

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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

The Connection named to honor Blue

At its November 2 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the naming of the Connection on the Allendale Campus as the Lynn M. Blue Connection, in honor of Lynn “Chick” Blue, vice president for Enrollment Development.

Blue is the longest-serving employee at Grand Valley, achieving the 50-year mark in September. She was instrumental in designing the Connection, a 24,000-square-foot-building which opened in 2010 on the south end of campus that includes dining, classrooms and study areas.

President Thomas J. Haas said throughout her career, Blue has made it her mission to advocate for students.

“The Lynn M. Blue Connection is a place where students come together both academically and socially, which is a perfect fit given Chick’s longtime dedication to student success and focus on their overall well-being.”

Blue said during much of her time at Grand Valley she has worked to increase academic spaces.

“When housing began talking about a new food concession on south campus, I worked with the team to add a second floor to the proposed building,” Blue said. “The plan included two classrooms and two computing classrooms along with a large open space for student gathering and studying. Doing so would bring hundreds of students into the building throughout the day, and with smart scheduling, the courses in the classrooms would be those in high demand by the residents in the adjacent housing. The name Connection befits the whole idea.”

Blue said the most recent change makes the name even more fitting. Disability Support Resources will occupy part of the second floor, providing critical support to students, faculty and staff members. There is a new testing center that is large, open and easy to access. The Lynn M. Blue Connection is also on the bus route and has ample parking at the entrance to the building. Elevator access and accessible



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Lynn (Chick) Blue, second from right, is pictured with students after establishing a scholarship. The Connection will be named in her honor, recognizing her passion to advocate for students.

restrooms are located at the entrance from the parking lot.

Haas said Blue’s passion to help students is seen

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ACROSS CAMPUS

Talking points card inserted

The 2018 Talking Points cards are included in this issue of *Forum*.

The cards provide quick facts about Grand Valley and updated statistics. Departments can request more cards by calling University Communications at x12221.

Service dog aids invisible disability

When Billy Wallace projects a louder “teaching voice” in the classroom, Ziggi walks over to him and stands at the ready.

Ziggi is a 2-year-old Labradoodle and trained as a service animal to assist Wallace, who is the director of Grand Valley’s Police Academy and teaches criminal justice courses.

After suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder for more than 25 years, Wallace, who served in the Army during the Gulf War then as a police officer, sought medical help and took up the suggestion to get a service animal.

“Ziggi helps when my heart rate is elevated and my adrenaline is pumping,” Wallace said. “If I get upset, or he thinks I’m getting upset, he comes over.”

Wallace worked with a dog trainer in Holland when Ziggi was 11 weeks old, first with obedience training, then task-specific training. He began bringing Ziggi to campus in 2017, first to work during a summer Police Academy session, then to his classes.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Ziggi sits at Billy Wallace’s feet while Wallace teaches an introductory criminal justice class in Lake Superior Hall.

“I always give rules to my class: don’t touch him, he’s a trained service animal. But he still is a dog, and when someone brings something to class that smells good, sometimes Ziggi’s nose gets the best of him,” he said.

Wallace requested an accommodation to bring a service animal to campus from Disability Support Resources. He said that process was easy, as was getting Ziggi acclimated to campus. What’s difficult, Wallace said, is the number of people who approach him and want to pet Ziggi.

“A lot of people think that I’m training the dog for someone else. Then I have to explain our situation, which often leads to discussing my medical condition. Not all disabilities are visible,” he said.

He said service animals who are wearing vests should not be distracted in public. “When people talk to or try to pet Ziggi, it takes his attention away from me,” Wallace said.

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Shontaye Witcher, director of DSR, said while there has not been an increase in use of service animals on campus, the use of emotional support animals has risen and caused confusion.

“We are seeing more dogs without appropriate classification, which hurts individuals with disabilities,” Witcher said. “Service dogs perform a task.”

Service animals (dogs or miniature horses) are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act and are trained to perform tasks for the benefit of the person with a disability. Emotional support animals provide comfort to owners and are protected under the Fair Housing Act, which applies to residences.

Witcher said emotional support animals are not allowed in public spaces, and all animals on campus must be on a leash. She added when inquiring about an animal, it’s appropriate to ask two questions: Is this animal a service animal and required because of a disability? and What task is it trained to perform?

Wallace said Ziggi has been a huge help and his mental and physical health have improved. He added Ziggi is able to “clock out” of his work day when Wallace takes Ziggi’s service vest off.

“I keep tennis balls in my office and am able to play fetch with him before or after class,” he said.

