

FALL 2012

GRAND VALLEY

MAGAZINE



An eye
for clues

Contents

GRAND VALLEY MAGAZINE VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2, FALL 2012

Features

14

The big picture

Charter school students find opportunity through art

18

Mentors serve as connectors in unique program

Campus Links serves students with Asperger's

20

Big History is a big deal

Association headquartered at Grand Valley, supported by Microsoft

26

New spaces, new faces

First-year students make transition to college life

Departments

4 Letters & Books

5 Campus News

10 Arts

11 Athletics

12 Donor Impact

23 Research

24 Q&A Gwyn Madden

29 Focal Point

30 Alumni News

38 Off the Path



Editorial Staff

Mary Eilleen Lyon, M.S., '05
Associate Vice President for
News and Information Services,
Executive Editor

Michele Coffill
Editor and Writer

Dottie Barnes, M.S., '05
Contributing Editor and Writer

Nate Hoekstra, B.S., '06
Contributing Editor and Writer

Mary Isca Pirkola
Contributing Editor and Writer

Leah Zuber, B.A. '10
Contributing Editor and Writer

Bernadine Carey-Tucker, B.A., '99
Photography Services Manager and
Contributing Photographer

Elizabeth Lienau, B.S. '05
Photography Coordinator and
Contributing Photographer

Amanda Pitts, B.S. '05, M.S. '10
Photographer and Contributing Photographer

Abigayle Sloan '07
Alumni Editor

Sherry Bouwman B.S. '12
Editorial and Circulation Assistant

Matthew E. McLogan
Vice President for University Relations

Design Staff

Jacqueline Cuppy, B.F.A., '87
Creative Director

Stephanie LeMire, B.F.A., '11
Graphic Designer

Christine Parkes-Schaw, B.S., '06
Graphic Designer

Contact Us

Grand Valley Magazine is a publication of
News & Information Services. Comments
and suggestions are welcome.

E-mail

gvmagazine@gvsu.edu

Write

Grand Valley Magazine
Grand Valley State University
1 Campus Drive, 133 LMH
Allendale, MI 49401

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

GRAND VALLEY MAGAZINE

See the entire magazine online at
www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.



Connect with students, faculty, staff and alumni
through Grand Valley's official social media channels.

On the cover:

photo by Amanda Pitts
Gwyn Madden looks at a skull she and others
excavated from Ukraine. Read on page 24 how her
skills and expertise aid area law enforcement officials
when they have to identify bones and remains.

On these pages:

photo by Elizabeth Lienau
Pictured is an ArtPrize entry, near the Eberhard Center,
created by the West Michigan Academy of Arts and
Sciences in Spring Lake.

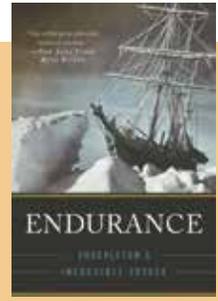


MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C107107

Printed on FSC®-certified paper
manufactured with electricity in the
form of renewable energy (wind,
hydro, and biogas). The cover includes
a minimum of 10% postconsumer
recovered fiber.

Bookmarks

Check out these book recommendations for a variety of adventurous reading. To share your recommendation in a future issue, send an email to gvmagazine@gvsu.edu.



Travels with Charley in Search of America
(First published in 1962, Penguin Classics edition 2001)
 by John Steinbeck

Steinbeck fan A. Scott Rood, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, said that although published 50 years ago, this book is one of the last novels from a great American author. It recounts tales of a 1960 road trip around the U.S. with the author's French poodle, Charley. "Steinbeck was dying of heart disease and was moved by a desire to see his country one last time," said Rood. "He wrote of having many questions going into his journey, the main one being, 'What are Americans like today?'"

Chicks in Chainmail
(Baen Books 1995)
 Edited by Esther Friesner

Have you ever noticed how the woman warrior is depicted on the cover of fantasy novels? Mary Morgan, University Libraries technology applications manager, recommends this book in which the editor created an anthology that makes fun of that image and the problems the armor creates, while also showing the non-warrior side of life. "The stories in these books are light-hearted," Morgan said. "For instance, one story is about a woman who lives in two worlds. In one she is a defender of the realm, in the other she is a mom with children in school. One day she is asked to take the children on a career day outing the same day she must fight a battle. What's a mother to do?"

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage
(First published in 1959, Basic Books paperback edition 1999)
 by Alfred Lansing

If you think Michigan winters are tough, dive in to this recommendation from Robert R. Robins, affiliate professor of hospitality and tourism management. It details the saga of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 expedition aboard the *Endurance*, bound for the South Atlantic. The goal was to cross the Antarctic overland, but more than a year later, and still half a continent away from the intended base, the ship was trapped in ice. "It is an amazing story of adventure, survival, and leadership," Robins said.

Past Bookmarks are archived online at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine/books. Submit a book recommendation online, or view books written by campus authors.

Representing Grand Valley



Lakers pictured in these photos represented Grand Valley while traveling overseas. Standing by iconic structures are, from left, Josh Hilbrand, '09, in Lebanon; Ken VanOostendorp, '83, in Rome; and music professor Richard Stoelzel, Gabriel Stoelzel and student David Koch in Hungary.

New video shows off Grand Valley in unique way

A new Grand Valley video, that plays off the “I’m on a Boat” theme, premiered August 22 to thousands of students, introducing them to the university.

Students laughed and cheered while watching several characters, including the university mascot Louie the Laker, dance to a parody of the popular “Saturday Night Live” music video.

The video, which was entirely written, shot and produced by a group of Grand Valley students and alumni, includes cameos by well-known Grand Valley graduates and staff members, including President Thomas J. Haas and Board of Trustees member Noreen Myers.

Student inspired and directed videos have become a tradition at Grand Valley since the “Come Sail Away” lipdub video in 2010. Traditions at the university are one way for students to learn they each are a Laker for a Lifetime, beginning with their first year and continuing on after graduation.

The video was created by Grand Valley News and



photo by Elizabeth Lienau

Board of Trustees member Noreen Myers is among the Grand Valley graduates who did cameo appearances in the Laker for a Lifetime video.

Information Services and Cuppy Productions; the cast and crew included Grand Valley alumni and students. To see the video

and for other Grand Valley traditions, visit www.gvsu.edu/lakerforalifetime.

National magazines rank university high

Grand Valley was noted in two diverse, national publications: *U.S. News & World Report* and *G.I. Jobs*.

U.S. News ranked the university seventh among the “Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest.” For its prestigious annual Best Colleges 2013 publication, Grand Valley also ranked 35th among Midwest universities.

The *U.S. News* rankings are based on several key measures of quality including peer assessment, graduation

and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving. Data was collected from each institution that included up to 16 indicators of academic excellence.

G.I. Jobs named Grand Valley a Military Friendly School for the fourth consecutive year. The 2013 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools doing the most to embrace service members, veterans and spouses as students

and ensure their success on campus.

Also, for the 17th year in a row, Grand Valley was named one of America’s 100 Best College Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc. in Georgia. The company identifies the 100 American colleges and universities providing students the very highest quality education at the lowest cost. Grand Valley has made the list far more times than any other Michigan institution.

Record number of first-year students on campus

Grand Valley officials announced that a record number of first-year students enrolled this fall.

This year’s first-year class is 4,005, compared to last year’s class of 3,927. In addition to the high number enrolled, the students have high grade point averages, averaging 3.50.

Total enrollment for this semester is 24,654, which hit the target for the university’s strategic plan of quality and stability.

“We are thrilled at the caliber of students who have enrolled at Grand Valley this year,” President Thomas J. Haas said. “We are committed to stability because we are committed to quality. Our strategy is to be responsible to our students and the citizens of Michigan while meeting the needs of the state and its employers.”

The university’s report shows that undergraduate enrollment is up and credit hours have increased by more than 2,500. That means students are moving toward graduation at a faster pace, which is a goal of the Grand Finish grant — the \$1,000 award to seniors who have taken a full load every semester.

Enrollment for students of color increased from 13.6 percent to 14.5 percent this year.

Stadium rededicated to honor Lubbers

It was fitting that the renovations made at Lubbers Stadium were unveiled to fans on the day it was rededicated to President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers.

Improvements include adding a turf field and 2,000 more seats, increasing the stadium's capacity to around 10,700. The crowd for the September 8 season opener against Notre Dame (Ohio) was the second-largest in school history at 15,139.

Lubbers played a major role in advancing Grand Valley athletics during his time as president from 1969-2001. President Thomas J. Haas read a resolution honoring Lubbers. It read, in part, "This most visionary of academic leaders, Arend D. Lubbers, is also a football fan. In building our campus and strengthening its student life, he saw a missing ingredient. Football, he believed, was 'something to build your weekend around.' It could serve to keep students here and bring visitors to campus."



courtesy photo

Athletic Director Tim Selgo, left, and President Thomas J. Haas congratulate President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers at the first home game of the season. The stadium was rededicated to Lubbers on September 8.

In 1973, Lubbers Stadium hosted its first home victory before a then-record crowd of 2,300.

Fans can show appreciation

for Lubbers and his efforts that helped to make the Laker athletics program what it is today by making a gift to the Don Lubbers Excellence in Athletics

Facilities Fund. Visit www.donlubbersfund.com for more details.

Partnership creates graduate certificate program

A new health care graduate program operated by Grand Valley and Michigan State University will help train workers for the growing field of clinical research trial management.

Gayle R. Davis, Grand Valley provost, said the joint certification program meets a growing need in the health care field. "The number of clinical research trials for medications and devices is increasing but there is little training for people who serve as trial coordinators," Davis said.

The online program began in August. Students enroll in two courses at Grand Valley and two at MSU.

MSU Provost Kim Wilcox said the program will aid medical researchers. "As we recruit more and more high level researchers to Michigan, it has become evident that we must have a trained workforce ready to assist them in key laboratories," he said.

Grand Valley program director Martina Reinhold said after students complete the one-year program, they would be trained for positions as clinical research coordinators, regulatory affairs specialists, project and data managers, or auditors.

Reinhold expects the program to be popular among working professionals.

"There are people who are already working as research coordinators or nurses who could easily move into this program," she said. "Anyone with a health professions background would do well in this program."

Loren Friedman, director of clinical trials at MSU, who worked with colleagues at GVSU to design the program, said there are approximately 1,700 clinical trials currently enrolling new patients in Michigan.

The announcement is one of several collaborative health professions initiatives between Grand Valley and Michigan State. GVSU was the first

"Anyone with a health professions background would do well in this program."

— Martina Reinhold, program director

institution to partner with MSU College of Human Medicine on an Early Assurance Program for medical school admission in 2008.

For more information about the CRTM program, visit www.gvsu.edu/crtm.

Preview of AWRI research station draws supporters

Community members, volunteers, donors, alumni and elected officials gathered September 6 at the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon for a preview of the institute's new Field Research Station building.

The event brought together community leaders to demonstrate the need for a larger research station at the AWRI's Lake Michigan Center. Speakers at the event included President Thomas J. Haas, AWRI Director Alan Steinman, and campaign co-chairs Larry Hines and Mike Olthoff.

"I'm pleased to be here in Muskegon, and glad to help support world-class research on the Great Lakes," Haas said. "The work we're doing right here on Muskegon Lake and in Lake Michigan has a direct impact on the fresh water we value so much."

Steinman stressed the importance of research taking place at AWRI, including ecological, biological and environmental issues.



photo by Jeff Dykehouse

Alan Steinman, AWRI director, addresses the audience at a preview event for the new field research station. Looking on are President Thomas J. Haas and co-chairs Larry Hines and Mike Olthoff.

"Whether it's protecting the waters for the benefit of the fisheries, or finding ways to fight against invasive species, we have a resource here on the Great Lakes that we are working to protect," Steinman said.

Hines cited the features of the new facility as "the next stage for the Annis Water

Resources Institute."

The new facility will be a 14,700-square-foot field station that will house dedicated research laboratories, four research scientists' offices, space for graduate and undergraduate student research, and spaces for year-round research — something that was never possible in the

old, unheated field station.

The current field station building on the AWRI site is being taken down and recycled, keeping with Grand Valley's commitment to sustainability. For information on the new field research station, visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/awri.

Street food greets Allendale Campus

Campus Dining added a food truck to the Allendale Campus as part of a street food initiative. The truck is located between the Zumberge Library and Lake Huron Hall.

Zoca Express offers four different types of burritos, including a vegetarian option, several sides and churros for dessert. The sidewalk fiesta is open Monday through Thursday.

Ryan Jones, senior food service director for Campus Dining, said the idea for street food came from researching

opportunities to increase the value, convenience and variety of the Campus Dining program. He said Zoca Express will provide students with additional meal choices and the option to eat on the go.

A main goal of the new food truck is to help reduce some of the congestion experienced by students at the dining venues on campus during peak meal times. "Many other colleges and universities have added street food style programs for that very reason and have experienced great success," said Jones.



photo by April Joy Galbreath

A customer makes a purchase at the food truck on the Allendale Campus, a new Campus Dining initiative.

The food truck will be at Grand Valley home football games and Jones said a second

street food concept is tentatively planned to open during the winter semester.

