

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by University Communications | For news updates, visit gvsu.edu/gvnow

Trustees appoint university's fifth president

Grand Valley's Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Philomena V. Mantella as the university's fifth president. Trustees voted unanimously to appoint her to the presidency at a special board meeting held in the Kirkhof Center January 22.

Mantella is currently the senior vice president and chief executive officer of the Lifelong Learning Network at Northeastern University, a private research university in Boston. She has a Ph.D. in college and university administration from Michigan State University and master's and bachelor's degrees in social work from Syracuse University.

Former Board Chair John Kennedy chaired the search advisory committee for the replacement of retiring President Thomas J. Haas. Kennedy said the trustees recognized the importance of the search process in fulfilling their responsibility in selecting Mantella, who will begin her tenure on July 1.

"We had a strong pool of candidates we considered, and we want to thank and congratulate the members of the Presidential

Search Advisory Committee for their dedication and judgment," Kennedy said. "Many university community members shared their hopes for a new leader, and we are confident that Philomena Mantella will be an outstanding president."

Board Chair Mary Kramer said: "This was a unanimous vote because the trustees saw a finalist with experience in key areas, from enrollment management and student life to an entrepreneurial approach to building lifelong learning opportunities. Dr. Mantella has the right combination of experience in higher education and will shape a strategic vision to lead Grand Valley in the years ahead."

The 18-member advisory committee was made up of trustees, faculty, staff members,



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Incoming President Philomena V. Mantella laughs as President Thomas J. Haas prepares to take a selfie at a Board of Trustees meeting January 22. Mantella was appointed the university's fifth president.

an alumnus and representatives from the community and student body. In addition to

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ACROSS CAMPUS

DSR moves to the Connection

Disability Support Resources has moved to the Lynn M. Blue Connection, effective January 28.

Director Shontaye Witcher said the new location provides more testing space for students with disabilities. The second-floor suite can provide up to 20 tests at one time,



Photo by Rachael Mooney

Aaron Breting, testing coordinator, talks with DSR student workers in the Connection. The move from Zumberge Hall offers more testing space for students.

with space for students to study in the hallway before an exam.

Witcher said there is more accessible parking spaces, and faculty members can park close by to drop off exams. "The new location is also on the bus line, with easy access for students," she said.

DSR was housed on the fourth floor of Zumberge Hall.

Throughout the fall semester, staff members proctored 1,332 exams and Witcher said the requests continue to increase.

Faculty Awards Convocation set for Feb. 12

Faculty members will be recognized for their teaching, service and scholarship at the Faculty Awards Convocation on Tuesday, February 12, at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. Stephen Mattox, professor of geology, will give the keynote address; he will also receive the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award.

University Awards for Excellence will be presented to the following people:

- Sherie Klee, associate professor of teaching and learning, Internationalization Award
- Lorie Jager, senior affiliate of communications, Outstanding Advising and Student Services Award
- Nagnon Diarrassouba, assistant professor of literacy and technology, Outstanding Community Service Award
- Janel Pettes Guikema, associate professor of modern languages and literatures, Outstanding University Service Award
- Rebecca Davis, professor of nursing, Distinguished Contribution in a Discipline Award
- Joseph Fisher, professor of teaching and learning, University Outstanding Teacher Award.

Deborah Herrington, professor of chemistry, will be recognized as the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year.

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ACROSS CAMPUS

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The Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence will present awards to the following people:

- Paul Cook, associate professor of chemistry, Distinguished Undergraduate Mentoring Award

- Kyle Barnes, Katherine Corker, Cael Keegan and Bethany Peterson will receive Distinguished Early-career Scholar Awards.

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center will present awards to the following people:

- Lisa Perhamus, associate professor of educational foundations, Burch, Jacobs & Moore Diversity Teaching Excellence Award

- Richard Willobee, part-time instructor of teaching and learning, Pew Teaching Excellence Award for Part-time Faculty

- Julia VanderMolen, assistant professor of public health, and Julie White, senior affiliate of writing, Pew Teaching with Technology Award

- Susan Carson, Patrick Gerkin, Christopher Haven, Barbara Hooper, Ingrid Johnson, Virginia Peterson and Mary Bower Russa will receive Pew Teaching Excellence Awards.

