

FORUM

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**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

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Isely predicts slower growth in region for 2016

"Every measure we have indicates continued economic growth for the local region in 2016, only at a much slower rate than 2015," said Paul Isely, professor of economics and associate dean of the Seidman College of Business.

Isely revealed his predictions for the West Michigan economy January 28, during the 2016 Colliers International West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast event held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

His survey of the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December 2015.

Isely said export growth will be much weaker in 2016. "Exports have deteriorated the most," said Isely. "Last year, exports were down \$1 billion. Increasing exports have been the shining light since mid '90s, but now we are seeing weakness overseas."

He also said there has been a shift from manufacturing growth to service growth. "Job growth out of the Great Recession was manufacturing up until last year when growth in the service sector out-sprinted manufacturing,"

he said. "The growth we are seeing now is on the service side and that has a much harder time moving the ball forward; it's not drawing as much money into West Michigan."

Isely added that growth in automotive sales that accelerated West Michigan out of the Great Recession is staying strong, but not growing anymore. He also said there are not enough workers to generate growth.

"For the first time in a long time we are seeing young people, age 25-35, come to the area, but we still have a labor gap, not a skills gap. Plus, the number of high school graduates will be radically dropping in size in the next five years, so we need to draw even more people from outside the region to maintain what we have," he said.



Photo by Adam Bird

Paul Isely, professor of economics, gives predictions for the West Michigan economy during a January 28 event at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

Some economists are predicting the next recession will come in late 2017 to early 2019.

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Across Campus

Faculty convocation to include new award presentation

The annual Faculty Awards Convocation will include presentation of a new award and, for the first time, recognition of this year's faculty Glenn A. Niemeyer Award recipients.



The Faculty Awards Convocation from 2015 is pictured. This year's event is set for February 4.

James Goode, professor of history, will receive the Internationalization Award, a new honor that recognizes faculty members who make significant contributions to advance global learning at Grand Valley.

Goode founded the Middle East Studies program and began hosting the Model Arab League on campus. He established and led study abroad programs to Egypt and Turkey and led the first partnership delegation for faculty and staff members.

Three faculty members will receive Niemeyer Awards: Matthew Boelkins, professor of mathematics; Simha Magal, professor of management; and Gregory Wolffe, professor of computing and information systems. In previous years, faculty recipients were recognized in the



James Goode

spring with Niemeyer student awardees.

The ceremony is set for Thursday, February 4, at 4 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. Linda Goossen, professor of diagnostic and treatment services, will give the convocation address.

Recipients of University Awards for Excellence are listed below.

- Outstanding Advising and Student Services Award: Patricia Videtich, professor of geology
- Outstanding Community Service Award: Deborah Lown, associate professor of biomedical sciences
- Outstanding University Service Award: Amy Schelling, assistant professor of education
- Distinguished Contribution in a Discipline Award: Brian Lakey, professor of psychology
- University Outstanding Teacher Award: Thomas Pentecost, associate professor of chemistry

The Pew Awards for Excellence will be presented to Amy Masko, who will receive the Burch, Jacobs and Moore Diversity Teaching

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Excellence Award; Nicholas Johnson, Part-Time Faculty Award; Meagan Luttenton-Knoll and Maureen Wolverton, Teaching with Technology Awards. Feryal Alayont, Todd Aschenbach, Richard Geisel, Wendy Reffeor, Ellen Shupe, Jessica VandenPlas and Severine Ward will receive Teaching Excellence Awards.

The Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence will present Distinguished Undergraduate Mentoring Awards to Shannon Brios and David Eick; and Distinguished Early-Career Scholar Awards to Christopher Kurby and Cynthia Thompson.

Faculty members will be recognized for 25 or more years of service to Grand Valley.

University will hire Peace Corps recruiter

Officials at Grand Valley State University will hire a campus recruiter who will recruit applicants from West Michigan colleges and universities for the Peace Corps.

The new position is possible after Grand Valley signed a five-year agreement with Peace Corps officials in the Midwest regional office in Chicago. The campus recruiter will be a returned Peace Corps volunteer and be considered a Grand Valley staff member but work in consultation with the Midwest Peace Corps office.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer, said Grand Valley's campus recruiter (a part-time position) is the third such position at a Michigan university.



Mario Amaya is a 2013 Grand Valley graduate who volunteered for the Peace Corps, and is serving in Rwanda. The university will hire a part-time campus recruiter for the Peace Corps.

"Their role would be to provide advice and support for students considering a two-year service role for their country and world," Schaub said. "A Peace Corps appointment, in turn, helps the student launch their career and provides valuable experience in other cultures, in community engagement and language skills."

