Four living centers renamed

Construction has begun on the new $37 million housing and academic building on the Allendale Campus. It’s being built east of Mackinac Hall where Robinson Field was located. The project involved tearing down the original Icie Macy Hoobler Living Center.

The 145,000-square-foot housing building will accommodate 498 students in traditional-style bedroom units and include study space, laundry facilities, lounge space, a game room and outdoor recreational space. The building will also include three classrooms, a computer lab, media room and three faculty offices, as well as a multi-purpose room. It is scheduled to open in August 2016.

Einstein Bros. Bagels will be relocated from the Commons Building to the new building.

K-12 leaders learn design thinking strategies

Grand Valley is creating and growing a network of design thinking experts in order to expand the ways students learn at both the collegiate and K-12 levels in West Michigan. To begin this collaborative forum, more than 50 K-12 leaders from area school districts attended the first Design Thinking Summit in August at the Eberhard Center.

Attendees included educators from local school districts who heard success stories regarding the application of design thinking in classrooms. The event featured presentations by representatives from Zeeland Christian High School, Northview High School, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Haven Public Schools, West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology and Forest Hills Eastern High School.

John Berry, director of the Design Thinking Initiative, said many businesses and non-profits across the U.S. are seeking graduates with the interdisciplinary problem solving skills that the design thinking process provides.

“With employers looking for employees who have the additional soft skills of collaboration, problem solving, empathy and communication, the benefit to students who experience and learn the process of design thinking is enhanced employability and increased life skills in responding to ever changing needs,” Berry said.

Design thinking is generally defined as an interactive, project-based, problem-solving process that combines empathy, creativity and rationality to meet user needs. Christopher Bruce, school program senior coordinator at GRAM, said in order for students to truly be successful, they must not only learn empathy, but also how to think and act like designers, which begins with shedding the fear of failure.

“Our students are afraid to take risks and try new things because we live in a society that values testing above all else,” Bruce said. “If you don’t have the right answer, you’re wrong. You’re not worthy, but that’s not true. We learn more from our failures than people ever learn from successes.”

The principles of design thinking are currently being incorporated into various curriculums at Grand Valley through the Design Thinking Initiative, which came to fruition last year. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking.

DSR pilots shuttle service

Disability Support Resources is piloting a van shuttle service this semester. Kathleen VanderVeen, assistant vice president for Inclusion Planning, said the expanded service includes a dedicated shuttle with drop-off and pick-up locations.

All users must be registered with DSR, an application is available online at www.gvsu.edu/dsr, click on “Van Service.” The shuttle will be on call Monday-Friday during peak times: 7:30-9 a.m., and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Riders can request or schedule a shuttle by calling x12490.

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Across Campus

Four existing living centers have been renamed as a result of the new construction. North B Living Center is now Icie Macy Hoobler Living Center and North A Living Center is now Ella Koeze-Weed Living Center.

What was Johnson Living Center is now Maple Living Center, Ott Living Center is now Oak Living Center and Koeze-Weed is now Pine Living Center.

West A Living Center has been renamed Paul A. Johnson Living Center and West B is now Arnold C. Ott Living Center.

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Wallace returns to director position

Williamson Wallace was named director of Criminal Justice Training last semester, a position he held from 2003-2008. Wallace has taught in the School of Criminal Justice since 2003.

The position includes managing the GVSU Police Academy and six students graduated from the Military Police Veterans Academy. Wallace is a licensed attorney and earned a law degree from Thomas Cooley Law School. He has served as an assistant federal security director for the Transportation Security Administration and is a Gulf War veteran. Cooley Law School. He has served as an assistant federal security director for the Transportation Security Administration and is a Gulf War veteran.

Williamson Wallace speaks at the GVSU Police Academy graduation ceremony in August. Wallace was named director of Criminal Justice Training.

Yearlong celebration for Haas’ 10th year at Grand Valley

A lot can happen in 10 years — like a growing student population, an expanding campus and dozens of new academic programs. These milestones, and more, have occurred at Grand Valley under the leadership of President Thomas J. Haas.

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A lot can happen in 10 years — like a growing student population, an expanding campus and dozens of new academic programs. These milestones, and more, have occurred at Grand Valley under the leadership of President Thomas J. Haas. A yearlong celebration, called The Power of 10, will recognize the 2015-2016 academic year as the start of Haas’ 10th year at Grand Valley and his positive impact on the university. Appropriately named for his background in chemistry, The Power of 10 is a scientific concept that aids in the visualization of large numbers.

The celebration kicked off in Chicago in August, when Haas celebrated with alumni as part of his 10-city tour. Stops in the tour will include Seattle, Los Angeles, New York City, Houston, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Denver, Phoenix and Detroit. The celebration will also include on-campus activities and events throughout the year, and a new scholarship established in honor of President Haas and his wife, Marcia Haas.

President Thomas J. Haas meets alumni in Chicago during a stop on The Power of 10 tour.

