

FORUM

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**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY
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Kaufman Interfaith Institute moves to new division

Following seven years of development and growth in the area of interfaith understanding, the Sylvia and Richard Kaufman Interfaith Institute has moved from the University Development Division to the Division of Inclusion and Equity.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said that the institute will allow the division to expand upon its work in religious diversity and furthers the university's strategic plan to be a more diverse and inclusive campus.

"Interfaith dialogue and understanding, as well as religious tolerance, are more important than ever in today's world," said Bernal.

"As part of our framework for Inclusion and Equity at Grand Valley, the division seeks to embrace diversity in its fullest sense and to understand complex intersecting social identities and deepen our university values for inclusiveness and community."

President Thomas J. Haas said this reorganization bolsters the goals of the institute and Grand Valley to broaden campus interfaith resources.

"Grand Valley's unique focus on interfaith dialogue and understanding as a public institution embodies our vision to be a model

that provides an inclusive learning environment, engages significantly in the community, and equips students to be active, lifelong learners and global citizens," said Haas.

Douglas Kindschi, Kaufman Interfaith Institute director, said the move is a shift that will help advance the mission of fostering greater interfaith understanding and dialogue, especially on college campuses.

"The past few years we have had a very busy and successful program in the community and it is most appropriate for us to take the next step by working more on the campus to promote the inclusion of all, regardless of faith or philosophical commitment," he said.

In 2015, the institute received a \$50,000 grant from the Grand Rapids Community



Students from Grand Valley and other colleges participated in September in the Made in Michigan: Interfaith Leadership Lab, an initiative of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute. The institute has moved to the Division of Inclusion and Equity.

Foundation to support interfaith efforts on local college campuses by funding student interns. These internships provided students

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Across Campus

Partnership improves college-going culture

A unique partnership among the College of Education, The Graduate School, Michigan



Photo courtesy College of Education

Graduate student Jeremy Bissett works with a student from Godwin Heights High School.

College Access Network (MCAN) and two local school districts is helping increase the number of students pursuing postsecondary education.

The partnership places two College of Education graduate students in Grand Rapids schools to help high school seniors learn about and apply for postsecondary education. This includes two- and four-year colleges, trade schools, certificate programs and other credential-granting programs.

Jeremy Bissett, a school counseling graduate student, is working in Godwin Heights High School, and Te'Asia Martin, a college student affairs leadership graduate student, is working in Kelloggsville High School.

Bissett and Martin give one-on-one assistance to students, helping them send transcripts and fill out financial aid forms. They also help seniors search for scholarships, inform students of their eligibility for various need-based scholarships and grants, and chaperone

field trips to colleges and college fairs.

Most of the high school students they assist are first-generation college students.

"I simply ask each student, 'What do you want for your life and how committed are you to getting there?'" said Martin. "If these students tell me they want to become a doctor, or a nurse, I help them craft their route to their destination. I don't tell them what to do, instead, I affirm their goals and desires. That way, it's their own path, and they can stay committed to the future that they want."

The partnership in Kelloggsville is new; the Godwin Heights partnership began more than a year ago.

Bissett said he helps seniors overcome the fear of being on their own and losing touch with friends from high school. "It can be scary to be on your own. I want students to feel more comfortable as they transition from high school to becoming young, independent adults," said Bissett.

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The partnership has proven to be successful. Data in Godwin Heights, as of April 2016, shows 87 percent of the senior class had applied to at least one postsecondary program, and 79 percent of the class had been accepted to at least one program. In a class of 117 students, a total of 346 applications was submitted to various in-state and out-of-state postsecondary institutions and programs, and 244 acceptance letters had been received.

MCAN, based in Lansing, sponsors several statewide initiatives with a goal of increasing the proportion of Michigan residents with postsecondary degrees or credentials to 60 percent by 2025.

“We need our students to dream and have hope for a better future,” said Martin. “It’s their hopes and dreams that make our communities, states and nation the place that it is.”

Martin said her experience at Kelloggsville High School has helped shape her passion into a craft and career. She and seven students from Kelloggsville are participating in the Grand Rapids Historically Black College Tour Experience during the winter semester. The group will visit colleges in Florida and Georgia.

Bissett said his experience at Godwin Heights High School is allowing him to apply what he is learning in the classroom. “As a school counselor-in-training, it is extremely valuable to work alongside counselors, teachers and administrators,” he said, “and, I enjoy working with students and watching their personal growth as they progress throughout their senior year of high school.”

