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Grand Valley State University

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# FORUM

Monday, Sept. 22, 2008

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services

## GVSU to host Underground Railroad conference

Grand Valley will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission and the National Network to Freedom with a conference that features prominent national scholars and authors on Friday and Saturday, September 26-27.

The keynote speaker during “Underground Railroad in Michigan: A Decade of Discoveries” is historian Allen Guelzo, who will speak on the historic debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas in 1858.

Guelzo is the Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Gettysburg College. He is formerly dean of the Templeton Honors College and the Grace F. Kea Professor of American History at Eastern University.

In 2000, Guelzo’s book *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President* won both the Lincoln Prize and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Prize, and in 2005, his book *Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America* won both prizes again, making him the first double Lincoln Laureate in the history of both prizes.

Guelzo’s lecture will be in Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center on Friday, September 26, at 12:45 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The rest of the conference will take place on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Registration is \$75, or \$25 for students. For more information, call x18109 or visit [www.gvsu.edu/ugrdecade](http://www.gvsu.edu/ugrdecade).

The National Network to Freedom and the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission were created to recover, document, and commemo-



rate the history of the Underground Railroad and resistance to slavery in America and internationally.

The conference is hosted by Grand Valley’s African and African American Studies program, Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and the Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, in collaboration with the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission.

## Across Campus



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Glenn Niemeyer speaks during the re-dedication of the Learning and Living Center on September 11. The facility is named for Niemeyer, Grand Valley’s first provost. It houses the Honors College.

### Ceremony for Niemeyer Learning and Living Center held

President Thomas J. Haas called the re-dedication of the Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center a celebration for a man who “helped create the pillars for Grand Valley.”

A ceremony was held September 11 for the facility, which houses the Honors College. About 200 people toured the Learning and Living Center, saw student rooms and watched demonstrations in the LearnLabs.

Niemeyer said he was humbled that his name is attached to such an outstanding building. “It is an honor to have a building named for you, and especially this one, because it has the Honors College and that makes this building unique,” he said.

First hired as an assistant professor of history in 1963, Niemeyer was later dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, vice president

for Academic Affairs and Grand Valley’s first provost. He retired in 2001.

Jeff Chamberlain, director of the Honors College, said it was fitting that the re-dedication was held on September 11.

“It was on that day in 2001 when Johnnie Callahan, the previous Honors College director, said she knew that this whole idea of living and learning together would work,” Chamberlain said. That year was the first year the Honors College students took classes and lived in the same building, which was also named for Niemeyer.

Callahan said having students, faculty and staff members in the same building on the day when the terrorist attacks occurred was a “teachable moment.” He added, “She said that is what makes this a learning community.”

Following Chamberlain, one of the Honors College peer mentors spoke, and students carried a banner that read “We Are the Niemeyer Legacy,” into the facility.

# Across Campus

## Freezer Fest



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Shaun Shira, Annual Giving manager, hands out treats by Zumberge Library during University Development's 'Freezer Fest' September 10. The treats are a way to thank the campus community for contributing to the Faculty and Staff Annual Giving Campaign.

## Employee assistance company rated nationally

Grand Valley's employee assistance service, Encompass, was rated as one of the top 15 EAP providers in the country by *Workforce Management* magazine.

Encompass offers counseling to faculty and staff members and their families on topics such as relationships, parenting, caregiving, stress, depression, substance abuse, workplace conflict and more. Services are confidential. To contact a counselor at Encompass, call 459-9180.

## Deadline approaches for PIC grants

The deadline to apply for two faculty and staff grants from the Padnos International Center is October 1.

The Faculty/Staff Exchange Program highlights Grand Valley's partner

institutions. Previous recipients have traveled to Australia, China, England, France, Ghana, Japan, and Poland, to name a few countries.

The Faculty Development Project Grant will no longer support travel to international academic conferences. These grants are now meant to support projects that will enhance a faculty member's research or teaching.

More information about both grant programs is available online at [www.gvsu.edu/pic](http://www.gvsu.edu/pic), click on "Faculty and Staff."

