

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by University Communications



Bernal named vice president for Inclusion and Equity

President Thomas J. Haas has named Jesse M. Bernal vice president for Inclusion and Equity.

“Dr. Bernal has the experience, talent and fresh thinking needed to enhance and expand Grand Valley’s commitment to diversity,” Haas said January 27. “I look forward to having him on the senior management team for years to come. He has much to contribute to Grand Valley and to West Michigan.”

Bernal is director of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at Santa Clara University in California, where he focuses on recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty, staff and student body. Prior to joining SCU, Bernal coordinated system-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives in the Office of the President at the University of California.

While a student at UC Santa Barbara, he was appointed a voting member of the Board of Regents of the University of California and served for two years. He received a bachelor’s

degree in political science from Westmont College, and a master’s and a doctorate in education, both from UC Santa Barbara.

“I am honored to be asked to join Grand Valley and proudly accept President Haas’ invitation,” Bernal said. “Grand Valley is a leader for equity in public higher education. I look forward to partnering with all members of the campus community and our neighbors across West Michigan to build on the solid groundwork set by long-standing diversity champions.

“We all have a stake in this work, and together we will continue to advance our commitment to the inclusion and success of all



Jesse M. Bernal

our students and community members.”

The mission of the Inclusion and Equity Division is to provide a rich, inclusive, learning and working environment that attracts, retains and supports a diverse community of students, faculty and staff members.

The division is committed to removing barriers to full participation, creating and maintaining inclusive excellence, developing intercultural competency, advancing a campus climate of inclusion and equity, building and engaging the community, and advancing social justice.

Bernal expects to join the university in late February. He succeeds Jeanne Arnold, Grand Valley’s first vice president for Inclusion and Equity, who left the university in July after serving in the position for seven years. Wendy Wenner, a longtime dean and faculty member, is leading the division until Bernal arrives.

Across Campus

Faculty convocation celebrates teaching, scholarship

The annual Faculty Awards Convocation is set for Thursday, February 5, at 4 p.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Darren Walhof, professor of political science, will give the keynote address, “Just Teaching.” Walhof will also receive the University Outstanding Teaching Award.

Provost Gayle R. Davis will present other university awards for excellence. Recipients are listed below.

- Mary Bower Russa, professor of psychology, Outstanding Advising and Student Services Award;
- Yi Zhao, associate professor of political science, Outstanding Community Service Award;
- Anne Caillaud, associate professor of modern languages and literatures, Outstanding University Service Award;
- Jitendra Mishra, professor of management, Distinguished Contribution in a Discipline Award.

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center will present Teaching

Excellence Awards to Mary Bair, Susan Harrington, Lisa Kasmer, Thomas Pentecost and Jason Yancey.

Regina McClinton, associate professor of liberal studies, will receive the Burch, Jacobs & Moore Diversity Teaching Excellence Award. Robert Talbert, associate professor of mathematics, will receive the Pew Teaching with Technology Award, and Michael Braid, from movement science, will receive the Pew Teaching Excellence Award for Part-Time Faculty.

The Center for Scholarly and Creative

Excellence will present awards to Tara Cornelius-Reece, Amorak Huey, Richard Lord, Aaron Lowen, Donald Mitchell, Medar Serrata and Bradley Wallar.

Two faculty members, Stanton Lindquist and Harvey Nikkel, will receive awards for 40 years of service. Other milestone awards will be presented to faculty with 25, 30 and 35 years of service.

Research measures impact of ACA on small businesses

A quarter of small businesses in West and Southwest Michigan that offered health insurance in 2014 are no longer planning on offering coverage, according to a report by an economics researcher. Only half of small firms currently offering insurance will continue to offer it in 2016.

Leslie Muller, assistant professor of economics, in collaboration with Priority Health, surveyed area employers with fewer than 50 full-time employees about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on local businesses in West and Southwest Michigan.

“While, for the most part, larger employers are continuing to offer health insurance to their



The 2014 Faculty Awards Convocation is pictured. This year’s event is set for February 4 at the DeVos Center.

continues on page 2

Across Campus

continued from page 1

employees, many small employers are choosing to discontinue coverage," said Muller. "Just under three quarters of the surveyed companies who are discontinuing coverage in 2015 are going to encourage their employees to use the ACA public exchanges."

The public exchanges in Michigan opened in October 2013 and offer a place for individuals to purchase health insurance.

Muller's findings included the results below.

