

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Campuses close for record five straight days

Grand Valley staff members worked around the clock to remove snow and keep buildings warm after heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures led to the closing of campuses for five consecutive days.

The Grand Valley Police Department, Campus Dining, Housing and Residence Life, Facilities Services, Campus Recreation, and Transportation Services were some of the departments that remained open during the last week of January as most students stayed on campus.

Tim Thimmesch, associate vice president for Facilities Services, said most of his 120-member staff made it to work each day,



GVPD officers work to push a car out of a parking lot. Essential staff members worked the last week of January to clear snow and heat buildings.

ready to do their jobs in wind chills that reached 22 degrees below zero. “The weather caused the most challenging conditions I’ve experienced in my 24 years here at Grand Valley; it’s been all hands on deck,” said Thimmesch. “Our crews plowed and shoveled snow, checked pipes and vents, cleared gas meters and walked each building 24/7 to make sure everything was working properly.”

Thimmesch said some frozen pipes and water lines were repaired and university boilers ran at maximum all week to keep buildings warm and at a constant temperature.

Members from Facilities Services and GVPD helped students dig out February 1, shoveling more than 2 feet of snow off their vehicles.

Andy Beachnau, associate vice provost for Student Affairs and director of Housing and Health Services, said 30 staff members and 115 resident assistants helped students pass the time with a movie night, craft night, karaoke night, zumba, yoga and even igloo building.

“Students made the most of this time, getting to know one another,” said Beachnau. “One staff member said it was been enriching to see students developing community and having fun.”

continues on page 4

ACROSS CAMPUS

GVSU economist predicts slower growth for 2019

Despite slower growth for the local economy in 2019, West Michigan business owners expect a profitable year with increased sales and hiring, according to Paul Isely, professor of economics and associate dean in the Seidman College of Business.

Isely unveiled his benchmark survey of the regional economy and predictions for 2019 during the 2019 Colliers Annual West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast event at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids on January 31.

The economic survey of the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December of 2018.

Isely said the 2018 local economy was as strong as he predicted; he said the local economy will experience growth in 2019, but at a slower rate.

“We are looking for a slowdown for those supporting the automotive sector, but for the overall economy, the expectation for hiring and sales is positive, and wages will accelerate faster this year,” said Isely. “We have a smaller group of fast-running companies right now.”



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Paul Isely, professor of economics, addresses the audience at the West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast.

Isely said trade will be a big issue for 2019.

“While trade actions politically have had a small direct effect on our local growth, the fact that business owners are pulling back their investment will have a much larger drag on our growth.”

Overall findings for 2019:

- The Current Business Confidence Index for 2018 was 80.8 percent, a small improvement from 2017;
- The Forecast Business Confidence Index

for 2019 is 78.6 percent, a drop from the expectations seen in the last few years;

- Employment is expected to grow by 1.1-1.5 percent in 2019, a rate consistent with the growth seen in 2018;
- Overall nominal sales are expected to increase by 2.7-3.1 percent for 2019, a slowdown from the last few years;
- All indicators signal the West Michigan economy will grow at a slower pace in 2019 compared to 2018.

The West Michigan economic survey was conducted by Isely, along with graduate assistant Riley Hall and assistance from staff members from the West Michigan Regional Small Business Development Center, housed in the Seidman College of Business.

AWRI taking applications for internships

The Annis Water Resources Institute is taking applications for up to six undergraduate student internships for summer 2019.

Details and criteria for applying are available

continues on page 2

ACROSS CAMPUS

continued from page 1

at gvsu.edu/wri/internships. The deadline to apply is March 13.

Applications are also being accepted for an AWRI fall semester scholarship for juniors, seniors or graduate students, the Bill and Diana Wipperfurth Student Research Scholarship. Details about this scholarship are available at gvsu.edu/myscholarship. Deadline to apply is March 1.

Division opens DeVos office with drop-in hours

Social justice centers and other departments from the Division of Inclusion and Equity have opened a pop-up office with drop-in hours at the DeVos Center.

The office will rotate between the Career Center employer interview rooms, labeled group rooms A, B and C.

Drop-in hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Learn more about resources and staffing at gvsu.edu/inclusion.

GVNow recap:

Making Waves initiative holds logo contest

The leadership team behind the university's Making Waves initiative (MWI) is hosting a logo-design contest for students.

Current Grand Valley students are encouraged to create an original logo that reflects and promotes the initiative's goals of exploring how water impacts daily living and also defines

the university in relation to the Grand River and Lake Michigan. The two-year initiative will begin in the 2019-2020 academic year and create opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, resources and activities.

