

FORUM

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

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Pickard to visit campus for talk on entrepreneurship

William F. Pickard, founder and chairman of Global Automotive Alliance, LCC in Detroit, one of the country's leading minority-owned businesses, will visit October 5 to share insights on how to overcome barriers to success.

Pickard will talk about overcoming barriers created by age, race, gender, education or income, and discuss information from his new book, *Seven Principles of Entrepreneurship*, at 4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Pickard was a member of the Grand Valley Board of Trustees for 11 years and is the namesake of the William Pickard Living Center.

Under his leadership, Global Automotive Alliance became the first minority-owned group of plastic-parts suppliers to service the top three U.S. automakers. He is considered one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the state, as a co-managing partner of the MGM Grand Detroit Casino, CEO of Bearwood Management Company and co-owner of five black-owned newspapers. He also owned and operated several McDonald restaurant franchises in the past.

Pickard was the first in his family to earn a four-year degree and relied on support from his family, friends and community to fund his first year of college. He earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate from Ohio State University.

Out of gratitude to those who helped him, he has established the Dr. William F. Pickard Business Scholarship at Grand Valley to inspire and encourage first-generation students. "The support of my community got me to where I am today," said Pickard. "I want to give that support to students and put them on a pathway to success."

President Ronald Reagan nominated and the Senate confirmed Pickard as the first chairman of the African Development Foundation in 1982. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush appointed Pickard to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board in Indiana and to the National Advisory Committee on Trade Policy Negotiations.



In this 2009 photo, William F. Pickard addresses students in an entrepreneurship class. Pickard, former Board of Trustees member, will return to campus this week to meet with students and give a presentation.

Pickard's visit is sponsored by the Office of the President, Enrollment Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Division of Inclusion and Equity.

Across Campus

Solar module will provide power during ArtPrize

An 18-foot, solar energy-producing module created by Grand Valley students will be on display during ArtPrize. Students will demonstrate the benefits of solar energy by powering LED lights, playing music and



Photo by Jess Weal

Emily Karsten stands in front of the solar energy-producing module near the Eberhard Center. The module was created by students to demonstrate the benefits of solar energy during ArtPrize.

providing a space for event attendees to charge their phones.

Thanks to a \$55,000 grant from Consumers Energy, students and faculty members spent the summer designing and building two transportable, solar energy-producing modules. The structures were designed and constructed by a team of students from the School of Engineering and a team from the Muskegon Innovation Hub.

The engineering team's module is set up near the Blue Bridge and the Eberhard Center from September 21-October 5. Eight solar panels and a collection of solar shingles make up the portable system. The unit, which took two months to build, has the capacity to emit four kilowatts of electricity. Music will be played that was performed by Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble.

Students in a sustainability course led by Kelly Parker, professor and director of environmental studies, are organizing the display as part of a class project. Their assignment was to think of a way to promote the benefits of solar energy; visit www.gvsu.edu/ens/solargarden/ to learn more.

"We hope to give people a first-hand experience of the power of solar energy. We

decided to time the display during ArtPrize so we could reach as many people as possible," said Cara Maney, a geography major.

Engineering team captain Alec Nichols, a mechanical engineering alumnus, said the modules travel to different sites in West Michigan to demonstrate the technology and collect data, which is made available on a public website: egr.gvsu.edu/-esm/.

The engineering group included Nichols, Tyler Roelfsema, William Neuson, Benjamin Stenberg and John Wilks. Affiliate faculty member Terry Stevens served as their advisor. The second solar energy module was built by Energy Partners, a tenant at the Muskegon Innovation Hub.

Suggestions sought for next year's CRP title

While multiple classes are engaged in the current Community Reading Project selection, book titles are sought for next year.

Jennifer Jameslyn, director of the Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, said

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classes from multiple disciplines and groups in housing and other campus departments have incorporated *The True American: Murder and Mercy in Texas*, by journalist Anand Giridharadas into the fall semester curriculum. She expects more participation in the winter semester when faculty events focusing on the book are scheduled, as are author visits.

