

FORUM

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

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Keri Becker named director of athletics

Keri Becker was named the new director of athletics at Grand Valley State University at a press conference April 7, and will take the place of Tim Selgo, who served in the position for 20 years.

Becker, the current associate athletic director and senior woman administrator, will assume the role July 18.

"We are thrilled that Keri will have the opportunity to lead our athletic department and continue to work with our athletic programs," said Jim Bachmeier, vice president for Finance and Administration. "She has worked closely with Tim Selgo and has proven she's dedicated to our student-athletes and the Grand Valley tradition of excellence in athletics and in the classroom. Finding the best candidate within

our own ranks is another sign of the strength of our institution, athletic department and staff."

Becker has served as the associate athletic director since August 2011.

"I'm honored to be selected to continue the legacy of the highly accomplished Tim Selgo," said Becker. "I look forward to taking on the challenges of the best Division II athletics program in the country and ensuring I lead in such a way that the coaches have the opportunity for success and the student-athletes continue to receive the best academic and athletic experience possible. I want to thank President Haas, Jim Bachmeier, and the search committee for having the confidence in my experience and abilities, given the talented

candidate pool."

Prior to her time at Grand Valley, Becker spent 15 years at Ferris State University. She served in a number of roles at FSU, including head softball coach. Becker led the Bulldogs to the Division II College World Series in 1998, 1999 and 2008, while also winning three conference championships. She was a three-time GLIAC Coach of the Year at Ferris State.

Along with her coaching duties at Ferris State, Becker was also the compliance coordinator for 12 years, spent three years as the senior woman administrator, and briefly served as the interim athletic director. She received a bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University and a MBA



Keri Becker was named director of athletics at a press conference April 7 in the Fieldhouse.

from Ferris State.

Becker follows a notable group of past Grand Valley State athletic directors, including Charles Irwin (1963-72), Donald Dufek (1972-76), George MacDonald (1976-89), Mike Kovalchik (1989-96) and Selgo (1996-2016).

Across Campus

Mathematics professor earns state association's top honor

Matthew Boelkins, professor of mathematics, was named one of three recipients of the Distinguished Professor of the Year Award by the Michigan Association of State Universities.

Boelkins and the other recipients will be honored April 15 during a MASU luncheon at the Lansing Center.

Boelkins joined Grand Valley's faculty in 1998. Since then, he has built a national reputation for his innovative, open-source calculus textbook, "Active Calculus." Boelkins and mathematics faculty members David Austin and Steve Schlicker were co-authors of the textbook that encourages faculty to use active learning pedagogy in first- and second-semester calculus courses. The book is endorsed by the American Institute of Mathematics' Open Textbook Initiative.

He is active in the profession, serving as co-editor-in-chief for PRIMUS (Problems, Resources and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies), and first vice president of the Mathematical Association of America. Boelkins is also the director of New Student Advising and

Registration.

In her nomination letter, Provost Gayle R. Davis said Boelkins "embraces the inquiry-based learning methodology that has become increasingly important in recent years." She noted that Boelkins emphasizes written and oral communications in all of his courses and led an effort to have students in his Euclidean Geometry class write their own textbook over the semester as they developed key ideas.

"His course designs emphasize student participation, and, at the same time, Professor Boelkins is considered by students to be one of the most challenging faculty members in mathematics," Davis said.

Boelkins led improvements to the university's summer program, such as emphasizing core messages and goals, and organizing incoming students in small groups per their interest areas. Davis said these efforts have contributed to increased retention and student success.



Matthew Boelkins

The MASU Distinguished Professor of the Year Award candidates are nominated by their institutions. Criteria include having significant impact with undergraduate students, contributions to the institution and community, and scholarship and innovation.

Boelkins has earned several honors at Grand Valley, including the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award, Outstanding Academic Advising and Student Services Award, and Division of Science and Mathematics Pew FTLC Teaching Excellence Award.

