

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## Campus climate survey will open in November

*Leaders point to positive changes from five previous surveys*

Students, faculty and staff members are invited to participate in the university's sixth myGVSU Climate Survey, an anonymous and online survey that will be open from November 14-24.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, called it a best practice to survey campus community members every four or five years to get a snapshot of what it's like to learn, live and work at Grand Valley.

"Survey results help to support the goal of providing a rich, inclusive learning and working environment that attracts and welcomes a diverse community," Bernal said.

Results from the 2015 campus climate survey showed 87 percent of all respondents were "comfortable" or "very comfortable" with the overall campus climate.

More than 40 percent of the campus community participated: 9,996 students and 1,929 faculty and staff members. The response rate was well above the national average of 29 percent, organizers this year hope for a participation rate of 100 percent.

Meetings will be held to answer questions about the survey, dates are listed below.

- September 23, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, room 140
- September 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room
- September 26, 1-3 p.m., DeVos Center, room 105E.

Students, faculty and staff members will receive an email in November with a link to the online survey. Incentives, in the form of \$1,000-\$2,000 grants, will again be offered for completing the survey.

Bernal said many positive changes have been implemented on campus following results of the past five surveys. These include household member benefits, pay equity study and pay adjustments, multifairth prayer



Photo by Amanda Pitts

The sixth myGVSU Climate Survey will provide a snapshot of what it's like to live, learn and work on campus for students, faculty and staff members. The online survey will be open from November 14-24.

space and the social justice centers.

More information about campus climate survey is online at [gvsu.edu/mygvsu](http://gvsu.edu/mygvsu).

## ACROSS CAMPUS

### 'Big Splash Week' kicks off Making Waves initiative

From environmental science to classical archaeology, more than 30 courses are offered in the fall semester that have a tie to water.



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Making Waves About Water is a campuswide initiative focused on the necessity and challenges of water. Pictured is Diane Veneklasen, science instructor at AWRI, with students in a geology class aboard a research vessel in Lake Michigan.

Highlighting Grand Valley's special relationship with water is at the heart of the campuswide Making Waves About Water initiative. The two-year initiative has goals of exploring how water impacts daily living, its challenges and how it also defines the university in relation to the Grand River and Lake Michigan.

Making Waves kicks off with a "Big Splash Week" September 15-21, with speakers, showcases, a beach clean-up, hikes, kayak rides and other events. Details are online at [gvsu.edu/makingwaves](http://gvsu.edu/makingwaves).

Provost Maria Cimitile said when she envisioned a campuswide initiative, she wanted to show "what interdisciplinary studies looks like in the 21st century." During her Convocation remarks on August 23, Cimitile introduced Making Waves and said the initiative will help the campus community learn about the necessity of water and the challenges it brings in Michigan and globally.

"What makes this initiative special is

that to help the campus community understand the significance of water, students, faculty, and staff will work together across all different disciplines," she said.

During the Big Splash Week, two speakers are scheduled: Kim Nowack, chief engineer for the Mackinac Bridge, will give a presentation on September 16 from 6-9 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium; Peter Annin, author of *The Great Lakes Water Wars*, will give a presentation September 19 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Peter Wampler, professor of geology, is a member of the Making Waves leadership team. He said the Big Splash Week includes events for everyone, and he is especially excited about the September 17 "Confluence" at the Grand Ravines lodge.

The event will begin with a guided bike ride to the lodge at 9:45 a.m. from the Cook Carillon Tower. The remainder of the day includes guided kayak tours on the Grand River, guided

*continues on page 2*

# ACROSS CAMPUS

continued from page 1

hikes and other water activities. Wampler said he took on a leadership role because the initiative melds his academic career and professional interests.

“I have a great appreciation for the power of collaboration and the power of working across traditional disciplinary boundaries,” Wampler said. “I look forward to working with campus and community partners to learn and grow in unique and compelling ways around the central theme of water.”

Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English, is also on the leadership team and said she appreciates the interdisciplinary aspect of Making Waves.

“The initiative reflects how I value liberal education, the environment, science, and a world view that encompasses global and local communities,” Remlinger said. “Equally important is how Making Waves mirrors the interdisciplinary focus of my courses and research, and more personally, my passion for nature, the outdoors, and the Great Lakes.”

