

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Researchers: rate of uninsured in state drops

Researchers from Grand Valley and Tulane universities have found the rate of people without health insurance in Michigan has dropped below 10 percent, yet barriers to obtaining health care remain problematic.

Kevin Callison, assistant professor of global health management and policy at Tulane University, and Leslie Muller, assistant professor of economics at Grand Valley, presented the Health Check report January 12 during the ninth annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast at the Eberhard Center.

The report details health-related trends and issues in Michigan and the Grand Rapids metropolitan area of Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties.

Callison said the drop in the number of people without health insurance fell more than 18 percent from 2011 to 9.9 percent in 2016. He attributed the decrease to Medicaid expansion and the Affordable Care Act. He was a faculty member in the Seidman College of Business before working at Tulane.

Muller said while there is a low uninsured rate in Kent County, about one in five people surveyed still reported a difficult time affording medical care and/or prescription drugs. Grand Valley's Johnson Center for Philanthropy partnered with researchers for the community survey using 2017 VoiceKent (formerly VoiceGR) results.

Barriers to health care included the ability to take time off from work, transportation and childcare issues, Muller said. Extended office hours and telemedicine may help eliminate some of those barriers, she added.

Health risk factors for Michigan residents were analyzed. Selected factors are listed below.

- 7% of the state's population is classified as



Kevin Callison

heavy drinkers, above the national average of 6 percent.

- 20.4% of Michigan adults smoke, higher than the national average of 15.1 percent.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health, said the data within the report, online at gvsu.edu/vphealth, will guide area health care leaders when making decisions.

"We hope that continuing to provide this report annually facilitates better understanding of how health behaviors, growth trends, and health care access can impact our decisions and strategies for addressing health care issues in our region," Nagelkerk said.

Data was provided by Spectrum Health, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, Priority Health, GVSU Johnson Center for Philanthropy, and The Employers Association of West Michigan.



Leslie Muller

ACROSS CAMPUS

Retention Focus: Preparing students for registration

Students who receive personal attention from faculty members are more likely to stay in school. As registration for spring/summer, fall and winter classes approaches, here are some ways to help students register for the coming year.

- Encourage students to check myPath now so they understand what classes they need to stay on track to a timely graduation. Remind them of the Grand Finish grant (see gvsu.edu/grandfinish for eligibility).
- Stress the importance of meeting with their advisors with any issues or questions about their path to graduation.
- Ask students if there are specific challenges they may be facing that would keep them from registering and refer them to the proper department or office for support.
- Remind students to register for classes beginning March 19.

There are new course offerings available in-person, hybrid and online for the spring/



A poster of this image is included in this issue.

summer semester. See gvsu.edu/summer for details. Classes will be viewable two weeks earlier this year to give students more time to plan.

Classes will be viewable in Banner March 1 and registration begins March 19.

Mileage rate increases

Effective January 1, the mileage reimbursement rate increased for faculty and staff members.

When traveling on university business, mileage

will be reimbursed at 54.5 cents per mile, the new IRS-approved rate. The new rate is effective for all travel that occurs on or after January 1.

Travel before January 1 will be reimbursed at the previous rate (53.5 cents per mile) regardless of when the travel and expense reimbursement forms are submitted for payment. Updated forms are available online at gvsu.edu/busfin/university-travel-37.htm

Questions can be directed to Kim Suber at x12203.

myName option coming to campus

In February, students, faculty and staff members will have the option to indicate a name different from their legal name.

The new myName process will allow students and employees to use a professional, personal, preferred, display, chosen or use name without making a legal name change.

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Individuals can update their name by accessing the myName process through Banner. By indicating a myName, Grand Valley will be able to use myName for internal and external communications except where a legal name is required. The transition of GVSU systems on campus to apply the use of myName will occur over the next calendar year.

The collection of myName is the first update in a series of new myBanner module enhancements that will be delivered beginning February 22. Additional Banner module updates will be released to support the use of myName in other GVSU applications and communications.

For additional information on myName, including examples of where myName will appear, visit www.gvsu.edu/myname.

