

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## Board approves new sustainability studies major

A new major at Grand Valley will help students learn to develop a solutions-oriented understanding of environmental and sustainability challenges.

The environmental and sustainability studies major, which will be offered through the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies beginning fall 2019, was approved by the Board of Trustees during its February 8 meeting.

Coursework for the ENS major builds upon the framework of the pre-existing minor, which was established in 2008. The ENS major will encompass a variety of disciplines, including arts and humanities, physical and life sciences, and economic and policy studies.

Students will also be able to choose a focus area within the major, such as energy, sustainable food systems, cultural and the built environment, or water resources.

Kelly Parker, director of the environmental and sustainability studies program, said an increase in student interest and demand for professionals with education in the field helped

drive the creation of the new major.

The ENS major will emphasize a practical approach to environmental issues through collaborative problem-solving, involvement in faculty-led research projects, internships and community engagement projects.

“Grand Valley already has a well-established reputation as a green college,” Parker said. “We have an enormous number of faculty, students and staff who are already doing the work of sustainability and environmental studies. This program gives students a place to plug into all of that.”

Also at the Board of Trustees meeting:

- Students will see a modest increase in room and board rates beginning with the fall 2019



Photo by Amanda Pitts

At right, Youssef Darwich, Sustainable Agriculture Project manager, shows students the farm on Luce Street to students. A new environmental and sustainability studies major will be offered in the fall semester.

semester. Trustees voted to increase the rate by 1.5 percent. The average cost for housing on

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## Campus Rec encourages unplugging for week

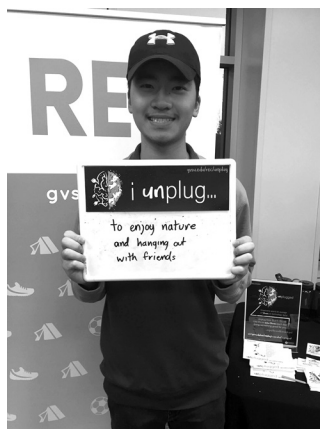
It’s a fact: people spend a lot of time looking at and using their various devices, especially on college campuses while completing school assignments, browsing social media, communicating or completing work projects.

The Campus Recreation team is encouraging students, faculty and staff members to take a break from technology for one week in an effort to improve their overall health and wellness.

Unplugged will run from February 24-March 2 in conjunction with National Day of Unplugging, March 1-2.

Kayla Cupples, assistant director of marketing for Campus Recreation, said the goal of Unplugged is to help the campus community not only become more aware of time and energy spent on technology, but also help people become more connected to each other and the world around them.

“We recognize that technology is extremely beneficial because it helps us connect in ways we never have before while making our lives much simpler,” said Cupples. “But we want to help the campus community understand the negative impacts that overuse can have on our health, relationships and overall well-being.”



Unplugged will run through March 2, with a goal of taking a break from technology in favor of healthy activities.

Cupples said unplugging can mean different things to people: putting away a phone, avoiding email during dinner or spending less time on social media. She added the expectation is not necessarily that people will completely ignore their devices during Unplugged.

“Research indicates that exercise can improve sleep, decrease feelings of depression, help protect against feelings of anxiety, boost self-confidence and improve focus and productivity,” she said.

During Unplugged, Campus Recreation will highlight normal programs and events taking place during the week, including Club Sports games and tournaments, Intramural Sports registration, snowshoeing, rock climbing and group exercise classes.

Other university departments — Art Gallery, Counseling Center and Campus Dining — will be offering activities, such as eating disorder screenings and “looking with intent” art explorations.

Cupples said this second iteration of Unplugged is taking place after a successful initial campaign during the fall semester.

“It provided increased visibility to Campus Recreation offerings, created awareness around the topic of unplugging, and provided an opportunity to motivate others through storytelling and testimonials featured on our Unplugged website,” she said.

The success of the original Unplugged initiative was also featured in the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association newsletter, which marked the first time Grand Valley has been featured in the NIRSA newsletter. For a full list of activities, visit [gvsu.edu/rec/unplug](http://gvsu.edu/rec/unplug).

# ACROSS CAMPUS

## NASPA recognizes degree program as top model

A national higher education association has recognized the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) offered by the Liberal Studies department and supported by the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies as an outstanding model for adult learners.

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) will present the Outstanding Adult Learner Program award to Grand Valley at its annual conference March 12 in Los Angeles.

ALP was established in 2014. Students who enroll in the 19-month accelerated degree program already have some college credits and take one five-week course at a time.

Simone Jonaitis, executive director of the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies, said the program works because it offers a high-quality curriculum taught by dedicated faculty members.

“The faculty work very collaboratively together not only to ensure students have quality and relevant content, they work collaboratively to build community among their students,” Jonaitis said.