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Fall Arts Celebration begins with showcase of international art

For the first time in the history of Grand Valley's Fall Arts Celebration, the featured collection of artwork is so large that it cannot be solely housed at the university.

Half of the 32-piece traveling “Dusk to Dusk: Unsettled, Unraveled, Unreal” exhibition will be shown at the Grand Valley Art Gallery, while the other half will be housed at the De Pree Art Center and Gallery at Hope College in Holland. The exhibition will officially debut at Grand Valley during an opening reception Thursday, September 10, from 5-7 p.m. The exhibit is on display through October 31.

The exhibition comes to West Michigan from a private collection in the Netherlands and features works by internationally acclaimed artists such as Salvador Dalí, Louise Bourgeois, Gilbert & George, Richard Long, Edward Burtynsky, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Erwin Wurm, Erwin Olaf, James Aldridge, Tony Cragg, Marcel Dzama, Matthew Day Jackson and Rudi van Empel.

This contemporary art exhibition welcomes viewers to experience a beautiful world, unsettling in its vision of personal isolation, but collectively bound by the small comfort of knowing that everyone is alone. Through paintings, photography, sculptures and video, this exhibition shows viewers a strange contemporary familiarity into a collective darkness.

Hidetaka Kawashima’s work will be among those on exhibit during “Dusk to Dawn: Unsettled, Unraveled, Unreal.”

David Newell, curator of exhibitions, said the exhibit carries themes of isolation in the modern world, political repression and engulfing angst and anxiety.

“This is a very strong collection that has a tendency to get under the viewer’s skin. It’s edgy and at times unnerving,” Newell said. “It tests your comfort levels and forces you to confront your emotions, values and anxieties.”

Henry Matthews, director of Galleries and Collections, said collaborating with Hope College for this exhibition allows both universities the opportunity to expose students and the community to international works of art that are not normally seen in West Michigan.

“These specific examples of artwork can typically only be found in major art museums and galleries so this provides important teaching and learning opportunities for our students, multidisciplinary educators and various community constituencies,” Matthews said.

“Dusk to Dusk” was organized by the Samek Art Gallery at Bucknell University, curated by Richard Rinehart, director of the Samek Art Gallery, with works generously loaned from the Eklund Collection. The exhibition is toured by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California.

Since its start in 2003, Fall Arts Celebration has featured some of the preeminent writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars of today. The tradition continues in 2015 with six signature events that aim to broaden horizons, help make sense of the new and unfamiliar, reflect on the past and charm with the classics.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts or call x12185.
Across Campus

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5. If I prefer to give my time rather than a monetary donation, is there an option for me?

Yes, for volunteers, consider signing up for Schools of Hope, a program that pairs faculty and staff members with first- through third-grade students who need help developing reading skills. Grand Valley faculty or staff can volunteer for one hour a week at a school that participates in the program. With supervisor approval, vacation time does not need to be used. To sign up, visit www.hwmuw.org/soh.

Professor, students discover gateway to ancient home of Goliath

A professor, 12 Grand Valley students and an international team of archaeologists unearthed a massive gate at the archaeological site of Tell es-Safi in Israel, which may have marked the entrance to the ancient biblical city of Gath. The city is thought to be the home of Goliath, the giant warrior whom the young Israelite King David bested with a sling.

Elizabeth Arnold, associate professor of anthropology and member of the excavation team led by Aren Maeir of Bar-Ilan University in Israel, said that Gath was occupied until it was destroyed following a siege around 830 B.C. It has been depicted as the most important of the five principal cities of the “Philistine Pentapolis,” along with Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza and Ekron.

“This discovery shows the powerful status of Gath during the time of the early Israelite monarchy in 9th or 10th century B.C.E., meaning the Judahite kingdom could not have controlled Philistia until after Gath was destroyed around 830 B.C.,” said Arnold.

Along with the monumental gate, the team also exposed the remains of a fortified wall, temple, iron production facility, pottery and other objects that typically associated with Philistine culture. Arnold added that the team found evidence of widespread destruction that took place in the city after the Aramean siege of Gath, as well as the earliest known siege system in the world comprised of manmade trenches surrounding the site on three sides.

The 12 students participating are part of the Study Abroad Israel program, through Grand Valley’s Padnos International Center.

“Every find has significance, but the ones we found really opened the gates, figuratively and literally, to what the biblical city of Gath contained, and what happened to it and its inhabitants,” said Kelly Darcy, a junior majoring in advertising and public relations.

“The more we dug, the more artifacts we found, thus giving us a better idea of what the households were working in really looked like, and what every day life was like and what the occupations were,”

Other students were Keegan Brewster, Parryss Carter-McGee, Jesse Dedic, Kimberly Crago, Kara Larson, Emily Gilhooly, Robert Tissot, Natalie Renkes, Dylan Rowe, Gabe Hassenthaler and Christopher Long. Arnold said more students will receive the opportunity to participate in this ongoing research in Israel at the site through this program in 2017.

For more information about these discoveries, visit the expedition blog at https://gath.wordpress.com.

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