

FORUM

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**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

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Haas marks 10 years of leadership on campus

President Thomas J. Haas is celebrating his 10th anniversary at Grand Valley. He became the university's fourth president in 2006 and led Grand Valley through a decade of growth and success.

Grand Valley announced another year of record-breaking enrollment. Records were broken in total number, first-year students, students of color and those living on campus. Total enrollment now stands at 25,460. Grand Valley has been recognized for the last several years by Michigan's governor and legislature for its leading performance. The university is in the top three in graduation rates of all public universities in the state and in the top four in retention.

Haas credited Provost Gayle R. Davis and the rest of his experienced cabinet with providing seasoned counsel. He recognized the integral role of faculty and staff and the engagement of a superior Board of Trustees for always pushing Grand Valley to the next level.

"Every single person on the president's cabinet, some have been here for 30 or more years, brings together the spirit of being

a team," said Haas. "They have enabled me to be as effective as I have been. Our relationship with our faculty is key as well. They've embraced planning and creating relevant programs that students want and employers need. And the trustees have been critical in ensuring appropriate oversight for the public good. All of these people have contributed to the success of Grand Valley."

During his tenure, more than 30 new majors have been established and 2 million square feet have been developed on campus. Grand Valley has become a leader in sustainability with nearly 20 LEED-certified buildings.



Thomas J. Haas

John C. Kennedy, chair of the Board of Trustees, said Haas has been an effective and able leader.

"Leading a university for 10 years and counting is not common," Kennedy said. "Tom followed successful presidents at Grand Valley, and he's been able to put his own mark on the institution. He's successfully steering us through a time of declining state support for public universities and a decreasing high school population in Michigan."

Haas said the most rewarding part of his 10 years at Grand Valley has been developing a culture of strategic planning that sets the proper course for the future.

"If we have a plan forward and know the outcomes we want, then we can look for the number and the quality of students we want," said Haas. "We're the nation's smallest, large university because of the relationships we've created with our students and with one another."

Hear more from Haas in a video found at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0in>.

Across Campus

University receives award from Goodwill Industries

Grand Valley received a Community Partner Award from Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids Inc. for participating in the LITE program, which helps young adults on the autism spectrum gain meaningful work experience.

President Thomas J. Haas accepted the award at a ceremony October 10 at Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids.

Grand Valley has participated in the LITE program (Learning Independence Through Experience) for eight years, employing young adults in several campus locations, including the bookstore, library, Facilities Services, Campus Dining, the Fieldhouse and the Meadows.

New street lights installed along 48th Avenue

Grand Valley, Consumers Energy and Allendale Township are working together to install permanent street lights by housing near the Allendale Campus. Six temporary lighting towers were installed on 48th Avenue over the weekend.

The temporary lighting towers that illuminate the sidewalks along 48th Avenue are located between Pierce Street and Lake Michigan Drive. Three additional towers will be installed near the bus stop on Pierce Street across from Copper Beech Townhouses and near two bus stops on West

Campus Drive near Campus West Apartments. Consumers Energy and Grand Valley will share costs of the temporary towers.

The plan for permanent streetlights to be installed along 48th Avenue is underway. Utility field staff surveyed the area October 10, and Consumers Energy presented Allendale Township with a permanent design plan.

The temporary lighting towers are part of efforts to quickly implement measures to enhance the safety of students living near the Allendale Campus.

"Safety is the most important priority right now," said Tim Thimmesch, associate vice president for Facilities Services. "The temporary lighting towers that we installed over the weekend are being checked daily. It's important that we all work together to make sure Grand Valley students and the community are safe."

Dan Malone, senior vice president of Energy Resources for Consumers



Crews from Consumers Energy install temporary lighting towers along 48th Avenue.

continues on page 2

Across Campus

continued from page 1

Energy, said his team is expediting a street lighting design requested by the township.