Students win prize money at MWest Challenge

Three student teams from Grand Valley won prize money at the 2016 MWest Challenge, a competition that allows entrepreneurially minded students to develop and grow new ventures based on their own ideas.

The event was held April 1 at the Eberhard Center, hosted by the Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship in the Seidman College of Business.

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More than 50 startup teams were featured, representing 130 students from Grand Valley, Aquinas College, Calvin College, Kendall College of Art and Design, Cornerstone University, Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, Kuyper College and Hope College.

Students were competing for \$40,000 in prize money; each team had eight minutes to present their idea to the judges.

The Grand Valley team, Boot Strap Innovations, won the Northwestern Mutual Grand Prize Master Class Award of \$6,500. Team members include Daniel Diem Rylaarsdam and Preston Smith. Smith presented the idea — a system that enables farmers to produce ice without electricity. The portable system, which utilizes zeolite absorption, has no moving parts and only requires the application of heat from fire or sunlight to recharge the system.

The Mechanical IV Pump team from Grand Valley won the Spectrum Health Care Innovations Award of \$5,000. Team members include Nelson Schrader, Christian Yap and Nicole Lorenz. Schrader and Yap presented their idea for an automated IV system that is compact, portable and allows patients to administer their own treatments.

The team Simply Conquer won a \$1,000 Impact Award. Team members include Taylor Groenhout, Jordan Vanderham, Tyler Jones and Zoe Bruyn. Jones and Bruyn presented their idea for an adjustable high-heel shoe. The technology allows the user to wear one pair of shoes that can be altered to various heights.

The competition was judged by more than 45 experienced entrepreneurs, executives and business leaders from the West Michigan community. Final round judges were Denise Graves, university relations director at MEDC; JoAnn Chavez, vice president and chief tax officer at



From left: Tim Syfert, affiliate faculty; Lisa Granger, Northwestern Mutual; Preston Smith, Boot Strap Innovations student winner; Jon Brickner, Northwestern Mutual; Kevin McCurren, Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

DTE Energy; Jon Brickner, chief development officer at Northwestern Mutual; Tina Bain, director of Global Special Events at Amway; and Rick Baker, president and CEO of Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

This year's competition was presented by Northwestern Mutual, along with Spectrum Innovations, GR Current, Spartan Innovations and Amway.

LGBTQ population sought for survey

Two faculty members and a student are working to develop a survey of members of the LGBTQ community and their health care practitioners.

Neal Rogness, professor of statistics; Danielle DeMuth, associate professor and chair of women, gender, and sexuality studies; and Andrew DiLernia, a statistics student in the Honors College, are working on the project that DeMuth said would be an informational resource for members of the West Michigan LGBTQ community.

An online survey has been created, www.surveymonkey.com/r/HZH2VY8, and DeMuth said invitations have been sent via Grand Valley's LGBT Faculty Staff Association.

Questions about the survey can be directed to DeMuth at demuthd@gvsu.edu or x18114; or Rogness at rognessn@gvsu.edu or x12447.

Campus, community sustainability champions celebrated

Sustainability leaders were recognized April 1 at the eighth annual Sustainability Champions Awards.

Nearly 40 awards were given to campus and community members who support the ideas of sustainable practices and use a triple-bottom-line approach (social, environment, economic) to solving problems and issues.

President Thomas J. Haas and Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss congratulated award recipients and discussed the importance of the close partnership between Grand Valley and Grand Rapids.

"We truly appreciate partnering and working with the great city of Grand Rapids. Mayor Bliss knows how much we value sustainability and providing educational opportunities for our students," said Haas.

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

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

GVFaces

Anne London, Senior Academic Advisor

As an undergraduate student at Grand Valley, Anne London thought that criminal justice was the field for her. She loved her classes and professors, as she focused her degree program on adult and juvenile probation. After graduation, London worked at a district court office until she heard about an admissions position at Grand Valley.

