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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services



Faculty members receive Fulbright awards

Three faculty members received Fulbright grants that will send them to Kenya, India and Romania.

Ashok Kumar, professor of management in the Seidman College of Business, was selected as a Distinguished Fulbright-Nehru Professor to serve at Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi beginning in July.



Ashok Kumar

Kumar will serve for nearly six months, teaching a supply chain management course focused on green operations and supply chains. In December, he will organize a conference, "Emerging Paradigms in Operations and Supply Chain Management." A significant focus of the conference is sustainable operations and strategies.

John Bender, associate professor of chemistry, will teach and conduct research on carbon dioxide recycling in Romania, and build collaborations between the chemistry departments at Grand Valley and Babes-Bolyia University.



John Bender

Erik Nordman, assistant professor of natural resources management, will be a visiting Fulbright fellow at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. He will teach in the university's Environmental Studies and Community Development department and conduct research on the feasibility of installing wind turbines at tea farms.

"Diesel is expensive and Kenya has no petroleum resources to speak of," Nordman said. "Generating power on site with wind and



Erik Nordman

solar energy could be a cost effective option." It is similar to Nordman's work with the West Michigan Wind Assessment Project at Grand Valley.

The Padnos International Center will host a workshop in March for faculty members who are interested in applying for a Fulbright grant for the 2013-2014 academic year; more information is online at www.gvsu.edu/pic, click on "Faculty and Staff." The Fulbright program is the country's flagship program for international education exchanges.

Across Campus

Three students receive engineering scholarships

Three students were recognized at a presentation August 29 as recipients of the Autocam Engineering Scholarship, a new scholarship founded by Autocam President and Grand Valley Trustee John C. Kennedy.

Christopher Foster, from Fruitport; Preston Purdue, from Grand Rapids; and Leah Bauer, from Pinckney, will receive full-tuition scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year.

President Thomas J. Haas, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing Dean Paul Plotkowski and Kennedy attended the event to congratulate the recipients.

"For our state, scholarships like this one help encourage the next generation of leaders to explore the critical science, technology, engineering and mathematical disciplines that are a priority for rebuilding Michigan's economy," Haas said. "This scholarship will

provide our students with the opportunity to not only learn the skills they need to succeed, but it will also allow them to apply those skills before graduation and really have an edge in their future careers."

The scholarship was created to address the need for advanced manufacturing skills in West Michigan and to make education more accessible for incoming students who are interested in manufacturing careers. It will help attract students to engineering careers by informing them of the level of technological and problem-solving skills needed in today's manufacturing environment due to rapidly advancing technology.

Autocam, based in West Michigan, is a worldwide manufacturer of precision-machine components for the automotive and medical instruments industries.

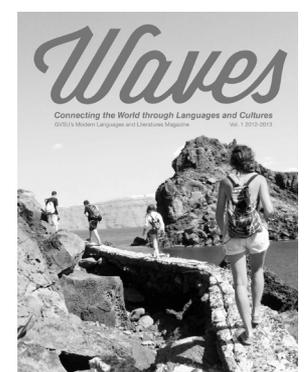
MLL makes 'Waves'

Like waves, languages span the globe and touch

many people. Such was the thought behind choosing the name "Waves" for a new magazine produced by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Printed copies of the annual publication will be used by the department. An online version is available on the MLL Department website, www.gvsu.edu/ml.

"We want Waves to be an example of the excitement that can be gained by pursuing languages at Grand Valley," said Jessica Miller, a senior writing major hired as editor.



'Waves' is a new publication from Modern Languages and Literatures.

Across Campus

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The magazine showcases the work and success stories of students, faculty and staff members, and alumni from MLL, and features about the personal and professional benefits that can be gained by studying languages. The publication is the outcome of an idea by MLL Chair Majd Al-Mallah, associate professor of Arabic. He worked throughout the summer with Miller to brainstorm ideas and gather support and information from other faculty and staff members and students.

“We often think of studying languages as leading to careers in translation, interpretation and such,” said Al-Mallah, in his article introducing the magazine. “The reality is that learning a language and a culture can open the door to a wide range of career options. Employers are seeking well-rounded individuals, particularly those with a second language.”