Trailblazers highlight Founders Day event

Seven trailblazers, including people who were among the first African Americans at Grand Valley as students or faculty members, led a



Photo by Kyle Bultman

Front row from left to right: Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, Betty Burton Groce, Victoria Stevenson; back row from left to right: Chris Barbee, James Moore, Curtis Jones, Cheryl Franks, Ron Gates and Danny Poole.

Founders Day event for students.

“Paving the Way for Future Generations” was held October 24 at the Alumni House. Chris Barbee, director of Alumni Relations, said the idea came to him while visiting the Grand Rapids Public Museum with his daughter. Barbee said he noticed an exhibit highlighting the late Dr. Julius Franks and other African Americans who, in 1962, led integration in the Auburn Hills neighborhood in Grand Rapids by purchasing property to establish middle-class housing for people of color.

Franks was also among the founders of Grand Valley and the only African American. “I started to wonder how many people knew that an African American man was among the founding members of Grand Valley,” Barbee said.

The idea of highlighting “firsts” took off and Barbee enlisted help from Human Resources and others on campus to compile a list of notables.

Along with Franks, six other people were

highlighted: Curtis Joseph Jones, first African American male professor; Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, first African American female professor; James Moore, first African American male student to enroll at Grand Valley in 1963; Betty Burton Groce, first African American woman to serve on the Grand Valley Foundation board; Danny Poole, first African American student athlete to earn a scholarship; and Ron Gates, who portrayed the Great Laker.

Moore stressed how different the campus was in 1963, with one building and 200 students. “It was a big, bold experiment; Grand Valley took a chance on us and we took a chance on Grand Valley,” he said.

Moore earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and later two master’s degrees from Aquinas College and Michigan State University. He worked in human resources, job placement and social work before retiring from full-time work in 2008.

After sharing their experiences with students, panelists offered advice to be successful in college and career.

Barbee said students asked questions and stayed after to connect with panelists. “I hope that students walked away with an idea of what it was like to be in a population where not a lot of people looked like you, and understand the challenges they faced,” he said.

The event was sponsored by Alumni Relations, the African American Alumni Chapter and the Division of Inclusion and Equity.

Correction

An article in the November 5 issue of *Forum* incorrectly referred to Cherokee poet and

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FORUM

Volume 43, Number 7

The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. The submission deadline is Tuesday prior to the publication date. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, c/o forum@gvsu.edu. Web: gvsu.edu/forum

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GVFACES

Michael Szydlowski, deputy Title IX coordinator

Michael Szydlowski brings experience in student affairs to his new position as deputy Title IX coordinator.

Szydlowski most recently served in Grand Valley’s Dean of Students office as director of student conduct, intervention and support. Prior to that role he was a living center director for four years.

Szydlowski said his responsibilities in the Dean of Students office will transfer well to this new role. As student conduct director, Szydlowski oversaw conduct policies and would meet with students who violated those policies and offer resources like counseling or academic services.

He also served as a co-investigator, or neutral fact-finder, on some Title IX cases while in the Dean of Students office.

“My strengths align with this new role, as I strive to meet students at their level,” he said. “And my previous work with this office makes this a smooth transition.”

In September, a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruling questioned whether due

process was given to respondents in Title IX cases. Szydlowski said this makes the Title IX landscape a “moving target” but added Grand Valley, like many colleges and universities, are reviewing procedures to ensure compliance.

“Grand Valley has a good reputation and sets a good example for others. A lot of credit for that goes to how well we work with our partners: campus police and Ottawa County law enforcement,” he said.

Szydlowski earned a bachelor’s degree in interpersonal and public communication and a master’s degree in student affairs administration from Central Michigan University.



Michael Szydlowski

WHAT'S AHEAD

Design thinking expert will lead community workshops

A design thinking expert will help Grand Valley students, faculty members and the West Michigan community solve challenges through design thinking workshops.

Ela Ben-Ur has more than 20 years of experience in design thinking research, strategy and innovation, and currently does so through her independent organization, i2i Experience.



Ela Ben-Ur

"Design Thinking and You" is set for November 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library multipurpose room; Ben-Ur will introduce design thinking and show participants how to apply the process by using the Innovators' Compass, a framework she developed to help people creatively address challenges.

Ben-Ur will facilitate two "Deeper Dive" workshops on November 28 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center's multipurpose room, and 1-3 p.m. in the L. William Seidman Center.

Both workshops are free to students and faculty, there will be a \$10 admission fee for community members. To RSVP and view more information, visit gvsu.edu/designthinking.

