

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Faculty, staff echo comments during search meeting

Faculty and staff members who participated in an open discussion about the qualities of the university's next provost were somewhat unified in their comments.

They would like the next provost to understand Grand Valley's unique history, be a strong advocate for student success and be mindful of upcoming challenges. "We want someone who preserves the past and will pioneer toward the future," said Eric Kunnen, associate director of eLearning and emerging technologies.

Two open forums led by search firm consultants were held September 13-14. Provost Gayle R. Davis announced in July that she will retire next summer.

Daniel Rodas and Greg Esposito, consultants from the educational and executive search firm Isaacson, Miller, guided participants through a series of questions about the role and what challenges a provost will face in the next five years. Rodas said comments will assist with writing a detailed position description when candidate recruitment begins.

Charles Pazdernik, professor of Classics,

said he would ask candidates about their approach to higher education challenges, like decreases in state funding and a decreasing pool of Michigan high school graduates.

"Crises like these present opportunities for an administrator to motivate change," Pazdernik said.

Comments about maintaining the integrity of a liberal arts education were brought forth by a number of people, and Paul Leidig, director of the School of Computing and Information Systems, wanted someone who would balance that with professional schools.

Staff members from Student Services spoke about continuing and strengthening the partnerships built between academic and student services units.

Kate Harmon, director of Campus Recreation,



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Matt Boelkins, professor of mathematics, comments during an open forum about Grand Valley's next provost.

said she would like to see candidates who are aware of the challenges today's students face.

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Across Campus

Grand Valley named a top Midwest university

Grand Valley has been named a top university in the Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In the 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* Best



Photo by Amanda Pitts

U.S. News and World Report ranked Grand Valley third in its 'Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest' list. Pictured are first-year students during Transitions in August.

Colleges rankings, Grand Valley ranked third for "Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest." Grand Valley also ranked 27th for "Best Regional University" in the Midwest and 55th for "Best in Undergraduate Engineering" programs.

The 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.

Community partnership helps close education gaps

The Office of Multicultural Affairs is participating in a unique program that helps close gaps in educational achievement by working with community partners and pairing students with mentors.

The program, Promise Partners Mentoring Collaboration, brings together community resources to provide a mentorship pipeline for

students in West Michigan from kindergarten through college.

"What we had seen over the years was that there were lots of great programs to help students achieve in school, but many of them were targeted specifically to elementary students or middle school students, and we were finding there were gaps in the coverage provided by these programs," said Rachel Lopez, director of youth and parent services at the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan.

The partnership involves five community organizations: Grand Valley, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Cook Arts Center, Cook Library Center, and Ferris State University.

The program works to pair young students with older students who can serve as mentors to help with the transition between grades and school levels for K-12 students. It also pairs high school students with college mentors and enlists community role models — business leaders and working professionals — who can help build connections for college students after graduation.

"Many of the students who are taking part

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in this program are first-generation college students and many haven't seen the process of moving from high school to college," said Connie Dang, director of OMA. "It's important to create that college-going culture. When students see their peers in high school going to college, many of them say to themselves, 'I can do that, too.'"

The Hispanic Center of Western Michigan helps fund the program with a grant from the United Way, which Grand Valley supports through its annual campaign, which kicks off October 3-14.

Promise Partners is in its second year; the effectiveness of the program is being evaluated by the Community Research Institute at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

The Promise Partners program is supported by a special grant from the United Way.

Faculty and staff members can expect a United Way campaign pledge form in the coming weeks.



Pictured are Grand Valley student Noemi Jimenez, right, and her mentor, Ingrid Aguayo; both participate in a United Way-funded program, Promise Partners Mentoring Collaboration.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble releases first CD

Following months of rehearsals and recording and editing sessions, the Grand Valley State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble is now searchable in iTunes. The ensemble's first CD, "Under Western Skies," is available in commercial retail stores and through online music outlets.

Directed by Kevin Tutt, professor of music, "Under Western Skies," features newly composed music for trumpet and wind ensemble. The CD not only spotlights the 53-member student ensemble, but also guest

conductor Lowell Graham, retired U.S. Air Force Band commander and conductor, and trumpet soloists Richard Stoelzel and Rex Richardson.

"Under Western Skies" was recorded and produced through the Florida-based recording studio Klavier Music Productions. Danny Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair, stressed the rarity of this kind of experience for undergraduate students.

"Our undergraduate students were able to experience first-hand what it means to be in a professional recording session with a company that prides itself on achieving the most faithful reproduction of a live performance—something only a handful of music students across the country can boast," Phipps said.

"Under Western Skies" can be downloaded via iTunes at <http://gvsu.edu/s/OfG>.

