

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Students build device for child with muscle disorder

A group of Grand Valley students has created a device that allows a child with type 1 spinal muscular atrophy to move and be independent. SMA is a genetic muscle disorder that causes extreme weakness and affects 1 in 6,000 births.

The Play and Mobility Device was designed and built to give 16-month-old Lylah Gritter the ability to become mobile by controlling a joystick attached to a device she sits in. Lylah's mother, Holly Gritter, said her daughter is gaining an independence that she's never had before.

"She was terrified of the device at first because she's never been able to control anything," Holly said, "but you could see it quickly clicking with her and she realized she has this freedom."

The project is funded through a five-year, \$180,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for students and faculty members to create specialized devices for people with disabilities.

"Lylah is very verbal and smart, but has no ability to move herself," said Lisa Kenyon, associate professor of physical therapy, who, along with a group of students majoring in physical therapy, is working with Lylah to use the device.

Kenyon said the ultimate goal is to help Lylah become qualified to get a power wheelchair, which can start at \$10,000. Insurance companies require proof that individuals can drive a wheelchair and the Play and Mobility Device is helping Lylah and her family gather proof that she can control a

device of her own.

The creators are engineering students Brandon Johnson, Kevin Yahne, Tyler Kramer and Dustin Martin. Yahne said this third and current prototype includes improvements such as easier access for Lylah to control the joystick with her hand, and a longer-lasting battery.

"The group of students has done a tremendous job at helping us and really adapting to her disability and understanding



Photo by Rex Larsen

From left are Lyndsay Hammond, physical therapy; Lauren Webster, physical therapy; Tyler Kramer, engineering; Lylah Gritter; and Kevin Yahne, engineering.

what she can and can't do," said Holly.

Across Campus

Congress member visits campus

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters visited Grand Valley February 17 to learn about the many ways the university is preparing students for the workforce.

He toured the John C. Kennedy Hall of Engineering and the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences to learn about the university's global partnerships, cooperative education program and hands-on opportunities in labs and



From left are Charlie Standridge, associate dean of Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, and President Thomas J. Haas at the Kennedy Hall of Engineering.

through industry-sponsored projects.

"The future of innovation continues to be at the forefront of new products and manufacturing, which includes talented engineers," Peters said. "Grand Valley is a prime example of a higher education institution that is providing education, training and resources for the future workforce of Michigan."

Peters' visit is part of his Michigan Economic Listening Tour, a weeklong trip around the state to meet with Michigan business leaders, educators and workers.

University ranked top producer for Fulbright recipients

Grand Valley was ranked second nationally for the number of faculty members who are Fulbright Scholars and within the top 15 for number of U.S. Fulbright students.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* released a list February 12 of colleges and universities that produce the most Fulbright Scholars. Grand Valley was tied for second among master's degree institutions for faculty Fulbright Scholars.

During the 2014-2015 year, three faculty members earned awards to teach and conduct research abroad. They are Charles Baker-Clark, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management, Montenegro; Russ Rhoads, associate professor of anthropology, Sierra Leone; and Jerry Scripps, assistant professor of computing and information systems, Austria.

Grand Valley tied for 12th place among master's institutions for student Fulbright Scholars, with four student recipients. They are Lydia Benkert, research grant, Ghana; Anne Gioncondini, English Teaching Assistantship, Ukraine; Erin Lutenski, English Teaching Assistantship, Germany; Hayley Pangle, English Teaching Assistantship, Azerbaijan.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer for Grand Valley, said being ranked among the top universities for Fulbright opportunities shows the university's commitment to global learning.

The Fulbright program is a prestigious and competitive program, and is the flagship of the U.S. government's programs in international educational exchange.

The U.S. Student Fulbright Scholarship competition is administered at Grand Valley through the Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/fellowships.

Across Campus

Faculty and Staff Campaign going strong

The 2015 Faculty and Staff Campaign is well on its way with 40 percent participation since the kick off.



Pay it forward by supporting Grand Valley students and their futures. By giving to what you are passionate about — scholarships, academic programs, or other areas of interest — you can help students reach their dreams. Imagine the difference you can make in a student's life with your gift.

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

Graduate program named a best online program

An online graduate program through the College of Education has been named a "2015 Best Online Program" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The master's degree in educational technology began in 2011 and was developed by tenured faculty members. The program is also offered as a hybrid. In a recent survey of graduates in the online program, 86 percent said they were extremely or moderately satisfied with their experience and 77 percent said they would recommend the program to colleagues.