OMA to celebrate three decades of service

The Office of Multicultural Affairs will celebrate 30 years of service to students at an event November 28 in the Eberhard Center.

The campus community is invited to the anniversary celebration, which will run from 6-8 p.m., refreshments will be served. RSVP online at <http://gvsu.edu/s/OT6>.

Remarks will be made by Connie Dang, director of OMA; Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity; and Don Williams, dean emeritus of Minority Affairs and former director of the Multicultural Center.

Students and alumni will share reflections of their experiences interacting with OMA. Faculty and staff, students and community members will showcase their talents through various dances and performances.

Questions about the event can be directed to Erica Bringedahl at bakereri@gvsu.edu.

HRO to host open houses

Staff members from Human Resources will host open houses on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses.

Open house events are set for Thursday, November 29, from 3-5 p.m. in Zumberge Hall, room 1090; and on Wednesday, December 5, from 2-4 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 103E (Gordon Gallery).

Network with staff members and enter raffles to win Grand Valley gear, refreshments will be served.

Fall Arts Celebration concert to highlight moods of Christmas

Robert Shaw's "The Many Moods of Christmas" meshes together pieces of 18 of the most traditional carols combined with music from composers such as Handel, Bizet and Bach.

Renowned choral conductor Craig Jessop will lead Grand Valley's Arts Chorale and local high



'The Many Moods of Christmas' concludes the Fall Arts Celebration on December 3.

school students as they perform "The Many Moods of Christmas" during a special Fall Arts Celebration concert.

"Celebrating Holiday Splendor: Craig Jessop Conducts 'The Many Moods of Christmas'" will take place December 3, at 7:30 p.m., at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids (24 Fountain Street NE). The concert is free and open to the public.

Jessop, professor of music and founding dean of the Cain College of the Arts at Utah State University, is the former director of the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He led the ensemble as a featured conductor during the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

"Craig Jessop is a true American treasure, and he is without doubt one of the foremost expert choral conductors and choral interpreters in the world today," said Danny Phipps, chair of Music, Theatre, and Dance Department. "I am very excited that our students will have an opportunity to work with this legendary conductor."

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts.

ACROSS CAMPUS

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scholar Qwo-Li Driskill as he. Driskill uses gender neutral pronouns such as they/them.

Driskill is the keynote speaker during an event for Transgender Day of Remembrance, scheduled for 4 p.m. November 19 in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

We apologize for this error.

GVNow recap:

Accountability Report shows continued strong performance

Grand Valley's annual Accountability Report shows the university is again a top performer in the state in several key areas, including providing access to students who might not otherwise be able to afford a college degree and keeping students on a path to a timely graduation.

The 12th annual report was released at the Board of Trustees meeting November 2. The full report can be viewed online at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

The report tracks more than 40 separate

measures of university performance and student outcomes, and ranks Grand Valley's performance with other public universities in Michigan and nationwide.

It also outlines seven core values that form the basis for Grand Valley's 2016-2021 strategic plan: excellence, integrity, inquiry, inclusiveness, community, sustainability and innovation. Highlights from the report are below.

- Grand Valley ranks in the top four of all public universities in Michigan for graduation and retention rates. The retention rate for first-year students was one of the highest in history at 84.5 percent.

- 95 percent of recent graduates are employed or in graduate school, and 86 percent are working and giving back in Michigan.

Veterans honored at annual breakfast

President Thomas J. Haas hosted the Eighth Annual Veterans Day Breakfast to recognize the service and sacrifice of Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members who served or are currently serving in the U.S. military.

Currently, there are 439 military-connected students attending Grand Valley. More than



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Steven Naganashe Perry, of Grand Valley's Native American Advisory Council, presented President Haas with a feather.

100 people attended the November 9 breakfast event, held in the Kirkhof Center.

U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Zeeland), whose father and grandfather served in the military, said Grand Valley's focus and emphasis on helping veterans has elevated the culture at the university and in the community.

Steven Naganashe Perry, of Grand Valley's Native American Advisory Council, presented President Haas with a feather, saying it's one way veterans honor other veterans.

For complete stories, visit gvsu.edu/gvnow.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

Endowment grows for scholarship

Several years ago, faculty members in the **School of Criminal Justice** wrote an introductory textbook, *Justice & Society: An Introduction*, and proceeds from book sales were donated to fund the Justice and Society Endowed Scholarship.

Patrick Gerkin, director of the School of Criminal Justice, said more than \$40,000 was added to the endowment from recent funds generated by the book. More than 20 students have benefited from the scholarship since it was established.

