

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## New tradition lights up Convocation ceremony

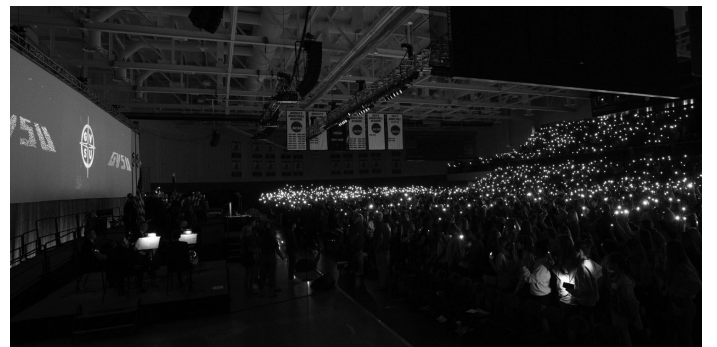
In her first Convocation address, President Philomena V. Mantella led the audience of first-year students, faculty and staff members, and guests through a new tradition she said symbolizes a commitment to individual success and a connection to the campus community.

Representatives from four campus segments (faculty, current students, alumni and new students) took turns at a table lighting the letters in GVSU throughout the August 23 ceremony in the Fieldhouse Arena. Mantella asked first-year student Cassandra Tank to light the last letter completing the university seal, then asked audience members to use their phones to “illustrate the true power of our collective Laker Effect.”

Mantella asked students to be intentional with reflection and consider a series of questions many times throughout their academic career; these questions focused on personal impact, empowerment and intellectual curiosity.



President Philomena V. Mantella gives remarks at Convocation August 23 in the Fieldhouse Arena. Audience members use their phones to illustrate their Laker Effect.



Photos by (left) Valerie Wojciechowski, Amanda Pitts

“The liberal tradition at Grand Valley provides the perfect opportunity for you to wonder and wander,” Mantella said. “Be curious. Grow in breadth and depth, grow in wisdom. Look for every opportunity to expand your mind, enrich your experiences and push yourself beyond your comfort zones.”

Provost Maria Cimitile welcomed students and

introduced the faculty seated in the audience, telling students they will act as guides in and out of the classroom, sharing their research and scholarship. She also introduced Making Waves About Water, a two-year campuswide, interdisciplinary initiative of courses and extra-curricular programming tied to the “vital

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## Antczak delivers final message to CLAS as dean

Embrace progress and cherish the noble calling of educating students to live a well-rounded life, Dean Fred Antczak told his colleagues August 22 in remarks launching the final academic year of his stint leading the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“We are so lucky to do what we do: to prepare students to make a living and make a life, as professionals, citizens, parents, friends, lovers of art and dance and film and music, users of technology, consumers of media, and much more,” Antczak told an audience in the Haas Center for Performing Arts.

Antczak will return to the faculty in summer 2020 after his 16th year as the founding dean of CLAS. His speech at the start-up event for CLAS faculty and staff preceded remarks from President Philomena V. Mantella and Maria Cimitile, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs.

A common thread in Antczak’s remarks was how a liberal education serves as a crucial base for students to thrive throughout their lifetimes, beyond their first job. That same preparation also equips students with the necessary skills, such as critical thinking, that will help them adapt to inevitable advances in

their professions and society, he said.

“Preparing our students for living as professionals and citizens will be challenging,” Antczak said. “Preparing each person for a whole life of sudden, profound and accelerating change may prove even more difficult, and surely more important.”

He urged his colleagues to model for students a willingness to grow and learn. Disruption, while uncomfortable, can spur the changes necessary to address a rapidly evolving higher education landscape and shifting expectations in students, parents and the general public. Antczak added that turning disruption into an opportunity has been “a hallmark of CLAS these last 15 years.”

As he eyes his return to the faculty, Antczak said he is mindful that he is navigating his own personal disruption and the attendant emotions. He also said he is looking forward to working more closely with colleagues who have made such a difference in the world,



Fred Antczak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, delivered his final remarks as founding dean of the college.

from grappling with environmental crises to strengthening schools.

