

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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

GVSU to work with GRPS on hospitality academy

Officials with Grand Rapids Public Schools, along with tourism industry leaders and faculty members from the Hospitality and Tourism Management Department, are preparing to launch a new college-career prep academy.

The Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Management will open in fall 2019 at Ottawa Hills High School in GRPS, starting with 35 ninth-grade students and growing a grade each year to become a 9-12 grade school.

George Grant, dean of the College of Community and Public Service, said hospitality is the second largest industry in Michigan, and one out of every 10 jobs is connected to the hospitality field.

“This academy is a wonderful step in expanding options for students and maintaining the talent pipeline in West Michigan,” said Grant. “It will build awareness of the many varied professional opportunities, competencies, and hard and soft skills needed to succeed at the management and executive level.”

Grant said HTM faculty will help develop and

review curriculum and students will serve as peer mentors. This will include Grand Valley students who are involved in the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality student organization.

Ron Gorman, assistant superintendent at GRPS, said the academy will encourage creativity and innovation through career exploration including event planning, entertainment, sports, marketing and customer service.

Michael Sciarini, chair of the HTM Department, said many students don’t find out about the HTM field until they are already in college, so this community engagement effort is crucial in letting students know about opportunities early.

“There are several hot jobs in the HTM field right now, including event management — from weddings to concerts to athletic events — tourism and destination marketing, hotel operations, and the food and beverage industry,” said Sciarini.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

George Grant, dean of the College of Community and Public Service, speaks during a news conference October 16 at Cygnus27 in Grand Rapids about the partnership with GRPS and area tourism leaders.

Representatives from Grand Valley, GRPS, Experience Grand Rapids, and AHC+Hospitality are collaborating to launch the academy.

ACROSS CAMPUS

New network shows early signs of success

The Student Success Network (SSN) officially launched in August as part of the Transitions program and is already showing signs of success.

The network matches a group of 20-80 first-year students with a faculty member who is trained to help them navigate student services and advising resources. Suzeanne Benet, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, said the underlying idea of the network is student retention.

“It’s to help students understand what is required of them to be successful in college, both in and out of the classroom,” Benet said. “These students now have one specific person whom they have met and can ask questions through email, or in person over coffee, or during office hours.”

Thirty-four faculty members have volunteered to be SSN partners, most have been involved in Transitions or summer advising/registration sessions with incoming students. Each faculty partner was randomly assigned a Transitions group. Faculty partners send



Suzeanne Benet



Brian Hatzel

periodic messages to students in their group, offering information about campus resources or strategies for classroom success.

Brian Hatzel, director of faculty initiatives for student success and professor of movement science, recruited faculty members for the network and now serves as SSN coordinator. He said faculty partners were trained to be able to highlight campus resources and answer questions outside their discipline.

“Faculty are really interested and want to be involved, there is a good amount of information sharing and we have great support from the President’s Office and the Provost’s Office,” Hatzel said.

One recent SSN email to students included information about mySuccess Check, a survey for all new students about adjusting to college. Hatzel said of the 1,142 students who participate in SSN, 61 percent had completed the survey, compared to the 40 percent completion rate of students not in SSN.

Samhita Rhodes, assistant director of the School of Engineering and chair of biomedical engineering, has 39 students in her SSN group. Rhodes has met with a handful of students on two occasions and has facilitated other introductions.

“One of my students sent me an email asking if I was her academic advisor, so I was able to put her in touch with her advisor and explain how my role is more supportive and to connect her to university resources,” she said. “So, I’ve managed to create intentional interactions with some students.”

Hatzel said the task force that developed SSN cited research that reports student-faculty interactions as positively influencing educational outcomes.

“The literature tells us that students will say

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some of their most impactful moments in college are those spent with a faculty member,” he said.

SSN will continue in the winter semester and then be assessed according to student outcomes, Benet said. Faculty members who are interested in becoming a mentor can contact Benet or Hatzel.

Open enrollment runs through Nov. 7

The 2019 Benefits Open Enrollment registration begins at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, October 23, and ends at 5 p.m. on November 7.

