

FORUM

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

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New center will bring medical devices to market

A new institute at Grand Valley is supporting Grand Rapids' growing medical research and biomedical industries by bringing medical device inventions to market.

The applied Medical Devices Institute (aMDI) — a first of its kind in West Michigan — provides access to researchers, engineers, medical professionals, and business and entrepreneurial professionals. It uses an integrated approach that includes intellectual property, business review and mentoring. The center is located in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

Brent Nowak, director of aMDI, said the center fills a much-needed gap in West Michigan.

"Grand Rapids has the ideas, the engineers to design them and the manufacturers to build them, but we're missing a central group that focuses solely on developing and guiding those medical device ideas and inventions to the point where they are ready to be mass produced and marketed," said Nowak.

The institute has been a few years in the making. Nowak, a native of Jackson, has

founded several medical device companies and spent 25 years developing intelligence systems for organizations across the country. For 11 years, he led initiatives for the University of Texas at San Antonio's Southwest Research Institute, which is the basis of aMDI's business model. He came to Grand Valley in 2013 and noticed the need for an enterprise that can mature ideas from conception through commercial viability.

The institute serves a variety of clients, from individual inventors to large organizations. One client is a Spectrum Health Innovations-Grand Valley team that invented the female urinary collection device. The device is designed to lower the number of infections women experience from indwelling catheters. The idea came from a nurse at Spectrum Health and the first prototype was created by a group of Grand Valley engineering



Photo by Jess Weal

The aMDI team includes Kevin Weaver, left, Brent Nowak and a team of graduate and undergraduate students.

students in 2014. aMDI was sought out to take the device to the next level.

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Program gives students with autism confidence, earns recognition

A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources for families who have children with special needs ranked Grand Valley State University as among the top 10 U.S. campuses with services for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In its rankings, Friendship Circle noted Grand Valley's Campus Links program, which matches ASD students with a peer mentor to help them transition to college.

Holly Miller, a senior majoring in Chinese Studies, was diagnosed with autism at age 4. She participated in the first cohort of Campus Links in 2012, and said having a mentor held her accountable and the program provided an immediate social circle.

"If I didn't participate in Campus Links, I'm not sure I would have been able to make the transition or been able to adjust to college," said Miller, a native of Kentwood. "It helped me gain my independence from my parents."

Campus Links is sponsored by Disability Support Resources; since the program was established five years ago, 30 mentees and 20 student mentors have participated.



Campus Links mentors and mentees are pictured; the program was noted by Friendship Circle in its rankings of campuses with services for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Campus Links also gave Miller the confidence to participate in a study abroad program to China. She joined 10 other students on a faculty-led program to Shanghai and East China Normal University in April. Grand Valley has a partnership agreement with ECNU.

She earned a Gilman International scholarship that helped fund her trip to China. The Gilman Foundation requires scholars to complete a service project; Miller hosted a campus presentation on October 18 that encouraged students with autism to study abroad.

Kutsche Office offers grants to faculty members

The Kutsche Office of Local History has launched a new initiative that will offer grants to faculty members who will work with community partners and students on a project.

Director Kimberly McKee said the department is accepting proposals from tenure-track or tenured faculty who have an existing agreement with a community partner,

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or demonstrate a plan for sustained work with a partner. Projects should reflect the department’s mission of giving voice to diverse communities through history.

McKee said two Community Collaborative awards of \$1,000 each will be made annually to support travel, supplies, data collection and related expenses. An additional \$300 is available to support a faculty member’s work in the community.

The deadline for proposals is March 1, and the funding cycle will begin July 15. More information and application instructions are online at www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

Students learn about renewable energy

More than 70 middle school students from 27 local schools learned about the impact of energy use and its effect on the environment at an interactive outreach event October 22 on campus.

During “Energizing Our World,” students participated in various sessions where they engaged in hands-on STEM activities to learn about solar, wind and hydropower. From constructing their own wind turbines to testing the power of flowing water, the lessons highlighted the benefits of renewable energy, the best sustainable practices and the applications of renewable energy in various fields of study.

The Regional Math and Science Center, Physics Department, Geology



Photo by Steven Herppich

Student construct a wind turbine during “Energizing Our World.” The event engaged middle school students in hands-on STEM activities focused on energy use.

Department, and Office of Sustainable Practices sponsored the event.

“Energize Our World provided an experience to middle school students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about renewable energy,” said Diane Miller, RMSC program coordinator. “The center strives to inspire students to be excited about learning while empowering them to become informed citizens.”

