

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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University leaders monitor coronavirus

Grand Valley leaders continue to monitor the global spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), and many staff members are assisting students, faculty and staff members who have had international travel plans impacted.

GVSU is coordinating with both the Ottawa and Kent county public health departments, university health centers, the Office of the Vice Provost for Health, Padnos International Center and state and federal agencies as related to the health of the campus community.

Updates on the university's response to COVID-19 can be found online at gvsu.edu/coronavirus.

Study abroad

The university on February 29 suspended its study abroad programs in Italy and asked students there to return to the U.S. due to travel advisories related to the coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control raised the travel advisory in Italy to level 3 (avoid nonessential travel) on February 28.

Michael Vrooman, interim chief executive officer, said Padnos International Center

staff members have been working with affected students to minimize the impact of this travel advisory. PIC continues to monitor the situation closely.

"The health and safety of our students and faculty members considering overseas education remains our top priority," Vrooman said.

Grand Valley canceled its study abroad programs in China and South Korea in February.

PIC staff members have connected with students who are abroad regarding precautions they should take if they are in a country where a virus outbreak has been reported. PIC also continues to monitor updates from the Centers for Disease Control and travel advisories from the U.S. Department of State.

Health care, mental health

The GVSU Family Health Center, operated by the Kirkhof College of Nursing, and the Metro Health Campus Health Center have



Photo by Sarah Anderson

Staff members in the Padnos International Center are assisting members of the campus community who have had travel plans impacted because of the global spread of COVID-19.

implemented additional screenings for people who have recently traveled internationally.

Students who are worried about family or friends abroad can connect with staff members at the University Counseling Center; faculty and staff members can contact Encompass, the employee assistance program, visit gvsu.edu/hro.

ACROSS CAMPUS

GVSU rankings procedure updated

Grand Valley consistently receives high rankings from organizations and publications like *U.S. News & World Report* and Princeton Review.

In an effort to identify valid rankings and also to provide consistent data to ranking groups, the university's External Assessment Review Team is asking faculty and staff members to begin sending any inquiries for data to University Communications.

A common data set has been established by Grand Valley's Office of Institutional Analysis for ranking purposes. This will help establish a list of rankings that align with the university's goals, values and mission.

Forward requests for data to be used in rankings, or requests asking for the promotion of Grand Valley's placement in a ranking, to Dottie Barnes at barnesdo@gvsu.edu.

Current rankings of value can be found at

gvsu.edu/recognition or gvsu.edu/accountability.

TRIO students attend leadership conference

Grand Valley TRIO students joined peers from other Michigan colleges and universities at



Courtesy photo

TRIO students are pictured at the Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel Student Leadership Conference.

the Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel Student Leadership Conference in Traverse City February 21-23.

Students received scholarships and awards in several categories like study abroad, academic achievement, academic improvement and leadership.

Students from TRIO Student Support Services, TRIO STEM-Health Sciences, TRIO Teacher Preparation Student Support Services, and TRIO Upward Bound participated.

Nominations open for sustainability awards

Nominations are being accepted for the 2020 Sustainability Champion Awards, presented by Brooks College and the Office of Sustainability Practices.

The awards ceremony celebrates the contributions of students, faculty and staff

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members, and community members who practice and support the ideals of sustainable living.

The deadline for nominations is March 17; access the nomination form at gvsu.edu/sustainability.

Selected champions will be recognized at an awards luncheon March 27 in the Kirkhof Center.

The Environmental and Sustainability Studies Student Showcase of presentations and posters will take place in conjunction with the awards luncheon.

RSVP to the event by March 23 at gvsu.edu/sustainability.

Appreciating RAs

Six Grand Valley alumni who were resident assistants shared how they use their experience in housing within their current jobs during RA Appreciation Day.

Alumni who attended the February 21 event were Jeff Stoll, Grand Valley Police Department captain; Dave Westra, ophthalmic assistant, Grand Rapids Ophthalmology; Nick Schweitzer, Holland High School teacher; Jazmin Bjorlie, house parent for Lighthouse for Teen Mothers; Elly Rosenthal, mobility specialist for a shipping company in Germany (via Skype); and Peter McCrary, physical therapist, Jackson County Intermediate School District (via Skype).

Current RAs were recognized for their outstanding work by campus



Courtesy photo

From left, alumni Dave Westra and Nick Schweitzer talk about how they use their experience as an RA in their current jobs during RA Appreciation Day February 21.

partners including GVPD, Office of Student Life, Dean of Students Office, Campus Dining, ACES, and Campus Recreation and Wellness.

Volunteers needed during Student Scholars Day

The 24th annual Student Scholars Day is April 8. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to volunteer their time to ensure a successful event.