Information about the online program can be found at www.gvsu.edu/grad/edtech or contact Andrew Topper at x17273.

Cook Leadership Academy seeks nominations for fellows

The Hauenstein Center's Cook Leadership Academy is currently seeking nominations from faculty and staff members for students to join the 2015-2016 cohort of CLA fellows.

The CLA offers students opportunities for leadership development, mentorship, networking and exclusive engagement with community leaders as well as nationally recognized policy makers and thought

leaders. Fellows also benefit from a high-impact week with public figures in Washington, D.C.

Nominations are welcome for undergraduate and graduate students of any major and from any academic year. Students should be enrolled for at least one semester of the 2015-2016 academic year, and should exhibit a combination of high academic achievement, active involvement in the campus community, dedication to the public good, a passion to lead and a commitment to personal growth.

To nominate students, visit www.hauensteincenter.org/nomination. Nominations will close March 17.

Questions about the CLA can be directed to Chadd Dowding, CLA program manager, at x17087 or dowdinch@gvsu.edu.

Owen named director of Traverse City center

Shannon Owen was named director of Grand Valley's Traverse City Regional Center. She joined the regional center staff in late January.

Simone Jonaitis, executive director of the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies, said Owen brings with her a wealth of experience.

Owen had served as manager of Northern Michigan Programs for Eastern Michigan University, and as academic and career advisor for Northwestern Michigan College. Her job at EMU was housed at NMC's University Center, where students from eight universities take classes.

"I saw this role as a way to keep me connected to the University Center and it was a good time for me to take all the information I learned at NMC and use it in this position for Grand Valley," she said.

In her new role, Owen will oversee programs and look for opportunities for new community connections.

Owen is a member of Traverse City Young Professionals and said she enjoys volunteering in the community and the area's winter resources.



Shannon Owen

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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.

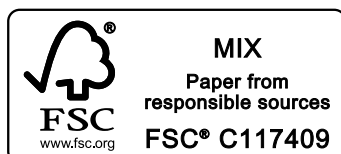
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Other publications by University Communications include:

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

Justin Melick, Digital Media Developer

Justin Melick, digital media developer, uses knowledge from his undergraduate and graduate careers at Grand Valley to create digital content for faculty members in the College of Education.

Melick earned a bachelor's degree in group social studies with a minor in political science in 2012, and a master's degree in educational technology in 2014.

During his master's program, Melick worked as a teaching technology specialist graduate assistant for the College of Education, which led him to his current position.

"Being a graduate assistant made my degree much more valuable," Melick said. "It gave me good first-hand experience doing a lot of what I do now."

In his position he creates interactive modules, video and other types of digital content for faculty members to integrate in their courses.

Melick said he is excited to be in this growing area of work.

"Online and hybrid studies are my area of interest," Melick said. "Grand Valley is growing quickly in that area. I'm excited to see that growth happen and to help make sure that quality of content is a priority."

While he spends a majority of his time developing modules for faculty, Melick has also been working to create a lightboard. This innovation will allow faculty members who create videos to be able to show their content while still being able to be on camera and connect directly with their students.

In his free time, Melick enjoys working weekends in the summer as an Indycar official and traveling to historical places.



Justin Melick

What's Ahead

Registration open for Ready to Run

When the U.S. Congress convened in January, for the first time it included more than 100 women. However, Michigan continues to hold its rank at 36th in the nation for the number of women holding state elected offices.

To help boost the number of women serving in local, state and national politics, Grand Valley, Saginaw Valley State University and the Michigan ACE Women's Network join other sponsors to host the fourth annual "Ready to Run Michigan," a nonpartisan campaign training workshop designed to encourage women to run for office.

Registration is now open for the 2015 workshop, set for April 17-18 at Saginaw Valley. Cost to attend the daylong workshop is \$100 (early bird price), an optional networking reception is \$25. Visit www.gvsu.edu/readytorun to register and see details. Space is limited and some scholarships are available.

The workshop will include sessions on campaign planning, fundraising, media training and messaging. Campaign professionals will lead trainings, and elected and appointed female politicians are scheduled to speak and provide insight.

Ready to Run Michigan is co-sponsored by SMG Strategies, with support from the Rutgers University Center for American Women and Politics. For more information, visit the website or call the Women's Center at x12748.

Faculty to explore tradition of artists inspiring artists

Multiple faculty members will discuss the tradition of artists inspiring the work of other artists during a special presentation of "Artists Quoting Artists."

The event is set for Tuesday, February 24, from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Art Gallery.

