Scholars Day is April 10; a record number of participants are expected. Pictured is the 2018 event.

Record number of students will participate in Student Scholars Day

A record number of 793 students will give presentations during the 23rd annual Student Scholars Day on April 10.

Poster and oral presentations, art exhibitions, panel discussions and film screenings will run from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Henry Hall and Mary Idema Pew Library.

Campus community members can search online for presentations by disciplines, start times, department mentors or presentation type at gvsu.edu/ours/ssd.

Susan Mendoza, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, said undergraduate research is a tradition at Grand Valley.

"SSD provides a powerful platform for students to share their scholarship with the Grand Valley community," Mendoza said. "This year, a number of interdisciplinary panel and session presentations were submitted with topics

ranging from Parkinson's disease to an analysis of Hollywood film remakes."

Amarri Smallwood is majoring in women, gender, and sexuality studies. Her SSD presentation centers on the 1990s sitcom "Living Single" and how the main characters resisted normalized ideals of gender and sexuality within the show.

Smallwood's faculty mentor was Ayana Weekley, associate professor of WGS, who is among 161 faculty mentors to SSD participants. Smallwood is a Reach and McNair Scholar and conducted research last summer.

Four Grand Valley alumni will participate in a panel discussion during the SSD luncheon, discussing their graduate school experiences and career paths.

They are Isaac Clark, a medical librarian at Western Michigan University's Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine; Jennifer Landino, a post-doctoral fellow in the Cellular, Molecular, and Development Biology Department at the University of Michigan; Zach Madaj, biostatistician for Van Andel Research Institute; and Erika VanDyke, program officer for Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/ours/ssd.

Mammoth and mastodon fossils on loan from public museum

The Department of Geology has acquired mammoth and mastodon pieces on loan from the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The pieces include a skeletal foot, lower jaw and tusk, which are on display in a case outside room 130 in Padnos Hall of Science.

Geology instructor John VanRegenmorter

worked with museum officials to secure the pieces for a one-year loan with an option to renew it.

"The mastodon lower jaw shows excellent growth and development features," said VanRegenmorter. "We also have a mounted mastodon foot — a great visualizer of how big these critters really were. And, a mammoth tusk, sliced lengthwise down the middle, and in two pieces. Wonderful for display, but also to show growth and development."

Geology students Hunter Golat and Jared Winn designed the informational plaques for the display.

VanRegenmorter said the pieces draw attention to the amazing history of the Great Lakes Region. "As iconic as they are, most everyone will be familiar with them and how they relate to Michigan's past especially after all the 'Ice Age' movies," he said.

The Geology Department also worked with GRPM curatorial staff members to arrange for the pieces to be removed, under supervision, to use for classroom learning.



Photo by Rachael Mooney

Mammoth and mastodon bones on loan from the Grand Rapids Public Museum are on display in Padnos Hall of Science.

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GVFACES

Shawn Jenkins, transfer specialist

Shawn Jenkins travels throughout Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties in her new role advising community college students who have questions about transferring to Grand Valley.

While her commute may have increased, the role remains familiar, Jenkins said.

Since 1995, Jenkins has worked at Grand Valley's Muskegon Regional Center, overseeing academic and student affairs. When Grand Valley phased out its services at the center last year, Jenkins moved into a liaison role assisting transfer students from Muskegon and Grand Rapids community colleges.

She said the model at the Muskegon Regional Center has been replaced with Transfer Connections, which is housed in the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies.

Jenkins meets with students who are interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree at Grand Valley. By working directly with MCC, GVSU and GRCC academic centers, Jenkins said she is able to assist transfers and answer questions.

She has built a website, gvsu.edu/transferconnections, which she called a "one-stop-shop" for all things transfer related, including connecting students to the university and its resources.

"Transfer Connections is broadbased but contains everything centered around the needs of transfer students and how to support them," she said.

Students can make appointments on the website using the appointment manager program; the site also contains curriculum and course equivalency guides.

In 2018, more than 1,500 students enrolled at Grand Valley after

transferring from another college or university; 430 students came from GRCC and 149 from MCC.

Jenkins works closely with Grand Valley's Admissions Office, academic and faculty advisors, as well as colleagues from GRCC and MCC. She said being on-site at GRCC and MCC has been beneficial.

"When I started in this role, I went around and introduced myself at the community colleges and learned people's roles," she said.

Jenkins has since given presentations to student affinity groups at GRCC, and helped connect them to Grand Valley resources.

She is a member of Grand Valley's Positive Black Women, Michigan ACE Women's Network's Women of Color Collaborative, and serves as education co-chair for Muskegon County United Way.



Shawn Jenkins

WHAT'S AHEAD

Affinity groups plan graduation ceremonies

Five celebrations will be held in April for diverse students who are graduating.

The events are sponsored by the Division of Inclusion and Equity and affinity groups to celebrate the achievements of diverse graduates in the spirit and traditions of culture.

Specific dates, times and locations are listed below. Students, faculty and staff members can register to attend online.

