

# FORUM

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

**Published by University Communications**



## Board approves expansion of health campus

Grand Valley's Board of Trustees approved funding at its November 4 meeting at the L. William Seidman Center to expand the university's health campus.

The campus will expand north of the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences as trustees approved funding for an 84,000-square-foot building and two-level parking deck at the corner of Lafayette and Hastings.

The five-story building will include classroom, laboratory and office space to support the College of Health Professions and the Kirkhof College of Nursing. Grand Valley is the region's No. 1 provider of health care professionals.

James Moyer, associate vice president for Facilities Planning, said the building will contain four classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, a computer lab and 90 faculty and staff offices and parking spaces. The project also includes student study spaces, student organization space and work/break rooms.

The budget, \$37.5 million for the building project and \$9 million for the parking

project, will be funded by donor support, university-issued bonds and campus development funds.

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber has been selected as the project architect and Rockford Construction Company as the construction manager.

Moyer said construction is expected to begin in December and be completed in May 2018.

The annual Accountability Report was released at the meeting; it shows the university is attracting a record number of students while demonstrating exemplary results in key areas including retention, graduation rates, providing access to students who otherwise could not afford a college education and



This rendering shows the health campus expansion, north of the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. The Board of Trustees approved funding for the building at its November 4 meeting.

keeping students moving on the path to graduation.

The report also shows the university

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## Across Campus

### Trump supporters, opponents spar verbally at campaign stop

Supporters and opponents of Donald Trump clashed verbally throughout a tense campaign stop on campus by Donald Trump Jr. on November 2.

The campaign event, organized by the College Republicans, drew a crowd of several hundred people to the Kirkhof Center's Grand River Room. Trump supporters and opponents chanted over each other dozens of times throughout the event.

Trump Jr. was introduced by several area politicians, including former congressman Pete Hoekstra, U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga and others.

Trump Jr. stuck largely to familiar Trump campaign messages and told the crowd that his father has an interest in improving quality of life for all Americans regardless of ethnicity and gender. Many of his statements were met with cheers from supporters and loud rebukes from opponents.

"We need a diversity of thought. We need to be able to have this dialogue," Trump Jr. said. "People around this country know that it's time to drain the swamp. They know politicians

have failed us and made promises they can't deliver on."

Trump Jr. called Michigan "a state that is in play" and said he is confident his father can win the state's 16 electoral college votes.

"We have an opportunity to put someone in Washington who isn't part of the political system," Trump Jr. said. "Michigan is a state that is ready for change."

Protestors held signs and chanted, drawing jeers from Trump supporters in the crowd.



Photo by Jess Weal

Donald Trump Jr. speaks about his father and the presidential election in the Kirkhof Center November 2 during a campaign stop.

Despite the tense atmosphere, protestors and supporters remained peaceful throughout the event.

Trump Jr. addressed the students in the crowd specifically, saying that today's students will be directly impacted by what he called a broken economy and government system.

"You guys are part of this. You will inherit this mess," Trump Jr. said. "We're the first generation who is on the verge of handing our kids a more bleak future."

### MSU president discusses challenges for higher education

Public disinvestment, big data research and changing enrollment are just a few challenges faced by institutions of higher education, said Lou Anna Simon, president of Michigan State University.

Simon was the speaker for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture Series October 31 at the L. William Seidman Center.

Simon said understanding technology

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# Across Campus

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and big data are necessary for success in the 21st century. “We need people who understand and can see patterns in big data, not just crunch algorithms,” said Simon. She said the “Einstein advantage” is needed moving toward the future, using his quote, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.”

With the declining number of high school graduates in Michigan, Simon said Grand Valley and MSU have moved against the trend, attracting more students and being value-centered. She said the cost of higher education is too expensive and the solution is more investment from the state.

The MSU Grand Rapids Research Center will open next year in downtown Grand Rapids; Simon said it will be extraordinary for the community.