Logo entries will be accepted through February 18 and winners will be announced by March 1. Visit gvsu.edu/makingwaves for details about MWI and a contest entry form.

The first-place winner will receive \$200 worth of products from the GVSU Laker Store, second place will receive \$100 worth of products.

Questions can be directed to MWI@gvsu.edu.

AWRI enters partnership with MSU to address water issues

The Annis Water Resources Institute has formalized a partnership with Michigan State University's Institute of Water Research (IWR) to work together on water-related issues.

Leaders from the two institutions have met to discuss potential collaborations, and a memorandum of understanding has been signed.

AWRI, near Muskegon Lake, is a part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and supports research, education and outreach aimed at preserving freshwater resources.

Led by Director Alan Steinman, AWRI's research program explores aquatic ecology, toxicology, ecosystem restoration and other water quality projects.

Aboard two research vessels on Muskegon Lake, AWRI scientists and instructors lead an education and outreach program. They

teach K-12 and college students, policymakers, educators and community groups about a variety of water-related topics.

"The AWRI and MSU have a long-standing relationship that has been based largely on collaborations between individual investigators," Steinman said. "While these collaborations have generated many positive outcomes, the time is ripe to formalize our partnership through this MOU to facilitate broader, stronger and forward-thinking relationships to address the water challenges facing Michigan and the Great Lakes region."

MSU has researchers and outreach specialists in a variety of departments studying water, including but not limited to fisheries and wildlife, biosystems and agricultural engineering, criminal justice, entomology and geography.

Since the 1964 Water Resources Research Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson, which created 54 water institutes around the country, MSU has been home to the Institute of Water Research (IWR). The director is Darrell Donahue, who is also the chair of the MSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

Donahue has been seeking collaborations with organizations that have complementary research to MSU.

He said he believes this could open the door to applying for funding for long-term, large-scale projects. Scientists from Grand Valley and MSU are meeting on an ongoing basis to discuss partnership opportunities.

For complete stories, visit gvsu.edu/gvnow.

FORUM

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

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

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GVFACES

Stephen Rybczynski, assistant professor of biology

Stephen Rybczynski, assistant professor of biology, was named the 2019 College Science Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Science Teachers Association.

The award recognizes an educator's commitment to students, education and innovation in teaching. Nominees are selected from a statewide pool of applicants.

Rybczynski was nominated by an individual from the Regional Math and Science Center. Rybczynski's nomination materials said the innovation he brings to the classroom provides "context to the content," which he often finds successful based upon student evaluation.

"I try not to teach biology content independently; I try to relate it to stories, to interesting situations, to give a reason for learning it," Rybczynski said.

Rybczynski said the biology department has allowed him to bring his own unique spin to the material he teaches.

"I'm given the latitude to make decisions, and to teach in a way that my expertise aligns with my disposition," Rybczynski said. "You have to teach to who you are, you can't be somebody you're not."

Rybczynski said he believes Grand Valley's emphasis on student undergraduate education, rather than a research focus, allows him to devote more of his time to "crafting better and better lessons."

Rybczynski was an art major for the first three years of his undergraduate career at Northern Michigan University, before switching his major to biology. He earned teaching certification and a master's degree in biology from NMU. After working in the classroom as a K-8 science teacher and a substitute teacher, he worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before earning a doctoral degree at Miami University.

Rybczynski said, "I've been a scientist and a teacher, and this job really allows me to tie those two together."



Stephen Rybczynski

WHAT'S AHEAD

Middle East conflict will be examined during presentation

The conflict in the Middle East will be examined during a presentation sponsored by the Area and Global Studies Department.

"The Myth of Ancient Sectarian Hatreds" will be held Monday, February 11, from 3-4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

Danny Postel, assistant director of the Middle East and North African Studies Program at Northwestern University, will discuss how Western policies are linked to deepening conflict in the region. Postel is the author of *Reading Legitimation Crisis in Tehran* and co-editor of three books.

The event is co-sponsored by the Political Science Department. For more information, contact ags@gvsu.edu or x18110.

Events planned to celebrate Asian American culture

Grand Valley will host the annual Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Celebration with a series of events through April.

The events, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and designed by the AAPI Heritage Celebration Committee, will highlight the history, culture, traditions and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

For a full list of events and sponsors, visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

Vietnamese Culture Gala: Cùng Nhau Nhu Mot (Together as One): Feb. 15 from 7-10 p.m. Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room

The gala includes cultural and educational activities ranging from traditional Vietnamese lion dance, martial arts, áo dài (Vietnamese traditional garment) parade illustration, and a special performance by members of VCA. JR Aquino, pop singer initially known for his appearance as a contestant in the fourth season of "American Idol," will perform.