The True American is the story of Raisuddin Bhuiyan, a Bangladesh Air Force officer who dreams of immigrating to America and working in technology. After September 11, Bhuiyan is shot and nearly killed in Dallas by Mark Stroman, an avowed “American terrorist.”

For his book, Giridharadas, a *New York Times* columnist, followed Bhuiyan and Stroman as they rebuilt their lives: Stroman, who was on prison’s death row, and Bhuiyan, who waged a campaign to free his attacker from the death penalty after an Islamic pilgrimage.

Jameslyn said the book engages people in faith communities, as religious identity and practice is a key theme; and people in the criminal justice field, as it touches on prison reform and the death penalty.

Suggestions are sought for the 2017-2018 CRP selection and can be sent via email to integrative@gvsu.edu. Book criteria are listed online at www.gvsu.edu/read.

Giridharadas will give presentations about the book on March 22 at the Herrick District Library in Holland, and March 23 in the Kirkhof Center.

Alumnae who founded food pantry return for ceremony

Grand Valley’s student food pantry grew from two Rubbermaid tubs to a file cabinet drawer to its current location in the Kirkhof Center that resembles a small convenience store.

The two alumnae who founded the pantry marveled at the new space September 22, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Susana Villagomez-Barajas, ’11, and Rachael DeWitt, ’11, said they never would have guessed that casual conversations in 2009 about helping students would turn into Replenish, which has dedicated pantry space with shelves, space for clothing and refrigeration capabilities.

“This is a very exceptional feeling,” said Villagomez-Barajas, who earned a bachelor’s degree in biomedical sciences. “This far exceeds my goal of helping students on campus.”

Both Villagomez-Barajas and DeWitt were student workers in the Women’s Center when the student food pantry launched.

DeWitt, who earned master’s degrees in social work and public administration, said the Women’s Center staff was instrumental in establishing and maintaining the food pantry. “It’s so important to recognize and respond to the problems students are having,” she said.

There have been more than 1,000 visits to the pantry since it opened.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the first anniversary event for the Women’s Center, which celebrates its 15th year on campus this year.

Replenish is located on the ground floor of Kirkhof Center, room 0074. Learn how to donate items or get involved at www.gvsu.edu/replenish.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Alumnae Rachael DeWitt, left, and Susana Villagomez-Barajas founded the student food pantry and returned September 22 to celebrate its new location in Kirkhof Center.

Entrepreneurs, collaboration make West Michigan work

There are four ideas or pillars that make West Michigan unique, according to Birgit Klohs, president and CEO of The Right Place Inc., an economic development organization in Grand Rapids.

Klohs was the speaker for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture Series September 27 at the L. William Seidman Center, where she talked about how the Grand Rapids area has experienced an unprecedented level of

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

GVFaces

Care McLean and Ariel Arnold, TRIO SSS

One day before orientation, Care McLean met a student who was not convinced about staying at Grand Valley. After the student attended a TRIO Student Support Services seminar, McLean encouraged her to give Campus Life Night a shot. A few weeks later, the student decided to stay at Grand Valley and became involved with five different organizations.

“She said being in TRIO SSS really changed her perspective,” McLean said. “It was a little moment of us literally doing our job without realizing the immediate impact it might have on the student.”

McLean is the program coordinator of TRIO Student Support Services, a program that provides support for students who are first in their families to attend college, or have limited incomes. Students who participate in the program have access to academic coaching, scheduling assistance and personal counseling.

Ariel Arnold, program advisor, works with McLean to provide the best experience for students. Their days are usually quite busy, from meetings to crisis management to planning for the future, they are always working for students.

“Student interaction is our whole lives, which is what we love,” McLean said. “We do everything from personal and academic coaching to collaborations and referrals.”



Care McLean



Ariel Arnold

Having fun is one of the daily activities at TRIO. Arnold said their job, at its simplest, is to build relationships with students. The first five weeks of school are incredibly tough for first generation students, she said, so making a connection with someone is important.