The open enrollment period is an opportunity for faculty and staff members to examine benefits, sign up for flexible spending and health savings accounts, and review information. Visit gvsu.edu/healthwellness and click on “2019 Open Enrollment” to begin. Employees can also sign-up for THRIVE@GVSU, a voluntary, confidential and free three-month wellness coaching program.

Benefits staff members are available to answer open enrollment questions in group presentations or one-on-one appointments, visit gvsu.edu/healthwellness to see details and a schedule.

HLC peer review team to visit campus

Preparation for the November 5-6 accreditation visit from a Higher Learning Commission peer review team began four years ago.

It’s a regularly scheduled visit that occurs at the end of a 10-year accreditation cycle and campus

leaders heavily involved in the process said Grand Valley is ready.

Chris Plouff, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, said work began in 2014 with drafting an assurance argument, at that time led by Julie Guevara, who served as associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

Plouff said the assurance argument addresses how the university meets HLC’s criteria for accreditation and includes hundreds of artifacts linked throughout the report as evidence.

“In essence, the argument makes a case, demonstrating that we are doing what we say we are doing, assuring that we meet the accreditation criteria,” he said.

In addition to writing teams, many faculty and staff members have been involved in updating systems and processes to ensure they are ready for review by the HLC site visit team, Plouff added.

The assurance argument is posted online at gvsu.edu/hlc, along with “Fast Facts” about the visit.

Plouff said the review team, composed of peers from other institutions, will provide a draft report within six weeks after the visit. After a period of review and response, the final report is expected in the middle of the winter semester.

University to test alert system

Grand Valley will be testing the GVSUAlert! system Friday, November 2, at noon.

The test will include the outdoor tornado siren system and the outdoor public address

system on the Allendale Campus.

All Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members will receive a test message by email; those who signed up for text and phone notifications will also receive the test message via those methods. To update notification preferences, visit gvsu.edu/emergency.

The alert test will be sent to computers in labs and kiosks across campus as a desktop notification; click “acknowledge” to reset. The test will also appear on all university website banners, including the homepage, until about 12:15 p.m.

For more information on the GVSUAlert! system and emergency procedures, visit gvsu.edu/emergency.



GVNow Recap:

GVSU receives grant to study climate change on Arctic vegetation

A Grand Valley faculty member has been awarded a \$1 million grant by the National Science Foundation to work with students to study the impact climate change has on vegetation in the Arctic tundra.

The funding will support the next five years of research by Robert Hollister, professor of biology, and a team of five Grand Valley

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Volume 43, 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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GVFACES

Jake Levy, director of athletic communications

As director of athletic communications and broadcasting, Jake Levy is lending his voice — figuratively and literally — and his diverse experience in sports to Grand Valley’s Athletic Department.

Levy fulfills numerous duties for the department, including overseeing the Grand Valley Sports Network, athletics website and social media accounts; contributing to radio coverage of football and basketball games, and coaches shows; providing sports information coverage for women’s soccer, basketball and women’s lacrosse; and occasionally serving as announcer at home athletic events.

Levy’s interest in working in athletics stemmed simply from his love of sports; however, he said he has grown to see sports as more than a game on the field, track or court.

“To be able to share people’s lives and understand the sacrifices people make for a common goal, the ability to buy into something that’s bigger than yourself, it might seem like it’s just sports but it’s not,” Levy said. “I care about telling stories, and seeing that side made me really want to pursue it as a career.”

Levy credits his background for preparing him for his current position. A New Jersey native, Levy earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina and worked for various organizations, most recently for a minor league baseball team.

“I come from a background where you have to do what needs to get done to put on the show, so that really helps me in this role,” Levy said.

Levy started working for Grand Valley in September 2017. The chance to participate in Grand Valley’s tradition of athletics excellence motivated him to make the move.

“It’s cool to be a part of a place that cares about its student athletes, that cares about the school itself. You kind of get wrapped up in it very quickly,” Levy said. “I can’t believe I get to come to work here every day.”

Levy said that a major part of the athletic department’s success is the staff members who take pride in their work.

“Whether it’s the social media accounts, the website, the videos or the crowds, we take just as much pride in that as our student athletes take in winning games,” Levy said. “When you have a combination like that, it makes a really great atmosphere.”



