

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Grand Valley named finalist in interfaith challenge



Pictured are, from left, Eboo Patel, former Student Senate President Andrew Plague and Katie Gordon at the Presidential Award for Interfaith Community Service gathering. Patel will visit campus in October.

Grand Valley was named a top-five finalist, among 500 other institutions from 24 countries, in the fifth annual Presidential Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge.

The challenge is part of the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Selection is recognition from the federal government for commitment to service and civic engagement. Since 2008, Grand Valley has been nationally recognized for community service through the Honor Roll.

The Interfaith and Community Service challenge invites higher education institutions to commit to a year of interfaith cooperation and community service programming on campus. The winner of the Presidential Award will be announced later this fall.

"Grand Valley has been committed to community service institutionally for a long time, and this recognition of interfaith community service shows that we're diving headfirst into embracing a meaningful engagement with the diversity of our campus and community," said Katie Gordon, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager.

This year's challenge recognized interfaith community service work completed during the 2013-2014 academic year. The Kaufman Interfaith Institute is continuing its community service and engagement programming with the 2015 Year of Interfaith Service.

Since the initiative began last year, various congregations and campuses around West Michigan have been participating in community service activities,

including interfaith builds with Habitat for Humanity, donation drives for Goodwill Industries of West Michigan, park maintenance with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, and more.

The institute received a \$50,000 grant from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to support interfaith efforts on local college campuses by funding student interns who will sharpen their interfaith leadership skills.

The grant will allow the institute to host its Triennial Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue Conference, as well as Eboo Patel, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, for a separate presentation. Both events will take place in October.

Across Campus

Natives of tiny territory meet on campus

Gibraltar is a multicultural British territory at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula. It has a population of 30,000.

Two Gibraltarians are now at Grand Valley and they met recently. Gabriella Martinez is a new international student, one of 434 on campus and the first from Gibraltar. David



Photo by Jess Weal

Gabriella Martinez and David Alvarez are both from Gibraltar, in the Iberian Peninsula.

Alvarez, professor of English, is a native of Gibraltar and has taught at Grand Valley for nearly 20 years.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer, arranged for the two to meet. "In the summer, Gabby told a shopkeeper in Gibraltar that she would be studying at Grand Valley, and she said, 'Oh, that's where David teaches, say hello for me,'" Schaub said.

Martinez, a photography major, said back home, "You can't walk down Main Street without being stopped by someone you know. It makes me feel more at ease knowing that I have a 'Llanito' here on campus. It's great!" Llanito is a form of Spanglish spoken in Gibraltar, and residents use it to refer to themselves.

Alvarez said he has met one other Gibraltarian in West Michigan. "It will be lovely to occasionally hear a Gib accent on campus," he said.

University named Best Buy for 20th year

For the 20th year in a row, Grand Valley has been named one of America's 100 Best College

Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc. in Georgia.

Each year, Institutional Research and Evaluation identifies the 100 American colleges and universities providing students the very highest quality education at the lowest cost.

Grand Valley has made the list far more times than any other Michigan institution; authors of the report say it is because of Grand Valley's high academic performance coupled with its low cost.



For two decades, Grand Valley has been named a 'Best College Buy' by a Georgia research company. Students are pictured by south Allendale Campus housing.

Across Campus

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To be considered for the designation, an institution must be an accredited, four-year institution; offer full residential facilities, have an entering first-year class in fall 2014 with a high school GPA and/or SAT/ACT equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen; and out-of-state tuition in 2015-2016 below the national average or not exceeding the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

The average GPA for incoming first-year students at Grand Valley for fall 2014 was 3.54, compared to the national average of 3.35, according to Institutional Research and Evaluation. The average ACT score for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2014 was 24, compared to the national average of 23.

Students, faculty compete in ArtPrize

Grand Valley students, faculty and alumni will showcase their talents among the 1,739 artists competing in ArtPrize, which runs through October 11 in Grand Rapids.