High school students take college courses at their school

About 25 Rockford High School seniors are taking college courses within Grand Valley’s health professions program without leaving their school.

The partnership between Grand Valley and the school district was announced in April and the first group of students to take advantage of the program began taking classes in August.

RHS students who are interested in health care careers can apply to enroll in the two courses — Medical Terminology and Introduction to Health Care — in the Allied Health Science bachelor’s degree program that are offered at the high school.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Chad Sutcliffe, assistant professor and chair of allied health sciences, leads a class of Rockford High School seniors who are enrolled in an early college program through a partnership between the school district and Grand Valley.

Senior Ginger Dean has aspirations to become a pediatric nurse and said she enrolled in the program to gain a general understanding of medical terminology.

“People who are working in health care who I have talked to about this said they wish they could have done this in high school before they got to college,” Dean said.

The courses are taught three days a week by faculty members Chad Sutcliffe and Julie Alles-Grice, with support and discussion sessions led by RHS teacher Rick Folcik.

Sutcliffe, who lives in Rockford, said the first year of the program is going well. “In addition to learning college-level material, the students are getting exposure to a wide variety of health care careers,” he said.

The early college program is supported by the Rockford Education

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Faculty and staff members can find an online “Sketches” submission form on the Web at www.gvsu.edu/forum.

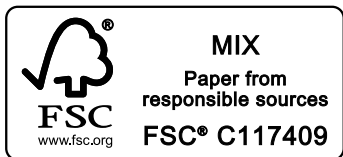
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Grand Valley State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



GVFaces

Relando Thompkins-Jones, Social Justice Educator/ Coordinator

Over the summer, Relando Thompkins-Jones wanted to learn how to ride a bike.

As he tried to master this new hobby, Thompkins-Jones said he struggled with societal expectations of “I should have known how to do this already.” He was afraid of falling, afraid of doing the wrong things. He did not realize it at the time, but learning to ride a bike was similar to his work at Grand Valley.

Thompkins-Jones joined the Division of Inclusion and Equity in July. As a social justice educator and coordinator, he develops social justice training and programming for students, faculty and staff members.

“There are a lot of folks who feel as if they should already know certain things, or are afraid of asking questions,” Thompkins-Jones said. “Once you get past this point of being afraid of falling, or realizing that you will make mistakes, then you can start to learn.”

Higher education is often very segregated, Thompkins-Jones said, and too often, students go through their lives without having many experiences with people from different backgrounds.

“There is this expectation that we get to college and we’re just supposed to figure it out with no conflict and with no disagreement,” he said.

Providing support through lectures, training programs or professional development workshops for campus members is a natural way

to aid that transition, Thompkins-Jones said.

He said he wants to develop an intergroup dialogue program for the campus community. Intergroup dialogues look for ways to navigate conflict across differences while also acknowledging the existence of power dynamics.

“We have to acknowledge systems like racism, sexism, ableism and other issues that can impact the way staff and students experience campus and the broader community,” Thompkins-Jones said.

He said these programs aim to bring people together, while also finding a way to act on the information they learn. Many students do not have a space to talk about complex issues in depth, and Thompkins-Jones wants to provide a place for these dialogues to happen.

“Even if folks have different things to say, we want to learn and understand where someone is coming from instead of wanting to attack them” he said. “It’s the kind of communication that takes time, but it’s definitely a worthwhile activity to engage in.”

Before joining Grand Valley, Thompkins-Jones had taught social work courses at Oakland University and the University of Michigan, and served as coordinator of U-M’s School of Public Health’s Future Public Health Leaders program.



Relando Thompkins-Jones

What's Ahead

Cybersecurity leader to speak at Seidman event

A former FBI special agent and leader on national security policy will be the keynote speaker for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture on Monday, February 13, at the L. William Seidman Center.

Mike Rogers, who is also a former U.S. Rep. for Michigan's 8th District, will give a speech, "Global Security Means Local Problems: Space. Cyber. Expansionism. Politics," from 8-9 a.m.; breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. Register by February 6 at www.gvsu.edu/seidman.

Rogers is the former chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence where he authorized and oversaw a budget of \$70 billion that provided funding to the nation's 17 intelligence agencies. Currently, Rogers hosts the nationally syndicated radio commentary "Something to Think About" on Westwood One.

