

GRAND VALLEY

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2011



Internships go global

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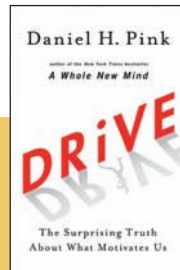
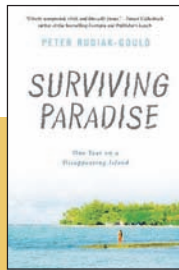
Bryan Brown relaxes in Spain where he worked as
an intern. Read more about global internships on
page 18.

On these pages:

photo by Amanda Pitts
Student Justin Hackett practices on the double
mini-trampoline at a Kalamazoo training facility,
preparing for the Olympics. More on page 38.



The *Grand Valley Magazine* is printed on paper
manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable
energy (wind, hydro, and biogas), and includes a minimum of 10%
postconsumer recovered fiber. Trees used to manufacture this paper
are certified from sustainably managed forests.



Bookmarks

Looking for a good book? Check out these recommendations from Grand Valley staff members:

Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007)

by Saidiya Hartman

This book is a recent favorite of Jeanne Arnold, vice president for Inclusion and Equity. She said Hartman did a masterful job of telling the story of her own personal search for belonging while also relating the powerful narrative of Africans who were taken from Ghana and sold into slavery. “As an African American woman, I felt as if I was reading my own story,” said Arnold.

Surviving Paradise: One Year on a Disappearing Island

(Union Square Press, 2009)

by Peter Rudiak-Gould

Valerie Stoelzel, concert and arts information coordinator for the Department of Music, was drawn to this book having traveled to the Marshall Islands in 1999 for the adoption of her son. At 21, the author traveled to Ujae — one of the most remote islands — to teach English. He quickly learned “what looked like paradise was actually one of the hardest places on earth to live.” After dealing with loneliness and isolation, the author fully embraced the island’s people and culture. Stoelzel said his book is a humorous, sensitive diary filled with adventure and clarity of descriptions of the island, its people and their culture.

Drive: The Surprising Truth about What Motivates Us

(Penguin Group, 2011)

by Daniel H. Pink

Robert P. Smart, professor of chemistry and executive director of the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, enjoys reading nonfiction books. He recommends this new book from the same author of the ground-breaking best-seller *A Whole New Mind*. His new big idea book is billed as a paradigm: changing examination of what truly motivates us and how to harness that knowledge to find greater satisfaction in our lives and our work.

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Haas reacts to proposed state budget cuts

When he testified before the state House Higher Education Subcommittee, President Thomas J. Haas said the state’s appropriation has largely privatized Grand Valley.

Haas spoke in Lansing on March 2, reacting to Gov. Snyder’s higher education budget proposal.

“If the proposed executive budget is adopted, the taxpayers’ share of Grand Valley’s operating budget will be 17 percent,” said Haas. “In spite of this development, or perhaps because of it, we have always had to live within our means. We cut millions from our budgets in each of the last two years. We levy a tuition rate that is below the state

average and in the last five years, we’ve increased student financial aid by 55 percent.”

Haas reminded legislators about the current salary freeze and said that the Board of Trustees approved freezing campus housing rates for next year at the 2010 level. He said while the state’s investment in Grand Valley is shrinking, the university is doing even more to help the state.

Grand Valley’s administrative costs, as a part of the budget, are actually unchanged from 1994-1995, while at the same time, the university’s cost per degree awarded has dropped by 15 percent.

Student with Duchenne’s earns

Earning a bachelor’s degree is a high point in the lives of many Grand Valley graduates. For Jim Albright and his family, it was a milestone that once seemed impossible.

Albright, 21, suffers from Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a disorder that involves rapidly worsening muscle weakness. The average life expectancy of people with DMD often ranges to the mid-20s.

President Thomas J. Haas and Provost Gayle R. Davis presented Albright with a bachelor’s degree in computer science during a private ceremony on February 17 in Seidman House on the Allendale Campus. Albright, a senior,

was scheduled to participate in April’s commencement ceremony but his mother said they did not want to wait that long.

“We live with the unknown every day,” said Deb Albright.

Albright has beaten the odds of DMD throughout his life. Diagnosed with the disorder at age 4, he was using a wheelchair by 7. While many boys with DMD do not finish high school, Albright graduated from Hudsonville High School when he was 16. He was homeschooled by his mother, who used the curriculums of both Freedom Baptist and Hudsonville schools.

“He was working year-round to get through because one of his friends with Duchenne’s died at 14,” Deb Albright said. “So many of these boys never finish high

Board of Trustees recognizes Johnson, new members

Grand Valley's Board of Trustees recognized the contributions of longtime member Dorothy A. Johnson at the February 11 meeting.

Johnson and Lucille S. Taylor both ended their board terms in December. Johnson, of Grand Haven, began serving as a trustee in 1995 and served as board chair from 2001-2004.

Current board chair Kate Pew Wolters reflected on her friendship with Johnson and said she was always impressed with Johnson's dedication. "Anything Dottie Johnson commits to she commits to 100 percent," Wolters said.

Wolters read a resolution that also recognized the board tenure of Paul Johnson, Dorothy's brother-in-law. Combined, Dorothy and Paul

served on Grand Valley's board for 43 years.

Johnson said while her official Grand Valley responsibility has ended, the university will always hold a special place in her heart. "I will always be here for Grand Valley," she said. Johnson is president emeritus of the Council of Michigan Foundations and the namesake of Grand Valley's Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

Student Senate President Jarrett Martus also read a resolution from the Senate that praised Johnson's dedication to students.

The meeting was the first for new trustees John Kennedy and David Hooker. Kennedy is president and CEO of Autocam; he had served on the board



photo by Amanda Pitts

Student Senate President Jarrett Martus thanks Dorothy A. Johnson for her leadership as a member of the Board of Trustees.

from 2002-2004 and has his family name on the Kennedy Hall of Engineering. Hooker is president and CEO of Frederik Meijer Gardens and

Sculpture Park. His parents, Robert and Judith, are both former trustees and longtime supporters of the university.

diploma early

school." The genetic disorder affects mostly boys.

Albright started taking classes at Grand Valley in January 2007. For almost every course Jim took, Deb was by his side, taking notes and assisting him with his wheelchair and in the restroom. As he and his mother learned to navigate campus, finding the unisex restrooms and wheelchair ramps, Albright became a stronger and stronger advocate for people with disabilities.

He is currently creating a mobile application for smartphones that shows the locations of unisex restrooms, wheelchair ramps and handicapped parking spaces on campus. Through Grand Valley's Mobile Applications and Services Lab, led by associate

professor Jonathan Engelsma, a group of five students is helping Albright develop it.

"It could be used at other universities, amusement parks, airports," Albright said.

He also worked with Facilities Services and building contractors to increase the number of unisex restrooms in Mackinac Hall when that building was undergoing renovation.

"When I started here I didn't think I would make it this far," he said. "Now a lot of stress is lifted and I can get out in the real world and show people with disabilities that they can contribute to society." Albright's goals are not complete; he said he would like to begin working toward a master's degree.



photo by Amanda Pitts

Deb Albright adjusts the graduation tassel for her son, Jim Albright, who received a diploma on February 17.

Ford: 'an honor' to be connected to Hauenstein

Steve Ford said he was honored to accept the first Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship award on behalf of his father, President Gerald R. Ford. Steve, chairman of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, accepted the award at a special ceremony held March 15 in Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center.

"I am humbled to represent our family," said Ford. "Col. Hauenstein, it is an extreme honor for Dad's name to be connected to you. You are both from the same generation, a great generation, the best generation. We have so much to learn from you."

Steve told a group of students in the audience from Gerald R. Ford Middle School that becoming a man or woman of character doesn't happen overnight. "My dad didn't become a great leader or a man of character the day he became

president," Ford said. "Dad developed character when he was young, in seventh or eighth grade like you. He was influenced by great mentors in his life here in Grand Rapids. The seeds you plant today are what you will harvest later."

Ralph Hauenstein said Ford, his longtime friend from high school, was a wonderful man. "I am more than pleased that this award is being given to Jerry," said Hauenstein. "By every measure he meets the highest requirements of this fellowship. I remember Jerry very well. I played football against him 81 years ago — greatest mistake I ever made. We all pay tribute to this great man for his leadership to our country. The bar has been set high for future recipients of this award."

President Thomas J. Haas said the fellowship is Grand Valley's most prestigious



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Pictured from left are President Thomas J. Haas, Steve Ford, Ralph Hauenstein and Gleaves Whitney.

award. "As we celebrate Grand Valley's 50th anniversary, I thought it appropriate to establish Grand Valley's most prestigious fellowship in Ralph Hauenstein's name," said Haas. "Col. Hauenstein is an ethical, effective leader who has made

a significant difference in our world. All of our lives have been enriched by his example of leadership."

The fellowship will be awarded each year to leaders who have led the U.S. at the highest levels.

Opera Theatre collaborates with city ballet troupe

A first-time collaboration between Grand Valley's Opera Theatre and the Grand Rapids Ballet Company brought opportunities in February to experience both art forms during two entertaining productions geared toward families: "Mother Goose" and "The Boy Who Wouldn't Do His Homework." Performances were held at GRBC's Peter Martin Wege Theatre and the Louis Armstrong Theatre on the Allendale Campus.



courtesy photo

Dashboard report underscores university's commitment to academic quality

President Thomas J. Haas said the university's accountability Dashboard Report shows Grand Valley leading other Michigan schools in key performance indicators, underscoring the university's academic quality and its commitment to the state's economic recovery.

When reviewing the past 10 years of higher education growth in Michigan, Grand Valley is the top performer. In the last decade, annual enrollment in Michigan's 15 public universities has increased by more than 25,000. Nearly

6,000, or 23 percent of that increase, was at Grand Valley.

The number of degrees awarded by Michigan's public universities in that decade went up by nearly 10,000. Of that number, Grand Valley had the largest share of increase at 22 percent.

Haas presented the report at the February 11 meeting of the Board of Trustees. "It's proven that a state with more college graduates is healthier economically," Haas said. "Grand Valley is a major partner with the state, as are all

institutions of higher education. We are a huge piece of the economic picture as Michigan looks to a prosperous future and a higher quality of life. We have been doing our Accountability Report for four years in the fall. This dashboard report expands on that and gives a clear picture of Grand Valley's proof of performance when it comes to using resources wisely."

During the same period, Grand Valley has kept tuition below the state average even though it receives the lowest state funding per student.

Haas has testified before state legislative committees, and repeated at the board meeting, that he would reduce tuition by 5 percent if lawmakers would appropriate the minimum floor funding to Grand Valley that they've agreed in principle to award to each student in Michigan.

The Dashboard Report and Accountability Report are online at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

Unique, integrated MBA program offered

Grand Valley is offering a first-of-a-kind master's program that guarantees study abroad, a paid fellowship and a stint in Washington, D.C.

The Seidman College of Business is taking applications for this new, full-time Master of Business Administration program. This integrated and accredited program is the first in West Michigan. The accelerated program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and is designed to give students experiences that will jump-start their careers and provide immediate opportunities for them as business leaders.

The 14-month program is unique in several ways. It is designed for recently graduated business students. Unlike traditional MBA programs, the new program is integrated in nature, using the full business cycle as a framework for lesson plans. Faculty will team-teach their subjects so topics such as raising capital, product launch, and operational management

are integrated into their coursework.

Each student is guaranteed a paid fellowship that will run parallel with classes. This will provide students an opportunity to immediately apply the knowledge they've gained through their studies. Students will also attend the Washington Campus Program in Washington, D.C., to gain knowledge of the inner workings of the American political system and deepen their understanding of the relationship between business and government.

Each student will also participate in a study abroad experience during a module focusing on international business. There is no extra fee to study abroad; the cost is built into the tuition.