“We’re always going to be there for the students,” Arnold said. “Freshmen and seniors have different needs, and we work to develop our students through their whole careers.”

Arnold and McLean want TRIO students to achieve success individually and then be able to help others succeed.

“Some of the students are the first to go to college in their family, so they don’t have anyone that can give them advice,” McLean said. “TRIO exists to give students the relationship and the safe space they are missing.”



What's Ahead

Election event to focus on environmental issues

Environmental issues could be considerations for voters who are heading to the polls in November.

An event on Tuesday, October 4, will examine Michigan's environmental issues and their role in the elections. "Politics and the Environment," is sponsored by the School of Communications and the Sierra Club's Greater Grand Rapids Committee, and will take place at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 136E.

During this non-partisan presentation, Mike Berkowitz, the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's political and legislative director, and Richard Barron, the chapter's political committee chair, will discuss the stance of local candidates and how the fight for clean air, water, natural resources and energy could be impacted by the November elections.

A livestream of the October 4 vice presidential debate will be available following this event.

The event is free, but seating is limited. Registration is recommended by sending an email to Gail Philbin at gail.philbin@sierraclub.org or calling (312) 493-2384.

Lecture will highlight creative side of mathematics

"Avatar," "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," "Jurassic World," "The Avengers," and "Furious 7" are the top five highest grossing films of the 21st century. Aside from their box office successes, what do these movies all have in common? The answer is math.

On Wednesday, October 5, Michael Dorff, professor of mathematics at Brigham Young University, will discuss how math is being utilized to create more realistic and higher quality films. Dorff will bring examples of specific movies and the math behind them, including Disney and Pixar's "Frozen" and "The Incredibles."

"How Mathematics is Making Hollywood Movies Better" will take place from 6-7 p.m. in Loutit Lecture Hall, room 101.

"Math has a terrible public image as most people think that it is a dull, dry, static subject that's all about formulas and computation, but it is a continuously changing field that is constantly used to answer important questions and solve serious problems," said Karen Novotny, professor of math and department chair.

Before the presentation, Dorff will discuss the wide variety of careers paths for students majoring in math from 3-4 p.m. in Mackinac Hall, room A-2-610. For more information about these two events, contact the Mathematics Department at x12040.

Center will hold screenings for depression

The University Counseling Center will be participating in National Depression Screening Day on Thursday, October 6.

Students who are interested can participate in a brief screening questionnaire to determine if they are at risk for mood-related and anxiety disorders. Everyone who participates in the screening will have an opportunity to meet with a counselor. The results of the questionnaire will be kept confidential.

Screenings will be available in the Kirkhof

Center lobby, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Campus Recreation Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; DeVos Center, room 125C, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences lobby, 10 a.m.-2 p.m..

More information is available online at www.gvsu.edu/counsel and by phone at x13266.

University joins global health initiative

In an effort to maintain positive health and wellness on the campuses of Grand Valley, the university has joined the global initiative, Exercise is Medicine on Campus.

EIM-OC, sponsored by the American College of Sports Medicine, encourages universities and colleges to promote physical activity on campus among students, faculty and staff.

Amy Gyorkos, assistant professor of movement science, said on average physical activity declines throughout the college years for students, with almost half of all students failing to achieve the recommended amount of physical activity. Through this initiative, Gyorkos hopes to reverse these "unfavorable trends."

The EIM-OC initiative will officially kick off Friday, October 7, beginning at 10 a.m. with a two-mile walk around the Allendale Campus with President Thomas J. Haas, Louie the Laker and the Laker Marching Band. "Walk with the President" will begin at the Cook Carillon Tower.

Events continue November 1 at 10 a.m. when Barry Franklin, director of preventative cardiology and cardiac rehabilitation at William Beaumont Hospital, will present "Exercise is Medicine: The Underfilled Prescription" in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room..

For more information about EIM-OC, visit www.gvsu.edu/eim.

