

FORUM

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**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**
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Grand Valley, MSU partner for pipeline program

Allison Swets graduated in August with a bachelor's degree in nursing from Grand Valley. She now plans to attend the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Swets will be among the Grand Valley health professions students who will serve as mentors to Grand Rapids Public School students in a new pipeline program announced February 4 at MSU's Secchia Center in Grand Rapids.

Swets told the audience gathered for the ceremony that she saw herself when she looked at the high school students in the room.

"I was bright, energetic and loving the sciences but I didn't know much about careers," Swets said.

MSU medical students and 11 Grand Valley students will serve as mentors for eight weeks, helping GRPS students explore careers in nursing and health professions.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, said faculty from the Kirkhof College of Nursing and College of Health Professions will present programs during the Health Career Pipeline.

"Grand Valley is pleased to be part of the inaugural pipeline program to provide this opportunity for GRPS students," Nagelkerk said.



Photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Above, left, nursing graduate Allison Swets addresses the audience at the Health Career Pipeline announcement. At right is Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health. Grand Valley students and faculty will help GRPS students explore careers in nursing and health professions.

Jo Ann Litton, senior academic advisor, also worked with MSU staff to help implement the program.

Across Campus

Grand Valley Police Department reorganizes

The Grand Valley Police Department and Pew Campus Security have been combined under Police Chief Renee Freeman. As part of the reorganization, Freeman named Russell Wolff the assistant chief of police.

Wolff had served as director of security for the Pew Campus and Regional Centers since coming to Grand Valley in 2009. He will continue to be responsible for Pew Campus Security. Wolff has more than 28 years of



Russell Wolff



William O'Donnell

service in law enforcement. He retired as the Meridian Township Police Department's assistant police chief prior to joining Grand Valley.

Sergeant William O'Donnell has been named emergency manager for the Grand Valley Police Department. He is a lieutenant with the Allendale Fire Department, a technician with the Ottawa County Hazmat Team and an EMT. Before coming to Grand Valley in 1997, O'Donnell worked for the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety and the Greenville Department of Public Safety.

As emergency manager, he will help the university prepare for and respond to hazards, threats and risks.

AWRI offers internships

The Annis Water Resources Institute is taking applications for summer internships and fall semester scholarships.

Students can apply for the D.J. Angus-Scientech Educational Foundation Internship and the Robert B. Annis Foundation Undergraduate Student Internship. A scholarship, the Bill & Diana Wipperfurth

Student Research Scholarship, is available for graduate or undergraduate students.

Deadline to apply for internships or scholarships is March 6. Criteria is posted online at www.gvsu.edu/wri/internships.

Student establishes group to raise awareness of hereditary cancers

Most people don't associate cancer with college-age students, but a group of Grand Valley students is hoping to raise awareness and support for students who are at risk of developing hereditary cancers.

"BRCAn't Stop Me" is a new student organization dedicated to spreading the word about hereditary cancers and the importance of getting tested. It's the first organization of its kind on a Michigan college campus.

BRCA 1 and BRCA 2, or breast cancer genes 1 and 2, are the most well-known genes linked to breast cancer risk. BRCA gene mutations can

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be passed to children from either parent and can affect the risk of developing other cancers in women and men.

“People don’t talk about breast cancer in their 20s. We like to talk about it at a younger age so we can be proactive,” said Mollie Smith, founder of BRCAn’t Stop Me.

While everyone carries the BRCA gene, women with the gene mutation, like Smith, are 60 to 80 percent more likely to develop breast cancer than the average person.

When Smith, a senior from Milford, came to Grand Valley, she said she felt alone so she began researching resources then started the student organization. “I formed this organization to meet and connect with people and gain a support system, as well as raise awareness of this gene mutation,” Smith said.

Bailee Orman, a senior from Climax, is the organization’s risk management officer. “I knew it was important for me to get tested in order to take the necessary steps for early detection and prevention of hereditary cancers,” Orman said.

BRCAn’t Stop Me also provides support to those who have or had a loved one with hereditary cancer or have a family history of hereditary cancers.

Ingrid Johnson is an assistant professor of movement science and founder of Grand Valley’s Cancer Warriors. Johnson was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2012 and was surprised to find at the time that the university did not house a cancer support group.

With the help of Fred Antzack, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Sue Sloop, Work Life consultant, Johnson founded Cancer Warriors.

“We believe that it’s important for the Grand Valley community to not



Members of BRCAn’t Stop Me are pictured. Mollie Smith, not pictured, started the organization to raise awareness of hereditary cancers.

only have a support group to help deal with cancer but we also want to do outreach and education,” Johnson said. “Each month we have a meeting with a different speaker or leader.”

