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FORUM

Monday, September 8, 2008

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services

Celebration of new Honors College facility planned

Grand Valley will celebrate the re-dedication of the Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center at its new location with an event on Thursday, September 11, from 4-5:30 p.m.

The Honors College moved into the new Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center on the Allendale Campus. Approximately 450 honors students live and learn in this cutting-edge facility. Administrators call it the optimal environment for motivating students to grow and develop skills on their ways to becoming leaders.

“With its state-of-the-art classroom technology, premium housing, convenient suite of faculty offices, and meeting and study areas, the new center is a great environment for student living and learning, a place that nurtures a genuine academic community,” said Jeff Chamberlain, Honors College director.

The center features 187,000 square feet of residential space and 41,000 square feet of academic space. The center is large enough to accommodate first-year and upper-level students. It was designed and built to meet LEED

standards, which call for high performance and sustainability by maintaining standards for water and energy conservation, material selection and indoor environmental quality. It has a 70-seat case room, great room, science demonstration lab, listening room, reading room and two LearnLab classrooms. There are also 16 faculty and staff offices. Students will take a few classes each year in the Honors College facility.

The facility is named for Niemeyer, who retired from Grand Valley in 2001 after 38 years of service. He was a pioneer faculty member and served as the university’s first provost from 1980-2001. Grand Valley’s former Honors College facility — which was also named for Niemeyer — housed about 250 students. During the re-dedication, Niemeyer will tour the facility, visit student residences, enjoy the artwork and watch demonstrations in the LearnLab classrooms.

“A living and learning center is unique to any campus,” Niemeyer said. “It is an honor to have my name on this impressive new facility.”



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Students walk by the Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center. The facility will be re-dedicated Thursday; faculty and staff members are invited to the ceremony, which will begin at 4 p.m.

Across Campus

‘Live United’ campaign emphasizes volunteering

As Grand Valley’s annual United Way campaign approaches, organizers are emphasizing a theme of interconnectedness through the national “Live United” campaign. That campaign encourages people to not only give money, but also volunteer and advocate — to be an active part of the change they want to see in the community.

Grand Valley’s United Way campaign runs October 1-15. United Way impacts the community through the work of agencies that provide direct services to people. It also works to influence the community through supporting education, income and health.

Campaign co-chair Jon Jellema spoke about



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Pictured are Grand Valley United Way Campaign co-chairs Jon Jellema and Marlene Kowalski-Braun.

what the Live United theme means to him. “As a youngster I was taught to give some of what I had to others who had less,” he said.

“That childhood lesson makes even more sense as I’ve grown older and become more conscious of the needs in our community. I support United Way because it is a responsible, accountable agency addressing some of our community needs in an organized, targeted, efficient way.”

Marlene Kowalski-Braun, the campaign’s other chair, said she Lives United by working on the annual campaign. “I know that there are many needs that go unmet and unheard in our community,” she said. “In response, United Way finds ways to better coordinate services and to distribute funds where they are needed most. Without the campaign, there are many agencies that could not operate.”

Kowalski-Braun added that United Way’s

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Across Campus

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community investment fund “allows a group of committed citizens to look at the needs in our community and make wise decisions on where dollars are allocated. United Way helps us to look at the community more holistically and distribute money where it is needed most.”

One way that United Way is able to look at the community is through calls to its 211 service. In 2007, Heart of West Michigan’s 211 service received 67,000 calls. Among the most common requested services were housing and shelter, food, health care, volunteer opportunities, utilities, free tax preparation, services for people with disabilities, substance abuse services, after-school programs, child abuse and neglect, senior services, and more.

Nationally, the Live United campaign is geared toward advancing the common good and changing systems to the benefit of all — helping children succeed in school, helping make families financially stable and helping improve people’s health. United Way’s goal is to create long-lasting changes by addressing the underlying causes of these problems.

Art and Design has new chair

Following a national search, Virginia (Jinny) Jenkins has been hired as the new chair of the Department of Art and Design.

Jenkins brings more than 30 years of experience in higher education, most recently for the past three years as head of the Department of Art and Design at the University of Minnesota Duluth, and at the University of Northern Colorado, where she taught for 19 years and served as chair of the Visual Arts Department for six years.

