

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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

Students meet, thank donors for scholarships

More than 100 Grand Valley students met and thanked the Detroit couple responsible for helping to fund their education during an event October 14 at the L. William Seidman Center.

Bob and Ellen Thompson and the Thompson



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Bob and Ellen Thompson and President Philomena V. Mantella stand with the Thompson scholars during an event at the L. William Seidman Center.

Foundation have funded Grand Valley's largest scholarship program since 2011. The Thompson Working Family Scholarship targets working families who struggle financially to send their children to college. More than 700 Grand Valley students have received TWFS since the program's inception.

Cohorts of students who receive TWFS must reach an 80 percent graduation rate within six years. In 2017, the Thompsons expanded the reach by offering \$5,000 annual scholarships to 125 students, including 25 transfers from Michigan community colleges.

Brianna Smith, a senior from West Olive who is majoring in biology, said receiving a TWFS has significantly reduced her debt.

"The Thompsons have a special place in my heart," Smith said. "I do not have much college debt. I've

been very lucky and very blessed to receive this scholarship."

The scholarship program requires students to write an essay when they apply. Smith saw that as an opportunity to say thank you to her mother, Jennifer Rubelman, who at times worked multiple jobs as a single parent and head of household.

"The essay was my opportunity to honor my mom and everything she has done for me," Smith said. "She worked multiple jobs before going back to school full time, sometimes getting three hours of sleep a night so that I could get to college."

President Philomena V. Mantella told the students who received the scholarship they have been set up for success in part because of the Thompsons. Stipulations of the TWFS include a match from the university and academic services to support students.

"I want you to really feel both the opportunity

continues on page 4

ACROSS CAMPUS

Open Enrollment period begins

The 2020 annual benefits open enrollment period is October 22-November 6.

Benefit-eligible faculty and staff members are encouraged to review benefit options and make adjustments during that period online at gvsu.edu/hro/benefitswellness/oe.

Staff from the Benefits and Wellness team will be available for individual appointments October 24-31 at various campus locations, visit the website for details. Questions can be sent via email to benefitsandwellness@gvsu.edu or by phone to x12220.

Events planned to celebrate Founders Day

The campus community will celebrate the individuals who rallied support to establish a public higher education institution in West Michigan on Founders Day, October 25.

Founders Day is celebrated each year on October 25, the day the university was

chartered by the State of Michigan in 1960.

Students, faculty and staff members and alumni celebrate Founders Day by remembering and supporting the university in honor of the nearly 300 individuals in the West Michigan community who helped meet the state's \$1 million challenge to establish Grand Valley.

Organizers of Founders Day planned events throughout the week of October 21 to remember and honor the dedicated community members who saw the need for a public university in West Michigan.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

The statue of Bill Seidman, one of Grand Valley's founders, is surrounded by flags during a previous Founders Day celebration.

Events are detailed below.

- Students will place flags representing each founder on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses.
- Rick Gillett, son of founder Dick Gillett, will participate in a panel discussion at noon on Saturday, October 26, at the Alumni House. The GVSU Through the Years luncheon is open to all alumni. RSVP online at gvsu.edu/homecoming.
- A campuswide giving day will raise funds for first-generation students; visit gvsu.edu/giving/lakershelpinglakers to donate or for more information.

A list of Grand Valley's founders is online at gvsu.edu/foundersday.

Making Waves highlights

The campus community continues to highlight the Making Waves initiative; a list of recent activities is below.

- Erik Petrovskis, director of environmental

continues on page 2

ACROSS CAMPUS

continued from page 1



compliance and sustainability for Meijer, will deliver a keynote address at the Fall Science Update conference, sponsored by the Regional Math and Science Center.

The address, “Facilitating Environmental Sustainability at Meijer,” is October 23 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. The lecture is free; for more information, visit gvsu.edu/rmssc.

• The GVSU Water Community is a database that allows people to find potential speakers, match interests and more. The resource includes information on water-related projects as well as water-related interest areas and expertise.