Volunteers are needed to fill two-hour blocks from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Three volunteer roles are available: registration, session host and greeter.

More details are online at gvsu.edu/ours/ssd. Registration for volunteers will run through April 1. Questions can be directed to the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship at x18100.

GVNext recap:

Academy wins governor's award at tourism conference

The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids has been recognized by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for innovation and collaboration.

The new college-career prep academy opened in fall 2019 and is a partnership with Grand Valley's Hospitality and Tourism Management Department, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Experience Grand Rapids, and AHC+Hospitality.

Experience Grand Rapids received the Governor's Award for Innovative Tourism Collaboration February 19, during the 2020 Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism held in Grand Rapids.

Paul Stansbie, associate dean in the College of Community and Public Service, said the academy started with a cohort of 16 ninth grade students.

"In their first semester, students have attended an etiquette dinner, heard from a series of industry guest speakers, been on a number of site visits to hotels and industry-related properties and are now writing resumes in

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FORUM

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Other University Communications publications:

Grand Valley Magazine, published quarterly; visit gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

GVNext, web publication; visit gvsu.edu/gvnext, for daily news updates and video features.

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



Workshops engage participants in critical dialogues

Relando Thompkins-Jones, director of Social Justice Education, grew up in Detroit and understood early in life that society was not equitable.

Thompkins-Jones said systems of power and privilege were quite clear to him when, as a teenager, he used to go for long runs along Lasher Road on Detroit's west side.

"The farther I would run away from my community, I would notice the landscape change from small houses and streets with potholes to manicured lawns and large houses with two, then three-car garages," he said. "Then I would run back home and it would be a visual example of the increase and decrease of wealth."

"Later when I learned about the history of white supremacy and its tools like segregation and redlining, I realized that the disparities I saw in real-time were not an accident, but were by design."

Thompkins-Jones leads workshops and training sessions for the campus community that engage participants in critical dialogues to help them better understanding their relationship to power, privilege and oppression. Past topics included understanding

microaggressions and learning to shift the narrative in how issues are framed.

Upcoming workshops in March and April are "Understanding the Cycle of Socialization" and "Storytelling for Social Justice"; visit gvsu.edu/socialjustice to learn more.

Thompkins-Jones brings a rich background in facilitating intergroup dialogues and working with marginalized populations to this role. Prior to joining the Division of Inclusion and Equity in 2016, Thompkins-Jones was the coordinator of the Future Public Health Leaders program for the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and taught social work courses at U-M and Oakland University.

"Growing up, I struggled with hearing a lot of negative messages about poor people and Black people, and would have to work hard not to internalize that negative messaging," he said. "It was liberating to learn about systems of oppression, that there was intention put into creating the inequities that exist today, and that institutions can often have invested interests in maintaining those inequities."

Thompkins-Jones said he structures workshops in the way he learns best — engaged in conversations and activities — and hopes workshop participants feel the same.

"I hope that participants feel seen and acknowledged after the workshops, and they have a sense of agency and feel they have the capacity to change something," he said.



Relando Thompkins-Jones

WHAT'S AHEAD

Campus Interfaith will host event about Islamophobia

An alumna and founding member of Grand Valley's Muslim Student Association will discuss Islamophobia at an event hosted by Campus Interfaith Resources.

Petra Alsoofy will present "Islamophobia Impacts Everyone" on Monday, March 9, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. The event is approved for LIB 100/201.

Alsoofy is the outreach and partnerships manager at Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. She will present ISPU's research, which examines the impact of Islamophobia on the wider public, in addition to recommendations to combat it.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/campusinterfaith.

EqualiTEA will celebrate 19th Amendment anniversary

EqualiTEA, an annual celebration, will be held Wednesday, March 11, as part of the Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity's Women's History Month programming.

The event will run from noon-1:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

The event will celebrate 2020 as the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/cwge.

Religion, health care subject of conference and colloquy

Two events on March 16 will offer participants an in-depth look at how a patient's religious beliefs might impact treatment and decision making.

The West Michigan Health Care Ethics Conference (1-5 p.m.) and the DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy (6-8 p.m.) are planned at the Eberhard Center.

Registration for both events is free for GVSU students, faculty and staff; there is a \$45 conference fee for all others. RSVP online at gvsu.edu/colloquy before March 11. Details of each event are below.

• **Ethics Conference: "Waiting for a Miracle: Religion's Role in Patient Decision Making"** will feature an interfaith panel of leaders, moderated by the Rev. Joanna Bailey, from Mercy Health Saint Mary's. Other activities include poster presentations, interactive exercises, and an opportunity to hear from keynote speakers who will also give presentations at the evening colloquy.