Even when she started working at Grand Valley, London thought that she would still pursue a job in the criminal justice field after a few years. But she soon realized that wouldn't be the case.

"The more and more I worked with students, I realized that Grand Valley was a perfect fit for me," London said.

London has been been at Grand Valley for 17 years, and has worked in the Records Office, Student Academic Success Center, and the College of Community and Public Service Advising Center, where she has been for the last nine years. London pursued her position in the advising center because she said she wanted to work more closely with students.

As an advisor, London said that she experiences something new each day. She meets with students to talk about career goals,

life goals, classes, time management and study skills, and how to approach professors in a professional way.

"I love that students give me the opportunity to share their successes and experiences, and be on this journey with them," London said. "And that they trust me enough to be a part of that."

London earned two master's degrees from Grand Valley in public administration and education. She currently teaches a public administration course in community-based learning and co-advises a student organization, SLAM (Students Leaving a Mark).

Through her education, career and involvement, London is involved with the university on many different levels. She said these experiences have led her to fully embrace the community at Grand Valley.

"When I first started, I had no idea about the community that existed at the university," London said. "It's really come to be my second home."



Anne London



What's Ahead

Reception will honor retiring athletic director

Retiring athletic director Tim Selgo will be honored Tuesday, April 12, during an event in the Fieldhouse that will name the trophy cases in his honor.

The cases holding nine national Directors' Cup trophies, among other hardware, will be named the Tim W. Selgo Showcase of Champions. The event will run from 3:30-5 p.m.; the campus community is invited, RSVPs are not needed.

Remarks from President Thomas J. Haas and Laker women's golfer Gabrielle Shipley will begin at 4 p.m. Shipley is the president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

Selgo will retire at the end of this academic year, after leading Laker athletics for 20 years.

SSD will include 600 student presenters

More than 600 student presenters will participate in Student Scholars Day on Wednesday, April 13.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of SSD, which showcases faculty-mentored student research and creative work. Oral and poster presentations will run from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. in Henry Hall, Kirkhof Center and the Mary Idema Pew Library. Art exhibitions of 2D, 3D and multimedia work will be displayed at the Red Wall Gallery in Lake Ontario Hall and in the library's Exhibition Space. An artists reception, also open to the public, begins at 5:30 p.m. in the exhibition space.

Susan Mendoza, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, said 70 diverse majors and disciplines will be represented at SSD. More about the event, including a schedule of presentations, is online at www.gvsu.edu/ours/ssd. A new online feature is a schedule builder that allows students, faculty and staff members to search and select the presentations they want to see, then add them to Outlook calendar.

The day concludes with a keynote address by David Wineland, from the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, Colorado.

Wineland's presentation, "Quantum Computers and Schrodinger's Cat," will begin at 7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204. Wineland received the Nobel Prize in physics in 2012 for his experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulating individual quantum systems. Refreshments will be available at 6:30 p.m.

Ott Lecture to focus on nanomaterials

An award-winning chemist and educator, recognized for her research regarding creating new materials on the "nanoscale," will be the featured speaker at the Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry April 15.

Sara Skrabalak is currently the James H. Rudy Associate Professor of Chemistry at Indiana University-Bloomington.

While visiting Grand Valley, Skrabalak will give a public lecture, entitled "From Honeycombs, Spider Webs and Snowflakes to Stellated Metals: Symmetry in Nature and Nanomaterials," Thursday, April 14, at 6 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A reception will precede the lecture at 5 p.m.

Skrabalak will also facilitate a chemistry seminar for students on Friday, April 15, at 1 p.m. "Shaping the Synthesis of Bimetallic Nanocrystals" will take place in the Pere Marquette Room, Kirkhof Center.

Skrabalak has accumulated multiple awards throughout her career, including the 2014 ACS Award in Pure Chemistry and the 2015 Baekeland Award. Skrabalak earned a doctoral degree in chemistry in 2006 from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For more information, call x13317 or visit www.gvsu.edu/chem.



