

FORUM

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**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**
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Kamen receives honorary degree at convocation

The ceremonial start of the academic year began August 28 with speakers giving advice to new students about getting connected and studying hard in order to make the most of their college career.

It started also with President Thomas J. Haas engaging faculty and staff members during his opening address in a discussion about the “Grand Valley advantage” and how that formula of success will fit into the university’s strategic plan.

Convocation at the Fieldhouse was highlighted by the presentation of an honorary degree to entrepreneur and inventor Dean Kamen. The inventor of the Segway and other innovations, Kamen explained that while he never earned a college degree, he understands the value of an education. His message of connecting with students and faculty members on campus was similar to other speakers.

“I sat in the offices of many faculty members; sure I studied but what makes a university isn’t the textbooks, they’re all the same,” Kamen said. “It’s the quality and access to the faculty.”

Kamen is founder and president of DEKA Research and Development Corp. and the founder of FIRST (For Inspiration

and Recognition of Science and Technology). While he has given many commencement addresses, this was the first time Kamen was invited to give a speech at the start of a university’s academic year. He challenged students to find important problems to solve, and not to give up.

Gayle R. Davis, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, addressed the audience and said she and other speakers shared a commonality with one-third of the new students present: they were the first in their families to attend college.

“There was an added pressure for us; it was a new world and our futures seemed uncertain,” Davis said. “But I will assure you and your families, while you are here at Grand Valley, you will be attended to.”

Megan Sall, member of Grand Valley’s Board of Trustees, said she was once a student attending convocation for the first time. “I was you,” Sall said, pointing to several new students, “not knowing what the future would hold for me.” Sall stressed the



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Dean Kamen, center, is pictured with his honorary degree at convocation on August 28. With Kamen are President Thomas J. Haas and Provost Gayle R. Davis; front row, Trustee Kate Pew Wolters.

commitment Grand Valley will give to students if they make a commitment to the

continues on page 4

Campus celebrates dedication of new science building

The campus community celebrated the formal dedication of the new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science August 28 on the Allendale Campus.

In his opening remarks, President Thomas



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Doug and Barbara Kindschi join others to cut the ribbon during the dedication ceremony of the P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science August 28.

J. Haas welcomed and recognized those in attendance, including those who collaborated to bring the Kindschi Hall of Science to life.

“As a scientist myself, I could not be more excited about the opportunities this facility provides our students,” Haas said. “The addition of this facility significantly expands our space for students to do research with their faculty, which is a highlight of the Grand Valley experience.”

The new science building is named in honor of P. Douglas Kindschi, who has served the university for nearly 40 years in many different capacities and is currently the director of Grand Valley’s Sylvia and Richard Kaufman Interfaith Institute.

“My nearly 40 years at Grand Valley have been more fulfilling than anyone could have imagined,” Kindschi said. “To help a university grow from 5,000 to 25,000 students is an

opportunity few in academia have enjoyed.”

The 151,720 square-foot, four-story building includes nine classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, 14 faculty/student research laboratories, a computational research lab, study spaces, offices and conference rooms.

Gayle R. Davis, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, said the these new lab spaces will yield a much broader impact on the university’s ability to teach the sciences to all students, not only those majoring in the sciences.

“Students who engage actively with their faculty and their subjects are most likely to succeed in college and in life,” she said. “It takes a specialized space to facilitate those important collaborations and with this new facility we’ll be able to involve many more students in extracurricular research with their faculty members — strengthening the basis on which they will grow the sciences in our state.”

Academic programs housed in the Kindschi Hall of Science include Biology and Cell and

continues on page 3

Across Campus

Weeknight football game causes parking changes

The Laker football team will open its 2015 season at home on Thursday, September 3, against Southwest Baptist University.

The 7 p.m. game at Lubbers Stadium means changes to on-campus parking for students, faculty and staff members. Changes are noted below.

• **Faculty/staff parking lots**

Lot C East and Lot F will be open until noon; Lot G will be open until 4 p.m. Lots D1 and D3 will be open the entire day; Lot C West and Lot E will be closed the entire day.

• **Student day parking**

Students are encouraged to ride the Campus Connector; more buses will run from 5 p.m. until after the football game.

Lot J will be available for commuters; off-campus shuttles will run from that lot to the Kirkhof Center.

Lots H, K, D4 and D8 will be available but without shuttle transportation. Students can park in residential lots during the day.

• **Student evening parking**

Lot J will be available, with service by off-campus shuttles. Lots H, K, D4 and D8 will be available but without shuttle transportation.

• **Fan parking**

Fans are encouraged to park free and ride the shuttle buses from Rapid stops along the Campus Connector route.