Celebrating Title IX anniversary by honoring two pioneers

On the heels of the 40th anniversary of Title IX, Grand Valley is sponsoring an event that celebrates the landmark legislation and honors two women who have advanced sports and physical activity for women on campus.

Joan Boand, professor emeritus of physical education, and Patti Rowe, professor of movement science, will be honored February 23 at an event that precedes a women's basketball game. The public is invited to attend, see www.gvsu.edu/womeninsports for details.

The event also serves to kick off fundraising for an endowment fund named for Boand and Rowe that will support a scholarship and a leadership development award for students.

Keri Becker, associate athletic director, said it's fitting that the fund is named for Boand and Rowe. Becker co-chairs a committee promoting the event and endowment with Dana Munk, associate professor of movement science. Becker said

while many people believe Title IX only relates to athletics, its purpose is to provide educational opportunities for women.

"During the past 40 years, thousands of GVSU women have participated in varsity athletics and club sports, and majored in movement science and physical education," Becker said. "Honoring both Patti Rowe and Joan Boand is appropriate as it brings together the academic and athletic progress that has resulted from Title IX."

Boand joined Grand Valley's faculty in 1966 mainly to teach aquatics. A request from a student led Boand to a coaching and athletic administration career that spanned more than 30 years.

"The coaching was really by accident," Boand said. "It was precipitated by a student who wanted to play softball."

Rowe began working at Grand Valley in 1984. She's noted among physical education professionals for dedicating herself to establishing an excellent PE



Joan Boand



Patti Rowe

teacher education program at Grand Valley, while also advancing the physical education curriculum in K-12 schools statewide.

She has received numerous campus and professional awards; in 2011 she was recognized by the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as its "College/University Leader of the Year."

Munk said Rowe's career

reflects the many challenges women faced before and after Title IX was passed. "Patti encountered opposition in her desire to be a physical activity provider as a career choice, yet she somehow managed to negotiate the obstacles to become a dynamic physical educator," Munk said. "Our students have been fortunate to have such a gracious leader for more than 25 years."

Gordon Gallery expands

A second-floor expansion to the Grand Valley art gallery devoted to works by American Impressionist Mathias J. Alten opened in September. The George and Barbara Gordon Gallery is located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The Gordons made the lead gift of paintings from their Alten collection to Grand Valley in 1999, and continue to build on that gift annually. The gallery expansion was made possible through their generous support. Nearly 40 pieces are exhibited in the second floor gallery, which added 1,253 square feet of exhibition space. For more information, call (616) 331-2563 or visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

photo by Amanda Pitts



Campus beekeepers celebrate first harvest, NASA connection

The beekeepers at Grand Valley celebrated their first harvest with a community party. Participants learned about bee products, and it marked a milestone for the apiary at the Meijer Campus in Holland. Grand Valley's apiary opened in June, under the direction of Anne Marie Fauvel, affiliate faculty member of liberal studies. Fauvel, who had a bee hive at her home, proposed the idea of an apiary to the Holland Campus Green Team two years ago. Melissa Peraino, director of educational outreach for Continuing Education, said it was an easy sell. "The apiary is a very natural fit for the Holland Campus, with the resources we have here and our strong commitment to sustainability," Peraino said, adding that there is a well-established beekeepers association in Holland. Two hives of bees were set

up on the campus in June. Fauvel and a student, Jennifer Holt, received a grant from the Sustainable Community Development Initiative for the apiary. Holt's interest in bees grew and she established a new student organization: GVSU Bee Keepers; she serves as its president. It's not the only student connection to the apiary. Engineering students and computer science students lent expertise in building a digital, solar-powered beehive scale complete with software to collect data from the apiary for Fauvel's research project. The campus apiary is the only Michigan connection to a national NASA project, HoneyBeeNet, which draws data from hives to help scientists better understand climate change. "The hives give information on pollination seasons and climate



photo by Elizabeth Lienau

Jennifer Holt, left, and Anne Marie Fauvel care for the apiary at the Meijer Campus in Holland.

change effects by studying how the nectar flow changes from year to year," said Fauvel. An engineering advanced product development class built the bee hive scale hardware, and

computer science students built program software. The Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence gave grant money to support the research project.



Alumni collaborate on transcontinental Olympic event

— by Mary Isca Pirkola

As college students, Adam Cuthbert and Daniel Rhode had always wanted to compose music with electronic influences for a symphony orchestra. Their most recent collaboration not only fulfilled that dream, but was part of an innovative transcontinental project in honor of the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Their collaboration, “Bodies in Motion,” was part of a larger Cultural Olympiad project organized by David Osbon, head of Collegiate Music at Kingston University in London. It included simultaneous interactive music and dance performances in Allendale, Amsterdam and London during three days in July. Each performance was captured for live webcasts, viewable online each day. The collaboration also celebrated the 25-year partnership between Grand Valley and Kingston.

“We were asked to compose music for an orchestra that related to the historic work of the Kingston-born photographer Eadweard Muybridge, who was fascinated with movement and technology, and is noted for his stop-action photos used to study the movement of horses,” said Rhode. “We decided to make a study of the orchestra through the lens of electronic dance movement.”

Fully embracing today’s technology, the pair composed new work that combines traditional orchestra instruments with a solo electric violin and several iPad performers. It was performed by the Grand Valley Symphony Orchestra in Allendale while dancers from Kingston and the Amsterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands responded to the music via the Web.

During two prior days, the



photo by Amanda Pitts

Daniel Rhode and Adam Cuthbert composed music that was combined with interactive technology and dance during live webcasts of simultaneous performances in Allendale, Amsterdam and London.

reverse took place in Allendale. Grand Valley student dancers Judi Jaekel and Jessica Loosenort performed to music played by student ensembles in London and Amsterdam. During each performance, the dancers wore special costumes that contained Wii controllers to allow their movements to trigger specific pre-recorded music events. The dancers’ kinesthetic performance incorporated the athleticism of the Olympic Games while integrating modern technological advances.

Cuthbert, a native of Farmington, and Rhode, of Grosse Ile, met at Grand Valley. Both graduated with bachelor’s degrees in music. Cuthbert now lives and works in New York City and Rhode is in Grand Rapids.

“Most of our collaboration for this project was done online via Skype and Dropbox,” said Cuthbert. “We each mapped out the kind of music we wanted to write and passed drafts over the cloud.”

Cuthbert’s memory of the project includes a story about his computer overheating. “I stuck it in the freezer for a few minutes to cool it down so we could get back to writing as fast as possible,” he said. “It was one of those sessions where the two of us were in full sync and the ideas were flying out as fast as we could write them.”

He also remembered the final night before their January 1 deadline. “I missed my first New York City New Year’s ball drop because we were perpetually on Skype running our final big idea of the piece,” said Cuthbert. “It was worth it because the project was a total blast.”

Cuthbert works as director of sales at Cantaloupe Music, a record label for contemporary classical music, and for Cantaloupe’s umbrella organization, Bang on a Can. Rhode had a busy final year at Grand Valley working on Bodies in Motion plus a commission for the GVSU New Music

Ensemble’s East Coast tour, and presenting his Student Summer Scholar project at the Society of American Music national conference. He was also student-teaching full time. Rhode’s ability to successfully juggle many large responsibilities earned him recognition as Grand Valley’s Outstanding Music Student of the Year.

Both Cuthbert and Rhode talked about how much of the Bodies in Motion piece was written for the specific abilities and personalities of orchestra member friends who would perform it.

“Knowing this was the last time many of would us play music together was bittersweet,” said Cuthbert. “Still, having those muses there to realize it was thrilling.”



Watch a video of the performances by visiting www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Former Laker athletes compete in London Games — by Michele Coffill

The Laker nation was swept up in the Summer Olympics, keeping up with alumna Sarah Zelenka and her partner as they rowed their way into the finals of women's pairs.

Zelenka, a 2009 graduate, and her partner Sara Hendershot finished fourth in women's pairs, missing a bronze medal by 0.2 seconds. Immediately after the race, Zelenka told the *Chicago Tribune* that she wouldn't wish fourth place on anyone. Yet her first Olympic experience proved an amazing experience, she said.

"Everyone in London loves rowing, so we were treated like celebrities there," Zelenka said.

Zelenka will continue training for the 2016 Olympics. "We came so close to a medal in London, I feel like it is worth four more years of hard work and dedication to go for it again," she said.

She'll fit training in with her new duties as assistant women's rowing coach at the University of Louisville. The Cardinals finished third at the Big East Championship in May. Zelenka's responsibilities include developing workouts for the team, helping run practices and recruiting.

Grand Valley rowing coach John Bancheri hosted a watch party at the team's training center. "It was a fantastic race and an exciting finish," Bancheri said. "To beat the reigning Olympic champions, be 0.2 seconds from a medal, be behind Germany — the reigning world champions — and be only a couple years out of college is amazing and we're all very proud."

Another Laker showed his athleticism in London. Chris Hammer, also a 2009 graduate, competed in the Paralympic Games in the 800- and

1,500-meter runs, and the marathon. His best finishes were ninth in the 1,500 and 10th in the marathon.

Hammer, born without a left hand, was a five-time All-American while at Grand Valley, finishing in the top seven of the 3,000-meter steeplechase every year of his career at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

This was the first Paralympic Games for Hammer, who competed in the Paralympic World Championships in New Zealand in January 2011, and the Pan American Games in Mexico in November 2011, winning the 1,500.

Hammer called himself one of the "slower guys" at

Grand Valley when it came to mid-distance races. He excelled at cross-country races and the steeplechase, but had to retrain himself for shorter events as the Paralympics does not offer longer races or the steeplechase.

Hammer lives in Cheney, Washington, and is married to former Laker track athlete Amy Kolin.

The Paralympic Games will introduce the triathlon in 2016, an event that peaks Hammer's interest. "If I have the opportunity and privilege to represent the United States again, I can't imagine I would pass that up," he said.



photo by Mike Ehrmann/Getty Images

Chris Hammer, '09, competed in three events at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.



photo by Associated Press

Sarah Zelenka, '09, and her partner Sara Hendershot row in front of the Olympic rings in London. They finished fourth in women's pairs.



photo by Rex Larsen

David Curley, '06, graduated from the Seidman College of Business and gives back to Grand Valley as a Laker for a Lifetime.

Scholarship donors inspire alumnus to pay it forward

David Curley, '06, credits his success to the generosity of scholarship donors and is intent on paying it forward through mentoring, leadership and philanthropy.

A recipient of four different scholarships while attending Grand Valley, Curley is now giving back to his university and to his community.

Curley is a mentor for young African American men, passing on the wisdom and knowledge he gained at Grand Valley to those who might need a little guidance.

"One of the things Grand Valley really taught me was to give back to my community," he said. "I try to pay it forward by mentoring. I want to show these men that they really can go to college and be very successful. It's important for young people

to see that educational success is a possibility. They just have to hit the books and know how to look for scholarship money."

Curley's scholarships not only helped him continue his education, but they acted as stepping stones to a bright future. After graduating, Curley was immediately offered a position at Nissan North America, where he worked in various positions for five years. He's currently enrolled in graduate school, pursuing a master's of business administration degree.

"Receiving those scholarships definitely had an impact on my continued success in my professional career," Curley said. "They kept me at a school that I liked attending and pushed me to work hard. If you just add everything up, there's no

way I would have been able to stay at Grand Valley, get my internship and job at Nissan, and be where I am today without those scholarships."

While attending Grand Valley, Curley took full advantage of all the opportunities available. As a resident assistant, he learned how to be calm, cool, and collected under pressure. As the vice president of the National Society of Black Engineers, he learned to be a leader. Shortly after graduation, Curley even co-wrote a book, *The Student Leader Guidebook: How to Establish, Strengthen, and Maintain a Student Organization*. Curley said his path toward mentoring and leadership began at Grand Valley.

"If I didn't graduate from Grand Valley, I would not

be the leader I am today," he said. "I think a lot of people come to school just to get a degree, but I believe my Grand Valley education gave me so much more. Because of my involvement on campus, I now have the confidence to be a mentor."

But while Curley squeezed the most out of his education, he did run into a financial roadblock as Curley and his parents were unable to fund a second year at Grand Valley. Instead of giving up and leaving the university, Curley met with his academic advisor to learn about scholarship opportunities. The first step was off-setting the cost of living by becoming a resident assistant. Then, after completing countless scholarship applications, Curley received four: the Steelcase Inc.

“If I didn’t graduate from Grand Valley, I would not be the leader I am today. A lot of people come to school to get a degree, but my Grand Valley education gave me so much more.”

— David Curley, ’06

Seidman College of Business Diversity Scholarship, the Johnny C. Burton Memorial Scholarship, the Berthold Price Scholarship, and the Earl Harper Scholarship.

“It’s a very stressful period when you’re a student and on the brink of stopping your college career; you just don’t know what’s going to happen,” Curley said. “The most important thing for me was to be at Grand Valley and get my degree. When I received those scholarships I was so happy that I was able to stay at the university due to the generosity of all these amazing donors and the advisors who pointed me toward the extra scholarship money.”

