

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by University Communications



Employment growth in 2014 a positive surprise

Employment results in the West Michigan area for 2014 were much higher than anticipated, according to Paul Isely, professor of economics and associate dean in the Seidman College of Business.



Economics professor Paul Isely is pictured last year presenting results at the Economic and Real Estate Forecast. He said employment growth for 2014 rose higher than anticipated.

Isely revealed the findings of his benchmark survey of the regional economy at the Colliers Annual Economic and Real Estate Forecast, January 16 at DeVos Place. The survey of the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December.

Isely said employment for the Grand Rapids metro area was up 3.8 percent in 2014, well above the 3.1 percent expectation, which was a positive surprise. He said employment is expected to grow by 2.8-3.2 percent in 2015.

"More than three quarters of respondents (78 percent) expect to hire in 2015, which is up from 69 percent last year," said Isely. "Of those persons being hired, about 80 percent are expected to be permanent workers. This suggests hiring in West Michigan will continue at a rate faster than the country as a whole."

Isely said organizations expect a 75 percent business confidence level for 2015, which is the highest reading since December 1999.

"This is significant because when business leaders are confident, they hire and invest more," said Isely.

"There has been a steady increase in business confidence since the low seen in 2008, and the West Michigan business leaders surveyed see this improvement continuing during 2015. West Michigan confidence is now back to levels seen during the 1990s. The regional economy is expected to continue to grow in 2015, but the rate of this increase is also expected to slow down."

Isely also said all of the major real estate markets in West Michigan are back above their 2000 prices.

He also noted that Michigan's economy was led out of the recession of 2007-2009 by automotive manufacturing and this growth is now slowing and employment growth is shifting to services.

continues on page 3

Across Campus

Campus mourns death of artist

The campus community is mourning the death of artist and longtime university supporter Cyril Lixenberg. The artist, who suffered from prostate cancer, died January 11 at age 82 in his Amsterdam home with his daughter, Dana, and son, Onno, by his side.

Henry Matthews, director of galleries and collections at Grand Valley, said Lixenberg has been a part of Grand Valley since 1998 when he offered his first donation of personal works.

His donation of more than 300 silkscreen prints led to the creation of the Print and Drawing Cabinet, which preserves museum-quality works of art on paper. "The Print and Drawing Cabinet has grown to more than 3,000 museum-quality works on paper by many different artists and has become an important learning and teaching resource," Matthews said.

Lixenberg has contributed examples of his work over the years right up to a donation in 2014. Currently, Grand Valley's Lixenberg collection includes more than 550 works of art, including works on paper and small and large sculptures. In 2013, Lixenberg received an



Dutch artist and Grand Valley supporter Cyril Lixenberg died January 11. He is pictured with his sculpture, 'Magela - S,' at the DeVos Center.

honorary doctorate from Grand Valley.

Aside from making an impact at Grand Valley, Lixenberg left his mark in West Michigan, specifically in Holland.

His piece "Uniting Sun" is the largest sculpture in the Holland area and the River Avenue Bridge has officially been named Unity Bridge in honor of the piece. The bridge is lined by Lixenberg's "New Dawn Rising," which consists of 12 discs accompanying "Uniting Sun."

Matthews said Lixenberg visited Grand Valley and West Michigan annually to work with students, faculty, the Charter Schools Office, ArtPrize, local museums and exhibitions.

For more about Lixenberg and his art, visit cyrillixenberg.com.

Grant creates civic engagement project

Students who attend Grand Valley, Aquinas College and Grand Rapids Community College will have more community-based learning opportunities through a pilot project funded by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

Ruth Stegeman, director of Community Engagement at Grand Valley, said the Engaged Department Initiative is a unique project that will lead to more sharing of resources and learning best practices to help faculty at each institution employ community-based learning as a strategy to achieve key academic goals.

Stegeman is the principal investigator for the

continues on page 2

Across Campus

continued from page 1

two-year, \$65,000 grant from GRCF. The three institutions will also work with Michigan Campus Compact, a coalition of colleges and universities established to create public service opportunities for students. Stegeman said an Engaged Department Institute will be held in the spring and facilitated by Richard Battistoni, a national leader in community-based teaching and learning.

At Grand Valley, the Office of Community Engagement will accept applications from academic departments that would like to be involved. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to plan and implement strategic initiatives that will advance the integration of community-based teaching, learning and scholarship into departmental curriculum and culture.

Stegeman said one of the biggest advantages for students includes applying classroom theory to real-world problems.