Jake Levy

WHAT'S AHEAD

Students to celebrate Grand Valley founders, donors

The Laker Traditions Team and Student Alumni Association are teaming up to host several events October 22-26 to celebrate the founders and supporters of Grand Valley.

On October 25, students will celebrate the 282 individuals who came together to start the vision for Grand Valley 60 years ago. The sixth annual Founders Day celebration will take place at the Cook Carillon Tower on the Allendale Campus from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and campus community members can stop by to decorate cookies and learn more about the university's founding.

A full schedule of events is posted online at gvsu.edu/saa/gvsyou-week-8.htm.

Battle of the Valleys proceeds will go to student food pantry

Grand Valley and Saginaw Valley State University will compete in the 16th annual Battle of the Valleys from October 21-27 to gather the most donations for a selected organization.

This year, Grand Valley will raise donations for Replenish, the university's food pantry and food resource for students.

Sharalle Arnold, associate director of the Center for Women and Gender Equity, said more than 1,000 students have received assistance from the pantry since it was established in 2009.

The university that raises the most money will be announced at halftime during the Grand Valley vs. Saginaw Valley football game October 27 at University Center in Saginaw.

Student Senate has organized a variety of events that will take place throughout the week, including a weeklong, BOTV T-shirt sale. Learn more and donate at gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys.

• **October 22, 11 a.m.-2 a.m.:** Buffalo Wild Wings Percentage Day in Grand Rapids

• **October 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Kirkhof Center lobby:** Pie Day in Kirkhof Center; Uccello's Percentage Night at Uccello's in Standale

• **October 25, 4-9 p.m.:** Applebee's Percentage Night in Standale

Symposium tied to Open Access Week

In conjunction with International Open Access Week, a campus event will celebrate faculty and staff members who strive to develop free and open educational resources for students.

The Open GVSU Symposium will take place Monday, October 22, from 1:30-4 p.m., in the Mary Idema Pew Library multipurpose room. Regina Gong, open educational resources project manager and head of Technical Services and Systems at Lansing Community College, will deliver a keynote address at 2 p.m.

The event will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn more about Grand Valley's open resources initiatives that focus on openly-licensed textbooks, paywall-free academic publishing and encouraging greater sharing of research data. Roundtable discussions will also be held, focusing on challenges and opportunities in open resources practices.

Matt Ruen, scholarly communications outreach coordinator for University Libraries and

member of Grand Valley's Open Educational Resources (OER) Task Force, said the symposium will provide an opportunity to celebrate and reinforce the university's expanding involvement with OER.

A primary method available for faculty to share their scholarly expertise around the world is through ScholarWorks@GVSU, the university's open-access repository that contains more than 14,000 scholarly and creative works.

For more information about the symposium, visit gvsu.edu/library/opengvsu.

Faculty, staff members to host free Repair Clinic for students

During the day-to-day grind of being immersed in classes and activities, it is not uncommon for students to rip their clothes, misplace a few buttons, break their eyeglasses, a zipper or backpack strap.

An upcoming Repair Clinic will offer students a free opportunity to have all of the above scenarios, and more, mended by faculty and staff members.

The free Repair Clinic will take place Wednesday, October 24, from 6-8 p.m., in the Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center's multipurpose room.

The clinic is a collaboration between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Housing Department. For information, contact Monica Johnstone at johnstmo@gvsu.edu.

Civil discourse event will center on climate change

Climate change will be the topic at the fifth annual Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Symposium.

The event is set for Thursday, October 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the Eberhard Center. It is free and open to the public, RSVP online at gvsu.edu/civildiscourse. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

Elizabeth Arnold, associate professor of anthropology, is the Padnos/Sarosik endowed professor of civil discourse. Arnold said the symposium will feature a panel discussion, and invited organizations like Sierra Club, Acton Institute, Citizen's Climate Lobby and the WMU Cooley Law School Center for Civil Discourse will give various perspectives on climate change.

Panelists are Kelly Parker, professor of philosophy and director of environmental studies at GVSU; Jordan Chrispell, West Michigan clean energy organization for the Sierra Club; and Steve Goreham, author and executive director of the Climate Science Coalition of America.