- **Asian Graduation Celebration:** April 10, 5 p.m., Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center, multipurpose room; gvsu.edu/asianfacstaff/graduation

- **Lavender Graduation:** April 18, 5 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2250; gvsu.edu/lgbtrc/lavgrad

- **Latino/a Graduation Celebration:** April 26, 11 a.m., Haas Center for Performing Arts; gvsu.edu/lfsa/graduation

- **Black Graduation Celebration:** April 26, 2 p.m., Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. NE); gvsu.edu/blackfsa/graduation

- **Native Graduation Celebration:** April 26, 4 p.m., DeVos Center, regency room; gvsu.edu/naac/graduation

Graduate students to showcase research April 15

Thirty graduate students will present their scholarly research during the Graduate Showcase April 15, hosted by The Graduate School and co-sponsored by the Center for

Scholarly and Creative Excellence.

The 9th annual Graduate Showcase: Tomorrow's Innovators Today will be held from 3:30-6 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. Poster presentations begin at 3:30 p.m. and remarks begin at 5:15 p.m.

Research topics include invasive species in Michigan, researching anxiety through crayfish, improving Fragile X screenings, service learning in school counseling, mentoring girls in engineering, nonprofit marketing, an evaluation of breastfeeding support, and functional impairments in women with ADHD.

For more information visit gvsu.edu/gradshowcase. RSVP to Jennifer Palm in The Graduate School at palmj@gvsu.edu or x16858.

DTE Energy chair will be Secchia Breakfast speaker

Gerry Anderson, chairman and CEO of DTE Energy, will talk about the "soft side" of business during a presentation April 17.

Anderson's speech, "Leading with Purpose: How I Discovered that the Soft Side of Business is the Hard Side," is part of the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast lecture series.

The event will take place from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and the presentation begins at 8 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP at gvsu.edu/seidman.

DTE Energy's operating units include an electric utility serving 2.2 million customers in southeast Michigan and a natural gas utility serving 1.3 million customers throughout

Michigan. DTE Energy also includes non-utility energy businesses focused on power and industrial projects, natural gas pipelines, gathering and storage, and energy marketing and trading.

For more information about the event, contact the Seidman College of Business Alumni Association at x17100.

Hauenstein Center hosts Common Ground event

A group of experts will explore how the humanities might help Americans cross deep political and cultural divides during, "Searching for Deeper Common Ground."

The event, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, will be held April 12 from noon-1:45 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The discussion is part of the center's Common Ground Initiative, which seeks to address increasing political and cultural polarization in American life.

Speakers include Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center; Bradley Birzer, the Russell Amos Kirk Chair in American Studies at Hillsdale College; and Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn, an award-winning author and faculty member at Syracuse University.

It is free and open to the public; RSVP is requested at gvsu.edu/hc/events.

This event is presented in partnership with the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan, and the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal.

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Books about study abroad experiences available for sale

The TRIO Student Support Services office is selling books written by students who were the first in their families to study abroad.

"First Around the World: A Collection of Study Abroad Experiences from First-Generation College Students" contains essays by students who, because of their participation in TRIO programs, traveled to Ghana, Spain, South Africa and other countries.

Ariel Arnold, program advisor for TRIO SSS, said the book gives insight into their fears, challenges and triumphs as the first people in their families to travel overseas, and the first in their families to attend college.

Books are \$15 and available to purchase at the TRIO SSS office, Lubbers Student Services Center, room 200.

The books are also available at Schuler Books and Music, 2660 28th St. SE in Grand Rapids, and online at schulerbooks.com. All proceeds will benefit TRIO programs.

Learn more at gvsu.edu/sss.

University is finalist for healthy workplace award

Grand Valley is a finalist for a healthy workplace award from the Michigan Fitness Foundation and the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.

The university is one of three organizations in the "very large category" of more than 1,000 employees to receive a nomination. Others are Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the University of Michigan.

Winners will be announced April 25 during a morning legislative reception in Lansing and an evening event in Detroit.

Lindsey DesArmo, health and wellness manager, said criteria to be nominated for an award included workplace policies, established wellness programs and employee incentives for health programs.

DesArmo said recent wellness initiatives underscore the commitment from university leaders to help create a healthy workplace. She cited Thrive@GVSU, a wellness coaching program to provide support for faculty and staff members, and emotional strength training and interpersonal communication workshops.

She also said the Wellness Task Force developed recommendations specific to wellness objectives in the university's strategic plan, and a subcommittee is working on mindfulness initiatives for the campus community to address rising numbers of people who report depression.

More information about initiatives from Health and Wellness can be found online at gvsu.edu/healthwellness.

Neuroscience Fair



At center, Sok Kean Khoo, associate professor of cell and molecular biology, stands with Grand Valley students who volunteered at the Brain Awareness Week Neuroscience Fair, March 16 at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The annual event is hosted by the MSU College of Human Medicine, Grand Valley, Spectrum Health, Mercy Health and Van Andel Institute. Khoo and students helped participants with numerous hands-on activities throughout the day.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

Geographic Honors Society



The local chapter, Lambda Omega, of the International Geographic Honors Society, Gamma Theta Upsilon, inducted nine students into its honor society. From left are Diane Miller, Jacob Weston, Alizabeth Hicks, Kin Ma, Ali Townsend, Hailey Stevens, Aaron Nelson, Alexis Greb, Dominic Piscopo, Ethan Mulnix and Jeroen Wagendorp. Not pictured: Leah Anderson.

human rights. A funeral mass was held March 30 at St. James Catholic Church in Montague.

