

FORUM

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

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Collection allows students to study writing process

Jim Harrison, acclaimed Michigan-born author and friend of Grand Valley, died March 26 at age 78 at his winter home in Patagonia, Arizona.

Throughout his illustrious career, Harrison wrote almost 40 books, including novels, poetry collections and essays about his passion for food and the outdoors. His novella, *Legends of the Fall*, was adapted into the 1994 Oscar-nominated film of the same name, starring Brad Pitt and Anthony Hopkins.

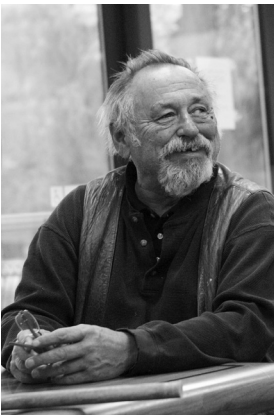
Many of Harrison's books and poems have been set in his home state of Michigan, and published in more than 20 languages.

In 2005, through the efforts of former President Mark A. Murray and the Meijer Foundation, the university acquired Harrison's complete collection of works, including manuscripts, unpublished materials, notebooks, screenplays, correspondence, photographs and artwork. The \$600,000 collection currently

resides in the Special Collections, located in the Seidman House on the Allendale Campus.

Patricia Clark, professor and chair of writing, said the Harrison literary collection gives scholars and students an opportunity to study the creative writing process from the early stages of drafts through revision and publication.

"It adds a great resource that really any level of student can use," Clark said. "As faculty, we



Jim Harrison

hope the collection bolsters what we say in the classroom when it comes to the writing process. For example, in one year Jim wrote 300 poems, but only published 40. Why did he do that? By having everything, there are many different angles to look at."

Harrison's numerous appearances at Grand Valley included being the featured author during the 2003 Fall Arts Celebration, giving readings on campus, visiting classes, and being involved in interdisciplinary panels speaking about the importance of liberal education.

"He genuinely enjoyed coming to my classes, especially when I taught an upper-level class as a 'Jim Harrison Visionary Thinker' course for three years running," said Stanley Krohmer, affiliate professor of liberal studies. "Jim mentioned to me more than once how he liked coming to talk to my students because 'they aren't wannabe writers who want to know how to publish the books they haven't written yet.'"

Across Campus

Kramer addresses diversity on boards

Mary Kramer, Grand Valley Board of Trustees member and publisher of *Crain's Detroit Business*, addressed the issue of diversity and equality on corporate boards as part of the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture series on March 29, hosted by the Seidman College of Business.

In her half-hour presentation, Kramer highlighted several West Michigan firms that already have above-average numbers of women serving in director or higher positions on corporate boards, including Wolverine Worldwide, where women hold more than a quarter of the seats on the board.

"Companies with female directors were more profitable than those who had none," Kramer said, citing outside research. "Three women on a board is the magic number, they say, and it helps women get into a comfort level."

Kramer said companies with diverse board members perform better in several



Photo by Rex Larsen

Mary Kramer, Grand Valley Board of Trustees member, discusses the need for diversity and equality on corporate boards during the Secchia Breakfast Lecture series March 29 at the L. William Seidman Center.

different key business metrics, including return on capital investments and return on equity.

"Adding more diversity would help boards avoid groupthink," Kramer said. "Maybe that's why companies with more women tend to perform better."

Kramer suggested that establishing a Michigan Women's Directory, a database that would list women who are well-qualified to serve in board positions, could help diversify points of view on corporate boards in the state.

"One trend we are seeing and need to see continue if we want to see increased numbers of women on these boards is that companies are starting to actively look for diversity because they know their customers are looking for it," Kramer said. "When companies keep consumers in mind, they recruit directors who are like their consumers, many of whom are female."

Science Olympiad challenges local students through STEM competitions

More than 1,500 local students challenged themselves and each other by constructing roller coasters, launching rockets, solving crimes, building robots, and even making cheese curds during the 32nd annual Region 12 Science Olympiad tournament March 19.

Presented by the Regional Math and Science Center, this year's tournament saw students from 45 middle schools and 25 high schools across West Michigan showcase their knowledge in the STEM fields,

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including biology, earth science, chemistry and physics during various contests.

“It’s vital for students to experience a variety of different opportunities so they can make informed decisions about their future careers,” said Chelsea Ridge, RMSC math program coordinator. “Our hope is that students will have a positive experience with challenging STEM topics, so maybe one day our Science Olympiad students will walk on the moon or even cure cancer.”

Sixteen teams of middle and high school students will now advance to the state Science Olympiad tournament April 30 in Lansing. Middle school winners included Lakewood, Chandler Woods, Allendale, Plymouth Christian, Jenison Junior High, Harbor Lights, East Grand Rapids, White Pines, Macatawa Bay and Riley Street. High school winners included Grand Rapids Christian, Grand Haven, West Ottawa, Plymouth Christian, Allendale and Forest Hills Central.

Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education by increasing student interest in the field, while providing recognition for outstanding achievements in science education by both students and teachers.

For more information about the Science Olympiad Tournament, visit gvsu.edu/rmsc.

Campus organizations honor women leaders

Grand Valley’s Women’s Commission honored faculty and staff members during the Celebrating Women Awards ceremony March 29 in the Kirkhof Center.

Stephanie Schaertel, associate professor of chemistry, received the Maxine Swanson Award; Cara Ocobock, assistant professor of biomedical



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Students are pictured during the Science Olympiad awards ceremony.

sciences, earned the Women’s Community Impact Award; Doris Penn, project coordinator for the Registrar’s Office, received the Unsung Hero Award; and Allison Montaie, assistant director of the Women’s Center, earned the Emerging Professional Award.

During the event, Positive Black Women awarded four scholarships to Deandreah Hollowell, Odell McFarland IV, Shaniya Stevenson and Emnet Woldemicael. Since the organization formed in 1995, PBW has raised and distributed \$42,300 in scholarships to students.

The Women’s Center gave Outstanding Student Awards to Ariana Jordan, Penni Kimble and Jaedah Pickens.

Wesorick lecturer learns patient’s entire story

Lauran Hardin was a practicing nurse in Boston after earning a degree and said she often picked up extra shifts to learn as much as she could about the profession.

When a back injury meant she couldn’t work as a nurse anymore, Hardin was devastated. Bonnie Wesorick helped Hardin through that process by assisting her transition to a different role in health care and teaching Hardin how important it is to learn the patient’s entire story.

Hardin honored Wesorick March 29 by giving a presentation at the DeVos Center as the distinguished lecturer for the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation. Housed in the Kirkhof College of Nursing, the center honors Wesorick, founder and chair emerita for the Clinical Practice Model Resource Center in Grand Rapids.

“My biggest fear was that I couldn’t work, I couldn’t go to school,” Hardin said. “Bonnie helped me find the holistic root cause of my story. I needed a bridge to employment and I needed help with anxiety, grief and loss. Bonnie stepped forward.”



Photo by Christi Wiltenburg

Lauran Hardin addresses the audience at the Distinguished Wesorick Lectureship at the DeVos Center March 29.

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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 State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



Advisory board spends day with Writing Department

Members of the Writing Program Advisory Board, a group of professionals in the community, visited campus March 23 and met with students and faculty members, visited classes, reviewed curricular goals and shared feedback. It was their inaugural visit.

The board was established last fall by writing faculty members Laurence Jose and Dauvan Mulally, using a Career Center internship grant. Mulally said the mission of the board is part of the Writing Department’s larger commitment to build relationships with the community and offer quality internship experiences to students.

Current board members are Erin Bernhard, managing editor of the *Awesome Mitten* and digital strategist at Oneupweb; Robyn Gordon, lead technical writer for JR Automation Technologies; Mara Naselli, freelance writer and editor; Pamela Patton, owner of Paragraph Writing Service; and Meahgan Pear, director of marketing for Beene Garter.

Bernhard said she was eager to join the advisory board because of the *Awesome Mitten*’s long-standing relationship with the department’s internship program.

“I’ve so enjoyed my interactions with writing students over the years, and I wanted to become more involved in shaping their education,” said Bernhard.

Bernhard said she hopes her presence on the board will help students to understand that



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Pictured are members of the Writing Program Advisory Board; from left are Meahgan Pear, Robyn Gordon, Pamela Patton, Erin Bernhard and Mara Naselli.

they don’t have to know exactly what they want to do with their lives based on their years in college.

“I am a strong proponent of allowing yourself to stay open to every possibility,” said Bernhard. “I want to make sure that the students who feel unsure about their paths start feeling sure about not having one. Staying flexible is critical, especially in this industry and job market.”

Mulally said the department’s goal is to expand the board further and diversify the professional writing areas represented.

What’s Ahead

Events planned for National Public Health Week

A campus health walk is just one activity planned to celebrate National Public Health Week, April 4-8.

Grand Valley’s Department of Public Health is taking part in the national effort to highlight several public health issues and topics.

“National Public Health Week is an exciting time to educate and bring awareness to our field,” said Ranelle Brew, associate professor and chair of public health. “This year we are supporting the national events that include a water quality webinar and a chance to talk with the surgeon general over a Web chat.

“We are also sponsoring a Grand Valley Health Walk that has an ‘Amazing Race’ theme, where there are clues that navigate participants around the Allendale Campus to discover health-related resources available on campus. Highlighting these resources through our NPHW event is a way to encourage a healthier lifestyle on campus.”

