A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY
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Fifth campus climate survey begins this week

The myGVSU Campus Climate Survey 2015 will open on Thursday, November 12. All students, faculty and staff members will receive an email with a personal link to the survey; the deadline to complete it is November 22.

The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete; participants can save responses and return to the survey later, if necessary.

This is the fifth campus climate survey Grand Valley has administered. Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said each survey has helped influence positive change and cited establishment of the Children’s Enrichment Center, Women’s Center, and LGBT Resource Center as examples.

“These changes were informed by previous climate surveys, are the direct result of people letting their voices be heard, and sharing information about how Grand Valley can be more welcoming and inclusive,” Bernal said.

Other positive changes are noted on the myGVSU website, www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu, and include the creation of a collegiality policy, creating prayer space in Kirkhof Center, and improving services for student veterans. The website also includes a video and information about the survey’s independent data analyst, Amber Gonzalez from Sacramento State University.

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing for prizes. Students can win one of four $2,000 tuition grants; faculty members can receive one of three $1,000 research or professional development grants; and staff members can receive one of three $1,000 professional development grants.

Across Campus

Professor featured on national wildlife show

Paul Keenlance, assistant professor of natural resources management, was recently featured on an episode of the Emmy-nominated show “The Wildlife Docs,” highlighting his research with the Manistee National Forest marten population.

For the October 31 episode, the show’s crew and host, Grand Rapids native Rachel Reenstra, traveled to northern Michigan to spotlight the American marten, a member of the weasel family. With assistance from the U.S. Forest Service, Detroit Zoo, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Busch Gardens, Keenlance is examining survival and reproduction, habitat selection and the genetic health of the marten population in the Manistee National Forest.

“The population of martens in the lower peninsula has not expanded geographically or numerically as was expected when they were reintroduced in the mid-1980s,” Keenlance said. “We have documented that the population is inbred, but no one is really sure how close the population is to becoming extinct.”

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, removal of evergreen forests and the unregulated harvest of martens in the 1930s reduced the species to small populations in the Upper Peninsula, which eventually disappeared from the state entirely. Recovery efforts began in 1958 and lasted through the translocation of 40 martens from Canada to the Mackinac State Forest area of northern Michigan in 1985.

Keenlance added that his team is developing management recommendations for the U.S. Forest Service based on the results of their research. “These recommendations will allow the U.S. Forest Service to more effectively manage habitats for martens and support a population that is viable for the long term,” he said.

Keenlance has also been assisted by three graduate and six undergraduate students throughout the course of his research project.

Nominations open for ‘I Am Grand Valley’

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

The campaign, hosted by the Office of Student Life, recognizes students who display and employ strong leadership skills that affect the campus community. Students, faculty and staff members can nominate any student.

Nominations are due November 20 and can be submitted on OrgSync at www.gvsu.edu/orgsync. Faculty and staff members who have not logged in to OrgSync should register before accessing the nomination form.

Nominated students will be notified in early December. The Office of Student Life will distribute “I Am Grand Valley” T-shirts and certificates to nominated students to wear on the first Wednesday of every month.

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

Scholarship renamed to honor educator

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continues on page 2
Flu vaccines still available

The GVSU Family Health Center can administer flu vaccines to anyone in the campus community who missed a recent vaccine clinic.

The center, 72 Sheldon Blvd. SE in Grand Rapids, is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed for lunch from 1-2 p.m.) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Wednesday (closed for lunch from 1-2 p.m.).

Questions can be directed to (616) 988-8774.

Computing programs earn reaccreditation

The Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineers and Technology, Inc. (ABET) has granted reaccreditation to programs within the School of Computing and Information Systems at Grand Valley.

The reaccreditation comes as the school celebrates a record number of students this fall semester. CIS enrollment in key required courses increased by 30 percent from last year; there are more than 700 undergraduate students and 100 graduate students.

Leidig said Grand Valley graduates are filling a severe talent need in the technology industry.

“I like the higher education environment because I think people are more serious. You go to college. Anyone who makes those choices feels invested in themselves to complete it.”

Todd arrived at Grand Valley in 2014, but her dedication to serving those in need, particularly college students, began long before that.