Awards will also be presented to faculty celebrating 25, 30 and 35 years of service at Grand Valley.

Mileage increase goes into effect

The mileage reimbursement rate increased for Grand Valley faculty and staff members, effective January 1.

When traveling on university business, mileage will be reimbursed at 58 cents per mile. This reflects 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 (54.5 cents per mile) regardless of when reimbursement forms are submitted for payment. Updated forms are available online at gvsu.edu/busfin. Questions can be directed to Kim Suber at x12203.

Save the date: Civic Engagement Showcase, Challenge set for April

For the first time, the Civic Engagement Showcase and Laker Effect Challenge will be held on the same day, April 11.

Travus Burton, director for Civic Learning and Community Engagement, said the full-day celebration recognizes the past, present and future engagements of students, faculty and staff members, and community partners.

Both events will be held at the DeVos Center, the showcase will run from 2-4:30 p.m. and the Laker Effect Challenge from 6-8 p.m.

Proposals to participate in both the Laker Effect Challenge and Civic Engagement Showcase will be accepted starting February 1. Visit gvsu.edu/community for details on both the showcase and challenge.

GVNow recap:

Haynes named recipient of Davis Leadership Award

Lisa Haynes, associate vice president of Facilities Services Grand Rapids and Regional Centers, is the first recipient of the Gayle R.



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

From left are Gayle R. Davis, Lisa Haynes and President Thomas J. Haas.

Davis Excellence in Leadership Award.

President Thomas J. Haas and former provost Gayle Davis presented Haynes with a plaque and a check for \$1,000 at a surprise ceremony January 16 at the Bicycle Factory.

Haas said the Davis Award is given to someone who is a positive agent of change.

“This award represents someone who excels at fostering collaborative process, diverse perspectives and innovative change,” said Haas, “and that certainly describes Lisa during her years of service at the university.”

Haynes leads the university’s transportation system which has positively affected students, faculty and staff. She has served on many campus committees and work groups, ranging from parking and transportation to preparing for new buildings.

The award is named for Davis, who served as provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs from 2002-2017. Davis retired from Grand Valley in 2017.

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FORUM

Volume 43, Number 10

The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. The submission deadline is Tuesday prior to the publication date. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, c/o forum@gvsu.edu. Web: gvsu.edu/forum

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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

Roger Gilles, Frederik Meijer Honors College

Roger Gilles, director of the Frederik Meijer Honors College and professor of writing, is bringing a little-known sports subject to the forefront with his book, *Women on the Move: the Forgotten Era of Women's Bicycle Racing*, recently published by the University of Nebraska Press.

Women on the Move tells the story of bicycle racers in the 1890s and early 1900s. Gilles first encountered the subject by happenstance, when his wife, a children’s book author, learned about Tillie Anderson, a bicycle racer.

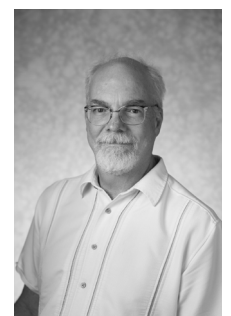
“About 10 years ago she saw a vintage postcard on a restaurant wall that featured an 1897 visit to Grand Rapids by “Tillie the Terrible Swede,”” Gilles said. “My wife had no idea who Tillie was, so she began researching her and ended up publishing a picture book about her in 2011.”

That year, Gilles and his wife met Anderson’s grand-niece, Alice Roepke, who shared information with them that later became the foundation of *Women on the Move*.

“Alice had a trunk load of scrapbooks, photos, and other memorabilia. She really wanted someone to write the full story of 1890s women’s bicycle racing,” Gilles said. “I was a writing professor with a sabbatical coming up, so I volunteered for the project, and I’m really glad I did.”

To write the book, Gilles read through Roepke’s scrapbooks and online archives of newspaper articles about the races from 1895-1902. Gilles

said he was challenged by a lack of information about this sport, due to a lack of record-keeping on the part of the League of American Wheelmen, the men’s national cycling organization, and the lack of coverage from national newspapers, as the sport was largely a Midwestern phenomenon.