Second hoop house expands farming space



Photo by Amanda Pitts

The Sustainable Agriculture Project adds a second hoop house.

The Sustainable Agriculture Project at Grand Valley added a second hoop house to its farming space, providing more opportunities for students to learn about sustainable agriculture.

The new hoop house, which allows the growing season to extend into the academic year, is 24 feet longer than the first hoop house that was built in the summer of 2011. Students, faculty and staff members donated more than 300 hours to build the new structure that will now have 22 beds and 40 percent more growing space.

Levi Gardner, project manager, said the first hoop house was a huge success. “More and more students are visiting the project to learn and work,” he said. “The new house will more than double

our capacity and will provide room for more classes to come out and visit.”

Starting in October, volunteers will sell produce grown at the hoop houses in front of the Transformational Link every Wednesday, moving to the Kirkhof Center in the winter.

The hoop house is a collaborative effort that includes support from Grand Valley’s Farm Club student organization, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Haas urges first-year students to reduce costs by attending full time

As a new academic year gets underway at area colleges and universities, an examination of student loan data shows Grand Valley students who completed their degrees in four years accrued debt below the national average — and that nearly 40 percent had no debt at all.

The internal study shows that of students who began at Grand Valley as first-year students in fall 2008 and graduated four years later, 37 percent had no debt. The median debt for that group was \$13,569. Nearly 900 students received the Grand Finish grant of \$1,000, which rewards students in their senior year for staying on a four-year path to graduation. Students who took five or six years to complete their degrees incurred greater expense and took on more debt.

President Thomas J. Haas said access and affordability are cornerstones to the university’s educational mission.

“We work to keep quality up while holding tuition down for our students,” Haas said. “We have put programs in place to speed the path to graduation and help our alumni to begin their careers. It’s gratifying to see these programs working so well.”

For the 2011-2012 year, nearly 95 percent of Grand Valley students received some type of assistance: a scholarship, grant or loan. Last year, the average gift aid — money that does not need to be paid back by the

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Faculty and staff members can find an online “Sketches” submission form on the Web at www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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Other publications by the News and Information Services Office include:

Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

GvNow, Grand Valley’s daily news online publication, can be found at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow. Subscribe to daily email alerts.

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



GVFaces

Svetoslav (Slava) Pavlov Russian Studies program coordinator

Area Studies expanded its offerings to students this year by adding Russian Studies to its list of programs that center on major world regions.

Program coordinator Svetoslav (Slava) Pavlov has taught Russian language courses and said he looks forward to building a curriculum and working with students to host cultural events.

“Russian Studies will follow the pattern of other Area Studies programs,” Pavlov said. Students can major or minor in Russian Studies; the language courses remain housed in Modern Languages and Literatures.

Steeve Buckridge, director of Area Studies, said Russian Studies is the oldest area studies program at Grand Valley. “It was founded by Professors Christine Rydel and Edward Cole,” he added. “We applaud them for their dedication and continued service to the program, and we welcome Russian Studies to its new area studies home.”

Pavlov said a new course will be offered in the winter that focuses on Russian poetry. Other courses include geography, politics, history and literature.



Svetoslav (Slava) Pavlov

Pavlov, a native of Latvia, joined Grand Valley’s faculty in 2004, after teaching computer science courses at Davenport University. He said the changing culture and political landscape of Russia is what draws students to program.

“When Russian Studies programs first started in the U.S., it was during the Cold War, now they include other areas in Eastern Europe besides Russia,” he said.

Pavlov plans to work closely with the student organization, Russian Circle, to organize events and connect with the West Michigan Russian community. Visit the program’s website at www.gvsu.edu/rs.

What's Ahead

Campus Life Night welcomes students

Students are encouraged to attend Campus Life Night, an annual event sponsored by the Office of Student Life, that showcases campus resources, including the more than 350 registered student organizations.

The event is set for Tuesday, September 4 at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse Arena.

“There are going to be a lot of clubs promoting their organizations,” said Ian Kast, president of the Film & Conversations Club. “We want to have more people informed of the club. Hopefully, we can get more people to join.”