Arnold named next civil discourse professor

As the next Padnos/Sarosik Professor of Civil Discourse, Elizabeth Arnold will teach the subject from her discipline of anthropology.

Arnold, associate professor of anthropology, will create and lead a civil discourse class in the fall 2018 semester and plan a public symposium next year. She assumes the two-year appointment, housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, from Jack Mangala, professor of African/African American studies and political science.

The endowed professorship was a gift to Grand Valley established in 2013 from longtime supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik.

Arnold said she will focus her class around climate change and its human impact on the environment. She said as an environmental anthropologist, the course will reflect her expertise in cultural diversity, climate change



Photo by Rex Larsen

Elizabeth Arnold, left, is the next Padnos/Sarosik professor of civil discourse. She is pictured with Carol Sarosik, center, and Shelley Padnos.

and sustainability. It ties to civil discourse as people discuss those topics and consider sources of information, she added.

“Anthropology has much to contribute to environmental and sustainability discourse,” she said. “An increased awareness of cultural variation as well as an increased appreciation of different cultures can inform us and encourage solutions to environmental concerns.”

Anne Hiskes, dean of Brooks College, said the urgency around climate change provided a compelling vision for engaging students.

“The timeliness of the topic, combined with Grand Valley’s strong reputation and expertise around the environment and sustainability, speak to the long-term potential impact of the new course and the associated public symposium,” Hiskes said.

More information about civil discourse is posted online at gvsu.edu/civildiscourse/.

Register for Healthy Choices

Registration for the Healthy Choices 2018 program is now open. Benefit-eligible faculty and staff members can register online at priorityhealth.com and earn up to \$500 in rewards.

Healthy Choices is a free, voluntary, and confidential program in which benefit-eligible faculty and staff can take steps to improve or maintain their health and receive monetary rewards.

Learn more about required components and deadlines online at gvsu.edu/healthwellness/healthychoices.

GVNow Recap:

Policy on weather-related closures detailed

Grand Valley will close or cancel all or part of its operations in cases of emergency, utility disruptions or for weather-related reasons.

Cancellation means classes will not be held and all staff members are to report to work at their regular time. Closure or closed means classes

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Other University Communications publications:

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

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

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

GVFACES

Kevin McIntosh, Campus Interfaith Resources

Kevin McIntosh, coordinator of Campus Interfaith Resources, strives to be an advocate for students, faculty and staff members and their religious, spiritual or secular identities.

“We talk about interfaith as bringing communities together in conversation,” McIntosh said. “You are supposed to be able to come to Grand Valley and bring your full self.”

McIntosh earned a bachelor’s degree in religion history at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and a master’s degree in religious studies at Harvard Divinity School. After working in student life at Harvard and Emory, he applied for the Grand Valley job. He said he was drawn to the position because it represents interfaith within the Division of Inclusion and Equity.

“This office is open to everybody,” he said. “Not just for one tradition or lack of tradition or majority or minority tradition. It’s the whole spectrum and that’s what I’m here for.”

McIntosh has a personal connection to his work due to his own religion being challenged while attending Emory University.

“My faith was challenged in a lot of those classrooms and I didn’t know who I could talk to,” McIntosh said. “Residential life professionals didn’t always feel comfortable

talking about religion. That’s really where my love of this work comes from. I want to be that person who I wish I had.”

Some of his long-term goals include advocating for students who feel challenged or uncomfortable in their faith or traditions, and promoting religion and spirituality in discussions about campus diversity.

McIntosh is involved in projects to expose students to traditions that differ from their own. He is organizing a tour of sacred sites tours in the Grand Rapids area. The first stop is Masjid at-Tawheed Islamic Center on January 26. For more information, visit the Campus Interfaith website, gvsu.edu/campusinterfaith.

McIntosh said these sacred site trips are not meant to be “observations of the other,” but conversations with leaders who practice traditions that may differ from those of tour participants.



Kevin McIntosh



WHAT'S AHEAD

Speakers highlight MLK commemoration week

A full slate of events on Monday, January 15, ushers in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week on campus.