Curley is a committed Laker for a Lifetime and gives back to Grand Valley financially as another way to pay it forward. As he hits the books again during graduate school, Curley said he continuously thinks back to his time at Grand

Valley and thanks those who helped pave his way to success.

“The donors probably don’t get to see the lives of their scholarship recipients after they graduate, but they should know that we are so thankful,” Curley said.

Curley said he hopes someday to have a career as a senior manager or vice president of marketing for a consumer goods company or automotive firm. In addition to having a successful career, Curley plans to continue to give back to his community.

“An important goal of mine is to continue to mentor and teach these young African American males educational skills, professional skills and life skills. It is awesome to help guide these young men on positive paths, and I would not have a passion to do this without my experiences at Grand Valley,” he said.

Giving Matters

Campaign for AWRI field station kicks off

On September 6, the campaign for the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute Field Station officially kicked off. The campaign is raising funds to build a new field station, as AWRI has outgrown its current facilities. Once completed, the new field station will directly impact the quantity and quality of the institute’s research, and better position Muskegon County and West Michigan to become leaders in the new blue economy. For more information or to make a gift to the campaign, visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/awri. See story on page 7.

Recent gift from Meijer makes sHaPe Camp more accessible

The third annual sHaPe (Summer Health Activities and Professions Exploration) Camp provided 40 middle school students from the greater Grand Rapids area with the opportunity to explore careers in the health sciences, thanks in part to a grant given by Meijer this July. Among their experiences, students participated in hands-on science activities such as laboratories and simulations.

The primary goal of the camp is to encourage under-represented populations to pursue careers in the health sciences beyond high school. Meijer’s gift allowed those students entering eighth or ninth grade an opportunity to attend camp through a financial scholarship. The scholarship provides a week-long camp experience, door-to-door transportation, and healthy lunches, which were designed in collaboration with a Meijer nutrition coordinator.

Hard hat tours available online

As the construction of the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons and the L. William Seidman Center quickly progresses, friends and supporters of Grand Valley have the opportunity to virtually tour the buildings. The library is on schedule to be completed by fall 2013, and you can take a tour online at www.gvsu.edu/library/newbuilding/video. The Seidman Center will be completed and occupied in spring 2013. See progress on the Seidman Center at www.gvsu.edu/business.

Leave a Grand Valley Legacy

There are many ways to leave a gift for Grand Valley that will support the university’s long-term strategic needs. The easiest and most common form of planned giving is making a bequest (a planned gift to Grand Valley in your will or estate plan) but the possibilities are endless.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/giftplans for more information about how to include Grand Valley in your philanthropic plans.



THE **BIG** PICTURE

Charter school students find opportunity through art projects

— by Nate Hoekstra

“They come in early and stay late. They skip their breaks to keep working, and they’ve been doing this all summer long.”
— Manal Kadry, HFA: SCS Teacher



photos by Elizabeth Lienau

On page 14, Daniel Boatner IV works on detailing a portion of a mural at the Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies. Above, he works with Jaylen Tate-Lucas.

working on an art project with their teachers and an artist with a connection to the university. Other schools are paired with community partners to help expand art instruction.

The experts who help the students and teachers range from university faculty and staff members, like David Keister, a master printer, to alumni like renowned muralist Hubert Massey, who’s working with the students at HFA: SCS. He’s a well-known and well-respected artist and muralist across the state, and has more than a dozen large pieces of art across Detroit, including a 37-foot terrazzo floor in the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Ellen Sprouls, the education coordinator for the art gallery, said the program is a perfect partnership. “The artists get a lot out of the experience of working with the students, and our charter students get the benefit of working with well-known artists and community organizations,” she said.

Programs at the schools range from trips to an art museum

to inspire photographic essays made by students at a school in Muskegon, to dance and ceramics projects, sculpture and screen printing, and more.

Grand Valley-authorized charters from Muskegon, Spring Lake, Holland, Dearborn and Detroit are taking part in the program, each with a unique twist and focus based upon their distinct curriculum.

Some of the works of art the students are completing are destined for public display — many were entered in ArtPrize, a Grand Rapids-based public art competition. In some cases, the undertaking will take longer, and pieces won’t be entered into the contest until 2013, including the mural being made by the students at HFA: SCS.

The students

Noah Robinson, a freshman at HFA: SCS, said the best part of working on the mural with Massey is the experience of working on a big project — and big is a bit of an understatement. The mural itself is huge: at 8 feet tall by 38 feet long, it’s roughly the size of an average city bus.

The view from the windows on the ninth floor of this building in downtown Detroit does not impress: several closed businesses dot the landscape along with a few unkempt parking lots, where weeds have long since taken over the faded white lines.

But what’s happening inside the College for Creative Studies’ A. Alfred Taubman Center for Design Education is drastically different. Inside the brightly lit art studio at 485 West Milwaukee Street, seven kids are busy, working with charcoal-dusted hands and sticks of graphite, outlining a massive mural that they are in the process of taking from conception to completion; an act of creation, revival and rebirth.

The students’ focus is on their work during this summer session, but they realize the project they are taking part in has larger implications than a simple mural — even the youngest students understand that they are being given an exceptional opportunity to showcase their work while creating a visual record of how they see their city, their community and their lives.

“Being part of the mural

project gives us a chance to show off the good parts of Detroit, the parts we know,” said Taylor Childs, a senior at Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies (HFA: SCS). “We have a chance to tell people through our art how we think about this place, and what it can be in the future.”

Childs’ words resonate with the other students in the class, who nod their heads in agreement. They understand their program is unique, and their presence inside of a classroom on a warm, slightly overcast August day when other students are enjoying summer break is silent testimony to their dedication.

The program

The students at HFA: SCS, a middle and high school developed and managed by Henry Ford Learning Institute and the College for Creative Studies, are involved in a special program that’s a partnership between Grand Valley’s Charter Schools Office and its Art Gallery and Collections office. The school is one of six involved in the partnership. Some of the Grand Valley-authorized charter schools have groups of students



“Programs and partnerships like this are the future of education, it’s the way things are starting to go, and it’s a great development.” — Manal Kadry, HFA: SCS Teacher

“I’ve never had a chance to work on a project this big,” Robinson said. “In other schools, I’m pretty sure kids like us don’t get to do cool projects like this one.”

Robinson’s statements ring true for all of the students in the room.

Manal Kadry, their teacher, art lead at HFA: SCS, and College for Creative Studies graduate, said these students don’t take their opportunities for granted.

“They’re here for every work session, six hours a week,” Kadry said. “They come in early and stay late. They skip their breaks to keep working, and they’ve been doing this all summer long. They’re dedicated to this program, and dedicated

to this project. It’s an emotional investment for them.”

Perhaps the students are emotionally invested in the project because it’s not an adult showing them how to create art. Massey and Kadry said they have simply nurtured the creative spirit and guided discussions of where the art should go. Kadry said the students were the ones who decided to incorporate themes of a “New Detroit” into the mural that they’re tentatively calling “Michigan’s Outreach: Evolving the Global Spirit.”

The mural showcases a river and fish, along with a woman picking vegetables from the ground, a nod to the state’s agricultural background. It

also has conveyor belts, transit systems, and a Faygo soda truck; nods to the manufacturing and urban side of the state. The face of a young man is the focal point, and a flag will show off the multicultural background of the people these students call neighbors, friends and family members.

“We’ve all been inspired by different artists, but we’re using all of our ideas to bring a message that we all like,” said seventh-grader Naomi Cook. “We all are learning a lot about art, but we’re also learning about how to better work together.”

Students from HFA: SCS had to apply to work on the project, and selection was based on

portfolio work, an interview process, and ability to keep up grades in all of their classes. That standard is upheld for the duration of the project.

For the older students, college is a big focus as well. “Being at HFA: SCS and working on this mural gives me a big piece to show in my portfolio, and that’s something hardly anyone else will have when they’re applying to get into art or design colleges,” said Jaylen Tate-Lucas, a 10th grader.

The teachers

Students in the HFA: SCS program and others like it aren’t the only beneficiaries of the program. It gives artists with



photos by Elizabeth Lienau

On page 16, Hubert Massey, '83, shows Noah Robinson what areas to paint as the background of the mural takes shape.

Left, Students begin the painting process on the mural at Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies. From left are Taylor Childs, Jaylen Tate-Lucas, Noah Robinson, Naomi Cook, Daniel Boatner IV, Samara Richards, Hubert Massey and Manal Kadry. Not pictured: Ronald Merriweather Jr., Joisan Alesna, Breonna Phillips, Daniel Smith and Dareno Johnson.

Grand Valley ties a chance to give back to the campus community, and the communities they currently live and work in.

"It's really nice to give back to the community," said Massey, '83. "If I can help work with these kids and make a difference, even if it's only twice a week for a few hours, I know that giving them the gift of being able to tell their stories through art is a powerful one, one they won't forget."

Massey said the students inspire him as well. He said their dedication, passion, and excitement both inside and outside of the classroom for their art is motivating. "Knowing that these young artists will go on to be successful in art and life, that there may be the next 'big artist' coming out of this group, that's exciting," Massey said. "It makes me want to keep giving back. I always tell the kids that what you put in is what you get back. With hard work, there's nothing you can't do."



Kadry said the program is teaching students self-confidence, and improving their decision-making and problem-solving skills.

"Programs and partnerships like this are the future of education, it's the way things are starting to go, and it's a great development," Kadry said. "It teaches the students how

to help themselves, and how to think on their own."

But she said the best part is seeing students get a chance they wouldn't have had through any other venue, and watching them take that opportunity

and run with it.

"I think it's a miracle," Kadry said. "That's the only way I can describe what I see when I look at some of these students. They've had a miracle put into their lives."



View more photos and a video of the project online at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine

Mentors serve as connectors in unique program

Campus Links serves students with Asperger's — by Michele Coffill

College students who have Asperger's syndrome sometimes excel academically but struggle with the social aspects of campus life that surround their days: meeting new people, working in small groups for classes, interacting with professors.

An innovative peer program established at Grand Valley this fall connects students who have Asperger's with students who have been trained to serve as their coaches and mentors.

There are similar programs at other universities but Kathleen VanderVeen, director of Disability Support Resources, said Grand Valley's Campus

Links program is unique because it ties in on-campus housing.

Six students with Asperger's and four peer mentors are inaugural participants in the pilot year for Campus Links. All 10 live in a wing of a living center on the Allendale Campus.

VanderVeen said participants agreed to "check in" daily with their mentor to see how their day went. Mentors and participants also meet twice a month with faculty members from Grand Valley's Autism Education Center (AEC). Many other university departments are Campus Links partners, including

Housing and Residence Life, and the Counseling and Career Development Center.

The peer mentors completed training for the program in August; some training sessions were held in conjunction with Housing's resident assistant training, as the two positions are very similar. Amy Matthews, director of AEC and project director for the Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Project, housed at Grand Valley, said the training sessions and program orientation served to help facilitate bonds between participants and mentors.

"We hope that these become genuine friendships," Matthews said.

Matthews said the peer mentor model used by Campus Links should help students with Asperger's adjust to new environments and routines quickly. "Balancing and managing college is difficult for any student, but students with Asperger's can be challenged by the social pieces of campus. With this level of coaching, and the check-ins, they should settle into a community," she said.

VanderVeen spent the early part of the summer interviewing students for peer mentor



photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

The inaugural Campus Links group is pictured; (left side of table, back to front) Cameron Mehregah, Laura Dudley and Debbie Wright; (right side, back to front) Emily Kade, Christian Parks, Min Lee, Ken Pierson, Tesha Archer and Holly Miller. Not pictured are Cullen McCurdy and Douglas VanBennekom.

positions. Most mentors are majoring in what she called the “helping professions,” like psychology, social work and education.

Ken Pierson is a junior majoring in psychology. He was interested in Campus Links when it was still in its early stages. “It’s really a one-of-a-kind program and it’s been neat to have been there since the beginning,” Pierson said.

Last summer, Pierson cleaned up yards and did other odd jobs to earn money as a member of Grand Valley’s rowing team. He also started working as a caregiver to a 13-year-old boy with severe autism.

“I would go to their house weekly, or as needed, and give in-home respite care to relieve his parents,” Pierson said. “Sometimes I took him out and we would go to the beach.” Pierson, a native of Davison, said his interest in working in this field stems from spending time in his mother’s classroom of preschool and kindergarten students with learning disabilities.

Support and resources for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including peer support, are prevalent at K-12 schools. Matthews, also an associate professor of psychology, said there are more than 200 peer support programs in Michigan schools. The START Project receives state funding and grants to provide training to educators who teach students with ASD.

“We’re finding that the peer support programs are beneficial not only for the students with Asperger’s but also for the peers,” Matthews said, adding that behavioral problems for at-risk peers who serve as mentors decrease, and other students have noticed increases in confidence and problem-solving skills.

“So they have this peer support in high school, but then

there’s nothing at the college level,” she said.

It’s difficult to find statistics that track retention and graduation rates for students with Asperger’s, due to the large number of students who don’t self-identify. “Nationally, most students with Asperger’s get accepted into four-year schools, but often tend to transfer out to live at home and then go to community colleges,” Matthews said.