"This program offers cutting-edge business knowledge developed in collaboration with business leaders," said H. James Williams, dean of the Seidman College of Business. "Grand Valley is offering a unique opportunity in West Michigan,



photo by Amanda Pitts

At left, Frederic Kraft, professor of marketing, talks with MBA students Joseph Amisi and Morgan Webb in the DeVos Center. Seidman College of Business is accepting applications for a new full-time Master of Business Administration program.

which will take students into area business, Washington and across the globe."

The first cohort is limited to 30 students; the program

will begin June 27. Students interested in the program can call (616) 331-7400 or visit www.gvsu.edu/fimba.



photo by Amanda Pitts

Visitors to ArtPrize look at a sculpture at the DeVos Center. Grand Valley researchers found that the 2010 event had an economic impact of roughly \$7.5 million for the Grand Rapids area.

Results show impact of ArtPrize

Grand Valley researchers have found that during the 2010 ArtPrize roughly 400,000 visitor days generated an estimated economic impact of as much as \$7.5 million for the Grand Rapids area.

Students from Grand Valley's Economics and Hospitality and Tourism Management departments collected data under the supervision of Paul Sicilian, associate professor of economics; Seohee Chang, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management; and Experience Grand Rapids.

The results showed:

- 50 percent of respondents came from outside Grand Rapids (94 percent were Michigan residents);
- 67 percent of non-locals were day-visitors;
- 9.5 percent of non-locals stayed in a hotel/motel or B&B;
- 87.5 percent said that ArtPrize was the primary reason for their trip to Grand Rapids;
- Nearly 44 percent were attending ArtPrize for the first time.

Results also showed direct spending of:

- More than \$2.8 million on food;
- About \$721,000 on lodging;
- Nearly \$589,000 on transportation;
- About \$684,000 on retail purchases;
- And about \$168,000 on tourism.

New director of engineering named

Joe Iannelli has been selected as the new director of Grand Valley's School of Engineering. He succeeds Charlie Standridge, who filled both roles as director of the school and assistant dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

Standridge will resume his role as assistant dean, and Iannelli will officially assume his position July 3.

Iannelli comes from Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, where he served as head of the engineering department for three years and led the establishment of a biomedical engineering program and a 300 percent rise in engineering enrollment. Prior to that, he taught aerospace, biomedical and mechanical engineering for 13 years at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where he also received a doctorate in engineering science and mechanics. He also served as director of the Center of Aeronautics at City University in London for three years.



Joe Iannelli

Born in Susa, Italy, Iannelli received a combined bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Palermo in aeronautical engineering, and earned a post-graduate diploma in fluid dynamics from the von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics, a NATO research institute near Brussels.

Iannelli said he wants to help Grand Valley receive more national attention.

"A compelling university vision, integration of liberal arts in the educational process, study abroad opportunities, state-of-the-art facilities, and excellent faculty, staff and academic programs, are all elements that I believe make Grand Valley an emerging leader of universities in the U.S.," he said.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said, "Paired with his extensive experience in the field and his passion for higher education, I am very optimistic that Joe will provide wonderful guidance and direction for the faculty, staff and students here."

Chevy Volt visits MAREC

A silver Chevrolet Volt visited Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center March 18. It was the first vehicle to be charged at Grand Valley's first electric vehicle charging station.

The visit was part of a local tour facilitated by the *Muskegon Chronicle*. Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC, took the Volt for a test drive to Muskegon

Community College and back. "It runs as quiet as a golf cart," he said. "The engine is silent, and at one point I forgot whether the car was on or not."

The charging station at Grand Valley can charge two vehicles at once; 220 volts charges up to 12 miles per half hour, 110 volts charges five miles per half hour. For more on MAREC, see page 28.

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Get your first book or purchase another to give the story of Grand Valley to a friend or new graduate. Find the commemorative book and other GVSU 50th anniversary memorabilia by visiting www.gvsu.edu/anniversary and clicking "Share the Spirit."



First online master's degree offered

Grand Valley will offer its first completely online program — a master's degree in educational technology through the College of Education. Through this program, educators at all levels will learn how to integrate and maximize technology use in instructional settings.

"We created this online program to reach students who might not benefit from existing Grand Valley offerings, due to living at a distance from our campus," said Andrew Topper, associate professor of education. "When we designed this new program, we started by building on the high quality of our existing degree."

The master's degree is meant for those living outside of Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties. The program is also offered as a hybrid (online and face-to-face)

option for those who reside in or close to the Grand Rapids area. The program will allow teachers to access cutting-edge information and build ongoing learning communities and networks.

"I create community in my online classes," said Sean Lancaster, associate professor of education. "That social component contributes to a positive online learning experience. The anytime-anywhere learning aspect of our online program also allows for the kinds of flexibility that busy adults need."

The program prepares teachers and leaders to enhance the academic and personal potential of their students and to evaluate the social and ethical implications of educational policies and practices. Content



courtesy photo

Sean Lancaster, associate professor of education, delivers a podcast. The College of Education will offer a new online master's degree program.

covers the educational application of technology, such as computers and the

Internet, for professional and instructional purposes.



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Grand Valley student Emma Carlton, back row, third from left, stands with the young deaf students and teachers she worked with on a Very Special Arts project. The group also toured Louis Armstrong Theatre, led by Technical Director Chris Mahlmann, back row, second from left.

Deaf students hear the call of theater through unique playwriting project — by Mary Isca Pirkola

Most of the teenage students in the classroom thought their lessons on theater would be about movies. Yet through a unique, 10-week class, these same students not only learned about live theater as a performing art but also became playwrights and actors, performing their own works on the stage at Dog Story Theatre in Grand Rapids. What made the transformative experience even more challenging was that all of the students were born profoundly deaf.

The class was a collaborative project with the Shawnee Park School Oral/Deaf Program at the CA Frost School in Grand Rapids. All of the students wear hearing aids or have cochlear implants and choose not to rely on sign language as their main form of communication. Instead, they often read lips and work to use their voices, which can be difficult for others to understand.

The concept for the class began during a casual conversation between Austin Bunn, Grand Valley assistant professor of writing, and Michele Suchovsky, executive

director of Very Special Arts of Grand Rapids, a nonprofit organization that brings together artists, art projects, teachers and students with disabilities. Soon they developed “Sharing Our Voices: The Playwright Project.”

Both Bunn and Suchovsky understood the positive ways that art helps with brain development and the decision-making skills of young people during crucial stages in their growth. Bunn was also interested in pairing community outreach efforts with learning opportunities. He brought in Jean Marie-Bahle, theater professor at Hope College, and they each invited a participant: Emma Carlton, a Grand Valley senior creative writing major from Grand Rapids, and Chris Grooms, an actor and director who also serves as the business and marketing director for Circle Theatre.

The foursome did a site visit, met with the classroom teachers Cindy Cafmeyer and Julie Swanson and worked with VSA to develop ideas for the class. They also consulted with Alli Metz, a visiting professor at Grand Valley, who has worked

in applied theater and with deaf students in Texas.

“The playwriting class has broadened the life experiences of our hearing impaired students and provided them with motivation to improve their auditory, speech and language skills, which are the main focus for our oral deaf program,” said Cafmeyer. “We were very impressed with the steady building of concepts and skills that continued to develop from each week’s lesson.”

For 90 minutes each Wednesday morning, Carlton worked with students on enunciation, breath support and projection, which are on-going struggles for deaf students who are learning how to speak and communicate effectively. Then the class turned to writing. Over the semester they learned all aspects of telling a story and worked hard at incorporating them into their own scripts.

“To make a cohesive class every week, we followed a theme that related both to theater and writing,” said Carlton.

The class also took a field trip to Grand Valley’s Louis Armstrong Theatre. Technical

Director Chris Mahlmann provided a tour of the backstage areas, the scene shop, costume shop and tech booth.

Carlton said she spent most of her own teenage years wanting to be an actress. Midway through college, she decided she wanted to be a writer instead. It hadn’t occurred to her until recently that she could be involved in both. Now, she has also taken an interest in teaching.

“This has been a huge opportunity for me, as well as an incredible challenge,” Carlton said. “Going into this project, I had no idea how to talk to them and I was so afraid we just wouldn’t be able to understand each other. But it didn’t really take long to connect with them. These kids are all amazing. They’re all so nice, and so unbelievably willing to learn. They want to know and understand everything.”

Visit www.vsa-gr.org to learn more about VSA Grand Rapids, and its parent organization, VSA International, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Rookie of the year continues to set high goals

— by Michele Coffill

From playing Little League baseball to competing with her older brothers in home run contests, Katie Martin set the stage well to receive a top Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honor.

The sophomore pitcher/infielder was named GLIAC Freshman of the Year in 2010, only the second Grand Valley softball player to ever receive the award. The Ann Arbor native had a tremendous rookie season, starting all games and leading the Lakers in batting average while maintaining a 10-5 record as a pitcher.

“It was really quite an honor,” Martin said of the award. “Doc (Coach Doug Woods) said I would be nominated for the award but I really didn’t think anything of it until he told me I had won.”

Woods, who is beginning his 21st year as head coach, said he’s not surprised that Martin had such an outstanding year and was able to transition well as a freshman.

“Katie is an outstanding player and person,” Woods said. “We thought she would be able to jump in and hit college pitching right away. When we saw her at practices, the other coaches and I were very pleased with her fielding.”

Not one to rest on her laurels, Martin said she set lofty goals for herself this season. “I want to strive for my best and not compare myself to others. As for

my pitching, I want to work on the timing of my change-up,” she said.

Martin’s fastball can reach speeds up to 62 mph, although she called her curve and drop ball her best pitches. Toward the end of last season, Martin suffered a foot injury that kept her out of the rotation but she was still able to play third base.

Although she returned this season at full strength, Martin’s injury may work to the Lakers’ advantage, according to Woods. “Katie has good movement on her pitches. With the speed that

she throws, she will be difficult to hit, even with the teams that have seen her before,” he said. “On the bright side of her foot injury, some conference teams have not batted against her.”

Martin played high school softball at Ann Arbor Pioneer and also varsity field

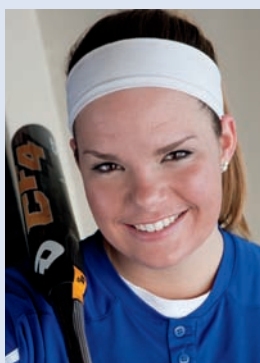
hockey for a team that went to the state championships for three straight years. Martin practically grew up holding a baseball. Her brother, Scott, played baseball at Wayne State University and her other brother, Alex, played at the University of Michigan.

“My dad taught me how to hit and from there it was T-ball, then baseball on a boys’ team, then I started playing on a travel softball team,” she said. Martin said at first she took a little ribbing from the boys on her baseball team but the teasing stopped after they saw her play.

“Also, my brothers and I used to play a lot of pickup games and there were home run derbies in our backyard,” she said.

Martin, a business major, said playing sports during high school presented good lessons in time management, skills she

continues today. “Learning how to study while you’re on the road took some getting used to; but with our team, there’s a lot of encouragement to study and usually a study group going on in the hotel lobby,” she said.



photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Katie Martin brings the heat during practice at the Laker Turf Building. The sophomore was named GLIAC Freshman of the Year last season.



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Jason Marvin, '97, is a partner at Plante & Moran. The firm lists Grand Valley as one of its primary recruiting schools.

Seidman graduates in high demand

Seidman College of Business graduates have a competitive advantage in the workplace, and Jason Marvin, '97, knows this from personal experience.

"Being a Seidman graduate has definitely been an advantage for me in my career," he said. "My experiences and the personal relationships I built there gave me a head start."