She worked at her alma mater, National Louis University, for 11 years. There she served as the assistant director of Student Finance and Student Services.

“I like the higher education environment because I think people are more serious. You have to go to high school, but it’s a choice to go to college. Anyone who makes those choices feels invested in themselves to complete it.”

Todd earned a bachelor’s degree in management, a master’s degree in psychology, and a master’s certificate in counseling and psychological assessment.

“I love higher education,” she said. “I love helping college students achieve their academic goals, or help them figure out their direction. I have a passion for helping them be successful.”

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Leidig said Grand Valley graduates are filling a severe talent need in the technology industry.

“The industry is growing very quickly and talent shortage in IT is very severe, so employers are struggling to find technology-skilled professionals for roles in positions such as software development and programming,” said Leidig.

Leidig said accreditation, curriculum, facilities and professional relationships with area employers directly contribute to the nearly 100 percent job placement rate of Grand Valley’s computing graduates.
Battle of Valleys raises funds for nonprofits

Grand Valley and Saginaw Valley State University will compete in the 13th annual Battle of the Valleys from November 8-14 to raise the most donations for a selected organization.

For the second year, Grand Valley will raise donations for the Grand Valley Children’s Fund, a fund established last year to assist Grand Valley students and local nonprofits who work with children.

The university that raises the most money will be announced at halftime during the Grand Valley vs. Saginaw Valley football game November 14 at Lubbers Stadium.

Since the start of the competition in 2003, Grand Valley has won the fundraising competition three times; the last time was in 2011, with $31,382 raised.

A variety of events will take place throughout the week, including a $10 BOTV T-shirt and a raffle ticket sale in the Kirkhof Center lobby. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys.

Meijer Campus sponsors America Recycles Day event in Holland

Community experts on recycling and sustainability will give fast-paced presentations during Holland’s third annual America Recycles Day, a collaborative effort by the City of Holland, Meijer Campus in Holland, and a new nonprofit organization, GreenMichigan.org.

“Where Does My Recycling Go: The Lifecycle of Recycled Materials” is set for Monday, November 9, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave.

Lisa Miller, director of the Meijer Holland Campus, said the event will be similar to TED Talks, with short presentations on a variety of topics by Michigan experts.

Freestone said experts will discuss the life-cycles of fabric, electronics, medicine, hazardous waste and more when these materials are recycled. Freestone started GreenMichigan.org as a resource center for environmental concerns.

Fall Arts Celebration welcomes ‘Interstellar’ producer, physicist

The 2014 film, “Interstellar,” explores the idea of traveling across different galaxies via wormholes in space. This is a familiar topic for Kip Thorne, Fall Arts Celebration Distinguished Academic Lecturer.

The theoretical physicist and Einstein Medal winner served as an executive producer for “Interstellar” and co-authored The Science of Interstellar, which explores the physics behind the movie.

Thorne was tapped to collaborate on the film thanks to his past research on Albert Einstein’s theory of relativity, as well as astrophysics with an emphasis on wormholes, time travel, relativistic stars, black holes and gravitational waves.

Thorne’s lecture at Grand Valley will discuss the marriage of visual arts and scientific discovery.

“Bringing together the visual arts with cutting edge science will raise all sorts of topics, and the kinds of questions that Grand Valley’s integrative approach to liberal education is wonderfully situated to answer,” said Fred J. Antczak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Thorne will present “Discovery and Collaboration” on Monday, November 16, 7 p.m. at the Eberhard Center. His lecture will be followed by a book signing and reception.

Thorne served as a faculty member at Caltech from 1967 until his retirement as the Feynman professor of theoretical physics in 2009. He also cofounded the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Project, which consists of approximately 600 researchers who directly observe and report on gravitational waves of cosmic origin.

Before collaborating on “Interstellar,” Thorne consulted on the 1997 film “Contact,” where he proposed using wormholes to connect two points in time. Thorne is also an accomplished author, having penned numerous articles and books, including the educational textbook Gravitation, and the award-winning book Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein’s Outrageous Legacy, which introduces non-scientists to general relativity.