"The more experiential learning opportunities students get, the more skills they develop for the work force, including collaboration, communication, quantitative literacy and problem solving," Stegeman said. "In addition, community-based experience, including part of one's coursework, can be added to a student's resume."

The deadline for faculty or staff members to apply for an Engaged Department grant is February 13. Contact Stegeman at stegemar@gvsu.edu for details.

WGS changes name, status

Women and Gender Studies has changed its name to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies and is now a department.

Kathleen Underwood, chair of the new department, said moving from a program to a department reflects the growth in enrollment, curriculum and faculty members over the past decade. Departmental status also helps students as they seek employment and graduate school.

Underwood added that adding "sexuality" to the department name means students will have a broad range of interdisciplinary courses that focus on women, gender and sexuality.

"In developing the LGBTQ minor last year, we realized that we also wanted our program name to make evident our



Kathleen Underwood

commitment to LGBTQ Studies on campus and in the broader community," Underwood said.

Eduroam allows wireless access

Grand Valley is participating in an Educational Wireless Network federation program that will allow the campus community to access the wireless network at other participating universities.

Eduroam allows users to access wireless networks via their institutional email addresses and passwords. When visiting a participating university, select the "eduroam" wireless network name and enter your Grand Valley email address and password.

For more information, visit www.eduroam.com or www.gvsu.edu/it and search "Eduroam."

ArtPrize animation with campus ties on display in Holland

With more than 1,000 entries at 170 venues in Grand Rapids, it can be challenging for ArtPrize entries to cut through the noise and gain attention during the annual art festival. Luckily for a collaborative project involving multiple Grand Valley faculty members and students, the group is getting another chance to showcase its work.

"Animated Collaboration," which was voted into the top 25 of the time-based art category at ArtPrize under the name "Animation Collaboration," will be on display through February 28 at the Holland Area Arts Council during the venue's fourth annual RePrize exhibit. RePrize features 17 pieces from 20 artists who entered their work in ArtPrize's 2014 installment.

Deanna Morse, Grand Valley emerita professor of film and video, said "Animated Collaboration" celebrates children's animation from around the world.



'Animated Collaboration' will be on display at the Holland Area Arts Council through February 28.

continues on page 3

FORUM Volume 39, Number 17

The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, c/o forum@gvsu.edu. Telephone: 616-331-2221. Fax: 616-331-2250. Web: www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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

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Other publications by University Communications include:

Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVNNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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



GVFaces

Doug Graham Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Doug Graham, who grew up in Brazil, never thought he would find a job he loved in Michigan. Yet this academic year marks his 11th year as an associate professor of biomedical sciences at Grand Valley.

"It's been a really good fit," Graham said. "There are many positive aspects to Grand Valley and West Michigan."

Graham earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Denison University in 1983, a master's degree in geography from the University of Florida in 1986, and a doctoral degree in microbiology with a focus in mosquito born viruses from Colorado State University in 1999.

He got his start in academia by teaching advanced placement biology at a prep school in Connecticut. "The surroundings were gorgeous, and it was a wonderful environment to live and work in, especially the teaching," he said. "But after a while, I decided I wanted to teach at the college level."

Graham came to Grand Valley in 2003 and

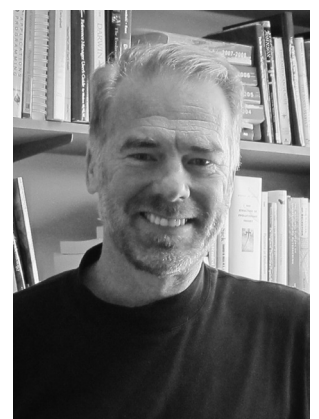
said the university is a good fit for him.

"I like that scholarship is valued, encouraged and expected," he said. "Professors are able to focus on teaching and not just researching."

Before coming to Grand Valley, Graham worked for the Centers for Disease Control in the division of parasitic diseases.

"My stint at the CDC was about as interesting and beneficial as I can imagine a post-doc being," he said. "I was in a very productive lab, and interacted with a lot of other top quality researchers."

In his free time, Graham enjoys playing soccer and reading.



Doug Graham

What's Ahead

Marcia Haas to give 'Her Story'

The next speaker in the "Her Story" series will be Marcia Haas, an active community member and wife of Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas.

Haas' presentation will take place on Thursday, January 22, at noon in room 2204 of the Kirkhof Center.

