

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Success network expands based on solid results

Following good results from the pilot year, the Student Success Network has expanded to include all first-year students.

SSN connects first-year students with faculty partners who are trained to provide students with guidance as they transition to campus and navigate college life.

The 2018-2019 pilot year included 1,277 randomly selected residential students, commuters and students that fell into at-risk categories. At the end of the 2019 winter semester, organizers were charged with growing the model to include 4,050 first-year on-campus, off-campus and commuter students.

Suzanne Benet, associate vice president for student success, said growing the program three-fold was a big task but organizers took comfort in the positive results from the first year.

Quantitative results from the pilot year showed retention rates for SSN commuter students were significantly higher (10 percent) than commuter first-year students who were not in the program.

Retention rates were similar for on-campus

SSN students compared to peers not in the program.

Benet said the SSN pool included a disproportionate number of students who would be considered likely not to be retained; she called the retention rate for that group “a huge win.”

Increasing the SSN student number initially meant finding more faculty partners.

Brian Hatzel, director of faculty initiatives for student success and professor of movement science, said 35 faculty partners were recruited for SSN’s initial year. Providing 4,000 first-year students with a faculty partner meant recruiting 40 more faculty members.

Each faculty partner has a group of 60 students to send periodic messages and talk about campus resources or strategies for classroom success.

Anna Hammersmith, assistant professor of



Photo by Sarah Anderson

The Student Success Network, connecting first-year students with trained faculty partners, has expanded since its successful pilot year in 2018-2019.

sociology, is a new SSN faculty partner. She has enjoyed communicating with her student group and said the messages serve two purposes.

“The emails provide the students with crucial

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ACROSS CAMPUS

Battle Creek center holds open house

Grand Valley’s Battle Creek Regional Outreach Center held a community open house in mid-January to welcome educational and business partners to its office suite.

Staff members at the center, 8 Michigan Ave. W., support students with college and career exploration, including help with federal aid forms and college applications, and assist community members with college advising and career exploration.



Photo by Kyle Bultman

Pictured from left are Matthew Bozzo, Da’Vonna Perry, Sara Burtis, Jean Nagelkerk and Al Shifflett at the Battle Creek Regional Outreach Center.

Establishing an outreach center in Battle Creek is an offshoot of a \$15.5 million grant awarded to Grand Valley last year by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The center is housed within the Office of the Vice Provost for Health.

Learn more online at gvsu.edu/battlecreek.

Nominations accepted for AP awards

The Administrative/Professional committee continues to accept nominations for AP awards.

Nominations in the six categories listed below are open through February 24.

- AP Achievement Award
- Commitment to Diversity Award
- Commitment to Students Award
- Innovation Award
- Outstanding Team Project Award
- Service to Community Award

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Visit gvsu.edu/ap/awards for details or contact your AP group representative with questions. Winners will be honored at the AP Awards Luncheon April 23 in the Kirkhof Center.

AWRI offers internships for summer, fall

The Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon is offering up to seven undergraduate student internships for the summer semester.

The full announcement and criteria for applying for these internships is available at gvsu.edu/wri/internships; deadline to apply is March 11.

AWRI is also accepting applications for the Bill & Diana Wipperfurth Student Research Scholarship, a fall semester scholarship for juniors, seniors or graduate students. Details are online at gvsu.edu/myscholarship; the deadline to apply is March 1.

GVNext recap:

University will host tax assistance program

Grand Valley is a host site for United Way’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that offers free tax return preparation and filing for qualifying individuals.

Free tax help is available for people who make \$56,000 or less, have a disability or consider English as a second language.

The service is by appointment only;

appointments are made through United Way by calling 211.

GVSU faculty and students who are IRS-certified will be on hand at the L. William Seidman Center during select Saturdays from February-April.

For a list of items to bring, visit www.irs.gov and search VITA.

Physician Assistant Studies program earns award

The Physician Assistant Studies program in Traverse City will receive a national award recognizing its innovation and excellence from the University Professional and Continuing Education Association at its annual conference in March.

The PAS program will receive the Outstanding Credit Program Award. Nicholus Kopacki, affiliate faculty and assistant department chair for physician assistant studies, said a number of factors have contributed to the satellite program’s success since it was established in Traverse City in 2015.

The program has graduated three classes, Kopacki said all students have passed the national certification exam, and more than 70 percent of alumni are practicing in a rural or underserved community. He added a recent grant through a partnership with Munson Medical Center will fund training for students in telemedicine.