To see this ever-expanding database or to add information, visit gvsu.edu/makingwaves.

• Eight faculty members and nine students attended and gave nine presentations focused on water at the Geological Society of America meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, September 22-25.

Faculty members who attended were Caitlin Callahan, Kevin Cole, Pat Colgan, Steve Mattox, Ginny Peterson, Peter Riemersma, John VanRegenmorter and Peter Wampler; students were Jillian Ashton, Emily Bergel,

Jessalyn Gonzalez, Tyler Baker, Thomas Byars, Ella Larson, Colleen Rankin, Daryn Taylor and Claire Thomassen.

GVNow recap:

University begins search for new VP of Enrollment Development

It is looking like Grand Valley’s longest serving employee might actually retire. Lynn “Chick” Blue just celebrated her 51st anniversary at Grand Valley. It was 1968 when now Blue took a clerical job at a very young university.

She first announced her impending retirement in March of last year. Blue agreed to stay on a bit longer than originally planned, but now the search is on for the next vice president for Enrollment Development.

The university has hired the executive search firm DHR to assist President Philomena V. Mantella in recruiting efforts. There will be a search advisory committee chaired by Maureen Walsh, associate vice president for Human Resources.

Walsh said the hope is to have the new person in place by the beginning of 2020. Blue will continue with the university through the



Lynn ‘Chick’ Blue

transition period of the successful candidate and will have some ongoing involvement with Grand Valley managing specific projects critical to Grand Valley’s future. These include building operational agility to serve Grand Valley’s increasing number of adult learners, and the initiative that will create voice and chatbot support for students.

Hundreds of students volunteer during Make a Difference Day

More than 250 volunteers from Grand Valley and Grand Rapids Community College participated in the nation’s largest day of community service October 12.

Make a Difference Day volunteers performed service work with various community partners, including the Children’s Advocacy Center, Kent County Parks, the Refugee Education Center and others.

Participants helped clean Townsend Park in Rockford, packed lunches at Kids’ Food Basket and assisted with gardening and harvesting with Urban Roots. Students provided a combined total of 1,160 hours of volunteer service.

The day began with a keynote message, “The Power of Caring,” from Sonya Hernandez, assistant director for the Grand Rapids Community College Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Grand Valley’s Community Service Learning Center sponsored the event.

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

FORUM Volume 44, Number 5

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



GVFACES

Stacey Burns, University Libraries

Stacey Burns is enjoying zir new position as the programs and operations manager with University Libraries. Burns uses gender neutral pronouns ze/zir.

Burns started at Grand Valley’s Art Gallery as the programs manager in 2013, and is excited about having a broader outreach with the new position.

“In this role I still get to connect with our community in support of the university curriculum and visual literacy, but as the Libraries work with information in all its forms, I’m inspired by the diverse, student-centered programming we can create,” Burns said.

Burns earned a bachelor’s degree in public history with an emphasis in museum studies from Western Michigan University in 2003, and has since worked for a number of history and art museums in the area, including the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

For University Libraries, Burns’ tasks include overseeing programming, events and operations, and managing the exhibition space on the atrium level of the Mary Idema Pew Library.

“In this new role, I’m excited to dive deep into all that’s happening across campus and

engage with our community in learning opportunities regarding social justice, intellectual growth, creativity, and critical thinking,” Burns said.

Ze connected with Grand Valley’s messages while working for the Art Gallery and said the university’s core values, particularly inclusiveness and inquiry, are the roots of zir work.

Burns is a member of the Positive Organizations Community of Practice and the Mindfulness Task Force on campus. Ze contributes toward Grand Valley’s mindfulness initiative through programs including the Looking with Intent series, Visual Thinking Strategies sessions, and a “Thinking about Looking” workshop in coordination with Pew FTLC and the Art Gallery.

More information about the Mindfulness Task Force can be found online at gvsu.edu/hro/benefitswellness.



Stacey Burns

WHAT’S AHEAD

Alumni to detail how liberal education led to workplace success

Alumni who earned degrees in the humanities and social sciences will illustrate how that preparation led to professional success during a panel discussion.