The Campus Links mentors were trained to offer constructive criticism. Matthews said many students with Asperger’s have a difficult time reading social cues. “The mentors will be giving sensitive feedback: ‘You’re talking way too loud,’ ‘You’re standing too close to me,’” she said.

Mentor Emily Kade spent her summer volunteering in a Rochester Hills psychologist’s office and observing a group therapy session for kids with behavioral problems. It was the perfect transition to her job as a mentor with Campus Links.

“They would role-play social situations and ask each other, ‘What would you do?’” said Kade, a sophomore majoring in psychology and social work. “Other group members would give tips on how to handle situations, how to be appropriate.”

Kade and the other mentors were also trained to help participants set and meet goals, both small and large. Examples include saying hello to three people on a given day, or attending a new campus event.

VanderVeen said the students with Asperger’s are as equally invested in Campus Links as the mentors. “The students need to understand their disability and be able to communicate what they want to improve on,” VanderVeen said.

Campus Links participant Holly Miller, a Kentwood native who is majoring in education,



Christian Parks and Ken Pierson walk on the Allendale Campus following an orientation session for Campus Links.

listed specific goals for her first year at Grand Valley. Her participation in Campus Links follows a similar program at Miller’s high school for students with Asperger’s.

“When I needed help or a place to take my tests, I had a teacher consultant I went to see,” Miller said. “The goals I’d like to improve are being more social, going to more events and being able to focus in classes and study for tests.”

When Pierson began working with the young boy with autism, he found it took time and patience to learn his habits and characteristics. Pierson said his relationships with Campus Links participants will, obviously, be different but he will continue to strive for constant communication and improvement.

“I want it to be a level-playing field,” Pierson said. “I’m honored to have been picked for this program. Amy and Kathleen

“Most students with Asperger’s tend to transfer out to live at home and then go to community colleges.”

AMY MATTHEWS, DIRECTOR OF AEC AND PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR THE STATEWIDE AUTISM RESOURCES AND TRAINING (START) PROJECT

have encouraged a collaborative environment, everyone has a voice: the mentors, the participants, faculty and staff.”

BIG HISTORY IS A *BIG IDEA*

Association headquartered at Grand Valley, supported by Microsoft — by Mary Isca Pirkola

Imagine a history course that covers nearly 14 billion years. Now imagine incorporating aspects from fields as diverse as biology, anthropology and philosophy, among many others. This interdisciplinary approach to understanding the origins of the universe, the complexity of its development and the future of the planet is known as Big History. It provides a bridge between the humanities and sciences while fostering discovery of the connections between humans and the environment.

The movement to popularize teaching Big History has attracted the attention and financial support of Microsoft founder Bill Gates and led to the establishment of the International Big History Association in 2010. It's headquartered at Grand Valley.

Hundreds of international scholars, scientists and students convened in West Michigan in August, when Grand Valley hosted the inaugural IBHA conference. The many kinds of research, teaching and creativity

that the innovative field generates were featured at the conference through hundreds of presentations and displays.

"The problems people are facing now are on such a massive scale, they can't be solved with narrow perspectives," said Craig Benjamin, an IBHA co-founder who has taught Big History for 17 years, the past nine at Grand Valley. "We need to train generations of young adults who can think across disciplines, can look at problems from different perspectives and bring the skills and insights of an environmental scientist, a historian, a physicist, a demographer and others."

The Origins

The term "Big History" was coined in 1991 by David Christian, a professor

of history at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, as he made a case for an interdisciplinary approach to teaching World History.

"He designed a Big History college course by mixing topics that at many colleges would be covered separately," said Benjamin. "Exploring common themes and patterns spanning vast time scales — from before the Big Bang to modernity — helps students better understand people, civilizations, the world we live in and what the future holds."

Christian's course became a model for other universities throughout the world, from Egypt and Italy to the Netherlands and Russia. It caught the attention of a growing number of scientists as well. Sharing information has been common among the hundreds of academics who have taught Big History



L

over the past 20 years. The collaborations led to the idea of forming an association with, among other goals, a means of easily sharing the growing collection of Big History information and teaching resources.

Bill Gates and Microsoft Support

The movement to popularize the teaching of Big History has gained substantial ground in recent years. Funding and support from Microsoft Research Connections helped to advance an interactive timeline tool begun by geologist Walter Alvarez and students at University of California, Berkeley, and Moscow State University. Known as ChronoZoom, the project is harnessing the wealth of materials being developed by scholars

from around the world.

Articles, images, video, sound and other multimedia elements are being posted to an historical timeline that also helps viewers visualize the temporal relationships between events, trends and themes. Once completed, Microsoft intends to share the technology, making it freely available worldwide. Big History experts hope that making vast amounts of information easily accessible to instructors, students and the general public will not only advance the understanding of Big History, but facilitate more effective research projects in the future.

The long-term sustainability of the field was assured through the establishment of the International Big History Association in 2010, with a start-up grant from Microsoft External Research. Benjamin

was among the handful of Big Historians from around the world who constituted themselves as a provisional executive committee and began developing by-laws and goals.

"We also discussed where we should physically base the association, giving consideration to Berkeley and a site in Italy," said Benjamin. "I talked about what a good fit the association would be with Grand Valley since we have a whole college here based on interdisciplinary studies."

In January 2011, the association's board came from around the world to visit Grand Valley and to consider it as the headquarters. "Even though it was quite cold, they commented on what a beautiful campus we have," said Benjamin. "They were also impressed by being so warmly welcomed by our

photo by Amanda Pitts

A time-lapse photo captures Earth's movement against the night sky.

administration and made the decision to house the association here."

In August 2011, the Global Institute for Big History was established within the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies to serve as the head office of the IBHA. Meanwhile, Microsoft founder Bill Gates developed an active interest in Big History after viewing DVDs of Christian's lectures, and declared his desire to provide such classes at the high school level. With personal funding, Gates teamed up with Christian to establish the Big History Project, which ran a pilot project last year with three high schools in Australia

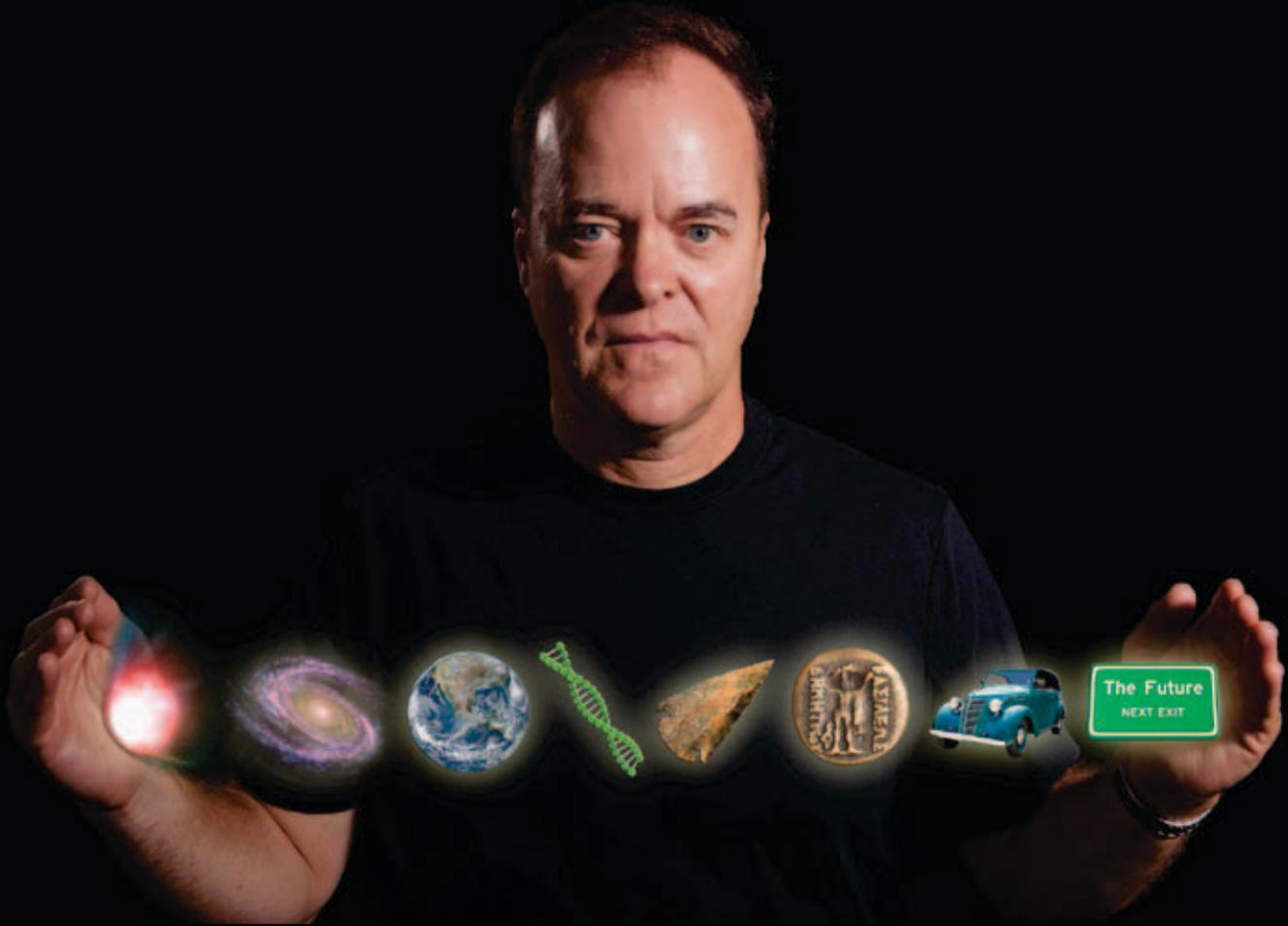


photo by Amanda Pitts

Craig Benjamin, IBHA co-founder, teaches an Honors College course in Big History, encompassing the eight thresholds of time shown here: Big Bang, Stars and Galaxies, History of Earth, Origins and Evolution of Life, Collective Learning, Civilization, Modern Revolution and the Future.

and six in the United States, including two in Michigan — Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, and Northville High School in Northville. The pilot program will be expanded to 50 schools this year, and several hundred next academic year.

The project assembled a team of professionals to continuously develop and refine the course curriculum to make Big History a defining learning experience. Many IBHA members are heavily involved and have taped mini-lectures that are uploaded online. Among them are Alvarez's explanation of how scientists used a variety of evidence to solve one of the great mysteries of our time — the extinction of the dinosaurs, and Benjamin's lecture on global migrations. "It was the toughest lecture of my life because we filmed it on Puget Sound during a blizzard," Benjamin said, with a laugh.

Big History on Campus

The three-day inaugural IBHA conference at Grand Valley drew more than 200 participants from nine countries and 30 states. Special presentations included those given by Andy Cook, director of Bill Gates' Big History Project, representatives from ChronoZoom, and keynote addresses by Alvarez and Lawrence Gundersen, a renowned environmentalist.

"Those of us committed to the field are hopeful of the eventual widespread introduction of Big History into the curriculum of universities and high schools around the world," said Benjamin. "Evidence collected over the past two decades of teaching has shown that students learn to use the tools of critical

thinking on a macro scale to think about and contribute to real solutions for the problems of our times."

Dominican University of California was the first institution in the world to require first-year students to enroll in a Big History course as part of their general education. Under the guidance of eminent Big Historian and faculty member Cynthia Stokes Brown, the course launched in 2010, and drew on the collaboration of faculty from disciplines ranging from art and business to political science and religion.

The first Big History textbook, *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything*, was written by three of the country's foremost authorities: Benjamin, Brown and Christian.

Benjamin will use the textbook in a new year-long course offered this fall

in Grand Valley's Honors College.

"This is a 12-credit, year-long course taken over two semesters and will include many guest lectures by faculty from throughout the university," said Benjamin. "This interdisciplinary approach to teaching Big History also encourages students to connect information from a variety of fields and to find contexts for their own interests and major field of study. One of our dreams, as an association, is that a general education class in Big History will be required of all students throughout the world."

For more information about IBHA visit www.ibhanet.org, or call the Global Institute for Big History office at (616) 331-8035.

Tetra receives funding for Alzheimer's research

— by Dottie Barnes

Tetra Discovery Partners LLC, a tenant of the West Michigan Science and Technology Initiative, received funding from the National Institutes of Health for up to \$1.5 million over five years. Grand Valley is a partner in WMSTI, which is a life science business incubator. Tetra designs new treatments for depression, traumatic brain injury and Alzheimer's disease.

Mark Gurney, founder and president of Tetra, said the funding may lead to millions of additional dollars worth of contracted research services.

"Our company designs drugs that improve how the brain processes and stores information," said Gurney. "The funding will allow us to work collaboratively with NIH staff to develop drugs to improve learning and memory, and that will carry the program all the

way into the initial stages of human clinical trials."

Tetra moved into WMSTI, located in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, in June 2011; Gurney said Grand Valley is the perfect location for several reasons.

"Our staff is able to interact with faculty and staff members, share resources and have access to scientific instrumentation," he said. "The interaction with biochemistry faculty has been beneficial. In fact, our first hire was a Grand Valley graduate."