## Veterans Upward Bound holds reception

Leaders from various university departments welcomed Veterans Upward Bound participants to an open house August 27 in the Kirkhof Center.

The TRIO VUB program provides free academic support services to 125 low-income veterans from Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties who want to complete degree programs at any college or university.

Director Tim Marroquin said the open house was an avenue to



Photo by Rachael Mooney

Steven Lipnicki, assistant dean of students, gives remarks about Grand Valley’s Veterans Network at an open house sponsored by Veterans Upward Bound. The August 27 event was meant to introduce VUB participants to university resources.

introduce VUB participants to Grand Valley’s Veterans Network and to highlight student services such as Financial Aid and the Registrar’s Office. More information about VUB is online at [gvsu.edu/vub](http://gvsu.edu/vub).

## GVNow recap:

### Grand Valley part of kickoff to Project 1 by ArtPrize

Performers from Grand Valley helped kickoff Project 1 by ArtPrize while GVSU art education experts and students are planning an education program for K-12 students stemming from the exhibition.

The inaugural Project 1 by ArtPrize will run through October 27. The event this year replaces ArtPrize, which is switching to a biennial schedule.

Project 1 is a smaller-scale event with installations by a few artists at a handful of locations. Those from Grand Valley who are involved with the event said they are excited by the potential impact of their contributions.

At the opening celebration September 7 in Rosa Parks Circle, about 20 first-year dance students performed to live music played by Dan Graser, associate professor of saxophone. Graser performed a composition by Vittorio Monti called “Csardas.”

The project time period for Katalin Zaszlavik, associate professor of art education, will last throughout the school year after starting in earnest at Project 1. Zaszlavik is leading efforts to design a curriculum for six K-12 schools to involve students with art that focuses on the themes explored in the Project 1 works.

Besides visiting installations, students from the chosen schools will also participate that day in a workshop developed by Grand Valley and carried out with help from art education students, Zaszlavik said. Then, for the rest of the school year, the K-12 students will work on projects reflecting an overall theme of what it means to belong.

“They will be experiencing contemporary art and learning what art is or can be as well as its purpose,” Zaszlavik said.

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

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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.



## Laker Marching Band readies for season

Getting the 215 members of the Laker Marching Band prepared for a football season of halftime shows is at times a painstaking step-by-step process.

Make that step by half-inch step.

“The back foot is a 22 1/2-inch step from the yard line,” Director John Martin tells the band members as he oversees them during drills on a hot and humid morning.

On this day, they would get a visit from President Philomena V. Mantella, who enthusiastically responded to a musical welcome featuring the drumline — her hand in “Anchor Up” formation — before telling the band, “The legacy of your leadership and what you mean to this university is legendary.”

But before that pep talk, there was work to do during band camp, work that involved minute attention to detail relayed through Martin’s microphone from his elevated perch at the South Campus practice field: Posture ... Horn angles ... The proper angle for facing the student section ... You’re turning on what part of the foot? ... Make sure that step has snap. ... “Own your drill.”

And a reminder: Everyone is family. Help your fellow band members get it right.

“It all starts with fundamentals,” Martin said later. “Once the band starts to look the same, you have a product and you start polishing.”



Photo by Tony Packer

Members of the Laker Marching Band rehearse a song for an upcoming football halftime show.

Martin, faculty and staff members and student leaders are working to mold band members into a unit that is solidly prepared for the pride and excitement of the first game — Martin called it “the payoff.”

Student leadership plans the shows in the spring and there’s a new one for every home football game. They could simply do one or two a year, Martin said, but he likes to keep it fresh.

That means that before band members even perform their first halftime show of the season, they’ll start drills for the second show.

The 2019 halftime show schedule is online at [gvsu.edu/marchingband](http://gvsu.edu/marchingband).



# WHAT’S AHEAD

## OMA plans annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration

The Office of Multicultural Affairs will sponsor the sixth annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration. The events will include lectures, celebrations and discussions.

Event highlights can be found below. More about the celebration including a full schedule of events is available online at [gvsu.edu/oma](http://gvsu.edu/oma).