Those factors helped lead to Marvin's current position as a partner at Plante & Moran, the country's 12th largest certified public accounting and business advisory firm. The company, named by *Fortune Magazine* as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" for 13 consecutive years, has 21 offices in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois and international offices in Shanghai, China; Monterrey, Mexico; and Mumbai, India. More than 1,600 professionals work for

Plante & Moran — with a large number coming from Seidman.

"Grand Valley, and more specifically the Seidman College of Business, is one of the top five schools we recruit from," Marvin said. "Our firm currently has seven partners, five interns and 50 staff members who attended the university."

This large community of Grand Valley alumni is a testament to Plante & Moran's experience with the university and its Seidman students. "Plante & Moran has always had success with Seidman graduates," he said. "They are well prepared, high achievers and fit with our culture. They also have strong communication and relationship-building skills."

Marvin said he feels that this is a result of both the college's curriculum and Grand Valley's liberal education foundation.

"Our founder, Frank Moran, was a philosophy major in college," he said. "That type of liberal arts background works great in our profession because it gives you the ability to understand yourself and those around you. And that is one of the necessary skills in today's changing business world."

As a member of Seidman's Accounting Advisory Board, Marvin is working to ensure

that the college's curriculum stays future focused.

"The way business is done is evolving every day, and future leaders need the ability to adapt to this," he said. "Part of my role as a member of the Advisory Board is to anticipate what will be needed and help the college stay current with trends. We want students to be prepared when they make their transition to the professional world, and

"The Seidman College of Business has a reputation of forward thinking — always looking ahead to benefit its programs, students and community."

— Jason Marvin, '97, member of Seidman's Accounting Advisory Board



Jeff Johnson, '11, is an intern at Plante & Moran and was hired for a full-time position that will start in August, following his CPA exam.

we are working to make the curriculum reflect that goal.”

Part of that work involves strengthening the communications core for students within the college, a skill Marvin said he views as integral in the future of business.

“Communication skills are key,” he said. “Public accounting, and business in general, is all about servicing a customer and building relationships. With the advancements being made in Seidman’s curriculum, graduates will be better equipped for success.”

He cited that foresight as one of the reasons that Seidman is a top business school and Grand Valley is an asset to the entire state.

“Grand Valley has been extremely successful and in many ways acted as a buoy for West Michigan through this rough economy,” he said. “The same can be said for the Seidman College of Business. It has a reputation of forward

thinking — always looking ahead to benefit its programs, students and community.”

When the L. William Seidman Center is built to house the Seidman College of Business, Marvin said the reputation will continue to grow. He said when the Seidman Center is completed, it will be easier for business leaders to access its resources, citing the Secchia Breakfast Series, the Small Business and Technology Development Center and the Family Owned Business Institute as a few of the many programs his clients utilize.

For Marvin, these programs and the continuous pool of qualified and talented students are among the many reasons he supports the university. But his main reason is more personal. “I choose to support Grand Valley because Grand Valley supported me,” he said. “And being involved is the best way that I can show my appreciation.”

Giving Matters

Seidman groundbreaking set

The groundbreaking for the L. William Seidman Center will be held on May 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. For more information contact Ashley Riley at (616) 331-6535. Though the groundbreaking will be held this spring, the campaign is not over and private gifts are still needed to complete the funding for the center. Visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/giveonline to give, or learn more at www.gvsu.edu/giving/seidmancenter.

Scholarship support increases

Grand Valley alumni, faculty and staff members, community members and friends have collectively given more than \$1 million to scholarship funds since July 1, 2010. Included in that amount are 19 new scholarships that will create new opportunities and rewards for talented students and those with stellar academic records. To find out how you can establish a scholarship, visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/scholarships.

Deadline nears for Alumni Challenge

With a June 30 deadline approaching, now is the time to take advantage of the Alumni Challenge. All alumni gifts to the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons will be matched.

In addition, alumni gifts will be recognized on the donor wall in the new library’s main entrance and gifts of \$1,000 or more will receive special recognition in the Alumni Leadership Area. Give today and join the many alumni who have already participated. For more information visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/pewlibrary.

Corporate giving rises

As Grand Valley’s reputation as an asset for Michigan continues to grow, so does corporate giving. From 2009, private gifts from businesses and other organizations have more than doubled — directly benefiting scholarships, endowment funds, the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons and the L. William Seidman Center.

Corporate giving is increasing as companies recognize their gifts as investments that will have tremendous impact on the West Michigan economy. Last year Grand Valley had an estimated economic impact of \$680 million in West Michigan. Local organizations employ more than 6,000 Grand Valley interns and 84 percent of Grand Valley’s graduates stay in Michigan. For more information on the university’s contribution to the region and state visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/roi.



At Home *on the* Range

**Alumnus hunter, chef, author
and TV host captures sustainable
hunting practices** — by Mary Isca Pirkola

Grand Valley alumnus Steven Rinella has stalked buffalo in the Alaskan wilderness, been zapped by electric eel while fishing in Guyana, and dressed in Scottish tweeds to shoot red deer on a Highlands estate. He's also cooked and eaten all of the above, and plenty more.

Producers for television's Travel Channel have helped Rinella feed his passions, so to speak, with an eight-episode series "The Wild Within," which aired earlier this year. Each show featured Rinella's hunting expedition in such diverse locations as Alaska, Hawaii, Texas, Guyana and Scotland, among others.

"It was a blast," said Rinella. "All of the shows culminated



all photos courtesy of Steven Rinella

On page 14, Steven Rinella carries a pacu he bow-killed on the Rewa River rapids, in Guyana, South America. Above, he bags a bull caribou in Alaska.

with cooking and eating what we hunted.”

Though “The Wild Within” locations were often exotic, the West Michigan native has been what he calls “an ethical hunter and fisherman” since his childhood days in Twin Lake. “My dad, brothers and I were all avid hunters/gatherers, and we cooked up whatever we brought home, from deer heart to wild mushrooms to fish,” said Rinella.

Though his dad died in 2003, Rinella and his brothers have continued their passion for hunting in the wild and integrated it into their careers — he as a writer in New York, and his brothers as ecologists in Alaska and Montana.

Rinella has captured his

adventures, hunting philosophy and culinary advice in two successful books, and has published compelling essays in magazines ranging from the *New Yorker* and *Field & Stream*, to *Glamour* and *O, the Oprah Magazine*. In his June 15, 2010 *Oprah* article, “The Case for Responsible Meat-Eating,” he wrote: “I seldom admit the most compelling reason for hunting: it’s satisfying. I’m afraid people will think I take pleasure in killing animals, which is actually the most emotionally complex element of maintaining what I believe to be an ethically cohesive existence. Because I choose to eat meat, I assume responsibility for acquiring it, rather than entrusting it to

proxy executioners, processors, packagers, and distributors.”

Recollections of Grand Valley

Rinella graduated from Reeths-Puffer High School in 1992, and then attended community college. He transferred to Grand Valley as an English major with an emphasis in practical writing and graduated in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree.

Rinella recalled that while at Grand Valley, he worked as a Writing Center tutor in the Eberhard Center and could look out the window at his favorite fishing spot in the Grand River. He often fished for salmon near the Sixth Street dam and said

there probably is still a reel lying underwater somewhere from when he slipped on the rocks and dropped it while trying to save himself.

“At first I thought college was so easy,” said Rinella. “But then at Grand Valley I had to apply myself academically — I loved it.” He said his broad liberal arts education expanded his world view and established him as a lifelong learner. “Some of the biggest encouragement I ever got while in college was from Sharon Whitehill, an English professor. She introduced me to the writing of Mary Renault in a Greek mythology class — it was phenomenal,” he said. He also remembers the encouragement he received from writing



Rinella kills a ptarmigan while hunting Dall sheep in Alaska.

“To me, food will be the salvation of hunting — and hunters, more than anybody, need to clarify that connection to others.”

— Steven Rinella

professor Roger Gilles about applying to graduate school writing programs. Rinella earned an MFA from the University of Montana in 2000. “Roger turned me on to a lot of good writers, some who I still reference. A lot of times, you don’t realize the writers who have influenced you until much later,” he said.

Rinella credits authors Ian Frazier for providing many professional connections, and Michigan native Jim Harrison for writing blurbs about Rinella’s books. “Though I have never actually met Harrison, I admire him as a hunter, cook and writer. He’s a national treasure and I’m so glad Grand Valley has his papers in the archives,” Rinella said. (See www.gvsu.edu/library/specialcollections.)

Pairing two passions

A *Scavenger’s Guide to Haute Cuisine* (2006) was Rinella’s first book, pairing his passion for reading and writing with hunting and cooking. It relates

the many challenges he faced to secure all the ingredients necessary to prepare a 45-course meal, with recipes drawn from *Le Guide Culinaire*, published in 1903 by Auguste Escoffier.

“Most people have heard the song ‘Puttin’ on the Ritz,’ based on the hotelier Caesar Ritz, but it was his business partner Escoffier who ran the kitchens in the hotels,” said Rinella. “He came up with Grand Marnier. He invented Melba toast and peach Melba, both named after his good friend Nellie Melba, the opera singer.”

It took Rinella a year of hunting and gathering to secure all the ingredients, which culminated in a three-day meal. “I did it in Miles City, Montana, with my two brothers and a lot of friends who came in from various states. We did 15 courses each day for three days. I had even raised pigeons for Escoffier’s recipe for squab, which are small street pigeons,” he said.

“There were things that you knew would be good, and then

there were things that you thought would be bad, but they turned out to be really good, like poached antelope bladders, or street pigeons. And then there were things you knew sounded bad and were, like elk liver soufflé and wild boar kidney pudding.”

His second book, the memoir *American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon* (2009), has been cited as both a captivating narrative and a book of environmental and historical significance. The idea for this book came from his winning a lottery to hunt for wild buffalo, or American bison, in the Alaskan wilderness.

“Buffalo are not native to Alaska, they had gone extinct there long before European settlers came there,” Rinella said. “In the 1920s they let some loose up there, but they don’t want them to become too abundant and overtake native species, such as moose or caribou. So to control these herds, they have annual lotteries to allow a number of hunters in.” Rinella said in 2005, there were

1,303 applicants for 24 permits. “They allow 24, because the success rate of hunters is so low. The year I went, only four of us got a buffalo.”

In that book Rinella also delved into some of the misconceptions people have about buffalo and hunters, while acknowledging a history of past mistakes, when buffalo were nearly annihilated. He also discusses the historical Detroit Carbon Works, a “bone charcoal” plant that made fortunes in the late 1800s by turning millions of tons of buffalo bones into bone meal, black dye, and fine china. “They used to produce 650 tons of bone ash every year, using bones shipped from the Western Plains,” he said. “Even today, bone ash is mixed with vegetable oil to create realistic looking oil spills in the film industry.”

Rinella also explored how the buffalo is linked to our national identity and history, from archeological discoveries of bone artifacts used by the



earliest people, to the image on the nickel coin.

"As a writer, I try to focus on some aspect of the human condition and also feel like I need to explain hunting," said Rinella. "There are a lot of reasons people have misunderstandings about hunting. Why not have a civilized examination of hunting, with intelligent discussion, without fear mongering from either side?"

As the host of "The Wild Within," Rinella made sure the eight hour-long episodes focused on the connection between hunting, fishing and food, as well as the importance of sustaining food sources.

"In the anthropological sense, that is what we used to do," said Rinella. "To me, food will be the salvation of hunting — and hunters, more than anybody, need to clarify that connection to others."

The series took four months to film and a lot of travel. Rinella said it was a blast, but that he was also glad to get back to the home front, with his wife, Katie, and their young son, Jim.

"My wife eats everything I make, but won't cook anything except baby food," he said. "She eats take-out when I'm gone and it just kills me."

To learn more about Rinella visit www.stevenrinella.com.