The event is scheduled for Friday, October 25, from 10-11 a.m. in the Holton-Hooker Living Center multipurpose room.

Graduates will discuss how a liberal education has allowed them to thrive in the workplace. The discussion will also offer current students tips on how to customize their academic interests, talents and co-curricular activities into education and career path.

Alumni and Career Center representatives will be available to answer questions.

Homecoming events offer something for everyone

Homecoming at Grand Valley means much more than a football game.

Many events are planned October 25-27 as the campus community and alumni celebrate being Lakers for a Lifetime.

Highlighted events are detailed below, note some events require registration and a fee to participate. Visit gvsu.edu/homecoming for details.

- **Charles H. Irwin Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony:** October 25, 5:45 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room; seven people will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Registration details and ticket prices are listed online.
- **Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity Homecoming:** October 25, 6-8 p.m., Maddalena’s Banquet Hall, 4166 Lake Michigan Drive; music, dinner and drinks are included in the ticket price.

- RSVP online at gvsu.edu/homecoming.
- **Alumni Brunch:** October 26, 9:30-11 a.m., Alumni House; alumni who have studied abroad will discuss their experiences. Registration details and ticket prices are listed online.
 - **GVSU Through the Years Luncheon:** October 26, 1-2 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room; a panel of students, alumni and Rick Gillett, son of Grand Valley founder Dick Gillett, will talk about how the university has evolved. RSVP online.
 - **Football versus Davenport University:** October 26, 7 p.m., Lubbers Stadium.
 - **Soccer versus Ferris State:** October 27, 1 p.m., GVSU soccer field.

Interfaith conference will feature religious historian

Best known as the author of *The Gnostic Gospels* and *The Origin of Satan*, Elaine Pagels will share her faith journey at the 2019 Interfaith Academic Consortium Conference.

The conference, sponsored by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, will be held October 30, from 2-8:30 p.m. at the Eberhard Center. The event is free and open to the public; registration is required at gvsu.edu/interfaith.

Pagels is the Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion at Princeton University and an American religious historian. She has published widely on Gnosticism and early Christianity.

Her memoir, *Why Religion? A Personal Story*, focuses on her own deep loss and her search for answers in faith and spirituality. Her 6-year-old son died in 1987 and her husband died in 1988.

Pagels has won several prestigious awards, including a Rockefeller fellowship, a Guggenheim fellowship, and a MacArthur Prize fellowship.

The conference will include two lectures, “What Do ‘Secret Gospels’ Suggest about Jesus and His Teaching?” and “Why Religion?”

For more information, contact the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at x15702.

Global Laker event raises funds for scholarships

The Padnos International Center will host the seventh annual Global Laker Celebration on November 1 at The B.O.B., 20 Monroe Ave. NW in Grand Rapids.

The event, from 7-10 p.m., serves a fundraiser for study abroad scholarships. RSVP online at gvsu.edu/pic/rsvp19.

Music by Grupo Ayé, an Afro-Caribbean/Latin jazz band, is planned, in addition to a dinner buffet and cash bar.

Tickets are \$25 for students, \$35 for non-students before October 18.

FOIA Fest to feature Nessel, graduate who broke Nassar story

Presentations by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and Grand Valley graduate Marisa Kwiatkowski, who helped break the sports physician Larry Nassar sexual abuse story, will headline this year’s FOIA Fest.

The November 5 event is part of Grand Valley’s Big Data Month and will be held at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids. It is being held in conjunction with the Big Data Ignite conference.

The FOIA Fest portion, which runs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., is free and open to the public. Organizer Jeff Kelly Lowenstein, assistant professor of multimedia journalism, said the program is crafted to help all members of the public, not just journalists, learn about public records and transparency.

Nessel will deliver a keynote address at

continues on page 4

Fall Arts Celebration continues with dance, lecture

The beauty of nature and how water, especially, inspired artists of the Romantic Era is at the heart of the Fall Arts Celebration dance performance.

