

FORUM

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

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Accountability Report shows exemplary results

Grand Valley's annual Accountability Report shows the university is attracting a record number of students while demonstrating exemplary results in key areas including retention, graduation rates and providing access to students who otherwise could not afford a college education.

The report also shows the university continues to hold down tuition and administration costs while providing a significant economic impact to the region.

The report, which tracks more than 40 measures of university performance and student outcomes, was released at the November 6 Board of Trustees meeting in Allendale.

Here are some highlights from the ninth annual report:

- Grand Valley welcomed a record number of students in the fall (25,325), as well as a record number of students of color, out-of-state students and international students.
- Grand Valley ranks in the top three of all public universities in Michigan for graduation rates, and fourth for retention.

- 90.1% of recent graduates are employed or in graduate school, and 83.8% are working and giving back in Michigan.

- The university was rewarded by the state legislature and the governor for a fourth year in a row with a portion of appropriations based on performance.

- Tuition remains in the bottom half of all Michigan public universities, while Grand Valley receives the second lowest funding per student.

- The economic impact of Grand Valley on Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties is \$730 million.

The full 2015-16 Accountability Report can be viewed online at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

In other board action:

- Trustees approved the authorization of two new charter schools, Carpe Diem Innovative School (Detroit) and Detroit Prep. The board



Photo by Jess Weal

President Thomas J. Haas discusses the annual Accountability Report during a Board of Trustees meeting November 6.

also approved relocation of Pathways Global Leadership Academy from Detroit to Inkster and approved appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to Grand Valley authorized public school academy boards.

Across Campus

Hauenstein Center accepts \$1 million gift

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies has accepted a \$1 million gift from local business leader J.C. Huizenga and his wife, Tammy, in honor of the center's namesake Ralph Hauenstein.

The Huizengas are directors for the Grand Valley University Foundation; J.C. also serves on the Hauenstein Center Executive Board. Tammy is a physician with a clinical practice, the Born Clinic.

The gift, announced November 6, will be used to expand the impact the center has regionally and around the nation while working to achieve its mission of preparing a community of ethical, effective leaders for the 21st century.

"The Hauenstein Center is dedicated to enlarging Col. Hauenstein's legacy of leadership and service to the students, emerging leaders and citizens we can reach. This extraordinary gift will help us achieve our mission of expanding that reach," said Gleaves Whitney, Hauenstein Center director.

The Hauenstein Center works to accomplish its mission through three primary programs, including the popular annual Common Ground Initiative, which brings together conservative and progressive thinkers and experts to solve real-world problems; the Cook Leadership Academy,



J.C. and Tammy Huizenga

which works with students to develop leadership skills and provide them with access to dedicated professional mentors; and the Wheelhouse Talks, which allows community leaders and entrepreneurs to share personal stories of success and failure, and what they learned along the way.

The namesake of the Hauenstein Center is Ralph Hauenstein. After serving in World War II, Hauenstein returned to West Michigan resolute in his desire to help improve international relations and seek peaceful solutions to conflict. He established the Hauenstein Center at Grand Valley in 2001 to inspire current and future leaders to make a positive impact on the world.

Karen Loth, vice president for Development, said the university is grateful to the Huizengas for their generous gift. "It will significantly help us strengthen our mission to carry out Ralph's vision, which is very much needed in today's world: preparing ethical and effective leaders to take the helm in the future by understanding the past," Loth said.

University celebrates veterans at annual breakfast

Grand Valley celebrated students, faculty and staff members who are active military members or veterans during the fifth annual Veterans Day breakfast November 11 at the Alumni House, hosted by President Thomas J. Haas.

During the event, Haas, a retired captain in the U.S. Coast Guard, thanked all veterans at Grand Valley who served in the U.S. Army, Navy,

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Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The number of student veterans and dependents attending Grand Valley has grown from less than 200 in 2009 to nearly 700 in 2015.

“We are so appreciative that you chose to attend Grand Valley to offer your talents to our community,” Haas said. “We are dedicated to going above and beyond to help veterans and service members succeed both during their time at Grand Valley and after graduation.”

Grand Valley has received national recognition for its commitment to veterans. Most recently, the university was named a ‘Best for Vets’ school by Military Times, and received gold status — the highest status — from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for its dedication to student veterans and dependents of G.I. Bill and other education benefits.



