

# FORUM

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

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## *Collaboration will advance school's STEM education*

A new collaboration between Grand Valley and West Michigan Aviation Academy will support high school students learning about science, technology, engineering and math as they pursue careers focused on aviation.

President Thomas J. Haas and WMAA CEO Patrick J. Cwayna signed an agreement February 17 that outlined the university's commitment to helping develop STEM curriculum and extra-curricular activities for WMAA.

The collaboration specifically includes support from faculty members in the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing who will work with teachers and department chairs at WMAA to enhance STEM courses and student learning. In addition, a Grand Valley graduate student will assist the academy's FIRST Robotics team and the university will donate equipment to support hands-on learning.

"It's important that our students receive the strong, broad-based education that is needed to put airplanes in the air," said Cwayna. "Engineering and robotics is a huge component

for that, so we are thrilled to have access to the expertise found at Grand Valley."

Haas said it's important that the university invests in the future of students before they start college.

"We live in a community that values innovation and entrepreneurship, so it is only natural for Grand Valley and West Michigan Aviation Academy to work together to prepare students as they create, design and build," he said.

Cwayna said six engineering courses are currently offered at WMAA, making it the school with the most extensive STEM curriculum in any high school in West Michigan, if not the state. He compared WMAA's rapid growth to that of Grand Valley's. The academy admitted its first class of 80 students in 2010. Today's class consists of nearly 550 students.



Photo by Jess Weal

Patrick J. Cwayna introduces President Thomas J. Haas to West Michigan Aviation Academy students following an agreement between Grand Valley and the high school that will support STEM education at the school. At right is Michelle Lindale, director of partnership development for the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

## *Across Campus*

### **Meeting will reveal preliminary climate survey results**

Preliminary results from the myGVSU Climate Survey will be discussed at a meeting set for Wednesday, March 2, at 3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

The campus community is invited to participate; the meeting will be webcast, view it at [www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu](http://www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu).

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, will lead the meeting, presenting preliminary data from independent consultant Amber Gonzalez. The full data analysis is scheduled for release in March. Bernal will also discuss the next steps to address the findings.

More than 40 percent of the campus community participated in the climate survey in November.



Jesse Bernal

### **University to test emergency system**

Grand Valley is planning a test of its emergency notification system Friday, March 4, at noon.

The test will include GVSUAlert! emergency messaging, emergency website updating and the outdoor warning system. There is no action required from those receiving the alert and university operations will continue as normal.

If severe weather is expected at the time of the test, it will be postponed until the following day.

The Office of Emergency Management will send out a message through GVSUAlert! to all students, faculty and staff. A test message will also be heard on the university's outdoor warning system on the Allendale Campus.

GVSUAlert! emergency notifications are automatically delivered to university email addresses. To receive text or voice messaging alerts, sign up by visiting [www.gvsu.edu/gvsualert](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvsualert).

The system is designed to quickly notify the campus community of important information during emergency incidents. The test is part of a continuing effort to evaluate and improve the university's ability to provide timely and effective emergency notification warnings during a campus emergency.

### **Haas signs agreement to strengthen civic engagement**

President Thomas J. Haas has signed a new agreement strengthening the university's commitment to civic engagement.

Haas signed the Campus Compact 30th Anniversary Action Statement on Civic Engagement. The agreement includes five action statements that call for preparing students for civic engagement, creating partnerships and contributing to the strength and health of local communities.

Grand Valley is one of three Michigan institutions to sign.

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# Across Campus

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“The action statement is consistent with Grand Valley’s 2016-2021 strategic plan goals around civic engagement,” said Haas. “Grand Valley is positioned as an institution to lead the way toward the institutionalization of civic engagement and toward demonstrating the positive impact that universities can have on our surrounding communities.”

The document is a supplement to the Campus Compact President’s Declaration previously signed by Haas.

The Campus Compact 30th Anniversary Conference and President’s Summit will be held March 20 in Massachusetts.

## Women’s hockey player uses teammates to help with research

It’s not often a student can combine a research project with the sport she plays.

Karyn Schmaltz is a student in the Meijer Honors College and member of Grand Valley’s women’s hockey team. She is using her teammates plus players from the men’s team to help with her senior thesis: researching shift length and energetics during a collegiate hockey game.



Photo by Jess Weal

Karyn Schmaltz places a heart rate monitor on a women’s hockey player at Georgetown Ice Arena. Schamltz’s research, with biomedical sciences faculty member Cara Ocobock, measures the energy expenditure of players during a game.

Schmaltz, an allied health science major, said this would be the first study that includes data on women hockey players. She is also researching the differences in calories burned between men and women, and forwards and defensemen.