“Water: A Vision in Dance” is a multimedia experience that will evoke the power of water through musical selections and the choreography of BODYART, a New Orleans-based dance theater company. The performance is Monday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Haas Center for Performing Arts, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

The musical part of the performance features Bedřich Smetana’s “The Moldau” and Debussy’s “La Mer,” both of which are inspired by significant bodies of water.

“When Smetana wrote his monumental tone poem, ‘Má Vlast,’ which was the story of this native land, the principal movement was the ‘Moldau’ because that mighty river gave life and sustenance to his friends, family and compatriots,” said Danny Phipps, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. “Debussy’s ‘La Mer’ is a brilliant evocation of the power and mystery of the oceans.”

BODYART will unite dance, video and the music of the Grand Valley orchestra to bring these pieces to life, said Carrie Brueck Morris, associate professor of dance.



BODYART will perform October 28 in the Haas Center.

“This timely focus on water explores its aesthetic qualities and our local water landscape as the dance weaves together live performance with video projection that constantly evolves with the action on stage,” Morris said.

Lepore will deliver lecture

A narrative historian, who presents accounts from a time in American history and gives context to today, will give this year’s Fall Arts Celebration lecture.

Jill Lepore, described as the preeminent narrative historian of her generation, will deliver her talk, “American History from Beginning to End,” November 5 at 6 p.m. at the

Eberhard Center. A 5 p.m. public reception will precede the lecture.

Lepore is the David Woods Kemper ’41 Professor of American History at Harvard University and also a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. Her most recent book is *This America: The Case for the Nation*.



Jill Lepore

She asserts that the United States is an experiment founded on three “truths”: political equality, natural rights and the sovereignty of the people. Nora Salas, assistant professor of history, said Lepore compels audiences to question if America’s mission has succeeded or failed in the past and what the resulting effect on the present day has been.

“Lepore’s work speaks to the significance of history for the health of our democracy and political institutions,” Salas said. “We hope the audience will gain an appreciation for the complexity of American history. As Lepore writes, ‘A good history should raise questions.’”

All Fall Arts Celebration events are free and open to the public. For more information visit gvsu.edu/fallarts.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

CCPS Kickback



Faculty and staff members from the College of Community and Public Service hosted 175 students in late September for the first Fall Kickback. Students at the event had to fill a ‘passport’ by visiting support services like advising centers, Financial Aid, Career Center and LGBT Resource Center.

Pictured from left to right, top row, are Nathan Swanson, Renica Minott, Shantonya Scott and Angie Ryan; bottom row, left to right, are Breeann Gorham and Erika Bailey.

Kim Patrick, director of procurement, was interviewed by the *Ionia Daily News* for a story about stepping down as the town’s deputy mayor after nearly 30 years.

Mark Schwartz, professor of anthropology, was interviewed for the radio show “Common Threads,” a co-production of WGVU Radio and the Interfaith Dialogue Association.

Eric Kunnen, associate director of eLearning and Emerging Technologies, was interviewed by *EdTech Magazine* for an article about how videoconferencing platforms can connect community members.

SKETCHES

Lisa Miller, director of the Meijer Campus in Holland, accepted an award presented to Grand Valley from Ron Rhoades, president of the Holland Area Beekeepers Association. The plaque recognized the campus commitment to maintaining a research apiary and serving as host site for the organization’s meetings.

Salvador Lopez, associate director for admissions, and **Michelle Jokisch Polo**, inclusion reporter for WGVU, were recognized among the “Top 25 Latinas of Michigan” by the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan. The commission held its statewide Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations October 10 in Grand Rapids.

The **Kirkhof College of Nursing** hosted a summit, “Coordinate Care: Achieve ROI by Leveraging the Clinical Nurse Leader,” October 3 in the L. William Seidman Center for about 60 area practice partners. The CNL model and how it can benefit practices and hospitals was discussed in keynote addresses and a panel discussion. KCON hosted another community presentation, “Supporting Health Care Providers When Unexpected Outcomes and Errors Occur,” in late September.

