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Grand Valley State University

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# FORUM

**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

Published by University Communications



## Grand Valley enrolls record number of students

Grand Valley once again welcomes a record number of students to campus this fall.

Total enrollment is 25,325, up from last year's enrollment of 25,094, with 4,155 being first-time students.

There are also a record number of students of color on campus 4,136 (16.3 percent), international students (434), and a record number of students living on campus (6,223).

"We're off to a great start this academic year," said President Thomas J. Haas. "Grand Valley students know they are enrolling in a university that puts their education and well-being first. Students experience Grand Valley's faculty and culture, and they tell their friends. Alumni go into communities, and employers see the difference they make. We've done a great deal of planning to

not only attract students, but to keep them and guide them to meaningful degrees. Our retention is up, and students are benefiting."

Student retention from first year to sophomore year is up again. Students are able to take advantage of academic advising tools that are available from the beginning of their Grand Valley careers. They're able to meet with counseling staff to help stay on track toward graduation in four years. The university helps motivate students with the Grand Finish grant, which awards a \$1,000 scholarship at the start of the fourth year to students with 90 credits.

Grand Valley colleges showing significant increases in enrollment are business (8.8 percent), engineering (10.2 percent) and health professions (6.6 percent).

"We're pleased to see that



Photo by Amanda Pitts

A record number of students, including international students and students of color, enrolled at Grand Valley this fall, bringing total enrollment to 25,325.

our liberal education philosophy, combined with liberal arts and sciences, professional majors and graduate programs, continues to be a draw for students," said Provost Gayle R. Davis. "Our faculty are continuously devising innovative programs and updating existing programs to stay relevant, while always stretching to see what should be next for Grand Valley."

Grand Valley is in the top three for graduation rates of all public universities in Michigan, and is in the top four for retention. Nearly 90 percent of recent graduates are employed or pursuing advanced degrees. Of those working, 86 percent have stayed in Michigan.

Visit [www.gvsu.edu/](http://www.gvsu.edu/) accountability for more details on Grand Valley's performance.

## Across Campus

### Campus climate survey planned, information sessions set

Students, faculty and staff members will be invited to participate in an anonymous campus climate survey in November, answering questions about what it's like to live, learn and work at Grand Valley.

The myGVSU Campus Climate Survey 2015 will have differences and similarities to the survey distributed in 2011, according to Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity.

Bernal said the 2015 survey will be shorter and participants should complete it in less than 20 minutes. "We are not adding any new questions, and we will take the open-ended questions out," he said.

The campus climate survey will be open from November 12-22. Three open forums will be held on campus to discuss the survey: September 23, from 1-2:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2204; September 24, noon-1:30 p.m., Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, room 119; September 29, noon-1:30 p.m., DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

There will be incentives offered, including tuition grants for students and professional development grants for faculty and staff members.

Bernal said a climate survey should be administered at an institution every four or five years. Responses from the 2011 survey have informed policies and activities on campus, he said and cited affinity groups for faculty and staff members of color, gender inclusive housing and a religious inclusion policy as examples.

Results of the 2011 survey showed nearly 90 percent of students and 76 percent of faculty and staff members said they are comfortable with the overall climate in the classes and workplaces. Bernal said results also showed people of color and those who identify as LGBT experience a less than welcoming climate.

"That is consistent with national trends, but



Jesse Bernal

data said these populations at Grand Valley find the climate more inclusive and welcoming than the same populations at other institutions," he said. "Any negative experience deserves our attention. The 2015 survey will help us further identify areas for growth and improvement."

### ArtPrize Education Days will see more participants

A record number of students from across the state will take part in ArtPrize Education Days this year, thanks to support from Grand Valley's Charter Schools Office.

More than 2,800 students from 25 different Grand Valley-authorized charter schools will spend time exploring ArtPrize entries and engaging in art-making activities during the annual festival, which begins September 23. This year's program will span eight days, with opportunities for both Grand Valley charter schools and public community schools to take part.

Students will travel to Grand Rapids from around the state, including six schools in

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# Across Campus

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Detroit, and others from Muskegon, Lansing, Big Rapids and Battle Creek.