Jenkins earned a B.F.A. from Michigan State University, an M.F.A. from the University of Utah and taught at Central Michigan University, among other colleges, while still keeping active as a painting and drawing artist.

“I have been very impressed with the faculty members at Grand Valley

and their true dedication to students,” said Jenkins. “I also believe in the importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative activities and see much evidence of that here.”

Jenkins hopes to draw also from her strong international experience, which includes helping establish a number of academic programs at Hong Kong Baptist University in China and coordinating collaborative projects with Baskent University in Ankara, Turkey.

She is already quite busy finalizing plans for the NCA re-accreditation visit in October and preparing for the 2011-12 re-accreditation visit with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.



Virginia (Jinny) Jenkins

Pew Campus Security competes in ‘Biggest Loser’

The Pew Campus Security staff has the everyday challenge of keeping the campus and surrounding area safe and secure. This summer, staff members had an additional challenge — weight loss.

After officer Dan Lopez was put in charge of health and wellness for the department, he came up with the idea of the “Biggest Loser Challenge.” The challenge was to see who could lose the most weight over a specific time. Lopez told Dori Runyon, administrative assistant, his idea and they came up with the rules and prizes, and set the weigh-in dates. Director Al Wygant approved it and the department competed in the challenge from May 2-July 25.

The total weight loss for the department was 90 pounds. Lopez took third

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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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GVNOW

Other publications by the News and Information Services Office include: To see video features and daily campus news, visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

GRAND VALLEY magazine

Grand Valley Magazine is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its Web site at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

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

GVFaces

David Smith, Director of Benefit Services, Human Resources

David Smith has worked in the employee benefits field for more than 25 years. Now he uses his knowledge and experience to design and manage the benefit programs for about 2,000 faculty and staff members and their families.

Smith began his career at Grand Valley in 2005. He had worked at Herman Miller, Inc. as senior manager of benefits on the People Services Team. He has a bachelor’s degree in business administration, and he also earned certifications as a qualified pension administrator from the American Society of Pension Actuaries and as a professional of human resources from the Society for Human Resource Management.

At Grand Valley he is responsible for managing a full slate of benefits programs. This includes traditional benefit programs like health, dental, life insurance and retirement. In addition, he manages some non-traditional benefit programs like wellness, academic participation and adoption assistance.

“At Grand Valley I have an opportunity to manage a broad spectrum of benefit programs,” he said.

According to Smith, one of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of his job is to balance the “people side” of the programs with the financial aspects associated with the plans.

“My position is unique in that the things that I manage can have a direct and personal impact on faculty and staff members,” said Smith.

In his spare time, Smith enjoys kayaking, biking and spending time with his family.



David Smith

What's Ahead

Two healthy programs start

Two workplace programs sponsored by Health and Wellness begin next week with goals of helping keep faculty and staff members healthy.

A team pedometer challenge, Walking Works, will run from September 15 to December 5; registration will begin September 12. Teams of four faculty and/or staff members can register for the challenge, which counts steps per team. Exercise entries can be logged online. Lindsey Des Armo, health and wellness coordinator, said exercise for the challenge is not limited to walking but includes other aerobic activities. Prizes will be awarded to teams with the most steps and highest step average.

To register, visit the Web site www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness and click on "Walking Works Pedometer Challenge," under "Popular Pages." All team captains must attend a meeting to receive a start kit with more information: September 10, noon, at the Cook-DeWitt Center; or September 11, noon, at the DeVos Center, room 303C. The cost is \$10 per person.

• **Weight Watchers at the Workplace** will begin September 23. Informational meetings are set for September 16, noon, in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, room 240; and September 17, noon, Cook-DeWitt Center. Weekly meetings and weigh-ins will continue through December 10.

For more information on either program, call Des Armo at x12215.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Ken James, right, will be the keynote speaker at the Women's Welcome Reception on September 16. He is pictured at a welcome reception in the Alumni House.

Women's Commission to host fall welcome

Faculty and staff members are invited to the annual Women's Welcome Reception, a celebration of the new academic year.