Shakespeare conference keynotes announced

The Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, Michigan's oldest continuous-running Shakespeare Festival, is hosting its bi-annual conference, "Shakespeare: Pedagogy and Performance" October 7-9 on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses.

Phyllis Rackin, professor of English emerita at the University of Pennsylvania, and a former president of the Shakespeare Association of America, will present the keynote address on October 7, at 4 p.m., in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Rackin's keynote address will discuss the central issues and differing interpretation of Shakespeare's play, "Measure for Measure," which is also this year's Shakespeare Festival main stage show.

Also presenting during the conference will be Andrea Gammon, director of education for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, and Martine Kei Green-Rogers, assistant professor of theater at the University of Utah.

The conference will feature performances of "Measure for Measure," Bard to Go's condensed rendition of "Macbeth," and John Webster's "The Duchess of Malfi," performed by the Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company.

The conference is free to Grand Valley faculty, staff and graduate students, but registration is required.

For more information and to register, visit

www.gvsu.edu/shakesconference, or contact Allison Metz, professor of theater, at metza@gvsu.edu.



Alumni of Opera Theatre will return for performances of 'Gianni Schicchi' and to celebrate the program's 20th season.

Opera Theatre celebrates 20th anniversary with alumni concert

In 1997, Grand Valley's Music Department had a need to improve the performance levels of incoming first-year student vocalists.

To fill this need, Dale Schriemer, professor of voice, created the Grand Valley Opera Theatre.

"Sherman Van Solkema, chair of the department at that time, asked me what it would take to improve the vocal quality of our students. To that, I replied that they needed time to be on stage," Schriemer said.

Fast forward to 2016, and the Opera Theatre is currently celebrating its 20th season.

In honor of this milestone, the Opera Theater will perform the comic opera, "Gianni Schicchi," October 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m., and October 9 at 2 p.m. All performances will take place at Wealthy Theatre, 1130 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids.

Following each 50-minute performance of "Gianni Schicchi," alumni of the ensemble will return to not only perform, but also share personal anecdotes about their time with Opera Theatre at Grand Valley.

Since its inception, Schriemer explained that the Opera Theatre has focused on exposing students to "masterworks" while giving them opportunities to perform and connect with the industry.

"My goal is for students to understand what the professional world of performing is by giving them an opportunity to connect with it so they can then make the appropriate choices about their learning path," Schriemer said.

In its early years, the ensemble alternated between performing one opera and one musical theater piece each academic year. In the past four years, Schriemer said the ensemble has doubled the number of productions per year by performing both an opera and a musical theater piece every year.

"Most undergraduate programs will be one or the other," Schriemer explained. "You'll get a classical opera track or a music theater track, and I think my performers come out more well-rounded and have a broader view of what's available to them. They're more engaged in art as a bigger piece, rather than a narrower focus."



Phyllis Rackin

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Faculty member dies after battle with cancer

Denise Potuznik Meier, affiliate instructor for occupational therapy, died September 22 at her home in Muskegon after a battle with cancer. She was 51.

Meier joined Grand Valley's faculty in 1996, and led occupational therapy students on service learning trips to Guatemala. Funeral services were held September 26.

Memorials may be made in Meier's name to ARC, Norse Education Fund, or Hearts in Motion.

Faculty contribute to Museum School

The Grand Rapids Public Museum School has been recognized by the XQ Super School Project and awarded a \$10 million grant.

Faculty and staff members from the College of Education and Center for Educational Partnerships contributed to the design and creation of the Museum School. The Museum School is a collaboration with several

community partners including Grand Valley, GRPM, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kendall College of Art and Design, and the City of Grand Rapids.

Kevin Holohan, assistant professor of education, attended the XQ Super School Project awards and Super School Team Builders Week in Washington, D.C. in mid-September. Holohan is a core design team member for the GRPM High School that is scheduled to open in 2018-2019.

Sketches

Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English, wrote an article, "Say Ya to da Finns, Eh! Linguistically Performing Finnishness at Festivals," published in the *Journal of Finnish Studies*.