Lots C East, C, F, and G will be paid parking beginning at 4 p.m.

Questions can be referred to the Grand Valley Police Department at x13255.

Changes to campus parking, updates

Parking Services Operations is now its own department; changes, closures and updates to parking can be found at www.gvsu.edu/parking. The new phone number is (616) 331-PARK (7275).

• Disability Reserved Parking (formerly known as Handicapped Reserved) will be moved from Mackinac, Manitou and Common spaces to Lot D1 with a shelter and scheduled stops, similar to what has been established in Lot M.

• The Visitor Parking Lot by the Marketplace is pay-to-park only, including Disability Reserved spaces. Pay stations have been added. The lot will be short-term parking only, limited to two hours.

• Lot Z (Campus Health Center and Art Gallery Support) will accommodate eight signed patient spaces with the rest of the lot permit-only for Faculty/Staff or Student Commuter.

• Signs for visitor lots on campus have been updated for better visibility.

• The Parking Services website can be used by faculty and staff members to request electronic permits for guests and visitors to campus.

“We are excited about the changes and improvements with parking this fall,” said Lisa Garringer, Parking Services manager. “We will be introducing new signage and more payment solutions for short-term parking with the introduction of pay stations, as Parkmobile (pay to park mobile app) was well-received by the campus community. We have ample parking available, which we feel meets the demands of our growing campus.”

Campus Connector now extends to Medical Mile

Grand Valley made several improvements to its bus routes this year, which included extending the Campus Connector (Rapid Route 50) to Medical Mile, and moving its primary Route 50 DeVos Center stop on Front Avenue to the intersection of Fulton Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue.

The new routing began August 31.

Previously, Route 50 traveled between the Rapid Central Station in Grand Rapids and Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. The new Route 50 alignment travels between the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in Grand Rapids and the Allendale Campus. Route 50 has multiple direct connections to Central Station via the Silver Line, Route 12 and Route 7.

“This extension will begin to model the preferred Laker Line route,” said Mark Rambo, manager of Operations at Grand Valley. “It will provide greater connectivity between our campus facilities, the core downtown and the Silver Line.”

The Laker Line initiative is in project development to finalize budget, construction and operational specifications. The Rapid is hoping to begin construction in 2017, but the project start is dependent on approvals from the Federal Transit Administration once project development is complete

continues on page 3

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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.



Helping hands move in new students



Photo by Amanda Pitts

A family moves their student into a living center August 25. More than 6,220 students are living on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses, a record. Hundreds of faculty and staff members, Alumni Association volunteers and others helped first-year students move into their living centers on the Allendale Campus.

What's Ahead

Laker Marching Band announces football halftime schedule

The Laker Marching Band will take the field at Lubbers Stadium during home football games this season and feature energetic and entertaining performances.

John Martin, director of Athletic Bands, said each year the Laker Marching Band Council selects the themes and songs of the shows. The council is a student organization comprised of current students who currently are, or have previously been, members of the band.

“The Laker Marching Band Council did an outstanding job this season creating a wide variety of themes and songs,” Martin said. “The first show on September 3, ‘Party at GV,’ will be a fantastic show that will be primarily done facing the student section.”

Martin added that a local rock band, The Lake Effects, will join the band during their first performance, along with the GVSU Royal Dancers and the Donald Sinta Quartet, featuring Dan Graser, assistant professor of saxophone.

The themes for the other five home games are September 19, “Spy Show”; October 3, “Sound of Music”; October 17, “Circle Drill” and “Band Day” featuring Band Day participants; October 24, “Once Upon a Laker...” Homecoming; and November 14, “Veterans Day Salute.”

GVSU partners with festival of innovation

Grand Valley will host innovators and makers during the second annual Grand Rapids Mini Maker Faire, September 5-7.

Maker Faire combines the traditional science fair with innovation and engineering. The faire will feature established and emerging makers, DIY science and technology, urban farming and sustainability, local food, and educational installations.

Grand Valley joined the festival as an organizing partner in June. Makers and their projects will be on display in the Kennedy Hall of Engineering and Keller Engineering Labs.

For more information, visit www.makerfairegr.com.

CLAS initiative encourages faculty to give students ‘breather’

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is encouraging faculty members to incorporate a “Fall Breather” into their syllabi — a weekend with no readings, assignments or homework given to students prior to the deadline to drop classes.

Monica Johnstone, CLAS director of communications and advancement, said the

idea of the Fall Breather is to clear students’ schedules from October 24-25, so they can do whatever benefits their success before the drop deadline of October 30.

“We are conscious that our first-year students are experiencing their longest educational period without a break for the very first time,” Johnstone said.