Installing lighting is just one safety measure Grand Valley has taken. University staff members have met with managers from area apartment complexes to discuss steps that should be taken to ensure the safety of their residents. The Grand Valley Police Department has increased its presence on campus, and Ottawa County has increased patrols in the areas surrounding the Allendale Campus.

Brooks College office begins laptop loan program

Several campus departments have partnered to ensure that eligible students who find themselves in a computer emergency can apply for a free, loaned laptop.

Anita Benes, office coordinator for the Brooks College Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, said the idea to establish a loan program came to her when her own laptop died.

“One day a student came to the office and was very sad because her computer had died and she did not have enough money to replace it,” Benes said. “I could certainly relate.”

Benes contacted the GVSU Surplus Store to explain the program, and Kim Patrick, director of Procurement Services, agreed to donate five laptops. To apply for a laptop loan, students must be Pell grant recipients, prove financial need, or be a student veteran.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

From left to right are Anita Benes, Jennifer Jameslyn and graduate assistant Emily Smigiel. The Integrative Learning and Advising office has established a laptop loan program.

She said this project fits well within the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies’ mission to promote sustainability. “About four million tons of computers and related devices are filling landfills each year,” she said. “I’m glad we can recycle these laptops.”

Students who meet the laptop loan criteria can apply for a laptop at the Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, Lake Michigan Hall, room 133. Questions about the program can be directed to Benes at x18200.

Institute receives grant to bridge gap between science, religion

There is an ongoing debate between moderate and fundamentalist approaches to religion in Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities. This debate commonly pits science against religion.

Grand Valley’s Kaufman Interfaith Institute received a \$938,975 grant from the John Templeton Foundation to explore this debate in order to create a common global understanding among two different trains of thought and belief.

“While the Kaufman Interfaith Institute began as a West Michigan project, it has received national attention for the work we do in interfaith understanding, and for our science and religion program,” said director Douglas Kindschi. “This grant takes both of these missions and puts them on the international stage.”

The co-directors of the project are Kelly Clark, senior research fellow at the institute, and Kindschi. The project will bring together 36 prominent philosophers, physicists and biologists from around the world for annual workshops and conferences in West Michigan and the Middle East.

Throughout the course of the three-year project, all of the scholars will attend three annual workshops to collectively brainstorm, learn about one another’s traditions, develop a diverse community, and build bridges among themselves and their faith traditions.

“I think the most problematic issue in science and religion is the reconciliation of the religious belief in a God who is in control with the scientific belief that reality is chancy and unpredictable,” said Clark. “Academic discussions of these topics have been dominated by Christians



Kelly Clark

continues on page 4

FORUM Volume 41, Number 8

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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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GVFaces

Katherine Dreyer, Global Resource Specialist

Katherine Dreyer never knows what to expect when she gets to work at the Van Andel Global Trade Center. Some days she is planning or hosting an event. Others, she is creating marketing materials or supporting businesses and students.

Dreyer is also the graphic designer at the center, a business outreach center within the Seidman College of Business that provides international training, market research and consulting services to the business community.

“There’s always something new and exciting that needs to get done,” Dreyer said. “I love my job because I get to work on so many different disciplines with a variety of people within and outside the university.”

As a student, Dreyer was an intern at the center. After graduating from Grand Valley, Dreyer worked a variety of jobs within the marketing and web design industry, but when a position opened up at the center, she applied and found herself back on campus. Dreyer said her work at the center as a student better prepared her for her career.

“I learned a lot about international business and working in an office environment,” Dreyer said. “It was great to have new experiences that I hadn’t encountered through my previous retail and restaurant jobs as a student.”

Dreyer is working to get even more students

involved with the center through its international trainings and cultural programs. The programs offer knowledge that is only briefly mentioned within Grand Valley classes, allowing students interested in international business to get more information while networking with area businesses.

“We have always encouraged students to attend VAGTC programs by working with other departments within the university,” Dreyer said. “For example, we are working with the Seidman College of Business’ TRACK program to provide students extracurricular credit for attending qualifying events.”