Her faculty mentor is Cara Ocobock, assistant professor of biomedical sciences.

“We are going to produce baseline information that is currently missing from literature,” Ocobock said. “Also, we collected data on shift length, which had not been studied since the 1970s.”

Ocobock said she hopes their data would update conclusions from the ’70s that a player’s shift length increases as the game progresses.

To collect data, Schmaltz placed heart rate monitors on 10 players on the women’s team and 10 from the men’s team. Then she enlisted an army of assistants to sit in the stands at Georgetown Ice Arena and track the shift length of their assigned player using stopwatches.

Each subject’s body mass was measured to estimate accurate energy expenditures. Schmaltz estimated that while playing 45-second shifts during an entire game, women burned about 800 calories and men burned about 1,200 calories.

“Knowing accurately how many calories they are burning would help with nutrition and hydration,” Schmaltz said.

Schmaltz is from Tinley Park, Illinois, southwest of Chicago. She grew up playing hockey and came to Grand Valley to continue playing at the club sport level. “My dad was my coach for a long time. My brother is at Grand Valley also, playing roller hockey,” she said.

Schmaltz plans to present her research during Student Scholars Day on April 13.

## Volunteers needed for SSD

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship is looking for volunteers for 20th Annual Student Scholars Day, set for April 13.

SSD showcases faculty-mentored student work, shared through many venues, including oral presentations, discussion and panel sessions, fine arts exhibits and performances, and poster presentations.

Volunteers are needed to fill two-hour time blocks to assist with registration, hosting sessions, greeting participants and spectators, and setting up and tearing down the event.

Questions can be directed to Jakia Fuller at fullerj1@gvsu.edu. Volunteer information and registration link are posted online at [www.gvsu.edu/ours/ssd](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours/ssd).

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Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

Visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVNow, at [www.gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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

## King: questions loom about GOP strategy

As several Republican candidates for president continue to fight for votes in key primaries leading up to Super Tuesday, a political science professor said the remaining candidates might be staying in the race for different strategic reasons.

While Donald Trump maintains a strong lead, Erika King said both Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, who essentially tied for second in the South Carolina primary, have no reason to drop out. Trump has failed to earn a majority of the votes, though that task would be difficult until a head-to-head matchup for the nomination emerges, King said.

King said Super Tuesday will be critical for low-performing candidates like John Kasich and Ben Carson, though strong performances in Michigan on March 8 and Ohio on March 15 would buoy a Kasich run.

Kasich may have alternative strategic reasons for staying in the race this long as well, King said.

“One strategic interest might be to say ‘Gee, I would be a fine vice presidential candidate so I’m going to stay in the race to show I can still capture important parts of the country, like say, the state of Ohio,’” King said.

On the Democratic side, King said even though Clinton won the Nevada caucus and holds a significant lead in the delegate and superdelegate count, it doesn’t mean the race is out of reach for Bernie Sanders.

She said it’s possible that delegates and

superdelegates, who are free to change their minds, might do so if Sanders continues to win contests across the country. King noted that delegates are political participants and are often inclined to do what they think is best for the party.

“At the moment, the superdelegates are working to Clinton’s advantage, but they may make some political calculus,” King said. “She is definitely mounting her delegate total much faster than Sanders is.”

King also noted that while Sanders has broad support from a significantly large portion of young voters, broad support doesn’t generally tend to equal success in elections.

“One of the things we have to remember, whether we like it or not, one of the truths of American electoral turnout is that older individuals tend to vote more regularly and in larger percentages than the youngest demographic of voters,” King said.

“Sanders is overwhelmingly winning the 18- to 29-year-old demographic. He’s generating a lot excitement, so the question will be, should he not get the nomination, what will happen with those voters? Will they move to Clinton? Or will they just stay home in the general election if Sanders doesn’t get the nomination?”



Erika King



# What's Ahead

## Students can apply for Detroit program

Grand Valley students can participate in a cultural immersion program without leaving Michigan.

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies has partnered with the University of Michigan to offer a “Semester in Detroit” program. Beginning in the fall 2016 semester, Grand Valley students who are accepted into the program would live in Detroit, take courses taught by U-M faculty members and engage in an internship in the Detroit community.

Ellen Schendel, associate dean of Brooks College, said the program is open to all Grand Valley students. She said students who are interested in social justice work, community engagement or who had taken the civil discourse class are good matches for the program.

Housing would be in Midtown Detroit, through an agreement with the Cass Corridor Commons, or home stays in other parts of the city. Cost for the semester is regular tuition cost for 13-18 credits, housing, plus a \$491 program fee. There are three need-based scholarships available to cover the program fee cost.

