Across Campus

Grand Valley named a top Midwest university

Grand Valley was named a top university and best value by U.S. News and World Report.

For its annual Best Colleges 2016 publication, Grand Valley ranked third for “Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest” and 14th for “Best Value in the Midwest.” Grand Valley also ranked 26th for “Best Regional University” in the Midwest and 46th for “Best in Undergraduate Engineering” programs.

The U.S. News rankings are based on several key measures of quality including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving. Data was collected from each institution that included several indicators of academic excellence.

For more information on how Grand Valley continues to excel in the areas of graduation and retention rates, alumni working in Michigan and keeping down the cost of a college degree, view the university’s accountability report at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

United Way partner organization gets help from students

The Grand Rapids nonprofit Family Promise, a Heart of West Michigan United Way partner that helps families avoid homelessness, recently received assistance from a class of Grand Valley students.

Heather Carpenter, an assistant professor in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration, said her “HR in Organizations” graduate class spent time with the staff at Family Promise to help them create and revise job descriptions for several new positions, along with building a professional development program for the staff.

“Applied learning has always been part of my

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teaching philosophy, so it made sense to get students in a position where they could help a nonprofit in a tangible way,” Carpenter said.

The joint effort between students and nonprofits allows both the institution to help Northwestern Michigan College, in Traverse City, and the nonprofits in a community support mechanism, and we have an opportunity through The United Way. The assistance they give to nonprofits serving the community, the opportunities for the training and support are not just important, but necessary.

“Giving agencies like the United Way are critical in our communities,” Carpenter said. “I can’t imagine living in a community without the United Way. The assistance they give to nonprofits serving the community, the opportunities for training and support are not just important, but necessary.”

The United Way helps organizations like Family Promise by serving as a community support mechanism, and we have an opportunity through the United Way to help support those organizations and enhance our students’ learning at the same time.”

Traverse City Center to celebrate 20 years of partnership

Grand Valley representatives will join colleagues from seven other institutions to help Northwestern Michigan College, in Traverse City, celebrate the 25th anniversary of its University Center.

For two decades, the NMC University Center has offered classes and degree programs from 12 partner universities for northern Michigan residents. The eight partners are Central Michigan, Davenport, Eastern Michigan, Ferris State, Grand Valley, Michigan State, Spring Arbor and Western Michigan universities.

A celebration is planned for September 17.

Faculty, alumni involved in fossil discovery

An international team of scientists, including a Grand Valley professor and alumni, recently discovered a fossil of an extinct monkey, a find that has dated to be more than 1 million years old.

The discovery was made after the team recovered a fossil tibia belonging to the species of extinct monkey Antillothrix bernensis from an underwater cave in Angladencia, Dominican Republic. The species was roughly the size of a small cat, dwelled in trees, and lived largely on a diet of fruits and leaves.

“I know there is a significant extinct fauna on the Caribbean islands, but dating the material has been difficult,” said Melissa Tallman, assistant professor of biomedical sciences. “Antillothrix bernensis is one of the best preserved bones of this species we have ever found, because it is nearly complete.”

Tallman noted that dating is key to understanding the species’ relationship to the modern squirrel monkey. A better understanding of the relationship could lead to a better understanding of the evolution of the modern squirrel monkey. A better understanding of the relationship could lead to a better understanding of the evolutionary relationships between the species.

The event, sponsored by the Office of Marketing & Research, will take place in the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons multipurpose room from 6-9 p.m.

“Yumi Jakobcic, campus sustainability coordinator, will talk about the event and its relevance to our sustainability efforts on campus,” said Tallman.

Sustainability Spotlight gives overview of campus efforts

Students, faculty and staff members will have an opportunity to collaborate and learn about new sustainability activities happening on campus at the Sustainability Spotlight, set for Tuesday, September 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons multipurpose room.

The event will feature the following presenters and their topics: Chalisa Brehm, new “Sustainability in Sport” course; Youself Darwiche, Sustainable Agriculture Project; Jim Gardella’s research on the Amazons; Hannah Ho, “Sustainable You” health fair; Anna Hill, Green Team student; and Alan Papp, local artist. A discussion will follow the free screening of environmental documentaries.

For more information, contact Yumi Jakobcic at jacobcy@gvsu.edu.

Cancer Warriors to hold first meeting

Cancer Warriors will hold its first meeting of the academic year on Thursday, September 17, from noon to 1 p.m. in Zabriskie Hall room 302.

The group supports students, faculty and staff members who are diagnosed with cancer or who serve as caregivers to others. A new topic will be discussed each week.

Register for the event online at gvsu.edu/sprout. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/healthwise.

MIPERC conference focuses on interprofessional practice

The Midwest Interprofessional Practice Education and Research Center (MIPERC) will host its eighth annual conference September 17-18 at the DeVos Center.

The conference provides students, faculty and staff members with access to national regional and local leaders in interprofessional education and research.

For more information, contact Yumi Jakobcic at jacobcy@gvsu.edu.

Perugino String Quartet kicks off Arts at Noon concert series

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley begins Wednesday, September 16, with a performance by the Perugino String Quartet.

“During the summer, the arts come together in a community in a way that is not possible during the academic year,” said Jennifer Strange, director of the Arts at Noon series.

Strange said the community’s support of the arts is just as important in the academic year as it is during the summer. “There is a great demand for the arts in the community, and we want to continue to meet that demand.”

What’s Ahead

The eight partners are Central Michigan, Davenport, Eastern Michigan, Ferris State, Grand Valley, Michigan State, Spring Arbor and Western Michigan universities to help Northwestern Michigan College, in Traverse City, create stable lifestyles for their children.