The center gives students unique experiences that are not offered anywhere else on campus, allowing students to practice networking skills with business professionals while gaining new global knowledge, Dreyer said.

“It’s about representing Grand Valley’s name in the international business community, so that when business professionals see the university on an applicant’s resume, they understand how diverse and experienced our students are,” she said.



Katherine Dreyer

What's Ahead

Kutsche office partners for oral history collection

Celebrating the lakeshore's diverse Hispanic population will continue through an oral history collection scheduled at Grand Valley's Meijer Campus in Holland.

"Nuestra Comunidad Hispana" is set for Tuesday, October 18, from 3:45-6:45 p.m. in the lobby of the Meijer Campus, 515 S. Waverly Road. Holland area residents are invited to drop in during that timeframe to be interviewed by trained volunteers.

The project is a collaborative effort by Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History, Meijer Campus in Holland, City of Holland, Herrick District Library, Latin Americans United for Progress, and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. LAUP received a grant for the program from the Michigan Humanities Council's Heritage Grant Program.

Kimberly McKee, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said the project will document untold stories of Holland's Hispanic residents. "The project reflects a commitment to bring together the region's diverse and multi-generational Hispanic communities as part of efforts to create a shared community," McKee said.

Copies of participants' photographs and oral histories will be permanently housed in the collections of the Herrick District Library where it will be made available for use by researchers and the public.

Messy politics nothing new, speaker says

Strong political polarization and infighting in Congress is nothing new in American politics, according to a historian and author who will speak at an event sponsored by Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies on Thursday, October 20.

Ronald White will talk about modern political bickering and opposite sides of the political spectrum when he discusses *American Ulysses*, his biography of President Ulysses S. Grant. His presentation will begin at 7 p.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. Registration can be completed online at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Oil>.

"This presentation will strike a massively powerful chord with anyone who is invested in what our country is going through right now," said Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

White will also discuss Grant's legacy, and how history tends to reflect on the achievements of two-term presidents over time, which will shed light on the eventual legacy of President Barack Obama, the nation's latest two-term president.

This event is presented in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library and Museum.

History conference to focus on human rights in the Atlantic world

Human rights in the Atlantic world will be addressed during more than 25 presentations at the 42nd annual Great Lakes History Conference at Grand Valley.

Conference events will take place on October 21-22 at the Eberhard Center and DeVos Center.

Héctor Tobar, author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *Deep Down Dark: The Untold Story of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle that Set Them Free*, will present the keynote address on Friday, October 21, at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. His presentation, "Workers, Readers and Resistance: a Personal Journey through Latin America and the Immigrant Experience," is free and open to the public.

The son of Guatemalan immigrants, Tobar will explore how his own personal experiences intersect and overlap with those of people, places and immigrants of Latin America that he has encountered in his travels and for his writings.



A screening of 'Landfill Harmonic' is planned as part of the Great Lakes History Conference.

The conference is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more details, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/Oi7>.

The conference will be preceded by a screening of the 2015 documentary, "Landfill Harmonic," on October 20, at 2 p.m., at Coit Creative Arts Academic (617 Coit Avenue NE) in Grand Rapids. The film follows the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, a Paraguayan musical group that plays instruments made entirely out of garbage.

The conference is sponsored by the Office of the President, History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Area and Global Studies, Latin America and Latino/a Studies, English Department, Frederik Meijer Honors College, Modern Languages and Literatures Department, Political Science Department, School of Communications and Sociology Department.

Sustainability week kicks off with tree planting

The campus community is invited to plant trees at the Sustainable Agriculture Project on Saturday, October 22, the start of Grand Valley's Campus Sustainability Week.

Tree planting will begin at 10 a.m. and will take place in conjunction with Make a Difference Day. SAP is located at 4539 Luce St. in Allendale.

Campus Sustainability Week is organized by the Office of Sustainability Practices. Events conclude October 28; they are free and open to the public. Several highlights of the week are listed below.