Maddie Cleghorn, Student Senate president, said the Senate actively sponsors the Fall Breather because of the impact it can have on students in and outside of the classroom, especially considering the initiative falls on Homecoming weekend this year.

“Using this weekend to take part in Grand Valley Homecoming traditions could be exactly what many students need in order to feel at home here, especially at a time when the weight of classes feels particularly heavy,” Cleghorn said.

Fred J. Antczak, dean of CLAS, said the Fall Breather isn’t intended to ask faculty to completely alter their syllabi for the semester.

“I am not suggesting faculty takes any time away from class, nor even that they decrease by an iota the amount of work in the fall course,” Antczak said. “I’m simply asking them to redistribute it, so that for that weekend across as many courses as possible, there’s no assigned work.”

For more information about the Fall Breather, contact Johnstone at x12495 or at johnstmo@gvsu.edu.

Across Campus

continued from page 2

and the grant request is submitted.

Grand Valley accounts for more than 3 million annual rides on the Rapid bus system and offers a variety of alternative transportation services including car sharing, bike rentals, ride sharing, commuter parking and transit services.

Specific Changes:

- The primary Route 50 stop in Grand Rapids (near the DeVos Center) moved from Front Avenue (under U.S. 131) to Fulton Street (under U.S. 131).
- Route 50 extended to the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences building on Michigan Street in Grand Rapids. The bus stop will be located on Lafayette Ave just north of CHS.
- Route 51 (Hill Dash) will no longer stop at CHS.
- Route 50 will no longer stop at Rapid Central Station. The new alignment has multiple direct connections to Central Station via the Silver Line, Route 12 and Route 7. Route 50 will no longer pull into the Park and Ride behind the Walker Fire Station. It will stop on Lake Michigan Drive at Kinney Ave (just east of the fire station).
- Routes 37 and 48 have combined to form Route 85 on the weekends to provide increased apartment service. Route 50 will continue to operate on weekends to connect Allendale and Grand Rapids.

For more information about transportation services at Grand Valley, visit www.gvsu.edu/bus.

Laker Familia welcomes students to campus

A special orientation program, now in its second year, welcomed incoming Latino students and their family members to Grand Valley August 23-25.

Laker Familia, a three-day program on the Allendale Campus, was attended by more than 200 people, including 55 first-year students.

Raul Ysasi, affiliate professor in the College of Education and co-chair of the planning committee, said the program is needed because the population of Latino students at Grand Valley continues to grow.

“Data about Latino students tell us that some students don’t finish college because of finances, academic readiness and differences in culture,” said Ysasi. “Our goal is to address those challenges through Laker Familia. We want students to feel comfortable and welcome before the semester starts.”

The program included a kick-off reception, team-building workshops, sessions for parents and a faculty panel.

The idea for the program came from the Latino Student Initiative, a group of students and faculty and staff members who focus on Latino student success.

Connie Dang, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and chair of LSI, said the program provides support and services that are unique to the Latino population, such as a translator and representatives from various university offices who are available to answer questions directly.

“LSI is focused on providing resources for students to finish college, which includes understanding barriers like homesickness, access to tutors and mentors and making connections with faculty,” said Dang.

Dang said students who attend Laker Familia go into the semester having friends and remain connected throughout the year. Some students who attended the program last year served as mentors to new students this year, including Christopher Lopez, a sophomore from Saginaw who is majoring in biomedical sciences.

“Laker Familia set up a support system for me and it turned out to be one of the best and most beneficial program I could ever be involved in,” said Lopez, who was also involved in the program planning.

The Laker Familia planning committee is led by Ysasi and Luis Lozano, assistant director of Student Employment and Financial Literacy. It is comprised of representatives from Financial Aid, Admissions, University Libraries, Housing, Registrar’s Office and Student Life.



Photo by Tori Thomas

Students and committee members of Laker Familia are pictured. Laker Familia is a three-day orientation for Latino students and their families; the effort is geared toward increasing student retention and aiding student success.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Donald Mitchell Jr., assistant professor of education, was interviewed by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* for a story about affirmative action and diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education.

Kevin Callison, assistant professor of economics, was interviewed by *MiBiz* for a story about Metro Health and Community Health Systems.

Sketches

Monica Johnstone, director of communication and advancement for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will have a quilt, “Roman Glass,” featured in an exhibition, “Circular Abstractions: Bull’s Eyes Quilts,” August 25-November 6 at the Muskegon Museum of Art.

Steve Mattox, professor of geology, received a grant from Carleton College for a project,

“InTeGrate: Interdisciplinary Teaching of GeoScience for a Sustainable Future.”

Dirk Pandel, assistant professor of physics, received a grant from NASA for a project, “TOO Observations of Galactic Gamma-Ray Transients Discovered with Fermi.”