Faculty scheduled to present include Ellen Adams, assistant professor in the Meijer Honors College; Ed Wong-Ligda, professor of art and design; and Virginia Jenkins, Art and Design Department chair. Jenkins will lead participants in a special project where they will have the opportunity to create their own work of art.

This event is presented in conjunction with the exhibition, "Veracity, Distortion, Reduction: Visual Explorations by Ed Wong-Ligda," showcasing 15 oil-on-canvas paintings created by Wong-Ligda during his time at Grand Valley. He will retire from the university in April.

For more information about "Artists Quoting Artists," visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

PIC will host passport fair

The Padnos International Center will host a passport fair on Tuesday, February 24, from 1-4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216.

Students, faculty and staff members are invited to apply for a new passport or renew their current one. Allow up to six weeks for passport processing.

Participants applying for a new passport should bring proof of U.S. citizenship, proof of identity with photo, and two separate checks or money orders (\$110 to the Department of State, \$25 to the Postal Service).

Passport photos can be taken at the fair for \$3 cash. Participants must present GVSU identification cards. Visit www.gvsu.edu/pic for more information.

Winter career fair set for February 24

The 2015 Winter Career Fair will take place Tuesday, February 24, from 1-5 p.m., at DeVos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids.

The fair is free and open to college students and alumni seeking professional employment or internship opportunities in a wide variety of disciplines. More than 200 employers will attend.

The Health Career Expo, featuring health care employers, will be held in conjunction with the fair.

Participant pre-registration is not required, but students should bring their student ID. Follow and participate in the conversation on Twitter at @GVSUCareers and #GVCareerFair.

For a list of registered employers, visit www.gvsu.edu/careerfairs.

Disability justice organizer to visit campus

Mia Mingus, a writer and community educator and organizer, will give a presentation this week as part of the Intersections program.

Mingus is a member of the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective, a group that works to build and support transformative



Mia Mingus

justice responses to child sexual abuse. She has been recognized by the White House as a Champion of Change, an honor given to Americans who do exemplary

things to uplift their communities. Her research has examined issues of disability justice.

Her presentation, "Building Transformative Responses to Violence," is set for Tuesday, February 24, 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Mingus was named one of Campus Pride's Top 25 LGBT Favorite speakers in 2009, one of the 30 Most Influential Asian Americans Under 30 by the blog Angry Asian Man, and received the 2008 Creating Change Award by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, among other awards.

Intersections is a series of events hosted by Grand Valley's Office of Multicultural Affairs, Women's Center, and LGBT Resource Center. The series provides opportunities for the campus community to look at the world through multiple dimensions including race, gender, sexual orientation and class status, among others.

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

Counseling Center staff member to give 'Her Story'

The next speaker in the Her Story series will be Mary Sharp, coordinator of Multicultural/Diversity Services and Training for the University Counseling Center.

Sharp's presentation will take place on Thursday, February 26, at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

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.

VAGTC sponsors Auto Suppliers Symposium

The theme for the 16th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium is "North American Manufacturing Fueling Growth." North America is home to many of the world's largest automotive suppliers, with 63 of the top 100 located in Michigan.

The symposium, hosted by the Van Andel Global Trade Center, will be held March 5, in the DeVos Center Loosemore Auditorium, and will highlight how North America is fueling the automotive industry's growth in an era of new design and technology.

The event brings together business owners, senior management and decision makers from all tiers of the industry, providing the most up-to-date automotive forecasts, trends and opportunities to network and learn from others.

Keynote speakers include:

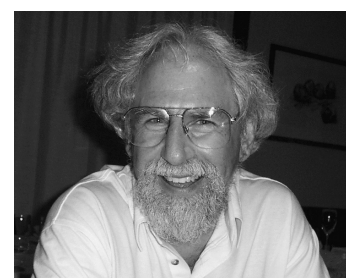
- Roberto Soto Montes, director of Powertrain Purchasing for Renault-Nissan of North America;
- Ed Wulbrecht, vice president of Quality Control for Subaru of Indiana Automotive;
- Mike Wall, director of Automotive Analysis for IHS Automotive;
- Michael Dorney, director of Global Business Development for Lacks Enterprises, Inc.

To register or for more information, visit www.vagtc.org or call x16811.

'Out of the Box' event focuses on service

Historian Larry Gerber will discuss university service and shared governance during an event hosted by the Faculty Council.

Gerber will highlight "2015 Out of the Box Event: Sharing Governance," which is set for March 12, 1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette room.