Also on hand was an 18-foot, solar energy-producing module designed and built by a team of students from the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. The “Solar on Wheels” unit consists of eight solar panels and a collection of solar shingles. The portable module, which was financially supported by a \$55,000 grant from Consumers Energy, has the capacity to emit four kilowatts of electricity.

Open enrollment ends November 2

Open enrollment for benefit-eligible faculty and staff members runs through November 2.

This time frame is an opportunity to refresh all benefit options. Visit www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness and click on “2017 Open Enrollment” to review options; confirmations must be made on dependents and benefit plan coverage, home address, life insurance beneficiary designation and flexible spending and health savings accounts.

Staff members from Human Resources-Benefits will host open forums to answer questions; locations and dates are online at www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness. Call x12220 or send an email to healthandwellness@gvsu.edu for more information.

University receives national honor for community service

Grand Valley has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The President’s Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition an institution of higher education can receive for its community service work and civic engagement.

The 2015 Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. Institutions were picked for their scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation

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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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Other publications by University Communications include:

Grand Valley Magazine, published quarterly; visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVN^{ow}, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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

GVFaces

Brandon Borstler, Office Coordinator, CLAS Dean’s Office

Brandon Borstler was ready to start his professional career away from Allendale after graduating from Grand Valley in 2012. Yet, after working for two years at Georgia College and State University, he returned to the place he considers home.

Borstler is the office coordinator for the CLAS Dean’s Office. His tasks include managing grade submissions, supporting several associate deans, and coordinating requests for facilities.

Borstler said his position allows him to advance his career and support his alma mater.

“I really enjoyed my college experience, and I wanted to help support that in the administration side,” Borstler said. “I want to help people have the same kind of experience I did.”

While Borstler’s interactions with students are minimal, he said he enjoys being a part of the campus community. Even if his work does not involve direct work with students, he keeps them in mind.

“The main mission of the university is to support the student body, and we can’t forget that,” Borstler said. “Everything we do, even if it seems unrelated, should try to positively impact student’s lives.”

Grand Valley has been a part of Borstler’s life since he arrived on campus. He met his wife, Claire, through the writing program. They married on campus in 2016. Borstler earned a bachelor’s degree in English and creative writing.

“I love being back on campus, walking around, feeling the campus atmosphere,” Borstler said.

The Borstlers are big fans of the outdoors and spend a lot of their time rollerblading, biking or playing sports.



Brandon Borstler



What’s Ahead

GVSU, SVSU face off to raise funds for charity

Once again, Grand Valley is facing off against rival Saginaw Valley State University for the Battle of the Valleys fundraising competition. The proceeds raised at Grand Valley will go to the Laker Children’s Fund, established in 2014 to assist groups and local non-profits that work with children.

The competition, which runs from October 30-November 5, coincides with the football game between the Lakers and Cardinals. The game takes place November 5 at 3 p.m. at the University Center in Saginaw. The winning university receives a traveling trophy, which is presented at half time at the football game.

Battle of the Valleys began in 2003 and has raised more than \$510,000 for local and national charities that benefit children. The campus tradition is organized by Student Senate and Laker Traditions.

Fundraising events are scheduled and T-shirts will be sold in Kirkhof Center.

October 30: Pumpkin 5K at 10 a.m. at Enclave Apartments; Haunted Halls at 8 p.m. in Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center

October 31: Angry Bird competition from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby

November 1: Pumpkin Smash from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby; GV’s Got Talent at 9 p.m. in Cook-DeWitt Center

November 2: Pie Day from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby; Mr. Laker at 9 p.m. in Cook-DeWitt Center

November 3: Battle of the Valleys Carnival from noon-3 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby; Super Smash Bros. Tournament from 3-11 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, room 2215; Family Feud at 9 p.m. in Kirkhof Center

November 4: Battle of the Valley Carnival from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby; Mission IMPROVable at 7 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room; Water Pong at 8 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lounge

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys.

Panelists will discuss health of city water, services

State and municipal leaders will discuss the response to the Flint water crisis and the health of city services in Grand Rapids at the November Health Forum of West Michigan event.

“Municipal Infrastructure and Health” is set for Friday, November 4, at 8 a.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research Center and Grand Valley, starts with a light breakfast at 7:30 a.m. It is free and open to the public.

Panelists are Keith Creagh, director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Eric DeLong, deputy city manager, City of Grand Rapids; and Eric Pessell, director of the environmental health division, Kent County Health Department. Julia VanderMolen, assistant professor of allied health sciences, will be the moderator.

Register online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Scholar will discuss censorship, religion

A professor of religion at the University of Chicago will bring first-hand accounts of religion and censorship when she delivers a keynote presentation on campus.