Since the formation of Cancer Warriors, five other student organizations, including BRCAn’t Stop Me, have been established to educate students about the disease, as well as offer support to those affected by it through both meetings and philanthropic endeavors.

BRCAn’t Stop Me will host a Genetic Counselor Seminar on February 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2266. Two counselors from Spectrum Health will give a presentation on who should be tested, how to get tested, what BRCA is, and preventative measures one can take. This event is LIB 100 approved.

Asian American civil rights reformer honored

A Japanese American civil rights icon was posthumously recognized and celebrated by the State of Michigan and Grand Valley at an event January 30.

Fred Korematsu, born in 1919, defied the U.S. government’s order to report to an assembly center after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

He was convicted for his refusal and appealed his case up to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled against him in 1944. He moved to Michigan after World War II and his conviction was vacated in 1983. He was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton in 1998.



Panelists pictured from left to right are Matthew Wesaw, Michigan Department of Civil Rights; Roland Hwang, assistant attorney general of Michigan; Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, NBC News; Ron Aramaki, University of Michigan professor; and Mary Kamidoi, former internee, Rohwer Camp.

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

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

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

GVFaces

Danielle Lake, Assistant Professor of Liberal Studies

Danielle Lake is helping students understand and learn to solve wicked problems.

Lake focused her doctoral experience on wicked problems, a study she brought to Grand Valley with her. She created “Wicked Problems of Sustainability,” an issues course focused on solving real-world problems and getting students involved in the community.

“Student teams come together and work with a community partner to help them with a wicked problem around sustainability and social justice,” Lake said. “Then students implement their plan, present and publish their findings at the end of the semester.”

Lake has been teaching at Grand Valley for eight years and was named assistant professor last fall.

“I love teaching and researching,” Lake said. “Grand Valley gives me the best of both worlds.”

Originally from West Michigan, Lake said she

is fortunate to return to her alma mater and continue her career.

“I’m from here,” Lake said. “I enjoy doing local, place-based work — caring about our community, investing ourselves in our community — and this has been my community.”

She earned a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies and a minor in philosophy from Grand Valley in 2004, a master’s degree in American philosophy from the University of Toledo in 2006, and a doctoral degree in public philosophy from Michigan State University in 2014.

Lake said she is grateful for the opportunity to teach subjects that she is passionate about.

“I am surrounded by people that are brilliant, caring, and supportive,” she said.



Danielle Lake



What’s Ahead

Campus community invited to World Affairs Council lectures

Grand Valley has partnered with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan to make the council’s upcoming lecture series free for members of the campus community who wish to attend.

“Great Decisions 2015” will be held Mondays through March 30 at the Aquinas College Performing Arts Center. Lectures will begin at 6 p.m.

- **February 9: “What are the Consequences from the Crisis in Ukraine?”** by Matthew Rojansky, director of the Kennan Institute.
 - **February 16: “Is It Religion or Politics that Divides the Middle East?”** by Sebastian Maisel, Grand Valley assistant professor of Arabic and Middle East Studies.
 - **February 23: “Human Trafficking: In Everyone’s Backyard,”** a panel presentation.
 - **March 2: “Will India’s New Prime Minister Rebrand the Country?”** by Glenda Dickerson, professor of women’s studies and political science at University of Michigan.
 - **March 9: “Africa Transforms: Wealth, Technology, Democracy,”** by Johnnie Carson, retired assistant secretary of state for Africa.
 - **March 16: “Brazil: Always on the Edge of Greatness, But Will It Get There?”** by Melvyn Levitsky, ambassador.
 - **March 23: “Through the Lens: Lessons from the Syrian Refugee Crisis,”** by Jared Kohler, photojournalist and Grand Valley alumnus.
 - **March 30: “Privacy: Is it a Thing of the Past?”** by Aarti Shahani, NPR correspondent.
- For details, visit www.worldmichigan.org.

State superintendent to share vision at COE event

State Superintendent Mike Flanagan will share his vision for the future of education during a panel discussion sponsored by the College of Education.

“The State of Education in Michigan,” will take place Tuesday, February 10, in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. The free event is part of the College of Education’s 50th Anniversary Golden Lecture Series.

The panelists include superintendents Teresa Weatherall Neal from Grand Rapids Public Schools, Nick Ceglarek from Hudsonville Public Schools and Dirk Weeldreyer from Fennville Public Schools. They will discuss their challenges and hopes for education from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Flanagan will give remarks from 7:15-8 p.m. The event will begin with a reception from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Ann Homrich in the College of Education at x16290. Visit www.gvsu.edu/coe/50th/ for information on more events.

Arts at Noon Series presents Grand Valley Winds

Grand Valley’s Arts at Noon series continues Wednesday, February 11, with a performance by Grand Valley Winds.

