Pickard to visit campus for talk on entrepreneurship

William F. Pickard, founder and chairman of Global Automotive Alliance, LLC 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.

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 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 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 Roodtsema, 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
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.

Entrepeneurs, 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 growth.

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.

At the event, Klohs said the Grand Rapids area is one of the smallest in the nation that can offer the diversity needed to attract and retain people.

“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 who can give them advice,” McLean said. “TRIO exists to give students the relationship and the safe space they are missing.”

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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 possible service 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.”
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 Siena Club’s Greater Grand Rapids Committee, and will take place at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 336E.

During this non-partisan presentation, Mike Berkowitz, the Siena 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@sienaclub.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.”

“Math has a terrible public image as most people think that it is a dull, dry, static subject that’s hard to understand. My goal is for students to understand what math is and how it’s used in a creative, fun way,” Dorff said.

“Mathematics is Making Hollywood Movies Better” will take place from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Loutit Lecture Hall, room 105.

**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 252C; 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 13266.

**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 Gyorokos, 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, Gyorokos 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**


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 Ke 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 Piven 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.
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, Horse 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

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-Annnotated Translation, with Parallel Latin and Greek Text, by Cambridge University Press.


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.


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.

What’s Ahead
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 Fletcher, Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services.

RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/mipercc.

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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.