

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Students enroll in accelerated degree program

President Philomena V. Mantella says program helps meet Gov. Whitmer's education goal

Alyx Dean took classes at Grand Valley for three years, then enrolled in Americorps. Her skills and experience helped Dean secure a job with Travelers Insurance.

Yet Dean is among 2 million Michigan residents who have earned college credit but not a bachelor's degree. The university's new online, accelerated degree program will help lower that number.

"I was researching programs, found this one and re-enrolled in Grand Valley within a week," Dean said during a February 12 news conference announcing the program. "It's been several years since I was in school; now I'm taking time for myself," she said.

Dustin Stek also works in the insurance industry. He said having a child at age 19 and working full time pushed school to the "back burner." Stek also enrolled in the accelerated program and said he looks forward to finishing his degree.

Philomena V. Mantella announced the program with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in the Eberhard Center. Mantella said the program will help adults complete their bachelor's degrees and enhance the state's productivity.

Mantella said the online degree program helps working adults break

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Photo by Amanda Pitts

Alyx Dean talks about re-enrolling at Grand Valley to enter the online accelerated degree program during a news conference February 12 in the Eberhard Center. With Dean, from left, are President Philomena V. Mantella, Dustin Stek and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Team midway through NIH grant on wayfinding

When Rebecca Davis talks about her team placing an eight-foot American flag on a wall, or oversized, decorative utensils near a dining facility, a casual listener might assume she's an interior designer.

The flag and huge utensils are visual cues Davis, professor of nursing and associate dean for



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Anita Jones, site coordinator for the research team, walks down a hallway with an older man in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences to simulate how the wayfinding research team works in assisted living facilities. In the back is data collector Megan Harley.

research and scholarship, and her research team plan and place in assisted living or long-term care facilities. It's a key piece of Davis' research on wayfinding to see if visual cues help older residents who have some difficulty in this area effectively find routes within their facilities.

Davis is nearly two years into a five-year intervention study after securing a \$2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health in 2018.

Her research team includes experts in building and designing facilities for the aging population, site coordinators, project manager, data collectors and graduate students in Kirkhof College of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

The team is working in six facilities in West Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio, with plans to add six more. Davis said the facilities vary in age and resident population but have complexity in common: long hallways with neutral-colored walls, confusing intersections, and poor or no signage. "The culture of care is to make facilities more home-like, without signs, but homes are not 100,000-square-feet," she said.

Artwork in these facilities tends toward landscape paintings with subtle earth tones, Davis said. People with cognitive issues and aging eyes may have better results remembering routes that are marked with bright-colored, simple, meaningful artwork, she said.

Residents who are recruited for the study are tested several times per year on various routes to destinations within their facilities. Davis said there is a formula for data collection that calculates the speed of completing the route along with any errors made.

Soon the research team will integrate location tracking using sensors similar to those used in manufacturing to track pieces of equipment. Davis said sensors will be placed in common areas and as residents move within their facility, their trips will be noted within data collection.

"It will help us know if residents are gaining confidence, knowing the routes better and getting out of their rooms more often," she said.

The study will end in January 2023 and Davis expects results to be published by that summer.

ACROSS CAMPUS

Challenge Gifts introduced to Faculty Staff Campaign

Each year, Grand Valley faculty and staff members set the gold standard for university giving with more than 50 percent participating in the annual campaign.

This year’s campaign will run February 17-March 6; more than 125 volunteers will spread awareness about opportunities to support Lakers during the campaign.

New this year is a raffle program allowing faculty and staff to achieve extra impact for an area on campus. Thanks to the Faculty Staff Campaign Advisory Cabinet, three \$280 Challenge Gifts are available.

To be entered into the raffle, a faculty or staff member must make a gift (any size, any designation qualifies) between February 17-March 6. Employees with current, sustaining payroll deductions will be automatically entered in the raffle. At the end of the campaign, names of three faculty and staff members will be drawn and those people get to designate an additional \$280 Challenge Gift to a Grand Valley fund of their choice.

For questions or more information, visit gvsu.edu/giving/facultystaff.

Making Waves

The Making Waves initiative continues on campus, recent activity is highlighted below.

Event will highlight Anishinaabe, Grand River

A member of the GVSU Native American Advisory Council will present a talk about the history of the relationship between the Anishinaabe and the Grand River as part of the Making Waves Initiative.