Larry Gerber

He is the author of *The Rise and Decline of Faculty Governance: Professionalization and the Modern American University*, a professor at Auburn University and an officer of the American Association of University Professors.

Out of the Box workshops will take place March 18-19 at noon each day. Space is limited, RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/clas, and search "Upcoming Events."

The events are sponsored by CLAS.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

Sketches

Heather Carpenter, assistant professor of nonprofit management, published a book, *The Talent Development Platform: Putting People First in Social Change Organizations*.

A. Scott Rood, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, co-wrote an article, "Casual-Dining Restaurant Preferences: A Cross-Cultural Comparison," published in the *Journal of Foodservice Business Research*.

Annis Water Resources Institute faculty members Carl Ruetz and James McNair co-wrote an article, "Removal and Mark-Recapture Methods for Estimating Abundance: Empirical and Simulation Results for Mottled Sculpin in Streams," published in *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.

Troy VanKoevering, office coordinator for the Padnos International Center, is a finalist in the 2015 Write Michigan Short Story Contest for his short story, "The Himalayan." It will be published in the *2015 Write Michigan Anthology*.

Steven Smith, associate professor of social work, was named to the Editorial Board of *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership and Governance*, published by Taylor & Francis Group.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources, received a \$50,000 grant from NOAA and the Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystem Studies to operate the Muskegon Lake Observatory.

Rick Roberts, chef manager at The Connection, received ProChef II certification.

Campus mourns death of staff member

The campus community is mourning the death of Christine Hernandez, Procurement Services assistant. Hernandez died February 14 after a battle with cancer; she was 50.

Hernandez began working at Grand Valley in 2004. She was a past member of the COT Development Committee, volunteered at WGUV Public Media, and mentored international students. She also volunteered for Grand Rapids Civic Theater.

Services were held February 21 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Grand Rapids. Memorial contributions are suggested to Civic Theater.

Across Campus

Peace Corps director visits

The director of the Peace Corps met with President Thomas J. Haas and other university leaders to discuss ways to enhance opportunities for Grand Valley students and graduates interested in Peace Corps.

Carrie Hessler-Radelet was in West Michigan February 6 to give a presentation at Calvin College's Faith and International Development Conference.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Carrie Hessler-Radelet, director of the Peace Corps, and staff members visit with President Thomas J. Haas February 6.

Hessler-Radelet said recent changes in recruitment have dramatically increased the number of applications from people interested in volunteering. Changes include streamlining the application process and offering prospective volunteers choices in where they want to serve. She said a typical year yields about 10,000 applications; this

year, Peace Corps is on track to receive 30,000 applications.

Since the 1961 founding of the Peace Corps, 233 corps volunteers have been Grand Valley alumni.

University participates in national recycling competition

For the eighth year, Grand Valley is competing in Recyclemania, a competition among hundreds of colleges and universities across the country to collect the largest amount of recyclables and the least amount of trash.

From February 1-March 28, Grand Valley will compete in different categories, such as Food Service Organics and Waste Minimization, over an eight-week period.

During the 2014 competition, Grand Valley ranked first in the state and in the top 35 nationwide (for universities with more than 20,000 students) in the composting and waste minimization categories. More than 183,000 pounds of materials were recycled and nearly 300,000 pounds were composted on campus.

Facilities Services is leading the contest, with support from Campus Dining, Office of Housing and Residence Life, Sustainability Initiative, Student Environmental Coalition and Pew Campus Operations.

For more information about Recyclemania at Grand Valley, visit www.gvsu.edu/facilitieservices.

Faculty member researches extreme marathoners

In mid-January, a team of a dozen marathoners left California with a goal to run across the country to raise awareness of childhood obesity and money for school fitness programs. They plan to complete the 3,080-mile trek in June.

They are being closely followed by a team of researchers that include Cara Ocobock, assistant professor of biomedical sciences.

Ocobock joined Grand Valley's faculty last year after earning a doctoral degree in anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis. She was asked to join the research team by a colleague from Purdue University who is among the runners.

"This is such an extreme activity and something like this has never been measured before," Ocobock said. "How could I say 'no' to that?"

As an energetics specialist, Ocobock is researching the number of calories each participant expends and how many calories they are consuming. She met with the runners January 13 in Huntington Beach, California, for a base set of measurements; she will meet them in Texas in March and at the end of the race in June.

Ocobock said this research will help aid anthropological theories about the evolution of endurance running.

To learn more about Race Across the USA, visit www.raceacrossusa.org.