Kate VanDerKolk, student services coordinator, said students gain experiential learning and community engagement opportunities through internships, research and capstone projects.

“This innovative, interdisciplinary format has been able to meet the needs of students with diverse professional goals, such as government business, nonprofit and education sectors,” VanDerKolk said. “It has a track record of launching students into their next steps: a promotion, career change or a graduate degree.”

## Registration open for Student Scholars Day

Registration is open through March 1 for students to apply to participate in the 23rd annual Student Scholars Day, April 10, hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.

Information about the registration process is online at [gvsu.edu/ours/ssd](http://gvsu.edu/ours/ssd). SSD is held annually to celebrate the scholarship and creative work of undergraduate and graduate students who were mentored by faculty members.

OURS is also looking for SSD volunteers. More than 100 volunteers are needed to fill two-hour time blocks to assist with a variety of tasks including registration, hosting sessions, and greeting participants and spectators. SSD volunteer registration is now open and will close on April 3. Volunteer registration is online at [gvsu.edu/ours/ssd](http://gvsu.edu/ours/ssd).

Questions can be directed to [ours@gvsu.edu](mailto:ours@gvsu.edu).

## Brooks College holds faculty showcase

Six faculty members from the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies gave presentations about work completed during their sabbaticals February 11 in Lake Ontario Hall.

Each faculty member used sabbatical time to work or complete a book; they are listed below.

Craig Benjamin, professor of history, *Empires of Ancient Eurasia: The First Silk Roads Era*; Jeremiah Cataldo, associate professor of history, *A Social-Political History of Monotheism: From Judah to the Byzantines*; Roger Gilles, professor of writing and director



Books by Brooks College faculty members are pictured during a sabbatical showcase February 11 in Lake Ontario Hall.

of the Meijer Honors College, *Women on the Move: The Forgotten Era of Women's Bicycle Racing*; Cael Keegan, assistant professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies, *Lana and Lilly Wachowski: Sensing Transgender*; Jack Mangala, professor of area and global studies and political science, *Africa and its Global Diaspora: The Policy and Politics of Emigration*; and Kimberly McKee, assistant professor of liberal studies and director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, *Disrupting Kinship: Transnational Politics of Korean Adoption in the United States*.

## GVNow recap:

### Lakeshore communities highlighted in exhibit

During the Cold War, Saugatuck and Douglas turned into a haven for college students, motorcycle gangs, hippies and other diverse communities. The towns' inclusivity caused

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## FORUM

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Other University Communications publications:

Grand Valley Magazine, published quarterly; visit [gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

GVNow, web publication; visit [gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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## GVFACES

### Steeve Buckridge, professor of history

A book written by history professor Steeve Buckridge caught the eye of Queen Elizabeth II and is now a catalyst to help save an endangered species of trees in Jamaica.

Buckridge's book, *African Lace-Bark in the Caribbean*, details how enslaved and freed African women in the 17th century would work with bark from legetto trees found only in Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti. When inner fibers from the bark dried, the end result resembled lace.

“They would soak the fibers in water and end up with this beautiful textile,” Buckridge said. He added lace-bark fashions were initially made into wedding gowns, shirts and dresses for the slave community and European royalty, including Queen Victoria in 1851.

He said overuse of the tree for its natural lace through the 19th century led to depletion of entire legetto forests and only a few trees remain in the Jamaican rainforest.

In 2015, Queen Elizabeth II launched the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy to foster

conservation initiatives to protect rain forests. The following year, Buckridge's book was included in a Jamaican display at a Buckingham Palace reception.

Buckridge has since worked with Jamaican officials, conservationists, scientists at the Natural History Museum of Jamaica and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in London to protect the few remaining trees.

He plans to work with Jamaican officials and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in an effort to inscribe the lace-bark trees' habitat as a world heritage site and collect lace-bark seeds for a seed bank.



Steeve Buckridge



# WHAT'S AHEAD

## Survivor of deadly Florida school shooting will give presentation

Samantha Fuentes, a survivor of the school shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, will be the featured speaker at an event sponsored by the Educational Foundations department in the College of Education.



Samantha Fuentes

Fuentes was a senior in February 2018 when the shooting took place. Seventeen people were killed; Fuentes still has shrapnel in her legs and behind her right eye.

The event, "Safe Learning Environments for our Students," will take place Wednesday, February 27, from 6-8:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

The program will consist of a short documentary ("G if for Gun") followed by a presentation from Fuentes and a panel discussion with four faculty members. Panelists include Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury, assistant professor of educational foundations; Scott Berlin, associate professor and director of the School of Social Work; Gwenden Dueker, associate professor of psychology; and Susan Harrington, associate professor of nursing.