Gurney said the environment in West Michigan is very supportive for business creation. He said currently there are no drugs to improve age-related memory impairment or to help those who have sustained a brain injury.

"There is a tremendous medical need for the treatments we are designing. These drugs may be useful to improve

learning and memory after injury and for Alzheimer's patients. The funding is significant for future research and we look forward to continued interaction with Grand Valley students and faculty," he said.

In March, Gurney was named by Griffith Hack, a patent law firm, as one of two leading inventors in the world in the creation of patents to treat Alzheimer's disease.

About WMSTI

The West Michigan Science and Technology Initiative and its Venture Center, a life science business incubator, were founded in 2003. WMSTI grew from investments by Grand Valley, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Local Development Finance Authority.

As of September 2012, the Venture Center has assisted more than 450 clients in commercialization of new products, helped secure \$14 million in federal and state grants and saved incubator companies and researchers \$300,000 each in start-up costs through access to equipment. Currently the Venture Center has 11 incubator members onsite, including six GVSU Innovation Fund faculty researchers in mini-labs.

Students and professor help develop pothole app

— by Dottie Barnes

That advanced math class can come in handy. Students and a mathematics professor used their problem-solving skills to help others avoid a bump in the road.

Officials with the City of Boston, Massachusetts, are now testing a new smartphone app that detects potholes; the app was partially developed by a Grand Valley team.

It's called Street Bump and it works by placing the phone on the dashboard or in a cup holder, continually collecting data on phone movement, location and speed. Street Bump transmits this data to remote servers.

Ed Aboufadel, chair of the

mathematics department, worked with students from Grand Valley's Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in summer 2011 to analyze data for the app. The summer program draws students from around the country.

The group worked to figure out a way for the system to detect potholes while filtering out things like manhole covers and speed bumps.

Aboufadel said if at least 30 percent of drivers hit a bump in the same spot, the system recognizes it as some sort of road anomaly, and further calculation determines whether or not it is a pothole.

"The challenge was to figure

out how to use the data given to us to find the potholes," said Aboufadel. "City officials developed the app to collect the data but needed people with a math background to create methods to detect the potholes in the data. We used matrices and linear algebra to track rotation of the data and wavelet filters to identify spikes or road anomaly in the data."

The students met daily with Aboufadel for eight weeks before submitting their findings. Boston city officials presented the challenge as a contest and the Grand Valley team was one of three winners.

The app is currently being tested in Massachusetts and Zurich, Switzerland.

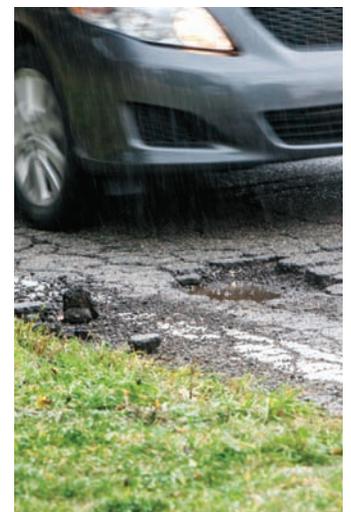


photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Students and a mathematics professor helped develop an app that would detect potholes.

Q&A

Gwyn Madden

The interview was like a scene from the TV show “Bones.” Sort of.

Gwyn Madden, a bioarcheologist and associate professor of anthropology, is beginning her seventh year teaching at Grand Valley. She and 18 Grand Valley students spent the summer in Ukraine excavating a cave for 5,000-year-old skeletal remains.

Madden specializes in osteology, paleopathology and mummy research, and is the first person local law enforcement officials and FBI agents call when they need someone to analyze human remains. She spoke with *Grand Valley Magazine’s* Dottie Barnes about her latest discoveries.

Grand Valley Magazine: So, how did you become interested in archeology, specifically digging for human remains?

Madden: Well, my career path did surprise my family. I was a girly girl growing up and didn’t like digging around in the dirt. As a child, I was more interested in dolls and dresses.

In college, I planned to be a Japanese interpreter but when I studied in Japan for a semester, I realized my language skills weren’t the best. I had a liberal studies degree but had taken a class in anthropology as an undergraduate at Oregon State University and was hooked. They say it takes that one class to find your passion. So, I got my degrees in anthropology and archeology.

GVM: How do people react when they find out what you do for a living?

Madden: It depends. Some think it’s really cool. Others think it’s kind of weird and I can tell they’re uncomfortable. I’m a quiet person in general, outside of the classroom, so this fits my personality. I like the detective part of what I do, figuring things out. And, I don’t have to talk to dead people.

GVM: Describe your work with local law enforcement officials.

Madden: I will get calls to determine whether bones found are animal or human. I have worked on a few high-profile cases in which people have gone missing, but most of the time my work is determining whether or not bones are human remains. It is surprising what washes out of Lake Michigan.

Sometimes I work from photographs sent to me, and other times officers will bring the bones right to my office so I can analyze them in the lab in AuSable Hall. Depending on the type of the bone found, I can determine age, sex and height and sometimes cause of death. The best way to identify someone is through the skull and pelvic bones, but that almost never happens. I usually get individual bones here and there.

GVM: You have helped analyze four South American mummies housed in Norway. How did you get started in this type of research?

Madden: I fell into it by accident. I was working on my doctorate at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and, at that time, one of the top mummy specialists in the world was teaching there. The university had 13 mummies that no one had ever looked at. Some of them were archeological finds and others were brought in by the police. I tried to figure out the location they came from and how old they were; I tried to get the life of the person back. We were able to locate where they came from and even found original excavation pictures for one.

There are several different kinds of mummies; these were naturally dried mummies. Mummies in Egypt are specially prepared, but in a climate that is dry enough and hot enough, you can get a mummy anywhere.

GVM: Tell me about your trip to Ukraine.

Madden: This summer was the second time I have taken students for excavation in a cave in western Ukraine. We have teamed up with the regional museum there. The cave itself is very active and has been in use for at least 5,000 years. There is evidence that during the Holocaust Jewish families were hiding there.

In western Ukraine, there isn’t a person who specializes in analyzing human remains, so I help with that. We were there excavating for three weeks and found a pretty large number of

human remains, about a thousand different elements. We also found whole pots and several figurines. The trip is a unique and important experience for students as they plan their career path in teaching, museum work or whatever they may choose.

GVM: What is your association with the Smithsonian Institution?



Madden: I worked at the Smithsonian for a year and analyzed a few mummies for them, one was from California and the other from Alaska. I also worked with a group there to develop Osteoware, a recording system for human remains that is free to the public. It's the first, free online system that physical anthropologists can use to record and share data.

GVM: Do you watch shows like “Bones” or “CSI”? What do you think of them?

Madden: I do love to watch all of those shows but while watching I'll think, “Yeah, right. That's not the way it happens.”

One student asked me why we don't have a holographic image machine. I had to tell the student it would be nice to have something like that, but those

don't exist. And, frequently I'll be asked if I can do specific things with bones and I'll have to tell them no, it's not possible, or it would take a really long time. On TV, DNA results come back in a few minutes when in reality it takes months and months.

photo by Amanda Pitts

Gwyn Madden, associate professor of anthropology, examines a skull found in a cave in Ukraine that has been active for 5,000 years.

NEW SPACES, NEW FACES

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS MAKE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE LIFE

— by Leah Zuber

Living on her own for the first time made Morgan Addis both excited and nervous as a first-year student at Grand Valley.

In August, she moved to campus from Clarkston with a car trunk full of clothes and a support team of family members and friends.

Like the nearly 4,000 first-year students who came to Grand Valley this fall, Addis, a special education major, made the shift to a new space with many new faces.

To make the move as easy and smooth as possible, she attended Transitions, an annual, three-

day program that acclimates first-year students to campus and their new surroundings.

During the three days, students mapped out their class schedule, ventured off campus to visit Lake Michigan and Grand Rapids, toured classrooms, heard from guest speakers, and, most importantly, got to know their fellow classmates. Each living center was assigned a group of Transitions leaders, who are current students, to lead them during their first days on campus.

More than 280 students applied to be a Transitions Leader this year, and 200 were selected after the application and interview process, said Shawn Mueller, a Grand Valley junior and member of the student-led “Transitions Go Team” that chooses leaders.

“Students who have been here for a few years share their experiences with new students, teach them traditions and spread their Laker pride,” Mueller said. “I think that’s one of the neatest things about this program.”

Mueller, a management major and advertising and public relations minor from Canton, said he looks for leaders who are



AUGUST 2012

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FIRST DAYS AT GVSU!

22

Hooray kick-off event!
7:30 pm @ Fieldhouse
MOVE IN DAY! 😊

23

Fanfest!
Classroom visits
Joe Martin Presentation
BONFIRE @ Robinson Field!



involved on campus and enjoy sharing their passion for Grand Valley, just as he does.

“When I was a new student, Transitions set the tone for the rest of my college experience,” he said. “I met many of my closest friends then. It was eye-opening and really stuck with me.”

Tanisha Kuykendall, a third-year student from Redford, served as a Transitions leader for the second time this year and said she enjoys welcoming new students with open arms, just as she was welcomed when she

was a new student. “Transitions made me feel so comfortable,” she said. “I’m still friends with the people I met those first few days. I didn’t start classes unprepared, I started classes ready and excited.”

Kuykendall and the rest of the leaders attended a short training session before the end of the winter semester last year, then went through an extensive training process from August 20-22, days before Transitions began. They learned about the academic, community and wellness aspects of

Grand Valley, and the Laker Values (see sidebar on page 28).

Aaron Haight is the assistant director of Student Life who organized Transitions. She said although the training process can be intense, staff members try to keep it lively and fun. “Last year, we brought in staff and administrative members who have been at Grand Valley for multiple years, like President Haas and Dean Merkle, and had a friendly competition by testing their knowledge against new leaders,” she said.

This year, a big focus during

photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

On page 26, Morgan Addis and her parents, Keith and Maureen, move Morgan into her new room on campus.

Addis and her friends gather at Kleiner Commons for lunch during the first week of classes.

Addis attends the Transitions kick-off event, Hooray!, in the Fieldhouse August 22.

training was teaching new students campus traditions.

“Because we’re a young institution, sometimes we don’t

Get Books! 24
Convocation
Dinner w/ the roommates!

25
Back to School Bash @ Kirkhof!!

26
Visit Downtown campus!
Find all our classes.

27
Classes Start!
11:00-11:50 - psych
3:00-4:15 - ethics
6:00-9:00 pm - legal studies



photo by Amanda Pitts

Transitions ends with Convocation, a tradition that marks the beginning of the academic year.

have as many traditions, so we really stressed that this year,” Haight said. “At the end of the kick-off event, we brought in the Laker Marching Band to teach students the fight song and how to row at football games.”

Mueller said his favorite campus tradition is swinging on the pendulum by Henry Hall. “I’m not sure if we’re allowed to climb on it,” he said, jokingly, “but many of the first-year students in my group say it’s their favorite.”

Addis said she enjoyed the Transitions kick-off event “Hooray!,” which took place August 22 in the Fieldhouse. Thousands of students heard from Stephan Gray, an upbeat, motivational speaker who discussed getting outside comfort zones and helped new students get to know each other through a variety of activities

and icebreakers. A Laker for a Lifetime-themed celebration that included tie-dying T-shirts followed at Robinson Field.

The next day, Transitions leaders led their groups to different classrooms to hear from faculty members, and learn about Blackboard and the other academic resources offered on campus. Students attended activities and heard from guest speakers about a variety of topics such as alcohol awareness and healthy relationships.

Transitions closed with Convocation August 24, a tradition that marks the beginning of the academic year. Thousands of students, faculty and staff members heard from Haas, Student Senate President Jack Iott, Faculty Senate Chair Figen Mekik and Provost Gayle R. Davis.

During the ceremony, Iott encouraged first-year students to find a way to connect and participate on campus. “Find your place and you’ll find your passion and path to greatness,” he said.

After her first week of classes, Addis said she adapted to campus better than she thought she would. “Transitions helped me get to know campus a lot better,” she said. “Walking to each event location was helpful because we got to see so much of campus. I’ve made some amazing new friends, and we have all become very close within the first week of being here.”

While Addis admits she gets tinges of homesickness every

now and then, she said the new faces and spaces at Grand Valley are becoming more familiar every day.

LAKER VALUES

AS A GRAND VALLEY STUDENT,

I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY LEARNING

I WILL BE AN ENGAGED MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

I WILL GIVE BACK TO MY COMMUNITY



Watch a video of move-in on the Allendale Campus by visiting www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Dellas Henke Professor of printmaking

Dellas Henke began teaching a 1,200-year-old art form in the Department of Art and Design at Grand Valley 30 years ago.

His speciality is etching, specifically engraving and carving copper by hand — a technique that he said takes a lot of patience and a strong hand. Most of his prints, which can be found across campus and around the country, express the human experience and condition.

“It’s an exciting time to be a printmaker,” Henke said. “Twenty years ago, you could look at a print piece and know exactly what techniques were used to make it, but today all these techniques are being blended to create impressive pieces.”