• **Café Con Leche:** September 16, 10 a.m.-noon, Holton Hooker Learning Center

The kick-off to Hispanic Heritage Month will include traditional pan (bread) café con leche (coffee with milk) for a relaxing start to a Monday morning.

• **Performance: La Peña:** September 24, 5-9 p.m., Eberhard Center

Peña, a word meaning the grouping place of musicians and artists, is an event associated with social justice and grassroots culture. Local Latino talent will be featured, celebrating the diversity of the community.

• **Discussion: Family Separation & Border Camps:** October 2, 1-2:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2250

Camila Trefftz, a representative from the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, will discuss family separation and border camps that are happening along the U.S./Mexican border.

• **Peggy Robles-Alvarado:** October 10, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2204

Robles-Alvarado is a New York City educator with graduate degrees in elementary and bilingual education, and an MFA in performance and performance studies from Pratt Institute. Using her upbeat, rhythmic energy, she celebrates womanhood and honors cultural rituals.

• **Día De Los Muertos:** October 31, 6-8 p.m., Niemeyer Learning and Living Center

Commonly known as “Day of the Dead,” Día Los Muertos takes place over multiple days and focuses on gathering family and friends to pray for those who have died, helping in their spiritual journey.

## Writers Series to feature acclaimed authors discussing their work

The latest installment of the Grand Valley Writers Series will feature seven authors whose subject matter ranges from an eccentric French composer to the video game “NBA Jam.”

Writers will read from their work, discuss their craft and interact with students.

“This is my first year as coordinator for the Grand Valley Writers Series, and my predecessors in the role have built this into a national-caliber reading series,” said Amorak Huey, associate professor of writing. “It’s a great way for the young writers here at Grand Valley to connect with published authors — and to put a human face on the words, to meet the person behind the work.”

The lineup includes two faculty members: Caitlin Horrocks, associate professor of writing, whose first novel, *The Vexations*, has received wide acclaim and was named a must-read by *Oprah Magazine* as well as Beth Peterson, whose essays have appeared in an array of publications. The first essay collection for



Writing faculty members Caitlin Horrocks, left, and Beth Peterson are among the presenters during the Writers Series.

Peterson, assistant professor of writing, *Theory of World Ice*, is about glaciers, volcanoes and disappearing people.

The full schedule is below. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/writing](http://gvsu.edu/writing) or contact Huey at [hueya@gvsu.edu](mailto:hueya@gvsu.edu).

• **Brian Oliu and Tasha Coryell:** September 16, craft talk: 3 p.m., reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library

• **Stephen Mack Jones:** November 5, craft talk: 1-2 p.m., reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270

• **Caitlin Horrocks and Beth Peterson:** February 3, reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library

• **José Olivarez:** March 19, craft talk: 6-7 p.m., DeVos Center, room 111D, reading and book signing: 7:30-8:30 p.m., University Club

• **Sarah Einstein:** March 30, craft talk: 3 p.m., reading and book signing, 6-7:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library

## PFAS discussion kicks off Democracy 101 series

The Freedom of Information Act, PFAS and media literacy are some of the topics that will be discussed during a series of lectures and workshops this fall.

The series, “Democracy 101: A Series of Critical Conversations,” organized by the Community Service Learning Center in the Office of Student Life, serves as a platform for the campus community to discuss public issues, social change and more.

The first lecture, “PFAS in Michigan: Making Waves Initiative Collaborative Event,” takes place Wednesday, September 18. Panelists will discuss the emergence of PFAS and the dangers it poses to Michigan water, as well as legislative action being used to combat contamination across West Michigan.

Melissa Baker-Boosamra, associate director for Student Life, said a broader goal of the lecture series is to provide a space for people to come together and explore theory and the practice of democracy.

All events will take place in the Mary Idema Pew Library, multipurpose room, on the Allendale Campus; details are highlighted below. The events are approved for LIB 100/201 classes. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/service/democracy](http://gvsu.edu/service/democracy).

• **PFAS in Michigan:** September 18, 6-8 p.m.; presenters: State Sen. Winnie Brinks, State Rep. Rachel Hood, and Rick Rediske, professor of water resources

• **GVSU Student Senate Panel:** September 25, noon-1 p.m.