• **DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy: "The Role of Religion in Health Care"** is a collaboration between GVSU's Vice Provost for Health and Spectrum Health.

Speakers are Ana Iltis, professor of university studies and philosophy, and director of the Center for Bioethics Health and Society at Wake Forest University; and Ryan Nash, director of the Ohio State University Center for Bioethics, director of the Division of Bioethics, Dept. of Biomedical Education and

Anatomy, and chair of medical ethics and professionalism. Rabbi Emeritus Albert Lewis from Temple Emanuel will serve as moderator.

Continuing education credits are offered for medical education, nursing and social work for both the conference and colloquy. Information is online at gvsu.edu/colloquy. The colloquy will be live streamed; register via the website before March 11.

The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy is held twice per year. Grand Valley began hosting this series in 2015, after receiving a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.

The colloquy is sponsored by Spectrum Health, Mercy Health and Metro Health/University of Michigan Health. The ethics conference is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield/Blue Care Network of Michigan.

Professional, graduate school fair scheduled

The CLAS Advising Center will host the annual Health Professional and Graduate School Fair on March 19 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center.

Representatives from more than 80 health professional schools and graduate programs are expected.

The event is free for all students; view a list of confirmed schools online at gvsu.edu/clasadvising.

Kutsche Office will host Great Michigan Read event

The author of a book recounting her discovery of how children and residents of Flint were exposed to lead in their drinking water will appear on campus as part of the Great Michigan Read.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha will discuss her nationally recognized book, "What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City," on Tuesday, March 24, beginning at 6 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. Hanna-Attisha will have a conversation with state Rep. Rachel Hood, a Democrat who represents the 76th District, which is most of the city of Grand Rapids.

The event is free and open to the public and presented in partnership with Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History and Grand Rapids Public Library. Hanna-Attisha will also sign books.

Kimberly McKee, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said the event aligns with how the office deploys an intersectional approach to history, and connects with its recent project highlighting the Grand River.



Mona Hanna-Attisha

"Hosting Dr. Hanna-Attisha for a conversation supports the Kutsche Office's interest in considering how local history intersects with environmental history, picking up on some of the themes that emerged from our Connections Along the Grand River project," McKee said. The Grand River project was also funded by Michigan Humanities, sponsor of the Great Michigan Read.

Hanna-Attisha is the founder and director of the Michigan State University and Hurley Children's Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative in Flint. Currently an associate professor of pediatrics and human development at the MSU College of Human Medicine, she has been named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World. She was among the first to question if lead was leaching from the city's water pipes after its water supply was switched to the Flint River in 2014.

"What the Eyes Don't See" was named a *New York Times* Notable Book in 2019.

The 2019-2020 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Meijer Foundation.

More information about the event can be found online at gvsu.edu/kutsche or by calling x18099.

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preparation for future internships," Stansbie said.

Students also took a tour of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and the JW Marriott in downtown Grand Rapids.

"Many students had never seen the inside, let alone a behind-the-scenes look, of luxury hotels like these. The experiential nature of this type

of hands-on curriculum made them excited about future careers in the industry," Stansbie said.

The academy is in the process of formalizing an advisory board of local industry professionals who will help steer future curriculum, expand networking opportunities for students within the academy and serve as mentors.

Stansbie said, as students graduate, Grand Valley will partner with Grand Rapids Public

Schools to explore advanced placement opportunities into GVSU degree programs.

"Those students who may not pursue higher education will have a different perception about careers available to them and know that a number of leadership opportunities await them," he said.

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FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

The **Career Center** is holding its biannual Suit Up event at JCPenney in RiverTown Crossings, in Grandville, on March 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Students, faculty and staff members, their family and friends can attend and receive up to 60 percent off professional outfits.

Food insecurity addressed in unique way

A collaborative effort among the **Dean of Students Office**, **Center for Women and Gender Equity**, and the **Office of Sustainability Practices** has established a new food cubby shelf on the ground level of the Mary Idema Pew Library for students experiencing food insecurity. The shelf is an extension of the larger campus food pantry, Replenish, and contains grab-and-go items and feminine hygiene products.

Donated food and other items for this cubby can be dropped off at Replenish locations (Kirkhof Center, room 074; Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, room 353); faculty and staff members can donate money to Replenish online at gvsu.edu/replenish.

SKETCHES

Correction:

Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members **Katherine Moran** and **Dianne Conrad** gave two presentations at American Association of Colleges of Nursing Doctoral Education Conference in Naples, Florida. This sketch was incorrectly listed in the February 24 issue of *Forum*; we apologize for the error.