Belinda Bardwell, project coordinator in the Kutsche Office of Local History, will present “Social Justice and Science: How They Are Interconnected” on Tuesday, February 25, at 7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

Bardwell, a citizen of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Harbor Springs, will discuss how water health and ceremony must go hand-in-hand.

Hardy Dam tour



Honors students toured Hardy Dam and later interviewed people who were ice fishing February 17 during the Dam to Dam tournament in Croton. Students in the Making Waves class will edit the video interviews for YouTube. The class is taught by Tara Hefferan, affiliate professor of anthropology; Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology; and Eric Snyder, professor of biology.

GVNext recap:

Faculty honored for scholarship, service at awards convocation

Faculty members were honored February 11 for their research, teaching, service years and scholarship at the awards convocation held at the DeVos Center.

Maria Cimitile, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, welcomed the audience and said she considered Grand Valley faculty as creators.

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GVFACES

Craig Wieschhorster, Business and Finance

New to Grand Valley and Michigan, Craig Wieschhorster, associate vice president of Business and Finance, said he is enjoying being a part of the Laker community.

Wieschhorster graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in marine science. He earned master’s degrees in quality system management, public administration and business administration.

His career took him around the country, with stops in Washington, Florida, Virginia, Massachusetts and California. Wieschhorster worked as the senior duty officer in the White House situation room, deputy director for the Coast Guard and as a Coast Guard ship captain.

“I really enjoyed my time in the Coast Guard, because I worked with a lot of young people,” Wieschhorster said. “A lot of our crews were staffed by high school and college graduates, which was very energizing.”

He said the core values he learned in the Coast Guard prepared him for his role on campus.

“The Coast Guard, in general, is a mission-driven organization,” he said. “It’s got mission purpose, and some very nice parallels to higher education. I was looking for a challenge to change career paths, and higher education

seemed like a natural crosswalk in terms of career experiences and background.”

In his role within the Division of Business and Finance, Wieschhorster has different areas of focus including two auxiliary services that carry personal connections.

“My dad was a chef for 39 years, so I’m big into food and dining. That’s an area that will garner some attention from me,” he said. “There’s also the golf course, I’m sure I’ll be out there testing how well we’re doing.”

Wieschhorster moved from Alameda, California, and said he is getting used to Michigan’s weather and appreciates the warm campus climate.

“I enjoy the positive environment here; everyone seems to be going in the same direction,” Wieschhorster said. “I think it’s an exciting time to be at the university because of the new president and the new initiatives.”



Craig Wieschhorster

WHAT’S AHEAD

Passport Fair scheduled for Tuesday

The Padnos International Center will host a Passport Fair Tuesday, February 25, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Participants must bring proof of U.S. citizenship (passport, birth or naturalization certificate), proof of identity (driver’s license or Michigan State ID) and two separate checks/ money orders (\$110 to the Department of State, \$35 to the USPS).

Passport renewals are also available.

Passport photos will be taken at the fair for \$3 cash, with a GVSU identification card. More information is available online at gvsu.edu/pic.

Auto suppliers symposium to focus on opportunity in uncertain culture

Automotive logistics, global purchasing and supply chain are among the topics that will be discussed at the 21st West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium, hosted by the Van Andel Global Trade Center.

The March 5 event will be held in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, from 8 a.m.-noon, bringing together business owners, senior management and decision makers from all tiers of the industry, providing updated automotive forecasts and trends.

The theme for this year’s symposium is “Finding Opportunity in the Uncertainty.”

Keynote speakers are Tom Single, global chief engineer of functional cost for Ford Motor Co., and Christine Sitek, executive director of

global purchasing and supply chain for General Motors.

Other speakers include Mike Wall, executive director of automotive analysis at IHS Markit, and Kevin Wickering, director of materials and logistics for Shape Corp.

Plante Moran is the title sponsor of the event. Other sponsors include Chase Bank; Warner Norcross + Judd; IHS Markit; Morrison Industrial Equipment; Michigan Economic Development Corporation; The Right Place; The Comedy Project; Artiflex; ADAC Automotive; Michigan Automotive Accelerator; and Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center.

To register or for more information, visit www.vagtc.org or call x16811.

Mantella, GRCC president among panelists at next Health Forum

Area higher education and health care leaders will discuss the region’s health care workforce at a Health Forum of West Michigan event.

“How Higher Education in the Region is Powering the Health Care Workforce” will be held March 6 at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. A light breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. and the event will run 8-9:30 a.m. The forum is free and open to the public; RSVP online at gvsu.edu/vphealth.