Roger Gilles

Gilles worked on the book from 2012-2016. The book blends elements of narrative with some background information to place women’s bicycle racing in the context of sports in that era. Gilles said he believes that these athletes deserve more recognition, calling them “feminist pioneers.”

“They showed late-Victorian-era society that women could be strong, athletic, and competitive,” Gilles said. “We had a handful of top women athletes in America in the 1890s, and I don’t think many people realize that.”

Gilles plans to follow up the book with some conference papers, journal publications and magazine articles about the topic. With *Women on the Move*, Gilles hopes to shed some light on these athletes and give them the recognition he feels they deserve for their athletic ability and perseverance.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Isely to unveil local economic findings

Economics expert Paul Isely will release results of his annual survey of the regional economy during the 2019 Colliers Annual West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast.

The event will be held Thursday, January 31, at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids; continental breakfast begins at 7:15 and the program begins at 8 a.m.

The survey for the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December. Isely, professor of economics and associate dean for the Seidman College of Business, will talk about employment, sales, trade and consumer confidence.

The event is free and open to the public; seating is limited and registration is required. For more information, visit collierswestmiforecast.com/rsvp.html.

Shakespeare Festival will feature Bahamian actors

The 25th anniversary season of the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival will continue when actors from Nassau in the Bahamas perform a critically acclaimed production on campus.

The festival's "Bard Beyond Borders" series will present performances of "Sizwe Banzi is Dead" January 31 and February 1 at 7:30 p.m. and February 2 at 2 p.m. All shows will occur in the Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, in the Haas Center for Performing Arts. A condensed version of the production will be performed during Grand Valley's Arts at Noon series on Wednesday, January 30, from noon-1 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

For more information and free ticket reservations, call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at x12300. Performances are LIB 100/201 approved for students.

Written by Athol Fugard, the play is set in the landscape of South Africa's apartheid era, a time of institutionalized racial segregation that spanned from 1948 until the early 1990s. The story confronts the struggles faced by people of color during that time and addresses broader questions of human worth and identity.

"Sizwe Banzi is Dead" was originally featured during the 2014 Shakespeare in Paradise Theatre Festival, and these performances will reunite the director and the original two cast members. Grand Valley's history with the Shakespeare in Paradise Theatre Festival dates back to 2011 when Bard to Go, the university's traveling student Shakespeare troupe, was first invited to perform at the festival.

Events set to celebrate Black History Month

A musical tribute to Black Gospel, the history of Black Islam and a discussion about the Grand Rapids riots are just a few of the events planned throughout February to celebrate Black History Month at Grand Valley.

The annual celebration is organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Events are free and open to the public; view a complete schedule at gvsu.edu/oma.

Health Forum event to focus on organ donations

Panelists at February's Health Forum of West Michigan event will discuss the need for organ donations and the decisions involved in a transplant.

"Organ Donation and Transplantation" is set for Friday, February 1, beginning at 8 a.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. A light breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public, RSVP online at gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Panelists are Dorrie Dils, CEO of Gift of Life Michigan; Dr. Michael Hofmann, Mercy Health Kidney Transplant Center; Dr. Anupam Kumar, Spectrum Health's heart and lung transplant program; Dr. David Start, chief medical examiner for Ottawa County and deputy medical examiner for Kent County.

Health Forum events are held monthly and supported by the Office of the Vice Provost for Health.

Presidents' Ball dance tickets on sale

Tickets are on sale for the annual Presidents' Ball, set for Friday, February 1.

With the theme, "The Grandest Showman," the event will be held at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave. NW. Cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:15 p.m., and dancing from 8:30 p.m.-midnight (doors close at 10 p.m.).

Tickets are available at the 2020 Desk in Kirkhof Center for \$20 (dance only), dinner and dance is sold out.

Members of the Grand Valley community will be presented with awards. Chris Barbee, director of Alumni Relations, will receive the Presidential Appreciation Award, and Star Swift, associate professor of management, will receive the Student Award for Faculty Excellence.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/presidentsball.

Faculty kick off Writers Series for winter semester

Two Grand Valley writing faculty members will discuss the inner-workings of their craft during the annual Grand Valley Writers Series.