Grand Valley will be the home of a new academic journal from the International Association of Schools of Jazz. The Applied Jazz Research Journal has been under development by **Kurt Ellenberger**, professor of music, Honors College, and Wouter Turkenburg (Royal Conservatory of Music, The Hague) for three years. The IASJ will hold a special conference in October to launch the new journal and announce the first call for papers.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources, and a graduate student were co-authors of an article, "Influence of Episodic Wind Events on Thermal Stratification and Bottom Water Hypoxia in a Great Lakes Estuary," published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

Stephen Rowe, retired professor of philosophy and liberal studies, wrote a chapter, "Answering the Summons: Contemporary Prospects for Global Dialogue," in a book, *The Crisis in Global Ethics and the Future of Global Governance*, published by Edward Elgar Publishing.

Deana Weibel, professor of anthropology and religious studies, was approved as member national for the board of directors of the Explorers

Club, an American-based international multidisciplinary professional society.

William Neal, emeritus professor of geology, was a co-author of articles, "Risk Assessment as Tool for Coastal Erosion Management," published in *Ocean & Coastal Management*; and "The Impact of Anthropogenic Litter on Colombia's Central Caribbean Beaches," published in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin*.

John Weber, professor of geology, was a co-author of an article, "Unsteady Migration of Taebaek Mountain Drainage Divide, Cenozoic Extensional Basin Margin, Korean Peninsula," published in *Geomorphology*.

An exhibition highlighting an event hosted by **Hoon Lee**, associate professor and coordinator of the ceramics program, was accepted into the 2020 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. "The Ceramics Forum: 10 Years Towards The Dialogue" showcases work done for the Ceramics Forum, a community-based learning opportunity Lee developed.

Edward Aboufadel, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, wrote an article, "The DEAL Seminar: Developing Excellence in Academic Leadership," published in *PRIMUS* (Problems, Resources, and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies).

Kay Losey, professor of writing, wrote a chapter, "Political Tweets as Infotainment: The Decline of Public Discourse in the United States," for a book *American Counter/Publics*, published in Germany.

Karen Zivi, associate professor of political science, Honors College, wrote an article, "Hiding in Public or Going with the Flow: Human Rights, Human Dignity, and the Movement for Menstrual Equity," published in *Human Rights Quarterly*.

Dan Graser, associate professor of music, is a member of the Donald Sinta Quartet, which released its second album, "Ex Machina," on the Bright Shiny Things label.

Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English, gave a presentation, "What it Means to be Local: Identity, Place, and Dutchness in Holland, Michigan," at the Holland Area Historical Society meeting at Hope College.

Shontaye Witcher, director of Disability Support Resources, earned a doctoral degree through the GVSU/EMU collaborative; her dissertation was "Higher Education Disability Professionals Perceptions on Transition Processes for College Freshmen with Autism Spectrum Disorders."

Nykia Gaines, director of TRIO STEM-Health Sciences, and students gave a presentation, "Change Your Scope: Study Abroad," at the Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel Student Leadership Conference in Traverse City. **Linda Rettig**, program advisor, gave a presentation, "Good Agents Know the Value of Time," at the same conference.

ACROSS CAMPUS

Empathy for friend leads graduate student to win 3-Minute Thesis

Afokoghene Odhu, who goes by Afo, was so moved by his friend's struggles with vision impairment, he decided to conduct research on diabetic retinopathy, a complication of diabetes that affects the eyes.

Odhu, a graduate student pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, entered his research in the 3-Minute Thesis competition, an annual event sponsored by The Graduate School, and won first place and \$500.

"My goal is to increase dilated retinal screening," said Odhu. "All Type 2 diabetes patients are required to get the screening every year upon diagnosis. This is to help identify retinopathy early to prevent vision impairment and blindness through tight blood sugar control, and blood pressure and cholesterol management."



Photo by Adam Bird Photography

Jeff Potteiger, dean of The Graduate School, left, stands with Afo Odhu, winner of the 3-Minute Thesis competition.

During the February 12 competition, 16 graduate students had three minutes to present their research to a panel of faculty judges and could only use one slide as a visual aid.

Odhu said his reasons for researching diabetic retinopathy are two-fold: his friend who is

experiencing vision loss, and his interaction with underserved populations and immigrants during a clinical rotation.

"My friend began suffering from vision loss in his late 20s and he has a lot of emotional issues because of it," Odhu explained. "He has a wife of 20 years who he has never really seen. And, people tell him, 'Your son looks so much like you,' but he doesn't know what his son looks like."

Odhu, who is from Nigeria, came to Grand Valley for the opportunity to study health sciences. He earned a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2014.

Odhu will represent his research at the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 3MT® competition in Milwaukee on April 3.

For more campus news, visit gvsu.edu/gvnext.