He is a CNN national security commentator, and hosts and produces CNN's "Declassified." Rogers sits on the board of IronNet Cybersecurity and MITRE Corporation, and advises Next Century Corporation and Trident Capital.



Mike Rogers

Light refreshments will be served; RSVP by February 10 by sending an email to pbw@gvsu.edu.

The event is co-sponsored by the Division of Inclusion and Equity and the Women's Center.

Event will honor former student athletes

Four former Grand Valley student athletes or club sport members will be honored at the annual Celebrate Women in Sport and Physical Activity event, set for February 18 at the Fieldhouse.

They are Catherine Jones-Ridders, associate professor of management, who played softball for the Lakers; Molly Mahoney, who established women's ice hockey as a club sport; Jaida Bourke Fitzgerald, who played basketball for the 2006 national championship team; and Kathleen Kinkema, associate vice president for academic affairs at Western State Colorado University, who played softball and field hockey.

The event runs from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. prior to the start of the women's basketball game against Northern Michigan University. The campus community is invited; tickets are \$25 and include food, beverages and game ticket, \$15 from each ticket sold will benefit the Boand and Rowe Endowment for Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity.

RSVP for the event online at www.gvsu.edu/womeninsports.

The Boand and Rowe Endowment was established in 2013 to honor Joan Boand, professor emeritus of physical education, and Patti Rowe, professor emeritus of movement science, and their pioneering work at Grand Valley to advance sports and physical activity for women on campus.

Each year, honorees are selected based on successes they achieved and how their past involvement with varsity or club teams, or participation in physical activity, has attributed to those successes.

PBW hosts annual Valentine's event

Members of Positive Black Women will host their annual Valentine's event in conjunction with Black History Month.

"A Tribute to Black Women: Strong, Fierce and Dynamic Divas" is set for noon on Tuesday, February 14, in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

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Foundation. Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, said it works to a student's advantage to take college credits early. "This gives high school students an opportunity to explore health as a career and to get a leg up on their first semester of college, with six credits," Nagelkerk said.

New program, lab prepares students for cybersecurity careers

As data security becomes increasingly important to organizations worldwide, students now have the opportunity to further their education in this fast-growing field.

A concentration in cybersecurity has been added to the computing and information systems master's degree program; classes will begin in fall 2017. New graduate and undergraduate courses will cover topics such as software engineering, privacy, systems security, and digital forensics and investigations.

The new concentration may provide students security of their own — job security.

"Locally and nationally, there is a tremendous need for cybersecurity professionals," said Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. "Our industry partners tell us these professionals need to be strong both theoretically and practically, and it is our hope that the graduates from this program will make an immediate impact on the operations of their future employers."

A new lab that provides hands-on data security experience will complement the concentration and new courses. The Network and Security Lab, located in Mackinac Hall on the Allendale Campus, will allow students to simulate fake cyber attacks and learn how to defend against them.

Paul Leidig, director of the School of Computing and Information Systems, said a focus on data security is needed now more than ever.

"The more reliant on technology and computing we become, the more protection



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

A group of faculty members helped design and organize the new space: Mostafa El-Said, associate professor and chair of information systems; Vijay Bhuse, assistant professor of computing and information systems; and Andrew Kalafut, associate professor of computing and information systems.

we'll need from viruses, hackers and other threats," Leidig said. "Students have expressed an interest in learning more about cybersecurity,

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Move to Inclusion and Equity helps further university's strategic plan

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with opportunities to develop their interfaith leadership skills so they could apply them on their own campuses, and in the broader community.

The grant also helped the institute expand an interfaith service initiative that began in 2014. Through the initiative, congregations around West Michigan participated in various community service activities, including interfaith builds with Habitat for Humanity, volunteering at food pantries in

Grand Rapids, and bringing renowned interfaith speakers to Grand Valley, such as Eboo Patel, founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core.

The GRCF grant was follow-up funding to a similar grant the institute received for its 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding, which saw a year of more than 300 events take place, all with the central goal of exploring commonalities and differences in the religions of the world.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Paul Isely, professor of economics and associate dean of Seidman College of Business, was interviewed by several media outlets for stories about his 2017 economic forecast for the West Michigan area.