This year's program is "From Recycled 'Trash' to Wearable Art." It will teach students how to use everyday items to create art. The programming for the event was created with assistance from Grand Valley's Art and Design Department and Art Gallery.

ArtPrize awarded a \$5,000 grant to help fund the program.

## Applications sought for endowed professorship

The Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies is seeking applications from Grand Valley faculty members who are interested in applying for the endowed Padnos/Sarosik Professorship of Civil Discourse.

The professorship is an opportunity to develop a high-impact learning course that prepares students to be leaders in promoting civil discourse. Applications from tenure-track, tenured or affiliate faculty members are due by October 9; send materials to [brookscollege@gvsu.edu](mailto:brookscollege@gvsu.edu).

The professorship is for one or two years, duties will begin in the winter 2016 semester. Responsibilities include developing or adapting a three-credit course, planning a public symposium and meeting with the advisory board.

Lisa Perhamus, assistant professor of education, was named the first civil discourse professor in 2013. Her course, "Detroit's Public Dialogues," focused on grassroots leaders in Detroit and how they used their social justice narratives to create positive change in their neighborhoods.

The new Padnos/Sarosik Professorship of Civil Discourse will be announced at the second civil discourse symposium on November 19.

More information about the position is online at [www.gvsu.edu/brooks](http://www.gvsu.edu/brooks).

## Call for nominations for advising award

Nominations for the 2015-2016 Outstanding Academic Advising and Student Services Award are now being accepted.

This award was established in 2007 by Gayle R. Davis, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs. It is given annually to recognize outstanding academic advising and service to students. The Advising Awards Committee will select and recommend

to the provost one faculty member (only tenure-track faculty or affiliate faculty are eligible) and one administrative professional as recipients.

Nomination forms and all supporting materials are due by email to the Student Academic Success Center, [normans@gvsu.edu](mailto:normans@gvsu.edu), by November 1. Forms and criteria are online at [www.gvsu.edu/advising](http://www.gvsu.edu/advising).

## Events planned to support CRP selection

This year's Community Reading Project selection, *Citizen: An American Lyric*, differs from past selections as the collection of poetry, prose and images by Claudia Rankine recounts racial aggressions, intentional or not, that occur daily to people of color.

Brian Jbara, director of the Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, coordinates the CRP and said more campus events are planned this year leading to Rankine's visit in April.

"We intentionally planned more open dialogues and conversations," Jbara said. "People need their voices to be heard."

By partnering with the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, the CRP will host a series of lunch and learn discussions about the book. The first is set for September 30, from noon-1 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons, multipurpose room. Students, faculty and staff are welcome to participate, RSVP online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout).

In conjunction with the CRP, the Theatre Program will present "Twilight, Los Angeles: 1992," a compilation of 300 interviews playwright Anna Deavere Smith conducted following the L.A. riots after the acquittal of four police officers charged with assaulting Rodney King.

For information about upcoming CRP events, visit [www.gvsu.edu/read](http://www.gvsu.edu/read).

Rankine's book won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry, and was a finalist for the 2014 National Book Award in Poetry and the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism.

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Events surrounding the CRP selection, 'Citizen: An American Lyric,' begin September 30 and lead up to the author's campus visit in April.

## FORUM Volume 40, Number 4

The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, [c/o\\_forum@gvsu.edu](mailto:c/o_forum@gvsu.edu). Telephone: 616-331-2221. Fax: 616-331-2250. Web: [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://www.gvsu.edu/forum).

Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web at [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://www.gvsu.edu/forum).

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Other publications by University Communications include:

*Grand Valley Magazine*, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVNnow, at [www.gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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



## Peters tours Seidman Center



U.S. Sen. Gary Peters toured the L. William Seidman Center September 14. Peters is pictured with Sridhar Sundaram, associate dean in the Seidman College of Business, left, and President Thomas J. Haas, right, during a visit to the center's trading room.

He was the featured speaker at the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council quarterly breakfast held at the Seidman Center.



# What's Ahead

## CUNY professor to give presentation on massacre

An expert in African diaspora, race and genocide will give a presentation on the 1937 Haitian massacre, when Dominican president Rafael Trujillo ordered the execution of 20,000 Haitians who lived on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Edward Paulino, assistant professor at the City University of New York/John Jay, will discuss his research on the 1937 genocide and how the Internet sparked a social movement for reconciliation.