He said the best part about teaching at Grand Valley is the strong sense of community instilled in everyone. “There’s a real mix of ideas going on in the printmaking room all the time. Everyone’s there to help each other,” he said.

photography by Adam Bird

Down to Earth

Alumni find the root of their success through Grand Valley

— by Abigail Sloan, '07

Randal Pichan, '88, and Lisa Rose Starner, '00 & '03, graduated from college in two different eras with completely different majors. They live on opposite sides of Michigan, and their lives are on very diverse journeys, yet both credit Grand Valley for giving them the skills to build successful careers.

Working with legends

The last place Randal Pichan wanted to work was in a cubicle. He founded Eagle Golf Construction Inc. in 1989, a year after he earned a degree in hospitality and tourism management. His experiences on the Laker football team affirmed his decision to choose a career that kept him involved with outdoor sports.

Pichan's line of work involves large machinery, meticulous planning and some of golf's most prestigious players. He has compiled an impressive résumé that includes working with golf legends Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus to design multi-million dollar courses around the country.

“Using a bulldozer to create shapes and contours of the golf course is the most critical part of any course design,” he said. “You take a blank palette of land and breathe life into a golf environment.”

One of his biggest projects to date is the \$15 million construction of The Golf Club at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor. Pichan's crew helped return the 530-acre site from a refrigerator graveyard — filled with 12-15 feet of garbage in some areas — to pristine wetlands and a par-71 Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course.

In 2011, Pichan received the “Best New Golf Course Environmental Sensitivity Award” for his work at Harbor Shores. The course



photos courtesy of Randal Pichan

Randal Pichan, '88, is pictured at far right, working with Jack Nicklaus on a course design in Benton Harbor, Michigan, a city that had been struggling to find its economic identity in recent years.

hosted the Senior PGA Championship in May and will host it again in 2014.

Pichan, who lives in Fenton with his wife and daughter, said that the golf construction industry has been hit hard by the economy in recent years, but he's learned to adapt and grow his business by incorporating

course renovation deals and expanding the company to include the construction of athletic fields.

“My Grand Valley education means everything to me. Without it I could not have handled all the aspects of running a small company,” Pichan said.



Pictured is hole No. 2 at Harbor Shores.

Building from scratch

Lisa Rose Starner, '00 & '03, is also an entrepreneur, however her job title is more colorful. She is a self-proclaimed “Locavore,” which encompasses several job titles including urban farmer, forager, herbalist, teacher, and, most recently, author. In addition to her variety of professional roles, she is a wife and mother of two.

“The root of everything I do is building relationships,” said Starner.

Her work with food spans more than 15 years, and her exploration began at Grand Valley where she majored in anthropology and French. She continued her education and earned a master’s in public administration with an emphasis in philanthropy.

“I chose to do my graduate work at Grand Valley with a very intentional focus on evaluating the food needs of Grand Rapids,” Starner said.

Starner founded “Mixed Greens,” which is a small nonprofit organization dedicated to planting urban gardens and building kitchen classrooms for inner-city youth. Her passion is to get to the root of common nutrition problems by teaching children and families to know what’s in the food they eat.

At the age of 30, Starner was challenged to evaluate her own well-being. She faced extreme exhaustion and battled untreated postpartum depression. She said when she returned to the Earth, and its simplicity, she found her balanced self again.

“It was my relationship with the plants and my connection to the Earth that really helped me clarify what I want to do in this life,” she said.

Starner now teaches herbalist classes out of her home on the west side of Grand Rapids, called “The Urban Ranch.” She welcomes strangers into her home and gives them lessons about the health benefits of gardening and cooking with organic plants and herbs.

“I want people in my community to have a rich relationship with plants that doesn’t just happen when they are sick, but a relationship that’s a needed and desired part of their everyday lives,” she said.

Starner was recently contracted to write a book, *Built from Scratch*. It will delve into the lives of the people and the places of Grand Rapids’ growing good food movement. *Built from Scratch* is scheduled to be released in December.

For more information about these alumni and other stories, visit www.gvsu.edu/alumni.

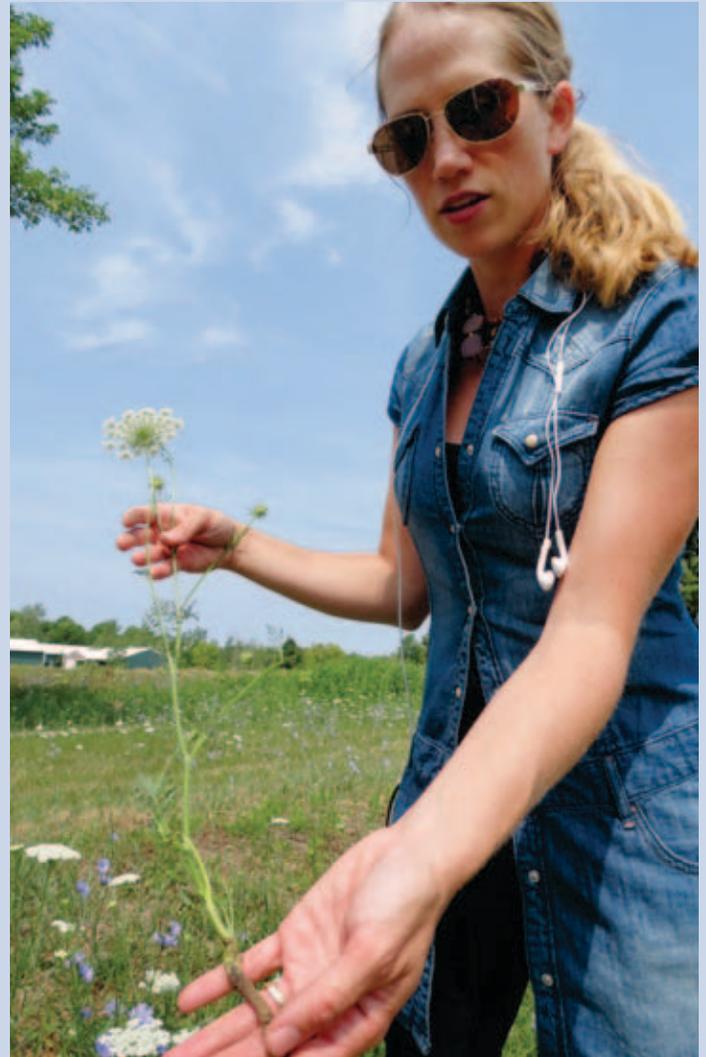


photo by Abigail Sloan

Lisa Rose Starner, '00 & '03, is pictured foraging Queen Anne's Lace during a visit to the GVSU Sustainable Agriculture Project.

H A P P Y

10th 25th 40th

A N N I V E R S A R Y

Wishing 2002, 1987 and 1972 graduates a happy anniversary this year!

Take a look back and share your memories with us at www.gvsu.edu/alumni/anniversary.

Golf outings raise money for students, programs

More than \$14,000 was raised during three golf outings this summer. The Sleep Inn & Suites Alumni, Football Alumni and the Corky Meinecke Golf Outings brought out hundreds of golfers to support the university. The outings were made possible by generous sponsors, donors, volunteers and golfers.

Ed Harris IV, '11, and Louie the Laker look on as Phil Levitt takes a swing during the All-Alumni Golf Outing on July 21.



Beyond the Valley: Alumni events across the country



- 1) Laker Football Fan Trip, Monmouth, Oregon
- 2) Freshmen Summer Send Off, Chicago
- 3) Beach Bums Game, Traverse City
- 4) Metro-Detroit Club at the Zoo
- 5) ArtPrize Celebration, Grand Rapids
- 6) Freshmen Summer Send Off, Detroit
- 7) Lugnuts Game, Lansing
- 8) KCON Fall Reception, Grand Rapids
- 9) SoCal Reception & Baseball, Anaheim, California
- 10) Washington Wine Tour, Seattle

Check out more events at www.gvsu.edu/alumni/events

Alumni celebrate rededication of Lubbers Stadium

More than 555 alumni and friends helped kick off the home football season at the newly renovated Lubbers Stadium at a tailgate hosted by the Football Alumni Chapter, Seidman College of Business, and Alumni Association. Kari Lynch, '10, and her band performed during the event. See another photo on the back cover.



Alumni lighten the load at Freshmen Move-In

A record number of alumni, friends and first-time volunteers welcomed new Lakers and their families on August 21 as they arrived on the Allendale Campus. More than 125 volunteers carried everything from pillows to refrigerators into the living centers and had opportunities to share their experiences with the newest Lakers. Volunteers were rewarded with breakfast, lunch and ice cold beverages.



photo by April Joy Galbreath

Jeff Mutch, '07, and Leo Hendges, '06, help a family carry items into the Kirkpatrick Living Center.

CAREERS

1970s

Manfred Tatzmann, B.A., 1970, is a member of the State of Minnesota TBI Advisory Committee.

David L. Mangles, B.S., 1971, published a book, *The Hermaphroditic Contortionist*.

David C. Aussicker, B.Phil., 1972, is a senior officer at Florida State University.

Eric Greinke, B.A., 1972, M.S.W., 1982, received an honorable mention during the 2012 Allen Ginsberg Awards at the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College for a poem, *Shooting Lessons*.

Jeffrey H. Brown, B.Phil., 1973, is the executive director of Communities In School's Michigan office.

Warren L. Hills, B.A., 1976, is the associate vice president for human resources at Western Michigan University.

William L. Stage Jr., B.Phil., 1976, published a book, *Not Waving, Drowning*.

Michael N. Walters, B.S., 1976, is the vice president of sales and marketing for Wixon in St. Francis, Wisconsin.

Ronald T. Green, B.S., 1978, was inducted as a fellow into the Geological Society of America.

Ronald R. Johnson, B.S., 1979, published a book, *Customer Service and the Imitation of Christ*. He also produces an audio blog, "Mythic Adventures," and teaches extension courses through Spring Arbor University.

Donald W. Linebaugh, B.S., 1979, published two books, *Sagas Iron Works: The Roland W. Robbins Excavations 1948-1953*, and *The Springfield Gas Machine: Illuminating Industry and Leisure, 1860s-1920s*.

Ann E. Michael, B.Phil., 1979, published a collection of poetry, *Water-Rites*. She also is the writing coordinator for DeSales University in Center Valley, Philadelphia.

1980s

Brian Leja, B.B.A., 1981, was promoted to director of the industrial division for Schenker Logistics, where he has worked for 25 years.

W. Dean La Douceur, B.S., 1983, earned an MBA from the University of Phoenix. He also established a new company, Dean's List Publishing.

Michael E. Born, B.S., 1984, was named a leader in the area of Natural Resources and Environment in the 2012 *Chambers USA Guide to America's Leading Business Lawyers*, published by Chambers and Partners.

John D. Huszarik, B.S., M.B.A., 2004, is a senior continuous improvement leader for MPI Research in Mattawan.

Terry L. Stollar-Bolinger, B.S., 1989, is the principal of Emma Donnan Middle School in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Todd E. Walter, B.S., 1989, M.S.W., 1993, is the owner and administrator of Crosaires in Williamston.

1990s

Catherine E. Earl, M.S.N., 1990, is the associate provost of American Sentinel University in Birmingham, Alabama.

Tammie A. (Wing) Brainard, B.S., 1992, was promoted to senior in the accounting and assurance department of Weber O'Brien Ltd. in Sylvania, Ohio.

Robert Fritz, B.B.A., 1992, is the vice president of sales for Sysco Iowa.

Annette Rus, B.S., 1993, is the office manager for Consumers Credit Union in Holland.

James N. Class, B.A., 1997, is the director of Russia planning and execution for Merck in Moscow, Russia.

Tara L. Crow, B.B.A., 1997, is a materials planning analyst for Kimberly-Clark in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Diana M. (Waluk) Bushman, B.B.A., 1999, was promoted to manager of business transformation for Asset Acceptance Capital Corp. in Warren.

Stephen M. Passinault, M.Ed., 1999, is the principal of Forest Hills Central High School.

2000s

Michelle D. Bicey, B.B.A., 2000, is dean of Stratford University's Newport News Campus in Newport News, Virginia.

Scott A. Eldred, M.Ed., 2000, M.Ed., 2005, is the principal of Middle Park High School in East Grand Rapids.

Adam S. Henige, B.S., 2000, received the 2012 Michigan's Economic Bright Spots award for his company, Netvantage Marketing.

Joshua E. Carlson, B.S., 2001, is senior vice president of retail sales and service for Peoples Bank in Marietta, Ohio.

Jacob N. Kassuba, B.S., 2001, is the president of Everest College-Burr Ridge in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

Jason J. Kennedy, B.S., 2001, M.Ed., 2006, is the superintendent of Holton Public Schools.

Anna M. Tyszkiewicz, B.S., 2001, M.P.A., 2004, was promoted to executive director of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Adrienne A. Wallace, B.S., 2001, M.S., 2005, M.P.A., 2008, was a finalist for the 2012 ATHENA Young Professional Award for Grand Rapids.

Patrick H. O'Neill, M.Ed., 2002, is a teacher at Greenfield Elementary School in Birmingham.