NPHW events include:

- April 4: The Kick-off NPHW Forum from 1-3 p.m. with a webcast, “How does the Healthiest Nation look in 2030?”
- April 5: A webinar at 1 p.m., “Public Health Authority and Water Quality”
- April 6: NPHW Twitter Chat beginning at 2 p.m. at #NPHWchat
- April 7: GVSU Health Walk starting at noon at the clock tower on the Allendale Campus
- April 8: Healthiest Nation Town Hall at 2 p.m. with the U.S. surgeon general and students

For links and more information about how to participate in webinars and events, visit www.gvsu.edu/sph.

FTLC workshop will highlight data tools

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center will host a workshop, “Relatively Easy Data Visualization on the Web,” on Wednesday, April 6.

Participants will learn to use free, online tools for visualizing data through charts and infographics, including Plotly, Inform, Raw, and Datawrapper. Students, faculty and staff members are welcome to attend; register online at www.gvsu.edu/sprout. Bring your data or use the instructor’s data.

The workshop will run from 1-3 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library, room 001.

Author of CRP book will visit campus, Holland

The author of the Community Reading Project will give presentations about her book in Allendale and Holland in April.

Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine recounts racial aggressions, intentional or not, that occur daily to people of color. Rankine’s book, which melds poetry and prose, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry, and was a finalist for the 2014 National Book Award in Poetry, among other literary honors.

Rankine will give presentations on Wednesday, April 6, at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave. in Holland, beginning at 7 p.m.; and on Thursday, April 7, at the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, beginning at 7 p.m.

Both events are free and open to the public, and both will include book sales and signings.

In her book, Rankine writes about celebrities and ordinary people of color who experienced racial aggressions, like tennis star Serena Williams and the racial slurs she endured from fans and competitors on the circuit, and an unknown woman who switches airplane seats with her daughter because her daughter doesn’t want to sit next to a person of color.

In a review, *Publishers Weekly* said Rankine’s book “inspires sympathy and outrage, but most of all a will to take a deep look at ourselves and our society.”

Jennifer Jameslyn, CRP interim coordinator, said Rankine’s blend of visual art, poetry and critical analysis is a unique experience audiences at her presentations will enjoy.

“The lecture will be an opportunity for Rankine to explore the connections between these different approaches, and the ways each genre brings a new perspective to the issues she’s discussing,” Jameslyn said.

For the past 10 years, a committee of Grand Valley faculty and staff members have selected a book for the Community Reading Project. Criteria to select a book include cultural resonance within American culture, connection to the university’s values, and wide appeal to students, faculty and staff members in a variety of disciplines. A year’s worth of programming is planned leading to the author’s visits.

About 80 faculty and staff members are using *Citizen* in their classes or small group discussions.

The CRP is sponsored by Grand Valley’s Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, University Libraries, Herrick District Library and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation in addition to many campus departments. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/read.



Claudia Rankine

Panel to challenge theories, practices of design thinking

An upcoming panel at Grand Valley will aim to illustrate how the theories and practices of design thinking can be applied to the creative processes of any academic or professional fields.

“Is Design Thinking Really Design?” will take place Thursday, April 14, from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the L. William Seidman Center, Loosemore Forum. The event is in conjunction with West Michigan Design Week.

“For innovation to really happen, a full understanding of design thinking and the design disciplines is needed, along with the reinforcement that anyone can be creative,” said John Berry, director of the Design Thinking Initiative. “Design thinking actually helps unlock creativity.”

Panelists for this event are Charles Saylor, former CEO and founder of izzy+; Danny Gaydou, design lead at Tiger Studios and adjunct professor at Kendall College of Art and Design; Patrick Shields, freelance designer; and Lauren Somers, who is majoring in film and video production at Grand Valley.

Registration is required for this event. To register, visit gvsu.edu/designthinking.

G3 Camp registration deadline extended

From learning how a zombie’s brain works to exploring the history of “selfies,” Grand Valley’s G3 Camp offers a fun and engaging way for children and their grandparents to experience college life.

The registration deadline for this year’s camp has been extended to May 16. To register and to see a full list of activities, visit www.gvsu.edu/g3.

Hosted by Grand Valley’s Regional Math and Science Center, Grandparents, Grandkids, Grand Valley Camp offers opportunities for children ages 8-12 and their grandparents to attend hands-on classes while living on the Allendale Campus June 21-23.

“G3 Camp provides a great opportunity for generations to uniquely connect,” said Diane Miller, RMSC program coordinator and G3 Camp organizer. “Youth will become familiar with a college campus while grandparents spend quality, educational time with their grandkids.”