"Bearing Witness to the 1937 Haitian Massacre" is set for Tuesday, September 22, at 6 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Auditorium. Paulino, who traces his ancestry to the Dominican, has received research funding from the Fulbright Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities and New York State Archives.

His presentation is co-sponsored by Area Studies, Latin American Studies, and African American Studies. For more information, contact Louis Moore at x12852 or moorelou@gvsu.edu.

## Lecture focuses on link between stories, connections

The "heart" of communications and creating connections between people will be the focus of the fifth annual James W. Carey Memorial Lecture.

Helen Sterk, head of the Department of Communications and professor at Western Kentucky University, will present "Stories at the Heart of Communication" on Tuesday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Sterk said her lecture centers around how society can flourish when communication spawns from strong foundations of respect and empathy. "Stories connect human beings better than any other form of communications and we connect when we understand and care about each other," Sterk said.

Prior to her time with WKU, Sterk chaired Calvin College's Communication Arts and Sciences department.

Many campus departments have sponsored the memorial lecture, which honors Carey, an influential communications theorist who taught at the University of Illinois and Columbia University and died in 2006. For more information, contact Valerie Peterson, associate professor of communications studies, at x12981 or petersov@gvsu.edu.

## Arts at Noon concert highlights clarinet

The Arts at Noon concert series continues Wednesday, September 23, with a performance by Michael Lowenstern, one of the world's foremost bass clarinetists.

Lowenstern has performed and recorded with a diverse array of musicians and groups. During his 23-year career, he has composed music for concerts, film, dance and various other new media with a sound branded as "ClassicoFunkTronica." As a composer, his work can be found on more than 40 recordings,

including four solo discs. Lowenstern teaches at Manhattan School of Music and the Julliard School.

All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Each concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at x13484.

## Introductory workshops kick off mindfulness series

After a successful pilot year, two campus departments have teamed to sponsor more workshops on mindfulness, including bringing a national expert to campus in October.

Sue Sloop, work life consultant, said the great response by participants last year led to increased efforts this year such as dedicating a new website, [www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness/mindfulness](http://www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness/mindfulness), and offering workshops focused on mindful eating and mindful parenting.

Introductory workshops about mindfulness will be held Wednesday, September 23, from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2270; and September 30, 3-4:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 303C. Register online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout). All workshops are presented by staff members of the Grand Rapids Center for Mindfulness.

Donald McCown, director of the Center for Contemplative Studies at West Chester University, will visit Grand Valley October 23 to give three presentations. McCown is a national expert on the practice and will discuss the mindful campus. His presentations are co-sponsored by Health and Wellness and the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center.

Other workshops on mindfulness will be held throughout the fall semester; visit [www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness](http://www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness) for details.

## Event highlights Constitution debate

Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis made national headlines after refusing to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples in her county, despite a Supreme Court ruling requiring that licenses be granted.

Her refusal on religious grounds has sparked a nationwide controversy about religious liberty and the separation of church and state as outlined in the Constitution.

The debate will take center stage on Thursday, September 24, when the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies hosts, "The Constitution and Religion: Allies, Adversaries, or Something Else?" The discussion will focus on the legal and social questions surrounding the Supreme Court and religious beliefs. Bruce Frohnen, a constitutional law expert and professor from Ohio Northern University's Pettit College of Law, will lead the discussion.

The event will start at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. The free public lecture is part of the Hauenstein Center's Common Ground Initiative as well as its annual Constitution Day series.

For more information and event registration, visit [hauensteincenter.org](http://hauensteincenter.org).

## SAP to host harvest party

Students, faculty and staff members are invited to join the Sustainable Agriculture Project for its annual harvest party on Friday, September 25.

The event will feature locally grown food, activities, games and live music. People interested in volunteering can arrive at 1 p.m.; food will be served at 4 p.m.

"Our purpose is to invite the community to the SAP to celebrate the growing season and strengthen relationships," said Youssef Darwich, farm manager of the Sustainable Agriculture Project.