## United Way serves close to home

Barbara Palombi, director of Grand Valley's Counseling Center, sees firsthand the kind of issues the university's students grapple with. Sometimes, she said, those issues can be surprising.

"I think a lot of times our students have concerns that we don't know about and wouldn't expect them to have. We want them to be healthy and bright," Palombi said.

Frequently, she connects students with programs that are funded by the United Way.

Sometimes students run into a financial crisis and need food, Palombi said. Others need help caring for children or aging parents; others have problems finding housing. United Way funding is the backbone for many of the programs that help deal with those issues.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Barbara Palombi refers many students who need services to United Way. Grand Valley's United Way campaign will begin October 1.

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## FORUM Volume 33, Number 5

The GVSU Forum is published by the News and Information Services Office. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, c/o [forum@gvsu.edu](mailto:forum@gvsu.edu). Telephone: 616-331-2221. Fax: 616-331-2250.

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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## 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](http://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](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

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

## GVFaces

### Andrea Freude Senior Accountant

Grand Valley alumna Andrea Freude is now a senior accountant in the office that helped develop her accounting skills as an undergraduate student.

Freude graduated from Grand Valley in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in accounting; she had worked in the Business and Finance office as a student worker. After graduation, she worked for two years in a public accounting firm and earned a CPA license.

She began working at Grand Valley three years ago. As a senior accountant, Freude oversees the financial reporting for various campus departments and auxiliary units, like University Bookstore and the Meadows.

"I like working with the various departments on campus," said Freude. "I also enjoy the variety of my job on a daily basis and the people that I work with in our department."

Away from her office in Lake Michigan Hall, Freude keeps involved in Grand Valley as a member

of the Administrative/Professional Salary and Benefits Subcommittee. She began her two-year term this summer.

"I love working at GVSU and I believe that getting involved in the decision-making process is one small way I can help Grand Valley continue to be a great place to work," she said. "This subcommittee was an opportunity for me to contribute and also meet new people on campus."

In April, Freude received a master's of business administration degree from Grand Valley. She said she would someday like to teach as an adjunct in the Accounting and Taxation Department.

In her spare time, Freude enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling and playing tennis.



Andrea Freude

## What's Ahead

### Health and Wellness hosts information tables, noon soccer

The Health and Wellness department will host weekly drop-in soccer games for faculty and staff members each Thursday, beginning at noon, in the Laker Turf Building.

Soccer balls and nets will be provided. This free exercise class is open to all fitness levels.

The department will also hold information tables and answer questions on Tuesday, September 23, in the DeVos Center near the University Club; and Wednesday, September 24, in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences lobby. Staff members will be available each day from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free blood pressure screenings, discount information for the David D. Hunting YMCA and information about the "Know Your Numbers" clinical health assessments will be available.

For more information about events and services offered by Health and Wellness, call x12215 or visit [www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness](http://www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness).

### Open house set for Mackinac Hall

Faculty and staff members are invited to an open house to celebrate the opening of the new addition to Mackinac Hall.

The open house will start at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 24. Tours of the building will be available, including guided art tours and a LEED feature tour at 10:30 a.m.

### Haas to hold virtual office hours

President Thomas J. Haas will hold his virtual office hours on Thursday, September 25, from 1-2:30 p.m.

The program allows students, faculty and staff members to send an e-mail and chat with the president. The chat is exclusive to the campus community; users will need to login using their Novell usernames and passwords. The site will be available by clicking on the Virtual Office button on Grand Valley's homepage or by visiting [www.gvsu.edu/virtualofficehours](http://www.gvsu.edu/virtualofficehours).

### Guest cast will act in Shakespeare Festival play

In honor of its 15th season, Grand Valley's Shakespeare Festival will present a very special production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the play staged in the festival's very first year.

With a concept derived from the Indian film style Bollywood, this fall's production directed by Karen Libman, associate professor of communications, will be a fantasy-laden romp, with color, charm, clever visual comedy and many memorable moments.