The program is LIB 100/201 approved. RSVP to Heather Walker at [walkerh@gvsu.edu](mailto:walkerh@gvsu.edu).



Upcoming classes will teach design thinking components; a 2018 design thinking workshop is pictured.

## Design Thinking Academy will host pop-up classes

Two upcoming workshops by the Design Thinking Academy will aim to teach the campus community two essential elements — active listening and collaboration — in order to fully delve into the design thinking process.

Pop-up classes will take place on Thursday, February 28, (collaboration), from 6-8 p.m., and March 14 (listening), from noon-2 p.m. Both workshops will be held in AuSable Hall, room 1112, and facilitated by Steve Seward of Seward Consulting.

"The workforce requires individuals to work both independently and interdependently to resolve problems in various workplaces," said Seward. "These sessions are designed to provide strategies and ideas to help people

navigate the complex work of our collaborative teams focused on common outcomes."

David Coffey, Design Thinking Academy director and professor of mathematics, said that participants will learn essential skills for working effectively in teams to creatively solve problems by paying active attention to what people say they need and want.

Both pop-up classes are open to students, faculty and staff, and community members. To register, visit [gvsu.edu/designthinking](http://gvsu.edu/designthinking).

## Next Health Forum event focus is mental health

Mental health professionals will discuss depression, suicide and available resources and services at the next Health Forum of West Michigan event.

"Depression and Suicide" is set for Friday, March 1, at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium; a light breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the program at 8 a.m. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at [gvsu.edu/mipercc](http://gvsu.edu/mipercc).

Panelists are Evonne Edwards, psychologist and clinical director, outpatient clinical network, Pine Rest Christian Health Services; Dr. Philip Henderson, division chief, primary care, Spectrum Health Medical Group; Kristin Mecklenburg, director of clinical services and performance improvement, Forest View Hospital; and Dawn Rasmussen, access center program director, Network 180.

Health Forums are sponsored by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health and coordinated with community partners, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement. Sponsorship is provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

## Sigal lecture to explore young people and religion

An upcoming presentation will explore the importance of encouraging young people to grow in their interfaith understanding in order to become positive religious leaders of the 21st century.

Kinza Khan, a domestic violence attorney, will be the featured speaker during the 2019 Rabbi Phillip Sigal Memorial Lecture. The event is March 11 from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. It is free and open to the public.

Khan is an attorney at Life Span, an organization committed to helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She also serves as an educator and trainer for HEART Women & Girls, an organization that provides education about and advocacy for issues of sexual health and violence in Muslim-American communities.

Kahn earned a bachelor's degree in international studies from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and later received a law degree at DePaul University's College of Law. She has worked on issues like child welfare, women's rights and domestic violence

throughout her career while also engaging in interfaith work and various community development projects.



Kinza Khan

This year's Sigal Lecture is co-sponsored by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute and Campus Interfaith Resources.

The annual lecture is named for Rabbi Phillip J. Sigal, a pioneer of the interfaith movement in West Michigan until his death in 1985. After his death, a group of local academic and interfaith enthusiasts established the memorial lecture in his honor.

For more information, call the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at x15702 or visit [gvsu.edu/interfaith](http://gvsu.edu/interfaith).

## Metacognitive expert to lead faculty workshops

Metacognitive strategies draw students' attention to their own learning processes, and an upcoming Out-of-the-Box series will offer multiple events to help students and faculty tune in to how they think about thinking.

The series, led by members of the CLAS Faculty Council in cooperation with departments and programs across the university, will include three presentations on March 12 by Sandra McGuire, a nationally recognized expert on metacognitive strategies in teaching.

"We want to draw faculty and student attention to the important research and evidence-informed strategies for improving student learning," said Peter Anderson, professor of classics and CLAS Faculty Council member. "Most faculty and successful students likely use some of these strategies already, but by bringing metacognition into focus together in CLAS and more broadly across the university, we hope to generate discussion and energy around this specific strategy for student success."

The first two presentations will take place from 9-10:30 a.m. and noon-1 p.m., both in the Cook-DeWitt Center. The third presentation will take place from 2-3 p.m. on the second floor of the Eberhard Center.

Anderson said Grand Valley faculty are passionate about helping students, and metacognitive strategies, especially if used by a large number of faculty, can help students learn to be more engaged in their own educational choices.

Following these presentations, the CLAS Faculty Council will sponsor a series of open meetings to discuss metacognition and seek input from faculty for a series of continuing discussions next academic year.

