

FORUM

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**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

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Research delves into advancement for women of color

Women of color who are in leadership positions in West Michigan do more work than their titles indicate, and reported feeling like an outsider in their workplaces or volunteer groups.

Statistics and stories of area women of color were shared during an event March 2 in the Kirkhof Center. The event was led by two Grand Valley alumnae who conducted research about race, gender and leadership in West Michigan.

Shannon Cohen and Patricia Sosa VerDuin surveyed 120 female leaders of color as part of their fellowship with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network.

Cohen said there is a lot of quantitative data available about numbers of women leaders. What is missing, she said, are their stories. "Without narratives, you lack a complete picture of the walls, ceilings and floors that restrict movement of women of color," said Cohen, a principal of Shannon Cohen Inc.

They surveyed 120 women of color, ages 30-60, then followed with focus groups to learn more about their successes and struggles at work and home. Highlighted results follow.

- 75 percent said they are motivated to lead because of being a difference maker;
- 57 percent said being the first and only woman of color in a group is a barrier to advancement;
- 55 percent said they feel like an outsider.

Sosa VerDuin, a principal of Mobius Coaching, said while 65 percent



Photo by Jess Weal

Shannon Cohen talks about the research she and Patricia Sosa VerDuin, seated, completed during an event March 2 at the Kirkhof Center.

may hold an assistant or mid-level job title, many women were doing the job of director.

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Faculty and Staff Campaign sets new participation goal

Grand Valley's Faculty & Staff Campaign "Together" kicked off in February with more than 100 volunteers across campus sharing information about how to give back.

Philanthropic support is an important way for faculty and staff members to demonstrate their commitment to students and Grand Valley. Last year, 54.2 percent of faculty and staff members participated in the campaign, making Grand Valley the most generous university community in Michigan.

Participants can select from more than 300 funds to support a specific area of the university they are passionate about to reach the 2016-2017 goal of 60 percent participation.

Faculty and staff members can give through payroll deduction, as a member of the Gillett Society with a planned gift, or by sending a donation to University Development.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/give for more

information. Questions can be directed to Carolyn Clayton, director of annual giving, at claytonc@gvsu.edu or x16605.

Radical changes coming for auto industry, exec says

Radical changes to the automotive industry were highlighted in the keynote address at the 18th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium, hosted by the Van Andel Global Trade Center.

Bryan Nyeholt, vice president of Global Product and Process Strategy for Yanfeng Automotive Interiors, discussed changes like global megatrends, including autonomous driving, connectivity, shared mobility and electrification, at the symposium on March 9 in the DeVos Center.

Nyeholt said a significant amount of redesigns and facelifts are coming into the market, and SUVs may continue to gain more market share in the next few years.

His company has more than 113 global



Photo by Rex Larsen

Bryan Nyeholt gives the keynote address at the West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium March 9.

locations, and Nyeholt said communication and cultural training has helped make the company successful.

"You can't communicate too much.

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If employees are informed, it alleviates fears,” he said. “Cultural understanding and respect is key for a global company. We are mindful of cultural traditions and we celebrate various traditions with our employees.”

Mike Hall, director of Automotive Analysis at IHS Markit, gave an industry outlook. He said consumer confidence, the housing recovery and economic growth are all still strong. Hall said looking ahead, car sales will struggle a bit while SUV sales will soar.

The annual symposium brings together business owners, senior management and decision makers from all tiers of the industry.

Sonja Johnson, executive director of VAGTC, said the symposium is meant to enhance the knowledge and competitiveness of Michigan automotive suppliers to help set strategic business decisions.

Tickets for GVSU Tigers game on sale

Comerica Park in Detroit could turn blue during a special Detroit Tigers game night created for the Grand Valley community.

“GVSU Night at Comerica Park” on July 26 is a special opportunity for Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members, alumni, friends and family to join as a community and celebrate the university at a Tigers game.

The game is Wednesday, July 26, 7 p.m., the Tigers will host the Kansas City Royals. \$5 from each ticket purchased via www.gvsu.edu/tigers/ will support the Grand Valley Scholarship Fund, a general fund dedicated to supporting students through scholarships. The first 1,500 fans who purchase tickets will receive a special co-branded Tigers/Grand Valley hat.

Several campus departments are sponsoring this event. Courtney Geurink, assistant director of Alumni Relations, said she hopes many campus community members participate.