At top, 'The Wild Within' crew films Rinella making arrows with his Makushi guide in Guyana, South America. Above, Rinella prepares a crown rack of moose for fire-roasting in Alberta, Canada.



INTERNSHIPS OPEN DOORS TO JOBS

Students find unique experiences
around the world — by Dottie Barnes





courtesy photos

Amanda Bradley and Joshua Plona are interns at Booking.com, a Priceline company. They will work at the company's headquarters in Amsterdam this summer. On page 18, Cody Eding is pictured at the National Baseball Hall of Fame holding a bat that belonged to Babe Ruth.

Working overseas, creating budgets and managing sales — today's internships for Grand Valley students are not the "make copies or get coffee" positions some might imagine. These internships are incredible learning opportunities with real career potential.

"The internship experience has always been a critical piece for a resume but that experience has changed over the years," said Troy Farley, director of Career Services. "It's not like job shadowing anymore. During internships, students are creating things, doing real work, making a difference at companies."

Farley said interns now serve more like part-time employees and students should treat the experience like a two- or three-month job interview. "It's a competitive marketplace and students have to differentiate

themselves. Many students have good grades and volunteer, but employers have a void to fill and want to find talented workers. They want to know how the student made a difference at the company where he or she did their internship," he said.

With that in mind, the Seidman College of Business developed an international internship model as a way to increase the talent pool of West Michigan international business professionals. Special Programs Coordinator Alexandra Schmid said the program provides a comprehensive professional work experience not only in the U.S. but overseas.

"This is especially important for those majoring in international business," said Schmid. "We're working with local companies identifying ways our students can help them grow internationally."

Schmid said Booking.com in

Wyoming, a Priceline company, was the first local company to commit to the program.

"The company created an internship for two of our international business majors," she said. "After training locally for a few months, they will then have the opportunity to travel overseas to work at the company's headquarters."

"Many of our local companies do business overseas; our students may be living and working in Michigan but our job is to prepare them for future jobs in international business. As more Michigan companies expand operations outside of the U.S., our students must be prepared for the challenges of doing business on an international level. They must understand cultural differences and develop a global mindset."

Students Amanda Bradley and Joshua Plona worked at Booking.com during the winter

semester and will spend this summer at the company's headquarters in Amsterdam.

Bradley, a marketing and international business major from DeWitt, said they worked 20 hours a week beginning in January, learning every aspect of the company.

"We rotated among all the departments," she said. "From customer service to communications to human resources and procedures and policies. We have also spent time communicating with the global offices learning how they operate in preparation for spending six weeks in Amsterdam."

Bradley said she hopes after gaining so much experience and knowledge about the company she'll be hired at the end of her internship.

Farley said that often is a natural transition. "After investing a lot of time and



**“THIS WASN’T A PHONE CALL
TO A FRIEND WHO GOT ME IN ...
I WORKED HARD, TRAVELED
AND PROVED MYSELF TO PEOPLE
WHO WERE WILLING TO HELP
ME FIND A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.”**

—JASON THOMPSON

energy on training someone, it’s to an employer’s advantage to hire the intern, provided he or she did an excellent job,” he said.

That proved true for Jason Thompson, who did his internship with adidas-Group in Herzogenaurach, Germany. Thompson worked hard to form connections and friendships with people who could help him with his career. He spent time with and earned the trust of a mentor who — through connections of his own — was able to get Thompson’s resume to adidas.

“This wasn’t a phone call to a friend who got me in,” said Thompson. “I worked hard, traveled and proved myself to people who were willing to help me find a good opportunity.”

The Ludington native then worked with Seidman International Business Programs and the Modern Languages and Literatures department to set up a customized program to spend all of 2010 in Germany. He

spent January in language school, then studied for a semester at Grand Valley’s exchange partner institution before working at his internship from June to December.

“At adidas, I worked as a financial controller for the Western European market which has about 240 stores,” said Thompson. “This meant creating budgets, managing weekly and monthly sales and expenditures, compiling reports and determining what action should be taken based on the reports.”

At the end of his internship, the international business and business economics major was offered a job: an eight-month assignment in Portland, Oregon, working as a financial controller for the North American market. “It could only be eight months because I have to return to Grand Valley to finish my degree. I then plan to attend graduate school,” he said.

Thompson, 22, said he’ll keep the door open with adidas. “I have enhanced my analytical

skills, but even more than that, I’ve learned how to work with foreign markets and with people from all over the world. There were 10 people in my department and Germany, Austria, Italy, France and Turkey were represented,” he said.

Thompson helped to get more Grand Valley students connected with adidas. When his co-worker suddenly needed to fill two intern slots, Thompson quickly called Grand Valley. Luis Ballesteros and Kelly Sommers submitted their resumes and were selected as interns for the winter 2011 semester.

Farley agreed that students should seek out their own opportunities, like Thompson did, but added that students can also check with their advisor or make an appointment with Career Services to find out about internships.

Cody Eding, a journalism major from Hamilton, also went solo. He was looking for something unique and started

surfing the Internet. He found the perfect opportunity online.

“I love sports and I love sports writing,” Eding said. “I was on the Internet and saw the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, was looking for interns. I applied online, along with 500 other people. They only had 22 openings and I got one.”

Eding said the 10-week internship allowed him to do real, critical work. “I worked in the communications department doing public relations, writing web materials and handling media requests. I was responsible for managing the media during the Hall of Fame induction in July. It was exciting. There were 18 television stations,” he said.

Eding said he was also responsible for handling the artifacts that came into Cooperstown. “It was amazing. Visitors to the Hall of Fame see about 10 percent of what is really there. I had access to the storage rooms and the full collections,” he said.

Eding said he met Dante Bichette when the former Major League player came in to see his bat and Eding has a picture with the bat used by Babe Ruth to hit 28 home runs before it cracked.

"I'd have to say my favorite part of the internship was when I opened the box that held the ball from Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga's 'imperfect game.' I love being a part of living history," he said.

Another Grand Valley student who found his own opportunity is Bryan Brown. The international relations and advertising major cultivated friendships to secure an internship at Zabala Innovations in Pamplona, Spain. The Hartland native spent two-and-a-half months working for the company in the summer of 2010.

"In Spain, every innovation and research and development proposal has to go through the government for funding," said Brown. "Zabala specializes in writing government proposals for funds and in product management."

Brown was in charge of translating the company's website from Spanish to English, and translating and editing documents. "I was also given the responsibility of researching various forms of renewable energy in the U.S. It was a huge project. I was able to use Grand Valley library guides and databases to compile the information," he said.

Brown said the experience will show potential employers how he can successfully adapt to different cultures and is willing to take on new challenges.

"I learned much more than the duties assigned to me. I learned to adapt to the differences in dress, concept of time, and even facial expressions of the people I



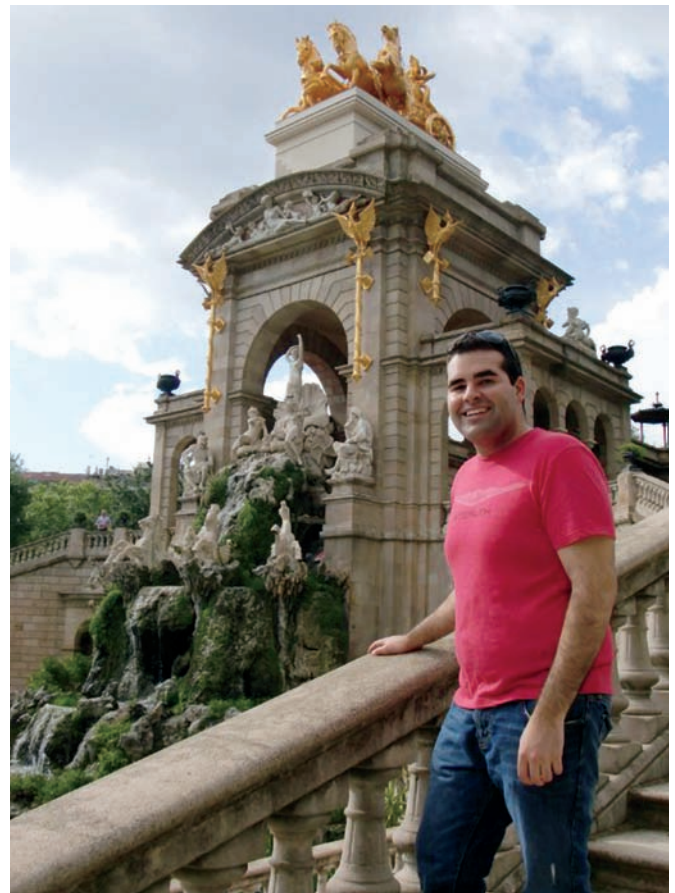
worked with," he said. "I tend to be very expressive and they are not. I tried to tone that down a bit."

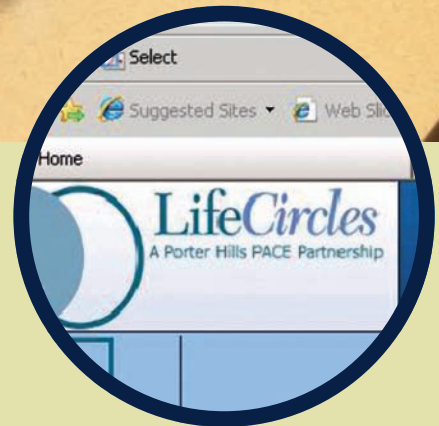
Farley said he tells students they need to put themselves in a position to win. "I encourage students to attend events and meet employers," he said. "Literally hundreds of employers are on our campuses each semester attending events or speaking in classes. Students should introduce themselves to employers and persist, even if rejected a few times."

Farley also advises students there's no such thing as a lucky job search.

courtesy photos

Kelly Sommers and Luis Ballesteros (above) are interns at adidas-Group in Germany. They secured their internships thanks to Jason Thompson (page 20) who interned for adidas last year. At right, Bryan Brown was an intern at Zabala Innovations in Spain.





Beyond the classroom

Computer students get ‘test drive for real world’ at nonprofit — by Leah Zuber

A year ago, recreational therapist Kelly Cotter was recording all patient activities by hand at the adult day care center where she worked.

With walls and cabinets full of records taking up too much space, she and her co-workers at PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) Life Circles in Muskegon found that recording by hand on paper had become tedious and time consuming.

Tired of their outdated process, Cotter contacted her sister, a computer scientist, and asked how hard it would be to set up a computer system for their patient records. “She referred me to the computing program at Grand Valley, so I contacted the school and it took off from there,” Cotter said.

Professor David Lange’s capstone class for senior information systems students is designed to provide students real-world experience by matching them with West Michigan nonprofits that have computing needs.

“I think sometimes there can be a disconnect between academia and the real world, and this class connects the two,” said Lange, who has been teaching the class for more than five years and has overseen more than 40 projects.

He compared the disconnection to a basketball camp. “Monday you learn how to shoot, Tuesday you learn defense, Wednesday you learn how to rebound, and Thursday they tell you to play the game, but how do you do it if you weren’t taught how to combine them?” he said.

Lange explained that most students have already completed an internship by the time they take his course. “My class is more like a ‘group internship,’ similar to many capstone classes at Grand Valley,” he said. “I teach my students the basics, but they have to learn how to effectively work on a team and with a client, solve problems, and meet deadlines on their own.”

Working hard for the experience

Lange takes the first four weeks of the class to teach his students professional skills like project management, technical writing and how to conduct business meetings. Then he splits the class into groups and, without stating the nonprofit names, he writes the type of computing needs they require on a board and the groups choose their clients.

“That worked out well because our decision wasn’t affected by the type of organization; our

choice was based solely on our interests in a specific project,” explained Stephen Hull, student leader of the team that helped Cotter.