With the theme, #WhereDoWeGoFromHere, events begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Kirkhof Center with an Upcycling session and continue with a silent march to the Fieldhouse for the keynote address by April Reign at 1:30 p.m. All events are listed online, gvsu.edu/mlk.

Reign, an attorney and writer, was the creator of the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite in 2015, when her tweet critical of the 88th Academy Awards ceremony and lack of people of color nominated went viral.

A panel discussion on the week's theme will conclude Monday's events; it will start at 2:30 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216.

Other events are listed below.

- **Tuesday, January 16: "How Shall We Remember?" 7 p.m., DeVos Center;** the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host a Common Ground event featuring Christy S. Coleman, CEO of the American Civil War Museum in Richmond, Virginia.
- **Wednesday, January 17: Keynote presentation by Bree Newsome, 4:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center;** Newsome is a filmmaker who was in the national spotlight in 2015 when she climbed a flagpole in Columbia, South Carolina, to lower its Confederate flag. Newsome will lead a workshop at 3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center.
- **Friday, January 19: Shabbat dinner, 6 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270.**
- **Saturday, January 20: MLK Day of Service and Solidarity, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center;** sponsored by the Community Service Learning Center.

Fair details study abroad programs

Students attending the Study Abroad Fair will learn about program and internship options, meet students who have participated and faculty program directors.

The fair will be Thursday, January 18, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Henry Hall atrium.

More information is online at gvsu.edu/studyabroad.

Exhibit to explore artist's creative process

For more than 40 years, American artist Herbert Murrie found success in his career in advertising and design. Inspired by an artistic upbringing and personal motivation, Murrie often worked in his art studio to pursue a more spontaneous and freeing expression of creativity, regularly returning to complete unfinished work.

A new Art Gallery exhibition at Grand Valley will examine the ebb and flow of Murrie's creative process while reflecting back on his approximately 15-year painting career and looking forward to a new body of his work influenced by design and multimedia.

"Ebb & Flow: Explorations in Painting by Herbert Murrie" will include 26 pieces that span his career as a painter from 1995 to the present. Pieces featured in the exhibit will include artwork from both private collections and Grand Valley's permanent art collection.

An opening reception for the exhibit will take

place January 18, from 5-7 p.m., in the Art Gallery, Haas Center for Performing Arts. The exhibit will be on display through March 30.

During the reception, guests will can create their own paintings in a 3-D virtual reality experience. Staff from Grand Valley's Atomic Object Technological Showcase will be onsite guiding guests through the technology.

For more information about "Ebb & Flow" and other current and upcoming exhibitions, visit gvsu.edu/artgallery.

Ellis to perform one-man play honoring playwright

Roger Ellis, professor of theater, will dive into the personal and artistic sides of Russia's most famous playwright, Anton Chekhov, during performances of a one-man play about the dramatist's life and career.



Roger Ellis

Ellis will perform "Anton, Himself: First and Last" January 19 and 20 at 7:30

p.m. and January 21 at 2 p.m. All performances will take place in the Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, in the Haas Center for Performing Arts.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and Grand Valley faculty, staff and alumni, and \$6 for students and groups. Tickets can be purchased at the Louis Armstrong Box Office in-person or by calling x12300, or via startickets.com.

The play begins with the failure of Chekhov's early masterpiece "The Seagull" (1895) and concludes with the success of "The Cherry Orchard" (1903). The semi-documentary drama is written by Karen Sunde; it portrays Chekhov as a giant of the modern stage who struggled with his literary identity, as well as with the opinions of an often-hostile public. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/theatre.

Conversations of Color series continues

A monthly series that encourages discussion about race, culture, identity and current events continues January 24 with a conversation about the #TakeAKnee movement.

Britney Underwood, graduate assistant for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will lead the discussion about #TakeAKnee, which was started by NFL player Colin Kaepernick in protest over racial injustice. The hashtag describes the action taken by players who kneeled during the national anthem.

Conversations of Color events take place in the Kirkhof Center, room 1240, from noon-1 p.m.