Chris Haven and Gale Marie Thompson will present a faculty reading on February 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library multipurpose room.

Haven, associate professor of writing, has written short fiction and flash fiction that have appeared or are forthcoming in *Threepenny Review*, *New Orleans Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Electric Literature*, and *Kenyon Review Online*. His poems can be read in *Cincinnati Review*, *Pleiades*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Beloit Poetry Journal*, among other publications.

Thompson is the author of *Soldier On* (2015) and two chapbooks. She has received fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts and her work appears or is set to appear in *Gulf Coast*, *American Poetry Review*, *Guernica*, *jubilat*, *Bennington Review*, and *Colorado Review*. She is also the founding editor of *Jellyfish Magazine*.

Additional events are below, details are online at gvsu.edu/writing.

- March 14: Poetry Craft Talk and Reading with Janine Joseph and Oliver Baez Bendorf
- April 8: Nonfiction Craft Talk and Reading with Sarah Einstein

Opera Theatre will perform 'Wonderful Town'

Sisters Ruth and Eileen Sherwood leave behind their ordinary lives in a rural Ohio town in pursuit of fulfilling their dreams in New York City.

GVSU Opera Theatre will present "Wonderful Town" February 8, 9, 15, and 16, at 7:30 p.m. and February 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. All shows will take place in Louis Armstrong Theatre, in the Haas Center for Performing Arts.

Ruth is an aspiring writer played by Mikayla Berghorst, a junior majoring in vocal performance. Elise Endres, a first-year student majoring in music, will portray Eileen, a dancer who wants to pursue a life on stage.

"Wonderful Town" will be directed by Grand Valley alumnus Christopher Carter.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and faculty and staff, \$7 for students, and \$10 for groups of 10 or more. For more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at x12300 or visit gvsu.edu/theater.

ACROSS CAMPUS

aMDI receives SmartZone grant

Grand Valley's applied Medical Device Institute (aMDI) has been awarded \$500,000 by the Grand Rapids SmartZone to complete an investigation into the viability of using specialized 3D printing technology for medical device production.

The grant will allow aMDI, in collaboration with MediSurge and Carbon, Inc., to create production-grade medical devices that can be safely implanted into and under the skin,

which isn't currently possible due to existing materials used for prototyping.

Brand-new, state-of-the-art Carbon, Inc. 3D printer technology has been installed in aMDI's incubator space in Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Health Campus, making Grand Valley the only university in the Midwest, and one of only six in the nation, to give students an opportunity to work with the revolutionary technology.

"We are thrilled to be the first university in the Midwest to provide students with direct

access to this type of innovative technology on campus," said Brent Nowak, executive director of aMDI. "This novel 3D additive manufacturing technology, targeting medical grade materials, will soon be the new standard, and this study will be a launch pad for course content that is used in curriculum throughout the university."

For complete stories, visit gvsu.edu/gvnow.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

Richardson honored by Athletics

Scott Richardson, vice president for administrative services, was recognized by Athletics for his 41 years of service to Grand Valley.

The award — a surprise to Richardson — was presented at halftime of the Laker women's basketball game against Northwood on January 12. Richardson plans to retire in June.

Keri Becker, director of athletics, arranged for the honor and said Richardson has been an advocate for collegiate sports and a personal mentor to her.

"I tend to be a fast mover and he helped me pause, consider differing perspectives, and supported me in a way that allowed better decision making to occur," Becker said.



Scott Richardson holds a commemorative jersey during a recognition ceremony at the Fieldhouse January 12.

SKETCHES

Al Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave two presentations, "Restoration of Three Aquatic Ecosystems in West Michigan," and "Large Scale Restoration in the USA: From the Everglades to the Great Lakes," at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Midlothian, Scotland.

Tracy Flemming, associate professor of area and global studies, was named associate executive editor of *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies*.

Zsuzsanna Palmer, assistant professor of writing, gave a presentation, "Teaching Business Communication with Virtual Business Professional Project," at the Association for Business Communication annual conference.

Christine Rener, vice provost for instructional development and innovation and director of Pew FTLC, gave a presentation, "Sustaining and Developing as Directors of Centers of Teaching and Learning," at the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education annual conference in Portland, Oregon.