President Philomena V. Mantella will join Bill Pink, president of Grand Rapids Community College; Pamela Ries, vice president of human resources for Spectrum Health; and Shana Lewis, executive director of talent acquisition for Trinity Health Michigan/Georgia/Florida

and National FirstChoice Program, as panelists. Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health, is the moderator.

The Health Forum of West Michigan monthly series is sponsored by Grand Valley’s Office of the Vice Provost for Health; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center; Michigan State University College of Human Medicine; and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement.

Departments team to host film about politics, civil discourse

Several campus departments are teaming with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation to host a screening of a documentary focused on establishing civil discourse during a political season.

“Bring It To the Table” is March 11 at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. A reception will begin at 4:30 p.m. followed by the film and table talks from 6-8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP for the event online at gvsu.edu/hc.

The film is produced by Julie Winokur and Talking Eyes Media, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization. It encourages people to step out of their silos when it comes to politics, listen and learn what others are saying and engage in civil discourse.

Sponsors are the Brooks College Padnos/ Sarosik Civil Discourse Program, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, College of Education, Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and the Office of Student Life.

ACROSS CAMPUS

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“I thought about our milestone honorees who have been here for the duration of their careers as well as our honorees who have recently joined us and are making a significant impact on the university,” Cimitile said. “All of us are creators, changing Grand Valley over time. Some call change over time evolution but I like to think of it simply as life.”

Feryal Alayont, professor of mathematics, gave the convocation address and also received the Outstanding Advising and Student Services Award.

In addition to other University Awards for Excellence, the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center and Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence presented awards. A list of award recipients is online at gvsu.edu/provost.

Park-like atmosphere planned for roadway on Pew Campus

Green space with benches, a walking path and bike trail may replace a stretch of roadway in front of the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Karen Ingle, vice president for Facilities Planning, said the Grand Rapids City Commission has approved a request to permanently close Mount Vernon Avenue

between Watson and Fulton streets. A portion of Mount Vernon Avenue has been closed for about two years while the city studied traffic patterns.

Grand Valley currently owns all properties adjacent to the street. Ingle said no timetable has been set for the redevelopment project, but an early concept plan includes a park-type setting with a 10-foot bike path that would connect to a Grand Rapids bike path.

“The redevelopment of that area will enhance the look of our downtown campus, connecting Secchia and Winter halls, the L. William Seidman Center and Bicycle Factory,” Ingle said.

GVSU named Military Friendly School

Grand Valley has been named a military friendly school for 2020-2021 by Military Friendly®.

The ranking recognizes higher education institutions that provide the best opportunities for veterans and their spouses. The list provides a comprehensive guide for veterans and their families using data sources from federal agencies and survey information from participating organizations.

More than 1,000 schools participated in the 2020-21 survey, with 625 schools earning the designation. The full list of recognized schools

will be published in the May issue of *G.I. Jobs* magazine.

Ratings were determined in part by Grand Valley’s ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students, specifically for student veterans.

Roger That!



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Astronaut Story Musgrave talks about space travel while delivering a keynote presentation February 14 in the DeVos Center during the Roger That! conference. The two-day event was a collaboration among Grand Valley, the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Roger B. Chaffee Scholarship Fund.

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

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

Longtime accounting faculty member dies

Dennis Stovall, an instructor of accounting for more than 15 years, died February 8 at age 60.

Stovall is remembered for his commitment to student learning and collegial interaction with all who knew him.

A service to celebrate his life was held February 15 at Heritage Life Story Funeral Home in Grand Rapids. Memorial contributions can be made to the Parkinson’s Association.

SKETCHES

Committee recognition



Bobby Jo Springer, director of Pathways to College, was honored with an award from the Black History Month planning committee for his dedication to making events during February successful.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources, presented a webinar, “Sinkholes to Stars: Exploring Microbial Ecosystems in Lake Huron’s Sinkholes,” for the National Marine Sanctuaries Webinar Series.

Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members **Katherine Moran** and **Dianne Conrad** gave two presentations, “Defining Project Types: Streamlining DNP Project Workload” and “A Global Team Approach to Advancing the Practice Doctorate in Nursing,” at American Association of Critical Care Nurses Doctoral Education Conference in Naples, Florida.