Sponsored by the Women's Commission, Women's Center, Women and Gender Studies and Positive Black Women, the reception is set for Tuesday, September 16, from noon-1:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

Ken James, assistant vice president for Affirmative Action, will be keynote speaker. A light lunch will be served. Doors will open at 11:45 a.m. and the program will start at 12:15 p.m. RSVP by sending an e-mail to wcommission@gvsu.edu.

Arts at Noon performances offer variety

Performers from around the world are featured at the seven free Arts at Noon concerts that will take place most Wednesdays through November. Each concert will be held in the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon and last approximately one hour. For more information, contact the Department of Music at x13484.

The series opens on Wednesday, September 17, with 20-year-old Czech violin virtuoso Anna Skalová. She will be accompanied by Russian pianist Dmitri Vorobiev as they perform works by Bach, Brahms and Wieniawski.

• **September 24:** Guitarist Carlos de la Barrera, a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, will perform a program of Hispanic music, coinciding with Hispanic Heritage Month.

• **October 1:** The Kapell Trio will perform works by Beethoven, Bolcom and Martinu. The trio, named to honor legendary pianist William Kapell is ensemble-in-residence at the International Music Academy in Pilsen, Czech Republic. Members are violinist and University of Michigan professor Stephen Shippis, Steinway Artist Stephen Swedish, and Grand Valley cellist Pablo Mahave-Veglia.

• **October 15:** The Ensemble Montage, members of the Grand Rapids Symphony, will perform a celebration of the great Elliot Carter, who this year celebrates his 100th birthday and is still an active composer.

• **October 22:** The Mind's Eye quartet will play original jazz with an edge by combining diverse backgrounds and collective talent.

• **November 5:** David Hall, a leading marimba performer, will perform a mix of classical, rag-time, Brazilian, and contemporary music.

• **November 12:** Gregory Crowell will perform on the Jay and Betty Van Andel organ. A Grand Valley faculty member, Crowell has also appeared as organist, harpsichordist, clavichordist, lecturer, and conductor around the world.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins with Latino Votes discussion

Numerous events that highlight Hispanic political influences, art and foreign policies are planned by the Office of Multicultural Affairs to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which will run September 17 through October 14.

All events detailed below are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call OMA at x12177.

• **Latino Voices, Latino Votes:** September 17, 4-6 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Maria Echaveste, lecturer-in-residence at the University of California-Berkeley Law School, will address the increasing Hispanic population in swing states and how the Democrats and Republicans will court the Hispanic vote. She

was an advisor for the Hillary Clinton campaign and a former staff member for President Bill Clinton.



Maria Echaveste

• **Hispanic Art Experience:** September 18, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

Local artists Hugo Claudin, Oswaldo Garcés, Carmelo López, Roli Mancera and David Pozo will discuss how living in the United States has influenced their artwork as they share their influences behind their work.

• **Musical Journey Through Latin America:** September 24, noon-2 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center.

Carlos de la Barrera, an Argentinean guitarist, will present a musical trip to Latin America, a region with a rich musical history. A workshop will be held immediately following the concert.

• **Latin America Through the Lens of a U.S. Photographer:** September 29, 3-4:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

Professional local photographer Randall Gornowich will present photo essays from trips to Mexico and Latin America. His work includes capturing university protests in Oaxaca, Mexico, and a festival in Pasto, Colombia.

• **Perspectives on Hugo Chavez:** October 2, 2:30-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Gustavo Rotondaro and Rafael Gamboa, two local Venezuelans, will present different perspectives of the presidency of Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

• **Race, Ethnicity, Nationality and Identity:** October 6, noon-1:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216.

Laura Arcila Villla, visiting professor of philosophy, will discuss Latin American philosopher Jorge J.E. Gracia and his analysis of the concepts of race, ethnicity, and nationality and how they help to shape identities.

• **U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Colombia:** October 14, 2:30-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Polly Diven, associate professor of political science, will be joined by John Dugas, from Kalamazoo College, as they discuss the complexities of Colombian politics and consequences of U.S. foreign policy.

Other campus departments co-sponsoring Hispanic Heritage Month events are Art and Design, College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Honors College, International Relations Program, Latin American Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures Department, Padnos International Center, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, Political Science Department, Women's Center, Sigma Lambda Gamma and Latino Student Union.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Art Gallery Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Through Sept. 26

Gallery Hours: Art Exhibit: "Function or Submarine." PAC 1121. Call x12564 for more information.