Attendees and volunteers are welcome to bring a dish made from locally grown produce. The event will take place at the SAP, located at 4539 Luce St. in Allendale.

RSVP to attend or volunteer through Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/gvsufarmclub](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gvsufarmclub) or by sending an email to [farmclub@mail.gvsu.edu](mailto:farmclub@mail.gvsu.edu).

## Events celebrate Native American Heritage Month

Grand Valley will begin a series of events in observation of Native American Heritage Month beginning Saturday, September 26.

Coordinated by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Native American Student Association, the events will give students, faculty and staff members an opportunity to learn about Native American culture and serve the community. All the events are free and open to the public.

- **Native American Student Association Day of Service, Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.:** Volunteers will contribute to clean-up efforts of the Norton Mounds. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Contact Kristie Scanlon at [scanlokr@gvsu.edu](mailto:scanlokr@gvsu.edu) to reserve a spot.

- **Re-Thinking Columbus, October 12, DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium:** Panelists will examine the impact of colonization on Native American culture as well as the history of Columbus Day and current movements that challenge the holiday. The program will also feature a drum circle and cultural teachings.

- **Professional of Color Lecture Series Presents A Conversation with Adrienne Keene, November 17, Cook-DeWitt Auditorium:** Keene, a Native American scholar, writer and activist, will discuss the way indigenous people are represented in popular culture.

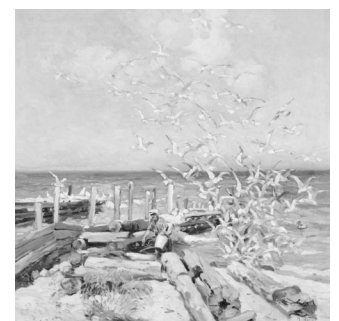
- **Gi-gikino'amaage-min: Defend Our History, Unlock Your Spirit Native American Urban History Project Exhibit, November 3-19, Mary Idema Pew Library:** The Kutsche Office of Local History, OMA, the Native American Advisory Board, and University Libraries Special Collections and Archives are creating the first archival collection focusing on the urban Native American experience in West Michigan.

For a complete listing of events, visit [www.gvsu.edu/oma](http://www.gvsu.edu/oma).

## GRSO to honor Alten works at concert

Members of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra will bring three Mathias Alten paintings to life through an original music composition during a special ArtPrize concert at Grand Valley on Saturday, September 26.

"Mathias Alten Triptych" is a three-movement composition



Members of GRSO will perform a composition September 26 based on three Mathias Alten paintings; 'Gulls of Leland' is pictured.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Mark Hoffman**, associate dean in the College of Community and Public Service, was interviewed for the WGUV Morning Show for a story about the Korean Connection.

## Sketches

**Joel Stillerman**, professor of sociology, wrote a book, *The Sociology of Consumption: A Global Approach*, published by Polity Books. He also wrote a chapter, "Flea Markets," for a book, *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Consumption and Consumer Studies*.

**Ranelle Brew**, assistant professor and chair of public health, gave a presentation, "A Community and University Collaborative: LoWellness Health Assessment Project and GVSU Public Health," at the Health, Wellness and Society International Conference in Madrid, Spain.

**Zulema Moret**, professor of Spanish, received grants from the Michigan Humanities Council for a project, "Poetry Reading 'Dreaming in Another Land.'"

**Sandra Spoelstra**, associate dean for research and scholarship for Kirkhof College of Nursing, received grants from the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation and the Michigan Department

of Health and Human Services for a project, "MiCAPABLE — Community Aging in Place, Advancing Better Living for Elders."

**Joan Borst**, associate professor of social work, received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration and University of Texas Health Science Center for a project, "UTSPH/GVSU Multimodal MCH Training Program."

Chemistry faculty members **Felix Ngassa** and **Shannon Biros** co-authored an article, "Crystal Structure of 3,5-Dimethylphenyl 2-nitrobenzenesulfonate," published in the journal *Acta Crystallographica E*.

## What's Ahead

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commissioned by the GRISO specifically for ArtPrize. Composers Bill Ryan, director of the New Music Ensemble; Jeremy Crosmer, GRISO assistant principle cellist; and Alexander Miller, GRISO assistant principal oboe, each chose a painting by Alten to musically interpret. The three paintings include "The Grand River," "Approaching Storm" and "Gulls of Leland."