Study: lack of fresh food linked to heart disease

A lack of access to nearby stores selling fresh food may increase residents' risk of developing the signs of early heart disease, according to research conducted by Jeffrey Wing, assistant professor of public health.

The research, by Wing and Ella August, clinical assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan, was published in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation*.

"The lack of healthy food stores may help explain why people in these neighborhoods have more heart disease," said Wing. "The thought is that greater access to healthier foods may have promoted healthier diets and, in turn, less coronary plaque formation."

Past studies found that limited fresh food choices and/or numerous fast food restaurants in poorer neighborhoods were linked to unhealthy diets.

Wing said residents in these neighborhoods have a greater likelihood of early atherosclerosis (a disease that hardens arteries and underlies many types of heart disease), but no studies have examined which factors might cause this.



Jeffrey Wing

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Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web at www.gvsu.edu/forum.

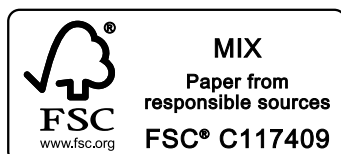
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Grand Valley Magazine, published quarterly; visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVN^{ow}, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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



GVFaces

Annie Benefiel, Archivist for Collection Management

In the eighth grade, Annie Benefiel shadowed a curator at the Indianapolis State Museum. One of her tasks involved cataloging nails that were found at a preservation site.

"At the time, I thought, 'This is really boring, I'm cataloging nails,'" Benefiel said. "When I think about the work I do now, it's very similar to that. I mean, it's not nails, but I do have the same passion for archiving."

Benefiel arrived at Grand Valley in 2014. She served as the assistant archivist for Special Collections and University Archives, overseeing a transition into an online archival database, "Archive Space." She also worked with faculty and staff members to identify collections that had not been processed.

When former archivist Nancy Richard retired, Benefiel worked with Special Collections Director Robert Beasecker to reposition the department. Benefiel said she and Beasecker want to improve the way collections are integrated into the curriculum.

Tasked with rewriting her own job description, Benefiel explored the specifics of her work.

"It was a very good exercise that allowed me to reflect on what happens in the department and how to best use my expertise and experience," Benefiel said.

Her job remains largely familiar: she works directly with the collections, and maintains the department's website and Archive Space. While it is not a drastic change, her new position allows Benefiel to focus on specific aspects of her job that were not in the spotlight before.

Benefiel said engagement is one of the biggest challenges facing Special Collections, as the material does not circulate and student access is low.

"A lot of students are very accustomed to finding information online, and they do a terrific job of it," Benefiel said. "The idea that you have to go to a place, and look at the actual physical materials in that place, is a challenge for some students."

A new position at Special Collections will focus on engaging students with the collection, and Benefiel said the staff will look for better ways to integrate their material into classroom teaching.

"Really, I just want to see our collections get more use," Benefiel said.



Annie Benefiel

What's Ahead

Health and Wellness promotes national initiative

Healthy Campus Week, which runs September 19-24, is a time for the campus community to celebrate its physical fitness and healthy eating choices.

The national initiative is from the Partnership for a Healthier America; Grand Valley joined PHA as a campus partner in May.

Lindsey DesArmo, health and wellness specialist, hopes students, faculty and staff members will use social media to post their participation in exercise classes, campus walks, farmers market or campus dining areas using the hashtag #healthycampusweek. As an incentive during the week, students who post to social media with the hashtag will be entered into a drawing for a Target gift card; faculty and staff members will be entered into a drawing for a Fitbit.

- Another Health and Wellness initiative begins in early October. The Pedometer Challenge is a six-week fitness competition that allows participating faculty and staff members to compete by tracking pedometer steps as part of a team. The challenge will run October 3-November 11.

Prizes are awarded for teams who earn the most steps and reach set goals. For more information and to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness/pc.

Grammy Award-winning flutist to play Arts at Noon

The Arts at Noon series continues Wednesday, September 21, with triple Grammy Award-winning flutist Timothy Munro.

Munro was the flutist and co-artistic director of the chamber ensemble Eighth Blackbird from 2006-2015. As an ensemble member, Munro performed at major concert venues in the U.S. and abroad, curated three music festivals and premiered more than 100 new works. Munro won his third Grammy Award as a member of Eighth Blackbird in 2016, for the Cedille Records album "Filament."



Timothy Munro

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

For more information about the Arts at Noon series, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

ArtPrize 2016 kicks off with band, dance company

The Laker Marching Band, Dance Company and WGVU Nerd Walk will kick-off ArtPrize Wednesday, September 21, in Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids.