Four courses are required, including a history of Detroit course, field internship and a one-credit Detroit Speakers Series, in which prominent leaders give presentations for Semester in Detroit students.

The deadline to apply is February 29. For more information about Semester in Detroit, visit [www.gvsu.edu/semesterindetroit](http://www.gvsu.edu/semesterindetroit). For information about the program, contact Kate Vanderkolk, Brooks College Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, at [vandkat@gvsu.edu](mailto:vandkat@gvsu.edu) or call x18200.



Melba Velez Ortiz will give a Her Story presentation on March 1.

## Faculty member to present Her Story

Melba Velez Ortiz, assistant professor of communications, will give a Her Story presentation as part of the series sponsored by Grand Valley’s Women’s Commission.

“Life as a Peep Show” is set for Tuesday, March 1, at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204. The event is free and open to the campus community. The Her Story series offers the campus community opportunities to hear stories of women in leadership positions and learn about the experiences that shaped their personal and professional paths.

The event is co-sponsored by the Women’s Center; participants are encouraged to bring their lunches.

## YPHE concludes year with leadership, networking event

Young Professionals in Higher Education will conclude its second year of programming with an event Thursday, March 3, that will feature a panel of local higher education leaders.

The leadership and networking event will take place from 7:30-9 a.m. in the DeVos Center, University Club room. Breakfast will be provided. Faculty and staff members from colleges and universities throughout the Grand Rapids area are invited to the free event.

The event will allow young professionals to engage in meaningful dialogue with leaders from Grand Valley, Grand Rapids Community College and Davenport University.

The panelists are Chris Barbee, director of alumni relations, Grand Valley; Leah Nixon, director of communications, Grand Rapids Community College; and Malia Roberts, executive director of admissions for High School Recruitment, Davenport University.

Grand Valley faculty and staff members should register at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout). Non-Grand Valley employees can register by sending an email to [yphighered@gmail.com](mailto:yphighered@gmail.com)

YPHE helps young professionals have a successful and satisfying career in higher education. The group organizes monthly programs to encourage professional development and networking.

Visit [www.gvsu.edu/yphe](http://www.gvsu.edu/yphe) for more information.

## Panelists will discuss health care evolution

A panel of health care leaders and a medical student will discuss the “Evolution of Health Care” during an event hosted by Grand Valley’s Office of the Vice Provost for Health.

The panel discussion is set for Friday, March 4, at 8 a.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium; a light breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.

Panelists are Elizabeth Murphy, vice president and chief nursing officer, Mercy Health Saint

Mary’s; Patrick O’Hare, senior vice president and CIO, Spectrum Health; Dr. Jeffrey Postlewaite, interim chief medical officer, Metro Health; and Miguel Joaquin, medical student, Michigan State University. Raymond Higbea, assistant professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, will be the moderator.

The event is free and open to the public; register online at [www.gvsu.edu/vphealth](http://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.

## Topic set for next DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy

The next DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy will focus on the ethical implications of legalizing marijuana for medical and non-medical use.

The colloquy, “Is America Going to Pot?” will take place March 14 at 6 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, room 119.

A live webcast will be available for faculty members who may want to include the event in their courses. The webcast link is posted at [www.gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://www.gvsu.edu/colloquy).

The colloquy will include presentations by Kevin Hill, director of Substance Abuse Consultation Services for the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts, who will speak in favor of the legalization of marijuana; and Yasmin Hurd, Ward-Coleman Chair of Translational Neuroscience and director of the Center for Addictive Disorders at Mount Sinai Behavioral Health System in New York, who will address the negative aspects of its legalization.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, said the topic was selected because of active discussions taking place in state legislatures across the country and the national media attention it has received.

The event is free and open to the public. RSVP is required at [www.gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://www.gvsu.edu/colloquy).

The colloquy series takes place twice a year, once in the fall and winter. It was established in 2005 by Richard and Helen DeVos in response to a need for a forum where topics of medical and ethical significance could be discussed. Grand Valley became the host of this biannual medical ethics speaker series in June 2015, thanks to a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.

For more information, contact Diane Dykstra in the Office of the Vice Provost for Health at [dykstrdi@gvsu.edu](mailto:dykstrdi@gvsu.edu) or x15876.



# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Gamal Gasim**, associate professor of Middle East Studies and political science, wrote an article, “The Love-Hate Relationship Between Sudan and the United States,” published in the *Huffington Post*.

**Patricia Clark**, professor and chair of writing, and **Virginia Jenkins**, professor chair of art and design, were interviewed on the Great Lakes Echo podcast, “Echos,” for a story about the Art Gallery exhibit, “Great Lakes: Image & Word.”