Asian Authors/Topics Reception: Feb. 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Holton Hooker Living Center

A reception to recognize and honor the publications and creative works of Asian faculty and staff members, as well as publications of Asian related topics and themes.

Beyond Grateful: Reflections on Korean Adoptees in the U.S.: Feb. 28 from 3-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2263

Kimberly McKee, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, will present excerpts from her monograph, *Disrupting Kinship: Transnational Politics of Korean Adoption in the United States*.

Two Repair Clinics scheduled

An upcoming event will offer students a free opportunity to have ripped clothes, missing buttons, broken zippers, torn backpack straps and more fixed and mended by faculty and staff members.

Repair Clinics will take place February 19, from 6:15-8 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 121E, and February 27, from 6-8 p.m., in the Holton Hooker Learning and Living Center multipurpose room.

Academic advisors will also be available during both clinics to help students schedule classes and review studying skills and best practices.

And, students can learn how to knit during free tutorials with knitting needles and yarn provided.

The clinics are a collaborative effort among the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Housing and Residence Life and volunteers from multiple other campus departments.

"Faculty and staff know that students can do their best when free of pesky distractions like



Repair Clinics will be held February 19 in the DeVos Center and February 27 in Holton Hooker Learning and Living Center.

a hole in a backpack," said Monica Johnstone, director of communications and advancement in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "Many others on campus, from librarians to faculty and staff, soon joined CLAS and Housing to make a difference for our students after our first Repair Clinic in 2017."

For more information, contact Johnstone at johnstmo@gvsu.edu.

Graduate students prepare for thesis competition

Fourteen graduate students from a variety of disciplines will have to do some fast talking as they present their research during the 3-Minute Thesis competition February 20.

Students will have three minutes with the aid of a single slide to present their research to a panel of faculty judges.

The competition will be held from 3:30-5 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. The winner will receive a cash prize and full funding to represent Grand Valley at the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools 3MT competition in St. Louis, Missouri, March 22.

The winner receives \$500; second place receives \$250 and third place receives \$100. The People's Choice winner receives a GVSU "swag" bag.

The 3-Minute Thesis competition first began at the University of Queensland in Australia and has expanded across the world.

Reception will celebrate study abroad authors

The book *First Around the World* contains more than essays by students describing their experiences while studying abroad.

It gives insight into their fears, challenges and triumphs as the first people in their families to travel overseas.

The campus community is invited to attend a book launch reception set for February 20 from 5-7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room

continues on page 4

Faculty art exhibit explores looking at the past to inspire the future

It is not an uncommon practice for artists to reflect on previous artwork, methods and practice to help inspire future ideas, direction and work.

Multiple Visual and Media Arts faculty members are illustrating this process through the "Reflect-Revive-Reshape" exhibit on display in Grand Valley's Art Gallery, Haas Center for Performing Arts, through March 29.

The exhibit features work by Dellas Henke, Anthony Thompson, Hoon Lee and Brett Colley. They all recently completed sabbaticals, which served as a time for creative exploration in their respective fields of study.

"Each artist's work is displayed alongside evidence of their process, opening the door to greater understanding of their work and allowing opportunity for teaching their field of study," said Joel Zwart, curator of exhibitions.

Colley, associate professor of drawing, printmaking and foundations, is displaying a new collection of work, including 12 digital



Photo by Rachael Mooney

The 'Reflect-Revive-Reshape' exhibit will be on display at the Art Gallery through March 29.

posters, 13 preparatory drawings for the posters and dozens of unframed prints. The posters celebrate humankind's struggle against injustice.

"It's rare that a political poster is celebratory, and when it is, it almost always focuses on a small canon of male individuals, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mandela, Ghandi, or Che Guevara," said Colley. "Rather than present another exclusive set of heroes, I hoped to bring to life successful moments in the history of social justice with this series of images."

Thompson, professor of photography, spent his sabbatical extending his body of work titled "Reverse Alchemy," prints made in the polymer photogravure process, which combines photography and printmaking.

"Faculty don't get many opportunities to show their personal artwork at their home institution; it is usually shown at others," said Thompson. "Exhibition at home allows for more dialogue within one's own community, and the work from the other artists in the exhibition is really amazing and inspiring."

Lee, associate professor of ceramics, is showcasing a body of work that includes seven new ceramics pieces representing the culmination of ideas developed during a trip to India five years ago.

Henke, professor of printmaking, spent his sabbatical collaborating with professionals and Grand Valley alumni to create drawings and etchings to illustrate Franz Kafka's book, *In the Penal Colony*, a story of abuse of power and authority.