“I’m very proud of you, and proud of what we innovated together over these years,” Antczak said. “But what we build into the future always needs to be the right thing for the times and circumstances as they present themselves. Let’s always bring our expertise and experience and professional imagination to the party. Let’s stay nimble.”

# ACROSS CAMPUS

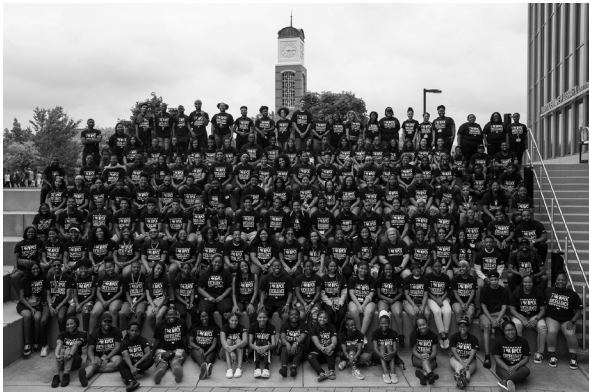
## Orientations held for students of color

More than 200 first-year students of color attended orientations prior to Transitions.

Laker Familia Orientation, serving students who identify as Latino and Hispanic, held its sixth orientation August 18-20. It was the third year for Black Excellence Orientation, for students who identify as Black/African American.

Using similar models, both orientation programs hosted dinners for parents and guests, team building activities and opportunities to network with current students, faculty and staff members.

Adriana Almanza, assistant director for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, chaired LFO; co-chairs for BEO were Juanita Davis, assistant director for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and V'Lecea Hunter, counselor for the Enrollment Development Division.



Prior to Transitions, first-year students of color participated in Black Excellence Orientation (top) and Laker Familia Orientation.

## Resource aids alumni engagement

More than 121,000 people have earned Grand Valley degrees.

Faculty and staff members who want to connect and engage with alumni can refer to a new website, [gvsu.edu/alumni/campuspartners](http://gvsu.edu/alumni/campuspartners), for resources.

The site contains forms to request an alumni speaker or alumni data for lists, a map of where U.S. alumni live and an event promotion form.

Other questions can be directed to Alumni Relations at x13590.

## GVNow recap:

## GVSU named top college by Forbes

Grand Valley was named one of America's Top Colleges by Forbes for the second straight year.

Forbes conducts an annual review of undergraduate institutions that deliver top academics along with the best experiences, career success and lowest debt.

According to Forbes, only 15 percent of the 4,300 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the U.S. are included, so making the list means a school meets a high standard.

Rankings focused on the direct benefits schools provide their graduates. Forbes considered debt after graduation, retention and graduation rates, alumni salaries, and signs of individual success including academic and career accolades.

In June 2019, Forbes named Grand Valley the second best place to work in Michigan. For more information, visit [forbes.com/top-colleges](http://forbes.com/top-colleges).

## Library exhibit created to give students sense of home

It's not uncommon for first-year students to miss their family and friends back home.

A new exhibit at the Mary Idema Pew Library is designed to help students

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### Other University Communications publications:

Grand Valley Magazine, published quarterly; visit [gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

GVNow, web publication; visit [gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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

## Convocation speakers share advice with students

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necessity of water and the challenges we face here in Michigan and around the globe.”

Felix Ngassa, professor of chemistry and chair of University Academic Senate, further solidified the student-faculty relationship within his remarks. He offered practical advice about meeting professors, keeping up with class work and getting involved.

“As faculty, we are invested in implementing Grand Valley’s mission of educating students to shape their lives, their professions and their societies,” Ngassa said. “In order to achieve this, we play a critical role in helping you develop a sense of belonging at Grand Valley by being invested not just in your intellectual growth, but in your personal growth as well.”