Theresa Bacon-Baguley, professor of PAS and associate dean for research, College of Health Professions, wrote the nominating letter to UPCEA and said the program’s delivery model could be replicated to address health disparities



Students in the Traverse City PAS program are pictured with Shannon Owen, director of Grand Valley’s northern Michigan programs, far left, and Nicholus Kopacki, site director for Traverse City and PAS assistant program director, at far right.

in other areas of the country, citing the cost-effectiveness of using technology to deliver live lectures from Grand Valley’s Health Campus to Traverse City as among the program’s assets.

Learn more about the PAS program online at gvsu.edu/pas.

GVSU Family Health Center offers convenience care for campus community

The GVSU Family Health Center is now available as a convenience clinic for campus community members who cannot get in to see their primary care provider.

Tamara Van Kampen, practice manager, said students, faculty and staff members

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Other University Communications publications:

Grand Valley Magazine, published quarterly; visit gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

GVNext, web publication; visit gvsu.edu/gvnext, for daily news updates and video features.

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



GVFACES

Deborah Sanders, Director of Staff Relations

Deborah Sanders said one factor that drew her to work for Grand Valley was its Forbes ranking as the No. 2 “best employer” in Michigan.

“Coming to Grand Valley represents a culmination of all the jobs I’ve had in the past, as they have built on each other,” Sanders said. “And knowing that the university made the Forbes list, who wouldn’t want to be at a place that’s thriving?”

Sanders had worked for Grand Rapids Community College for nearly 20 years, beginning in student employment, and moving to human resources and then labor relations, which included Title IX responsibilities and ADA compliance. For the past four years, she worked for National Heritage Academies as senior compensation consultant. NHA has a central service office of 400 employees in Grand Rapids and operates 87 charter schools.

“GRCC is definitely where I got my love for working in higher education, and it offered me growth experiences and learning opportunities,” she said.

As director of staff relations, Sanders will negotiate contracts with Grand Valley’s union

groups and handle conflict resolution among faculty and staff members. She said she doesn’t plan to be stationed in her Zumberge Hall office much of the day.

“I need to get out and meet people. It’s the first step to trusting someone, building and maintaining relationships,” Sanders said. “I want to be that person who helps faculty and staff members remove any obstacles that get in the way of their success.”

She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in counseling education/counseling psychology from Western Michigan University.



Deborah Sanders

WHAT’S AHEAD

Positive Black Women will host Valentine’s Day event

Members of Positive Black Women will host a Valentine’s Day event, “Celebration of the African Arts,” on Friday, February 14.

The event will run from noon-1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Food, music and a live museum are planned.

RSVP by Wednesday, February 12, online at gvsu.edu/pbw.

Positive Black Women is one of the affinity groups under the umbrella of the Division of Inclusion and Equity. The Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity is a co-sponsor.

Events will celebrate Asian American, Pacific Islander heritage

Sponsored by the Asian Student Union and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, events throughout February and March will focus on the diversity and traditions of Asian cultures.

- **Dispatches from Asia: Hong Kong, the Philippines and the Struggle for Human Rghts:** February 17, 3-4:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216

Foreign correspondent Julie McCarthy will give a presentation on democracy and the struggle for human rights. McCarthy works in NPR’s new Manilla Bureau.

- **Pho Night:** February 21, 5-9 p.m., Niemeyer Living Center multipurpose room

Authentic pho, a Vietnamese soup that consists of rice noodles, herbs, and meat will be served. Proceeds will go to the Vietnamese Cultural Association.

- **Asian Pacific Islander American Vote:** February 26, 6-7 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 0058

Rebeka Islam, executive director of Asian and Pacific Islander Vote, will present an interactive workshop tackling the issues of the 2020 election. Topics will include immigration, jobs,

the economy, health care and education. There will also be a discussion on college students and voting.

- **The Road Less Traveled: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities for Success:** March 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m., DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium

Artist and designer Dominic Pangborn will give a presentation about his journey. Born in a Korean village during the Korean War, never having met his father, he was adopted by the Pangborn family of Jackson and endured years of bullying in school for being an adopted immigrant. Using art as an escape, he created art for the 2018 Winter Olympics. In 2014, he was voted a top-five finalist in Grand Rapids’ ArtPrize.

- **Night Market:** March 20, 6-9 p.m., Niemeyer Living Center multipurpose room

The Asian Student Union will host a fundraiser for student organizations on campus. Traditional Asian clothing, snacks, drinks, trinkets, jewelry and decor will be showcased.

- **R.I.C.E. Conference: Realizing and Addressing Issues in our Culture and Education:** March 21, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium

The free conference is open to the public. Lunch is provided and business casual attire is encouraged. To register, contact April Nunn at nunna@mail.gvsu.edu.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/oma or contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at x12177.