For more information about the exhibit, visit the Art Gallery website, gvsu.edu/artgallery.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

Professor receives Mentor of the Year award

A Grand Valley professor has received recognition for providing advising and mentorship to students and alumni both in and out of the classroom.

Ingrid Johnson, associate professor of physical education, has been named Mentor of the Year by the Society of Health and Physical Educators.

Johnson is being recognized for her mentoring strategies, which include supporting students with job searching, teaching classes for alumni, nominating current and past students for awards, sharing professional insights on social media, and more.

"I have an open-door policy and my students all know that," Johnson said. "I'm investing in them for the long-term. I'm not just some professor they have in one class."

Johnson said those specifically entering the education profession have a need for mentorship, which she is happy to provide.

"The teaching profession is hard and often thankless and anyone who goes into education today needs a lot of support and mentoring," Johnson said. "If I can make a difference for my teacher education students, then they will make a difference in the lives of thousands of their own students."

Johnson was nominated for the award by two of her students: Payton Spirling and Taylor Kastens, both seniors majoring in physical education. Spirling said she nominated Johnson because she "really cares about her students."

Johnson will receive the award at the 2019 SHAPE National Convention, taking place April 9-13 in Tampa, Florida.



Ingrid Johnson

SKETCHES

Jon Coles, assistant professor of sport management, had his research project featured in an article for the National Alliance for Youth Sports' online resource Sporting Kid Live. View the article at nays.org/sklive.

Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English, gave a presentation, "The Roots of a Dialect: Yooper Talk," at the Coopersville Area District Library.

Rob Franciosi, professor of English, gave a presentation, "What Did They Know and When Did They Know It? Grand Rapidsians and the Holocaust," at the Annual History Detectives Program held at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

John Weber, professor of geology, and an alumnus were among authors of an article, "Cunapo Conglomerate, Northern Basin and Central Range, Trinidad: Neogene Syn-Contractile or Syn-Transpressional Tectonic Marker Unit - Field and Petrographic Study," published in the *American Association of Petroleum Geology Memoir 123*.

Patricia Thomas, assistant dean for practice, KCON, was elected as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Thomas also gave a presentation, "Team Projects: Collective Wisdom," at the International Nursing Administration Research Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Robert Johnson, affiliate faculty of nursing, wrote an article, "The Death Debate: Penumbra Conundrum," published in *American Journal of Hospice*.

Four KCON faculty members received 2018 Sigma Theta Tau Kappa Epsilon at-Large Chapter Excellence Awards: **Melodee Vanden Bosch**, Excellence in Mentorship Award; **Sue Mlynarczyk**, Excellence in Research Award; **Janet Winter**, Excellence in Leadership Award; and **Kathy Moran**, Excellence in Education Award.

The **Community Service Learning Center's** Westside Welcome, a community service initiative, won the Collaborative Program Award from NASPA's Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Knowledge Community.

WHAT'S AHEAD

continued from page 3

2204. Several of the book's authors will give readings and sign books. Refreshments will be served and the book will be available to purchase.

First Around the World also marks a collaboration between TRIO Student Support Services and Padnos International Center. Since 2014, the departments



A book launch reception will be held February 20 in the Kirkhof Center.

have partnered to promote study abroad opportunities to students who participate in TRIO programs.

Questions can be directed to Ariel Arnold, TRIO SSS program advisor, at arnolda1@gvsu.edu.

Fulbright seminar scheduled

The Padnos International Center will host a seminar for faculty members who are interested in applying for Fulbright research grants for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The seminar will be held February 22 from 1:30-3 p.m. at the DeVos Center, University

Club room; a wine and cheese reception will follow with faculty members who received a Fulbright award.

Peter Raucci, from the CIES Fulbright office, will lead the seminar and detail Fulbright opportunities, typically semester or year-long programs, and the application process.

RSVP online at gvsu.edu/sprout, search "Faculty Teaching and Learning" programs.

Campuses close for week; meals from Presidents' Ball donated

continued from page 1

Although Grand Valley's annual Presidents' Ball event was canceled due to weather, the more than 500 hot meals that were pre-prepared for the event didn't go to waste.

Thanks to special efforts undertaken by Grand Valley staff and catering staff, the prepared meals were distributed to families and children in

Grand Rapids. Grand Valley served meals at the David D. Hunting YMCA, Godfrey Lee Public Schools and the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan.

"Even though we weren't able to have the night we were expecting, someone else was able to enjoy an awesome meal and that makes me really proud," said Student Senate President Rachel Jenkin.