

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Grand Valley sets record-breaking enrollment

More students have enrolled in Grand Valley than ever before. Records are broken in total enrollment, first-year students, students of color and those living on campus.

Total enrollment is 25,460, up from last year's enrollment of 25,325, with 4,380 being first-time students.

A record number of students of color are enrolled, 4,315 (16.9 percent) up from 4,136 last year, and a record number of students are living on campus, 6,241.

"The numbers tell a story of commitment to excellence and opportunity at Grand Valley, in accordance with our strategic plan," said President Thomas J. Haas. "We have faculty committed to offering the finest academic programs, and we have staff committed to streamlining access to classes, support and extracurricular activities.

"We not only attract them to campus, but we put processes and programs in place to give students every opportunity to graduate on time and with relevant degrees."

Students are coming from every county

in Michigan, and more than 400 international students are enrolled. Retention is up for freshman students who began last fall, and also for students who transferred to Grand Valley from community colleges. Student success is the goal behind academic advising tools and counseling staff who pay close attention to student progress. The university motivates students to graduate in four years with the Grand Finish grant, which awards a \$1,000 scholarship at the start of the fourth year to students with at least 90 credits.

On the heels of last year's graduating class of more than 5,500, Grand Valley continues to be a talent engine for the region with 85 percent of graduates staying in Michigan to start their careers. Of all recent graduates, 94 percent are employed or attending graduate school.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

First-year students from the Class of 2020 at Lubbers Stadium. Grand Valley hit a record enrollment this year, with 25,460 students.

Grand Valley colleges showing significant growth are business (5.6 percent), engineering

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Across Campus

Women-in-STEM organization finds new home in West Michigan

During a time when there is a national push for students to enroll in the science, technology,



Students in a chemistry course are pictured; women students interested in STEM fields are encouraged to join faculty and staff members in the Association for Women in Science West Michigan chapter.

engineering and mathematics fields, a new organization in West Michigan is striving to recruit and retain women into these disciplines.

Following an 18-month collaboration, Karen Gipson, professor of physics, and a team of students, faculty and staff members from Van Andel Institute and Hope College have created a West Michigan chapter of the Association for Women in Science.

AWIS is the largest multi-disciplinary organization that promotes women in STEM fields through advocacy, research and professional development. The group promotes excellence in STEM by achieving equity and full participation of women in all disciplines and across all employment sectors. AWIS reaches more than 20,000 professionals worldwide.

Gipson, AWIS-WM president, said the group's long-term strategic plan includes establishing a K-12 outreach program, advocating for fairness and increased awareness of gender issues in the workplace, and providing networking opportunities, tools and resources for women in STEM fields.

To begin its outreach efforts, AWIS-WM will host events, "Achieving Success Through Implementation of Effective Mentoring

Strategies," on September 14-15 at Grand Valley, Van Andel Institute and Hope College. These workshops will provide individuals in STEM with tools and techniques for implementing successful mentoring relationships.

For a full schedule and to register, visit awis_wm_mentoring_workshop.eventbrite.com. AWIS membership is open to anyone. Students can join AWIS-WM for only \$5.

'Connected' exhibit links shared Laker experiences

Entering or returning to college life can be intimidating, especially for first-year students. Many have left their comfort zones for the first time to live and learn on their own, independent from their roots at home.

A new exhibit in the Mary Idema Pew Library is helping students understand that they are not alone in their doubts, fears and discomforts, and that everything will be alright.

Erin Fisher, library program manager, explained that "Connected: An Exhibit of

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Shared Laker Experiences” is an interactive exhibit focused on cultivating a sense of belonging among students.

The exhibit, located in the library’s Exhibition Space on the atrium level, features eight different watercolor portraits of Grand Valley students, all of which were painted by alumna Ellie Lubbers. The exhibit runs through September 22, and is open during normal library business hours.