Performances of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' begin on Friday.

Another special feature of each performance will be a Grand Valley "guest actor" pulled from the ranks of faculty, staff or students. These "celebrities" will perform in the play-within-the-play in Act V.

"They won't say but a few lines," said Libman, "but it will be so much fun to have these folks onstage with us! What better way to celebrate this university-wide event." The list of celebrities and the dates they will perform, is below:

- September 26: 7:30 p.m., Jeff Chamberlain, director of the Honors College
- September 27: 2 p.m., Andy Beachnau, director of Housing
- September 27: 7:30 p.m. Shelley Irwin, producer and host, WGVU
- September 28: 2 p.m., Chris Barbee, director of Alumni Relations
- October 2: 7:30 p.m., Fred Antczak, dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- October 3: 7:30 p.m., Wendy Wenner, dean of College of Interdisciplinary Studies
- October 4: 2 p.m., Henry Matthews, director of Galleries and Collections
- October 4: 7:30 p.m., Autumn Trombka, president of Student Senate
- October 5: 2 p.m., Jon Jellema, associate vice president for Academic Affairs

Grand Valley alumna Melissa Slack returns as guest stage manager and Chris Hayes from the

London Theatre Workshop will spend a week working with students. Brian Webb Russell, previously seen as Shylock in Grand Valley's 2002 production of "The Merchant of Venice," will also be in residence as an equity guest actor for the production.

Tickets for "Midsummer Night's Dream" are \$14 general admission, \$12 alumni, faculty, staff and seniors, \$6 all students. Contact the Box Office at x12300, from noon-5 p.m., or visit [www.gvsu.edu/shakes](http://www.gvsu.edu/shakes).

A special 15th Season Anniversary Reception will be held in the Kirkhof Center after the opening night performance on September 26. Tickets for the reception are \$10 or two for \$15. For more information, contact Libman at [libmank@gvsu.edu](mailto:libmank@gvsu.edu) or call x13668.

### Photojournalist documents families after hurricane

Described as an "activist with a camera," Paula Allen will show and discuss photos she has taken of Hurricane Katrina victims during an event sponsored by the Women's Center and other campus departments.

"Homecoming" is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. The event is free and open to the public.

For more than 20 years, Allen has focused her camera lens on women around the world in war zones, refugee camps and other places where they faced oppression with courage. Allen's Grand Valley lecture centers on three women and their families who were displaced following the 2005 hurricane in New Orleans.

Allen's work has been published in many national and international magazines. In 1999, she published a bilingual book, *Flores en el Desierto/Flowers in the Desert*, which documented women in Chile as they searched for relatives who disappeared following the 1973 coup in that country.

Co-sponsors of Allen's lecture are the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Women and Gender Studies, School of Social Work and School of Public and Nonprofit Administration. For more information, call the Women's Center at x12748.

## Across Campus

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"United Way gives me a chance to make a contribution to the life of others," Palombi said. "Maybe I don't have the time to do the volunteer work and to go out and work in some of these agencies, but my financial support allows me to make that contribution so they can make a change."

Palombi, who uses a wheelchair, said part of her motivation is personal. "When I had polio, my

family didn't have a lot of resources," she said. "These agencies helped my family to get me the resources that I needed in order to have medical equipment and have surgeries — to have the things that I needed in order to improve my health. Without these types of agencies, I may not be here today being able to do what I'm doing."

"So in some ways United Way allows me an opportunity to pay back for the assistance my family and I received at a time when we really

needed it."

Reaching out to individuals through United Way can help break the cycles that keep them from living up to their potential, she added.

"That's another thing people may not think about is how much of a difference it may make in a person's life," Palombi said. "Giving them assistance at that moment of crisis may allow them to make some choices and have a different kind of life."

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## General Events

### Mon., Sept. 22

Noon: Work Life Connections Alzheimer's Support Group. 2242 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

### Wed., Sept. 24

9:30 a.m.: Mackinac Hall Open House. MAK. Call x12100 for more information.