Since the 1961 founding of the Peace Corps, more than 230 Peace Corps volunteers have been Grand Valley alumni.

Jessica Mayle, Peace Corps spokesperson, said campus recruiters are integral to the Peace Corps' efforts to attract the next generation of volunteers.

"Just as they were integrated into their Peace Corps community as volunteers, these recruiters are now integrated into college campuses, where they can build relationships and collaborate with others to support Peace Corps' mission of global peace and friendship," Mayle said.

Grand Valley's proximity to other colleges and universities made it an idea place to house a recruiter, Mayle said.

"Students in West Michigan are passionate about making a difference and exploring the world, and the skills they acquire in the classroom make them well-suited for our assignments," she said.

The campus recruiter will work from the Padnos International Center, housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. More information about the position is online at www.gvsu.edu/jobs.

Women's Commission seeks nominations for awards

Grand Valley's Women's Commission is seeking nominations for awards that will be presented at the annual Celebrating Women reception in March.

A new award will be presented, the Emerging Professional Award recognizes a faculty or staff member who seeks to create opportunities for interaction among women.

Nominations are also sought for the Maxine Swanson, Unsung Hero and Women's Commission Impact awards.

Award criteria and nomination forms are available online at www.gvsu.edu/wcommission. The reception is set for March 29 in the Kirkhof Center.

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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, GVNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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

GVFaces

Caitlin Cusack, Publicity and Recruitment Coordinator

Caitlin Cusack had plans to move to New York and pursue a career on Broadway, but she found a way to have a rewarding musical career in Allendale.

Cusack is the publicity and recruitment coordinator for music and dance. In that role, she coordinates advertisements, oversees the website and social media promotion, and attends conferences to recruit students.

She has always been involved with music and participated in musical theater. Cusack earned a bachelor's degree in music from Grand Valley; after graduating, she was the choral accompanist at Comstock Park High School, and then a floating substitute teacher and theater director.

While she enjoyed bringing life to the flourishing program at Comstock, Cusack said she couldn't pass up an opportunity to return to Grand Valley.

"I love meeting with prospective students, because I have a testimonial," she said. "I went to Grand Valley and had a wonderful experience, so I'm able to share it with them."

Cusack is very passionate about the department. She said that the faculty members

are encouraging yet challenging, and has witnessed their ability to prepare students for a difficult, yet rewarding, career in the performing arts.

"It's amazing to see the personal relationships that develop in this department between the students and their professors. It's obvious that our faculty really care about student success," she said.

Cusack is also involved in the community. She serves as music director at St. Luke University Parish, gives voice lessons and is directing the spring musical at Comstock Park High School. She also performs at many university functions.

She doesn't dismiss working on Broadway someday, but said she is happy to be working for the music department, inviting students to join a community where they can grow and be inspired.

"Ultimately I want to make a difference in the world," Cusack said. "Whether that's in New York or not, I think right now I can make a difference here."



Caitlin Cusack



What's Ahead

February events will mark Black History Month

The Office of Multicultural Affairs invites students, faculty and staff members to a series of events in February in celebration of Black History Month.

All events are free and open to the public, and many are approved for LIB 100 and 201 classes. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

- **All month: Black History Trivia Contest:** Questions about African American history and culture will be posted in the *Lanthorn* and on OMA social media pages; students can win prizes for answering correctly.
- **February 2, 4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, The History of Black History Month:** Pero Dagbovie, author of *What is African American History?*, will give a presentation on the history and value of Black History Month.
- **Black Movie Wednesdays:** February 3, 4-7 p.m. Kirkhof Center, "Dear White People"; February 17, 4-7 p.m., Kirkhof Center, "School Daze."
- **February 9, noon, Kirkhof Center, Rosa Parks: A Modern Day Heroine:** a video presentation will highlight Rosa Parks' contributions to the struggle for civil rights.
- **February 11, noon, Kirkhof Center, A Tribute to Black Women: Strong, Fierce, and Dynamic Divas:** hosted by Positive Black Women, this event will include poetry, song, and dance, and honors those that have shaped history.
- **February 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mel Trotter Ministries, On Site Day of Service:** community members will help prepare and serve lunch at Mel Trotter Ministries in Grand Rapids. RSVP to Bobby J. Springer at x12177 or springeb@gvsu.edu.
- **February 15, 6 p.m., Kirkhof Center. Professionals of Color Lecture Series, David Banner:** Grammy Award-winning music producer, recording artist, philanthropist, and civic activist will give a presentation.
- **February 16, noon, Kirkhof Center. Conversations of Color, Black Representation on TV:** clips from popular TV shows will be shared, along with a discussion about how the black experience is represented on television.
- **February 19, noon, Kirkhof Center, Taste of Soul:** participants will experience the deep southern African-American tradition of soul food.
- **February 24, 3 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center, Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement:** this performance will give participants an understanding of jazz music as an art form, and its historical significance to the civil rights movement.