Photo by David Chrenko

Jeff Marcinkowski, maintenance supervisor, addresses the audience during the Veterans Day breakfast at the Alumni House.

CRP seeks book suggestions

The Community Reading Project is seeking book suggestions for next year’s selections.

Criteria to select a book include having wide appeal for the campus community, moral or humanistic vision and a connection to university mission and values. This year’s selection is *Citizen: An American Lyric*, by Claudia Rankine. Rankine will visit campus in April for a presentation.

Book suggestions can be sent via email to integrative@gvsu.edu; the deadline for submission is December 11.

Former Campbell’s CEO calls for making business personal

The former president and CEO of the Campbell Soup Company said the key to business success is to make it personal and build a network.

Doug Conant, credited with improving Campbell Soup’s business strategy and structure, spoke to about 200 people November 6, as part of the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture series sponsored by the Seidman College of Business.

During Conant’s speech, he said personal feedback to employees makes a significant difference.

“When I started at Campbell’s I wrote a short thank-you note to an employee, and the very next day it was in a frame on that employee’s desk,” said Conant. “That struck me. So, in my 10 years at Campbell’s, a company with 20,000 employees, I wrote 30,000 personal notes.”

Conant shared a number of guiding thoughts and lessons from his career.

“After working nine years at General Mills, I was told my position was eliminated,” he said. “I created the world’s best job search. It was time to take control; to turn the coin over. You have the power of choice.”

He also described work as a spiritual experience. “We have to manage the spirit of people. The soft stuff is the hard stuff. We have to figure out the nuances and how to communicate,” he said.

In 2011, he founded ConantLeadership, a growing community of people dedicated to improving the quality of leadership. He also serves as chairman of the Kellogg Executive Leadership Institute at Northwestern University, as well as chair of Avon Products.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Doug Conant, former president and CEO of the Campbell Soup Company, gives a presentation November 6 in the Seidman Center.

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The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, c/o_forum@gvsu.edu. Telephone: 616-331-2221. Fax: 616-331-2250. Web: www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVNNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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

National Geographic speaker talks environment

When he was 17, Chad Pregracke decided to single-handedly start cleaning up the Mississippi River near his home, located along the river in Illinois. His efforts caught local and then national attention, leading to a massive cleanup and the founding of his organization, Living Lands & Waters.

Pregracke, who is a member of the National Geographic Speakers Bureau, was the keynote speaker at the Great Lakes Place-based Education Conference November 6, co-sponsored by Grand Valley and held at the Eberhard Center. Educators from across the Midwest attended to learn about hands-on environmental education opportunities.

Pregracke said, while in high school, he started taking pictures of the garbage in the river, hoping to get sponsors to help cleanup a 435-mile stretch of the Mississippi.

“I took pictures of the tons of garbage, tires, barrels, appliances and trash along the river and sent them to businesses in my hometown,” said Pregracke. “People were shocked. But, that’s what happened 25, 50 years ago; trash from homes and businesses was thrown into the river.”

Pregracke said in 1997, the president of Alcoa gave him money to begin a cleanup. “I started picking up the garbage and putting it on my old boat. I unloaded it on my parents’ lawn; that didn’t go over too well,” he said.

The local media picked up on Pregracke’s efforts and soon he received national media attention. Now, 18 years after the formation of Living Lands & Waters, Pregracke uses a barge for garbage pick-up. To date, about 94,000



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Chad Pregracke speaks to Great Lakes Place-based Education Conference attendees about his organization, Living Lands & Waters.

volunteers have cleaned up nearly 9 million pounds of garbage from areas along the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio rivers, as well as many of their tributaries.

Pregracke is the author of *From the Bottom Up: One Man’s Crusade to Clean America’s Rivers*. He was named CNN Hero of the Year in 2013 and has delivered more than 300 presentations to corporate, public and student audiences worldwide.

Sponsors of the conference were the Great Lakes Fishery Trust (through its Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative), Grand Valley, Public Sector Consultants, Open Systems Technology, Trout Unlimited, John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Earth Force and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



What's Ahead

Classics lecture series to explore stoicism

A self-reflective life leading to unshakable happiness will be the overlying theme of Stoics Week at Grand Valley, presented by the Classics Department.