- February 21: Navigating Grand Valley as an African-American Student
- March 21: Muslim and Buddhist Religion
- April 18: Cesar Chavez Celebration

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/oma.

String quartet will kick off Arts at Noon

The Arts at Noon concert series will continue its 40th season with a performance by Grand Rapids' own Perugino String Quartet.

Named after Renaissance artist Pietro Perugino

of Grand Rapids' sister city Perugia, Italy, the Perugino String Quartet is comprised of Grand Rapids Symphony members including, Eric Tanner (violin) and Christopher Martin (violin), Barbara Corbato (viola) and Stacey Bosman Tanner (cello). Together, the quartet performs classics of the string quartet repertoire, as well as a variety of new chamber works.



The Perugino Quartet opens the winter semester of Arts at Noon on January 24.

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

Below is a full schedule of winter Arts at Noon concerts:

January 24 - Perugino Quartet

February 28 - Robert Black, double-bassist

March 14 - Ensemble Caprice

March 21 - Sanjukta Banerjee

March 28 - Jazz Duo: Gene Bertoncini and Tom Knific

April 4 - Grand Valley Winds

April 18 - GVSU String Trio

For more information about the individual performances, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

Great Decisions series runs through March

The World Affairs Council of Western Michigan will again host its Great Decisions series, eight presentations by diplomats, policy makers and others, running January 29-March 26.

Grand Valley is an institutional member of the World Affairs Council, so all students, faculty and staff members can attend events for free.

Each weekly event is presented twice: at noon at the Calvin College Recital Hall, in the Covenant Fine Arts Center; and 6 p.m. at the Aquinas College Performing Arts Center.

Visit worldmichigan.org/greatdecisions2018 for the schedule and more information.

Reception planned to welcome Burton

The Office of the Provost invites faculty and staff members to a reception to welcome Travus Burton to campus.

Burton was named director of civic learning and community engagement; he began that role in early January.

The reception is set for Tuesday, January 30, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall, with remarks at 5:15 p.m. Extra parking will be available in the Seward lot. RSVPs are not necessary; questions about the reception can be directed to x12400.

Burton replaces Ruth Stegeman, who retired from the community engagement role in August. He most recently worked as experiential learning coordinator for Oakland University's Office of Student Success and Experiential Learning Center.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

Gamal Gasim, associate professor of Middle East studies and political science, was interviewed for a World Affairs Council of America December 19 podcast, “Know Now,” about the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

Louis Moore, associate professor of history and coordinator of African American studies, was quoted in an article in the *Guardian* for a story about paying college athletes.

Campus mourns deaths of emeritus faculty

The Grand Valley community mourns the deaths of two emeritus professors who were instrumental in the development of two academic departments at the university.

Donald Kerr, professor emeritus of art and design, died on December 21 at his home.

Kerr was a key player in the development of the former Art and Design Department, now called the Visual and Media Arts Department, including the integration of the illustration, graphic design and jewelry and metalsmithing programs, and the implementation of a study abroad program to Kingston, England.

He served as the chair of the department during his time at Grand Valley and taught at the university for nearly 30 years.

A memorial service for Kerr will take place in the spring.

Robert Mayberry, professor emeritus of communications and philosophy, died December 8 at the age of 79. A memorial service for Mayberry was held January 12 in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

He was an integral part of the creation of the School of Communications in the early 1980s.

SKETCHES

Brent Nowak, executive director of the applied Medical Devices Institute served on a panel, “Uncertainty in Health Care,” at the Health Care Leadership Summit hosted by Crain’s Detroit Business.

Susan Strouse, assistant professor of nursing, gave a presentation, “Thinking of Nursing Through the Prism of Culture: Reflections on the Profession,” at the Fall Research Event, hosted by Kappa Epsilon at-Large Chapter at Zeeland Community Hospital.

Tricia Thomas, assistant dean for practice, KCON, received the ANA-Michigan’s 2017 Dorothea Milbrandt Nurse Leader award at the organization’s conference in Plymouth.

Edward Aboufadel, professor of mathematics and assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, wrote an article, “Imitating the Shazam App with Wavelets,” published in *Mathematics Magazine*.