Eric Kunnen, associate director of eLearning and emerging technologies, participated in a webinar session, "Heroic-Ally Minded," for a Blackboard Ally Forum Series. **Glenna Decker**, instructional designer, and **Kunnen** presented a webinar, "Improving Student Engagement and Retention

through the Community of Inquiry," for the Blackboard Innovative Teaching Series. **Sherry Barricklow**, eLearning and instructional technology specialist, and **Kunnen** presented a webinar on accessibility for the Michigan Blackboard Users Group

eLearning and Emerging Technologies staff members **Matt Roberts**, **Justin Melick** and **Eric Kunnen** gave presentations, "Digital Badges for Faculty: A Primer," and "Promoting the Creation of Efficient and Effective Instructional Media," at the Educational Technology Organization of Michigan Fall Conference.

Vinicius Lima, assistant professor of visual and media arts, earned honors at the 2018 American Inhouse Design Awards for design of the fifth annual Student Juried Exhibition Poster and Invitation.

Valerie Guzman, associate director of student life, and **Jodi Chycinski**, director of admissions, were panelists for a session, "Critical Issues in Higher Education," at a Young Professionals in Higher Education monthly workshop in Grand Rapids.

Jerry Stinnett, assistant professor of writing, wrote a chapter, "Teaching for Transfer? Non-experts Teaching Linked Information Literacy and Writing Classes," for a book, *Teaching Information Literacy and Writing Studies, Vol. 1: First-Year Composition*; and gave a presentation, "A Matter of Framing: Objective-Motivated Future Knowledge Activation in Transfer-Supportive FYC Instruction," at the Thomas R. Watson Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Pew FTLC staff members **Patty Stow Bolea** and **Dana Munk** gave a presentation, "History of Inequality in the U.S.: Inclusive Teaching Competency Online," at the Professional Organizational Development Network Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Loren Rullman, vice provost for student affairs and dean of students, gave a presentation, "Creating Inclusive Places," at the regional conference of NASPA: Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

English faculty members **Dawn M. Evans** and **Amy L. Masko** gave a presentation, "The College Problem of Underprepared Students & Low Literacy Skills: A Curriculum Discussion," at the American Association for Teaching and Curriculum annual conference in Dallas, Texas.

Elena Lioubimtseva, professor of geography and sustainable planning, was the author of an article, "Food Security Factors and Trends in Central Asia," published in the *Encyclopedia of Food Security and Sustainability*.

Campus Recreation staff members **Kayla Cupples** and **Kate Harmon** gave a presentation, "Moving Away From Wishy-Washy Diversity and Inclusion Efforts Within Recreation," at the Michigan Intramural and Recreational Sports Association workshop hosted by the University of Michigan.

The **GVSU Votes! Initiative** won a 2018-2019 NASPA Excellence Award, receiving a Gold Award in the category for Civic Learning, Democratic Engagement, Service-Learning and Community Service.

Mantella: 'Impressed and energized by the strength of Grand Valley'

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Kennedy, the board was represented by trustees Kramer, Megan Sall and Kate Pew Wolters.

The trustees recognize Mantella's strengths and experience in strategic planning, global market expansion and in the evolving ways successful institutions are delivering education. Mantella said she recognizes Grand Valley's current success and promising future.

"I am impressed and energized by the strength of Grand Valley," Mantella said. "I'm also inspired by the opportunities it has in today's educational and economic landscape. Michigan and our nation need breakout universities like Grand Valley that carry the promise of a degree and a path to prosperity for learners from all backgrounds.

"West Michigan is a dynamic region, and Grand

Valley is well positioned to extend its prominence, access and impact throughout the state and beyond. I am honored and thrilled to serve as president during this exciting next chapter in Grand Valley's journey."

Haas said trustees made a wise choice. "Her background is impressive, and her passion for education and her warmth as a person are obvious. I look forward to working with her and others to ensure a smooth transition to her leadership," he said.

Mantella has been married for 40 years to attorney Robert H. Avery; they have three sons and four grandchildren. Mantella's 91-year-old mother will be joining the couple in West Michigan.



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Kirkhof College of Nursing students pose with incoming President Philomena V. Mantella during a tour of the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.