“We wanted to complement the research and work being done in the area with Van Andel Institute and Grand Valley,” she said. “Five years from now, you’ll look at this moment in time, with what Grand Valley will do with the development of engineering, bioengineering and health sciences; I see this moment as a huge inflection point for the community.”

## University holds training on solar power systems

Grand Valley hosted a solar power training seminar for first-responders, sponsored by Consumers Energy, Allendale Fire Department, and Grand Valley’s Occupational Safety and Health, and Facilities Services.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

MSU President Lou Anna Simon addresses the audience at the Secchia Breakfast Lecture Series October 31 at the L. William Seidman Center.

The seminar, held October 11 at the Alumni House, covered hazards of solar panels associated with firefighting, electrical and inhalant hazards, and solar panels and thermal systems on homes.

Fire department personnel from Kent, Ottawa, Allegan and Muskegon counties attended the seminar led by engineering faculty members and Facilities Services staff members, plus representatives from Consumers Energy and the Allendale Fire Department.

Participants also toured the solar power plant on the Allendale Campus and the Mobile Solar Education Module. The power plant is a large solar installation of 11,250 solar panels and more than 100 inverters installed on 17 acres of land. Any Consumers Energy residential and business customer can subscribe to the plant.

The Mobile Module is an 18-foot, solar energy-producing module created by students that was displayed during ArtPrize. The structure was designed and constructed by a team of senior students from the School of Engineering, through a grant from Consumers Energy.

The first-responder training was part of a partnership with Consumers Energy; the company is providing a \$20,000 grant each year for the next six years for interdisciplinary projects and curriculum.

## Lab inspires Lakers to expand interfaith dialogue

Fifty students in the Grand Rapids community expanded their interfaith dialogue and leadership skills by participating in the Made in Michigan: Interfaith Leadership Lab in September.

Katie Gordon, program manager of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute and coordinator of Campus Interfaith Resources, said the lab, which was held at the DeVos Center, proved to be diverse, with a wide variety of religions, faiths, and political affiliations represented.

Hillel of Michigan hosted a Shabbat dinner to help the students become acquainted with one another. The next day, students participated in a day-long interfaith training workshop provided by Interfaith Youth Core.

Sydney Watson, a sophomore majoring in special education, said the lab enabled her to have difficult conversations about religion in a safe setting. A highlight of her training was participating in a “speed faithing” panel. During the panel, guests from four different religions explained how their faith fits into the Grand Rapids community and allowed students to

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

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

## Johnson Center, city leaders launch GRgives movement

Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and leaders from the Johnson Center for Philanthropy and area nonprofits gathered November 1 to announce the launch of a new local giving initiative called GRgives, a city-wide Giving Tuesday initiative.

The idea of GRgives is based on the concept of Giving Tuesday, a national movement that promotes giving time, talent or treasure to nonprofits on Tuesday, November 29, during what is often a consumer-dominated holiday season.

GRgives is intended to help local nonprofits find volunteers, build awareness of their organizations and invite donations from the public in the greater Grand Rapids area.

“I am honored to represent this city, which is one of the most generous in the country,” Bliss said. “There are so many ways to give back, and GRgives is one of the great things that happens when people get together and give back to each other.”

The launch of the GRgives campaign isn’t all about donating money, said George Grant, dean of the College of Community and Public Service.

“There are so many ways that people can get involved in this movement, including donating time or talent to an organization that they are passionate about,” Grant said. “The goal is to encourage people in the Grand Rapids area to give back to the community in any way they personally can.”

More information: www.grgives.com

Facebook: facebook.com/GRgives

Twitter: #GRgives

The launch of GRgives is a cooperative effort between the City of Grand Rapids, Heart of West Michigan United Way, Johnson Center for Philanthropy, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and more than a dozen area nonprofit and community organizations.