Haas is a native of Union City and a graduate of Albion College. She serves on the Grand Rapids Symphony Board of Directors, Clark Retirement Community Board of Trustees, Kent County Parks Foundation Board of Directors and is an active member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Marcia and Thomas Haas have three children and four grandchildren.

The Her Story series, co-sponsored by the Women's Commission and Women's Center, provides an opportunity for the campus community to listen to authentic stories of women in leadership positions at Grand Valley.

For more information, visit the Women's Commission website at www.gvsu.edu/w_commission.



Marcia Haas

Writers Series will feature two authors

The Grand Valley Writers Series is offering a two-for-one showcase with authors and Grand Valley writing faculty members Todd Kaneko and Beth Peterson discussing their works on Thursday, January 22, at 6 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Kaneko is the author of *The Dead Wrestler*

Elegies (Curbside Splendor, 2014). His poems have appeared in *Bellingham Review*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Barrelhouse*, *The Normal School*, *The Collagist* and many other journals and anthologies. He has received fellowships from Kundiman and the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop.

Beth Peterson is a non-fiction writer and new to the writing faculty. A wilderness guide before she began writing, Peterson is finishing her first book of lyric essays, which are set in a disappearing glacial landscape in Norway. Peterson has recent work in *Fourth Genre*, *River Teeth* and *Passages North*.

Science event will celebrate Year of Light

Exploring the anatomy of glow sticks, laser light shows and tours of the solar system are just a handful of activities the West Michigan community is invited to experience at this year's Super Science Saturday.

In celebration of the International Year of Light, Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center and Physics Department are hosting "Super Science Saturday: The Wonder of Light," Saturday, January 24, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Padnos Hall.

The event will provide educational activities and opportunities for students and their families to experience light and how it applies to science, technology, history and art.

Super Science Saturday is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/rmsc.

PBW to host lunch and learn

Positive Black Women will host a Lunch and Learn session about mortgage financing on January 27.

Lenders from Mercantile Bank of Michigan will be available during the session, which is set for noon-1:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 1142. A light lunch will be served.

RSVP by Friday, January 23, online at www.gvsu.edu/pbw.

Raise a glass with Gatsby at the Presidents' Ball

Tickets are on sale for the 28th annual Presidents' Ball, old sport.

Student Senate President Andrew Plague and President Thomas J. Haas are hosting the annual event on Friday, February 6. The theme of this year's ball is "The Grand Gatsby."

The event will be held at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Avenue NW. Cocktail hour will start at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:15 p.m., and dancing from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

Tickets for the dance will be available at the 20/20 Desk in Kirkhof Center for \$15; the price for the dinner and dance is \$30.

Faculty and staff members will be presented with awards at the event. Deb Rambadt, marketing manager for Campus Dining, will receive the Laker of the Year Award; Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will receive the President Appreciation Award; and David Hick, professor of modern languages and literature for the Honors College, will receive the Student Award for Faculty Excellence.

Buses will run throughout the night with stops at Kirkhof Center, Mackinac Hall and DeVos Place. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Attendees cannot enter the event without tickets and must have a photo ID. Use #GrandGatsby on social media.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/presidentsball.

Across Campus

continued from page 2

"It's an intergenerational collaboration between artists, educators, students and both local and international organizations," Morse said.

Along with Morse, Suzanne Zack, Grand Valley film and video professor; Maggie Annerino, Grand Valley media studies professor; Gretchen Vinnedge, Community Media Center education director; and Lynn McKeown, CMC Education project coordinator, as well as multiple Grand Valley students, were also a part of the local team behind creating "Animated Collaboration." A new addition to the piece is a custom soundtrack produced by Dan Rickabus, '10, current drummer for local indie-folk band The Crane Wives.

The video is a byproduct of 19 animation workshops held around the world each year

by the Association International du film d'Animation in 15 countries, including Belgium, China, Croatia, France, Japan and Ukraine. During these workshops young people build animations to a common theme. The short films are then compiled and premiered at international animation festivals.

The local ASIFA workshop, facilitated by Morse and Vinnedge, included students from Grand Rapids Public School's North Park Montessori, the Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth, Jubilee Jobs GR, Grand Valley and multiple CMC interns.

The Holland Area Arts Council is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

For more information about this piece, visit www.deanimations.com.

Economic report: employment up

continued from page 1

Overall findings for 2015 are listed below.