Wendy Doniger, scholar and author of *The Hindus: An Alternative History*, will give a presentation on Monday, November 7, at noon in

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incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Grand Valley was also named an Interfaith Community Service finalist, an award of high distinction. Grand Valley was one of the top four finalists, chosen from a pool of 750 applicants. The Interfaith and Community Service challenge invites higher education institutions to commit to a year of interfaith cooperation and community service programming on campus.

Since 2008, Grand Valley has been nationally recognized for community service (including service-learning) through the Honor Roll.

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Township approves 48th Street lighting plan

The Allendale Charter Township Board of Trustees has approved a lighting district plan to include permanent streetlights along 48th Avenue by private housing near the Allendale Campus.

Grand Valley, Allendale Township and Consumers Energy have been working together on the lighting design plan that was initially discussed at the township’s October 24 meeting. Trustees also agreed to share costs to put in a sidewalk on Pierce Street between 42nd and 48th avenues.

The additional lighting is part of an effort to enhance the safety of students living near the Allendale Campus.

“The university appreciates the support of Allendale Township and Consumers Energy to support the installation of permanent lighting on 48th Avenue,” said Tim Thimmesch, associate vice president for Facilities Services. “This will greatly benefit our students living in

these off-campus complexes.”

Temporary lighting towers were installed on 48th Avenue in early October that illuminate the sidewalks along 48th Avenue between Pierce Street and Lake Michigan Drive.

Thimmesch said Consumers Energy plans to begin installing the new lights in late November or early December; the temporary lights will be replaced with new ornamental style fixtures that will be installed along the sidewalk on the west side of 48th Street.

Construction is planned next summer for the sidewalk and lights on Pierce Street between 42nd and 48th avenues.

Students celebrate founders of Grand Valley

The Grand Valley community celebrated the founding of the university during a day of activities October 25.

The fourth annual Founders Day recognized the 282 individuals who came together to start the vision and foundation for Grand Valley.

Bill Seidman, recognized as the founder of Grand Valley, convened some of these individuals on October 25, 1958, to discuss what an institution of higher education would look like in the Grand Rapids area.

The day included “birthday cake” in the form of cupcakes that were handed out on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses. Additional events included the Founders Day Festival and a Buck-A-Brick Contest, which raised money for the Student Legacy Scholarship.

In 1960, Grand Valley became Michigan’s 10th state-supported college. In 1963, Grand Valley State College enrolled its first 226 students, and has since become one of the nation’s most successful regional universities. The Founders Day tradition celebrates how vision and passion culminated in a philanthropic outpouring and the establishment of Grand Valley.



Photo by Bryan Esler

Students participated in the Buck-a-Brick Contest, which raised money for the Student Legacy Scholarship.

The celebration was organized by the Laker Traditions Team in Student Life.

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

‘I Am Grand Valley’ nominations open

Nominations for the annual “I Am Grand Valley” student leadership recognition campaign open November 2.

Students, faculty and staff members can nominate students who display and employ strong leadership skills that affect the campus community. Nominations are due November 30 and can be submitted online at www.gvsu.edu/iamgv.

The Office of Student Life will distribute “I Am Grand Valley” shirts and certificates to nominated students to wear on the first Wednesday of every month. Nominees will be recognized at the “I Am Grand Valley” Leadership Reception in January.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/iamgv or call x12345.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Retirees attend tech session

Nearly 20 Grand Valley retirees met October 21 for a workshop on emerging tech trends presented by Information Technology staff members.

John Wezeman, Helpdesk supervisor, and **John Klein**, associate director of Academic Systems, led the workshop, which was held in the Mary Idema Pew Library. Participants discussed cyber security, passwords and web resources.

The workshop was a result of a Retiree Task Force, which aims to improve university communications with retirees. Another result from the task force was a revamped website, www.gvsu.edu/retiree, listing university news, events and resources.



John Klein, associate director of Academic Systems, facilitates a workshop on technology for university retirees.

Sketches

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave the Keiser Distinguished Lectureship in Life Sciences, “Ecosystem Restoration from the Everglades to the Great Lakes: Fact, Fiction and (occasional) Frustration” and “The Role of Science in the Restoration of Aquatic Systems,” at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources, gave a presentation, “Time (and Space): Traveling with Microbial Ecosystems of Lake Huron,” at the NASA-Michigan Space Grants Consortium in Ann Arbor.

Brandon Youker, assistant professor of social work, wrote an article, “Who Needs Goals? A Case Study of Goal-Free Evaluation,” published in the *Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*.