“GRgives celebrates generosity by providing people with an opportunity to give more, give smarter and give great,” said Kyle Caldwell, executive director for the Johnson Center. “This philanthropic movement unites charities, corporations, small businesses and individuals to show that our community giving is not about one day, it is a movement.”

GRgives allows nonprofits to tell the Grand Rapids community about their work and gives them one location to promote donation and volunteer opportunities.

The website, www.grgives.com, also gives the West Michigan community a place to find easy ways to give, volunteer or donate locally.

Any nonprofit organization can register on the website. After registering, donors will be directed to each individual nonprofit’s giving or volunteer site.





# What’s Ahead

## Rademacher will address retirement

Tom Rademacher, well-known author and former *Grand Rapids Press* columnist, will discuss preparing for retirement and how to redefine a “second act” during a workshop sponsored by Health and Wellness.

“How to Retire Happy” is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, from 2-5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216. Faculty and staff members can RSVP for the session online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout). Spouses and partners are welcome to attend this workshop.

Rademacher’s presentation will include stories of people who have reinvented themselves during retirement to share their gifts through volunteer work or as a new business.

Other presenters at the workshop are Vonda VanTil, from the Social Security Administration; Kurt Swardenski, Advantage Benefits Group; and Dave Smith, director of benefits and wellness.

## Play delves into teen sexual assault, consequences

An upcoming theater production at Grand Valley will focus on teen sexual assault, and the consequences to the lives of victims, survivors, perpetrators and bystanders.

Performances of “Good Kids” will take place November 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and November 13 and 20 at 2 p.m. All performances will take place in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

Dennis Henry, “Good Kids” director and visiting professor of theater, said the themes of the play are relevant to everyone.

“Education on this subject is vital,” Henry said. “The cast is well-educated in principles of consent and assault, but must explore the darker side of playing characters who don’t know or don’t care about what consent is.”

Lindsey Normington, a junior majoring in communications studies and minoring in theater, plays the role of Chloe. Normington explained that the most challenging aspect of the play for her has been allowing herself to be completely vulnerable in front of her peers and an audience.

“Sexual assault is a theme I deal with constantly in my work with the GVSU anti-violence theater group, ReACT!, and it is an issue which has touched my own life personally,” Normington said. “Getting into the headspace of my character requires a lot of strength and focus.”

Normington said she hopes this play will provide a safe way to begin conversations about preventing assaults.

This play contains profanity and discusses sexuality, teen alcohol use, rape and sexual violence. “Good Kids” is not recommended for children.

Tickets for “Good Kids” are \$12 for adults, \$6 for students and \$10 for alumni, faculty, staff and seniors. For more information, call the Theater Box Office at x12300, or visit [www.gvsu.edu/theater](http://www.gvsu.edu/theater).

## Week of events planned to celebrate new major

Area and Global Studies will celebrate the program’s newest major, Global Studies and Social Impact, with events that include a keynote address, documentary screening and an open house during the week of November 14.

Arifa Javed, professor of sociology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, will deliver a keynote address on November 17, her documentary, “Essential Arrival: Michigan’s Indian Immigrants in the 21st Century,” will be screened on November 15 and 16.

Javed was born and raised in India, and has focused her research on ethnic identity and ethnocentrism. She produced “Essential Arrival” in 2014; it highlights the contributions and successes of Michigan’s Indian immigrant community. Javed has written a book, *Muslim Society in Transition, a Case Study of Hyderabad*, which follows the struggle of



Arifa Javed will give a presentation on November 17 as part of a weeklong celebration of a new major.

Muslims in the Hyderabad region of India to retain their traditional identity after India’s independence.

The week’s events are listed below; they are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/gsi](http://www.gvsu.edu/gsi).

- **Latin and Afro-Caribbean Drumming:** November 14, 2 p.m., Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center, multipurpose room
- **Screenings of “Essential Arrival”:** November 15 at 1 and 2:30 p.m., and on November 16 at 3 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center
- **GSI Open House:** November 15, 4 p.m., Meijer Honors College, multipurpose room
- **Address by Javed, “Transnationalism and Global Citizenship in the New Millennium”:** November 17, 4 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center.