Repair Clinic returns with free help for students

Grand Valley volunteer faculty and staff members are once again ready to fix jammed zippers, reattach broken backpack straps and more at the next Repair Clinic.

The clinic will be held February 19 from 6-8 p.m. in the Holton Hooker multipurpose Room. The mission is to provide to students free repairs to pesky problems like missing buttons while also offering other resources.

Advisors will be on hand to talk about academic or scheduling questions. In addition, volunteers will provide knitting instruction on site with yarn and knitting needles learners may keep. And volunteers will also talk through how they are approaching the repair to help students learn that skill.

Nearly 300 services have been provided at previous clinics. For more information visit gvsu.edu/clas.

Interfaith conference will draw participants from area colleges

Campus Interfaith Resources will hold its fourth annual Made In Michigan Interfaith Lab, an interfaith conference for students, faculty and staff members from area colleges and universities.

Kevin McIntosh, coordinator of Campus Interfaith Resources, said the lab will include programming for people in various stages of their faith journeys: beginner, intermediate and a track designated for the educators who are attending.

Made In Michigan Interfaith Lab will be held February 22, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the DeVos Center, building C.

Isabella Lieberman, a sophomore at Grand Valley and student intern for Campus Interfaith Resources, said this event brings together interfaith programs in a way that benefits them all, while keeping a focus on leadership.

“Interfaith isn’t talked about too often, so you get to talk about that, but also leadership,” Lieberman said. “Participants will learn about themselves as they learn about other people, too, so it’s exciting.”

The conference will include student speakers and a guest speaker from the Interfaith Youth Core will discuss social justice and how that ties in with interfaith and leadership.

More information can be found online at gvsu.edu/campusinterfaith.

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are encouraged to call the center to make same-day appointments for ear infections, seasonal allergy issues, flu symptoms, urinary tract infections and other minor illnesses and injuries.

Operated by the Kirkhof College of Nursing, the center is in Grand Rapids’ Heartside District, 72 Sheldon Blvd. SE.

Van Kampen said as the university’s Health and Pew Grand Rapids campuses grow, she hopes the addition of convenience clinic services for students and employees who live and work downtown will improve access to quality and timely health care.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Mark Contreras, nurse practitioner, checks the reflexes of a patient at the GVSU Family Health Center. The center is available for convenience care for the campus community.

“We have a good location that offers convenience for people who don’t want to sit in an urgent care center and can’t get into their provider’s office,” she said, adding that people with concerns outside of minor illnesses and injuries can also utilize the center for primary care.

The GVSU Family Health Center accepts most insurance plans. Learn more about the convenience clinic online at gvsu.edu/fhc or by calling x19830.

Students share design thinking ideas with president

More than 50 students from various majors, academic levels and backgrounds gathered for a workshop with President Philomena V. Mantella to reimagine the student experience at Grand Valley.

The workshop was held January 24 on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. It was led by Grand Valley’s Design Thinking Academy and University Innovation Fellows.

Mantella told students in attendance she was eager to hear their ideas, as they each see the world through their own lens.

“Everyone here is an important thought partner,” Mantella said. “We don’t want anyone standing on the sidelines. Let’s change the narrative from what GVSU can do, to what we can do.”

Students were asked to envision what student successes would look like five years from now.

The workshop was part of Mantella’s Reach Higher Together initiative; learn more at gvsu.edu/president.

For more campus news, visit gvsu.edu/gvnext.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

Loren Rullman, vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students, was interviewed by WalletHub for an article about the most and least educated states.

Battle Creek Regional Outreach Center staff members **Sara Burtis**, **Al Shifflett** and **Matt Bozzo** were interviewed by Access Vision Battle Creek for a story about the services offered at the center.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources, was interviewed for a story about the significance of microbial life in Lake Huron’s sinkholes that appeared on GreatlakesNow.org.

Faculty members honored at Presidents’ Ball

Two faculty members were honored at the Presidents’ Ball January 31 at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

Thomas Pentecost, associate professor of chemistry, received the Student Award for Faculty Excellence, and **Star Swift**, associate professor of management, received the 2019 Laker of the Year award. The event was canceled last year due to weather.



Photo by Sarah Anderson

Star Swift, associate professor of management, accepts the Laker of the Year award at the Presidents’ Ball.

SKETCHES

Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members **Barbara Hooper**, **Nancy Carlson** and a graduate student gave a presentation, “The Influence of Participant Role on Knowledge Acquisition and Student Perception Using High-Fidelity Simulation When Teaching Blood Administration,” at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare in San Diego, California.