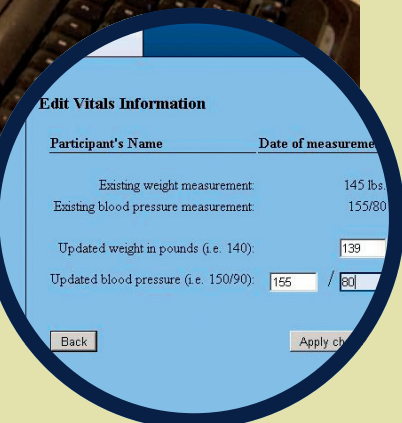
Then the class stops meeting in a classroom and meets with the client on a weekly basis. Lange tracks the progress of each group but keeps his distance.

This is the second time Cotter, a Grand Valley alumna, has worked with students from Lange’s class. Last year the team built a program that logs all PACE patient activities, something Cotter said normally took her team 45 minutes to chart by hand. She said her team uses that computer system at least 20 times a day. “It’s made our life so much easier, so you can imagine how excited we were when we found out we’d be getting help from Grand Valley students again,” she said.

PACE Life Circles provides daytime activities and care

photos by Amanda Pitts

Main photo: Kelly Cotter, standing, works with a PACE Life Circles colleague on a computer program developed by Grand Valley students. **Inset photos from left:** students Stephen Hull and Ben Rau update their clients; a student-client meeting at PACE Life Circles; computer program details.



Edit Vitals Information

Participant's Name	Date of measurement
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Existing weight measurement:	145 lbs.
Existing blood pressure measurement:	155/80

Updated weight in pounds (i.e. 140):	<input type="text" value="139"/>
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Updated blood pressure (i.e. 150/90):	<input type="text" value="155"/> / <input type="text" value="80"/>
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for senior citizens who live independently and provides support services at patients' homes. Cotter plans many activities for the 140 patients, such as sightseeing along Lake Michigan. A fluffy white therapy dog, Izzy, keeps everyone company.

This year, Cotter received help from Hull, Kenneth Spicer, Derek VanOverloop, Benjamin Rau and Mike Flatt on several projects.

Prior to working with the Grand Valley team, PACE Life Circles employees coordinated schedules using spreadsheets on paper. The students developed and designed a program that transferred their scheduling system to a computer.

"When we finished writing the code and developing the program, they were able to easily go in and insert data in a consistent format. It was built to save time and be more efficient," said Rau.

Another initiative the team worked on was writing code into an existing program that tracks PACE Life Circles' patients hourly. The team added a function for employees to track patients in 15-minute intervals.

Lange said creativity is a major component of each project. "Most people don't pair art with information systems, but there's so much room for creativity in this class," he said. "Students usually present three to five different ways to solve a problem, and the nonprofits choose which they like best. Plus there's a lot of design work involved, like developing databases and websites."

Cotter said the beauty of working with the students is their passion for helping others. "They are great at thinking outside of the box on innovative ways to solve our computing problems," she said.

Pulling it all together

By the end of the semester, Lange said teams will have put

in 900-1,100 hours of work into their projects.

Spicer compared working with PACE Life Circles to a test drive for the real world. "It allowed us to apply and practice all those skills and theories we learned in the classroom before we graduate and enter the real world," he said.

Rau said: "Professor Lange told us at the beginning of the class, 'You may have to go out and buy a few instructional books because there will be things you'll have to learn along the way.' He stressed to us that once we get a job after college, things like that will happen and it's important that we continue to learn."

The team said they ran into difficulties along the way. VanOverloop said the hardest part was balancing his workload with other classes, work, sleep and Lange's class. "But it forced

me to manage my time wisely, and usually that's when I'm the most productive," he said.

Flatt added, "As a team, I think the most difficult part of this experience was adapting to a new organization and understanding how they function, and then working together to reach their goals."

Lasting impressions

Cotter said that if she had a choice, she would have a group of students helping her for the next 20 years. "They're just so excited about the projects," she said. "I'm not very computer literate, and they don't make you feel unintelligent for not knowing. They're so professional you'd think they've been in the industry for five years already."

Hull, Spicer, VanOverloop, Rau and Flatt graduated in April. Some have been offered full-time positions, but all said

they understand the importance of building professional relationships and interacting with the community. "I think going beyond the classroom, outside campus boundaries and interacting with the community are the types of experiences that make our students marketable," said Lange.

In 2010, the demand for Grand Valley interns in West Michigan increased by 42 percent. Ninety-two percent of recent Grand Valley graduates are employed or attending graduate school; of those working, 88 percent are pursuing careers in Michigan.

The students said the experience really prepared them for what's to come. "To be able to see our projects evolve from beginning to end, and to know that people will use them on a daily basis is the most rewarding aspect of this experience," said Hull.



photo by Amanda Pitts

David Lange, information systems professor, discusses a computer project with his students and staff members at PACE Life Circles in Muskegon.

Geologist serves as historic detective, finds active fault — by Dottie Barnes

John Weber, professor of geology, has discovered a major, active, previously unmapped fault on the Caribbean island of Trinidad. After a decade-long study, Weber and his team of international colleagues discovered the fault using GPS technology.

"This study involved some historic detective work in first finding and then re-measuring 25 benchmarks that were first built and measured by British surveyors from 1901-1903," said Weber. "By measuring these historic benchmarks, we found the fault cuts through the center of the island."

Weber said Trinidad, a densely populated, major oil and gas producing nation, straddles the boundary between two of the Earth's major tectonic plates — the Caribbean and South American plates. He

said the newly discovered fault is essentially a mirror image to the Haitian San Andreas-type sliding fault that ruptured and caused the devastating earthquake of 2010.

"Our GPS measurements show this fault moves at almost one inch each year, which is a lot of motion," said Weber. "That means the fault is the plate boundary, not a minor fault. This fault has been seismically quiet at least since Columbus first landed in Trinidad in 1498 during his second voyage to the New World, when Europeans began keeping records like this."

Weber said no historic record of activity means many inches of motion could be stored up. He said geology shows there may have been one prehistoric rupture of the fault within the last few thousand years which implies it has the potential



courtesy photo

At right, John Weber, professor of geology, and Murchison Pierre, Trinidad and Tobago government surveyor, conduct reconnaissance of a GPS benchmark (concrete pillar) in Tobago.

to store motion and rupture during earthquakes.

Weber said GPS is sensitive enough to show motion

occurring across the fault and the discovery is now the subject of heightened neotectonics research in Trinidad.

Chemistry research sparks interest from NASA

— by Leah Zuber

NASA is interested in a computer program that interprets experimental data and was written 15 years ago by a Grand Valley chemistry professor. It's the main component of a research project that has NASA scientists' attention.

The basis of the research project is to update George McBane's program to make it process data quicker, so it can be applied to future experiments at Grand Valley. Kurt O'Hearn, an undergraduate student majoring in computer science and math, is conducting



Kurt O'Hearn

the research. "Fifteen years ago it took 12 hours for this program to fully process data on a computer, and now we're trying to update it to process data in 12 minutes, or even 12 seconds," said O'Hearn.

The team is recreating molecular collisions seen in space to test the program, which has its own significance.

"It's hard to go back and recreate a molecular collision," said McBane. "But if we can get as close as possible

to recreating the original conditions using my program, like how fast the molecules

were traveling and how rapidly they were spinning, we can predict what they would do in other environments like in space, which is why NASA is interested."

Advised by Greg Wolffe and Christain Trefftz, professors in the School of Computing and Information Systems, O'Hearn is working on the second approach of the project, which includes using a graphical processing unit, commonly found in video cards. He said it's very basic, fundamental research. "It's all about speeding up the program, as well as understanding the behavior of molecules in space," O'Hearn said.

Wolffe compared modifying the program to taking an

older car and dropping a new, powerful engine in it, installing a GPS navigation system and giving it heated seats. The old car could get you from point A to point B, but the new one does it much faster, safer and with more accuracy.

A research group in the Netherlands is currently using McBane's computer program; he said he hopes it will eventually be made available to other scientists in the future.

The project is funded by the Michigan Space Grant Consortium. O'Hearn plans to submit and present the research at a computing conference in the spring.



MR. FOSTER ★ GOES TO LANSING ★

Former Student Senate president wins state House seat — by Michele Coffill

courtesy photos

State Rep. Frank Foster (R-Pellston) takes an oath of office in Lansing before family and friends. The former Student Senate president was the second youngest legislator elected in 2010.

Frank Foster's road to holding a House of Representatives seat in Lansing actually started during his senior year in Allendale in April 2009, funded by seed money from his graduation.

He was already well versed in Grand Valley student government, having served as president of the Student Senate for two terms. When considering post-graduation

plans, Foster said he liked the idea of representing the northern Michigan district where he grew up for many of the same reasons other political candidates expressed last fall.

"I wanted to run because I was frustrated with politicians using sound bites," Foster said. "I wanted to be able to run a campaign that was based on a concrete plan — an outline of what I would do if elected.

It would be something that I could be held accountable for."

That vision was the catalyst for an 18-month journey to the general election in November. During that time Foster, a Republican, logged thousands of miles, canvassing the 107th District that includes the Upper Peninsula counties of Chippewa and Mackinac and Lower Peninsula counties of Emmet and Cheboygan.

“He articulated a positive agenda that resonated with voters.”

— Mark Richards, associate professor and chair of political science

His grassroots campaign of attending community events, walking in parades and going door-to-door handily worked. Foster won 63 percent of the vote, beating Democratic challenger Dick Timmer by a count of 19,337-11,350.

At 24, Foster was the second youngest person elected to the state Legislature in 2010. (Andrea LaFontaine, a 22-year-old Central Michigan University student, was the youngest.) Before jumping into the political arena, Foster said he sought advice from, among others, former Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus, who in 1970 successfully managed John Engler’s campaign for a state House seat when they were both students at Michigan State University.

“Last fall was a great political environment for someone who was younger,” Foster said. He effectively used social media to promote his campaign platform and schedule, and to raise money. Foster started his campaign coffers with \$500 of his graduation money. He was able to raise about \$116,000, garnering contributions from the Farm Bureau, auto dealerships and other businesses.

Foster’s campaign team was comprised largely of his Grand Valley friends and colleagues. Two of his them — Jason Puscas and Mike Krombeen — were in the thick of the campaign and now work in Foster’s Lansing office as legislative aides.

“I met Jason and Mike when we were in student government and asked them to make a

commitment and work and live lean with me throughout the campaign,” Foster said.

Puscas said he had always been interested in managing a campaign, so when Foster presented that opportunity the answer was easy. “I have always had a positive, professional relationship with Frank and enjoyed my time working for and with him in various roles throughout college,” Puscas said. “The motivators, however, were the great things I thought he could do in Lansing and the thought that I could help be a part of making that happen.”

Mark Richards, Grand Valley associate professor and chair of political science, watched Foster’s journey with interest as his students received real-world experience as campaign workers or volunteers. Richards noted that Foster’s victory was not solely tied to his grassroots efforts.

“He articulated a positive agenda that resonated with voters,” Richards said. “He used social media, like Facebook, to reach out and respond to voters in new ways.”

Foster touted a five-point plan during his campaign that included reforming state finances, creating a better business tax structure, simplifying the regulatory environment, investing in education and infrastructure, and promoting tourism and agriculture. Despite the detailed plan, Puscas said it was — at times — difficult to get the message out to voters.

“One of the challenges every



campaign faces is the ability to stay on message,” he said. “With so much going on every day, we had to make sure every person Frank was in contact with understood what he wanted to accomplish. Frank was seldom in the campaign office, maybe for a few hours a week. The rest of the time we had him attending community events, knocking on doors and interacting with local media.”

Since taking office in January, Foster has made headway on his to-do list. As chair of the Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee (one of three freshman legislators given committee chair assignments), Foster has conducted hearings and sponsored legislation to find better avenues to fund the Pure Michigan tourism campaign. He’s also put 7,000 miles on his car within about two months.