## Community lecture will spotlight autism

The rise in autism diagnoses and how to support families will be the topic of a free, community lecture sponsored by Grand Valley, Spectrum Health and Michigan State University-College of Human Medicine.

“Individuals with Autism in Our Community” is set for Tuesday, November 15, at 7 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. Area organizations that support people with autism will be available from 6-7 p.m. with information on resources.

The event, part of the Your Health Lecture Series, is open to the public; RSVP online at [www.gvsu.edu/vphealth](http://www.gvsu.edu/vphealth) or call x15883.

Speakers are Dr. Anthony Richtsmeier, head of behavioral pediatrics at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital and associate professor of pediatrics and human development for MSU CHM; and Amy Matthews, director of the Statewide Autism and Training (START) Project and professor of psychology for Grand Valley.

Richtsmeier will discuss factors leading to the increase in diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Matthews will present educational and community resources for people with ASD and their families.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health at Grand Valley, will be the moderator.

## Exhibit features wartime artifacts, stories from soldiers

A new exhibit at Grand Valley features the personal stories of American soldiers and veterans, accompanied by materials from the 1860s to the present day that reflect the public’s perception of war.

“The Murmur and the Roar: Private and Public Perspectives of American Wartime” will be on display in the Mary Idema Pew Library, atrium level, through November 22.

The bulk of the memorabilia and wartime anecdotes featured in the exhibit come from Grand Valley’s Special Collections and University Archives. Annie Benefiel, archivist for collections management, said the stories of individual soldiers and veterans are in their own words, pulled from archival materials, such as letters, diaries and oral histories.

“We tried to find instances where the veterans expressed how they were feeling about their service, duty and personal experiences,” Benefiel said. “These personal stories are juxtaposed with other archival materials, such as posters and other ephemera, photographs and memorabilia, which illustrate aspects of the civilian public’s perspectives on these same wars.”

While the bulk of the exhibit showcases various panels that feature reproductions of the original items that are held in Special Collections and University Archives, some original objects will be on display.

“One of these objects is Russel Kirkhof’s World War I-era uniform,” said Benefiel. “He joined the Army in 1917 and was shipped to France after basic training where he did electrical and mechanical repairs on airplanes. Kirkhof, of course, later became a notable inventor and businessman, and ultimately one of Grand Valley’s early major donors.”

The majority of the research for the exhibit, as well as all of the design work for the panels, was done by Grand Valley students. Benefiel said alumni Helen Kurtz, ’16, and Greg Bevier, ’16, spent a semester exploring the university’s collections to find interesting materials to feature, and to help them build the exhibition’s narrative. Jeremy Shane, the library’s student design intern, created the final designs of the exhibit’s panels.



Wartime items from soldiers and personal stories are on exhibit at the Mary Idema Pew Library through November 22.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

### Legislative day for MLS

Medical Laboratory Science students and faculty members attended a legislative symposium in Lansing in late September.

**Jeanne Stoddard**, assistant professor and program director, said the symposium featured session topics that pertained to state and national legislative efforts that would impact MLS.

The group was recognized on the House floor by Rep. Kevin Cotter, speaker of the House, and learned the protocol to interact with lawmakers.

They met with another group touring the Capitol, a group of students who suffer from Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcus (PANDAS). Stoddard said her students learned about PANDAS in their microbiology course and shared their knowledge with the other group.



Faculty members and students from Medical Laboratory Science participated in a symposium in Lansing.