- Only a quarter of small firms that offered health insurance in 2013 and 2014 plan on continuing to offer plans in 2015 and 2016.
- Of those offering plans in 2014, three quarters plan on offering insurance in 2015. Half of these small firms plan on also offering plans in 2016.
- Sixteen percent of small firms are uncertain as to whether they will offer insurance in 2015; 28 percent are unsure about 2016.

Changes to health plans:

- 87 percent of small firms have already or are considering increasing the share of insurance costs borne by the worker.
- 73 percent have or are considering shifting costs by using a high deductible plan.

Changes to hiring:

- 46 percent of small firms have or are considering limiting or reducing new hiring.
- 28 percent have or are considering reducing their overall workforce.



Leslie Muller

Faculty and Staff Campaign begins

The Faculty and Staff Campaign returns for 2015, giving the campus community opportunities to "Imagine" the possibilities.

The Imagine campaign begins February 3 and will continue through March 13.

Faculty and staff members can pay it forward to students by giving to a scholarship, academic program, or other area of their interest. Gifts can

also be made to the Grand Valley Fund, which helps areas with the most need.

Campaign organizers thank all volunteers and cabinet members for their tremendous efforts. They also give a charge to the campus community to continue to be one of the most generous universities.

To give a gift or learn more about the Faculty and Staff campaign, visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/facultystaff.

Nominations sought for student leadership award

Faculty and staff members are reminded that nominations for the Kenneth R. Venderbush Student Leadership Award are due by 5 p.m. on February 6.

The award will be presented to a senior at the Annual Awards Celebration on April 6.

To nominate a student, visit www.gvsu.edu/dos and click on "Awards and Ceremonies." Nominations should be sent in a sealed envelope (marked confidential) to the Dean of Students Office, 202 Student Services Building.

Correction

In the January 19 issue of *Forum*, David Eick, associate professor of modern languages and literature, was misidentified.

Eick will receive the Student Award for Faculty Excellence at the February 6 Presidents' Ball.

ITC class hears from GR police chief

Grand Rapids Police Chief David Rahinsky spoke to students January 22 in an Intercultural Training Certificate course about training officers to be culturally competent.

Rahinsky was joined by Edward Edwardson, affiliate faculty of criminal justice and a former police chief.

Regina McClinton, director of the ITC program, said she brought the

continues on page 4

FORUM Volume 39, Number 19

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.

University Communications Staff:
Mary Eillean Lyon, associate vice president
Sherry Bouwman, assistant
Dottie Barnes, associate director of news
Bernadine Carey Tucker, photography manager
Michele Coffill, associate director of publications
Nate Hoekstra, communications specialist
Jeremy Knickerbocker, videographer
Elizabeth Lienau, photography coordinator
Matthew Makowski, communications specialist
Amanda Pitts, photographer
Leah Twilley, communications specialist
Kayla Foster, student writer

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

Sean Larson, Ceramics Technician and Instructor

Sean Larson came to Grand Valley last August to work as a ceramics technician and instructor. He makes sure the ceramics department is running smoothly, and also teaches a wheel throwing class.

Larson said he was especially drawn to Grand Valley because of the opportunity to be not only an instructor, but also a working artist in the studio space offered.

"It shows the students what it's like to be a working artist," Larson said. "You can paint in your living room, but ceramics needs kilns along with other equipment and space."

Larson earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Wisconsin Stout in 2010; and a master's degree in fine arts with a concentration in ceramics from the University of Nebraska Lincoln in 2013.

Larson is constantly making art, and said

lately he has become interested in incorporating nontraditional tools for ceramics.

"We have a 3-D printer, laser cutter, and CNC machine," he said. "These tools are new in the field of art, even though they've been around for decades in industry."

Larson said he was fortunate to be hired at Grand Valley and work with professors like Hoon Lee, the head of ceramics.

"He's great to work with and great with students," he said. "It makes for a good work environment."

In his free time, Larson enjoys cooking.



Sean Larson



What's Ahead

Exhibit explores persecution during Nazi regime

The Jewish population was the primary focus of Nazi persecution, but Roma (Gypsies), Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, Jehovah's Witnesses and those disabled during World War II were also targeted.

The story of what happened to another targeted population, homosexuals in Nazi Germany, is the subject of the traveling exhibit, "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945," which is on display in the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons through February 18.

"The Holocaust was a catastrophe for humanity," said Rob Franciosi, professor of English who helped bring the exhibit to Grand Valley. "The more we learn about the fate of many groups under the Nazis, the more we can understand why the Holocaust, even 70 years later, remains relevant to our times."