“GVSU Night at Comerica Park is an opportunity for the university

community to ultimately showcase our Laker Pride while enjoying a Tigers game,” Geurink said.

“We want to see Comerica decked out in blue, black and white!”

Details are posted at www.gvsu.edu/tigers/. Ticket prices are listed below and include a \$5 donation to scholarship fund.

- Lower Baseline Box (Sections 112-114 & 141-143) \$49;
- Upper Box Infield (Sections 321-337 rows 1-10) \$39;
- Upper Reserve Infield (Sections 321-337 rows 11-20) \$34;
- Mezzanine (Sections 210-218) \$29;
- Upper Grand Stand (Sections 338-343) \$26.

Fans can reserve a seat on a bus for \$15 per person; it will leave the Allendale Campus at 2 p.m., stop at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, and will arrive in Detroit by 5:30 p.m., returning after the game. RSVP for a space online at www.gvsu.edu/tigers/.



Haas testifies in Lansing

President Thomas J. Haas testified in Lansing on March 9 before the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Haas was accompanied by Ella Fritzemeier, president of Student Senate at Grand Valley, and Sean O'Melia, executive vice president of Student Senate.

Haas joined leaders from four other universities addressing various topics including state funding, tuition costs, enrollment and graduation rates.



President Thomas J. Haas is pictured with Ella Fritzemeier, president of Student Senate, and Sean O'Melia, executive vice president of Student Senate.

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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

Ashley Guyton, administrative assistant, Office of Sponsored Programs

Ashley Guyton serves as the president of Positive Black Women, an organization that supports women of color at Grand Valley.

“At its core, it's just a place to talk,” Guyton said. “It is incredibly beneficial to have a conversation with someone who looks the same way you do, and we provide a setting where that is possible.”

Conversations at PBW meetings can center on current events, campus issues or personal issues. Simply having a setting for these discussions is important, Guyton said, adding that she wants to build relationships that would empower faculty and staff members of color.

“If we don't support our staff, then our students might not feel adequately supported,” Guyton said. “Everything I do at the university has the end goal of supporting and helping our students.”

Guyton is an administrative assistant in the Office of Sponsored Programs. In that role,

she supports faculty members who are securing research grants. She assists with federal guidelines, paperwork, and other situations that arise while preparing to conduct research.

“One of our biggest enemies is deadlines,” Guyton said. “We want to show faculty that we care about what they are doing, and we want to empower them to do it as best as they can.”

Guyton said this faculty support also leads to student support, even if it mostly occurs behind the scenes. Many faculty members collaborate with students throughout their research, or mentor students who are leading their own research projects.

“We need to foster the relationship between our staff and our students,” Guyton said. “By providing the best opportunities to staff and faculty, we are helping the future of students.”



Ashley Guyton



What’s Ahead

Fireside Chat series continues

A dialogue series that provides a safe environment for women on campus to discuss gender-related topics will continue with events on March 15 and April 5.

Both Fireside Chat events will feature faculty members and take place at noon in the Women’s Center, located in Kirkhof Center, room 1201.

Tonisha Jones, assistant professor of criminal justice, will discuss human trafficking at the March 15 event. Jones’ presentation will focus on the need for a feminist, human rights-based approach to combat the crime.

Karyn Rabourn, assistant professor of higher education, will give a presentation, “Teaching while feminist: When ‘strong woman’ becomes synonymous with ‘unfit teacher,’” at the April 5 event.

For more information about the series, visit www.gvsu.edu/women_cen or call x12748.

Wheelhouse Talks will feature ‘Start With Why’ speaker

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host Stephen Shedletzky, head engagement officer of the well-known “Start With Why” program, at the March 15 Wheelhouse Talks.

Shedletzky engages with groups across the country by supporting leaders to develop work cultures where people feel inspired, safe and fulfilled.

His work is part of the larger “Start With Why” program, created by author and speaker Simon Sinek, which aims to create work and organizational atmospheres that leave people inspired and fulfilled by the work they do because they are contributing to something greater than themselves.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the Eberhard Center. It is free and open to the public; RSVP online at www.hauensteincenter.org.

Shedletzky is a co-host and co-producer of the “Start With Why” podcast, and has worked with leading international organizations including Rutgers University, Columbia Sportswear and Boeing.

Holocaust survivor to visit campus

A woman who survived the Holocaust by escaping imprisonment will give a presentation

on Wednesday, March 15, as part of Women’s History Month.