Public, nonprofit and health administration faculty members **Heather Carpenter** and **Salvatore Alaimo** gave a plenary session, “In Context: Translating the NACC Curricular Guidelines into Meaningful Measures of Student Learning for Our Programs,” at the the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council conference in Chicago, Illinois. **Carpenter** also gave a presentation, “The Need, Development, and Support for a Professional Doctorate in Philanthropy Program.”

Kim Kenward, instructional designer for IDEL, **Justin Melick**, digital media developer for eLearning and Emerging Technologies, and **Rosemary Cleveland**, affiliate instructor of education, gave a presentation, “Moving Student Presentations Online,” at the Online Learning Consortium.

Eric Kunnen, associate director of eLearning and Emerging Technologies, gave a presentation, “Enhancing the Strategic Importance of Online Learning,” at the national Blackboard Conference in Washington, D.C. Kunnen also wrote an article, “Emerging Technologies to Enhance Teaching and Enable Active Learning,” published in *Educause Review*.

Michael Messner, assistant vice provost for Student Success, received a \$220,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for year one of a proposal, “TRiO Student Support Services STEM/Health Sciences.”

MarcQus Wright, director of Student Support Services, received a \$312,674 grant for year one of a proposal, “TRiO Student Support Services.”

Andrew Booth, program director for physician assistant studies, received a \$180,362 grant from Health Resources and Services Administration for year four of a project, “Physician Assistant Training in Primary Care.”

Convocation speakers give advice; Haas gives address to faculty, staff

continued from page 1

university. Sall, of Grand Rapids, earned two degrees from Grand Valley: a bachelor’s in international relations in 2007 and a master’s in public administration in 2009.

Karen Gipson, professor of physics and chair of University Academic Senate, asked new students for a commitment to meet and listen to the stories of someone new and different to them. “In doing so, you will learn more about yourself,” she said.

Samhita Rhodes, associate professor of engineering, was the first convocation speaker. What she had planned to say, Rhodes said, “was coming out like a bad Hallmark card.” Rather than platitudes for the audience, Rhodes offered investment advice.

“Today, you are investing in the most valuable thing you own: the one square foot that’s between your ears,” she said.

Maddie Cleghorn, Student Senate president, advised students to take a chance on



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Student Senate President Maddie Cleghorn addresses the audience at convocation August 28 at the Fieldhouse.

themselves as they begin to write their own stories. She said taking a chance can mean many things, from speaking with an advisor, speaking up, or joining a student organization.

“Grand Valley works hard to be a place where

you can succeed and be your authentic selves, and as Lakers, you owe it to yourselves to take advantage of these supportive communities,” Cleghorn said.

Haas opening address

Haas delivered an opening address to faculty and staff members in the Performing Arts Center prior to convocation. He detailed the Grand Valley advantage as being known as the most student-centered university in Michigan, providing a holistic environment for teaching, learning and connecting.

He added that while remaining “true to its West Michigan roots,” Grand Valley faces challenges to create more access and more affordability for students. With less and less state funding in the future, Haas said there will be a greater dependence on private funding.

“We are, and must continue to be, Michigan’s model university, one that is focused on student success,” Haas said.

Dedication ceremony celebrates new science building

continued from page 1

Molecular Biology, as well as offices for the Movement Science Department and the Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Services and Information Technology unit.

Maddie Cleghorn, Student Senate president, explained during her remarks that one of the most special aspects of the Grand Valley experience is the relationship between students and faculty, which will only grow thanks to the Kindschi Hall of Science.

“Students here will now find it easier to schedule lab time for their courses, find research opportunities in our fields and we’ll have access to more spaces and resources to further our education,” she said.

The \$55 million, state-of-the-art facility received \$30 million from the State of Michigan; the remaining \$25 million came from a variety of university resources, plus donations. It is the first state-funded construction project on the Allendale Campus in 20 years.

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-Grand Haven) praised the public-private partnership between Grand Valley, its donors, and the state of Michigan.

“The numbers are impressive at Grand Valley. About 80 percent of students who graduate with math and science degrees stay in West Michigan, become productive citizens and raise their families here. That’s a great testament to Grand Valley,” Meekhof said.

More than 400 donors contributed to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Margin of Excellence for Science Endowment Fund, which provides materials, technology and research opportunities across the university for students to have hands-on experiences in and outside of the classroom.

The Marketplace is connected to the Kindschi Hall of Science, which houses the 45,000-square-foot, two-story GVSU Laker



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Doug Kindschi addresses the audience at the dedication ceremony of the building named in his honor.

Store (formerly the University Bookstore), Starbucks and Which Wich Superior Sandwiches, a made-to-order sandwich shop.