



## THE HAUENSTEIN CENTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES

AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Direct from the Director - P2

Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy  
Winter 2021 Semester Preview - P3

Fall 2020 Semester in Review - P4



### *Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy*



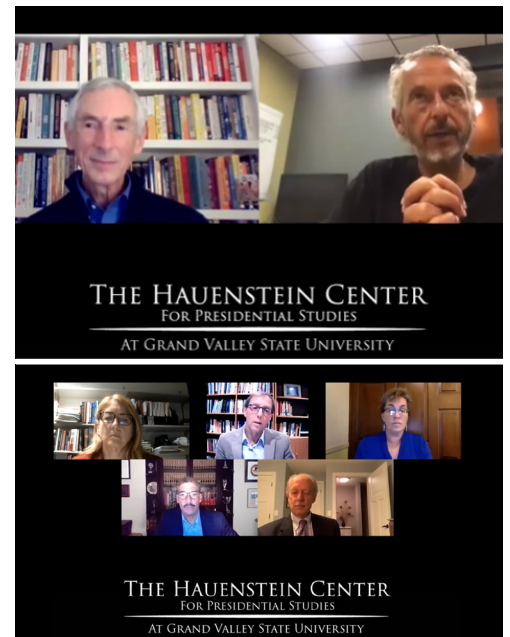
This spotlight will showcase two of our incredible Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy (CLA) fellows. DeMario Bell's leadership shines through as he stands in "the gap" of opportunity and Christa Fernando's diverse exposures and experiences have helped form her outlook on effective leadership and service.

### *Open Minds Book Club*

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies is proud to launch the Open Minds Book Club. Meeting once every semester, the club aims to bridge ideological, cultural, and generational divides through civil discourse and shared learning outcomes. *Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech* by Keith Whittington will serve as the club's inaugural book. Registration is now open at [gvsu.edu/hc/bookclub](https://gvsu.edu/hc/bookclub). The club's first meeting will be held on Friday, March 12 at 4 PM. Please register for the event before February 18, GVSU students and Hauenstein Center members will be provided a copy of the book.

### FEATURE ARTICLE PREVIEW

Take a look inside this issue's feature article:  
Fall 2020 Semester in Review



"As the nation continued to navigate the current public health crisis, we again partnered with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum for a panel of West Michigan experts on how America's new normal should look. Gleaves Whitney guided panelists Tina Freese Decker, President of Spectrum Health, State Senator Winnie Brinks, Michigan's 29th district, Paul Isely, professor of economics, and Jeffrey Polet, professor of political science, in discussion on their hopes for establishing a new normal in the post-pandemic world."

# Direct from the Director

Dear Members of the Hauenstein Center Community:

Happy New Year! Twenty twenty was an extremely unusual year for all of us. As we engage in the development of ethical, effective leaders, we are reminded that many of the challenges facing our communities, nation, and the world are as much leadership challenges as they are medical ones. We are grateful for the opportunity to have an impact on the development of our future leaders. In reaching the midway point of the academic calendar, I am pleased to report the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies continues to press forward with dynamic and engaging programming amid our unusual times.

The Hauenstein Center will remain focused on the mission inspired by Colonel Ralph W. Hauenstein. We will continue to build upon the foundation that Gleaves Whitney worked so hard to develop over his 17 years of service as the director. I am honored to take the helm as acting director. As an Army veteran, it is a privilege to be part of an organization founded by a legendary brother in arms.



As we enter 2021, we are excited for the upcoming semester with captivating and insightful presentations from world-class speakers. Among our winter lineup is Chief Isaiah McKinnon, whose storied career gained national attention this past spring following the death of George Floyd. Bill Barker, the nation's foremost Thomas Jefferson interpreter. David Eisenhower, historian and grandson of General and later President Dwight Eisenhower, and community favorites H.W. Brands and Ron White.

We are proud of our fellow candidates in the Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy, as they continue to grow and develop their leadership capacities in the vision of our benefactors, Colonel Ralph W. Hauenstein and Peter C. Cook. As our digital lives developed, the leadership academy joined Grand Valley's initiative in establishing digital badging. Incorporating Dr. Corey Seemiller's *Student Leadership Competencies*, our most recent class of fellows was the first to earn badges upon graduation in December. The curriculum, created by Program Manager Grace Tummel and our lead fellows, aligns with President Philomena Mantella's vision for the changing landscape of higher education, allowing our fellow candidates to be at the cutting edge of innovation.