Michigan Rep. Kyra Bolden represented Grand Valley’s 121,000 alumni. Bolden is in her first term serving the Detroit suburbs of Southfield, Lathrup Village, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin. She said her Grand Valley experiences of joining a sorority and traveling to Japan for a study abroad program helped shaped her life and career. Bolden told students they will be well-prepared for their futures.

“The fact that you’re a student here at Grand Valley ensures you will be prepared to handle



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Felix Ngassa, professor of chemistry and chair of University Academic Senate, addresses the audience in the Fieldhouse Arena.

whatever gets thrown your way, especially with the help of the amazing people you have the opportunity to meet here,” she said.

Students then heard from one of their peers, Eric-John Szczepaniak, Student Senate president. He urged students to “find their people” and to get engaged in campus events.

“Just as Grand Valley is meant to shape your lived experiences, you, too, will shape its story,” Szczepaniak said. “You will soon join a chorus of lifelong learners dedicated to sharing their knowledge and equipped to continuously grow in the pursuit of knowledge.”





# WHAT’S AHEAD



‘Art of Today’ is the Fall Art Celebration exhibition, running August 23–November 1 in the Art Gallery.

## Contemporary works featured in Fall Arts Celebration exhibition

The art event for the 2019 Fall Arts Celebration is showcasing contemporary pieces, many of which originate from Grand Valley’s carefully developed collection of art in that genre.

The exhibition also pays tribute to the important role that Chicago plays in the contemporary art world and Grand Valley’s alliance with the city’s art experts. “Art of Today: Contemporary Collections from Chicago” features more than 40 pieces, from paintings to photographs to sculptures, which offer compelling imagery examining the issues of the day, organizers said.

“Contemporary art takes courage and challenges us,” said Nathan Kemler, interim director of Galleries and Collections. “This exhibition provides perspectives on today’s society and allows our community to explore complex global themes that widen our awareness and build empathy about the human condition.”

The exhibition dates are August 23–November 1 at the Art Gallery in the Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus. An exhibition reception is scheduled for September 12, 5–7 p.m.

For the past 15 years, university art experts have assembled a contemporary art collection by working closely with Chicago-based artists, gallery owners and collectors. This exhibition draws from Grand Valley’s collection and is augmented by loans from Chicago.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts). All events are free and open to the public.

## Summer Scholars showcase will highlight research

Nearly 50 undergraduate students will give presentations on research they conducted at the Student Summer Scholars Showcase on September 5, from 4–7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

The showcase is sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship; participating student researchers worked with faculty mentors as scholars in six different research programs.

Susan Mendoza, director of OURS, said the Student Summer Scholars program provides funds for a student and faculty mentor to devote 12 weeks to a research or creative project. “It’s a unique opportunity at Grand Valley for undergraduate students to have a meaningful learning experience that will prepare them for graduate school,” Mendoza said.

More information about the showcase is online at [gvsu.edu/ours](http://gvsu.edu/ours).

## Science on Tap begins fall semester series

Science on Tap begins its monthly series on September 12 with a discussion about how changes in sea level affect the distribution of fossils.

Cory Redman, science curator for the Grand Rapids Public Museum, will present “Cretaceous Coastlines: How Fluctuating Sea-Levels Can Impact Coastal Dinosaur Communities,” on September 12 beginning at 8 p.m. at the Speak EZ Lounge, 600 Monroe Ave. NW in Grand Rapids.

Sponsored by the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Science on Tap meetings are casual discussions about scientific topics. Other meetings are planned for October 10 and November 14. Follow the series on Facebook or Twitter (@ScienceOnTapGR).

## Faculty members to exhibit work in Grand Rapids

A refurbished historic building in downtown Grand Rapids will house an exhibition showing the wide array of works from faculty members in the Department of Visual and Media Arts.

The exhibition, “Endless Possibilities,” is scheduled to run September 14–October 27 at the NOMAD Gallery, 74 Monroe Center Ave. NW. An opening reception will be held September 14 at 6 p.m.