Students and other visitors are encouraged to view the exhibit, and to engage with it by contributing paper dots painted with watercolors based on how they feel.

Collecting and selecting interviews for the exhibit was no small task. Fisher and library staff members called upon the Humans of Grand Valley student organization to help bring a more genuine feel to the exhibit.



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

University Libraries staff teamed with student organization Humans of Grand Valley for an exhibition, ‘Connected: An Exhibit of Shared Laker Experiences.’

Kaufman Interfaith Institute to host Leadership Lab

Fifty students from the Grand Rapids area are expected to attend the Made in Michigan: Interfaith Leadership Lab starting Thursday, September 15. Sponsored by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, this is the first leadership lab to be rolled out by Interfaith Youth Core, a national organization that encourages interfaith collaboration.

The lab’s weekend activities include a Shabbat dinner, leadership

training and an interfaith service project with Habitat for Humanity in Kent County.

Katie Gordon, coordinator of Campus Interfaith Resources, said attendees will gain important dialogue skills. She said Grand Valley is one of the few public, secular institutions in the country focusing on embracing the interfaith movement. In 2015, GVSU was recognized by President Obama’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge as one of the top five universities doing interfaith work.

The lab provides a unique opportunity to build on those efforts, she said. “How do you dialogue across religious, political, or social differences?” Gordon said. “That’s something that students are hungry for in our current polarizing climate.”

Gordon hopes the lab acts as a springboard for more interfaith events and opportunities in Grand Rapids.

Area Studies changes name

To coincide with the launch of a new major, Area Studies will change its name to Area and Global Studies.

Director Steeve Buckridge said the name change reflects the growth of the department and Grand Valley’s emphasis on global learning.

“It’s also similar in format to other universities, making it easily identifiable for students,” Buckridge said.

Grand Valley’s Board of Trustees in April approved a new bachelor’s degree program: Global Studies and Social Impact. Students majoring in the program will study global issues like immigration or climate change.

Housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Area and Global Studies coordinates seven programs.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/areastudies for more information.

United Way campaign begins soon

The official start of Grand Valley’s 2016 United Way campaign is approaching, and many faculty and staff members often have some questions about how to participate and how donations are used.

Following are five important facts about the annual campaign.

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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, published quarterly; visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

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

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

Professor tours India teaching theater

Karen Libman, professor of communications, spent the early months of 2016 traveling around India to various educational institutions to share wisdom about theater concepts and theories, and works by famous playwrights, such as William Shakespeare.

Libman’s travels were made possible thanks to a Fulbright grant. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is designed to increase mutual understanding among people in the U.S. and other countries.

“My experience fulfilled the Fulbright mandate of global citizenry: to share my knowledge and to learn from others,” Libman said.

During the course of five months, Libman conducted lectures, workshops, attended conferences and directed a handful of productions. The majority of her time abroad was spent in the city of Guwahati, which is the largest city of Assam.

Libman said one of the more prominent highlights of her Fulbright experience was presenting a lecture to graduate students at Gauhati University, which Libman explained is one of the preeminent universities in India.

During this lecture, Libman discussed her work with three Shakespearean plays: “Richard III,” “The Taming of the Shrew,” and “All’s Well That Ends Well.”

“I focused on conceptual techniques used in direction and interpretation to challenge the problems and issues in each of these texts,” Libman said.

Also at Gauhati University, Libman conducted one of her largest workshops focusing on “Medea.”

“I was told only about 30 students would attend, but actually more than 80 were there, which I found out when I walked into the space,” Libman said.

“Despite the circumstances, the students did some amazing work with the choral odes and with image theater. I think that by the end of the workshop, they understood that theater is an embodied experience.”



Karen Libman received a Fulbright grant to present theater workshops to students in India.



What's Ahead

Arts at Noon series begins with Grand Rapids quartet

The 39th season of the Arts at Noon concert series on campus begins its fall lineup Wednesday, September 14, with a performance by the Perugino String Quartet from Grand Rapids.