The sole entry displayed on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus venue is a collection of works by 14 current and former jewelry and metalsmithing students.

Beverly Seley, coordinator of the jewelry and metalsmithing program, said the works on display cover all class levels and demonstrate the range of techniques, materials and approaches found in contemporary metals and jewelry.

Below is a list of students and faculty competing in ArtPrize.

- **“Framing the Experience”** by Grand Valley art and design students; Location: Pew Grand Rapids Campus; Vote code: 61964
- **“Try To Remember”** by Margaret DeMaat, art education major; Location: Fifth Third Bank/Warner Norcross & Judd LLP (111 Lyon St. NW); Vote code: 61392
- **“Starts in the Park”** by Chelsea Whitaker, photography major; Location: Bagger Dave’s (241 W. Fulton St.); Vote code: 62000
- **“Origami Lighthouse”** by William Newstead, natural resources management major; Location: Courtyard Marriott Downtown (11 Monroe Ave. NW); Vote code: 61356
- **“Ocean Installment”** by Kenny Urena, psychology and preprofessional studies (premedical) major; Location: Swift Printing & Communications, Inc. (404 Bridge St. NW); Vote code: 61102

- **“Recess Community”** by Melody Schmidt, post-graduate education student; Location: Buffalo Wild Wings (8 Ionia Ave.); Vote code: 62500

- **“Arcus”** by Monica Johnstone, CLAS communications and advancement director; Location: Processing Fiber at 250 Monroe (205 Monroe Ave., 3rd floor); Vote code: 61034

- **“Auralwood”** by Jacob Pierzchala, adjunct professor of communications; Location: Grand Rapids Public Museum (272 Pearl St. NW); Vote code: 62070

- **“The Family Portrait Project”** by Stafford Smith, assistant professor of photography; Location: Grand Rapids Children’s Museum (11 Sheldon Ave. NE); Vote code: 61977

- **“Mathias Alten Triptych”** by Bill Ryan, director of New Music Ensemble; Jeremy Crosmer, GRSO; and Alexander Miller, GRSO; Location: St. Cecilia Music Center (24 Ransom Ave. NE); Vote code: 61158.



Pictured is an ArtPrize entry from metalsmithing student Ross Tanner.

Clinic provides free injury care for campus community

Students looking for injury treatments or preventive care this academic year can look no further than the free Injury Care Clinic on the Allendale Campus.

Shari Bartz-Smith, Injury Care Clinic director, said the primary services provided are first aid, injury evaluation, basic treatments and rehabilitation, professional referrals and preventive measures.

The clinic, in the Fieldhouse room 145, opened in 2014 after seven years of planning and development. It serves the more than 1,900 club sport athletes and more than 4,000 recreational athletes at Grand Valley.

Bartz-Smith said in the first three semesters, about 1,600 patients visited the clinic. The clinic not only serves the student body at Grand Valley, but also faculty and staff members.

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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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Other publications by University Communications include:

Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVNNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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



GVFaces

Sylvia Mupepi, associate professor of nursing

Sylvia Mupepi, associate professor of nursing, follows the principle, “If you raise a healthy kid, you’ll get a healthy adult.”

Her nursing students are modeling that principle at the Seidman Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids, where they teach school-age students nutrition and exercise habits.

“It’s a program that’s proven to prevent childhood obesity,” said Mupepi. “The purpose is to guide children in the community to a more healthy lifestyle.”

Mupepi has long been dedicated to helping people in her community, particularly women and children. She calls Grand Rapids home, but she began her nursing career under very different circumstances.

“I grew up in Zimbabwe,” she said. “Zimbabwe at the time was racially segregated, and girls were not supposed to go to school.”

At that time, Mupepi said, infant mortality was common in Zimbabwe. “My mother was doing a lot of work with women, teaching them to take care of their children. That’s what inspired me to go into nursing: helping people in the community,” she said.