**Lisa Sisson**, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, received the Excellence in Hunger and Environmental Nutrition Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Hunger and Environmental Nutrition practice group at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Deborah Lown**, associate professor of biomedical sciences, and **Lisa Sisson**, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, gave a presentation, "Healthy Food Policy at Food Pantries: Evaluation of Impact on Nutrition Environment," at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Food and Nutrition Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Brandon Youker**, assistant professor of social work, gave a presentation, "The 'Most Significant' Course: Using Community-Based Learning for Teaching Program Evaluation," at the Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning in Traverse City.

College of Education faculty members **Richard Vandermolen** and **Catherine Meyer-Looze** gave a presentation, "Monitoring for Learning: Using Student Evidence to Inform Instruction," at the Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning in Traverse City. **Vandermolen**, **Meyer-Looze** and **Suzanne Richards**, affiliate faculty of education, gave a presentation, "Intentional Teaching through the Use of Protocols and Thinking Routines," at the conference.

**Lin-chi Hsu**, visiting faculty of economics, wrote an article, "The Timing of Welfare Payments and Intimate Partner Violence," published in *Economic Inquiry*.

**Erica Hamilton**, assistant professor of education, was the co-author of articles, "An Investigation of State Educational Twitter Hashtags as Affinity Spaces," published in *E-Learning and Digital Media*, and "Asking 'Why?' Matters: The Case of a High School English Language Arts Teacher," published in the *Journal of Teacher Action Research*.

**Ellen Adams**, assistant professor, Honors College, wrote an article, "At the Boundary of Action and Dream: Surrealism and the Battle for Post-Liberation France," published in *French Cultural Studies*.

**Beth Macauley**, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, gave workshops, "Hippotherapy for People with Disabilities" and "Choosing Horses for Use in Hippotherapy," in Guadalajara, Mexico.

**Barbara Harvey**, liaison librarian, wrote a chapter, "Is it Scholarly?" for a book, *Integrating Information Literacy into the Chemistry Curriculum*, published by the American Chemical Society.

## Sketches

**Gregory Maytan**, associate professor of music, had his CD, "Amanda Maier Volume 1," featured on BBC Radio 3's "Record Review." It was also featured in Swedish publications. The BBC Radio segment can be found at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ojg> until November 20.

**John Weber**, professor of geology, was a co-author of an article, "Thermochronology constraints on Miocene exhumation in the Central Range Mountains, Trinidad," published in the *Geological Society of America Bulletin*.

## Across Campus



Photo by Bryan Esler

Participants at the Made in Michigan: Interfaith Leadership Lab are pictured.

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ask questions about any religion.

Watson said she wants to be equipped with the best tools to handle divisive conversations.

"It's not about making people agree with your point of view," Watson said. "We have to be able to have positive conversations about politics or religion without shouting at each other."

Maddie Rhoades, a sophomore majoring in public administration, said interacting with other religions was her favorite part of the lab. For Rhoades, religious literacy is key. "Everyone was having conversations about taboo subjects, but we were able to do that without getting angry at each other," Rhoades said.

During the weekend's activities, students also participated in a community service project at the Blandford Nature Center. Participants were able to help the Grand Rapids community while continuing conversations about interfaith dialogue.

Gordon said the new setting allowed for deeper conversations that made the students more prepared to be interfaith leaders.

Watson and Rhoades are members of Better Together, a movement started by Interfaith Youth Core to promote interfaith dialogue and understanding. Better Together at Grand Valley hopes to continue the interfaith conversation at the university.

## Accountability Report tracks more than 40 measures of performance

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continues to hold down tuition and administration costs while providing a significant economic impact to the region.

The report tracks more than 40 measures of university performance and student outcomes, and includes 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 10th annual report include the following:

- Grand Valley ranks in the top three of all public universities in Michigan for graduation rates, and fourth for retention.
- 93.8% of recent graduates are employed or in graduate school, and 84.9% are working and giving back in Michigan.
- The university was rewarded by the state legislature and the governor for a fifth 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 \$780 million.

The full 2016-17 Accountability Report can be viewed online at [www.gvsu.edu/accountability](http://www.gvsu.edu/accountability).