“I’m in Lansing from Monday night through Thursday,” he said. “When I’m in the district, I try to go to as many community events as I can. I want to be as transparent as possible and will try to spend equal time in each of the four counties.”

Foster, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in finance, also continues to work for his family’s business, Frank Foster Construction in Pellston. He said he is enjoying his first year in Lansing and hasn’t yet turned his thoughts to a re-election campaign.

“Right now I’m happy to be in this position. Actually I wouldn’t run again unless I knew that we would do the best job for the district,” he said.

For more on Grand Valley alumni who represent Michigan in Lansing, see page 32.

Q&A

Arn Boezaart

T. Arnold (Arn) Boezaart was named the second executive director of the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center in 2009. A longtime leader in the Muskegon area, Boezaart most recently worked for the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. During his tenure at MAREC, Boezaart has actively worked with local and regional economic development organizations to position the center as a leader in the development of technology and the creation of green jobs. He talked with *Grand Valley Magazine's* Michele Coffill about what lies ahead for MAREC.

Grand Valley Magazine:

This is a beautiful building with a great view.

Arn Boezaart: It's a fabulous place to work. About 40 years ago on this site there was a huge Continental Motors assembly plant that employed about 7,500 people. MAREC sits on a huge brownfield redevelopment site. The building opened in 2003 and is a state of Michigan SmartZone.

GVM: Where did you work before Grand Valley?

AB: I completed my first career with the State of Michigan in the Department of Human Services as a senior administrator. Then I was hired by the Muskegon Community Foundation to help develop its environmental program. I served in a variety of positions during my 12 years with the foundation, most recently as vice president for grant programs.

GVM: Is that when you developed an interest in renewable energy?

AB: Yes, I developed the foundation's renewable energy programs and led the installation of the first wind turbine in Muskegon. We can see it from my office window. It's on the roof of the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts.

GVM: Where did you get your degrees?

AB: I tell people I'm working on my educational trifecta. I earned a bachelor's degree in science from Michigan State University, a master's degree in human service administration from the University of Michigan, and am now employed by Grand Valley. I saved the best for last!

GVM: Your job requires you to wear many hats. What's a typical day like?

AB: It varies. I spend time in Lansing to develop program opportunities, and work with our West Michigan regional partners to advance public awareness of renewable energy issues. I'm especially busy now working with an offshore wind interest group on opportunities linked to wind development.

I recently met with Consumers Energy staff. They are working on smart meter technology, which will bring new technology inside homes so that homeowners can more effectively monitor their energy use. MAREC hopes to bring smart meter displays to the area to begin to build consumer and business sector awareness of this new technology.



photos by Amanda Pitts

Arn Boezaart is pictured in the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center. He was named director in 2009.

GVM: You've partnered with academic departments for student projects. Working in this high-tech building must be a great real-world experience for students.

AB: It is! Recently a team of students from the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing completed a capstone project in which they built an integrated data system that makes all of the MAREC energy generation data available online. It is a very interactive program available to Grand Valley students, faculty and the

public. It was a tremendous engineering challenge for the students and they did a fabulous job. (MAREC's real-time energy generation data is online at datamonitoring.marec.gvsu.edu.)

GVM: In December, MAREC was recognized by the state as a Michigan Energy Demonstration Center. What does that mean?

AB: It's a nice recognition for what we do. It's pretty much what the name implies: we demonstrate wind, solar, micro-

turbine and other technologies and show how these sources of clean or renewable energy work. We also highlight opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic development in the green and renewable energy sector.

GVM: You installed an electric vehicle charging station in the parking lot. Have you had any customers yet?

AB: Yes, the first Volt arrived in mid-March! There are now charging stations in Holland, Grand Rapids and Muskegon. We have been working with the West Michigan Energy coalition to develop a charging station network in the region. We anticipate as many as 50 charging stations will be installed this spring and summer.

GVM: But if you own an electric vehicle, wouldn't you charge it in your garage?

AB: Yes you would, but I like to remind people that it's similar to the early days of the internal combustion engine. When Henry Ford developed the Model T and tinkered around with the fuel supply, it quickly became apparent that filling stations would be needed to allow cars to drive a distance and get back home. We are now developing the electric vehicle version of the "filling station" to support the next generation of electric vehicles.

The Chevy Volt goes about 40 miles on a charge. If you drive here from Allendale, it's 35 miles. You could drive here for a meeting, charge it for a couple of hours and be able to drive back.

GVM: Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed state budget could threaten brownfield tax credits and funding to renewable energy programs. What are your thoughts?

AB: We all recognize the budgets in the state and throughout the country are severely challenged. We clearly

need to reduce expenditures and work within budget limitations. How it plays out remains to be seen but I'm certain we will emerge for the better at the other end.

It's clear to me that new forms of energy generation and the development of renewable energy are not going away. New technology is gaining traction and our citizens are increasingly adopting new opportunities. Michigan legislators, in October 2008, passed the Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires the state to generate 10 percent of its energy from renewable sources by the year 2015. We will also likely see a national energy standard established in the near future.

GVM: Is Michigan on track to meet that goal?

AB: Yes, a report from the Michigan Public Service Commission indicates that the state will easily meet its RPS requirement. DTE and Consumers Energy are actively developing wind farms.

GVM: More green jobs forthcoming then?

AB: Absolutely. These jobs and the field were highlighted at MAREC in March during our "Made in Michigan Renewable Energy Technology Show," which showcased renewable energy products and technologies produced by Michigan-based companies.

GVM: There's always something going on here, isn't there?

AB: Yes, there is. We are working to implement the original vision of the stakeholders — the state of Michigan, Grand Valley, city of Muskegon and others. That vision of promoting new technology and renewable energy fits well with today's economy. MAREC is actively working with business, industry and community leaders to find ways to improve the state's economy and encourage



Boezaart sits in a Chevy Volt that used the electric vehicle charging station at MAREC.

economic development while looking through the lens of renewable energy.

GVM: Very good, thanks. One last question: what do you enjoy doing when you're at home?

AB: In addition to spending

time with family, I enjoy reading financial magazines, newspapers and catching up on electronic news. I'm a CNN junkie. If the TV is on, it's tuned to CNN, my channel of choice.

Dan Seeley

Media services technician

Dan Seeley is very recognizable around campus: he's the guy with the beard, smiling as he runs wires and performs sound checks for most university events. Seeley has worked as a media services technician for Event Services for 27 years. He is responsible for handling audio and visual needs associated with events

like graduation, convocation, Board of Trustees meetings and various ceremonies and business activities. That's a pretty tall order.

"It's not unusual for me to work 70 or 80 hours a week, depending on the time of year," said Seeley. "It's a fascinating job that includes public relations, technology,

services and often times a lot of last-minute planning." Seeley said his favorite part of the job is learning about new technologies. "It expands the usefulness of what we do. New technology usually means we can do our jobs better with less gear," he said.

photography by Adam Bird



Organic farming grows at Grand Valley

Campus community can learn and practice sustainable agriculture — by Leah Zuber

As summer approaches, locally grown fruits and vegetables make appearances at farmers' markets and grocery stores.

At Grand Valley, the Sustainable Agricultural Project, the newly formed Farm Club and two new sustainable food systems courses provide hands-on opportunities for the campus community to learn how to grow produce through sustainable farming.

Farm Club was established in January by a group of students eager to get hands-on organic farming experience. The club dedicates most of its time and resources to the Sustainable Agricultural Project (SAP), which spans two acres of farming space in Allendale next to Grand Valley's campus. (Visit www.gvsu.edu/sustainableagproject.)

John DeRuiter, a senior majoring in liberal studies, started the club after spending a summer volunteering at the garden. "I saw that many other schools have a strong farming club presence on campus and

thought we needed one too, especially with a growing interest in sustainable farming at Grand Valley," he said.

SAP, previously a community garden with individual plots, has shifted to focus on production agriculture. This year, Levi Gardner, a Grand Valley alumnus and sustainable farming advocate, will lead SAP to grow and harvest 30 crops ranging from herbs to tomatoes to lettuce.

Harvested fruits and vegetables from SAP will be sold at farmers' markets, and excess crops will be donated to the Student Food Pantry at Grand Valley, which provides groceries to students who struggle to pay for food.

This summer Gardner is planning an educational experience for ninth-graders in which they will learn agricultural practices and design their own herb and flower gardens.

"At Grand Valley, sustainability has been so much of what we've talked about," said Gardner. "The social justice component

has been very large, but in terms of experiential, it's all about being in the soil and educating people about sustainable agriculture."

DeRuiter and Gardner encourage students from any discipline to join the club. "We want people to know that everyone is welcome — a business student, a law student — we're all here to learn together," said Gardner.

Students pursuing a professional job in sustainability can take two classes that focus on agriculture. The new courses, developed by Edwin Joseph, associate professor of geography and planning, are two of six classes that make up the Sustainable Food Systems certification, also created by Joseph.

The first class, Building Local Food Systems, concentrates on developing and building sustainable gardens and teaches students to apply gardening principles to produce quality crops. Students in the second class, Designing Sustainable Community Gardens, meet with

gardeners and help them design more efficient gardens.

"I developed these classes so students can learn by interacting with the community," said Joseph. "It's a very practical, hands-on experience."

Joseph said there is room for modification and change in the courses but over time he hopes to establish a virtual food system network throughout West Michigan and beyond. "I'd like to help farmers connect so they can seed swap or share ideas, and overall generate discussion about sustainable agriculture," he said.

In efforts to connect with the community, he hosts meetings at Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center in Muskegon and also hopes to eventually open the Sustainable Food Systems certification to the public.

center photo by Brianne Goodyear

A student visits Grand Valley's Farmers' Market where a variety of fruits and vegetables are sold.

Lakers elected to Michigan Legislature

Voters in the November 2010 election sent a record number of Lakers to positions in Lansing. Hailing from six cities and towns, these leaders show the growing geographic representation of Grand Valley in institutions such as the Michigan House of Representatives, bodies that have a dramatic impact on the state's economy and communities. (See story on Rep. Frank Foster, R-Pellston, on page 26).

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley (R-Portland)

When he was elected in November at age 33, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley became the second youngest lieutenant governor in Michigan's history. Calley, who earned a master's of business administration from Grand Valley in 2000, is the first Laker graduate to be elected to statewide office.

Calley had served two terms as a state representative and was the minority vice chair of the House Tax Policy Committee.

"Our first and top priority is creating an environment here in Michigan where jobs can grow and flourish," said Calley. "To accomplish this we are proposing a simple, fair and efficient tax structure that will make Michigan competitive again. We are also proposing a structurally balanced budget that will provide for core service delivery more efficiently and even begin paying down the state debt."

Calley said it's a great honor to serve Michigan when the state is at a crossroads. "This administration is absolutely determined to reinvent this state so that the next generation has opportunity to prosper," he said.

Prior to becoming a state lawmaker, Calley worked as a community banker and small business lender for 10

years. He was also elected to the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, serving as its vice chairman for four years.

Calley said he continually draws on his Grand Valley education. "GVSU provided a strong base that I still carry with me today," he said. "The business and finance education has been particularly useful given the issues facing our state today."

Rep. Bob Genetski (R-Saugatuck)

Now a second-term lawmaker, Rep. Bob Genetski represents Allegan County and its vicinity. He earned a master's degree in education in 2004 from Grand Valley and taught for 10 years, spending the majority

of that time teaching at-risk high school students at Orion Alternative School in Grandville. Today he holds the high-profile position of chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education.

"My top priority is to simplify the Michigan Business Tax so that businesses can create more jobs and so we can bring more businesses to Michigan," Genetski said. "Secondly, we need to 'right-size' state government. We simply have more government than we can pay for."