Marie VanderKooi, assistant professor of nursing; **Guenter Tusch**, professor of computing and information systems; and **Raymond Higbea**, associate professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, gave a presentation, “Impact of EHR Usability on Provider Efficiency and Patient Safety in Non-hospital Settings,” at the American Medical Informatics Association annual symposium in Washington, D.C. They were also co-authors of an article of the same name published in *Transactions of the International Conference on Health Information Technology Advancement*.

Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members **Marie VanderKooi** and **Geraldine Terry** gave a presentation, “Just Lose It! Exploring Health Adherence Through Design Thinking,” at the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science held at the University at Buffalo in New York.

Ronald Loeffler, associate professor of philosophy, wrote articles, “Snapshot: Robert Brandom,” published in *Philosopher’s Magazine*, and “Sellars’ Theory of We-Intentions and Gilbert’s Theory of Joint Commitment,” published in the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*.

David Alvarez, professor of English, translated a book, *A Significant Year*, a travelogue by Moroccan author Abdallah Saaf, published by the University of Chicago Press.

Valerie Peterson, professor of communications, wrote an article, “Identifications and Disidentifications: Stormy Daniels, Trump, and You,” published in *ETC: A Review of General Semantics*.

Elena Lioubimtseva, professor of geography and sustainable planning, was a co-author of an article, “Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans in the U.S. and France: Comparison and Lessons Learned in 2007-2017,” published in *Urban Climate*.

Mike Webster, professor of English, wrote two essays published in the *Norton Critical Edition of Selected Works of E. E. Cummings*.

Monica Johnstone, director of CLAS communications and advancement, created a quilt, “The Vision of St. Joan,” selected for Vision 2020: The Power of Sight, the Art of Seeing, an international textile traveling exhibition. The exhibition will make three stops in the United States on its two-year tour, including Grand Rapids in August.

Deborah Herrington, professor of chemistry, was a co-author of an article, “Formative Assessments Using Text Messages to Develop Students’ Ability to Provide Causal Reasoning in General Chemistry,” published in the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry*.

Kevin Strychar, professor of water resources, was lead author of a book chapter, “An Overview with Discussions on Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems in North America,” in *Climate Change and Non-infectious Fish Disorders*, published by CAB International.

Loren Rullman, vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students, was invited by the Society for College and University Planning to be part of a group of leaders from the U.S. and Canada helping it reposition the organization to serve higher education.

COE faculty discuss scholarship



The College of Education held its version of TED Talks February 5 with faculty members giving five-minute presentations about their scholarship.

Participating in “EdTalks 2020: Scholarship Worth Sharing” were Kathryn Ohle, Mihyun Han, Paula Lancaster, Terry Stockton, Jonathan Bartels, Darien Ripple, Melissa Pierczynski, Reginald Blockett, Nancy DeFrance, Rui Niu-Cooper and Sean Lancaster.

19-month program allows students to earn degrees, certificates in high-demand area

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down the barriers to their career success, while providing them with a certificate in one of four high-demand specialties. The program answers Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s call for more Michigan residents to finish their degrees, Mantella said.

“GVSU, born of a community’s understanding that a local university is a powerful economic engine, understands the need to embrace what is ‘next’ now,” Mantella said. “Now is the time to keep prosperity inclusive and our state competitive. We are proud to lead.”

Whitmer said the online accelerated degree program is a critical step that fits with the initiative she first announced during the 2019 State of the State address, in which 60 percent of Michigan adults will have attained a post-

secondary credential by 2030.

“GVSU has taken into account the needs of adult learners; this program was built with students in mind,” Whitmer said.

Mantella said the 19-month program allows students to shape their degrees in integrative studies while, at the same time, earning a certificate in leadership, applied data analytics, project management or global communication. Grand Valley has invested in this program, Mantella added, by reimbursing students the cost of the first course so that they can apply that to future courses.

Whitmer said Grand Valley’s program harnesses the assets of the university and helps lift the state’s profile nationally. Prior to announcing the 60-30 initiative, Michigan was one of nine states in the country that had not set

a formal education goal, she said.

“There are 100,000 jobs unfilled. This will ensure opportunities so every person will have a path to prosperity,” she said.

Mantella said the accelerated program is only the beginning of a portfolio of GVSU degrees and certificates offered in high-demand areas like computer science, cybersecurity, health and education.

“We will continue to expand our portfolio and locations to reach more Michigan citizens where they are,” she said. “The changing workplace demands creativity and a continuous investment in new paths to serve our people.”

More details about the program are online at gvsu.edu/complete.