

Investment club growing

ALAN INGRAM

Grand Valley Lanthorn

The self-proclaimed fastest growing organization on campus, Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization, has made incredible advancements during the past year, said club President Scott Setlock.

Setlock, who is in his fifth semester as president, said membership in the organization has almost tripled since the last academic year because the club tried to expand and get more students and faculty involved.

Seidman I.P.O. manages a \$30,000 portfolio that allows the organization to own parts of 19 different companies including Ford and Sears, Setlock said.

While he admits the decisions on what to invest in are not made on a weekly basis, they are made a few times throughout the semester.

"We continually move toward progress in our portfolio," Setlock said.

The club made a commitment to improve, he said, after attending a conference in Dayton, Ohio last year.

"Ever since Dayton, we set our standards really high," he said. "We said we wanted to be one of the best organizations at Grand Valley."

Setlock said the University of Dayton holds an annual conference entitled the RISE Symposium where many investment clubs from around the country come and exchange ideas with other clubs.

"[Dayton] was the catalyst for who we are now," Setlock

said. "It pointed us in the direction and put a light on us and said, 'what are you going to do?'"

The club made its annual trip to Chicago during the fall semester, and 12 people will make a trip to New York for the first time in club history to visit the stock exchange and the Federal Reserve Bank, Setlock said. He said he hopes that in the future the trip will be prestigious for those members that have put a lot of time and effort into the club.

The Chicago trip, Setlock said, is an event that is looked forward to every year, and he admits that it probably holds on to some members.

"It really gives more of a

real-world experience for people," Setlock said. "It's always a fun trip; it's something to look forward to."

Setlock feels the club has helped him in his major, finance and economics, because of how hands-on the club is.

Vice president of portfolio management, Boomer Hoppough said he agrees.

"It's been a great experience for me," Hoppough, a senior finance major said. "Everything I've learned at class I can apply to the club."

Established in 1976, the Seidman I.P.O. first began with \$9,000 received as a donation. However, Setlock said the club was not fully functional for that

entire time. This is about the ninth straight year the club has been actively managed.

Setlock thinks the club has come a long way and has the capability to advance farther and do more and encourages GVSU students to come to the next meeting on March 19 at 6 p.m. in 138 E of the Pew Campus's DeVos Center.

Setlock also stressed that the club is not strictly for finance and economics majors. The club is open to all majors and has no membership dues.

For more information on Seidman I.P.O., visit the club Web site www2.gvsu.edu/~invest or e-mail the club at invest@student.gvsu.edu.



Courtesy of Seidman I.P.O.

Grand Valley's Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization takes a trip to Chicago every year during the fall. Other trips include those to conferences, such as the RISE Symposium at the University of Dayton and a trip to New York that is in the works.