Beth A. (Pawlukiewicz) Sadowski, B.B.A., 2002, is a human resources specialist and recruiter for ABM Security Services in Chicago, Illinois.

Jennifer E. (Dau) Whaley, B.A., 2002, is a produce manager for Ypsilanti Food Co-Op.

Christopher A. Beth, B.B.A., 2003, is an assistant controller for Comlux America LLC in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Matthew J. Gibson, B.B.A., 2003, is the director of finance for Digital Insurance Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sophia Guevara, B.S., 2003, received the Diversity Leadership Development Program award from the Special Libraries Association.

Maureen E. (Notestine) Michaels, B.A., 2003, is the marketing manager for Interlochen Center for the Arts in Traverse City.

Joel A. Schipper, B.S., 2003, is a weekend reporter for Central Florida News 13.

Milinda C. Ysasi Castanon, B.B.A., 2003, is the 2012 ATHENA Young Professional Award recipient for Grand Rapids.

Katie A. (Rosene) Peabody, B.S., 2004, B.A., 2004, received the Employee of the Year award at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie.

Corinne R. Reynolds, B.B.A., 2004, is a financial analyst for American Axle and Manufacturing in Auburn Hills.

Amanda A. (Bongard) Rogalski, B.B.A., 2004, started a company, Rogo Marketing & Communications, in Grand Rapids.

Shaun M. Shira, B.B.A., 2004, M.P.A., 2011, is a development officer for the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

leisha M. Evans-Humphrey, B.A., 2005, is the assistant director of the Center for Ethics, Service, and Professionalism at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Auburn Hills.

David D. Evens, M.Ed., 2005, M.Ed., 2010, is the principal of Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Kalamazoo Public Schools.

John M. Seals, M.Ed., 2005, is the associate director of residential life for Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Thomas J. Van Cleave, B.S., 2005, is the program coordinator for the Postsecondary Service-Learning and Community Based Learning graduate certificate program at Portland State University.

Karen L. Vaughn, B.S., 2005, is the planning and preservation manager for the City of Lake Worth, Florida.

Jeremy Z. Wesley, B.S., 2005, won a Grammy Award for his work as a recording engineer on Betty White's spoken-word album, "If You Ask Me (And Of Course You Won't).

Brittany N. Stropich-Albaugh, B.S., 2006, received a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tamela D. Brown, M.Ed., 2006, is the principal of Grand Rapids Ellington Academy of Arts and Technology.

Timothy A. Buys, B.B.A., 2006, is a senior auditor for Deloitte and Touche LLP in Dallas, Texas.

Nicole M. Jenkins, B.S., 2006, was promoted to associate project manager for Perrigo.

Bradley S. Manor, B.S., 2006, is a software engineer for General Electric in Grand Rapids.

Christopher M. Raschke, B.S., 2006, is a senior consultant for Microsoft in Washington, D.C.

Matthew M. Sucaet, B.A., 2006, is a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Whitefish Bay Middle School in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin.

Jena P. Agler, B.S., 2007, is an associate attorney for the Law Office of Kathleen M. Poelker PLLC in Ann Arbor.

Tara N. Berger, B.S., 2007, is a third-grade teacher at Achilles Elementary School in Hayes, Virginia.

Ashley R. Chaney, B.S., 2007, is an assistant director of communications for campus living services and residence life for Michigan State University.

James V. Gallery, M.Ed., 2007, is the varsity football coach at Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

Christopher J. Gerlica, B.A., 2007, received a law degree from the Roger Williams University School of Law.

Lisa R. (Heeter) Hyma, B.A., 2007, is a K-8 online teacher for Laurel Springs School.

Travis J. Bratschi, B.B.A., 2008, is a financial services officer for GreenStone Farm Credit Services in Traverse City.

Brennan C. Davis, B.S., 2008, is the girls varsity basketball coach for Schoolcraft High School. He is also the online education student services director for Western Michigan University.

Gregory B. Griffith, B.S., 2008, is a senior marketing specialist and web designer for Network Media Group in Louisville, Kentucky.

Trevor M. Hinshaw, B.S., 2008, is the athletic director for Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School.

Elicka B. Lamphere, B.B.A., 2008, is a cheerleader for the Arizona Cardinals. She is also an investment licensed banker for JPMorgan Chase in Phoenix, Arizona.

Laurel K. (Shippy) Saunders, B.S., 2008, is an early intervention and early childhood special education specialist for Willamette Education Service District in Salem, Oregon.

Phillip A. Stadler, B.S., 2008, is a specialist in the information technology department for J.M. Wilson in Portage.

Betsy M. Tien, B.B.A., 2008, is a human resources generalist for The Parking Spot in Chicago, Illinois.

Casey L. (Otradovec) Ball, B.S., 2009, M.S.O.T., 2011, is an occupational therapist for War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie.

David L. Bemis, B.B.A., 2009, is the operations manager for Caniff Electric Supply Co. in Hamtramck.

Timothy A. Brog, B.S., 2009, is an assistant video director for the Houston Texans.

Christopher S. Hammer, B.S., 2009, qualified for three events at the 2012 Paralympic Games. His best finish was ninth in the 1,500-meter run.

Kaleigh A. Jaeger-Hale, B.S., 2009, is a development coordinator for Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital in Charlotte.

Adam J. Kruis, B.B.A., 2009, is a commercial lender for Macatawa Bank in Holland.

Katheryn A. Milantoni, B.A., 2009, is a seventh-grade teacher at St. Joseph Parish School in Trenton.

Jonathan P. Reinhard, B.S., 2009, was selected as a fellow for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship.

Alia E. Weller, B.S., 2009, was selected as a fellow for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship.

Sarah R. Zelenka, B.S., 2009, and her rowing partner finished fourth in women's pairs at the 2012 Summer Olympics. She is the assistant rowing coach for the University of Louisville.

William T. Clancy III, M.B.A., 2010, was promoted to vice president of retail strategy for Lake Michigan Credit Union in Grand Rapids.

Stefanie A. Hosford, B.A., 2010, is the development director for South End Community Outreach Ministries in Grand Rapids.

Katie L. Kettner, B.A., 2010, is a management analyst for Washtenaw Community Health Organization.

Kelsey L. Letourneau, B.A., 2010, is a second-grade teacher at River City Scholars Charter Academy, National Heritage Academies.

Anthony C. Norman, B.B.A., 2010, is attending law school at Florida Coastal School of Law.

Jeremy R. Schellie, B.S., 2010, is a marketing assistant for EPS Security in Grand Rapids.

Casey A. Jones, B.S., 2011, is a sports reporter for WOOD-TV 8.

Tiffany L. Larson, B.S., 2011, is a special events coordinator for the Gaylord Chamber of Commerce.

Michael S. Miller, B.S., 2011, was promoted to lieutenant at the Rockford Police Department.

Corey A. Yunke, B.S., 2011, is the community relations coordinator-crime analyst for

Roseville Police Department in Roseville, Minnesota.

Melissa M. Bergman, B.S., 2012, is a teacher at Buckeye Elementary School District in Buckeye, Arizona.

Mark A. Cistaro, Jr., B.A., 2012, B.S., 2012, was selected as a fellow for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship.

Elizabeth H. Cowan, B.S., 2012, is an analytical chemist for Mead Johnson Nutrition in Zeeland.

Eric J. Garlow, B.S., 2012, is an assistant sports information director for Coker College.

Jarrett K. Martus, B.B.A., 2012, is the telephone outreach program manager at Grand Valley State University.

Douglas J. Peterson, B.S., 2012, was selected as a fellow for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship.

Katelyn M. Stadler, B.B.A., 2012, is a training specialist for Spartan Stores in Grand Rapids.

Amber L. Stout, B.F.A., 2012, is the marketing and development assistant and graphic designer for the Grand Rapids Ballet.

Melanie R. Vargo, B.B.A., 2012, is a sales administrator for Kentwood Office Furniture.

MARRIAGES

2000s

Rebecca N. Gannon, B.S., 2000, and Eric Neeley on June 16, 2012.

Rebecca L. Sack, B.B.A., 2000, and Ryan Grasmeyer on June 23, 2012.

Christopher A. Beth, B.B.A., 2003, and Jennifer Zehr on October 30, 2010.

Mara Tornga, B.S., 2006, B.S.N., 2008, and **Nicholas J. Bihler, B.S., 2008**, on September 25, 2011.

Tara C. Bildzok, B.S.N., 2007, and Joseph Sollinger on May 19, 2012.

Dwight C. Dettloff, B.B.A., 2007, M.S.A., 2008, and Adrienne Sines on May 26, 2012.

Kristin M. Davis, B.S., 2008, M.S.W., 2012, and **Tyler J. Crawford, B.B.A., 2010**, on June 30, 2012.

Raquel A. DeLeon, B.S., 2008, M.P.A., 2011, and **Oliver B. Martin, B.A., 2006**, on June 26, 2012.

Gregory B. Griffith, B.S., 2008, and Sherry Markwell on October 8, 2011.

Philip J. Malnar, B.B.A., 2008, M.T., 2011, and Nicole M. Ennenga on June 23, 2012.

Joshua F. Green, B.S., 2009, and Chelsea Schultz on April 28, 2012.

Kaleigh A. Jaeger, B.S., 2009, and **Aaron J. Hale, B.B.A., 2008**, on May 26, 2012.

Kenneth A. Gauld, B.B.A., 2010, and Jenny Zaworski on August 11, 2012.

Justine M. LaCroix-Martin, B.A., 2010, and **Andrew M. Beller, B.B.A., 2008**, on June 11, 2011.

Antoinette L. Lopez, B.S., 2010, and **Gregory A. Sperlbaum, B.S., 2008**, on July 7, 2012.

Ryan H. Vaughn, M.S., 2010, and Laura Pecherski on July 14, 2012.

Leah J. Zuber, B.A., 2010, and Mark Twilley on October 20, 2012.

Kristin M. McBarnes, B.S.N., 2011, and **Sean M. Blair, B.S., 2010**, on July 31, 2011.

Heather M. Wieber, B.B.A., 2011, and Dennis Goodenough on July 7, 2012.

BIRTHS

1990s

Jill A. (Robinson) Olsen, B.A., 1992, and husband Eric announce a son, Gunnar, born February 7, 2012. The family resides in Ada.

Jennifer L. (Boersen) Kroll, B.S.N., 1996, and husband Terrance announce a daughter, Emersen Sarah, born May 17, 2012. Emersen is welcomed by brother Henry. The family resides in Zeeland.

Mary F. (Graff) Ashley, B.S., 1997, and **James W. Ashley, B.S., 1987**, announce a son, Rhys Victor, born June 5, 2012. The family resides in Fountain Hills, Arizona.

Sara A. (Choponis) Gray, B.S., 1998, and husband Zane announce a daughter, Ivey Rose, born May 24, 2012. Ivey is welcomed by siblings Owen, Paul and Lucy. The family resides in Reed City.

LaQuita Y. (Carr) Lowery, B.B.A., 1998, and husband McKinley announce a son, Myles Landon, born June 11, 2012. The family resides in Lathrup Village.

Michele A. Lukas, B.S., 1998, and husband Jeremy announce a son, Dominic Roy, born November 20, 2011. Dominic is welcomed by brother Jack. The family resides in Holly Springs, North Carolina.

Andrew P. LeFurge, M.B.A., 1999, and wife Staci announce a daughter, Tatum, born February 20, 2012. The family resides in Grand Haven.

Becky L. Vass-Reinholtz, M.S.W., 1999, and husband Douglas announce a daughter, Aubrie Christine, born April 1, 2011. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

2000s

Susan M. (Dona) Franklin, B.A., 2000, M.P.A., 2009, and husband Nathan announce a daughter, Gretchen Lanelle, born May 23, 2001. The family resides in Muskegon.

Denise N. (Krolczyk) Mercatante, B.S., 2000, and husband Steve announce a daughter, Sophia Noel, born April 21, 2012. The family resides in Brighton.

Nathan A. Blakeslee, B.A., 2001, and wife Naoko announce a daughter, Sofi, born July 2, 2012. The family resides in Japan.

Nicole L. Infante, B.A., 2001, and husband Joseph announce a son, Nathaniel John, born July 1, 2012. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Karl W. Koehle, B.S., 2001, and wife Jessica announce a daughter, Gretchen Milada, born June 25, 2012. The family resides in Apple Valley, Minnesota.

Abbey L. (Hodgson) Mead, B.S., 2001, and husband Matthew announce a son, Nicklas Matthew, born August 18, 2012. Nicklas is welcomed by sister Violet. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Anita J. (Meinel) Banks, B.A., 2002, and husband Eric announce a daughter, Ariana Jazlyn, born November 3, 2011. The family resides in Spring Lake.

Joslyn M. DeBoode, B.A., 2002, and **Eric P. DeBoode, B.S., 2006**, announce a son, Weston Paul, born July 31, 2012. The family resides in Broomfield, Colorado.

Lindsay Kristin (Buckley) Ludtke, B.S., 2002, M.S.O.T., 2005, and **Chad William Ludtke, B.S., 2004, M.Ed., 2009**, announce a son, Kaiden Buckley, born May 17, 2012. The family resides in Troy.