The exhibition is free and open to the public. Various special programs and events will be held in conjunction with the exhibit. All of the events listed below take place in the library's multipurpose room:

- Film festival featuring: "Paragraph 175" (February 2), "Bent" (February 3), "Out List" and "The Iron Closet" (February 4). All films show from 4-6 p.m. and will be followed by discussions with faculty members.
- Author Lev Raphael presents "Haunted by the Holocaust: A Reading and Lecture" on February 5, 3 p.m. Books by Raphael include, *Assault with a Deadly Lie, My Germany, Writing a Jewish Life: Memoirs, Journeys & Arrivals: On Being Gay and Jewish* and *Coming Out of Shame*.
- Ryan Bond, associate professor of modern languages and literatures, presents "Connecting Past and Present: Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals and its Relevancy in 2015" on February 13 from 1-3 p.m.

"Grand Valley has sponsored a host of co-curricular activities to complement our course offerings in Holocaust studies — lectures, readings, film series, even trips to Europe. We felt that the chance to share a national exhibition of this stature with Grand Valley and West Michigan would further extend those efforts," Franciosi said.

This exhibit and related programs are supported in part by the Joseph Stevens Freedom Endowment, which was established by Grand Valley in 1990 to fund lectures to promote the understanding of issues related to human freedom, including a special focus on the history and consequences of the Holocaust.

For more information about this exhibit, visit www.gvsu.edu/holocausteducation.

Debate: is free speech really free?

According to a national campaign finance reform organization, the average political donation per person in the United States in the 2012 election cycle was less than \$10. But according to a *New York Times* report, in 2016, billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch and their vast political network are expected to spend nearly \$900 million, the same amount each of the parties are expected to spend on campaigns.

The disparity in political spending between average individuals and powerful super PACs is staggering. Super PACs are wealthy and nonprofit corporations that no longer have

spending limits imposed by the government due to the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling.

The Citizens United ruling gave nonprofit corporations the same free speech rights as individuals, and raises important questions about whether or not corporations should have free speech and be allowed to dominate political spending, or if free speech for corporations should be limited to give average citizens a better chance to have their voice heard.

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host a Coffeehouse Debate between two experts on Tuesday, February 3. They will debate Citizens United and its implications on the role of money in politics and the nature of free speech in America.

The debate will begin at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. It will feature Ian Millhiser, Center for American Progress; and Hans von Spakovsky, Heritage Foundation. U.S. District Court Judge Hugh Brenneman Jr. is the moderator.

The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at www.hauensteincenter.org.

Arts at Noon to feature Grand Rapids Symphony

The 37th season of the Arts at Noon series continues Wednesday, February 4, with the return of the Grand Rapids Symphony for its annual performance.

The symphony, conducted by associate conductor John Varineau, will perform "Antonín Dvořák's Serenade in E major" and "Bohuslav Martino's Nonet." Since 1930, this ensemble has been an integral and indispensable part of the West Michigan community.

The performance will begin at noon in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

For more information about the Arts at Noon series, contact the Music and Dance Department at x13484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/music.



Members of the Grand Rapids Symphony will perform for Arts at Noon on February 4 in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

'Black Lives Matter' series continues with panel

African American male leaders from the West Michigan community will participate in a panel discussion during the "Black Lives Matter: Dialogue and Action" series, hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

The event, in conjunction with Black History Month and co-sponsored by the Black Male Scholars Initiative, will take place Wednesday, February 4, from 4-6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

Dwight Hamilton, associate vice president for Affirmative Action and Title IX officer, will serve

as the moderator. Panelists include:

- Stephen R. Drew, attorney, Drew, Cooper and Anding
- Cle Jackson, president, NAACP Chapter of Grand Rapids
- Joe Jones, president, Grand Rapids Urban League
- Andre Perry, founding dean, College of Urban Education, Davenport University
- Chris Sain, educator and author, Grand Rapids Community College
- Robert L. Stevenson Jr., pastor and adjunct professor, Grand Valley State University

Connie Dang, director of OMA, said the series of events and discussions was created to give a space for students, faculty and staff members to express their perspectives and feelings around recent incidents in the United States. #BlackLivesMatter is a national movement that was created after the shooting death of Trayvon Martin in 2012.

The series continues February 10 with the Women's Center's Talk Back Tuesday event at noon, and on February 11 with the panel discussion, "Events in Ferguson Did Not Occur in a Vacuum," from 6-8:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center. For a complete schedule, visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

Women's Commission plans for 'Conscious Conversation'

Grand Valley's Women's Commission will continue hosting informal lunch and learn meetings centered around a popular topic.