Grand Rapids Symphony returns for annual Arts at Noon concert

Arts at Noon series continues Wednesday, February 3, with the return of the Grand Rapids Symphony for its annual series performance.

Henry Duitman, Arts at Noon coordinator and GVSU Symphony Orchestra director, said the Grand Rapids Symphony is a cultural and educational asset for the West Michigan region.

"It is especially important for our students to hear the symphony as often as possible because it gives us a model of excellence, as well as a most enjoyable aesthetic experience when they come for their yearly concert," he said.



The Grand Rapids Symphony will perform during Arts at Noon on February 3.

During this free concert, the GRSO will perform two serenades for string orchestra: Tchaikovsky's "Serenade for Strings" and "1812 Overture."

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, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

Event will continue health care forecast discussion

West Michigan health care leaders will continue discussion from the economic health care forecast during an event, "Population Health," hosted by the Health Forum of West Michigan.

The event is set for Friday, February 5, from 8-9:30 a.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. A light breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m.

Panelists are Rob Fowler, president and CEO of the Small Business Association of Michigan and board chair of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund; Jim Green, executive director of human resources for Lacks Enterprises; and Adam London, administrative health officer for the Kent County Health Department. The moderator will be Ranelle Brew, associate professor and chair of public health at Grand Valley.

They will continue the discussion regarding health-related issues facing West Michigan residents identified in a report, "Health Check: Analyzing Trends in West Michigan." That report, from the January 8 economic health care forecast, is online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth.

The Health Forum of West Michigan continues the tradition of the Alliance for Health's First Friday Forums, under leadership from community partners and sponsorship from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Hosts for this event are Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health, and the Midwest interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center at Grand Valley.

Register for the February 5 event online at www.gvsu.edu/miperc.

Presidents' Ball tickets available

Tickets are on sale for the 29th annual Presidents' Ball, set for Friday, February 5.

With the theme, "Olympus, A Night in the Clouds," the event will be held at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Avenue NW. Cocktail hour will begin at 5:45 p.m., dinner at 6:15 p.m., and dancing from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

Tickets are available at the 20/20 Desk in Kirkhof Center for \$15 (dance only), dinner and dance is \$30.

Members of the Grand Valley community will be presented with awards. Krista McFarland, Office of Student Life assistant, will receive the Laker of the Year award; Richard Hiskes, professor of political science, honors, will receive the Student Award for Faculty Excellence; and Jodi Chycinski, director of Admissions, will receive the President Appreciation Award.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/presidentsball; use #presball2016 on social media.

Ford Learning Institute director to discuss design thinking

A leader in the theories and practices in design thinking will visit campus to share her expertise with faculty members, students and the West Michigan community.



Deborah Parizek

Deborah Parizek, Henry Ford Learning Institute executive director, will present "Developing an Orientation of Innovation through Design Thinking," on Wednesday, February 10, from 6-7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Parizek will share how the Henry Ford Learning Institute implements design thinking in schools, communities and businesses around the world. She will discuss her experiences working with leading design thinking experts and other progressive learning organizations to refine the design thinking process in order to develop young innovators and resourceful lifelong learners.

For more information about this event, visit gvsu.edu/designthinking or contact John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director at Grand Valley, at berryjr@gvsu.edu.

This event is LIB 100 approved for Grand Valley students.

Seminar will detail Fulbright program

The Padnos International Center will host a seminar about the Fulbright program for faculty members.

The seminar will run from 1:30-3 p.m. on Friday, February 26, at the DeVos Center, University Club room. A reception with past Fulbright recipients will follow, wine and light refreshments will be served.

Andrew Reiss from the Fulbright office in Washington, D.C., will lead discussion about the program's opportunities and the application process. The program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Register for the session online at www.gvsu.edu/sprout, under "Faculty Teaching and Learning."

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Gamal Gasim, associate professor of Middle East Studies and political science, wrote an article, “Sudan’s 60 Years of Bitter Harvest,” published in the *Huffington Post*.

Sketches

Eric Harvey, assistant professor of communications, served as co-editor for a special issue, “Recording Industries, Technologies, and Cultures In Flux,” of the *Creative Industries Journal*.