All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Each concert is free and open to the public.

The Perugino String Quartet has performed across Michigan and at the world-renowned Julliard String Quartet Seminar at the Lincoln Center in New York City. The group is composed of Grand Rapids Symphony members Eric Tanner, Christopher Martin, Barbara Corbato and Stacey Bosman Tanner.

Together, the quartet performs classics of the string quartet repertoire, as well as a variety of new chamber works.

Below is a full schedule of fall Arts at Noon concerts.

- September 14: The Perugino String Quartet
- September 21: Grammy-winning flutist Timothy Munro
- September 28: Eduardo Tami Tango Ensemble
- October 12: Dúo Mistral
- November 2: The Marlais/Campbell Duo
- November 16: Grand Valley Winds
- November 30: GVSU Brass Quintet Holiday Concert

For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at x13484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

Scholar will interpret Constitution at event

Constitutional expert and scholar Akhil Reed Amar will talk about why culturally and politically polarizing topics can be interpreted in different ways at an event hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Amar, the current Sterling Professor of Law at Yale University, will explain why different interpretations of the Constitution impact how U.S. policy decisions are made. Amar, former political consultant to the TV show "West Wing," has been a guest on "The Colbert Report," "Charlie Rose," and written articles for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and the *L.A. Times*.

"Akhil Reed Amar: The Constitution Today" is set for Wednesday, September 14, 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, advance registration strongly encouraged; RSVP online at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ofh>

He will also discuss his new book, *The Constitution Today: Timeless Lessons for the Issues of Our Era*.



The Perugino String Quartet opens the Arts at Noon series on September 14.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library and Museum is partnering with the Hauenstein Center to help put on this event.

For more information, visit www.hauensteincenter.org.

Family Day offers many activities

Families of students, faculty and staff members are invited to Family Day Saturday, September 17.

The day kicks off with an open house of the greenhouse located in the Kindschi Hall of Science and a golf outing supporting the sailing club.

Campus Recreation will host an open house in the Fieldhouse from 3-5 p.m., and "The Endzone" in the Fieldhouse Arena will include games, inflatables, and activities from student organizations, from noon-5 p.m.

Family Day will conclude with a special tailgate from 5-7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse, followed by the football game at 7 p.m. The Lakers will host Northern Michigan University in Lubbers Stadium.

The day, formerly Family Weekend, is sponsored by the Office of Student Life and organized by the Laker Traditions team.

Most events require RSVP; some require a paid ticket for admission. Visit www.gvsu.edu/familyweekend for more information.

Carey Memorial Lecture to focus on dangers of metaphors

Metaphors are commonly used as stylistic embellishments in communication, but while they may seem harmless, they can constrain and disable people, sometimes with deadly consequences.

This theory by John Lyne, professor of communication and director of graduate studies for the communications department at University of Pittsburgh, will be the focus of the sixth annual James W. Carey Memorial Lecture.

Lyne will present "Metaphors We Die by: How Patterns of Communication Can Become Deadly" September 19 at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

During his presentation, Lyne said he will aim to prove that metaphors don't simply represent things, but that they also do things, both good and bad.

"I've used the term 'strangle' in the past because strangling suffocates and it cuts off the voice," Lyne said. "To say that unexamined metaphors might do something like that is to put the matter starkly, but maybe it will suffice to draw attention to the problems I will be discussing."

Lyne will discuss these problems through cases where metaphors have been used to literally lead people into real danger.

Carey, who died in 2006 at age 71, was an important cultural historian and theorist of communications, and an influential teacher of journalists at the University of Illinois and Columbia University.



John Lyne

The event is sponsored by the Communication Studies major, School of Communications, English Department, Philosophy Department, Cell and Molecular Biology Department, Institute of General Semantics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Provost's Office and The Graduate School.

For more information, contact Valerie Peterson, associate professor of communications studies, at x12981 or petersov@gvsu.edu.