• **Media Literacy and You:** October 2, 6-8 p.m.; presenters: Jane Johnston, GVSU democracy fellow; Elizabeth Psyck, librarian; Mindy Holohan, media literacy expert

• **Youth Political Engagement Discussion:** October 9, noon-1 p.m.; presenters: Sumaiya Ahmed Sheikh, Campus Vote Project; Eric-John Szczepaniak, Student Senate president; Talyce Murray, Associated Students of Michigan State University

• **Student Media and Democratic Engagement:** October 16, 6-8 p.m.

• **FOIA as a Tool for Democratic Accountability: A Student’s Perspective:** October 23, noon-1 p.m.

• **Why Democracy Needs the News:** October 30, 6-8 p.m.; presenter: Jesse Holcomb, assistant professor of journalism and communication at Calvin University

• **Water Around the Globe:** November 6, noon-1 p.m.; presenter: Jeff Kelly Lowenstein, assistant professor of multimedia journalism

• **Democracy in Classical Athens: An Organizer’s Guide:** November 13, 6-8 p.m.; presenters: Classics faculty members Charles Pazdernik and David Crane

• **Free Speech and Inclusion: Holding the Tension on Campus:** November 20, noon-1 p.m.

• **iCivics Lunch:** December 4, noon-1 p.m.

## History conference to address gender and trauma

Experts will explore and debate research on gender and trauma studies at the annual Great Lakes History Conference on September 20-21.

Each year, the conference offers discussions and presentations on research and a way to foster interdisciplinary work. It is free and open to the public.

This year’s event, “Gender and Trauma: Material, Methods, Media,” will gather specialists in trauma studies and gender studies to help open up new areas of research. Organizers also aim to help scholars connect with the public about these issues.

One of the keynote speakers is Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, who is research chair for historical trauma and transformation at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Gobodo-Madikizela studies how dehumanizing experiences of oppression and violent abuse affect the next generation. Her book, *A Human Being Died that Night: A South African Story of Forgiveness*, earned critical acclaim in both South Africa and the United States.

The other keynote speaker is Dagmar Herzog, a distinguished professor of history at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Herzog’s scholarship includes the history of the Holocaust and its aftermath, the histories of religion and Jewish-Christian relations and the histories of gender and sexuality. Her most recent book is *Unlearning Eugenics: Sexuality, Reproduction and Disability in Post-Nazi Europe*.

Both days of the conference run from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Eberhard Center. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/glhc](http://gvsu.edu/glhc).

continues on page 4

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## IN THE NEWS

**Bopi Biddanda**, professor of water resources, was interviewed by the *Detroit News* for a story about sinkholes and the rising water levels on the Great Lakes.

## SKETCHES

**Salvatore Alaimo**, associate professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, taught a two-week course, “Introduction to Nonprofit Management,” for the School of Social Development at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China.

**Jeff Kelly Lowenstein**, assistant professor of multimedia journalism, was a panelist for a session during the “Covering Race and Ethnicity: A Practical Guideline to Finding the Deeper Stories” conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members **Dianne Conrad** and **Katherine Moran** were part of a scholarship team that gave a presentation, “A Global Team Approach to Advancing the Practice Doctorate in Nursing,” at the International Network for Doctoral Education in Nursing Biennial Conference held in Calgary, Canada.

**David VanderSloot**, director of Conference and Event Planning Services, served as co-chair of the National Association of College Auxiliary Services Central/West CX Conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The **Seidman College of Business EMBA** program was recognized and highlighted as a top best practice in the August 6 edition of *Training Magazine*.

**Kyle Brink**, associate professor of management, received the Best Paper in Graduate Management Education award from the Academy of Management for his article, “Developing Listening and Oral Expression Skills: Pillars of Influential Oral Communication.”

**Ellen Adams**, assistant professor Honors College/Art Gallery, gave a presentation, “Cultural Patronage in the New Deal: Georgette Seabrooke and the Harlem Hospital Murals,” at the Arts Patronage and Modern America Conference held at the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University.

**Bopi Biddanda**, professor of water resources, **Anthony Weinke**, research technician, and students were authors of an article, “Field Work Studying Harmful Algal Blooms in Muskegon Lake,” featured in *Lakes Letter*, published by the International Association for Great Lakes Research.