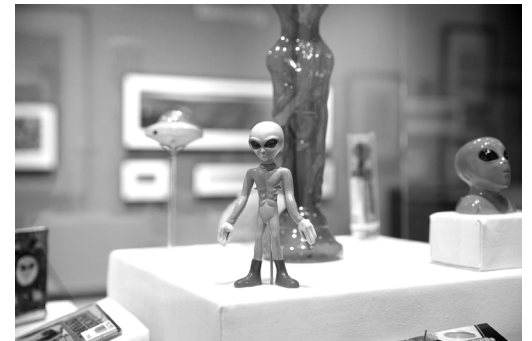
The Padnos/Sarosik endowed professorship is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and was given as a gift to Grand Valley in 2013 from longtime university supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik.

Dean of students meet, greet events set

Loren Rullman, vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students, will host meet and greet events October 29-30 for students, faculty and staff members.

"Cider and Donuts with the Dean" will take place October 29 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 125; and on October 30 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center lounge area on the first floor.

Rullman, who began his new role in July, is hosting the gatherings to answer questions and discuss the resources and services provided by the Division of Student Services. Learn more about the division at gvsu.edu/dos.



All things Martian will be celebrated at an October 31 event in the Art Gallery.

'Martian invasion' celebrates Fall Arts Celebration exhibit

The Art Gallery will experience a Martian invasion during an event that will celebrate the Mars-themed art exhibit highlighted during the Fall Arts Celebration.

"Mars: Astronomy and Culture" is composed of more than 40 photographs, videos and other artifacts spotlighting Mars, including Martian-themed toys and collectibles from a private collection. The exhibit remains on display in the Art Gallery, located in the Haas Center for Performing Arts, through November 9.

The Martian Party event will take place on October 31 beginning at 5 p.m. in the Art Gallery. During the event, guests will be able to view the exhibit, create their own Martian antenna, enjoy a performance of Gustav Holst's "Mars: Bringer of War" by the GVSU Orchestra, and experience a virtual reality simulator for an immersive experience on the surface of Mars.

Participants will then march in an invasion style parade from the Haas Center to the Calder Fine Arts Center at 7 p.m. to continue the festivities.

The Art Gallery and Housing and Residence Life are sponsoring the event, in collaboration with the Department of Visual and Media Arts, Technology Showcase, and the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

For more information about this event, visit the Art Gallery website at gvsu.edu/artgallery.

Panelists will discuss trafficking at Health Forum

Area experts on human trafficking will provide updates and resources at the next Health Forum of West Michigan event, November 2 in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Panelists are Nikeidra Battle-DeBarge, Manasseh Program coordinator for Wedgwood Christian Services; Jeff Bouma, Grand Rapids Police Department detective; Kelly Carter, State of Michigan assistant attorney general; and Ruth Rondon, author and trafficking survivor. They will provide perspectives from state and local law enforcement, and details about the services available to victims of trafficking.

Joy Washburn, associate professor of nursing,

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FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

Penning named PRSA fellow

The Public Relations Society of America inducted the newest College of Fellows members, including **Tim Penning**, professor of advertising and public relations.

The College of Fellows is an honorary organization within PRSA that includes more than 350 senior practitioners and educators who have each left a significant footprint on the public relations profession.

To qualify for the organization, a public relations practitioner or educator must have at least 20 years of experience, hold the Accredited in Public Relations credential, and have demonstrated exceptional accomplishment in practicing or teaching public relations.

Penning said that through the program, he will strive to offer mentorship to other professionals, advocate for the public relations profession and its ethical practices, and educate people outside of public relations about the field's many applications beyond media relations.



Tim Penning

Christopher earns hall of fame honors

Norman Christopher, executive director of the Office of Sustainability Practices, was inducted into the West Michigan Sustainable Business Hall of Fame at a reception October 10 in Grand Rapids.

The West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum awarded Christopher with its lifetime achievement award at its annual Triple Bottom Line Bash at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts. The award recognizes individuals who provide extraordinary contributions to the growth of sustainable business in West Michigan.