Polly Diven, director of the international relations program and professor of political science, was interviewed by WGUV Public Media for a story about the U.S. naturalization process. Diven's international relations class coordinated a naturalization ceremony in late October at the DeVos Center.



Photo by Elizabeth Lienau

Pictured from left to right are Jaclyn Cwick, Paul Stansbie, Christine Yalda, Tonisha Jones, Christopher Kierkus, Naoki Kanaboshi, George Grant, Patrick Gerkin, Brian Johnson, Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, and Kristine Mullendore.

Phosphorus Flux in a Restored Riparian Wetland," published in *Science of the Total Environment*, and "Effectiveness of Best Management Practices to Reduce Phosphorus Loading to a Highly Eutrophic Lake," published in *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Kevin McIntosh, Campus Interfaith Resources coordinator, and **Kyle Kooyers**, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager, gave a presentation about an interfaith cohort of West Michigan college students at the Parliament of the World's Religions conference in Toronto, Ontario.

Chemistry faculty and staff members **Dalila Kovacs**, **James Krikke** and **Kristina Mack** were co-authors of a chapter, "An Introductory Course in Green Chemistry: Progress and Lessons Learned," in a book, *Green Chemistry Education: Recent Developments*, published by De Gruyter.

Alexey Nikitin, professor of biology, was a co-author of an article, "Ancient Genomes Suggest the Eastern Pontic-Caspian Steppe as the Source of Western Iron Age Nomads," published in *Science Advances*.

University Libraries faculty members **Hazel McClure**, **Gayle Schaub** and **Lindy Scripps-Hoekstra** gave a presentation, "High Impact Librarianship: A Showcase of Collaborative and Experiential Learning Initiatives," at the American Library Association annual conference; their presentation was recapped in *College and Research Library News*.

Annie Bélanger, dean of University Libraries, and **Preethi Rao**, visiting faculty, gave a webinar presentation, "Leading Change with Powerful Conversations Using Appreciative Inquiry," for the ALA's Library Leadership and Management Association. Bélanger was also a panelist at Designing Libraries VII held in Calgary, Alberta.

Ross Sherman, associate professor of movement science, mentored 41 athletic training and exercise science students as they assisted him with physical fitness testing of NHL, AHL and ECHL players at the Detroit Red Wings pre-season camp in Traverse City.

Patricia (Tricia) Thomas, associate dean for practice, KCON, served as co-editor for books: *Management and Leadership for Nurse Administrators* and *Project Planning and Management: A Guide for Nurses and Interprofessional Teams*. Thomas was a co-author for chapters in the books with **Evelyn Clingerman**, executive director of the Wesorick Center, and **Janet Winter**, associate dean for KCON undergraduate programs.

Liz Collver, assistant director for Student Life, Civic Engagement, gave a presentation, "Incorporating College Students into Your Volunteer Program," at a Volunteer Managers Association's monthly meeting in Grand Rapids.

Seidman College of Business faculty members **Carol M. Sanchez** and **Kevin Lehnert** were co-authors of an article, "The Unbearable Heaviness of Leadership: The Effects of Competency, Negatives, and Experience on Women's Aspirations to Leadership," published in *Journal of Business Research*.

David Alvarez, professor of English, was a panelist for "Borders, Boundaries, and Limits in the Mediterranean," at the Mediterranean Seminar at the University of Michigan. He also gave a presentation, "An Ambiguous Aesthetic: the Non-Figuration of Migrants in Migration-Focused Installation Art," at the Figures of the Migrant and Representations of Migration in Literature and the Arts held at Le Mans University in France.

KFB challenge



Sherril Soman, interim dean of the College of Education, and George Grant, dean of CCPS, are pictured with a trophy from Kids' Food Basket, recognizing efforts by the two colleges to decorate lunch bags. More than 7,250 bags were decorated and donated to the nonprofit organization.

SKETCHES

Luanne Shaw, affiliate faculty of nursing, was certified as a Health Care Simulation Educator.

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was a co-author on articles, "Impact of Sediment Dredging on Sediment

The Connection named for Blue

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in all facets of her work. In January 2018, Blue established The Blue Working Family Endowed Scholarship to assist students who have graduated from Michigan high schools, yet are unable to attend college because of economic reasons.

In 2005, she established the Persistence Pals program for students from Detroit's University Preparatory Academy. The program provides support and resources for students at risk of not completing a degree.

Blue came to work for Grand Valley in 1968 as a clerk typist. She was named vice president

for Enrollment Development in May 2015, a newly created position focusing on enrollment management.