- **International Dinner: October 23, 5-7 p.m., Connection:** a dinner will be prepared with produce grown at the Sustainable Agriculture Project.
- **Campus Clean Up: October 24, 5 p.m., Kleiner Commons:** students will gather to clean up north campus, meet in front of Kleiner Commons.
- **A presentation by Brewery Vivant: October 26, 4-5 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center:** Kris Spaulding, Grand Valley alumna, will discuss sustainability practices used at the brewery.
- **Zero Waste Football Game: October 29, 7 p.m., Lubbers Stadium:** students will lead zero-waste efforts during the game against the University of Findlay.
- **Wesley Walks to Replenish 5K: October 30, 1-3 p.m., Cook Carillon Tower:** the 5K will raise funds for Replenish, the student food pantry. It is sponsored by Wesley Fellowship, Women's Center, Office of Sustainability Practices and Access of West Michigan.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/sustainability.

Lecture to explore stories from Jewish refugees

More than 990 German and Austrian Jews boarded the German transatlantic liner *St. Louis* from Hamburg, Germany, for Havana, Cuba, in 1939. The hope of the passengers was to escape Nazi persecution, but complex international politics forced them back to Europe.

During a presentation on October 24 at 4:30 p.m., stories from the *S.S. St. Louis* will be shared using archives and artifacts from the collections at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The lecture, "The St. Louis and the Refugee Crisis," will take place in the Mary Idema Pew Library Multi-Purpose Room, and it is free and open to the public. Diane Afoumado, from the USHMM, will give the presentation, which will aim to place these stories into the larger context of the refugee crisis of the late 1930s.

The majority of the Jewish passengers aboard the *St. Louis* had applied for U.S. visas, and had planned to stay in Cuba only until they could enter the U.S. But, by the time the ship sailed, there were signs that political conditions in Cuba might keep passengers from landing there.

When the *St. Louis* arrived in Havana harbor, the Cuban government admitted only 28 passengers. Rob Franciosi, professor of English, said the significance of the story resonated throughout America, with many U.S. newspapers covering the events as they unfolded.

"There were some editorials or cartoons calling for the admission of the refugees, yet neither the government nor the population at large favored any loosening of the immigrant quotas," Franciosi explained.

For more information about this event, contact Franciosi at francior@gvsu.edu.



Jewish refugees aboard an ocean liner to Cuba is the subject of a lecture by a Holocaust Memorial Museum staff member October 24.

FAC event to spotlight Beethoven's ballet

While Beethoven's composition résumé is filled with numerous historic and well-known works, many people are not aware that the multifaceted composer also wrote one ballet in 1801.

continues on page 4

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Community mourns death of faculty member

Natalia Gomez, professor of Spanish, died October 8 after a battle with cancer. She was 50.

Gomez joined Grand Valley's faculty in 2000. Majd Al-Mallah, professor and chair of Modern Languages and Literatures, said Gomez was a pillar within the department and will be "deeply missed by her colleagues and students."

"She built a good rapport with her students and always worked with compassion toward others," he said. "An accomplished poet, Natalia regularly brought speakers to campus and was very engaged in the life of the department and university. Her legacy also includes working tirelessly to advocate study abroad and also community-university connections, especially with local schools."

Donations in Gomez's memory may be made to Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids.

Sketches

John Constantelos, professor of political science, gave a presentation, "Multilevel

Lobbying: The Impact of Policymaking Vetoes on Venue Selection," at the 10th General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research in Prague.

Simha Magal, professor of management and ERP Initiative director, was named a 2016 Developer Hero by SAP.

Dan Royer, professor of writing, and **Ellen Schendel**, associate dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, were co-authors of a chapter, "Coming into Being: The Writing Department at Grand Valley State University in its 13th Year," in a book, *A Minefield of Dreams: Triumphs and Travails of Independent Writing Programs*, published by University Press of Colorado.