## McCurren named to AACN board

**Cynthia McCurren**, dean of the Kirkhof College of Nursing, was elected to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Board of Directors for a second term.

McCurren joined Grand Valley in 2007 and oversees a nursing college that offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctor of nursing practice degrees. She also serves on the Board of the Michigan Organization of Nursing Executives, as president of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing, and had been an appointed member of the Michigan Task Force for Nursing Education/Michigan Nursing Education Council.



Cynthia McCurren

Prior to her current role, McCurren held a variety of teaching and leadership positions at the University of Louisville.

AACN represents more than 780 public and private four-year collegiate nursing programs.

## Steinman appointed to EPA board

**Alan Steinman**, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was appointed to the Science and Information Subcommittee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Advisory Board.

During his term, which will continue through January 2018, Steinman will provide independent advice on technical issues to help the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force address several challenging environmental priorities.

Steinman has served as the director of AWRI, Grand Valley’s Muskegon-based freshwater research institute, since 2001.



Alan Steinman

to Confront Local Wicked Problems,” published in *Contemporary Pragmatism*.

**Sue Harrington**, assistant professor of nursing, was selected to serve as an advisory group member for the Palliative & Hospice Nursing Professional Issues Panel.

**Patricia Clark**, professor and chair of writing, wrote a story, “Let Him In,” which was the Judges Choice Winner in the Adult category in the fourth annual Write Michigan Short Story Contest, and the story will be published in the 2016 *Write Michigan Anthology*.

**Dianne Conrad**, assistant professor of nursing, gave a presentation, “The Synergy of the Scholarship Team,” at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Doctoral Conference. She also was the co-author of an article, “Why Hire a DNP? The Value-added Impact of the Practice Doctorate,” published in *Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice*.

**Karen Burritt**, assistant professor of nursing, gave a presentation, “Faculty Perceptions of Utilizing Lean Quality Improvement Principles to Streamline a DNP Curriculum,” at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Doctoral Conference.

**Shaily Menon**, associate dean for CLAS and professor of biology, wrote “Befriended,” which was selected as the Story of the Week by *Narrative Magazine*. The piece is also an entry in the publication’s Winter 2016 Story Contest. The full manuscript can be viewed at [www.narrativemagazine.com](http://www.narrativemagazine.com).

## Sketches

**Danielle Lake**, assistant professor of liberal studies, wrote an article, “Dewey, Addams, and Beyond: A Context-Sensitive, Dialogue-Driven, Action-Based Pedagogy for Preparing Students

## Across Campus

### Biology graduate student wins thesis competition

Eleven graduate students from a variety of disciplines competed in the 3-Minute Thesis competition February 18 in the DeVos Center.

During the competition, sponsored by The Graduate School, students had three minutes to present their research to a panel of judges. Students were competing for prize money and a chance to advance to the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools 3-Minute Thesis competition in Chicago in April.

Matthew Lindenberg, who is earning a master’s degree in biology, took first place with his thesis, “Reinforcement of Cheetah Populations: Rewilding in North-Central Namibia.” Lindenberg won \$500 and will advance to the competition in Chicago.



Pictured from left are graduate students Sarah Nota, Ashley DeWitt, Jakia Fuller, Matthew Lindeberg and Jeff Potteiger, dean of The Graduate School.

Jakia Fuller, who is pursuing a master’s degree in higher education, won second prize and \$250 with her thesis, “Identity Development of Black Students in Relation to Black Studies Courses.” Ashley DeWitt, who is earning a master’s degree in cell and molecular biology, won third place and \$100 with her thesis, “A Simple Model to Study Cell Division.”

The audience of about 75 people voted for the People’s Choice award, won by Sarah Nota, who is pursuing a master’s degree in public health with her thesis, “Sexual Health Education Among the Intellectually and Developmentally Delayed Population in Western Michigan.”

Faculty judges were Corey Anton, Lori Houghton-Rahrig, Roger Wilson, Brandon Youker, Katie Barnhart, Shabbir Choudhuri and Shannon Biros. Len O’Kelly served as emcee.

The 3-Minute Thesis competition first began at the University of Queensland in Australia and has expanded across the world.

## Nominations open for sustainability awards

The Office of Sustainability Practices is accepting nominations for its eighth annual Sustainability Champions Awards.

The awards ceremony celebrates the contributions of students, faculty and staff members, and community members who practice and support the ideals of sustainable living. The deadline for nominations is March 18.

Selected champions will be recognized at an awards luncheon April 1 in the Kirkhof Center. Nominate a champion at [www.gvsu.edu/sustainability](http://www.gvsu.edu/sustainability).