Ahead of Thorne’s lecture, the Physics Department is sponsoring a screening of “Interstellar,” which will take place Saturday, November 14, at 6 p.m. at Wealthy Theatre (1130 Wealthy St. SE) located in Grand Rapids. The screening is free and open to the public.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call x21885.
Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Robert Deaner, associate professor of psychology, was interviewed by the New York Times for a story about sex differences in long distance running and hiking.

Sketches

Social work faculty members Brandon Youker and Steven Smith gave a presentation, “Grand Valley’s Simulation Center and its Effects on Social Work Undergrads’ Interviewing Performances,” at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching in Traverse City.

Richard Rediske, senior program manager and professor at the Aniss Water Resources Institute, received a $4,600 grant from Public Health Muskegon County for a project, “Great Lakes Beach Monitoring.”

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.

Alan Steinman, director of the Aniss Water Resources Institute, received a $10,000 from the Community Fund for Muskegon County for a project, “A New Approach to Managing Water in the State of Michigan.”

Sandra L. Spoelstra, KICON associate dean for research and scholarship, participated in a panel, “MHealth Technology to Improve Medication Adherence Measurement and Intervention Research,” at the National Institutes of Health Expert Panel in Rockville, Maryland.


WGUV Public Media staff members Michael T. Walenta, Timothy E. Eernisse and Steve Chappell were three PBS representatives appointed to the WE Va Ken Burns Vietnam Station Advisory Board.

Cynthia Coviai, professor of nursing, presented an all-day nursing informatics workshop, “Nursing Informatics: Forging Ahead,” for nursing leaders at the Battle Creek Veteran’s Administration Medical Center.

John Philbin, associate professor of communications, earned the Best Screenplay award at the Miami Web Fest for his web series, “Lucky Jay,” a comedy about life as a professor.

Tracy Russo, visiting professor of education, gave a presentation, “Outcomes that Work for Everyone (Especially the CTE Faculty and Students Using Them)” at the TRENDS in Occupational Studies 2015 Annual Conference in Traverse City.

What’s Ahead

International Education Week celebration highlights three regions

To celebrate International Education Week, the Padnos International Center will host three study abroad open houses, each featuring a different world region.

Participants can meet students who have studied abroad and international students from these regions. Refreshments will be provided; all open houses will take place in Lake Ontario Hall, room 130.

• Latin America and the Caribbean: Friday, November 13, from 2-3 p.m.
• Asia: Thursday, November 19, from 2-3 p.m.
• Africa: Friday, November 20, from 3-4 p.m.

Theater production to explore impact of riots

The 1992 acquittal of Los Angeles police officers involved in the Rodney King beating case will be the subject of an upcoming theater production.

Hours after the verdicts were announced, outrage and protest turned to violent riots in the streets of south-central Los Angeles, and the nation watched on television.

Grand Valley students will perform testimonials from a collection of approximately 300 interviews collected from people who experienced the riots firsthand.

Performances of “Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992,” will take place November 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, at 7:30 p.m., and November 15 and 22, at 2 p.m. in Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

“Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992” captures the identities of 36 famous, infamous and anonymous individuals linked to the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict. The show was originally written and performed as a one-woman show by award-winning playwright and actress Anna Deavere Smith, but Michael Mueller, director and visiting professor of theater, said 12 student actors will portray the 36 individuals.

“The students play multiple characters of different ethnicities and genders, which enables them to confront issues of stereotyping, as well as the characters’ own prejudicial perspectives while finding empathy and understanding through the stories being told,” Mueller said.

Mueller said he hopes this production transcends the stage to create a broader dialogue about race relations and societal struggles both past and present.

“As a strong advocate for inclusion and equity, I think this production provides GVSV with an opportunity to engage with current societal struggles through the juxtaposition of a pivotal point in American history,” Mueller said. “The largest takeaway I hope our audiences walk away with is the idea that awareness, though important as a first step in the process, is not enough to bring about positive social change.”

This performance utilizes adult language and graphically violent images, and may not be appropriate for younger audiences. Tickets are $12 for adults; $10 for seniors, faculty, alumni and staff; and $6 for students and groups.

For more information about this production, visit gvsu.edu/theater, or call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at x12300.