Jennifer VanderPoel, assistant professor of diagnostic and treatment sciences, received the Professional Achievement Award from the Society for Vascular Ultrasound.

Virginia Peterson, professor of geology, led a National Association of Geoscience Teachers workshop for the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Wesleyan College. She is a workshop facilitator for the NAGT/Building Strong Geoscience Departments Traveling Workshops Program.

College of Education faculty members **Rick Vandermolten** and **Catherine Meyer-Looze** gave a presentation, "Creating a Meaningful Partnership to Increase Student Results," at the

National Council of Professors of Educational Administration in Detroit.

J. Kevin McCurren, clinical affiliate faculty member of management, gave a presentation, "How Center Programs Can Help Students Fund Startups," at the Global Consortium of Entrepreneur Centers.

Raymond Higbea, assistant professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, gave a presentation, "The Patient: Physician Relationship: Erosion and Redevelopment," at the Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference.

Andrew Spear, associate professor of philosophy, gave a presentation, "Epistemic and Moral Dimensions of Patient Trust," at the Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference.

Jeffrey Byrnes, assistant professor of philosophy, gave a presentation, "The Artworld's Phenomenology of Illness, Health, and Medicine," at the Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference.

Mary deYoung, professor of sociology, wrote a chapter, "Demons, Devils and Ritual Abuse: Interdisciplinary Perspectives," in *Wrongful Allegations of Sexual and Child Abuse*, published by Oxford University Press.

Across Campus

continued from page 2

and, since we value diversity, we are broadening our conversation partners to include Muslims and Jews."

Each annual workshop will include an introduction to one of the three Abrahamic religions (Muslim, Christian, Jewish).

The concluding workshop in 2019 in Istanbul will be followed by an international Abrahamic science and religion conference.

What's Ahead

continued from page 3

Grand Valley music and dance students, and dance ensemble The Francesca Harper Project will perform an original interpretation of "The Creatures of Prometheus" during this year's Fall Arts Celebration dance event.

"Beethoven's The Creatures of Prometheus Ballet" will take place October 24, at 7:30 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre. A carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. will precede the performance.

Danny Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair, said "The Creatures of Prometheus" has little to do with the classical version of Prometheus, the mythical Greek titan who had a reputation of being a clever trickster, and who famously gave the human race the gift of fire and the skill of metalwork.

Instead, Beethoven imagined Prometheus as a righteous, idealistic god-like figure who brings to humans an understanding of morality and

UCC updates

To keep faculty members informed of policies, the University Curriculum Committee will have occasional announcements published in *Forum*.

Faculty Peer Review of Online/Hybrid Courses: The Online Education Council has approved a rubric for faculty peer review of online/hybrid courses. This is a new standard for the university. Although it is currently not

mandatory, its use is strongly encouraged. Faculty members who are teaching an online/hybrid course and undergoing a peer review, should consider asking peer(s) to use the new form, available at www.gvsu.edu/facultygov/.

Fast-Track Prerequisite Change Form: Faculty members who want to remove or replace the prerequisites of a course, can use a fast-track form available on the UCC website. Review of this form is quicker than submitting a course change proposal in Sail.



The Francesca Harper Project will highlight the Fall Arts Celebration dance event on October 24.

virtue — creating humankind through the power of music and art.

Based in New York City, The Francesca Harper Project was founded by Harper in 2005 as a nonprofit performing arts company dedicated

to creating ground-breaking dance, music and theater works.

Joining The Francesca Harper Project in this full-scale ballet production will be music and dance students, which Phipps said will be no simple task.

"Performing music for a live ballet requires absolute concentration and attention to tempo and musical interpretation as the physical demands of dance leave little room for variance by the performers," Phipps said. "Our dance students will both collaborate with and observe one of the country's unique voices in choreography as Francesca Harper applies a modern and exceptional interpretation of both the Prometheus myth and Beethoven's own vision of the demigod as a liberator of mankind."

For more information about all of this year's Fall Arts Celebration events, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts or call x12185.