Located in The Morton, which Rockford Construction renovated into a mixed-use building that includes modern apartments, the gallery features what organizers describe as stripped-down space that is conducive to showing the works.

Featured works will range from animation to digital art to printmaking to sculpture. Kim Roberts, professor and chair of visual and media arts, said the event will showcase the work of faculty members who are feeling

particularly inspired to express themselves creatively.

“This exhibition reflects the vitality of the arts today — innovative and diverse,” Roberts said.

The exhibition will be open from noon–7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Organizers also are planning academic and artists talks as well as workshops in conjunction with the event.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/vma](http://gvsu.edu/vma).

## Interprofessional health care experts highlight conference

The 12th annual Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MIPERC) conference will focus on embedding interprofessional initiatives within health professions.

Hosted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Health, the MIPERC conference is September 19–20 at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. MIPERC is an organization founded by Grand Valley, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners and Michigan State University–College of Human Medicine to support collaborative health care initiatives across disciplines and institutions; it has a membership of more than 25 institutions and organizations.

Cost to attend is \$125 for both days, with lower one-day rates. A schedule, details and registration link are online at [gvsu.edu/mipercconference](http://gvsu.edu/mipercconference). Keynote presenters are listed below.

- Barbara Brandt, director, National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, and associate vice president for education, Academic Health Center, University of Minnesota;
- Dr. Peter Hahn, president and CEO of Metro Health University of Michigan Health;
- Susan Hanrahan, dean of nursing and health professions, and president, Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions;
- Lucinda Maine, executive vice president and CEO, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

A pre-conference workshop on September 19 will include a team-building challenge that has participants focusing on “imprinting interprofessional collaboration in their “safety DNA.” Participants will apply tools for building healthy habits into daily patient safety processes.

Continuing education credits are available for nursing, pharmacy and medical education.

# ACROSS CAMPUS

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combat feelings of homesickness and feel a greater sense of belonging.

Emily Frigo, liaison librarian for liberal arts programs, said the Home(MADE) exhibit offers an interactive experience for students, which displays questions like, “What does home look like? Feel like? Smell like?”

“We are trying to create a sense of belonging,” said Frigo. “We want first-year students to connect and interact beyond just meeting someone. We want them to break barriers and realize they may share similar feelings being away from home and in a new place.”

The exhibit will be on display in the lower level atrium of the library through September 24.

In addition to the exhibit, students can make and decorate a memory box at the Mary Idema Pew Library on Tuesday, August 27, from 10 a.m.–noon and Wednesday, August 28, from 6–8 p.m.; and at the Steelcase Library on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus on August 29 from 2–4 p.m.

## Researcher: consumers swayed by ‘natural’ medication

When faced with a decision about choosing a medication, consumers have a strong tendency to gravitate toward a product that is labeled “natural,” a research team recently concluded.

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# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## IN THE NEWS

### Career Center takes field trips

Ten Career Center staff members visited Herman Miller (pictured at right) and Haworth in Holland to better understand how students can connect to the office furniture manufacturers. Staff members met with more than 25 student interns and Grand Valley alumni at the two companies, and learned more about how the employee partners recruit interns.



**Kathryn Remlinger**, professor of English, was interviewed by the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* for a story about use of the word “ope.”

## SKETCHES

**Bill Hosterman**, associate professor of visual and media arts, and retired faculty member **Ed Wong-Ligda** will have an exhibition of their artwork at the Muskegon Museum of Art, September 19-December 15. An opening reception is scheduled for September 19, with a presentation at 7 p.m.

The **German language program** earned national recognition from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

The **GVSU Family Health Center** earned a quality award, PIP Performance, from Priority Health. The nurse-managed center, 72 Sheldon Blvd. SE in Grand Rapids, is managed by the Kirkhof College of Nursing.

**Joyce Miller**, client services coordinator for Conference and Event Planning, received Sustainable Event Professional certification through the Events Industry Council.