- Employment expected to grow by 2.8-3.2 percent;
- Sales expected to increase by 2.5-2.9 percent;
- Export growth forecasted to be weaker than last year, with expected growth between 6.7-7.7 percent;
- All indicators signal the 2015 economy continuing to grow as last year.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

Sketches

Debjani Chakravarty, assistant professor of women, gender and sexuality studies, gave presentations, “Observing and Theorizing the Internet as Trans-Space: Are Cyberfeminisms *Passé*?” and “The Nation within the Transnational: The Messiness of Religious/Cultural Pride, Academic Censorship, and Gendered Nationalism” at the National Women’s Studies Association conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Lynn Sheehan, head of liberal arts programs for University Libraries, gave a presentation, “Re-Framing Liaison Librarian Workload,” at the Library Management Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lindy Scripps-Hoekstra, liaison librarian, gave a presentation, “Painting on an Electronic Easel: Tips and Tricks for Using a SmartBoard in Library Instruction,” at the LOEX Conference in Grand Rapids.

Gayle Schaub, liaison librarian, gave a presentation, “Artists, Archives, and Academics: Civic Studio at GVSU,” at the Michigan Library Association Academic Libraries Conference in Lansing.

Matt Reidsma, web services librarian, gave an online presentation, “What Makes a Great Library Website?” for PLA Online Learning for the Public Library Association.

Sok Kean Khoo, distinguished associate professor of molecular genomics, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health and University of Nebraska for a project, “Global Genomic and Proteomic Profiling of African Children with Typhoid Fever.”

Charles Pazdernik, professor of Classics, wrote a chapter, “Belisarius’ Second Occupation of Rome and Pericles’ Last Speech,” for a book,

Shifting Genres in Late Antiquity, published by Ashgate.

Annis Water Resources Institute staff members **Mary Ogdahl** and **Al Steinman** co-wrote an article, “Factors Influencing Macrophyte Growth and Recovery Following Shoreline Restoration Activity,” published in *Aquatic Botany*.

Mathew Edick, affiliate faculty of biomedical sciences, co-wrote articles, “Transient Induction of ING4 by Myc Drives Prostate Epithelial Cell Differentiation and its Disruption Drives Prostate Tumorigenesis,” published in *Cancer Research*, and “Host Thiopurine Methyltransferase Status Affects Mercaptopurine Antileukemic Effectiveness in a Murine Model,” published in *Pharmacogenetics and Genomics*.

Jeremiah Cataldo, assistant professor of Honors, wrote a chapter, “The Other: Sociological Perspectives in a Postcolonial Age,” published in a book, *Imagining the Other and Constructing Israelite Identity in the Early Second Temple Period*.

Donald Mitchell Jr., assistant professor of education, co-edited a special issue of a journal, “Informing Higher Education Policy & Practice Through Intersectionality,” published by the *Journal of Progressive Policy and Practice*.

Jay Cooper, associate professor of education, wrote an article, “Ten Years in the Trenches: Faculty Perspectives on Sustaining Service-Learning,” published in the *Journal of Experiential Education*.

Brian Kingshott, associate professor of criminal justice, wrote a chapter, “Investigation of Human Trafficking,” in the book *Combating Human Trafficking: A Multidisciplinary Approach*, published by CRC Press.

Daniel Bergman, associate professor and chair of biomedical sciences, served as chair

for a session and gave two presentations, “Human Impacts: Toxin-Induced Behavioral Alterations in Crayfish” and “An Investigation of the Intrinsic and Extrinsic Influences on the Aggressive Behavior of Crayfish,” at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Ambrose Bradley, professor of physics, gave a seminar, “Using Research to Investigate and Enhance Student Learning in Upper-Division Mechanics,” at Michigan State University Physics Education Research Seminar, University of Mississippi Physics Department Colloquium and Ohio State University Physics Department Colloquium.

John Constantelos, professor of political science, wrote an article: “Vetoes and Venues: Economic Crisis and the Roads to Recovery in Michigan and Ontario,” in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, assistant professor of criminal justice, gave a presentation, “Corporate Crime: Examining the Impact of the Kalamazoo River Oil Spill,” at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings in San Francisco, California.

Catherine Meyer-Looze, assistant professor of education, gave a presentation, “Creating a Cycle of Continuous Improvement through the Instructional Rounds,” at the 28th Annual International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement Conference.

Rick Albrecht, professor of movement science, gave a webinar, “Training One-Trick Ponies: Costs and Benefits of Single-Sport Specialization in Youth Sports,” for the Navy Installations Command of the U.S. Navy.