In 1944, Magda Brown, from Hungary, was sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland, where she was separated from her family. She spent time at a work camp before escaping with other prisoners during a march to Buchenwald. They were discovered and liberated by American soldiers.

Brown, now 89, moved to the U.S. in 1946. She is a great aunt of Samantha Murray, a Grand Valley student who is president of the university’s Hillel chapter.

Brown’s presentation will take place from 7-9 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Hillel member Robin Hutchings said Brown’s presentation will be recorded and donated to Grand Valley’s archives.

“Magda loves presenting to university students because she feels we have some a great ability to make change in our societies,” said Hutchings, a dance and mathematics major.

The event is organized by Grand Valley’s Women’s Center and Hillel chapter. Hillel International is a Jewish campus organization.

Learn more about Brown at www.magdabrown.com.

Professional School Fair scheduled

Several campus departments have teamed to sponsor the Professional School Fair on Thursday, March 16, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center.

More than 70 institutions will have graduate school representatives available to meet with students who are interested in dentistry, physical therapy, veterinary medicine, optometry and other occupations.

New this year, the Army will display an interactive geodesic shelter, and the Pre-Professional Council will register students for Be The Match, which promotes bone marrow donation.

Sponsors are the Pre-Professional Council, CLAS Academic Advising Center, Office of the Vice Provost for Health and College of Health Professions.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising or call x18585.

Faculty workshop centers on civil discourse

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center will host a workshop for faculty members on facilitating critical conversations.

“Strategies for Creating an Inclusive Classroom” is scheduled for Friday, March 17, from noon-1 p.m. in Zumberge Hall, room 3068. Participants are invited to bring their lunches.

Discussion will include best practices used by liberal studies faculty members for creating and facilitating critical conversations.

Register for the workshop online at www.gvsu.edu/sprout.



Music students will perform compositions inspired by the exhibit ‘Comfortably Numb’ on March 17.

Student composition competition to examine media overload

Grand Valley students will put their composing skills to the test when they create original pieces of music for competition that are inspired by the current Art Gallery exhibition “Comfortably Numb.”

The one-minute compositions will be performed by the New Music Ensemble in rapid succession and judged by a guest panel and the audience for various prizes.

The competition will take place Friday, March 17, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center, Art Gallery (room 1121).

“Comfortably Numb” was created by Nayda Collazo-Llorens; it combines more than 2,000 pieces of clippings from various magazines and other printed materials to stand 9 feet high and span 45 feet of wall space in the Art Gallery. Collazo-Llorens said the piece spotlights media overload in today’s world.

The exhibition serves as one of the culminating projects of Collazo-Llorens’ residency as the Art and Design Department’s artist-in-residence. Her residency will conclude at the end of the this academic year.

“Comfortably Numb” will remain on display through March 31. For more information about the composition competition or the exhibition, visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

Across Campus



Photo by Eric Bouwens

Dana Van Dyke plays the piano during a rehearsal with Mosaic Scholars.

Music majors work with Mosaic Scholarship recipients

Music students from Grand Valley recently helped 20 local high school students compose and perform music through an internship with the Grand Rapids Symphony.

Four students spent a week in February working with leaders from Creative Connections, an international nonprofit cultural education organization, to help the symphony’s Mosaic Scholars compose, rehearse and perform original pieces of music.

The Mosaic Scholarship is offered by the symphony to local music students of color, ages 12-18. Recipients receive 24 individual lessons with symphony musicians over a year. Mosaic Scholars also create original compositions and perform them during the symphony’s annual “Symphony with Soul” concert.

The Grand Valley students who worked with the Mosaic Scholars included Dana Van Dyke (piano), Kayla Torres (bassoon), Margaret Hawley-Lowry (violin) and Maiya Howard (flute).

Torres, a senior majoring in music performance, said her internship experience taught her the value of strong leadership, and

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FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News



A Grand Valley contingent from TRIO programs and African/African American Studies is pictured in the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

TRIO programs tour Washington

More than 20 students, faculty and staff members traveled to Washington, D.C., on March 5-6.

MarcQus Wright, director of TRIO Student Support Services, and **Louis Moore**, associate professor of history and coordinator of African/African American Studies, led students from AAAS and TRIO. The group visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture and other Washington landmarks.

The trip was supported by TRIO programs, African/African American Studies, Black Faculty Staff Association, and contributions from the Academic and High-Impact Opportunities Support Program Fund.