Mupepi studied in England, and came to the U.S. as a Kellogg scholar to earn a doctorate at the University of Michigan.

She chose to work at Grand Valley because the job allowed her to work with the community, teach nursing theory, clinical nursing and conduct research on women’s health issues.

Two years ago, Mupepi earned a Fulbright Scholarship to teach master’s-level nursing classes at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. She taught classes in Ghana again last summer. Mupepi helped develop the master’s program there, and created a similar program at University of Zimbabwe.

Mupepi’s experiences in Africa and England have given her a global perspective that she instills in her students.

“I believe I’m offering a unique experience, coming from a different background. I can compare a variety of experiences,” she said.



Sylvia Mupepi

What's Ahead

Presentation to explore history of design thinking

The evolution of design thinking, theories related to the process and its various applications will be the topics of an upcoming presentation sponsored by Grand Valley's Design Thinking Initiative.

Sean Corcorran, general manager of Steelcase Education, will discuss "Design Thinking: Theory and Practice" on Tuesday, September 29, from 6-6:45 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. The presentation will be preceded by a reception from 5-6 p.m.



Sean Corcorran

Corcorran played an integral role in the development of Stanford University's "d. School" program, which provides the experience of the design thinking process to graduate level students. The program was created by IDEO, a design and innovation consulting firm where Corcorran spent 16 years of his career.

From 2008-2011, Corcorran served as the director of product development and marketing for Steelcase Education. Since co-founding this Steelcase business unit, Corcorran has been responsible for research and development of innovative new products for secondary and higher education.

Seating for this event is limited. To register, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking/theory.

Poet from India to give two presentations

Rati Saxena, a poet from India, will give two presentations on campus, including a Hindi poetry reading.

Saxena's visit is funded partly by the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and co-sponsored by many campus departments.

"Dreaming in Another Land," a Hindi poetry reading, is set for Tuesday, September 29, at 7 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Auditorium; Saxena will give a presentation, "The Seed of Mind, the Vedic Poetry," on Wednesday, September 30, 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Saxena is the director of the Krytia

International Poetry Festival. She has written 11 collections of poetry in Hindi and English, and all have been translated into many other languages. After working as a faculty member at Indian universities for two decades, Saxena now writes full time.

Both presentations are approved for LIB 100/201 classes. For more information, contact Zulema Moret at moretz@gvsu.edu.

LGBT association to hold welcome back meeting

The LGBT Faculty Staff Association will host a welcome back event on Tuesday, September 29, from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Alumni House. All faculty and staff members are welcome.

Participants will hear an updates from Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, and the LGBT Alumni Chapter. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the association, visit www.gvsu.edu/lgbtfacstaff.

C-SPAN bus tour to make stop in Allendale

The C-SPAN Campaign 2016 Bus is on its "Road to the White House Tour" and will make a stop on campus October 1.

The 45-foot bus will be open from 9-11 a.m. in the parking lot next to the Kirkhof Center. It will feature interactive exhibits where visitors can learn about C-SPAN's Campaign 2016 coverage.

Students, faculty and staff members are invited to visit the bus where they will have the opportunity to learn about the public affairs network's program and resources.

Student Senate is sponsoring C-SPAN's visit to Grand Valley.

Writers Series will spotlight local author

Authors from around the world will visit campus as part of the 2015-2016 Grand Valley Writers Series. The series begins by featuring local author and educator Marcia Aldrich.

Aldrich will read from some of her most popular works and participate in a book signing Thursday, October 1, at 6 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. The event will be preceded by a craft talk from 4-5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216.

Currently a professor of creative writing

at Michigan State University, Aldrich is the former editor of *Fourth Genre* and author of the memoirs *Girl Rearing* and *Companion to an Untold Story*. Her personal essays have been published in *Gettysburg Review*, *North American Review*, *Witness*, *Arts & Letters*, *Northwest Review*, *Brevity*, *The Normal School*, *Kenyon Review*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Seneca Review* and others.