Students get practical experience in their course material, and they could help a nonprofit in a tangible way,” Carpenter said.

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Young Professionals in Higher Education is kicking off its second year with a free and casual networking event on Thursday, September 17, in Grand Rapids.

Young Professionals in Higher Education (YPHe) kicks off with an event titled “Just Kidding.” The group organizes monthly programs to encourage professional development and networking for young professionals who will emerge in higher education. All events are free; RSVP is required. For Grand Valley employees, RSVP at gvsu.ca/yphighered. For more information, visit yphighered@gmail.com.

Doctors and seminar topics are highlighted below:

• October 8, Allendale Campus: “You What to Know and How to Be Recognized as a Leader”

• November 5, Pew Grand Rapids Campus: “I’m in — Just Kidding …”

• January 14, Pew Grand Rapids Campus: “Finding your Place as a Young Professional”

• February 4, Allendale Campus: “Minding Your Manners”

• March 3, Pew Grand Rapids Campus: Young Professionals Leadership and Networking Event

For more information, visit gvsu.ca/oba or call x15876 to register.

Documentary targets partisan news programming

In an era of cable news where producers work to disorient and inspire impromptu shouting matches, the Hauenstein Center for Public Policy is presenting a new documentary that looks at the history of debate and cable news programming.

A discussion will follow the free screening of “Best of Enemies,” a documentary that focuses on the behind-the-scenes angle of the explosive debate between Richard Gorelick and Bill Moyers on C-SPAN television in 1986. The screening is Thursday, September 17 at 7 p.m. in the Ingersoll Cinema Woodland, in Grand Rapids.

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What’s Ahead

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Joe Hogan, program director for the Hauenstein Center’s Common Ground Initiative, said the discussion following the screening will focus on whether Buckley and Vidal’s on-air battle marked the intellectual high-water mark for televised debate, or lead to its downfall, along with the issue of why scathing attacks and party-line stance commentary generate ratings for pundits that original thoughts never could.

Faculty members Toni Perrine, Benjamin Lockerd and Paul Murphy will join Hauenstein Center staff for a discussion following the screening. Space is limited, so an RSVP is requested online at hauensteincenter.org/rsvp.

Paleo-Olympic Games offers medieval demonstrations

From medieval rugby to sword fighting, the seventh annual Paleo-Olympic Games will take place Friday, September 18, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Kirkhof Center lawn near the Cook Carillon Tower.

The student-run Paleo-Olympic Games are an annual compilation of events that bring together the Grand Valley community for a day of activities revolving around learning about the past. The Archaeology Club, Classics Society, History Club, Fencing Club and Anthropology Club sponsor the games.

Those in attendance will experience ancient Greek relay races, Roman volleyball, medieval rugby, craft activities and pottery reconstruction. Faculty members will perform demonstrations, such as archery, weaponry tactics, weaving and more.

Fall Arts Celebration to spotlight music faculty

While Grand Valley students have historically been featured during the Fall Arts Celebration music event, faculty members will receive the spotlight this year.

“People see our faculty in performances on campus and in the community, but they don’t really understand the scope of how nationally known some of these educators are,” said Danny Phipps, chair of the Music and Dance Department.

“Faculty Artistry Gems! Recognizing GVSU Music Faculty Performances in the Community” is set for Monday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre. The concert will be preceded by a carillon concert by Julienne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur, from 7-7:20 p.m.

The evening begins with a celebration of the university’s long-standing artistic and community relationship with the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra. Christopher Kanter, affiliate professor of flute and GRSO principal flutist; Richard Britsch, affiliate professor of horn and GRSO principal horn; and Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano, will portray “Souvenir du Rigi, Op. 34” by Franz Doppler.

Bill Ryan, director of Grand Valley’s New Music Ensemble, will be honored through a rendition of his composition “Simple Lines,” performed by Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello.

This celebration of faculty artistry concludes with the award-winning Donald Sinta Quartet, featuring Dan Graser, assistant professor of saxophone.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call 616-331-2185.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

Sketches

Al Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, wrote an article, “Stormwater Runoff to an Impaired Lake: Impacts and Solutions”, published in Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; and was a co-author on “Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Microcystin Variants and Relationships with Environmental Parameters in Lake Taihu, China,” published in Toxins.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources at the Annis Water Resources Institute, wrote an article, “Seeking Sunlight: Rapid Phototactic Motility of Filamentous Mat-forming Cyanobacteria Optimize Photosynthesis and Enhance Carbon Burial in Lake Huron’s Submerged Sinkholes,” published in Frontiers.

Steve Chappell, grant writer for WGVU Public Media, received a grant from Public Broadcasting Service for a project, “2015 PBS Arts Fall Festival.”

Jodi Petersen, interim director of the Community Research Institute at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, was a finalist for the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Athena Award.

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FOBI Scholar in Residence visits Grand Rapids

Josip Kotlar, Family Owned Business Institute Scholar in Residence at Grand Valley, is visiting West Michigan through September 18.

Kotlar is an assistant professor of family business at Lancaster University Management School in England and is considered one of the top up-and-coming family business researchers, with award-winning research spanning a wide range of topics involving strategy, entrepreneurship and innovation.

He is visiting family-owned businesses in the area, discussing how firms that build long-lasting links with their traditions can still be innovative. Kotlar gave a presentation September 11 at the Bicycle Factory called, “Innovating Through Tradition: A New Innovation Strategy for Family Firms.”

Josip Kotlar

Music faculty will be featured at the next Fall Arts Celebration event on September 21.