Amber L. Nibbelink, B.S., 2002, and **Matthew J. Nibbelink, B.E., 2002, M.B.A., 2006**, announce a son, Everett Jack, born June 19, 2012. Everett is welcomed by siblings Emma, Isabella and Oliver. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Alicia N. (de la Fuente) Oldebekking, B.A., 2002, M.Ed., 2006, and husband David, announce a daughter, Harper Victoria, born June 12, 2012. Harper is welcomed by brother Mason. The family resides in Hudsonville.

Elissa R. Weidmayer, B.B.A., 2002, and husband Jeff announce a son, Evan Jeffrey, born June 21, 2012. Evan is welcomed by sister Grace. The family resides in Ann Arbor.

Christopher A. Beth, B.B.A., 2003, and wife Jennifer announce a son, Jordan Robert, born January 20, 2012. The family resides in Carmel, Indiana.

Matthew J. Gibson, B.B.A., 2003, and wife Kendra announce a son, Rowen Charles, born July 7, 2012. The family resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lindsey J. (Hugelier) Rodarmer, B.A., 2003, M.S., 2006, and **Ryan R. Rodarmer, B.S., 2003**, announce a daughter, Mia Ray, born July 16, 2012. Mia is welcomed by brother Braiden. The family resides in Cedar Springs.

Kristy A. (Killips) Stiles, B.S.N., 2003, and husband Mike announce a daughter, Rebecca Elaine, born May 29, 2012. Rebecca is welcomed by sisters Allison and Olivia. The family resides in Rockford.

Lisa M. (Brown) Veldman, B.S., 2003, and **Michael J. Veldman, B.B.A., 2003**, announce a son, William Michael, born June 13, 2012. The family resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Adam B. Eby, B.A., 2004, and wife Jennifer announce a daughter, Genavieve Rose, born August 3, 2012. The family resides in Schaumburg, Illinois.

George A. Kitson, B.S., 2004, and wife Amy announce a son, George Thomas, born November 28, 2011. The family resides in Burbank, California.

Lindsey R. (TePastte) Kloeckner, B.A., 2004, M.S., 2006, and **Richard M. Kloeckner, B.S., 2006**, announce a daughter, Grace LouAnn, born July 27, 2012. The family resides in Grandville.

Shalyn (Reineke) Martinez-Ormsby, B.S., 2004, and **Uri L. Martinez-Ormsby, B.B.A., 2004**, announce a son, Oliver Lee, born June 11, 2012. The family resides in Naples, Florida.

Jennifer R. (Wildey) Palm, B.A., 2004, and husband James announce a son, Jackson Orion, born October 17, 2011. The family resides in Rockford.

Rebecca L. (Dieterman) Patin, B.A., 2004, and **Nicholas J. Patin, M.Ed., 2009**, announce a son, Cooper Landon, born May 23, 2012. Cooper is welcomed by siblings Taylor and Brooklyn. The family resides in Comstock Park.

Rachel A. (Earls) Stroud, B.B.A., 2004, and husband Benjamin, announce a son, Malcolm Benjamin, born March 30, 2012. The family resides in Eaton Rapids.

Megan M. (Schwind) Taylor, B.A., 2004, and husband Andy announce a son, Kieran Richard, born February 3, 2012. The family resides in Traverse City.

Katelyn A. (Wilkins) Carey, B.S., 2005, and husband Sean announce a daughter, Brynn Beverly, born March 30, 2012. The family resides in Lansing.

Kristina M. (Lund) Fisher, B.S., 2005, and **Brian F. Fisher, B.S., 2005**, announce a son, Michael Andrew, born April 3, 2012. The family resides in Caledonia.

Keri M. (Larsen) Kujala, B.A., 2005, and husband Brian announce a son, William Briggs, born June 1, 2012. The family resides in Belmont.

Christine (Pirlot) Panter, B.A., 2005, and husband Adam announce a daughter, Hadley Christine, born October 26, 2011. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Ryan B. Atwood, B.A., 2006, and wife Tamara announce a daughter, Sara Faith, born April 23, 2012. The family resides in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Melissa A. (Mullen) Burds, B.S.N., 2006, and **Patrick W. Burds, B.B.A., 2008**, announce a son, Bradley Walsh, born July 3, 2012. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Lauren D. Lehr, B.S., 2006, and **Aaron R. Lehr, B.S., 2007**, announce a daughter, Lucy Joy, born July 7, 2012. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Amanda C. (White) McLendon, B.A., 2006, and husband Shawn announce a daughter, Izabela Christine, born November 16, 2011. The family resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jennifer K. Twilling, M.Ed., 2006, and husband Steve announce triplet sons, Joshua Allen, Matthew Elliott and Caleb Michael, born August 16, 2011. The family resides in Caledonia.

Kathryn E. (Burrous) Chavanak, B.S., 2007, and husband Andrew announce a daughter, Evelyn Elizabeth, born January 15, 2012. The family resides in Falls City, Nebraska.

Angela M. (Hendley) Hickmott, B.S., 2007, and husband Ryan announce a son, Brady Charles,

born July 28, 2012. The family resides in Tucson, Arizona.

Lisa R. (Heeter) Hyma, B.A., 2007, and husband Kyle announce a son, Titus Dale, born June 12, 2012. The family resides in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Stephanie N. Novosad, B.B.A., 2007, and **Jeffrey A. Novosad, M.S.A., 2008**, announce a daughter, Kennedy Skye, born June 12, 2012. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Megan J. VanKoevering, B.S., 2007, announces a son, Adam Sebastian, born January 8, 2012. The family resides in St. Joseph.

Gregory B. Griffith, B.S., 2008, and wife Sherry announce a son, Logan Matthew, born March 1, 2012. The family resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

Amy M. Klump, B.S., 2008, and **Matthew D. Klump, B.S., 2008**, announce a son, Benjamin Robert, born April 26, 2012. The family resides in Flushing.

Jessica A. (Franks) Rutenbar, B.A., 2008, and **Andrew D. Rutenbar, B.S., 2009**, announce a daughter, Tenley, born June 7, 2012. The family resides in Sturgis.

Dana J. (Hansen) Simon, B.S., 2008, and husband Dave announce a daughter, Maren Jean, born May 30, 2012. The family resides in Newaygo.

Cassie A. (Pease) Westgate, B.S., 2008, and husband Billy announce a daughter, Sadie Ann, born May 22, 2012. The family resides in Newaygo.

Kathryn M. (McFadden) Zambon, B.B.A., 2008, and husband Patrick announce a son, Michael Robert, born November 5, 2011. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Lisa J. Farr, B.S., 2009, announces a son, Noah Michael, born June 12, 2012. The family resides in Jenison.

Nicole M. Gardner-Morazan, B.A., 2009, and husband Miguel announce a son, Miguel Enrique, born May 22, 2012. Miguel is welcomed by siblings Alejandro and Angelica. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Jenna M. (Fitch) McFarland, B.A., 2009, and husband David announce a daughter, Peyton Elise, born April 29, 2011. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Alan Klein, B.S., 2010, and wife Megan Lavell announce a son, Ryan Patrick, born May 31, 2012. The family resides in Hastings.

Sarah A. (McDowell) Salerno, B.A., 2010, and **Stephen A. Salerno, B.S., 2008**, announce a son, Anthony John, born June 2, 2012. The family resides in Northville.

Kristin M. (McBarnes) Blair, B.S.N., 2011, and **Sean M. Blair, B.S., 2010**, announce a daughter, Lillian Kathryn Marie, born September 21, 2011. The family resides in Wyoming.

Justin M. Sherrod, B.S., 2011, and wife Tara announce a daughter, Reegan Lynne, born December 8, 2011. The family resides in Jenison.

IN MEMORIAM

1960s

John P. Apol, B.A., 1969, of Charlevoix, on July 1, 2012.

1970s

Marilyn R. Mergener, B.S., 1971, of Coopersville, on November 23, 2011.

Russell L. Rondeau, B.S., 1975, of Holland, on July 31, 2012.

1980s

Obed Albrie Love, Jr., B.P.A., 1983, M.Ed., 1994, of Grand Rapids, on July 18, 2012.

Ruth A. Paauwe, B.A., 1988, of Satellite Beach, Florida, on June 11, 2012.

1990s

Renee L. (Bird) Martuch, B.S.N., 1990, of Frankenmuth, on June 8, 2012.

Kimberly S. Betten, B.S., 1992, of Zeeland, on June 11, 2012.

Jeffrey A. Jordan, B.B.A., 1997, of Grand Haven, on July 26, 2012.

2000s

Kurt R. May, B.B.A., 2011, of Rockford, on May 25, 2012.

STAY INFORMED. STAY INVOLVED. STAY CONNECTED.

Keep your Alumni Association in the know.

Please contact the Alumni Relations staff any time your family, career, education status or address changes.

- Call (800) 558-0541
- Email alumni@gvsu.edu
- Visit www.gvsu.edu/alumni and click "Stay Connected."



Best in show

Love for family pet
grows into training champions

— by Nate Hoekstra



When Anne and Bart Merkle first got a dog for their five children in 1985, neither of them had any idea that 27 years later, they'd be raising champion show dogs and training them to compete as AnnaBar Labradors.

The Merkles said their love for their Labrador Retrievers stems from Chelsea, their first yellow Labrador.

"She was always very calm and well-mannered, a very family-friendly dog," Anne said. "She was a great pet for us and for our kids."

That passion for the breed has carried through to present day — now the Merkles breed dogs, and the puppies are shown by Anne, sold to people looking for new pets, or donated to Paws With A Cause to become assistance dogs for people with disabilities.

Anne, an associate librarian at Grand Valley, is more involved with the dogs on a day-to-day basis than is Bart, vice provost for student affairs and dean of students. She works with their family dogs to train for agility contests, where the dogs run a course with obstacles, trying to get a "clean run" in the fastest time. She also works with the dogs that are show-ready — several of the family dogs are champions in the show ring.

Anne trains the dogs in stages, starting with the puppies when they're about eight weeks old. It begins simply, with making the puppy sit before eating, but over time they progress to a "down" and then to a "sit and stay" command, she said. Taking walks also serves as training time. They're instructed to walk to the left and behave, and to sit when they're stopped.

Little treats help the dogs



photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

On page 38, Bart and Anne Merkle walk with family dog Laker. Above, Bart looks on from a distance while Anne (not pictured) directs Logan through an agility course.

learn. "Labradors love food, so our dogs are continually rewarded with treats during training," she said.

Anne shows the dogs herself in local competitions, but for shows far away, the dogs will go with a professional dog handler who will show several dogs at the same event. "The agility events are usually local, but I have attended them throughout the state," Anne said. "As the dogs and I get better at it, we hope to travel more to compete, even to events that are out of state."

The Labs the Merkles breed are big, stocky dogs, with large barrel chests and massive paws, often referred to as English-bred Labs. Anne said she likes these traits, whereas other types of purebred Labs (like American-bred Labs) are sleeker and have longer, more pointed noses. The specific type the Merkles breed generally end up being quite large, with females weighing about 65 pounds, and males averaging anywhere from 75 to 80 pounds when fully grown.

"They're big dogs, but there aren't kinder animals out there than our Labs," Bart said. "They have distinct personalities, and

we love each one of them."

The demeanor of the Labs that the Merkles love is a big draw for many other families when looking for pets — the Labrador Retriever has been the top dog breed in the nation for the past 21 years, according to the American Kennel Club.

When choosing an animal to breed, Anne said she looks for healthy qualities in the dog, including hips, elbows, heart strength and eyes. Over the years she's been able to determine which animals should be bred together to get the most gentle, smart, good-tempered dogs possible.

She makes the determination based upon traits of both parents, trying to pair animals that will produce what the AKC calls the breed standard, or the standard dogs are judged against in conformation shows.

"Breeding medically sound dogs that have attributes that complement each other is the way a breeder tries to produce puppies that are as close to the breed standard as possible," Anne said. "When my dog earns the required points in the conformation 'show' ring to become a champion, then the

dog has met the AKC standard and I feel I can breed the dog with confidence."

Every litter of puppies they breed also helps an organization that uses the animals for a good cause. The Merkles pick at least one puppy from each litter to be fostered with a family who will raise it for Paws With A Cause, a local organization that specializes in raising assistance dogs for people with disabilities.

The Merkles raise the puppies to about seven weeks before they either go to a home or to Paws. One of their dogs, whose full name is "CH AnnaBar Louie Laker CGC RN," is the father to many Paws puppies since they use him regularly in their breeding program.

The Merkles currently have several dogs at home, along with three horses, and a mini-horse. They plan to keep breeding Labs so Anne can continue working with a few of the dogs on agility and show training.

The dogs, including Louie Laker, MacGyver (MAC), Landon, Logan and Chloe, are family. The Merkles said they'll continue to have Labs around for their spirit, love and companionship.

Laker nation

The second-biggest crowd, at 15,139, in Lubbers Stadium history watched the Lakers win their home opener against Notre Dame (Ohio), 83-46. Fans also enjoyed new renovations, including 2,000 more seats.

photo courtesy of Sports Information