Sara Skrabalak

Arts at Noon concludes April 13

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series concludes April 13 with the award-winning ensemble, Tesla String Quartet.

Formed at The Julliard School in 2008, the quartet has quickly established itself as one of the most promising young ensembles around the globe. The quartet has won numerous prizes and awards at international competitions, including the 2012 London International String Quartet Competition and 2013 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition.

The quartet is comprised of Ross Snyder, violin; Michelle Lie, violin; Edwin Kaplan, viola; and Serafim Smigelskiy, cello. The ensemble has been performing across the U.S., Austria, England and France during its current 2015-16 season.

When the quartet's tour stops at Grand Valley, the ensemble will

perform a string quartet by Haydn, a lyric serenade by Hugo Wolf and "Prayer of the Bullfighter" by Joaquin Turina.

They are currently the String Quartet-in-Residence in the Hickory, North Carolina, metro area through the sponsorship of the Western Piedmon Symphony. The residency included educational programs for children and seniors, and collaborations with local universities and community colleges.



Tesla String Quartet

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

Event will remember Lakers lost

The Laker Traditions Team in Student Life will host an event April 13 to remember students, alumni, faculty and staff members who have died in the past year.

Laker Remembrance will take place Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. The event will include poem readings, music performances and remarks by Bart Merkle, vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of Students.

Following the ceremony, a candlelight vigil and reception will take place at Cook Carillon Tower. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/studentlife.

GVSU to host transit conference

More than 150 people are expected to attend the 2016 Public Transportation and Universities Conference in Grand Rapids to discuss the unique transportation needs of university communities.

Grand Valley and The Rapid are hosting the conference April 16-19 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. It will be attended by university and community transportation professionals and planners, as well as university officials, faculty and students.

Sessions will cover topics such as financing for transit services, marketing to students, sustainability, safety and security, parking policies, bike-share programs, on-demand ridership models and more.

GVSU Transportation Services offers a variety of sustainable transportation options to students, faculty and staff members, who can ride any Rapid bus route for free. In 1996, Grand Valley began running a shuttle between Grand Rapids and the Allendale Campus. In the 1996-1997 academic year, the bus program averaged 5,300 riders per month. In 2015, Grand Valley accounted for 2.8 million rides on The Rapid.

Chris Swank, manager of operations for Pew Campus Operations, said: "We are excited to welcome our transit colleagues to our hometown. This conference is an excellent opportunity for Grand Valley and The Rapid to showcase its unique partnership as well as gain valuable insight from agencies around the country."

Exploring the how and why behind dysfunction, gridlock in American politics

The current dysfunction and political gridlock in Washington D.C. and around the nation will be explored in a three-day, groundbreaking summit April 15-17, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Progressive/Conservative: A Common Ground Summit will address the historical causes of the widening gap between the left and right, along with fractures inside the Democratic and Republican parties that have caused widespread political upheaval. Speakers will ask whether there has been common ground between liberals and conservatives in the past, and whether there could be today.

The conference will feature nine sessions and more than a dozen experts and thought leaders over three days.

Keynote addresses will feature George Nash, a national thought leader on conservatism; E.J. Dionne, Jr., a journalist and political commentator, and longtime op-ed columnist for *The Washington Post*; Michael Ignatieff, former leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and political expert; Kevin M. Schultz, a noted author and history professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago; David Hollinger, an author and the Preston Hotchkis Professor of History emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley; Andrew Hartman, an author and expert in the history of the Culture Wars; and Christopher Shannon, an author and expert on culture in modern American social thought.

The summit is free and open to the public; RSVPs are requested at <http://hauensteincenter.org/progcon/>. The event is hosted in partnership with the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan and the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal.