Comprised of faculty members Christopher Kantner, flute; Marlen Vavrikova, oboe; Joel Schekman, clarinet; Vincent Karamanov, bassoon; and Richard Britsch, horn; Grand

Valley Winds is dedicated to promoting and sharing its passion for chamber music with audiences in recitals, public school clinics, and during annual instrument days at Grand Valley.

All of the Arts at Noon concerts take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. The concerts are free and open to the public.

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

Mayoral candidate to speak at Wheelhouse Talk

Rosalynn Bliss, a current city commissioner and mayoral candidate in the City of Grand Rapids, will speak about leadership and her work representing constituents at the next Wheelhouse Talk, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Bliss, who has served as the commissioner for the city’s second ward since 2005, has a reputation for fiercely representing her constituents and serving as an advocate for homeless youth. She is a community leader and has been recognized as one of the *Grand Rapids Business Journal’s* “40 under Forty” for her local and statewide leadership in child welfare and community outreach efforts.

Her presentation is Wednesday, February 11, at 12:30 p.m. at the L. William Seidman Center. It is free and open to the public.

The Wheelhouse Talks is an annual series that brings together thought leaders, entrepreneurs and civil servants for the purpose of sharing stories of leadership and experience with students and the general public.

For more information, visit www.hauensteincenter.org.

Conference features expert on ageism

The first woman to have four books on the *New York Times* best-seller list will be the keynote speaker at the 10th annual Art & Science of Aging Conference.

The theme of the February 13 conference is “Life Balance: Keep Moving Forward in the Third Age.” It will be held from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center.

Keynote speaker Ashton Applewhite has been writing about aging and ageism since 2007 in her blog “This Chair Rocks.” She is a Knight Fellow, a *New York Times* Fellow and a Columbia Journalism School Age Boom Fellow.

Applewhite’s speech, “This Chair Rocks: How Ageism Warps our View of Long Life,” will take place from 9-10:30 a.m. in Loosemore Auditorium.

The conference includes 18 workshops on a wide range of topics including health care, retirement, healthy eating, exercise and pain management, and a closing session featuring the Life Reimagined program from AARP.

As part of the conference, Grand Valley students will present their research on aging in a poster format, which will allow attendees to engage the students in discussions of their research.

The conference is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Health Professions and Kirkhof College of Nursing, as well as several community organizations including BeaconHill, Covenant Village of the Great Lakes, Geriatric Education Center of Michigan and Mercy Health.

For a complete conference schedule and

to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/gerontology or contact Priscilla Kimboko, professor of gerontology and health care management, at x16641 or geroconference@gvsu.edu.

African cropping systems topic of lecture series

Cropping systems in Malawi, Africa, will be discussed at the next “Growing Food, Sustaining Communities” lecture series.

The lecture, “Sustainable Intensification” will take place on Friday, February 13, at 11 a.m. in Niemeyer Honors Hall, multipurpose room.

The lecture series is held on the second Friday of each month and focuses on the social and community dimensions of international sustainable agriculture.

The series is sponsored by Biology, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Environmental Studies, Farm Club, Geography and Planning, Honors College, Liberal Studies, Office of Sustainability Practices, Religious Studies, Sustainable Agriculture Project and Wesley Fellowship.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/sustainability for more information.

Black History Month features dance, leadership events

A tribute to women, a community service trip to God’s Kitchen and African American traditions will be featured throughout February to celebrate Black History Month at Grand Valley.

Sponsored by Grand Valley’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, all events are free and open to the public.

Some events are highlighted below. See a complete schedule online at www.gvsu.edu/oma.

- **A Tribute to Black Women: Strong, Fierce and Dynamic Divas;** February 13, noon-1 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room

Women who have made notable contributions to history will be highlighted through poetry, song and dance. Lunch will be provided.

- **Step Afrika! performance:** February 16, 9-11 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Stepping is a dance that uses the body as an instrument and combines footsteps, claps and words to produce rhythms. It has roots in African dance and military marching.

- **A Taste of Soul:** February 20, noon-1 p.m., Kirkhof Center lobby

Event participants will taste-test and learn about traditional African American soul food.

- **Inspirational Leadership featuring Linal Harris:** February 26, 2:30-4 p.m., DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium

Harris is vice president and chief diversity officer for U.S. Cellular in Chicago, the fifth-largest wireless telecommunications network in the U.S.

Supporting sponsors of Black History Month include African/African American Studies, Black Male Scholars Initiative, Black Student Union, College of Community and Public Service, College of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Inclusion and Equity, LGBT Resource Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Positive Black Women, Seidman College of Business, Spotlight Productions, Women’s Center and WGVU Public Media.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

Sketches

Geraldine Terry, assistant professor of nursing, gave a presentation, “SOAP Notes for IPE Student Teams,” at the annual Institute for Healthcare Improvement National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care in Orlando, Florida.

