**GVS(You) Week Celebrates Private Giving**

In February, Grand Valley Celebrated its fourth annual GVS(You) Week. The week-long celebration, hosted by the Future Alumni Association, strives to educate students on the effect that private giving has on campus. Each year, more than 15,000 individuals donate to the university, and each gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. During GVS(You) Week, members of the Future Alumni Associations host events in order to get students thinking about the effect of private giving. Each year, the organization collects thank you notes from students, which are sent to alumni donors who give less than $50 annually to GVSU. These personalized notes help donors know that the students at the university appreciate their actions. GVS(You) Week 2016 collected a record of more than 700 thank you notes!

"Without private giving, Grand Valley simply wouldn’t be the same. It’s encouraging for students to know that alumni are investing in their future, and it’s equally important for donors to realize that their contributions to the university are appreciated."

Skylar Thompson
Future Alumni Association member

In addition, the week included a “Get the Scoop on Philanthropy” event, which featured celebrity scoopers including President Thomas Haas and Director of Alumni Relations Chris Barbee. The organization looks forward to even greater success in future years.

**What’s New with the Future Alumni Association**

Since it began, the Future Alumni Association’s mission has been to create a connection between current Grand Valley students and the University’s alumni.

The 2015-2016 school year has been one of tremendous growth and achievement for the Future Alumni Association. Recently, the organization’s program GVS(You) Week received the Outstanding Student Advancement Program Award by District 5 of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s Affiliated Student Advancement Programs (CASE ASAP).

The organization’s current president, Julie Jamison, was also honored by being named Outstanding Student Leader.
Dinner with 7 Lakers

Alumni gather at GVSU to share their wisdom with current students

70 Grand Valley students, faculty, and alumni gathered for the annual Dinner with 7 Lakers event on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. The event allows students to select their table based on areas of professional interest, and spend the evening discussing their future aspirations. Many students say they appreciate the opportunity to talk to alumni and professors in a comfortable setting, and enjoy being able to ask questions about the topics that are most important to them. The Future Alumni Association is grateful to all of the alumni and faculty who took the time to meet with students, and looks forward to the event again next year.

Buck-A-Brick Fundraiser Collects Money for the Student Legacy Scholarship

55 years ago, community leaders came together to raise money to open the university through the Buck-A-Brick campaign. This past Founder’s Day, the Future Alumni Association allowed students to recreate this legendary moment in GV history by donating a dollar and painting their own brick. This pilot event was a success, raising $80 to support the Student Legacy Scholarship. President Thomas Haas even stopped by to show his support and paint a brick!

Talking Philanthropy

Recently Cindy Brown of Hello West Michigan stopped by a meeting to talk with Future Alumni Association members about philanthropy at Grand Valley and in West Michigan! Members brainstormed ways to increase service and membership. Stay tuned to see the exciting events and additions we have in store for the upcoming 2016 – 2017 academic year!