Deborah Bambini, professor of nursing, gave a presentation, “Facilitating Staffing Solutions that Work: Advice from an Expert Panel,” at the International Meeting on Simulation in Health Care in San Diego, California. **Bambini**; **Katherine Branch**, director of simulation; and several Spectrum Health staff members gave a presentation, “Partnering with Community Agencies: An Unfolding Interprofessional Active Assailant Simulation,” at the conference.

Danielle DeMuth, associate professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies, gave a presentation, “The Miserable Life of We To are Drifting and The Well of Loneliness: Reception and the 20th Century Lesbian Novel,” at the Midwest Modern Language Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Scott Rood, assistant professor and chair of hospitality and tourism management, received the Outstanding Professor Award and Fellowship Award at the National Conference of the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association in Broomfield, Colorado. Rood also gave a presentation, “2019 Resort Recreation Director’s Wage and Job Satisfaction Study.”

Integrative studies faculty members **Andrea Riley-Mukavetz** and **Melanie Shell-Weiss** provided training and evaluation for WGVU’s “Shaping Narratives” television series. The series was funded by a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant and features trained community leaders of color as storytellers.

Traverse City Center staff members **Jackie Abeyta** and **Shannon Owen** gave a presentation, “Building an Engaged Culture with Distance and Online Learners,” at the University Professional and Continuing Education Association’s Super Regional Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Katherine Corker, assistant professor of psychology, received a \$19,800 grant from the Fetzer Memorial Trust to support travel and give a presentation at the Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science conference held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Public, nonprofit, and health administration faculty members **Dan Balfour** and **Neal Buckwalter** were co-authors of a book chapter, “Democratic Legitimacy in Bureaucratic Structures: A Precarious Balance,” in *Quality of Governance: Values and Violations*, published by Palgrave.

Registrar’s Office staff members **Dan Vainner** and **Jason Cronkrite** were featured on an episode of “For the Record, An AACRAO Podcast” discussing the office’s successful web presence.

Tara Cornelius, professor of psychology, wrote an article, “A Longitudinal Examination of Alcohol Problems, Cyber Dating Abuse, and Face-to-Face Dating Abuse: The Moderating Role of Emotion Regulation,” published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

Amy L. Masko, professor of English, received the Frances P. Hunkins Distinguished Article Award for Teaching from the American Association for Teaching and Curriculum for “Keep it Real & Love ‘Em Up”: Student-Teacher Relationships in an Urban Middle School,” which was published in *Curriculum & Teaching Dialogue*.

Jon Coles, assistant professor of movement science, gave presentations, “Sport Tourism in the USA,” at the World Leisure Expo and Forum in Hangzhou, China; and “The State of Youth Sport in the USA,” at Hangzhou University.

Peimin Ni, professor of philosophy, received the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize from the Modern Language Association of America for his book, *Understanding the Analects of Confucius: A New Translation of Lunyu with Annotations*, published by the State University of New York Press.

Brandon Youker, associate professor of social work, wrote an article, “What, How, and Why? A Comparative Analysis of 12 Goal-Free Evaluations,” published in the *Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*.

Ian Winkelstern, affiliate professor of geology, wrote an article, “Biogenic Carbonate Mercury and Marine Temperature Records Reveal Global Influence of Late Cretaceous Deccan Traps,” published in *Nature Communications*.

Imran Mazid, assistant professor of advertising and public relations, wrote an article, “Opioids on Twitter: A Content Analysis of Conversations regarding Prescription Drugs on Social Media and Implications for Message Design,” published in the *Journal of Health Communication*.

Kelly Parker, professor of philosophy and director of environmental studies, was a co-editor of a book, *Pragmatist and American Philosophical Perspectives on Resilience*, published by Lexington. Kelly wrote the book’s introduction and co-wrote a chapter, “Catastrophe and the Beloved Community: Resources for Resilience in Josiah Royce and Martin Luther King Jr.”

Student Success Network adds resources, faculty learning community

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information to help their semesters go more smoothly,” Hammersmith said. “Second, the messages also keep the lines of communication with me open. I have had students respond to my emails with other pertinent questions about study abroad or financial aid.”

All faculty partners attended Transitions in

August to begin connecting to their student groups.

Hatzel said a faculty learning community created a SSN curriculum framework that includes proficiencies like financial/higher education literacy and connecting to the Laker community to help measure the program’s success. Other additions include adding

resident assistant partners and a Blackboard resource for faculty and students.

“We are fortunate that faculty members at Grand Valley are as deeply invested in student success as they are,” Hatzel said.

More information about SSN is online at gvsu.edu/ssn.