A. Scott Rood, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, received the 2014 Excellence in Research Award from the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association for his work on the West Michigan Water Trail.

Marilyn Preston, assistant professor of liberal studies, wrote an article, “Traditionally Heterogendered Institutions: Discourses Surrounding LGBTQ College Students,” published in the *Journal of LGBT Youth*.

Rick Albrecht, professor of movement science, gave a keynote address, “Leaders Eat Last,” and two presentations, “From Good to Better to Best: Helping Coaches Take Themselves and Their Athletes’ Experiences to the Next Level” and “Hazing and Bullying: Protecting Our Athletes From Themselves and Others,” at the Worldwide Meeting of the U.S. Army Child, Youth, and School Services in Orlando, Florida.

Campus mourns deaths of Nelson, faculty members

Dick Nelson, the voice of Laker football for more than three decades, died February 1.

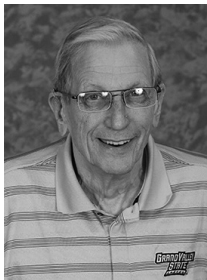
Nelson retired prior to the 2014 football season because of declining health. He was the voice of Laker football for 37 years.

In lieu of flowers, his family suggests a memorial contribution to the Dick Nelson Memorial Sports Broadcasting Scholarship.

The university community also mourns the deaths of three faculty members.

• Longtime professor **Thomas Jackson** died February 1 at the age of 76.

Jackson came to Grand Valley in 1977 as director of the Developmental Studies Institute. He served as a faculty member in



Dick Nelson

the College of Education and as director of the TRiO Program. He retired in 1999 but continued to teach part time at Grand Valley until 2009.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 14, at 11 a.m. at Brown-Hutcherson Ministries on Jefferson Avenue in Grand Rapids.

• **Bob Toft**, retired Grand Valley dean and director, died January 28. He was 81.

Toft joined Grand Valley in 1972 to serve as the founding dean of College IV. In 1975, he was named program development officer, then named director of federal grants in 1987. He retired in 2000.

A memorial service is pending. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations to Grand Valley’s Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center or to Faith Hospice, Grand Rapids, be considered.

• **Edward Jack Musch** died February 1 at age 89. Services were held February 5.

Musch served as a faculty member in the Mathematics Department from 1966 until his retirement in 1988. Memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

What’s Ahead

PSS ready to showcase ‘Reasons to be Pretty’

Grand Valley’s Performance Studio Series will spotlight the human tendency to be consumed by physical appearance during the group’s performance of “Reasons to be Pretty.”

Performances are set for Friday-Sunday, February 13-15, at the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre; 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The events in “Reasons to be Pretty”

begin from a subtle remark of being “regular” and in a downward spiral of events, both comedic and serious, the featured couples’ relationships find themselves at various breaking points.

Cody Robison, student director for “Reasons to be Pretty,” said the trials and tribulations of love are only a few themes presented during the show.

“I also feel bullying and emotional abuse are touched on in the script,” Robison said. “The playwright, Neil LaBute, during his childhood suffered from abuse and he sources that in

most, if not all, of his work.”

The Performance Studio Series allows upper-level theater students to put into practical use the skills they learn in the class through directing, lighting, set design and costume design. For more information, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/Jo>.

Tickets for “Reasons to be Pretty” are \$6 and can be purchased at the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office or by calling x12300.

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At the event, Korematsu was honored by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission and Grand Valley’s Office of Multicultural Affairs. A documentary of his life was shown, followed by a panel of speakers that included Matt Wesaw, director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, and Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, correspondent for NBC Asian America.

Korematsu is the first Asian American to be honored by a state and have a day — January 30 — named in his honor.

The event was part of Grand Valley’s Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration. The next event will take place February 11 with a presentation by Kimberly McKee, assistant professor of liberal studies, “The Celebrated ‘China Doll’: Troubling Asian Adoption in Television.” Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for more information.

Departments receive ‘healthy’ recognition

Five campus departments received “Certified Healthy” designations from Health and Wellness and President Thomas J. Haas.

Departments that were honored February 4-5 were Alumni Relations, Human Resources, Institutional Marketing, Charter Schools and Career Center.

A new initiative, departments can apply to receive the Certified Healthy designation in the fall. Applications are online at www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness; criteria include creating a healthy office culture through a variety of available resources and programs.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

The Institutional Marketing staff is pictured with President Thomas J. Haas after receiving a ‘Certified Healthy’ department designation.