Public health faculty members **Ranelle Brew**, **Karen Niemchick** and **Katie Barnhart** gave a presentation, “Adding Value to the Public Health Curriculum Through Community

Service Learning,” at the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference. **Brew** gave another presentation, “Bridging the Divide: Promoting and Accepting Diversity in the Public Health Pipeline,” at the conference.

Devereaux Kennedy, professor of sociology, wrote a book, *Exploring the Roots of Social Theory and Inquiry*, published by Cognella Academic Publishing.

Craig Benjamin, professor of history, honors, gave a presentation, “A Little Big History of E.E. Benjamin and the Great War,” at the Globalistics Conference held at Moscow State University, Russia.

Leon Lou, associate professor of psychology, wrote an article, “Artists’ Innocent Eye as Extended Proximal Mode of Vision,” published in *Art & Perception: An International Journal of Art and Perception Science*.

Jason Crouthamel, professor of history, gave a presentation, “Contested Memories of Traumatic Neurosis in Weimar and Nazi Germany,” at the Nerven und Krieg Conference at the Freie Universitaet in Berlin.

John Kilbourne, professor of movement science, honors, gave a presentation, “Play: The Radix of Entrepreneurship,” at the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum’s Symposium on Play and Entrepreneurship.

Elizabeth Kilbourne, part-time faculty of liberal studies, gave a presentation, “Creative Problem Solving & Networking,” at the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum’s Symposium on Play and Entrepreneurship.

ACROSS CAMPUS

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and campus events will not be held and only essential staff are to report to work.

Designated personnel in the following departments are deemed essential: Department of Public Safety, Facilities Services, Fieldhouse Management, Food Service, Housing, Information Technology, Library, Pew Campus Operations and WGVU Public Media. Appointing officers have discretion to call in non-essential staff as circumstances may require.

When deciding to close for weather-related reasons, the following criteria are used: the ability of the university’s road crews to keep campus roads and parking lots cleared, the conditions of primary and secondary roads in the area and weather reports regarding the track of the storm and other conditions.

A diligent effort is made to arrive at a reasonable decision that considers the safety of students as well as their right to receive instruction. Under no circumstances does Grand Valley ask students, faculty or staff to assume undue risk in traveling to the university in inclement weather.

When the Allendale Campus is closed because of weather-related conditions, the Pew Grand Rapids Campus and the Meijer Holland Campus will also close.

When Muskegon Community College is closed, GVSU classes in Muskegon are canceled and the office in the Stevenson Center for Higher Education will close.

When Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City is closed, GVSU classes in Traverse City are canceled and the office in the NMC University Center will close.

Decisions to close or cancel activities at the Annis Water Resources Institute, the Muskegon Innovation Hub and the Detroit Center will be made separately, as these facilities host tenants, business events and research functions not affiliated with university operations.

Team receives grant to research cure for Parkinson’s disease

A team of researchers from Grand Valley, Van Andel Research Institute and Rush University recently received a \$500,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to test a possible cure for Parkinson’s disease.

The main targets of neuronal loss in Parkinson’s disease are dopamine neurons. This research project will test if the introduction of a modified protein, known as PM-Nato3,

will protect dopamine neurons from the toxicity of Parkinson’s disease.

The patent-pending technology that will be used in the research was developed by Grand Valley alumni Nicholas Huisingh, Jordan Straight, Daniel Doyle and Douglas Peterson while they were undergraduate students.

Merritt DeLano-Taylor, associate professor of biomedical sciences, will serve as one of three principal investigators for the research. His partners include Van Andel Research Institute’s Patrik Brundin and Rush University’s Jeffery Kordower, both of whom Taylor described as “giants in the field of Parkinson’s disease.”

The research DeLano-Taylor’s team will conduct proposes that delivering PM-Nato3 into the affected area of the brain of a person with Parkinson’s disease will activate certain factors that will protect dopamine neurons. To test that hypothesis, the team will use human cells and animal models to define the effects of PM-Nato3.

For complete stories, visit gvsu.edu/gvnow.



Merritt DeLano-Taylor