Retail world subject of Meijer Lecture

The days of shopping at department and other big box stores seem numbered as online shopping becomes a staple in life.

Re-envisioning the retail world will be the topic of the fall semester Meijer Lecture Series. Brian Bordainick, head of innovation ventures at Hudson's Bay Company, will give a presentation, "The Start-Up Secret Sauce: Building an Organization from the Ground Up," September 20 at 5 p.m., in the L. William Seidman Center. His lecture is free and open to the public.

Hudson's Bay Company is the oldest company in North America and one of the fastest-growing retailers in the world. Its companies include Lord and Taylor, Saks Fifth Avenue and Home Outfitters. Bordainick's role is working with these companies to redesign the shopping experience for customers.

He is new to the role and had served as CEO of Dinner Lab Inc., a company that created unique dining events in 30 cities. The multi-million dollar company folded in July after never turning a profit, forcing Bordainick to lay off 43 people.

In an interview with *Forbes*, Bordainick said although Dinner Lab failed as a start-up company and investors lost \$10 million, he would run another start-up given the right opportunity.

Jeff Chamberlain, director of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, said Bordainick's presentation will appeal to audience members who have varied interests such as sustainability, marketing and entrepreneurship.

The Frederik Meijer Lecture Series was established with a gift from the Meijer Foundation. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/honors.

Women's Center to celebrate new student food pantry space

The Women's Center is kicking off its 15-year anniversary with a variety of events, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new student food pantry space.

The ceremony for Replenish will take place September 22 in the Kirkhof Center. The event will start at 1:30 p.m., with remarks at 1:45 p.m. by the alumnae who founded the pantry in 2009.

Susana Villagomez and Rachael DeWitt proposed the idea for a student food pantry after hearing from fellow classmates about their struggles with having enough money to buy food. Since the pantry opened its doors, there have been more than 1,000 visits. Last fall, the pantry expanded to its current location in the Kirkhof Center, room 0074.

A reception to celebrate new art displayed in the Women's Center will follow the ceremony. Each year, the center displays artwork created and submitted by students, faculty, staff and community members.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Elena Lioubimtseva, professor of geography and sustainable planning, was interviewed by *World Politics Review* for an editorial article on impacts of climate change on Russia and Russia's climate change policy.

The College of Education's **Center for Educational Partnerships** has a new website, www.gvsu.edu/coe/cep, which highlights initiatives, activities, community partners and resources.

Sketches

Kelly Strutz, assistant professor of public health, was a co-author of an article, "Stressors Across the Life-Course and Preterm Delivery: Evidence from a Pregnancy Cohort," published in the *Maternal and Child Health Journal*.

Patty Janes, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management, received the President's Award for a Statewide Organization from the National Association of State Park Directors on behalf of Michigan Cares for Tourism, a volunteer effort to restore state historic tourist locations.

Susan Mendoza, director of undergraduate research and scholarship, gave presentations, "Nurturing Agency: Using Appreciative Inquiry to Strengthen Mentoring Across the Disciplines," and "Redefining Significance: Experiences of Humanities Faculty Engaged in Undergraduate Research," at the Council on Undergraduate Research Biennial Conference at the University of South Florida.

Michael DeWilde, director of the Koeze Business Ethics Initiative, gave a presentation, "Social Capital, Economic Diversity, and Civic Well-Being: Weber, Marx and the Future," at the annual Philosophy of Management Conference at Oxford University. He also facilitated a workshop, "Banking Ethics," at the Great Lakes Lending Conference in Detroit.

George McBane, professor of chemistry, wrote an article, "Photodissociation Dynamics of OCS Near 214 nm Using Ion Imaging," published in the *Journal of Chemical Physics*.

Roger Ellis, professor of communications, was elected as a delegate to the 32nd World Congress of Amateur Theatre, to be held in Monaco. Ellis had served as vice president of world theatre for the International Association of Amateur Theatre.