School of Engineering receives funding to enhance lab

The manufacturing controls lab in the Fred M. Keller Engineering Laboratories building will receive much needed equipment donated by several industrial companies in Grand Rapids.

Terry Stevens, affiliate faculty of engineering, said the \$63,000 of equipment will allow the School of Engineering to accommodate more lab use.

“We have to provide three lab sections each week, which has put a burden on the equipment. This gift will allow us to ease that burden,” said Stevens.

The lab is used by undergraduate and graduate students majoring in mechanical engineering and product design and manufacturing engineering. Stevens uses the lab to teach a course about industrial automation, where his students test how devices would be used in the real world.

Steinman earns award

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, received the Award of Excellence by National Garden Clubs Inc.

The award is given to individuals that have made contributions of national or worldwide significance in fields related to the group’s mission and goals.

The group selected Steinman based on his work that “makes a difference in advancing the study of gardening, environmental issues and horticulture,” according to the organization.



Alan Steinman

Sketches

Retired athletic director **Tim Selgo** received the lifetime achievement award from the NCAA Division II Athletic Directors Association.

David Stark, professor of history, wrote an article, “El repartimiento de terrenos en Cayey (1774) y los antecedentes de sus familias pobladoras,” in Puerto Rico’s Society of Genealogy Journal, *Hereditas: Revista de Genealogia Puertorriquena*.

Chris Dondzila, assistant professor of movement science, wrote an article, “Enhancing Support for Physical Activity in Older Adults: A Public Health Call to Action,” published in the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*.

Cheryl Dunn, associate professor of accounting, served as chair of a workshop “Pre-ICIS Workshop on Accounting Information Systems,” at the International Conference on Information Systems in Dublin, Ireland.

Joel Stillerman, professor of sociology, wrote an article, “Art in the Chilean Living Room,” published by the *American Sociological Association Section on Consumers and Consumption*. He gave presentations, “Metalworkers (1945-1995): The Spatiality of Labor Protest Before, During, and After the Most Recent Chilean Dictatorship,” at the History Institute, Catholic University of Viña del Mar, Chile; and “The Challenges of Constructing a Historical Case Study on Worker Mobilization,” at the College of Social Sciences, University of Chile.

Susan Mendoza, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, gave a presentation, “Nurturing Tenacity: Mentoring Undergraduate Students in the Humanities,” at the Conference on Excellent Practices in Mentoring Undergraduate Research, hosted by Elon University’s Center for Engaged Learning.

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so the lab and concentration in the master’s program will provide the opportunity for them to enhance their skills in this area.”

A group of professors helped design and organize the new space: Mostafa El-Said, associate professor and chair of information systems; Vijay Bhuse, assistant professor of computing and information systems; and Andrew Kalafut, associate professor of computing and information systems.

Kalafut said the lab will provide students with critical insights into the minds of cyber attackers.

“In order to know how to successfully defend against a hacker or virus, students must also learn how to attack a system. Students need to see both sides,” he said.

Internet security training provided

A new campus policy regarding computer and network access in case of malware infection has been approved and added to the university manual, and internet security awareness training has been approved for all employees.

The new policy specifies that any device or account connected to the campus network that has been compromised by a virus or malicious software must immediately be disconnected and removed from the network. If the device isn’t disconnected from the campus network, Information Technology may block the user account from the network until IT staff can verify that the device or account are no longer compromised.

Users whose devices become infected will be required to produce any infected device to IT immediately upon request to prevent information disclosure, data file destruction or exploitation of the compromised account.

IT staff will provide their identification and authorization to the person whose device was compromised prior to the device being removed from the network. IT will also take reasonable steps to provide a substitute device for use on the campus network while repairs are being made to the original device.

Additionally, internet security awareness programs have been approved and adopted by university senior management and will begin on February 1, with required completion by March 20.

All faculty and staff members will be notified by email when the training is set up and ready for completion. The training and awareness program consists of 15 mandatory and eight optional videos with two or three questions at the end of each. The entire training program will take approximately one hour.

“Faculty and staff members have had many attempts by hackers to change bank routing information, vendor information and attempt phishing emails and calls to steal account and password information,” said Sue Korzinek, director of Information Technology. “We are committed to helping employees learn the risks and warning signs of these security risks to keep university and personal data safe and secure.”

Any employee with questions about internet security or who suspects a network device may be infected with a virus or malware should contact Information Technology immediately at x12101.