Peter Anderson, chair of Classics, said stoics believe that humans have a natural capacity for rational thoughts and behaviors, which connect us to each other and to “the divine in the cosmos.”

“Stoics believe that it is our purpose as humans to use our ability to reason so that we can live a virtuous life,” Anderson said.

Stoics Week will offer multiple presentations November 16-20 on the Allendale Campus. Anderson said the lectures will offer topics ranging from the philosophical dilemma of a life of action versus a life of contemplation, to what motivates humans to engage in community and an examination of the stoic qualities of the literary figure Albus Dumbledore from author J.K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter* series.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/classics for details.

Documentary follows turnaround at struggling high school

Several campus departments are sponsoring a screening of a documentary that highlights how a Washington high school broke the cycle of poverty and violence that affected many of its families.

“Paper Tigers” will be screened Monday, November 16, beginning at 6:15 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, Hager Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public, pizza will be served (participants are asked to bring their own drinks). RSVP by sending an email to Jill Smalldon at smalldoj@gvsu.edu.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of the Kirkhof College of Nursing, will give a welcome and overview of the film at 6:45 p.m., the film will begin at 7, followed by remarks with the filmmaker live-streamed beginning at 8:45.

James Redford directed “Paper Tigers,” which explores a unique model of trauma-informed education at Lincoln High Alternative School in Walla Walla, Washington.

The screening coincides with American Education Week; is sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement, Kirkhof College of Nursing, College of Education, School of Social Work, School of Criminal Justice, and Department of Sociology.

Presentation will focus on the LGBTQ movement after marriage

Gender justice and the LGBTQ movement after marriage will be discussed at a presentation November 17.

Cael Keegan, assistant professor of women, gender and sexuality studies, will give a presentation, “What Now? Gender Justice and the LGBTQ Movement After Marriage,” at 4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2263.

The event will take place in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance, October 20. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/igbtrc.

Scholar to discuss Native stereotypes in pop culture

A scholar and activist who is passionate about reframing how the world sees contemporary Native cultures will give a presentation Tuesday, November 17, as part of the Professionals of Color Lecture Series.

Adrienne Keene’s presentation, “Conversation on Cultural Appropriation and Pop Culture,” will take place from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Keene is the creator of *Native Appropriations*, a blog that discusses cultural appropriation and stereotypes of Native (American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian) people in fashion, film and music. She received a doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

The annual Professional of Color Lecture Series is organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Keene’s visit is in conjunction with Native American Heritage Month. Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for more information.

Writers Series welcomes McConigley

The Grand Valley Writers Series continues in November when author and educator Nina McConigley shares her award-winning work.

McConigley will read from some of her most popular pieces and sign books on Tuesday, November 17, at 6 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. The event will be preceded by a craft talk from 2:30-3:45 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2215/2216.

McConigley is the author of the story collection *Cowboys and East Indians*, which won the 2014 PEN Open Book Award and a High Plains Book Award. She has been a fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference and nominated for a Pushcart Prize, as well as for the Best New American Voices.

She teaches at the University of Wyoming and at the Warren Wilson Program for Writers.



Nina McConigley

Hauenstein Center event explores character, presidency

Politicians and presidential candidates from both parties today seem to thrive on ego, sound bites and performance. But it wasn’t always this way; some past leaders directed the nation with a steady hand, a calm demeanor and character.

If current GOP candidates like Donald Trump are the ego-driven type, West Michigan’s Republican native son Gerald Ford was nearly a polar opposite. But Ford’s legacy has tended to focus on the pardon of President Richard Nixon without examining the character and principles behind the decision.

On Tuesday, November 17, Richard Norton Smith, a historian, author and noted expert on Ford will join the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies to explore “Character and the Presidency.”

The event will feature select scenes from a documentary currently in production about

Ford’s life and time in office. The documentary is being produced by West Michigan business leaders and philanthropists Peter Secchia and Hank Meijer. Secchia will also speak about the comprehensive documentary.

“Character and the Presidency: Gerald Ford” will begin at 6 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. RSVPs are requested, visit www.gvsu.edu/s/01p.