Sponsors for this year's Out-of-the-Box series include the Provost's Office, Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, OURS, the McNair Scholars Program, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Education, and the Psychology Department.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## IN THE NEWS

### EdTalks 2.0



From mindfulness to sustainability to playful assessment, faculty members in the College of Education spoke about a variety of topics during EdTalks 2.0: Scholarship Worth Sharing, held February 6 on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Faculty presenters included Darien Ripple, BK Choi, Casey Thelenwood, Cathy Meyer-Looze, Rick Vandermolen, Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury, Irma Y. Ramirez, Cindi Smith, Paula Lancaster, Rui Niu-Cooper, Susan Carson and Sean Lancaster.

**Kimberly McKee**, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, was interviewed by Michigan Radio for a story about the exhibit “Stories of Summer,” which focuses on the Saugatuck-Douglas area.

**Robert Talbert**, professor of mathematics, was interviewed by EAB for a story about how to get more students to office hours.

## SKETCHES

**Monica Johnstone**, director of communications and advancement for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, created a quilt, “Edenic,” which was accepted into the 33rd annual LowellArts West Michigan Art Competition. The exhibition will be on display at LowellArts, 223 West Main St. in Lowell, February 23-March 30.

**Steve Glass**, professor of exercise science, and an undergraduate student were authors of an article, “Novel Fiberglass resistance Pole Training Implement: Reference Values for Exercise Prescription,” published in the *Biomedical Journal of Scientific and Technical Research*.

**Ingrid Johnson**, associate professor of movement science, was a co-author of an article, “Gym Class is Dead, But Long Live Physical Education,” published in the *Principal Leadership Journal*.

**Edward J. Baum**, professor of chemistry, wrote an article, “Learning Space Design and Classroom Behavior,” published in the *International Journal of Learning, Teaching, and Educational Research*.

**Zsuzsanna Palmer**, assistant professor of writing, wrote an article, “Legal and Ethical Implications of Website Accessibility,” published in *Business and Professional Communication Quarterly*.

**Sharon Whitehill**, retired professor of English, wrote a collection of poems, “Inside Out to the World,” published by Fishing Line Press.

**Jonathan Engelsma**, professor of computing and information systems, gave a presentation, “The MiteCheck Mobile App,” a citizen scientist app designed to help monitor varroa mite infestations of honey bee colonies at the American Beekeeper Federation’s Conference in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina. Engelsma also participated in a panel, “Electronic Hive Monitoring: Fad or Future,” at the same conference.

**Alan Steinman**, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was a co-author of an article, “Evidence for Interactions Among Environmental Stressors in the Laurentian Great Lakes,” published in *Ecological Indicators*.

## ACROSS CAMPUS

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Saugatuck-Douglas to become a popular destination for the LGBT community, which found acceptance there in the face of social and legal discrimination.

The Kutsche Office of Local History has created a project, “Stories of Summer,” to document the area’s history with the LGBT community. Elements from the project will be on display in the exhibit in the Mary Idema Pew Library exhibition space through March 14.

The project, funded through a National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage Grant, consists of more than 20 oral

histories and a digital library with more than 2,000 objects, photographs and memorabilia that capture life in Saugatuck-Douglas from the 1950s-70s.

The project is in partnership with the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center.

### KCON receives grant to fund scholarships

The Kirkhof College of Nursing received a \$600,000 grant to fund scholarships for students who are pursuing nursing and have earned a bachelor’s degree in another field.

The grant is from the Helene Fuld Health Trust, the nation’s largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing students and nursing education.

Cynthia McCurren, KCON dean and professor, said the scholarships will go to students who enroll in the Accelerated Second Degree Baccalaureate Nursing Program, a highly competitive 15-month program for students who have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher in another major and are pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

*For complete stories, visit [gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://gvsu.edu/gvnow).*

## Trustees also approve room, board rate hike, honor Hooker

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campus per semester will increase by \$17.

• David Hooker, president and CEO of Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and former board trustee, was recognized by the board.

Hooker was honored for his eight years of service on the board, which included serving as chair of the board and chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

“David was steadfast in his commitment to the governance of Grand Valley,” said Mary Kramer, chair of the Board of Trustees.

“His insistence upon academic quality, founded in the liberal arts, reflects his belief in providing students with the best possible educational experience.”

Hooker said he will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve on the board.

“It was an honor and privilege to serve this institution for eight years,” said Hooker. “The board members and others in this room are truly

exceptional people dedicated to student success, and I’ll always treasure the opportunity to be a part of it.”

Kramer said Hooker continued the legacy of service to Grand Valley started by his parents, Robert and Judith Hooker, who also served as members of the board.

The Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center on the Allendale

Campus was named in honor of them, as well as Earl and Donnalee Holton, to recognize their service to the university.



*Photo by Amanda Pitts*

David Hooker was honored for his eight years of service by the Board of Trustees February 8. Board chair Mary Kramer is at left.