Through Oct. 16

7 a.m.: CardioSculpt Session I. FH B160. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Yoga in the Workplace. FH Multipurpose Room and CHS. Call x12215 for more information.

Mon., Sept. 8

8 p.m.: Fall Arts Celebration. Music at Grand Valley: "Debut." LAT, PAC. Call x12180 for more information.

Tues., Sept. 9

Noon: Women's Commission Meeting. KC 2242. Call x15437 for more information.

Wed., Sept. 10

11 a.m.: Fall 2008 Volunteer Opportunities Fair. HRY Atrium. Call x12468 for more information.

Noon: Allendale Toastmasters. KC 2259. Call x18655 for more information.

Thurs., Sept. 11

All Day: Women's Center hosts United Way Day of Caring. Call x12748 for more information.

7:30 a.m.: Grand Rapids Toastmasters. DEV University Club Room. Call x17337 for more information.

4 p.m.: Re-dedication of the Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center. NLLC. Call x12100 for more information.

Fri., Sept. 12

5 p.m.: LGBT Faculty/Staff Association hosts Fall Reception. PAC 1121. Call x12530 for more information.

8 p.m.: "Lisa with a S," Solo Dance Concert featuring Lisa Catrett-Belrose. LAT, PAC Call x13484 for more information.

Sat., Sept. 13

8 p.m.: "Lisa with a S." LAT, PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

Sports

Wed., Sept. 10

7 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Davenport University.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Roger Moiles, instructor of political science, was interviewed by WOOD-AM and WOOD-TV's "To The Point" for stories about the choice of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as a Republican vice presidential nominee.

Erika King, professor of political science, was interviewed by the *Detroit Free Press* for a story about Hurricane Gustav and the delay of the Republican National Convention, and by WZZM-TV Channel 13, WOOD-TV's "To The Point" and the *Battle Creek Enquirer* for stories about Sarah Palin and the importance of Michigan in the 2008 election.

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, was interviewed

by WGVU-AM for a story on the significance of national political conventions.

Sketches

Sister Lucia Treanor, affiliate professor of writing, gave a presentation, "The Palindromic Structure of Aquinas's Adoro te devote," at the 43rd annual International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University.

Jann-Huei Jinn, professor of statistics, co-wrote an article, "A Study of Fuzzy Linear Regression," published in *InterStat*.

Gordon Alderink, associate professor of physical therapy, gave a presentation, "Determinants of Human Gait: A Review, Role of Knee/Ankle

Coupling in Stability, Control & Propulsion," at the Dynamic Walking conference in Delft, Netherlands. He gave a presentation, "Sources of Forward Ball Velocity in a Pitched Baseball," at the North American Congress of Biomechanics held in Ann Arbor.

Peimin Ni, professor of philosophy and East Asian Studies, published articles in the following publications: *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, *Frontier of Western Philosophy*, *Social Sciences*, and *Confucius Now*. He also gave presentations, including a keynote speech, "Three Deadly Diseases of Today's Education — Materialism, Managerialism, and Consumerism," at the opening session of World Public Forum; and "Dialogue of Civilizations — Education as a Dialogue Model of Social Development," in Ottawa, Canada.

Pew Campus Security competes in weight loss challenge

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place in the competition and Runyon placed first, losing 14.7 percent of her weight.

"I would suggest participating in Weight Watchers," said Runyon. "The key is commitment, and you have to actually want to make a change. Take it one day at a time, some days will be better than others, but a person should make sure they have more good weight-loss days than bad ones."



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Pew Campus Security staff members Dan Lopez and Dori Runyon competed with others in a weight loss challenge.

In addition to dieting, Runyon and Lopez both found time to fit exercising into their weight-loss routine.

"With the nature of my job, I'm always walking and going up and down stairs. I try not to take elevators anymore. Mix that in with the work that I do at home and I try to stay active and not sit around," said Lopez.

Lopez said he is trying to plan more fun and competitive activities that will benefit the overall health and wellness for department staff members.

Both Runyon and Lopez plan to participate in Know Your Numbers, the health screening assessment offered to faculty and staff members in October. For more information about the screenings, visit the Web site www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness and click on "Know Your Numbers GVSU."