The panel discussion will include Victoria Vuletich, ethics and legal studies professor at WMU Cooley Law School (moderator); Hendrik Booraem, expert on the early lives of presidents; Tom Cronin, political science professor at Colorado College; Kevin den Dulk, political science professor at Calvin College; Jason Duncan, history professor at Aquinas College; Mike Grass, producer and writer of “Time and Chance,” a film about Ford; and Don Zinman, political science professor at Grand Valley.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

Fall Science Update to focus on STEM integration

Teachers from districts across Michigan will gather November 18 to expand their teaching knowledge and strategies surrounding K-12 sciences during the 31st annual Fall Science Update.

The conference, sponsored by the Regional Math and Science Center, will take place from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center.

Kathy Agee, Regional Math and Science Center science program coordinator, said this year’s conference theme is “Integrating STEM by Design.”

“Science does not exist independently of math, history, language arts, or other disciplines,” Agee said. “We hope teachers will better understand how to integrate science, technology, engineering and math activities and skills into their classrooms, while also integrating real-world applications and data into the classroom experience.”

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/s/KV.

Interfaith institute to offer end-of-life care seminar

To better understand interfaith needs in end-of-life care, the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, in conjunction with local hospice providers, will host a panel discussion, “Bridging the Gap: Understanding the Needs of Our Interfaith Community,” on Thursday, November 19, in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Two sessions will be offered for those interested in attending: 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. This free event is open to all health care professionals, students, funeral home personnel, clergy and other groups seeking to understand exemplary spiritual and physical end-of-life care.

Participating hospice organizations include Hospice of Michigan, Emmanuel Hospice, Great Lakes Caring Hospice, Heartland Hospice, Hospice of Holland, Spectrum Hospice, Grace Hospice and Gentiva Hospice.

Registration is required for this event, visit www.gvsu.edu/interfaith, or call the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at x15702.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Dan Balfour, professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, was interviewed by the *PA Times* for a story about his role as chair of the Section on Ethics and Integrity of Governance for the American Society of Public Administration.

Sketches

Michael P. Lombardo, professor of biology, gave a presentation, “Why Don’t USA-based Scientists Publish Studies on the Role of Innate Variation in Athletic Performance?” at the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences at University Wisconsin-Madison.

Patty Janes, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management, gave a presentation, “The Impact of Undergraduate Mentoring on High School Students,” at the 2015 Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning Lilly Conference in Traverse City.

Len O’Kelly, assistant professor of communications, gave presentations, “College Broadcasting and Sports Coverage: Best Practices” and “Everything You Wanted To Know about Commercial Radio But Were Afraid to Ask,” and conducted critique session for student radio broadcasters at the ACP/CMA National College Media Convention in Austin, Texas.

Hospitality and tourism management faculty members **Lorie Tuma** and **Patty Janes** gave a presentation, “The Impact of Experimental/

Hands-on International Experience on Hospitality, Tourism, Event and Film,” at the 2015 Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning Lilly Conference in Traverse City.

Mark Gleason, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, gave a presentation, “Using Underwater Technology to Engage Students in Exploring Shipwrecks,” at the 2015 Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning Lilly Conference in Traverse City.

Patrick Fuliang Shan, associate professor of history, served as co-editor of a book, *Ethnic China: Identity, Assimilation, and Resistance*, published by Lexington and Rowman & Littlefield.

Stephen Rowe, professor of philosophy, delivered a lecture, “William James and the Religious Life,” at Hope College.

Noreen Savage, administrative assistant for the Brooks College Dean’s Office, gave a presentation, “Quick and Dirty Storytelling: A Practical Approach to Pithy Presentations,” at the Toastmasters 2015 Fall Conference.

WGUV Public Media staff members **Kim Shefferly** and **Timothy Eernisse** were appointed to three-year terms on the newly created PBS Development Revenue Innovation Council.

Ross Sherman, associate professor of movement science, conducted fitness testing of prospects and returning players of the Detroit Red Wings in Traverse City, and supervised 30 undergraduate students who assisted. He was also a co-author of an article, “Fluid Replacement Attenuates Physiological Strain Resulting From Mild Hypohydration Without

Impacting Cognitive Performance,” published in the *International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism*.

Academic advisors **Julie Amon** and **Jo Ann Litton** were co-authors of an article, “Developing an Institutional Test Prep Course,” published in the *Advisor*, the Journal of the National Association of Advisors for Health Professions.