Steve Glass, professor of movement science, gave a presentation, “Using Team Research as a Tool for High Impact Learning,” at the Hawaii International Conference on Education in Honolulu.

Al Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was a co-author of an article, “Alum Application, Invertebrate Bioturbation, and Sediment Characteristics Interact to Affect Phosphorus Exchange in Eutrophic Ecosystems,” published in *Freshwater Science*.

Debbie Morrow, senior librarian, wrote an article, “Becoming a Liaison Librarian:

Embedded in Academia,” published in *Association of College and Research Libraries News*.

Donald Mitchell Jr., assistant professor of education, will receive the 2016 McGraw Hill Distinguished Scholar Award at the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference.

Lihua Huang, assistant professor of social work, gave a presentation, “Gender Differences in the Impact of Retirement on Social Networks and Life Satisfaction,” at the 20th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research held in Washington, D.C.

Peimin Ni, professor of philosophy, earned the Best Essay of the Year Award for “Seek and You Will Find It; Let Go and You Will Lose It: Exploring a Confucian Approach to Human Dignity” from the journal *Dao* at the Eastern American Philosophical Association Conference in Washington, D.C. He gave a presentation, “Applying the Chinese Gongfu Method to Philosophy—Eastern or Western,” at the conference; Ni also revised an edition of his book, *Confucius, the Man and the Way of Gongfu*, slated for publication by Rowman & Littlefield.

Patrick Johnson, director of the Writing Center, will give a presentation about comics

and his successful Kickstarter campaign to publish a collected web comic series as a book at Dixie State University in Utah.

Diane Rayor, professor of Classics, had her translation of Sappho’s poetry, *Sappho: A New Translation of the Complete Works*, reviewed in the *London Review of Books*.

Daniel Bergman, associate professor and chair of biomedical sciences, gave presentations, “Neuropharmacological Alterations of the Aggressive Behavior of Crayfish,” and “An Investigation of the Intrinsic and Extrinsic Influences on the Aggressive Behavior of Crayfish,” at the annual Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Scott Stabler, associate professor of history, gave a presentation, “Read Beyond the Comma: Robert E. Lee and Me,” at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, in Honolulu.

Roger Ellis, professor of communications, produced and directed three contemporary plays on religious themes at Grand Rapids’ Dog Story Theatre. They were performed by Grand Valley faculty members, alumni and students.

Across Campus

Study works to improve lives of heart failure patients

A physical therapy faculty member is researching ways to improve daily activity for individuals with heart failure.

Heart failure is most often a consequence of damage to the heart muscle from heart attacks, viral infections, valve problems, or chemicals, such as chemotherapy. The goal, said Michael Shoemaker, associate professor of physical therapy, is to improve daily activity — whether it’s concentrated exercise or more daily movement in general — for this growing population of people.



Michael Shoemaker

“Asking a patient with heart failure to exercise more often isn’t enough, so this study looks at the effects of consistently working with them to change behaviors and create habits,” said Shoemaker, also a physical therapist for Spectrum Health.

“The more active you are, the better you’ll

function, and the longer you’ll live.”

The study is led by Shoemaker and Michael Dickinson, medical director for heart failure at Spectrum Health and medical director for the Richard DeVos Heart and Lung Transplant Program. The study includes 33 subjects whose ages range from 41 to 85 years old. A physical therapist visits with each subject once a week for three months.

Shoemaker said the current model of using exercise to break the cycle of inactivity is ineffective because perhaps some people are too deconditioned to be active. Instead, psychosocial-based interventions, such as health coaching and daily activity feedback, could be effective.

Shoemaker said he’s been interested in studying “the recliner chair” population for several years. As more people experience heart attacks or are diagnosed with heart disease, the more relevant this study becomes.

The study, which began in October 2014 and is halfway completed, is supported through a \$40,000 grant from Medtronic’s Cardiac Rhythm Disease Management External Research Program.

Shoemaker hopes results of the study will provide valuable information for clinicians and physicians on how to council patients with heart failure on increasing activity levels and exercise.

Isely: slower growth

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“Economists aren’t very good at predicting recessions,” Isely said. “The recession from 2007-2009 was caused by a direct shock to our economy. The next recession will be smaller, unless we end up with a new shock.”

Overall findings for 2016:

- The Forecast Business Confidence Index for 2016 is 76.7%
- Employment is expected to grow by 2.6–3.0%
- Sales are expected to increase by 2.3–2.7%
- Export growth is forecast to be much weaker, with expected growth between 2.4–4.4%