Elena Lioubimtseva, professor of geography and sustainable planning, was a lead author of a chapter, “Outlooks and Emerging Issues,” in the *UNEP/UNECE 2016 Assessment for the Pan-European Region*, published by the United Nations Environmental Program. She also gave a presentation and seminar as part of the University of Versailles master’s program, Adaptations to Climate Change.

Michael Scantlebury, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management, and **Tonisha Jones**, assistant professor of criminal justice, gave a presentation, “Human Trafficking and the Hospitality Industry: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors,” at Grand Valley’s Conference of the Americas and Great Lakes History Conference.

Jeff Kelly Lowenstein, assistant professor of communications, wrote a book, *The Chilean Chronicles: Moments and Memory Forty Years After The Pinochet Coup*, published by Three Weddings Press.

Polly Diven, professor of political science, gave a presentation, “Superpowers and Small States: US, China and India Vie for Influence in Sri Lanka,” at the European Consortium of Political Research in Prague, Czech Republic. She also chaired a panel discussion, “Immigration, Identity and Public Opinion in Europe.”

TRIO Student Support Services staff members **Ariel Arnold**, **Care McLean**, **MarcQus Wright** and students gave a presentation, “Engaging, Increasing, and Sharing First Generation College Student Experiences Studying Abroad,” at the American College Personnel Association-Michigan Conference.

Christopher Toth, associate professor of writing, and **Hazel McClure**, associate librarian, were co-authors of a chapter, “Ethics, Distribution, and Credibility of Infographics: Using an Emerging Genre to Teach Information Literacy Concepts,” in a book, *Information Literacy: Research and Collaboration Across Disciplines*, published by WAC Clearinghouse Press and the University Press of Colorado.

Sharalle Arnold, associate director of the Women’s Center, participated as a panelist, “Campus Pantries Feeding Students: A Discussion of Food Insecurity on College Campuses,” at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. The event was organized by the College and University Pantries Research Project.

Sok Kean Khoo, associate professor of cell and molecular biology, wrote an article, “Effect of Storage Time on Gene Expression Data Acquired from Unfrozen Archived Newborn Blood Spots,” published in *Molecular Genetics and Metabolism*.

Housing and Residence Life staff members **Colleen Bailey**, **Brandie Tenney** and **Brian Hatzel**, associate professor of movement science, gave a presentation, “Living and Learning from the Ground Up,” at the Association of College and University Housing Officers International Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Jason Crouthamel, professor of history, served as a co-editor of two collected volumes, *Psychological Trauma and the Legacies of the First World War* and *Traumatic Memories of the Second World War and After*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.

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the Mary Idema Pew Library, multipurpose room. Her presentation will be preceded by a reception that begins at 11:30 a.m. and followed by a book signing.

The event is free and open to the public. It is approved for LIB 100 and 201 courses.

Sarah King, associate professor of liberal studies and program coordinator for religious studies, said Doniger’s book was withdrawn from publication in India because it offended a group of right-wing nationalists. *The Hindus* was published in India in 2010 and became the target of lawsuits, including that it violated the country’s law of deliberately offending a person’s religious sensibilities. In 2014, Penguin Books India announced it would not publish the book in India, an announcement that drew calls of censorship.

King said Doniger, a prolific author of more than 40 books, will talk about the challenges of discussing sensitive topics in religion, especially Hinduism.

Abhishek Ghosh, assistant professor of religious studies, studied with Doniger as a graduate student. “Wendy may be very controversial in India, but these controversial ideas are also very important to understanding alternative perspectives on Hinduism,” Ghosh said.

Doniger’s presentation is sponsored by many Grand Valley departments: Area and Global Studies, Brooks College Dean’s Office, Meijer Honors College, Human Rights Minor, Kaufman Interfaith Institute, Liberal Studies, Sociology, and Anthropology.



Wendy Doniger

New center supports growing biomedical industry

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“We’ve been working with Grand Valley from the start and the institute is located in downtown Grand Rapids, so it has been a natural fit to work with aMDI,” said Brent Mulder, senior director of SHI. “We’re relying on Brent and his team to look at the next steps required to bring the product to market. That includes creating a manufacturing plan, testing new

prototypes and making recommendations.”

Other clients include Lansing-based Running Form Labs, which is studying how to improve human motion in running.

Nowak said aMDI is steadily growing. In the first six months, Nowak has hired three graduate students, two undergraduate students and a full-time engineer; he is currently seeking a post-doctoral research associate in robotics

surgery modeling, simulation and analysis.

“It’ll take another three to five years for us to become fully sustainable,” he said, “but we are demonstrating our continuous growth through each project. It is exciting to see all the enthusiasm for aMDI from the West Michigan community.”

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