Christopher is a past chairman of the Family Owned Business Council, a 2000 graduate of Leadership Grand Rapids, and a co-founder of the Grand Rapids Community Sustainability Partnership. He was appointed to Gov. Jennifer Granholm's Michigan Climate Action Council and the U.S. Department of Commerce Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee.

Kathleen Bailey, professor of criminal justice, was reappointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice. Members serve three-year terms expiring in 2021.

Louis Moore, associate professor of history, was interviewed by *Undeclared* for an article comparing coverage of the Mexico City Olympics protest in 1968 to coverage of Colin Kaepernick's protests.

SKETCHES

A collaboration between **Kirkhof College of Nursing** and the Grand Rapids Housing Commission was recognized with an award of merit from the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials for an ongoing partnership to provide nursing care to GRHC residents. **Cynthia McCurren**, dean of KCON, said senior-level students have provided more than 14,000 hours of nursing care to GRHC residents, focusing on developments that serve senior citizens and disabled adults.

C. "Griff" Griffin, professor of biology, wrote an article, "Camping Setbacks Near Waterbodies in Wilderness: Leave No Trace Messages and U.S. Forest Service Regulations," published in *International Journal of Wilderness*.

John Weber, professor of geology, was a co-author of an article, "On the Backs of Giants: Geology of the Kentland Impact Structure, Newton County (Kentland) Quarry, Indiana (USA) — Building on Ray Gutschick's Legacy," published in the *2018 Geological Society of America field trip guidebook*. Weber also gave a presentation, "Intraplate vs. Plate Boundary Earthquakes: Apples and Oranges?" and served on an advisory panel at the International Seminar on Earthquake Policy Development held in Seoul, Korea.

Stephen Rowe, professor of philosophy, gave a plenary presentation, "Can We Survive Modernity? — Walking Toward a New Era with China," at the 12th Annual Forum on Ecological Civilization at Pitzer College in Claremont, California.

Robert Kimball, associate vice president for charter schools, was elected as chair of the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers. His term runs through 2020, and he is the first GVSU charter schools leader to hold the position.

Emily Najera, visiting professor of photography, is participating in the Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts' annual Coming Home exhibition, a suite of solo exhibitions featuring works by emerging and established Michigan artists. Najera's solo exhibit, "West Grand," will be on display at the UICA through January 25.

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will serve as moderator.

The event will run from 8-9:30 a.m. with a light breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Health, Health Forum events are held the first Friday of each month and center on a health topic pertinent to the community.

Global Laker event raises funds for scholarships

Participants at the sixth annual Global Laker Celebration will enjoy dinner, fusion band Grupo Ayé, networking and dancing.

The Padnos International Center is hosting the event, set for November 2 from 7-10 p.m. at the B.O.B., 20 Monroe Ave NW in Grand Rapids.

Tickets are \$25 for students and \$35 for others; purchase tickets and find more details online at gvsu.edu/pic/rsvp18. Proceeds from this event support study abroad scholarships.

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Robert Hollister, professor of biology, makes repairs to data loggers in Utqiagvik, Alaska. Funding from the National Science Foundation will support his research work on vegetation in the Arctic.

undergraduate and graduate students in northern Alaska.

Hollister established the Arctic Ecology Program at Grand Valley in 2007, and the project is funded as part of the Arctic Observatory Network. The team's research sites were originally established as part of the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) — a collective of researchers conducting similar warming experiments in the tundra since the early 1990s. Hollister currently serves as the co-chair of ITEX.

Graduate student Katlyn Betway has been working with Hollister for three years; she started as an undergraduate biology major. She said the research is important because it connects to the larger climate change conversation.

Grand Valley named a green college by Princeton Review

For the ninth year in a row, Grand Valley has been named one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges by The Princeton Review. The university is included in the 2018 edition of *The Princeton Review's Guide to 399 Green Colleges*.

The guide profiles higher education institutions in the U.S. that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability based on academic offerings and career preparation for students, as well as campus practices, initiatives and activities.

Grand Valley has been included in the guidebook every year since the first issue was published in 2010.

For complete stories, visit gvsu.edu/gvnow.