While we eagerly await the opportunity to host you in person again, our top priority is our community's health and wellness. As soon as we are allowed and able to safely do so, the Hauenstein Center will switch back to our in-person programming. While we may not see your faces *in person*, we are pleased to see them *on-screen* as our online engagement continues to grow.

Our work is not possible without the faithful support of our members, mentors, advisory cabinet, executive board, and community. On behalf of the Hauenstein Center staff, we are eternally grateful for your continued support during these uncertain times.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Holmes".

Brent Holmes  
Acting Director



# Leadership Academy Spotlight

## DeMario Bell



Alumnus

Being a first-generation student and having spent his senior year in the Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy, DeMario Bell knows the importance of mentorships and their ability to help students and recent graduates adjust to their surroundings. "A most salient highlight is my mentorship relationship. My mentor was Charles Ash and he's been a true light in my life. We've been able to build a true friendship from our mentorship relationship at CLA. We've remained in touch. I consider him family -- and vice versa." When DeMario graduated from GVSU with his bachelor's in English language and literature, he carried his passion for mentoring into his professional life. In his previous work at the University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science, and Arts (LSA), DeMario developed and managed a college-wide mentorship program for 18,500 students and over 225,000 alumni. This helped shape his keen understanding of the importance of mentorship to college students' success and has taken his skills to a national level. DeMario now serves as the Program Success Manager at the Mentor Collective. In his own words, DeMario's leadership shines through as he stands in "the gap" of opportunity.

## Christa Fernando



Alumna

Christa Fernando was born and raised in Grand Rapids by an adventurous and loving family. Her diverse exposures and experiences have helped form her outlook on effective leadership as a fundamentally humble and sometimes inconspicuous role of service. Christa graduated from GVSU in April 2020 as a Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy Fellow with a bachelor's in biomedical sciences and a minor in environmental studies. She was also a member of the Frederik Meijer Honors College. According to Christa, "A major tenet of anthropology is the belief that no culture is superior to another. I hope my future anthropological research will analyze why treatments do not work for certain populations and explore ways to make healthcare more effective and approachable. To begin this work, I will be working full-time this fall with Cherry Health Clinic in Grand Rapids, helping increase access and utilization of support resources by the primarily Hispanic patients involved in their Maternal and Infant Health Program." In the future, she hopes to obtain her master's in public health, as well as medical practitioner license that will allow her to serve diverse communities both in the US and abroad.



## Winter 2021 Semester Preview

Chief Isaiah McKinnon  
Policing from the Inside  
7 PM, Thursday, January 21

Bill Barker  
Presidents' Day Celebration:  
Thomas Jefferson – Man and Legacy  
7 PM, Thursday, February 18

Kelsey Perdue  
Local Leadership  
from Global Experience  
4 PM, Friday, February 26

David Eisenhower  
Eisenhower, Hauenstein,  
and the Men and Women  
who Saved Civilization  
7 PM, Thursday, March 18

H.W. Brands  
The Zealot and the Emancipator  
7 PM, Thursday, April 22

President Philomena V.  
Mantella  
Peter C. Cook Leadership  
Academy Graduation  
5 PM, Thursday, April 29

Hidden Wounds of War  
All Day, Thursday, May 6

Ron White  
Lincoln in Private  
7 PM, Thursday, May 13

Midwest History  
Conference  
Wednesday, May 26  
Thursday, May 27



Find more information and register at: [gvsu.edu/hc](https://gvsu.edu/hc)

APPLICATIONS OPEN  
DECEMBER 14 - FEBRUARY 22

PETER C. COOK  
LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY

[GVSU.EDU/HC/CLA](https://gvsu.edu/hc/cla)



Cohort Learning  
Model



Attend Interactive  
Workshops



Digital Leadership  
Badges



Individualized  
Mentorship

### WHO WE ARE

The Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy is a co-curricular and cross-disciplinary leadership development program for 60+ undergraduate and graduate students.

More information is available at  
[gvsu.edu/hc/cla](https://gvsu.edu/hc/cla)

# Fall 2020 Review

*The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies has remained flexible throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, offering virtual Common Ground Initiative and Wheelhouse Talk programs to our community. If you've missed any events, you can find them on our YouTube page at: [www.youtube.com/user/HauensteinCenter](https://www.youtube.com/user/HauensteinCenter). What follows is the fall 2020 semester in review.*

In commemorating the 75th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War, we began our programming in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum on September 2 for a celebration of Greatest Generation Day. Chris Wallace, host of *Fox News Sunday* and author of *Countdown 45: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days That Changed the World*, joined Joel Westphal to discuss the book.