The Laker Marching Band will begin the festivities with a performance at the Eberhard Center. Following this performance, the band, Dance Company and the Nerd Walk will proceed in cadence across the Blue Pedestrian Bridge to Rosa Parks Circle, where the band and dance company will perform a second time under the direction of President Thomas J. Haas following a proclamation by Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss.

The WGVU and PBS Nerd Walk encourages participants to embrace their own uniqueness by marching the streets of Grand Rapids with magic wands, lightsabers, mystical hammers and capes. A contest will be held at Rosa Parks Circle to determine best costume, most original costume and most inspired costume.

For more information about the entry, visit artprize.org.

Women's Commission will host Fall Welcome

Grand Valley's Women's Commission will host its annual Fall Welcome Thursday, September 22.

The event will run from noon-1:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. All faculty and staff members are invited; lunch will be served. RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/wcommission.

Lee VanOrsdel, dean of University Libraries, will be the keynote speaker.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Women's Commission, the longest established affinity group for faculty and staff members.



Lee VanOrsdel

Hispanic Heritage Celebration brings multiple events

Grand Valley's annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration will feature a history lesson on Latinos in Grand Rapids, a guest speaker and cultural events.

The events, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and WGVU Public Media, are free and open to the public.

- **The Origins of Latino Grand Rapids: Community Building and Pan-ethnic Identity Formation from the 1940s to the 1970s:** Thursday, September 22, 2-3:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2263

Delia Fernández will present the ways in which Mexican and Puerto Ricans developed a relationship with each other to make West Michigan their home. From dances to baseball games to festivals, the two groups formed origins of a Latino community in the 1940s that has continued to the present.

- **Marisel Herrera:** October 7, noon-2 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2250

Herrera, director of the First-Year Success Center for Arizona State University, is a certified coach, author and speaker whose message empowers Latin@ students and youth. She will share her story and how students can use their strengths and personal experiences to be successful.

- **Conference on the Americas: Human Rights in the Atlantic World and Beyond:** October 21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Eberhard Center

The joint conference of the Great Lakes History Conference and Conference on the Americas will feature a keynote presentation by Héctor Tobar, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Deep Down Dar: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle that Set Them Free*.

- **Noche De Los Muertos:** November 4, 8 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2250

The Latino Student Union will host an evening of dinner and dancing, and will educate

participants about the history and significance of the Day of the Dead.

Some events require an RSVP, for more information, visit gvsu.edu/oma.

GVSU meets SeoulTech for FAC art exhibit

In 2008, a unique partnership began between Grand Valley State University and SeoulTech, located in South Korea. Since that time, the two institutions have exchanged students and faculty members through various degree and study abroad programs.

While SeoulTech hosted 17 works of art by Grand Valley art and design faculty in 2013, this year, it is Grand Valley's turn to host art from abroad. As the Fall Arts Celebration's featured art exhibition, 23 works by faculty members from SeoulTech have joined with pieces created by Grand Valley faculty for the partnership's second joint exhibition.

An opening reception for the "GVSU and SeoulTech Art and Design Faculty Exhibition" will take place Thursday, September 22, from 5-7 p.m., in the Art Gallery, located in the Performing Arts Center.



The Fall Arts Celebration art exhibit features works by faculty from Grand Valley and SeoulTech.

During the exhibit, visitors will see a mix of mediums, including ceramics, metalsmithing, digital design, printmaking, jewelry design, fiber arts, painting, visual studies and sculpting.

"From a technical perspective alone, the faculty from SeoulTech are at a most extraordinary level and their work will amaze and delight visitors," said Henry Matthews, Galleries and Collections director. "The art will be beautiful, but the intricacies of the craft will be extraordinary. This is an interesting and exciting opportunity to bring artwork by these two groups together and showcase what they feel is some of their best work."

For more information about all Fall Arts Celebration events, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts or call x12185.

Colloquy speakers will discuss medicalization of mental health issues

The biannual DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy will focus on mental health and presenters will debate the changes and expansion of mental disorder diagnoses, and the ethics of medical treatment for so-called "normal emotions," like anxiety.

"The Medicalization of Society" is set for Monday, September 26, at 6 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. The event is free and open to the public. Two New York psychiatrists will examine opposing viewpoints of medicalization in mental health.

Michael B. First is a professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University, and a research psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute; he also maintains a practice in Manhattan.

Jerome C. Wakefield serves as university

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FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Sandra Spoelstra, associate dean for research and scholarship for KCON, was interviewed by the Associated Press for a story about her involvement and research into a program that helps seniors maintain their independence and age in place.