Six members of the GRISO will perform the composition Saturday, September 26, at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

The composition will be available to ArtPrize visitors at St. Cecilia's Music Center, 24 Ransom Ave. NE in Grand Rapids. Grand Valley holds the largest public collection of Alten works in the world, which can be viewed at the George and Barbara Gordon Gallery in the DeVos Center.

For more information, contact the Music and Dance Department at x13484.

## NME teams with dance company for event

Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble will unite with the Kalamazoo-based Wellspring/Cori Terry and Dancers for a concert celebrating modern dance and music Saturday, September 26, at 8 p.m. at the Peter Martin Wege Theatre, 341 Ellsworth Ave. SW in Grand Rapids.

During the event, the Wellspring dancers will perform original choreography set to an original composition composed by Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director.

Ryan said experiences like collaborating with the Wellspring Dancers gives his students a taste of the kind of work they can expect to encounter after graduating from Grand Valley.

The nationally recognized New Music Ensemble promotes contemporary music with roots in jazz, rock, pop and minimalism. The ensemble has released three critically acclaimed recordings that have appeared on "best release lists" by many publications.

## Author will discuss Palestine, student activism

The author of a book about student activists for justice in Palestine will speak on campus and in West Michigan next week.

Nora Barrows-Friedman, author of *In Our Power: U.S. Students Organize for Justice in Palestine* (Just World Books, 2015), will give a presentation on Monday, September 28, from 1-3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216. She will also speak at Western Michigan University, Calvin College and Hope College.

Barrows-Friedman's visits are sponsored by Healing Children of Conflict, a volunteer nonprofit in Grand Rapids that facilitates medical treatment for children who are wounded in conflicts involving the U.S. Barrows-Friedman is associate editor of *The Electronic Intifada* and has written many articles about Palestine and student activism.

For information about her visit, contact David Alvarez, professor of English, at [alvarezd@gvsu.edu](mailto:alvarezd@gvsu.edu).

## Across Campus

### Faculty help children eat healthy, get fit

For almost 2,800 children in the Grand Rapids area, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids serve as a kind of second home, where volunteers, staff and other children become a second family.

Many of the children spend time at the clubs after school, and eat meals there.

In an effort to help some children improve their ability to prepare their own healthy meals and live an active, healthy lifestyle, faculty members Dawn DeVries and Jody Vogelzang worked with children at the Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids to teach specific skills.

The program that DeVries and Vogelzang put together was two-pronged. DeVries, assistant professor of therapeutic recreation, taught wellness concepts and introduced them to new sports and games.

Vogelzang's portion of the program was designed to increase the children's self-efficacy in cooking, with the goal of providing children

with skills and knowledge of how to cook healthy meals in order to help the overall health of their families.

"We started off figuring out what baseline skills they had, so we could identify progress as we went," said Vogelzang, assistant professor of public health, "and when we finished each of the sessions, we'd seen that they had all made amazing progress.

"I thought we would be talking a lot more about nutrition, but the kids wanted to get hands-on right away, so we had to work in nutrition information, while showing them new types of foods that they hadn't seen before."

DeVries and Vogelzang ran the program for a year, meeting with children twice a week at three different Boys and Girls Club locations in the city.

Both Vogelzang and DeVries had help from Grand Valley students. DeVries brought students from her undergraduate therapeutic recreation classes to serve as mentors, while Vogelzang had assistance in preparing for cooking lessons from a graduate student and several undergraduates.

The program has also had an impact on Vogelzang, who has used the assessments of the children's abilities as the baseline for at least two research papers.

"The Boys and Girls Clubs were open to working with us and making accommodations that we needed to help the children, and were supportive all around," Vogelzang said. "We were glad to work with an organization that provides a safe place for kids to come after school that support academics and builds stability for the children."

The program was funded by a grant from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation.

The Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids received funding from the Heart of West Michigan United Way during the program, and continues to be a volunteer partner of the United Way.

Grand Valley is a community partner of the United Way, and contributes to several area United Way organizations through the university's annual campaign, which runs from October 5-16.