During evening hours, participants are invited to explore Grand Valley’s Allendale Campus and take advantage of various activities, including swimming, rock climbing, basketball, bike riding, and watching movies.

For more information, call the Regional Math and Science Center at x12267.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Brian Kingshott, professor of criminal justice, was interviewed by WOOD-TV 8 for a story about the terrorist attacks in Brussels, Belgium.

WGS celebrates Women’s History Month



Pictured from left are WGS faculty members Leifa Mayers, Julia Mason, Danielle DeMuth, Ayana Weekley and Cael Keegan.

Students, faculty and staff members from Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies celebrated March as Women’s History Month by donning special T-shirts and sharing what feminism meant to them.

The T-shirts were designed by student Deandrea Hollowell and feature an

illustration of feminist author Audre Lorde. Danielle DeMuth, associate professor and chair of WGS, said Lorde’s likeness was appropriate as much of the WGS curriculum includes her work.

Sketches

Sgt. Jeff Stoll, from the Grand Valley Police Department, gave presentations, “Issues Involving Law Enforcement in Sobriety Court,” at the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals annual conference in Grand Rapids; and “Prosecuting the Drugged Driving Seminar,” for area prosecutors.

Al Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was a co-author of articles, “Temporal Dynamics of Microcystins in Limnodrilus hoffmeisteri, a Dominant Oligochaete of Hypereutrophic Lake Taihu, China,” published in *Environmental Pollution*; and “First Identification of the Toxicity of Microcystins on Pancreatic Islet Function in Humans and the

Partnership agreement



President Thomas J. Haas, left, and East China Normal University President Qun Chen sign the fourth partnership agreement between the institutions in Shanghai, China, March 17. The partnership began 15 years ago.

Involved Potential Biomarkers,” published in *Environmental Science and Technology*.

Jeffrey Rothstein, associate professor of sociology, wrote a book, *When Good Jobs Go Bad: Globalization, De-unionization, and Declining Job Quality in the North American Auto Industry*, published by Rutgers University Press.

Staff members from eLearning and Emerging Technologies, **Eric Kunnen**, **Justin Melick**, **Kim Kenward**, and faculty members were featured in a case study, “Ensemble Video’s Dropbox and Blackboard Integration Enhances Online Education,” published by Ensemble Video.

Library faculty members **Gayle Schaub** and **Hazel McClure** gave a presentation, “Information Literacy Threshold Concepts and the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education,” at the Sixth Library Congress held in Leipzig, Germany.

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Hardin is the director of the complex care center for Mercy Health System, and deals with high-frequency and complex patient cases. High-frequency is defined as four or more inpatient hospital visits annually. Her team has decreased the number of hospital visits by these patients by treating them and learning their entire story, Hardin said. That often means bringing in mental health and social work professionals.

Celebration highlights expansion of oral history project

Campus and community leaders celebrated the expansion of an oral history collection that includes interviews with West Michigan senior citizens.

“A Neighborhood Affair to Preserve Community” was held March 29 in the Kirkhof Center. Many of those seniors who participated in the project were present. Their stories, “Community House: Senior Histories,” will be available through the Kent District Library as well as the Young Lords Collection, housed at Grand Valley.

Lance Werner, director of KDL, said the library was honored to house the collection. “This is such a fantastic project,” Werner said. “It’s a preserved memorial that others can learn from.”



Photo by Steven Herppich

President Thomas J. Haas greets José Jiménez at an event March 29 that celebrated the expansion of the Young Lords oral history collection. The collection now includes oral histories from area senior citizens.

José Jiménez, a graduate student, and members of Grand Valley’s Young Lords student organization were responsible for conducting interviews and working with community partners ASCET Community Action, and United Methodist Community House.

Jiménez founded the Young Lords in 1968 and began researching an oral history project as a Student Summer Scholar through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.

Lee Van Orsdel, dean of University Libraries, spoke about preserving the new stories and added that the Young Lords collection is among

the top three collections at the library accessed by scholars worldwide.

Community mourns death of campus psychologist

The Grand Valley community is mourning the death of Mary Jo Thiel, a longtime psychologist in the University Counseling Center, who died February 25. She was 60.

Thiel joined Grand Valley in 1997. She provided clinical services to students, served as a clinical supervisor to mental health trainees and coordinated services for the University Counseling Office’s satellite locations.

“MJ’s counseling provided comfort to thousands of students,” said Amber Roberts, director of the University Counseling Center. “She was known for her expertise in supporting LGBTQ students and providing couples counseling. Her core values of service to the community, compassion for the human condition, and the power of positive thinking were steadfast. We will miss the sound of her laughter, and we will honor the ways she enriched our lives.”

Thiel worked in a variety of roles as a counselor and therapist before joining Grand Valley. In 2004, she began a successful private practice. She earned a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and doctorate from Western Michigan University.