In late February, Wright led TRIO students on a tour of the Steelcase headquarters.

WGVU staff member receives Silver Circle Award

Jay Lowe, assistant general manager of WGVU Public Media, was honored by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with the Silver Circle Award. Lowe was recognized February 26 at a luncheon in Birmingham for his 34 years of service in the television industry.

One of the highest honors given by NATAS, the Michigan Silver Circle recognizes television professionals who have performed distinguished service within the television industry for 25 years or more. Honorees also give back to the community as mentors, educators and volunteers.



Jay Lowe

Lowe began his career at WLNS-TV in Lansing. In 1986, he joined WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids, directing award-winning newscasts, telethons and a wide variety of sporting events. He was promoted to management in 1992.

He is an Emmy Award winner and five-time winner of the Michigan AP Award for Best Live Sports. He was also part of the team that built the well-known WZZM 13 Weatherball.

Sketches

Brent Nowak, executive director of the Applied Medical Device Institute, was interviewed for a segment of the M2 TechCast for a podcast about the process to get a medical device approved by the FDA.

Gina Bovee, CAP®, director of endowed and planned giving, was elected to the board of directors for the Western Michigan Planned Giving Group. Bovee had served on this board from 2009-2014 as a member and secretary. WMPGG is one of more than 100 local councils of the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners.

Ian Lang, research coordinator for the Community Research Institute at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, was a co-author of an article, “Health Insurance Challenges in the Post-Affordable Care Act Era: A Qualitative Study of the Perspective of Low-Income People of Color in Metropolitan Detroit,” published in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.

Jeremiah Cataldo, associate professor of history, Honors College, wrote a book, *Biblical Terror: Why Law and Restoration in the Bible Depend Upon Fear*, published by Bloomsbury.

Glen Swanson, visiting professor of physics, wrote an article, “On Course to Tomorrow: A History of Lear Siegler Instrument Division’s Manned Spaceflight Systems 1958-1981,” published in *Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly*.

Erica Hamilton, assistant professor of education, was a co-author of an article, “A Personalized-Learning Toolbox for Teachers,” published in *Educational Leadership*.

Leanne Kang, visiting professor of education, was invited by the American Education Research Association to present her findings on the relationship between school closures and governance change in Detroit at the AERA conference in April. Her findings will also appear as a chapter in a book, *The Costs of School Closure: Context and Consequences*, published by Information Age Publishing.

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the need for adaptability when working with young students.

“It helped me understand the needs, talents and passions of these students, as well as strategies for coaching them through difficult tasks,” said Torres, from Marysville.

Claire VanBrandeghen, Grand Rapids Symphony director of education, said this internship was an invaluable opportunity to strengthen the longstanding relationship between the symphony and the university while also preparing students for their future careers.

Teaching institute focuses on inclusive excellence

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center has partnered with the Division of Inclusion and Equity to offer a three-day Inclusive Excellence Teaching Institute for affiliate and tenure-track faculty members.

Christine Rener, director of the FTLC and vice provost for Instructional Development and Innovation, said the institute is designed for faculty members who are new to the idea of engaging difference in the classroom, but ready

to make inclusiveness a focus in their teaching.

The institute will be held May 3-5. Faculty who complete the institute will continue to meet monthly throughout the fall semester, participants who complete course criteria will receive \$500 in professional development funds.

Contact Dana Munk, Pew FTLC Faculty Fellow, at munkd@gvsu.edu for more information. The deadline for registration is April 3 and can be completed online at www.gvsu.edu/fltc/.

Another session of ‘Invisible Walls’ set for March 16

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“The women shared that job titles are important to them,” she said.

Along with sharing numbers and stories, Cohen and Sosa VerDuin shared recommendations, including widening the job candidate pool by connecting with area affinity groups, and rethinking pipeline programs and relational portals that led to hiring.

“We also call on people to be better allies and educate yourselves of what being an ally means,” Sosa VerDuin said.

The pair will give another presentation of “Invisible Walls, Ceilings and Floors: Championing the Voices and Inclusion of Female Leaders of Color in West Michigan” March 16, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. It is free and open to the public; RSVP at invisiblewallsceilingsandfloors-kent.eventbrite.com.

After the March 16 event, a website, www.sisterswholead.com, will be made live. It will include their full report, list of area affinity groups and other resources.