"When I taught at an alternative high school, I tried to help students see that a lack of formal schooling would hurt them badly in our economy. I ran for office because I want

to be part of turning things around."

Genetski said his Grand Valley education influenced his approach to inquiry, and he applies that perspective as he examines issues of state governance. "My master's thesis taught me to seek answers everywhere, to keep asking and pushing, to put the maximum effort into your research," he said. "You can always get a simple answer to your question, but you find that there's much more to it if you ask deeper questions."

Rep. Thomas Hooker (R-Byron Center)

Rep. Thomas Hooker is serving his first term in the Michigan House representing



Opening day for the 2011 Michigan Legislature found Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas in the House of Representatives with three of the six alumni now serving in Lansing. From left are Rep. Frank Foster, Haas, Rep. Jon Switalski and Rep. Thomas Hooker.

the 77th District near Grand Rapids. Hooker taught government and economics in Byron Center and coached football and wrestling. He was also a Red Cross instructor and swimming teacher at a local YMCA. He and his wife, Pam, currently run a bus ministry out of their local church that brings at-risk teens to the church for programs throughout the week.

Clearly, Hooker is not one to sit by when he sees a need to meet. “When I retired from teaching, I knew I could be retired and complain about the way things are going in Michigan,” said Hooker. “Or I could put feet to my words and do something about it.” He was appointed as vice chair of the House Education Committee.

Hooker earned a bachelor’s degree from Grand Valley in 1972 and said his education prepared him well for his varied jobs. “Grand Valley prepared me to be a teacher of government and economics, and those years of teaching prepared me for the work I’m doing now,” he said.

Rep. Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes)

A first-term lawmaker, Rep. Rick Outman represents the 70th District, which includes Montcalm County. Outman is the co-owner and operator of Outman Excavating, a third-generation family business based in Six Lakes, and also a combat veteran of the U.S. Army having served in Beirut, Lebanon. He later joined the National Guard.

Service to his community has always been valuable work to Outman. “Michigan is in a lot of trouble right now and it’s important that people are willing to step into the system to help turn things around,” he said. Among his legislative committee assignments, he sits on the Agriculture, Energy and



Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, '00, discusses a point in the Capitol building in Lansing.

Technology Committee.

“Coming from an agricultural district and background, I have already worked on legislation to change the way we treat our farmers and others in the ag business; and that’s a cause I’ll be keeping up with while I’m here,” said Outman.

Earning a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1997, Outman said his education at Grand Valley provided the foundation upon which he has built his service and career. “GVSU exposed me to a lot of ideas that I’ve had the chance to study or experience further,” he said. “All of these things build on one another and have set me up to serve my district in Lansing right now.”

Rep. Jon Switalski (D-Warren)

Rep. Jon Switalski is a lifelong Warren resident representing his district for a second term. Before being elected, Switalski served as a Macomb County Commissioner, aide to former Congressman David Bonior and an advocate for health workers for the Service Employees International Union. In 2000, he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Grand Valley.

Switalski said he wants to create a climate in Michigan

in which small businesses can grow and create jobs for Michigan residents. “We need tax and bureaucratic reform to make Michigan a place where innovators can get the capital and support they need to launch new businesses and put people back to work,” he said. “We also must provide our children with a high-quality education, keep college affordable and keep our streets safe to truly move Michigan forward.

“I take great pride in our state and the community I grew up in. I’m also thankful for the great

experiences and education I received at Grand Valley and I want our next generation of children to have those same opportunities.”

He added that his relationships with faculty members have proved valuable. “The close interaction with my professors and the interactive classroom experiences helped me develop critical thinking and research skills. These experiences at Grand Valley are serving me well while working in the Legislature,” he said.



photo by Michigan House Republicans

Rep. Rick Outman, '97, is a first-term lawmaker from Six Lakes.



photo by Michigan House Republicans

At right, Rep. Bob Genetski, '04, is pictured with his guest, Jim Lorence, at the State of the State Address in January.

Connecting: it's what Young Alumni do

As Grand Valley's enrollment grows, so does the proportion of Laker graduates who are young alumni. Looking at graduates now in their 20s and 30s, nearly 40 percent of alumni in the Kent, Ottawa, and Muskegon counties are young alumni. It's no wonder that young Lakers are engaging with the university — and vice versa — in ways new and innovative but also traditional.

The Young Alumni Council, currently with 40 members, continues to provide creative and popular programs that help alumni meet their professional, educational, social, and philanthropic needs.

In January, more than 80 Young Alumni and guests attended a Grand Rapids Griffins Hockey game, watching them

defeat the Hamilton Bulldogs. Before the Griffins took to the ice, the attendees enjoyed a reception at 25 Kitchen & Bar to network and hear news about Grand Valley.

In February, the council capitalized on a new venture called GRid70, a partnership among four major corporations (Amway, Meijer, Steelcase and Wolverine World Wide) that reside in one building. Taking over GRid70 for an evening, nearly 80 Young Alumni attended the Young Alumni Collaborative event, using the opportunity to network and mingle while wearing creative name badges that helped attendees make connections with each other. The badges included tags such as "Talk to me, my company has job



photo by Heather Dixon, '05

At left, Brandy Arnold, '08, and Young Alumni Council member Jessica Manfrin, '09, display the name badges with special tags that helped attendees to network at a Young Alumni event.

openings" and "I'm new here."

More events for the new Laker generation are in store from Grand Valley's Alumni Relations office, which received

a CASE award for establishing one of the best young alumni programs in the Midwest. Visit www.gvsu.edu/alumni to learn more about upcoming events.



photo by Sandra Jennings

Women's basketball players team up again

Memories prevailed at the Women's Basketball Reunion, held February 19 as a prelude to the women's basketball game between Wayne State University and Grand Valley. Nearly four dozen basketball alumnae and their families attended a reception at Peppino's restaurant in Allendale along with President Thomas J. Haas, Athletic Director Tim Selgo and Head Coach Janel Burgess. At the Fieldhouse, the Lakers earned a 62-58 overtime victory over the Warriors.



photo by Melissa Black, '99

50th comes to Windy City

Nearly 70 Laker alumni gathered February 10 at an event hosted by the Chicago Alumni Club to celebrate GVSU's 50th anniversary. Hub 51 provided an ideal setting for networking and socializing. Attendees heard Grand Valley updates and learned about new campus construction projects. They were invited to participate in the Alumni Challenge, which benefits the new Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons. The 50th anniversary video brought back memories and rekindled the Laker spirit for many guests.



Chapters, Clubs, and Events

1) 131 Showdown

More than 100 loyal Lakers gathered at Peppino's Downtown before heading to the 131 Showdown at Van Andel Arena for a basketball doubleheader against Ferris State University on January 29. Athletic Director Tim Selgo was joined by President Thomas J. Haas for pre-game remarks. More than 5,800 fans supported the Showdown.

2) Metro Detroit Club rings and roars

The Metro Detroit Alumni Club, led by Brad Gibbons, '08, had a busy December. On December 11 in Royal Oak dedicated Laker alumni served as Salvation Army bell ringers. Alumni also helped cheer the Detroit Lions to a win against former Laker standout Nick McDonald, '09, and his Super Bowl Champion Green Bay Packer teammates.

3) KCON roundtable

Several members of the Kirkhof College of Nursing

Alumni Chapter shared their career stories with students on February 16 at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. The event was held with the Student Nursing Association.

4) Washington, D.C. reception

Grand Valley's insiders in the nation's capital joined President Thomas J. Haas during a March 7 reception celebrating the university's 50th anniversary at the headquarters of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Attendees had the opportunity

to meet new GVDC Club leaders Charlie Terrell, '09, Kirah Rawls, '09, and Josh Hilbrand, '09.

5) Tampa reception

Spring training brought Lakers to Lakeland, the Florida home for the Detroit Tigers. Club Leader Tara Crow, '97, and other Tampa area alumni and friends gathered to watch the Tigers beat the Atlanta Braves.

GVSU ANNUAL SLEEP INN & SUITES

Alumni Scholarship Golf Outing

July 16, 2011 at The Meadows

Registration: Noon | Shotgun Start: 1:30 p.m.

Contact the Alumni Relations Office at (800) 558-0541 or visit www.gvsu.edu/alumni for registration and sponsorship details.



CAREERS

1960s

James V. Morford, B.A., 1969, retired from Grand Haven Board of Light and Power after 45 years of service, most recently as chief engineer.

William D. Van Lente, B.A., 1969, is associate administrator for John C. Fremont Healthcare District in Mariposa, California. He had been director of human resources.

1970s

Karl F. Kluwe, B.S., 1975, is village manager and chief of police for the Village of Edmore. He retired from the Montcalm County Sheriff's Office after 33 years of service.

John M. Arnold, B.S., 1976, retired as executive director of Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank. He had been with the organization for more than 20 years.

Kelly C. McEwen, B.S., 1979, retired as men's basketball coach for Grand Rapids Community College. He had coached basketball at many levels for 37 years.

Louisa A. Stark, B.S., 1979, received the Governor's Medal for Science and Technology from Utah Gov. Gary Herbert.

1980s

Kevin M. O'Rourke, B.S., 1980, was honored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association for his dedication to sports within the Rockford School District, where he serves as the activities coordinator and middle school coach.

David L. Bailey, II, B.B.A., 1987, is director of human resources for RMT Inc. in Madison, Wisconsin.

1990s

Frank E. Henke, B.A., 1991, is partner at Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids.

Todd R. Monken, M.Ed., 1991, is offensive coordinator and quarterback coach for Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Michael S. Dolce, B.B.A., 1993, football official for the Big Ten Conference, officiated the 2011 BCS Championship Football Game. He has worked for the conference since 2006.

Timothy T. Tuthill, B.S., 1993, is director of pastoral care for Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids.

Michele M. Leach, B.A., 1994, B.B.A., 1994, is director of mergers and acquisitions for RTI International in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Tanya Eby, B.A., 1995, is temporary assistant professor of liberal arts and sciences at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids. An audiobook narrator and writer, her third book, *Pepper Wellington and The Case of the Missing Sausage*, will be published in 2011.

Troy A. Hardy, B.A., 1995, is a 2011 nominee for the Motion Picture Sound Editors Golden Reel Award.

Steven R. Hawks, M.B.A., 1996, is senior vice president, investment advisors manager for Fifth Third Bank in Grand Rapids.

Brian C. Nolan, B.S., 1996, is assistant professor of psychology at Quincy University in Quincy, Illinois.

Dana L. Evert, B.B.A., 1997, is human resources director for ThyssenKrupp Materials Inc. in Southfield.

Chad E. Ghastin, B.S., 1998, is director of digital marketing for Nickelodeon in New York City, New York.

Michael M. Allen, B.S., 1999, is senior store manager for Men's Wearhouse in Troy.

Chad M. Tuttle, B.B.A., 1999, M.B.A., 2002, is CEO of Sunset Retirement Communities &

Services, and a trustee for Georgetown Township.

Rory M. Zegunis, B.S., 1999, is varsity football coach for West Ottawa High School.

2000s

Megan L. Banfield, B.B.A., 2002, is senior accountant for Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC.

Asa J. Lakeman, B.B.A., 2002, was named 2010 Investment Sales Leader by VantagePointe Financial Group. He is a financial advisor for VantagePointe in Grand Rapids.

Patrick A. Tanner, M.Ed., 2002, is director of student and enrollment services at Penn State York in York, Pennsylvania.

Kelly B. Vogel, B.M.E., 2002, M.Ed., 2004, is briefings specialist and senior research analyst for principal gifts at Duke University in North Carolina.

Cori J. (Jewett) Geoghan, B.S., 2004, M.S.P.T., 2007, is varsity basketball assistant for Muskegon Catholic Central.

Matthew J. Messer, M.P.A., 2004, is public safety director for the Holland Police Department. He has been with the department for almost 20 years.