For more information about the Grand Valley Writers Series, contact Oindrila Mukherjee, assistant professor of writing and series coordinator, at mukherjo@gvsu.edu or x18034.

Board of Trustees member to speak at next Wheelhouse Talk

Grand Valley Board of Trustees member Megan Sall, '07 and '09, will speak about her work experience and rise to leadership in the next installation of the Wheelhouse Talks hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

In five years, Sall has gone from a Grand Valley student to its Board of Trustees. Sall is a business development manager with The Right Place Inc. and serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations.

In her presentation, Sall will discuss her transition from being an engaged student to a thriving young leader.

Her presentation is set for Friday, October 2, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

The event is free and open to the public; RSVPs are requested online at www.gvsu.edu/s/Zi.

Family Weekend offers many activities

Family Weekend, October 2-4, offers faculty and staff members an opportunity to bring their friends and family to campus to participate in many fun activities.

Some weekend highlights include dueling pianos, farmers market, Renaissance Faire and the Kirkhof Sandbar, which turns the Kirkhof Center into a small carnival filled with games, crafts, prizes and more.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/familyweekend for a full schedule of events. Questions can be sent via email to familyweekend@gvsu.edu.

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Mainstage production, guest scholar kick off Shakespeare Festival

A 1960s rendition of one of William Shakespeare's greatest tales and a nationally acclaimed actor, director and educator, will kick off the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival on Friday, October 2.

Heartbreak, deception in the name of love and generational misunderstandings are all themes students and professional artists will bring to life during the mainstage production of "All's Well That Ends Well." Helena, one of Shakespeare's most remarkable heroines, performs miracles and undertakes a perilous journey to win the love of nobleman Bertram. But, Bertram has a lot to learn about women, love and what it means to be a man. Set against the rising counterculture of the 1960s, "All's Well That Ends Well" spins its fairytale plot of a lowborn woman who achieves greatness through her courage and imagination.

Performances will be October 2, 8, 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m.; and October 3, 4 and 11 at 2 p.m. All performances will take place in Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theater.

An opening night reception will follow the October 2 performance. Those who attend the October 8 show in a 1960s-themed costume will

receive a half-off coupon for a future production as well as entry into a costume contest.

Grant Mudge, Shakespeare Festival Guest Scholar-in-Residence, will present "My Sighs Stream: Comedy and Empowerment in 'All's Well That Ends Well,'" October 2 at 4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. A reception will precede the presentation at 3 p.m.

Mudge is the producing artistic director of the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival and teaches film, television and theater at Notre Dame University. Along with his public presentation, Mudge will meet with students and visit classes.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.



Performances of 'All's Well That Ends Well' will run October 2-11 at the Performing Arts Center.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

Sketches

Dana Munk, director of part-time faculty support for FTLC, and **Chelsea Brehm**, visiting professor of movement science, co-authored articles, "Command Coaching Style" and "Cooperative Coaching Style," published in *Sports Leadership: A Concise Reference Guide*.

John Weber, professor of geology, co-authored an article with Korean colleagues, "Geomorphic Disequilibrium in the Eastern Korean Peninsula: Evidence for Reactivation of a Rift-Flank Margin?" published in *Geomorphology*.

Richard Hiskes, professor political science, honors, served as editor for a book, *Human*

Dignity and the Promise of Human Rights, published by Open Society Foundations. He also gave a presentation, "The Honor of Human Rights," at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in San Francisco, California.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources, co-authored journal articles with students, "Contrasting Microbial Processes Across a Great Lakes Gradient," published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, and "Rapid Motility of Cyanobacteria Optimize Photosynthesis and Carbon Burial in Lake Huron's Sinkholes," published in *Frontiers-Aquatic Microbiology*.