The student organizations range broadly in topics. Clubs such as the Criminal Justice Students' Association, Grand Valley Television, Delta Tau Delta, Club Baseball, and the Civil War Club will all be represented at the event.

Students can also learn about the leadership and service opportunities offered through the Laker Leadership Programs, Community Service Learning Center, and Laker for a Lifetime campaign. Students attending the event can live-Tweet by using the hashtag #GVCLN12.

Lubbers Stadium rededicated at home opener

Lubbers Stadium will be rededicated on Saturday, September 8, in honor of President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers. It also will be the first time fans get to see the stadium renovations.

Lubbers played a major role in advancing Grand Valley athletics during his time as president from 1969-2001. Faculty and staff

members can show appreciation for Lubbers and his efforts that helped to make the Laker athletics program what it is today by making a gift to the Don Lubbers Excellence in Athletics Facilities Fund.

Visit www.donlubbersfund.com for more details.

Beethoven concert opens Fall Arts Celebration

Fall Arts Celebration begins its events next week with a musical celebration of Beethoven's works by Music Department faculty members, students and guest artists.

“Music for the ‘Era of Good Feelings’: Beethoven in Federalist America” is set for Monday, September 10, 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre. The “Era of Good Feelings” in America followed the end of the War of 1812, which had included the fall of Detroit and Fort Mackinac to the British, and the subsequent end of the Napoleonic Wars, which had caused upheaval throughout much of Europe.

The Music Department celebrates the bicentennial of this new age of peace, with three works by Ludwig Van Beethoven that reflected the values of liberty and freedom so important to the growing republic: “The Ruins of Athens,” Opus 113, written in 1811-12; “Christ on the Mount of Olives,” with its rousing final “Hallelujah” chorus; and “Wellington's Victory,” composed in 1813.

Seats fill quickly; arrive early. Visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts for information on upcoming events.

Women's Commission will host luncheon

Grand Valley's Women's Commission will

hosts its annual Fall Welcome on Wednesday, September 12, beginning at noon in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

The keynote speaker will be Patricia Smith, deputy legal counsel. Smith began working at Grand Valley in 2000; prior to that, she served as managing attorney for a state-funded office in Oklahoma that provided legal services to people with developmental disabilities. She also practiced law in Wisconsin and taught elementary school.

Faculty and staff members are invited to RSVP for the luncheon online at www.gvsu.edu/w_commission.

Women's Center to hold annual art reception

The Women's Center will host its 11th annual Fall Art Reception for artists whose work is displayed in the center on Wednesday, September 12, from 1-3 p.m. The theme is celebrating and highlighting women's diverse experiences.

New this year is a collaboration with Heartside Ministry Art Gallery, as artists from the gallery also will display their artwork in the Women's Center.

Artists are Gretchen Hein, Monica Johnstone, Monica Lloyd, Terry Kahn, Maggie Vance, Jessica Pleyel, Pamela Alderman, Kathleen Blumreich, Mari Tobias Provost, Kathy Sam, Maanda Budeli, Leah Burke, Hankondo Sibalwa, Debra Dieppa, Christine Stephens and Lindsay Fischer.

Artwork will remain on display throughout the year.

Across Campus

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student — reduced the cost of attendance for students receiving that aid by more than \$3,000 each. The university awarded more than \$31 million in gift aid in 2011-2012. Grand Valley's Career Services office reports that of recent graduates 88 percent are working or attending graduate school, and that of those employed 84 percent are pursuing their careers in Michigan.

“We want parents and students to know what we know: that getting a degree in four years is the most cost-effective thing a student can do,” Haas said. “We're committed to making the path to graduation smoother at Grand Valley.”

For more on Grand Valley's efficiencies, see the Accountability Report, www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

AWRI highlighted on Discovery Channel

The Annis Water Resources Institute was recently featured in an episode of the Profiles Series on the Discovery Channel.

The episode featured a six-minute segment on the role of AWRI in preservation, stewardship and research of the abundant freshwater resources of the Great Lakes. The segment can be viewed online at www.gvsu.edu/wri, click on the “Discovery Channel” button.