Our Wheelhouse Talk series began in September with a panel of Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy alumni sharing lessons with the newest cohort of fellow candidates. Alex Agbabian, a December 2020 graduate of the leadership academy,

moderated a discussion between distinguished CLA alumni: Claudia Pohlen, Hispanic Center of West Michigan, Jonathan Cook, Google, Nicole Horne, GVSU Faculty, and Joshua Lunger, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Panelists spoke on the role leadership plays in the COVID-19 pandemic and addressed the challenges and importance of authenticity in the workplace.

As a federally funded university, Grand Valley must put on educational programming about the U.S. Constitution annually. The center is honored to be Grand Valley's torchbearer for Constitution Day programming. In this year's presentation, Professor Paula Monopoli, author of *Constitutional Orphan: Gender Equality and the 19th Amendment*, joined Gleaves Whitney, executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, to discuss the decade following ratification of the amendment and the ensuing battles over the future of the movement. During her remarks, Professor Monopoli noted the event as a commemoration, not a celebration.

In October, Dr. Eva Feldman joined our fellow candidates to share insights from her groundbreaking career in medicine. Widely recognized as an expert in neuromuscular



diseases, Dr. Feldman shared her perspective as a “bridge” in the medical field in her work balancing clinical work and leading a research team. Following the event, fellow candidates could engage in small group discussions with Dr. Feldman, mentors, and alumni from the academy.



In the final weeks before the contentious 2020 presidential election, the center collaborated with Grand Valley's Political Science Department for an election panel featuring professor Michelle Miller-Adams, professor Polly Diven, former U.S. attorney of Michigan's Western District, Pat Miles, and Grand Valley's Vice President for University Relations, Matt McLogan. Moderator and Chair of the Political Science Department, Darren Walhof,

**The Hauenstein Center is ready to return to in-person events as soon as guidelines permit. However, in the meantime, we will continue to provide our community with engaging virtual programs in the winter 2021 semester.**



lead panelists to discuss foreign and public policy, job training, COVID-19, and civil unrest.

Highlights of the panel included insight into federal and state-level policies with bipartisan support and Michigan's newly established role as a must-win battleground state in national elections.

With the generous support from our many community partners, our final Wheelhouse Talk of the semester featured Ari Weinzwieg, Zingerman's Delicatessen co-founder. The event, co-moderated by CLA mentor Paul Jones and CLA lead fellow Hannah Beatus, covered Weinzwieg's thoughts on the power of beliefs in business and life, addressing negative thought processes, and establishing habits that reinforce our positive beliefs. Weinzwieg also joined the leadership academy students on Friday morning for another workshop that helped fellow candidates develop their

personal and professional visions.

As the nation continued to navigate the current public health crisis, we again partnered with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum for a panel of West Michigan experts on how America's new normal should look. Gleaves Whitney guided panelists Tina Freese Decker, President of Spectrum Health, State Senator Winnie Brinks, Michigan's 29th district, Paul Isely, professor of economics, and Jeffrey Polet, professor of political science, in discussion on their hopes for establishing a new normal in the post-pandemic world. Panelists were later able to engage one another and ask questions from their areas of expertise.

Noted historian and former advisor to President George W. Bush and Governor

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Kasey Pipes, rounded out our fall semester of events. In his presentation, Kasey shared insights from his recent book, *After the Fall: The Remarkable Comeback of Richard Nixon*. Following the presentation, Gleaves Whitney, executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, joined Kasey to discuss how Nixon's last 20 years of life created the modern post-presidency life of writing books, giving lectures and speeches, and advising in both official and unofficial capacities.

Zoom became essential for our events this semester as we switched to a digital platform to ensure our students' and our community's safety. Pictured below is a self-reflection session for Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy fellow candidates.



## Support Ralph's Mission

If you are new to the Hauenstein Center family, welcome — and thank you so much for your contributions! For those who are interested in learning more about our mission and ways to help us continue Ralph's legacy of "fostering ethical, effective leadership for the 21st century," you can visit us at:

[www.gvsu.edu/hc](http://www.gvsu.edu/hc)

If you would like to become a member of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, join today and gain access to this newsletter, our podcast *Beyond Aporia*, our postcards, our members-only invitations to receptions and events, and our save-the-date poster! Please visit us at:

[www.gvsu.edu/hc/give](http://www.gvsu.edu/hc/give)

### Our Founder



**The work of the Hauenstein Center is not possible without the support of our generous donors.**