Girl culture will be explored during the next meeting, set for Thursday, February 5. "Cinderella Ate My Daughter: Raising Smart, Confident, Independent Girls in the Princess Culture" will begin at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 1104. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunches.

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

VAGTC celebrates 15 years

The Van Andel Global Trade Center is celebrating 15 years of helping companies increase international business and become more competitive in the global marketplace. A ceremony will take place February 6, from 3:30-6 p.m. at the L. William Seidman Center.

VAGTC offers international market research, consulting, import/export training and educational programs. The center has supported more than 6,800 businesses and 20,000 people through consulting projects. It has also provided more than 30 Grand Valley students the opportunity to receive hands-on experience conducting international market research and assisting with global projects. VAGTC has taken area business leaders and Grand Valley faculty on trade missions to China, Canada, India and Brazil.

The center is named for Jay Van Andel, co-founder of Amway Corporation; the Jay and Betty Van Andel Foundation was a key financial contributor to the center.

In 1999, Van Andel Global Trade Center became the grantee-administrator for the Kent-Ottawa-Muskegon Foreign-Trade Zone. In 2005, the center received the Exporter of the Year award for outstanding contribution and commitment to international trade from the West Michigan World Trade Association, and

continues on page 4

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Gamal Gasim, assistant professor of political science and Middle East studies, wrote articles, "Is a Military Coup d'etat Imminent in Yemen?" published in the *Arab Daily News*, and "What Went Wrong in Yemen?" published online at *Aljazeera*.

Sketches

Grace Hoyer, assistant professor of nursing, had her dissertation work, "Transcultural Self-Efficacy of Nursing Education Leaders and Faculty Related to Non-Binary Sexual Identities," published as an exhibit box in Marianne R. Jeffreys' "Teaching Cultural Competence in Nursing and

Health Care: Inquiry, Action, and Innovation."

Scott Grissom, professor of computer science, returned from teaching in Christchurch, New Zealand. He was selected as a Visiting Erskine Fellow to teach his area of expertise, human computer interaction.

Valerie Peterson, professor of communications, wrote an article, "Mythic Rhetoric: Love, Power, and Companionate Marriage in Puccini's Turandot," published in the *Ohio Communication Journal*.

Susan Strouse, assistant professor of nursing, gave a presentation, "Exploring the RN to BSN Student Experience with Simulation and Community Health Nursing: A Phenomenological Study," at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Baccalaureate Education Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

What's Ahead

continued from page 3

became a City-State Partner of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, providing expertise and resources for businesses in need of financing options for international sales.

Van Andel Global Trade Center facts:

- 405 international events and trainings
- 6,843 businesses trained
- 205 VAGTC members
- 86 college classrooms visited to discuss international business opportunities
- 32 students employed at the center, gaining international experience

For more information, contact the Van Andel Global Trade Center at x16811.

College Goal Sunday planned

College-bound students and their families can get help applying for financial aid during College Goal Sunday, a statewide initiative aimed at increasing the number of students pursuing higher education.

Students need to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by March 1. Grand Valley financial aid experts will guide students through each step of completing the FAFSA, which is required of any student seeking financial aid, including grants, loans and many scholarships.

The event will be held Sunday, February 8, from 2-4 p.m. in the DeVos Center.

Statistics show students who complete and submit FAFSA forms are more likely to go on to college. Students under 23 years of age are encouraged to attend with a parent or guardian. Parents and students should bring their completed 2014 federal tax return (1040) if possible, or their W-2 and 1099 forms. It is also helpful to bring your PIN number, social security numbers, bank statements, investment information, untaxed income records, and alien registration card (if applicable).

For more information, contact Financial Aid at x13234 or visit www.micollegegoal.org.

Across Campus

continued from page 2



Photo by Rex Larsen

Grand Rapids Police Chief David Rahinsky speaks to students in an Intercultural Training Certificate course January 22. At left is Edward Edwardson, affiliate faculty of criminal justice.

two speakers in to help her students think critically about the issue of law enforcement in the wake of high-profile deaths like Michael Brown, Eric Garner and Tamir Rice.

The ITC program is a 15-hour academic certification program. It was established in 2011 and the first cohort of students completed certification in 2012. McClinton said the program's largest cohort, to date, of 16 students will graduate in April with certificates.

Food delivery program piloted at CHS

A new Health and Wellness initiative gives faculty and staff members an opportunity to shop online for organic food and have it delivered to their office.

The Doorganics program is currently only for faculty and staff members who work at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. Doorganics is a Grand Rapids company.

Lindsey DesArmo, health and wellness specialist, said Doorganics helps create conversations around healthy food and cooking.

Visit www.doorganics.com for more information.