The **Conference and Event Planning Department** has been re-certified as a One-

Stop Shop by the Association of Collegiate Conference and Event Directors-International. A certified one-stop shop operation provides the most effective planning atmosphere to successfully stage a collegiate conference or event. Grand Valley is one of two Michigan universities to receive this designation.

Amorak Huey, assistant professor of writing, wrote a collection of poetry, *Ha Ha Ha Thump*, published by Sundress Publications.

What's Ahead

Registration open for Change U

Registration is now open for Change U: Social Justice Training, a free program available to students, faculty and staff members, and community members. Participants will have the opportunity to develop community organizing skills and learn about social justice issues.

The program, organized by the LGBT Resource Center, includes two, three-hour sessions each month throughout the year and a day-long justice assembly about spiritual violence.

The first session, "Understanding and Practicing Intersectionality," will take place October 8, from 6-9 p.m., in the Kirkhof Center.

Colette Seguin Beighley, director of the LGBT Resource Center, said Change U uses a relational organizing model, which promotes community building and learning from the experiences of participants.

Throughout the year, sessions will focus on topics such as U.S. social movements, systemic change, white supremacy and media as an organizing tool.

Change U at Grand Valley began six years ago. To register, visit www.gvsu.edu/socialjustice.

Conference will focus on global health initiatives

Improving health for people worldwide and preventing global health threats will be the focus of a conference hosted by the College of Health Professions.

The Institute for Global Health Showcase will take place October 16, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the DeVos Center. It is free and open to the public; RSVP by October 8 at www.gvsu.edu/chp.

Faculty members from a variety of health disciplines will give presentations on topics

such as community health in Haiti, therapeutic recreation programming in post-tsunami Japan, and medical laboratory science education in Zimbabwe. A poster presentation will feature research by students and faculty members.

Grand Valley alumnus Christopher Weis will give a keynote presentation, "Toxicology for the 21st Century: The Science Behind the Strategy." He is senior advisor and toxicology liaison for the National Institute of Environmental Health Science. He is an expert on environmental contaminants, including asbestos, lead and radon.

Azizur Molla, associate professor of public health and event organizer, said the idea for a conference came when the Institute for Global Health was established in 2014 as a way for faculty members and students to facilitate global health research and activities.

The conference is sponsored by the College of Health Professions, Institute of Global Health, and Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence.

Across Campus

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"Prior to the clinic opening, the only choice students had was to see a physician, and many times students would report that they went to an emergency room for injuries such as a sprained ankle, which can be very costly," Bartz-Smith said.

"The Injury Care Clinic offers a place for free professional advice for students regarding their injuries and parents can have peace of mind knowing there is someplace their children can go for help."



Shari Bartz-Smith treats a student at the Injury Care Clinic.

The clinic is a partnership among the Movement Science Department, Campus Recreation, Student Life and Metro Health Sports Medicine.

During the academic year, it is open from 2-6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/icc.

Volunteers sought for Schools of Hope

Grand Valley is partnering with Heart of West Michigan United Way to find volunteers for Schools of Hope, a program designed to improve literacy among second- and third-grade students in Grand Rapids elementary schools.

"High school graduation is a powerful predictor of a young person's future success," said Sue Sloop, Work Life consultant. "Research shows that students who don't read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma."

Students, faculty and staff members can

volunteer after completing a training session.

Training sessions are set for October 6, from noon-1:30 p.m. in Zumberge Hall, room 1012 (lunch will be served); and October 15, 3 p.m., in the DeVos Center, room 302E (refreshments provided).

Additional training sessions are available through Heart of West Michigan United Way. To register online visit www.hwmuw.org/soh.

Staff members who receive supervisor approval do not need to use vacation or personal days to volunteer, Sloop said.

"As much as my student may learn, I'm convinced I get more out of it than they do," said Bryan Bickford, advertising and communications manager. "I'm thankful for the opportunity Grand Valley gives me to be a volunteer and truly believe it makes a difference."

For more information, contact Sue Sloop at sloops@gvsu.edu.