Eric Ramsson, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, wrote an article, “Characterization of Fast-Scan Cyclic Voltammetric Electrodes Using Paraffin as an Effective Sealant with In Vitro and In Vivo Applications,” published in *PLOS One*.

Raymond Higbea, assistant professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, and a student, Jeff Skinner, received the Overall Best Interdisciplinary Research Award for their paper, “Forecasting the Potential for Emergency Department Overcrowding,” at the International Conference on Health Information Technology Advancement held at Western Michigan University.

Craig Benjamin, professor of history, honors, gave presentations, “Educating for Global Engagement” and “Big History and Liberal Education,” at the Globalistics 2015 Conference at Moscow State University, convened to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Benjamin was also inducted as an honorary member of the faculty of the Department of Global Studies at Moscow State University.

What’s Ahead

Symposium will highlight grassroots community building

Grand Valley’s second Civil Discourse Symposium will celebrate grassroots community building with panelists from Detroit and Grand Rapids.

“East and West Together: Intersections of Re-Imagining the Future of Michigan” is set for Thursday, November 19, at 5 p.m. in the Eberhard Center. The event is free and open to the public, a light dinner will be provided. RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/civildiscourse.

Lisa Perhamus, the current Padnos/Sarosik endowed professor of civil discourse, said the discussion will highlight how commitments to civil discourse can strengthen communities. Perhamus has taken her civil discourse classes to Detroit to visit revitalized neighborhoods and learn from Detroiters like symposium panelists Tawana “Honeycomb” Petty, social justice community organizer and poet; and Marisol Teachworth, co-founder of the James and Grace Lee Boggs School.

Petty and Teachworth will be joined by panelists from Grand Rapids: Briana Ureña-Ravelo, co-founder of the Grand Rapids chapter of Black Lives Matter and community engagement specialist for the Rapiidian; and the Rev. Doug Van Doren, of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ.

Statistics jobs highlighted during career day

Students interested in careers in statistics will have the opportunity to network with local organizations and hear professionals discuss careers in the field.

The Statistics Department will host Statistics Career Day Friday, November 20, in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Exhibitor tables will be open for student networking from 10 a.m.-noon, and will include Meijer, Steelcase, Perrigo, Priority Health, Waddell & Reed Inc., Ally Insurance and more.

Following the networking portion of the event, David Morganstein, American Statistical Association president, will give a keynote address, “Communications in Statistics: A Two Way Street,” at 12:30 p.m. Breakout sessions will occur after Morganstein’s address from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Robert Downer, professor and director of the biostatistics master’s program, said the career day will shine light on some lesser-known careers in statistics, including predictive modelers for large credit companies or insurance firms, or biometry, which applies statistical methods to ecology or fisheries.

For more information and to register, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/O1g>.

Interfaith event to celebrate Thanksgiving season

Several religious and non-religious traditions will highlight a celebration of peace and gratitude during the Thanksgiving season.

The 16th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, coordinated by Grand Valley’s Kaufman Interfaith Institute, will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Drive SE in Grand Rapids, on Monday, November 23 at 7 p.m.

The Grand Rapids Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration has been celebrated annually since

2000. The event features participation from a wide variety of Christian denominations and representatives of Native American, Jewish, Muslim, Baha’i, Buddhist, Hindu, secular and inclusive religious communities. Each year, the celebration includes prayers, music, sacred writings, reflections and meditation.

A collection will be taken for the East Paris Food Pantry, Congress Elementary School and Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. Attendees are asked to donate cans of non-expired, non-perishable food, winter clothes and coats or classroom supplies.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call x15702 or visit www.gvsu.edu/interfaith.

Challenge helps avoid holiday weight gain

The period between Thanksgiving and New Year’s can be difficult for people who are trying to maintain or lose weight.

Health and Wellness is again sponsoring “Hold It for the Holidays,” an eight-week program, ending January 8, that encourages faculty and staff members to make healthy choices.

Participants can choose to maintain their weight or lose weight. Weigh-ins beginning November 23 are required; view a list of weigh-in sites and times online at www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness.

Cost to participate is \$5 (maintain) or \$10 (lose weight). Prizes are available and all participants who meet their goal will earn their money back. Register for Hold It for the Holidays online at www.gvsu.edu/sprout.