**Daisy Fredricks**, assistant professor of education, was a co-author of an article, “I Need to Take Care of Myself: The Case for Self-care as a Core

Practice for Teaching,” published in *Opportunities and Challenges in Teacher Recruitment and Retention: Teacher Voices Across the Pipeline*.

**Steven Lipnicki**, assistant dean of students, participated in a panel discussion, “Employer Perspectives: Approaches for Building Educator Employer Connections,” at the National Veteran Workforce Development Conference in Detroit.

**Elizabeth Arnold**, associate professor of anthropology, is part of a team of researchers to receive a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for a project, “Mobile Economies: A Bioarchaeological Approach to Food Economies and Mobility in Southern Mesopotamia in the Third Millennium BC.”

**Steve Glass**, professor of exercise science, was a co-author of an article, “Currency for Retirement, Investing in Physical Capital,” published in the *American College of Sports Medicine’s Health and Fitness Journal*.

**Jacki Cwick**, assistant professor of criminal justice, wrote an article, “Gender and Incarceration as Coercive Mobility: A Theoretical Model of the Effects on Women’s Forms of Capital and Informal Social Control,” published in the *Journal of Crime and Justice*.

**John Weber**, professor of geology, was among the authors of an article, “Evolution of Landscape in a Piedmont Section of Eastern Himalayan Foothills along India-Bhutan Border: A Tectono-geomorphic Perspective,” published in the *Journal of Mountain Science*.

**Kristen Schrauben**, assistant professor of psychology, was a co-author of an article, “Feedback Provided Within Structured Reading Programs: A Systematic Review,” published in *Reading and Writing Quarterly: Overcoming Learning Difficulties*.

**Danielle DeVasto**, assistant professor of writing, was a co-author of an article, “Visualizing Translation Spaces for Cross-cultural Health Communication,” published in *Present Tense*, special issue on Contextualizing Care in Cultures: Perspectives on Cross-Cultural and International Health and Medical Communication.

**Leon Lou**, associate professor of psychology, gave a presentation, “Three Attractors in Depiction from Observation: The Distal, the Proximal, and the Affect,” at TRAC (The Representational Art Conference) in Ventura, California.

**Jim Penn**, associate professor of geography, gave a presentation, “Tropical Forests, Agroforestry Systems and Plant Resources: Conservation Challenges and Indigenous Perspectives from Amazonia and Nicaragua,” at the Society for Economic Botany Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Jason Crouthamel**, professor of history, wrote a chapter, “Even a Jew Can Fight Back’: Masculinity, Comradeship and German-Jewish Soldiers in the First World War,” in a book, *Jewish Soldiers in the Collective Memory of Central Europe: The Remembrance of World War I from a Jewish Perspective*.

## WHAT’S AHEAD

*continued from page 3*

### Fall Arts Celebration event presents power of water through music

Musicians, including a renowned violin virtuoso, will give listeners an opportunity to feel the power and mystery of water during the next Fall Arts Celebration event.

“Water on the Mind: A Baroque Musical Journey” will feature pieces that reflect how deeply water inspired Baroque composers. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. September 23 at the Cook-DeWitt Center.

“The benefit of this music for the Fall Arts Celebration is that it is accessible to all audiences. The harmonic and rhythmic structures are immediately comfortable, as well



Ingrid Matthews, violinist with Toronto Tafelmusik Ensemble, will highlight the Fall Arts Celebration music event September 23 at the Cook-DeWitt Center.

as profoundly moving, and will be performed exceptionally well,” said Arthur Campbell, assistant chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Performances will include works such as the “Storm Scene” from the opera “Alcyone,” which evokes the terror and dread of an ocean tempest. In addition, the rise and fall of the ocean is musically depicted in the orchestral suite, “Hamburger Ebb and Fluth.”

Handel’s “Water Music,” composed for a barge party given by George I on the River Thames, will help round out the performance. The conclusion comes with the violin concerto, “La Tempesta di mare (The Sea Storm).” Ingrid Matthews, a Baroque violin virtuoso and solo violinist with Toronto Tafelmusik Ensemble, will perform the composition.

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