Faculty, staff members receive Pride Awards

The Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center hosted the Pride Awards to honor those who made a positive impact on the LGBTQIA+ community.

Faculty, staff members and students were recognized March 20 in the Kirkhof Center. Faculty and staff award recipients include:

- Milton E. Ford Leadership Award: Marlene Kowalski-Braun
- PRISM Award: Jae Basiliere
- Faculty Engagement Award: Krista Benson
- Excellence in Mentoring: Darren Walhof
- Solidarity Award: Susan Mendoza

SKETCHES

Rebecca Davis, professor of nursing, gave three presentations at the Midwest Nursing Research Society annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Michael P. Lombardo, professor of biology, gave a presentation, “Born to Throw: On the Evolution of Throwing in Humans,” at Purdue University Northwest in Hammond, Indiana.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, chair and associate professor of liberal studies, wrote a chapter, “The Power of Narrative: A Practical Guide to Creating Decolonial, Community-Based Projects,” published in the book *Intergenerational Relations and Intergenerational Education*. She also wrote an article, “Good Intentions: Grappling with Legacies of Conflict and Distrust Surrounding a Native American History Project One Generation Later,” published in *Oral History Review*.

Cassonya Carter, senior academic advisor, KCON, was nominated by several student organizations for the first Office of Multicultural Affairs “Black Girls Rock” program.

David Stark, professor of history, wrote an article, “A Professionalizing Priesthood: The Cathedral Chapter of San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1650-1700,” published in *Catholic Historical Review*.

IN THE NEWS

Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English, was interviewed by Wisconsin Public Radio’s program, Central Time with Rob Ferrett, for a story about the history of Yooper culture and language.

Amorak Huey, associate professor of writing, had a poem, “We Were All Odysseus in Those Days,” selected for Poem of the Day by the Academy of American Poets and was featured March 20.

Campus mourns death of faculty member

Elizabeth “Libby” Wheatley, professor of sociology, died March 27 after a battle with cancer. Wheatley began working at Grand Valley in 2008. She was an active member of the CLAS Faculty Council and her teaching addressed health in relation to social inequalities, social justice and

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GVNow recap:



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Marcia Haas, left, is pictured with a quilt created for her by 16 faculty and staff members.

Marcia Haas, campus women honored at event

Sixteen faculty and staff members with varying levels of quilting experience worked in secret for months to create a gift for the woman they called, “a very special star in our Laker firmament,” Marcia Haas.

In a pattern of stars, the Laker blue, black and white quilt was presented to Haas March 27 during the Celebrating Women Awards ceremony in the Kirkhof Center.

Monica Johnstone, director of communications and advancement for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said expert and novice quilters gathered in secret over two lunch hours, then several people took quilt blocks and pieces home to finish.

The blocks were taken to a local machine quilter who added batting and a fabric back, then a small Grand Valley quilt group stitched the final binding together.

The quilt’s design includes chemistry and mathematic formulas, artwork by students, anchors and other Grand Valley icons.

Before the quilt presentation, scholarships and awards were presented by Positive Black Women; Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and the Women’s Commission.

- Mary Karpen, professor of chemistry, received the Maxine Swanson Award. Nomination letters touted Karpen’s two decades of advocating for women on campus, including sabbaticals for part-time faculty members.

- Susan Howard, assistant director of communications for Alumni Relations, earned the Women’s Community Impact Award for her work with Moms Bloom and as a mentor to students.

- Amanda Syers, project assistant for the

College of Education’s Center for Educational Partnerships, received the Emerging Professional Award for her work on the Women’s Commission leading the family friendly task force.

- Bonnie Peterson, office coordinator for TRIO Upward Bound, received the Unsung Hero Award. Peterson co-chairs the PSS development committee and helped establish the Pew Campus chapter of GVSU Moms Network.

- PBW presented scholarships to five students: Tova Jones, Lillian White, Deonquanic Hayes, Imani Gissendanner and Robert Webb. Juanita Davis, PBW president and assistant director for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, said since 1995, PBW has given \$54,000 in scholarship awards to 90 students.

- The Center for Women and Gender Equity presented Outstanding Student Awards to Maddie Rhoades, Edith Torres and El Boynton.

- WGS presented the Jean Enright Scholarship to Miranda Bryan.

Quilters were Johnstone, Debbie Morrow, Beth Courtade, Sally Langa, Janet Potgeter, Betty Schaner, Colleen Lindsay-Bailey, Sulari White, Carolyn Clayton, Allison Metz, Jodee Hunt, Michelle Redmond, Sherrill Soman, Heather Van Wormer and Lynn “Chick” Blue.