The **Applied Medical Device Institute** helped sponsor the Great Lakes International Innovation Summit in Kalamazoo. aMDI is a community entrepreneurial support organization and provides services to entrepreneurs, small companies, faculty and students who have an idea or tech product to bring to market.

Jeffrey Byrnes, assistant professor of philosophy, gave a presentation, “The Need to Clarify the Concept of Health among Hospital Leadership,” at the European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine in Oslo, Norway.

Andrew Spear, assistant professor of philosophy, gave presentations, “The Fragility of Patient Trust,” at the European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine in Oslo, Norway; and “Homo Sapiens in the Digital Information Jungle: Epistemic Pornography and Our Intellectual Duties to Self and Others in the Age of the Internet and Social Media,” and “Psychological and Socio-Political Dynamics within the Web: New and Old Challenges to Information Law and Ethics,” at the International Conference on Information Law and Ethics in Rome, Italy.

Alycia LaGuardia-LoBianco, assistant professor of philosophy, wrote an article, “Self-Saboteurs and Ethical Relationships,” published in *Social Theory and Practice*.

Natalie Laudicina, visiting professor of biomedical sciences, was a co-author of an article, “Reconstructing Birth in Australopithecus sediba,” published in *PLOS ONE*.

Corey Anton, professor of communication studies, wrote an article, “The Relevance of R.D. Laing to the AI Movement and to Media Ecology More Generally: Projection and the Feeling of Being Understood,” published in *Explorations in Media Ecology*.

Anthony Williams Jr., director of student conduct, served as a panelist for a discussion, “Critical Issues in Higher Education: Identities,” hosted by the Young Professionals in Higher Education.

WHAT’S AHEAD

continued from page 3

10:30 a.m. about the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Nessel has been vocal about the need for transparency in government.

Kwiatkowski, ’05, was part of an *Indianapolis Star* team that broke the USA Gymnastics sexual abuse story about Nassar, who is now in prison. Kwiatkowski will lead a session on effectively searching for public records.

FOIA Fest will also feature an all-day hackathon in which participants will find data (some not easily accessible) to help highlight solutions for universal access to clean drinking

water. The effort ties into Grand Valley’s Making Waves Initiative.

For more information visit bigdataignite.org/2019-session/second-annual-foia.

Teach-In will offer sessions at Pew, Allendale campuses

The seventh annual Teach-In is scheduled for November 6 at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus and November 7 at the Allendale Campus.

Coordinated by Student Senate and University Academic Senate, the Teach-In theme is

“Power, Privilege and Difficult Dialogues.” Concurrent sessions are offered and focused on providing awareness and education for the campus community on issues of social justice and inequality.

The event’s detailed program schedule will be published this week, visit gvsu.edu/teach-in for details.

November 6 sessions will run from noon-9 p.m. at the L. William Seidman Center; November 7 sessions will run from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center.

Thompsons established another scholarship program focused on UPrep students

continued from page 1

and joy, and the responsibility as you sit here today,” Mantella said. “I want us to thank the Thompsons and the foundation for their generosity and for their program design, because your probability for success is way up there now.”

Lynn “Chick” Blue, vice president for Enrollment Development, is responsible for facilitating the program and maintaining relationships with the couple and the foundation. Blue said the scholarship fills

the gap working families find when funding education.

The Thompsons and the Thompson Foundation have another scholarship program at Grand Valley that began in 2008 and focuses on assisting students from Detroit’s University Preparatory Academy.

Bob Thompson credited his wife, Ellen, with bringing forth the idea of assisting students from working families. At the event, he advised students to work hard, enjoy college, make lifelong friends and help others.

The Thompsons sold their asphalt company, Thompson-McCully, in 1999. Their focus on opening access to education for working families comes largely from their relationships with employees who used to work at their asphalt company.

The Thompsons have established similar scholarship programs at Ferris State and Saginaw Valley State universities, and at Bowling Green State University in Ohio (their alma mater).