The segment features interviews with Alan Steinman, director of AWRI; Mark Murray, former Grand Valley president and current president of Meijer Corp.; and Roger Andersen and Charles Johnson II, Muskegon business leaders.

Efforts of AWRI researchers are also highlighted, including projects to restore threatened fish species, identify and control foreign invasive species, provide clean drinking water in disadvantaged regions of the world, and restore government-identified Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes basin.

Other highlights include demonstrating community outreach efforts on AWRI research vessels *DJ Angus* and *WG Jackson*, which take K-12 and university students, as well as adult passengers, on research trips on Spring Lake, Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan to complement classroom learning activities.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Tues., Sept. 4

7 p.m.: Campus Life Night. FH. Call x12345 for more information.

Wed., Sept. 5

10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Farmers Market. Parking Lot F.

11:30 a.m.: Johnson Center Brown Bag Series: "The Science and Art of Raising Funds," by Angela Morris. 230 BIK. Call x17585 for more information.

Noon: Arts at Noon Series: "Mind's Eye Jazz Quartet." CDC. Call x13484 for more information.

Noon: Allendale Toastmasters. 2201 KC. Visit www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters for information.

5 p.m.: Campus Recreation hosts Faculty/Staff

Intro to Rock Climbing. B170 FH. Register at www.gvsu.edu/seminar.

Thurs., Sept. 6

7:30 a.m.: Downtown Toastmasters. University Club Room, DEV. Visit www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters for information.

5 p.m.: Opening reception for "Putting It All Together," art exhibit. Art Gallery, PAC. Call x12563 for more information.

Fri., Sept. 7

11:30 a.m.: Seidman College of Business Brown Bag Series: "Global Workplace – The Business of Fitting In." 303C DEV. Call x17100 for more information.

Noon: Writing Center hosts Faculty Friday. DEV 302E. Call x12922 for more information.

7 p.m.: Artist Faculty Series: Pablo Mahave-

Veglia, cello. 1325 PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

Sat., Sept. 8

4-6 p.m.: Alumni, Family and Friends Football Tailgater. Irwin Lot. Call x13590 for more information.

Sports

Fri., Sept. 7

1 and 7 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Laker Classic. Riverfront Hotel, Grand Rapids.

Sat., Sept. 8

Noon and 4 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Laker Classic. Riverfront Hotel, Grand Rapids.

7 p.m.: Football hosts Notre Dame College.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

Sketches

Svetoslav Pavlov, affiliate professor and program coordinator for Russian Studies, gave a presentation, "The Human Fall: Biblical Parallels in Chekhov's Story 'The Black Monk,'" at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Slavists in Waterloo, Canada. He also gave a presentation, "Pasternak's Approach to Translating Shakespeare's Humor," at the Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Seattle, Washington.

Biology faculty members **Michael P. Lombardo** and **Patrick A. Thorpe** gave a presentation, "Chewing Lice and Tree Swallow Biology," at the North American Ornithological Conference at the University of British Columbia. **Lombardo** was elected secretary of

the Association of Field Ornithologists at the conference.

Steve Mattox, professor of geology, was named Outstanding Michigan Earth Science Teacher by the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association.

Rick Iadonisi, affiliate professor of writing, wrote an article, "'A Man Has Risen': Hard Bodies, Reaganism, and 'The Dark Knight Returns,'" published in the *International Journal of Comic Art*.

Physics faculty members **Kingshuk Majumdar**, **Maja Krcmar** and **Doug Furton**, and **Agnieszka Szarecka**, assistant professor of cell and molecular biology, received a National Science Foundation-Major Research Instrumentation grant to acquire a high-

performance computing cluster at Grand Valley.

Kelly A. Parker, professor of philosophy and liberal studies, wrote a chapter, "Ecohumanities Pedagogy: An Experiment in Environmental Education through Radical Service-Learning," published in a book, *Contemporary Pragmatism*.

Craig Benjamin, associate professor of history in the Meijer Honors College, gave a presentation, "State of the Field: Big History," at the Asian Association of World Historians Conference at Ewha Women's University in Seoul, Korea.

Cindy Hull, professor of anthropology, wrote a book, *Chippewa Lake: A Community in Search of an Identity*, published by MSU Press.