For more information and a schedule, visit hauensteincenter.org.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

Sketches

Dan Balfour, professor of public, nonprofit, and health administration, gave a presentation, “Doubling Down on Derivatives: The Corrupt and Legal Exploitation of the Fallout from the Great Recession,” at the annual conference of the American Society for Public Administration in Seattle, Washington.

Mary Ebejer, adjunct professor of writing, edited the manuscript for Learning-Centered School Leadership.

Debbie Morrow, liaison librarian, gave a presentation, “Learning Technical Writing: Creating an Opportunity for Engineering Undergraduates,” at the ASEE North Central Section Conference.

Roger Ellis, professor of communications, wrote an article, “Global to Local: Management Strategies at New York’s ‘Under the Radar International Theatre Festival,’” published in the *International Journal of Education and Human Development*.

Scott Richardson, associate vice president and chief human resources officer, gave a presentation, “Succession Planning Challenges in Higher Education,” at the national meeting of the Society of Human Resources Executives in Higher Education.

Criminal justice faculty members **Brian Kingshott** and **Tonisha Jones** gave a presentation, “Human Trafficking: A Feminist Perspective,” at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Denver, Colorado.

Kathy Bailey, professor of criminal justice, and students gave a presentation, “Examination of Adolescent Youth Sexual Attitudes and Recidivism 1988-2012,” at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Denver, Colorado.

Provost receives Beacon Award



Provost Gayle R. Davis, front row and third from left, accepted the Beacon Award March 8 in Lansing for a program that places college advisors in high schools.

Across Campus

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Bliss commended Grand Valley for its commitment to sustainability. “Thank you for recognizing those who demonstrate excellence and sustainable practices and who make a positive impact on our community. Grand Valley is a leader in sustainability, serving as a great model for others not only in our region, but globally,” she said.

Community members and organizations were also celebrated, including U.S. Green Building Council, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Hope College and Consumers Energy.



Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, far left, and President Thomas J. Haas, far right, with student award recipients.

At the event, Austin VanDyke, student community garden manager for the Sustainable Agriculture Project, was named the first recipient of the Dave Feenstra Sustainable Agriculture Project Internship Fund. The fund

was established in memory of Dave Feenstra who died in December. Feenstra retired from Grand Valley in 2012 then returned in 2014 to serve as adjunct manager for the Sustainable Agriculture Project. Feenstra’s wife and four daughters attended the ceremony.

“Austin wonderfully exemplifies Dave’s leadership, vision, determined spirit, and caring heart. Like Dave, he is destined to leave a legacy at Grand Valley for years to come,” said Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Awards honor LGBT community influencers

Grand Valley’s Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center hosted the Pride Awards March 30 to celebrate and honor those who made a positive impact on the LGBT community this academic year.

The fourth annual event took place in Kirkhof Center and featured student performances, including spoken poetry and singing.

Award recipients:

- Milton E. Ford Leadership Award: Jessica Jennrich, director of the Women’s Center
- Service to Community Award: Gary Van Harn, assistant for the Padnos International Center; Monica Johnstone, director of communications and advancement for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- LGBT Faculty/Staff Association PRISM Award: Neal Rogness, professor of statistics



The Milt Quilt that Johnstone presented to the center.

- Outstanding Student Leader Award: Andrew Collier, Samm Martin and Alex Vail
- Solidarity Award: Alli Montaie, assistant director of the Women’s Center; Takeelia Garrett, student ombuds
- Faculty Engagement Award: Cael Keegan, assistant professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies/liberal studies

At the event, Johnstone presented the Milt Quilt to the center. She said the quilt was made by hand by many allies. The project was inspired by Ford’s “dance floor model” of the intersectionality of the LGBT community.

“Milt had a vision for helping people understand complexity without being afraid of it,” Johnstone said. “His model was wiggly and hand-drawn with colored pencils, and it frustrated him that it was only two-dimensional. I hope he’d like that we brought it into a third dimension in his honor.”