Casey Thelenwood, assistant director of the College of Education's Center for Educational Partnerships, and **Andrew Kienitz**, grants and contracts specialist for the Office of Sponsored Programs, gave a presentation, "What Your Principal Investigators Need to Know About Grants Administration," at the Society of Research Administrators International Michigan Chapter Meeting.

Christopher J. Dondzila, assistant professor of movement science, wrote an article, "Comparative Accuracy of Fitness Tracking Modalities in Quantifying Energy Expenditure," published in the *Journal of Medical Engineering and Technology*.

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was a co-author of articles, "Nutrient Impact on Planktonic vs Benthic Algae

in an Eutrophic Lake," published in *Lake and Reservoir Management*; "From Wetland to Farm and Back Again," published in *Environmental Sciences Pollution Research*; and "Accumulation of Microcystins in a Dominant Chironomid Larvae," published in *Nature Scientific Reports*.

Retired employees die

Retired faculty member Doris Rucks died August 30; she was 92. A memorial service was held September 9 in Muskegon.

Rucks served as an associate professor of sociology, and worked at Grand Valley from 1987-1999.

She was also the first coordinator of Grand Valley's women's studies program.

In February, Grand Valley's Positive Black Women honored Rucks at its annual Valentine's luncheon with the organization's first PBW Trailblazer Award.

- Frederick J. Bing died August 30; he was 92. Bing worked as a custodian for Facilities Services from 1973-1989.

Funeral services were held on September 2. Memorial contributions in Bing's name were suggested for Grand Valley Baptist Church.

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1. When does the campaign take place?

This year's campaign runs October 3-14. Donations can be provided any time, but totals for the campaign will be calculated based on contributions during that time frame.

2. My department campaign captain has encouraged me to return my United Way campaign envelope even if I don't want to contribute. Why is that?

Because the United Way campaign impacts our local communities in so many ways, we want to be sure each faculty and staff member has an opportunity to consider giving to an organization that helps the communities in which they live. By requesting the envelope back regardless of a contribution, we are hopeful that the chance to give hasn't simply been missed or forgotten, but thoughtfully

considered by each faculty and staff member.

3. Where does the United Way money go? Can I specify where my donation is used?

Money that's contributed to the United Way is invested in a variety of local programs as designated by participants. Undesignated gifts are used to support programs that work to improve education, income and health programs. However, donors can designate which programs they would specifically like to give to or programs to exclude. Any donation of \$50 or more can be directed to a specific program by the donor through an easy-to-use section on pledge forms, as long as the organization is a health or human service 501(c)3 organization.

4. Do I have to give my entire pledge during the campaign period?

No, giving can be done through a variety of means. Grand Valley offers payroll deduction to spread out a gift over the course of a year,

making giving easy and convenient. Gifts can also be made with credit cards or personal checks.

5. If I prefer to give my time rather than a monetary donation, is there an option for me?

Yes! If you prefer to volunteer, consider signing up for Schools of Hope, a program that pairs volunteers with first- through third-grade students who need help developing reading skills. Faculty or staff members can volunteer for one hour a week at a school that participates in the program. With supervisor approval, vacation time does not need to be used. To sign up, visit www.hwmuw.org/soh. Other volunteer opportunities can be found at <http://www.hwmuw.org/volunteer/>.

Enrollment hits new record, also increases in diversity

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(6.1 percent) and interdisciplinary and honors (10.6 percent).

Grand Valley is in the top three for graduation rates of all public universities in Michigan and is in the top four for retention. The university has been chosen as a "Best Value"

and "Best Public Regional University" by U.S. News and World Report. The Princeton Review named Grand Valley among the "Best in the Midwest," and for 20 years, the university has been named one of "America's 100 Best College Buys" by Institutional Research and Evaluation.

For more details on Grand Valley's performance, visit www.gvsu.edu/accountability.