Sketches

Jason Crouthamel, professor of history, gave a presentation, "Mutual Perceptions of 'Comradeship' between Gentile and German-Jewish Front Soldiers during the First World War," at the Jewish Soldiers and Collective Memory at the Center for Jewish Studies conference at the University of Graz, Austria.

Dan Golembeski, associate professor of French, received a Literature Translation Fellowship grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to translate "The Long Walk: From the Mediterranean to China Along the Silk Road" to English.

Laurel Westbrook, associate professor of sociology, was a co-author of an article, "Scaling Up Representing Gender Diversity in Survey Research," published in *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*.

Robert Rozema, associate professor of English, earned the NCTE Edwin M. Hopkins award for his *English Journal* article, "Manga and the Autistic Mind."

Sok Kean Khoo, associate professor of cell and molecular biology, gave a presentation, "Circulating microRNAs as Progression

Biomarkers for Parkinson's Disease," and chaired a session, "Circulating Biomarkers to Diagnose and Monitor Disease," at the 12th Annual Biomarkers and Diagnostics World Congress.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources, was co-author of an article, "Tracing the Seepage of Subsurface Sinkhole Vent Waters into Lake Huron using Radium and Stable Isotopes of Oxygen and Hydrogen," published in *Aquatic Geochemistry*.

Marshall Battani, professor of sociology, gave a presentation, "Culture and Action: Predestination, Theodicies, and Counterterrorism," at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association in Seattle, Washington.

What's Ahead

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professor, professor of social work, and professor of the conceptual foundations of psychiatry in the School of Medicine, and an affiliate faculty and advisory board member of the Center for Bioethics, at New York University.

Register for the colloquy online at www.gvsu.edu/colloquy. Questions can be directed to Diane Dykstra at dykstrdi@gvsu.edu.

The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy is scheduled twice a year; Grand Valley became the host of the series in 2015, after receiving a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.

Townhall set on state governmental services

Grand Valley and the Center for Michigan have partnered to bring a townhall to campus to gather input and ideas on how state government can improve.

"Restoring Public Trust in State Government" is set for Tuesday, September 27, in the DeVos Center, Loosmore Auditorium. The event begins with a 5:30 p.m. reception, townhall from 6-7 p.m., followed by a short break with refreshments and a panel discussion at 7:15 p.m.

The townhall meetings have been held throughout Michigan by the Center for Michigan, a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank. Topics for discussion include state government services, management of the public purse, and oversight of Michigan's political system.

The event is free and open to the campus community. Please RSVP by sending an email to Jill Craig at craigji@gvsu.edu or by calling x12183. Learn more about the Center for Michigan online at www.thecenterformichigan.net.

Workshops will focus on helpful library resources

Information access and library offerings change rapidly in the academic climate, and

University Libraries wants to help faculty and staff stay up-to-date on helpful resources.

The Library Workshop Series will discuss a variety of topics, from open education resources to library lingo and how to stream videos for class. Below is a list of remaining seminars.

- September 28, 29: Zotero (free citation manager)
- October 18, 20: Library Lingo: What Your Students Need to Know
- October 25, 27: All About Open Education Resources
- November 9, 10: Google Like a Librarian
- November 16, 17: Streaming Video

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/library/workshops; register online at www.gvsu.edu/sprout.

Provost search: staff members comment on continued academic-student services partnerships

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"Students are coming in with more anxiety and that creates a lot of pressure on faculty and staff," Harmon said. "I hope candidates would understand what type of student is coming to college."

Marlene Kowalski-Braun, associate vice provost for student affairs and inclusion, spoke about the qualities valued in a provost who will play a key role in the university's strategic plan, which continues through 2021.

"I would like to see candidates who have demonstrated advocacy on behalf of students of color," Kowalski-Braun said. "We have lofty goals in our strategic plan about diversity for students and for faculty and staff."

A website, www.gvsu.edu/provost-search/, was created to keep the campus community informed about the search process.

Across Campus

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In this study, Wing and August explored how the limited availability of recreational facilities, healthy food stores, neighborhood walkability and social environments may contribute to the early stages of atherosclerosis. They found that healthy food stores within one mile of a residence was the only significant factor that reduced or slowed the progression of calcium buildup in coronary arteries.

Study highlights are listed below.

- A lack of access to nearby stores selling fresh food may increase residents' risk of developing early heart disease.
- Healthy food stores located within one mile of participants' homes reduced or slowed the progression of calcium buildup in heart arteries.
- Study results point to a need for greater awareness of the potential health threat posed by living in neighborhoods with scarce healthy grocery options.