The **Physician Assistant Studies** program in Traverse City received the Outstanding Credit Program Award from the University Professional and

Continuing Education Association’s Central Region. The award honors outstanding professional, continuing or online education programs from UPCEA member institutions. The award will be presented at the UPCEA annual conference in October.

**Patricia Clark**, professor of writing, earned Chatham University’s “Folio Prize” from *Fourth River*, a journal of nature and place-based writing that will publish eight of her new poems.

**Steven Lipnicki**, assistant dean of students, was invited by the United Veterans Council of Kent County to represent Grand Valley as a member of the Veteran of the Year Selection Committee.

**William J. Neal**, emeritus professor of geology, was a co-author of an article, “Santa Veronica Beach, Atlantico, Caribbean Coast, Colombia: A Model of Small Community, Beach Loss, Wrong Responses,” published by Coastalcare.org.

**Mike Shoemaker**, associate professor of physical therapy, and several alumni served as part of the American Physical Therapy Association House of Delegates during an assembly in Chicago, Illinois. Shoemaker is president of the Michigan Physical Therapy Association.

**John Weber**, professor of geology, was a co-author of an article, “Trichonis Basin, Western Central Greece: Is it an Immature Basin in the Corinth Rift or a Pull-apart in a Sinistral Rift-trench Link?” published in the *Journal of the Geological Society of London*.

**Dan Balfour**, professor of public administration, was a co-author, with an alumna, of a fifth edition of his book, *Unmasking Administrative Evil*, published by Routledge.

**Bopi Biddanda**, professor water resources, gave a presentation, “From Sinkholes to the Stars,” at the Great Lakes Maritime Center in Alpena. Biddanda also was a co-author of a blog post, “Diving Sinkholes for Microbial Mats that Bury Carbon and Release Oxygen,” for EOS’ Postcards from the Field.

**Patrick Fuliang Shan**, professor of history, wrote an article, “Unveiling China’s Relinquished Marital Mode: A Study of Yuan Shikai’s Polygamous Household,” published in *Frontiers of History in China*.

**Kayla Wheeler**, assistant professor of area and global studies and digital studies, received the Trailblazer’s Award from the Black Muslim Psychology Conference for creating a digital humanities project, the #BlackIslamSyllabus.

Movement Science faculty members **Ingrid Johnson** and **Tess Armstrong** participated in a week-long outdoor education camp for teachers sponsored by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Academy of Natural Resources.

## ACROSS CAMPUS

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The findings illustrate both the perceived benefits of natural products in today’s climate and the role that emotion often plays when making health decisions, said Amanda Dillard, associate professor of psychology.

Dillard and her colleagues recently published their report in the journal *Social and Personality Psychology Compass* and wrote an article for the health news website STAT that gave an overview of the research. One of the field studies for the research was conducted at Grand Valley, Dillard said.

For Dillard, whose work in psychology centers on how emotion and risk perception affect people’s health behavior, the findings are consistent with what she has seen in her scholarship.

“People rely on their emotions more than

their analytical side when making decisions, particularly regarding their health, which can lead to unwise decisions,” Dillard said. “How do you make it so emotions can be reduced?”

Researchers conducted five studies involving 1,125 people, according to a news release. The studies found that people significantly preferred using plant-based drugs over synthetic drugs and that the term “natural” had a much more favorable perception than the term “synthetic.”

Products ranging from food to beauty products to medications are often labeled as natural, Dillard noted. The researchers said the problem with automatically assuming that such products are safer or more effective is that some natural substances are harmful, arsenic is an extreme example, and some synthetic drugs, such as those used to treat cancer, are helpful.

When researchers educated people about the built-in positivity bias toward natural products, the preference toward natural drugs reduced, Dillard said. That outcome shows the benefit of education, Dillard said, even as experts recognize human tendencies to fall back on emotion.

“Ultimately, the goal is to help people make the best decisions for themselves and to have that decision based on careful thought,” Dillard said.

*For complete stories, visit [gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://gvsu.edu/gvnow).*



Amanda Dillard