Chase A. Turner, B.S., 2004, is an instructional designer at the Home Depot corporate offices in Atlanta, Georgia.

Laura B. Wise, B.S., 2004, B.A., 2007, is an international student and scholar advisor at Michigan State University.

Christopher M. Brown, B.S., 2005, is an attorney at Willis Law in Grand Rapids. He is also chair of the Grand Rapids Bar Association's Probate and Estate Planning Section.

Kaitlin T. (Dyball) Chappell, B.S.N. 2005, M.S.N., 2010, is a family nurse practitioner for ProMed Family Practice in Woodbridge.

Rachel M. Mcguirl, B.S., 2005, B.B.A., 2006, is safety health

environmental manager for Burns and Roe Services Corp. in Guantanamo Bay.

Martin Slagter, III, B.A., 2005, is sports editor for the *Big Rapids Pioneer*.

Karen L. (Cooper) Vaughn, B.S., 2005, is a senior planner for Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

Elizabeth F. Burnside, B.A., 2007, is an account executive for Siren Interactive in Chicago, Illinois. She had worked for Discovery Chicago.

Brent M. Hanson, B.S., 2007, is a student naval aviator in the U.S. Navy, assigned to Naval Aviation Schools Command in Pensacola, Florida.

Rosalinda F. Luna, B.S., 2007, is a media and marketing coordinator for the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas, Texas.

Joseph A. Smith, B.S., 2007, is marketing communications manager for CompuCraft Inc. in Grand Rapids.

Steven A. Strang, B.S., 2007, is a grants and contracts training specialist at the University of Chicago.

Laura C. Bretz, B.S., 2008, is content producer for Roundhouse in Seattle, Washington.

Joseph J. Lesausky, B.S., 2008, is market manager for the Lansing City Market.

Alexander F. Koning, B.S., 2009, is a science teacher at Kenneth Henderson Middle School. He was selected as a 2010 New Science Teacher Academy Fellow by the National Science Teachers Association.

Darin L. Mulcahy, B.S., 2009, joined VanManen Petroleum Group as director of sales and marketing.

Penelope E. Rose, B.A., 2009, is a training specialist for the global training and development team at the Perrigo Company.

Jordan R. Smitter, B.S., 2009, is owner of Achieve Coaching LLC in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Katharine S. Glynn, B.S., 2010, is a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy, assigned to the *USS Roosevelt* based in Mayport, Florida.

Morgan E. Lind, B.S., 2010, won WOTV4's contest and is the "Face of 4."

Peter T. Vankuiken, B.S., 2010, is chief of staff for state Rep. Brandon Dillon, serving the 75th district.

Ryan H. Vaughn, M.S., 2010, is co-founder of Varsity News Network.

MARRIAGES

2000s

Angela M. Farner, B.B.A., 2003, and Chad Mott on March 27, 2010.

Jennifer R. Fisk, B.S., 2003, and Jeremy Tschaepe on October 9, 2010.

Elaine M. Vandenburg, B.A., 2004, and Michael Rowland on July 10, 2010.

Jodie C. Austin, B.B.A., 2005, B.S., 2005, and Tom Wilson on August 29, 2010.

Sarah R. Thoreson, M.S.P.T., 2006, and Manan Bhatt on May 22, 2010.

Matthew C. Davis, B.B.A., 2007, and Katie Lewis on August 21, 2010.

Lauren E. Pickering, B.S., 2007, and Max Rappaport on July 17, 2010.

Jeffrey A. Blair, B.S.E., 2008, and Elizabeth A. Whalen, **B.B.A., 2009**, on November 13, 2010.

Kelly F. Murphy, B.A., 2008, and Trent Meyering on July 17, 2010.

Andrew T. Storm, B.S., 2008, and **Sarah M. Smith, M.S.W., 2010**, on June 10, 2010.

Laura C. Wasilewski, B.S., 2008, and Jim Bretz on May 8, 2010.

Jonathan D. Wendt, B.B.A., 2008, M.S.A., 2010, and **Wendi-Jo L. Ervin, B.A., 2010, B.S., 2010**, on July 10, 2010.

David P. McKelvey, B.A., 2009, and Lindsay Cooper on December 18, 2010.

Gina M. Meyer, B.S., 2010, and Ross Schutter on September 18, 2010.

BIRTHS

1990s

Eric L. Sherman, B.A., 1994, and wife Deborah announce a son, Karsten Lee, born November 23. Karsten is welcomed by sister Annika. The family resides in Ludington.

Michael A. Setlock, B.S., 1997, M.B.A., 2004, and **Sarah A. Setlock, B.S., 1998**, announce a son, Elijah Michael, on October 6, 2010. Elijah is welcomed by siblings Benjamin and Emily. The family resides in Rockford.

William L. Cole, B.B.A., 1999, and **Jennifer L. (Dodd) Cole, B.A., 1999, M.Ed., 2005**, announce a daughter, Remington Blakely, born December 21, 2010. Remington is welcomed by siblings Masyn and Brody. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Rebecca K. (Veale) Sellers, B.S., 1999, M.P.A., 2001, and husband Matthew, announce a daughter, Emerson Kathryn, born August 21, 2010. The family resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

2000s

Wendy J. (Van Dyk) Hartenburg, B.B.A., 2002, and husband Peter announce a daughter, Lillian Dianne, born July 22. Lillian is welcomed by siblings Hannah, Nathan and Seth. The family resides in Stow, Ohio.

Brooke L. (Stanley) Byrne, B.S., 2003, and **Matthew C. Byrne, M.S.A., 2004**, announce a son, Tristan Charles, born December 14, 2010. The family resides in Byron Center.

Arlena M. (Ross) Massenberg, B.B.A., 2004, and **Joshua M. Massenberg, B.B.A., 2004**, announce a son, Caleb Amor, born December 7, 2010. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Alisha J. (Tribble) Warner, B.B.A., 2004, and husband Richard, announce a son, Levi Kenneth, born December 23, 2010. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Kelly B. Vogel, B.M.E. 2002, M.Ed., 2004, and husband Jonathan announce a daughter, Cora Rose, born May 23. Cora is welcomed by brother Henry. The family resides in Cary, North Carolina.

Katrina M. (Kelsey) Smith, B.S., 2006, and husband Lucas announce a son, Lucas Daniel II, born February 17. Lucas is welcomed by sister Isabella. The family resides in St. Joseph.

Brittland K. (Winters) DeKorver, B.A., 2007, and **Kyle DeKorver, B.S., 2007**, announce a son, Markis William, born October 2. The family resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

IN MEMORIAM

1970s

Jerome L. Blunt, of Rural Hall, North Carolina, B.B.A., 1973, on September 23, 2010.

C. Kenneth Olson, of Grand Rapids, B.S., 1973, on December 11, 2010.

1980s

James E. Siedlecki, of Grand Rapids, B.B.A., 1981, on January 8, 2011.

1990s

Mark A. Reigle, of St. Joseph, M.Ed., 1990, on November 7, 2009.

Patrick M. Coughlin, of Dorr Township, B.S., 1993, M.Ed., 2000, on December 25, 2010.

Eric K. Hendrickson, of Los Angeles, California, B.A., 1996, on November 28, 2010.

Phillip C. Hutchins, of Raleigh, North Carolina, B.S., 1996, on December 14, 2010.

ALUMNI HONORED AT 2011 GIANTS AWARDS

Three alumni were recognized with individual awards at the 2011 Giants Awards and Banquet, which honors African Americans who have shaped the history and quality of life of greater Grand Rapids:

Taalib A. El Amin, B.B.A., 1976, received the Phyllis Scott Activist Award.

Larry D. Barnes, B.S., 1991, received the Walter Coe Public Service Award.

Stacy A. McGinnis, B.S., 1992, received the Floyd Skinner Justice Award.

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STUDENT *ELIPS* WHEN NAMED NATIONAL CHAMPION

— by Dottie Barnes



Justin Hackett is the current national champion on double mini-trampoline.

photos by Amanda Pitts

Talk about reaching new heights!

Ceiling lights had to be moved at Branch Gymnastics near Kalamazoo because Justin Hackett was getting a little too close while jumping on the trampoline. Hackett, a junior majoring in cell and molecular biology, bounces pretty high as he prepares to perfect the stunts he performs on a double mini-trampoline.

The 21-year-old Colorado Springs native is the current national champion on double mini-trampoline. He earned the title after winning the 2010 U.S. Visa Championships in Connecticut. That win allowed him to compete in the World Championships in Metz, France, in November. He placed sixth in the prelims.

"It was a bittersweet moment for me," said Hackett. "While the top eight move on to finals, I didn't make it because only two competitors from each country are allowed to compete in finals, and I was the third American to qualify."

Hackett called the experience extraordinary and said he made some changes after competing at that advanced level. "I was honored to represent the U.S. Competing with the best of the best changed the way I'm training; I'm training

harder, I'm trying to be more competitive, and I'm more focused as I prepare for future competitions."

Hackett's road to victory started when he was 10 years old. He enjoyed doing handstands and taught himself flips on his backyard trampoline. He decided to quit playing soccer in order to devote his time to gymnastics, specifically training for stunts on the double mini-trampoline. He started competing at 12.

"Trampoline events aren't as well known as the other gymnastic events," said Hackett, "but we train as long and as hard as any other gymnast, using some of the same skills."

Hackett competed through high school and knew he wanted to keep competing while attending college. He met a coach in Kalamazoo who was interested in continuing his training for competition.

"I knew I wanted to take the opportunity and train in Kalamazoo," said Hackett. "The coach sent me information on all the colleges and universities in the area and I picked Grand Valley. It has turned out to be a great fit, especially for my major. I'm hoping to attend medical school after I graduate."

Hackett keeps a tight schedule, using every

“I PICKED GRAND VALLEY AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT FIT.”

— JUSTIN HACKETT

opportunity to study. “I commute with other gymnasts to Kalamazoo, so I have a good chunk of time to study when it isn’t my turn to drive,” he said.

The trampolinist is working to perfect a number of skills. He is known for his Rudy Out Pike, a double-front somersault with one-and-a-half twists. He also performs a Miller, a triple-twisting double back (two flips with three twists) and a Full Barani, a double-front flip with one-and-a-half twists. His long, lean body type is a plus in his sport, as judges are looking for straight, clean lines during stunts.

“To be able to consistently perform these skills, I practice between 15 and 20 hours a week. I also condition about three times a week outside of practice,” he said.

That type of dedication has resulted in a few injuries for Hackett and, as he described, “plenty of times when my face gets well acquainted with the mat.” He has dealt with broken fingers, ankle surgery, muscle tears and a cracked fibula to name a few, but said, like most athletes, he has learned to work through the pain.

He plans to apply to medical school at Michigan State University and hopes to continue his training at the same time. Hackett said he is interested in studying emergency medicine or infectious diseases.



Lifelong lessons

Three of the masterminds behind the development and growth of Grand Valley shared personal reflections on their lifelong dedication to learning. They also challenged audience members to think how they can make learning an enduring legacy.

Arend D. Lubbers, president emeritus; Glenn Niemeyer,

provost and vice president of academic affairs emeritus; and Ron VanSteeland, vice president for finance and administration emeritus, spoke to students and others during "Lessons From a Lifelong Learner" on March 15 in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Niemeyer shared 11 maxims, adding his humor by including

an 11th so those "who missed one could say they have all 10." He defined the characteristics that he believes guide lifelong learning such as treating all others with respect and doing what is right. VanSteeland's message focused on the importance of humor and laughter in our lives. Lubbers discussed the importance

of accessing what is most significant in our lives to forward our individual growth, and how often "individuality is intertwined to others."



photo by Amanda Pitts

From left are Glenn Niemeyer, Ron VanSteeland and Arend D. Lubbers.