Jim Penn, associate professor of geography and sustainable planning, was a co-author of an article, "Status of Cacao Trees Following Seasonal Floods in Major Watersheds of the Peruvian Amazon," published in *Agricultural Science*.

Charles Pazdernik, professor of Classics, is among 11 Anglo-American scholars who have published, in three volumes, *The Codex of Justinian: A New Annotated Translation, with Parallel Latin and Greek Text*, by Cambridge University Press.

Erica Hamilton, assistant professor of education, wrote an article, "The Substitution Augmentation Modification Redefinition Model: a Critical Review and Suggestions for its Use," published in *Tech Trends*.

Michael T. Walenta, WGVU general manager, was appointed to the Michigan Association Public Broadcasters Board of Directors.

Roger Ellis, professor of communications, served as guest international critic for the World Festival of Performing Arts held in Toyama, Japan. Ellis represented the U.S. at the week-long event, and wrote three critical reviews of the productions.

Stephen Rowe, professor of philosophy and liberal studies, wrote an article, "Pragmatism, Possibility, and Human Development," published in *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism*.

Brian Kingshott, professor of criminal justice, was a co-author of an article, "Global Civil Society Challenges of Security and Policing," published in the *Journal of Applied Security Research*.

Joshua Sheffer, assistant professor of criminal justice, wrote a book, *The U Solution — College Success from Classroom to Dorm Room and Everywhere In-Between*, published by Author Academy Elite.

Across Campus

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growth and prosperity over of the past several decades.

She said the four pillars are entrepreneurship, philanthropy, collaboration and common vision. "We are not a one-industry community," said Klohs. "Many entrepreneurs in our region, who started out small, invested in their employees and the community. There are more than 2,000 companies in the area and 60 percent are family owned. This gives us strength."

A native of Germany, Klohs has served as president and CEO of The Right Place since 1987. She said more than 30 years ago community leaders decided to reinvent Grand Rapids and that fostered an attitude of philanthropy and collaboration.

"Collaboration is easy to talk about, but it's not easy to do," she said. "Regional collaboration is very important and is a hallmark of our area. This is how we can compete. We all benefit from each other's successes."

Klohs said international business leaders are surprised when she tells them how West Michigan business and community leaders came together to keep better airline service in the area. "This isn't happening anywhere else in the country," she said.

Klohs said looking forward, a big issue to address is broadband access because "there are too many holes in the region." She also addressed young businesspeople and students in the crowd saying philanthropy and collaboration is expected from them.

Traverse City centralizes educational leadership program

Grand Valley has launched a master's degree program in educational leadership through its Traverse City Regional Center.

Shannon Owen, director of the regional

center, said expanding to Traverse City centralizes the program that had previously been available in Boyne City and Cadillac.

Classes in Traverse City are offered at the University Center at Northwestern Michigan College, 2200 Dendrinis Drive.

While the fall semester has started, people who are interested in enrolling in the program can register for EDL 665, Educational Leadership, that begins October 21.

Cathy Meyer-Looze, assistant professor of education, said the program's curriculum is ideal for people who are interested in moving into K-12 administration as a curriculum director or building principal. Meyer-Looze said the program offers emphasis areas in educational leadership and special education administration.

Classes are flexible, including evenings and weekends, and offered face-to-face and online. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/traverse or call (231) 995-1785.

What's Ahead

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Panelists will discuss virtual health

Virtual health and emerging technologies will be discussed on Friday, October 7, at an event hosted by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health and the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research Center.

The Health Forum of West Michigan event will begin 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.

Panelists are Joseph Brennan, MedNow; Doug Dietzman, Great Lakes Health Connect; Ken Johnson, Answer Health Care on Demand; and Tim Pletcher, Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services.

RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/miperc.

PIC will host study abroad fair

Students interested in participating in a study abroad program are encouraged to attend a fair on Tuesday, October 11, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

The Padnos International Center event is considered one of the first steps to planning a study abroad program. Many faculty members who have led programs abroad and students who have participated in the past will be available to answer questions.

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