11 p.m.: Health and Wellness Information Tables. CHS Lobby. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Hispanic Heritage Month Event. Carlos de la Barrera, guitar. CDC. Call x12177 for more information.

Noon: Counseling Center hosts Bariatric Surgery Support Group. CDC. Call x13266 for more information.

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

Noon: Work Life Connections Brown Bag Lunch. "Coaching for the Caregiver," by Cindy Streekstra. 2201 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

7 p.m.: Fall Arts Celebration Lecture. "Cultural Mobility: The Strange Case of Shakespeare's 'Cardenio,'" by Stephen Greenblatt. 215 EC. Call x13405 for more information.

### Thurs., Sept. 25

9 a.m.: Human Resources Excellence Series. "Getting to Know Your GVSU Better." 123

CHS. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Grand Rapids Toastmasters. University Club Room, DEV. Call x17337 for more information.

Noon: Work Life Connections Brown Bag Lunch. "Coaching for the Caregiver," by Cindy Streekstra. 303C DEV. Call x12215 for more information.

4 p.m.: College of Education Open House for Doctorate in Educational Leadership. 215 EC. Call x16676 for more information.

5:30 p.m.: Women's Center hosts Family Fun Night. FH. Call x12748 for more information.

5:30 p.m.: Health and Wellness hosts Bike Ride to Conklin. Call x12215 for more information.

6 p.m.: Finance Department hosts "Careers and Curriculum in Finance." Loosemoore Auditorium, DEV. Call x17390 for more information.

### Fri., Sept. 26

8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.: Underground Railroad in Michigan Conference. Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Call x18109 for more information.

7:30 p.m.: Shakespeare Festival Performance. "A Midsummer Night's Dream." LAT, PAC. Call x12300 for tickets.

### Sat., Sept. 27

8:30 a.m.: Family Day 5K Run/Walk. KC Lobby. Call x12215 for more information.

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Underground Railroad in

Michigan Conference. Pew Campus.

2 p.m.: Shakespeare Festival Performance. "A Midsummer Night's Dream." LAT, PAC.

5 p.m.: UClub Tailgate. Blue Irwin Lot. Call x13592 for more information.

### Sun., Sept. 28

2 p.m.: Shakespeare Festival Performance. "A Midsummer Night's Dream." LAT, PAC.

7:30 p.m.: Shakespeare Festival Performance. "A Midsummer Night's Dream." LAT, PAC.

### Mon., Sept. 29

3 p.m.: Hispanic Heritage Month Event. "Latin America through the Lens of a U.S. Photographer," by Randall Gornowich. 2204 KC. Call x12177 for more information.

## Sports

### Sat., Sept. 27

11 a.m.: Softball hosts University of Detroit-Mercy.

7 p.m.: Football hosts Michigan Tech.

### Sun., Sept. 28

8a .m.: Men's Golf Laker Invitational.

9 a.m.: Softball hosts tournament.

## Faculty and Staff Sketches

### Sketches

**Mary Bower Russa**, associate professor of psychology, gave two presentations, "Emotion Regulation and Child Maltreatment Risk: Clues from Analogs," and "Analog Parenting Task: New Evidence for Validity," at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Boston.

**Brian Lakey**, professor of psychology, co-wrote an article, "Perceived Support and Relational Influences on Psychotherapy Process Constructs," published in the *Journal of Counseling Psychology*.

**Ellen Yeziarski**, associate professor of chemistry, was appointed to the American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Education Board of Publication.

**Neil MacDonald**, professor of biology, and

Annis Water Resources Institute staff members **Rick Rediske** and **Brian Scull** were the co-authors of an article, "Landfill Cover Soil, Soil Solution, and Vegetation Responses to Municipal Landfill Leachate Applications," published in the *Journal of Environmental Quality*.

Chemistry faculty members **Deborah Herrington** and **Ellen Yeziarski** co-wrote a book chapter in the second edition of *Chemistry and the National Science Education Standards: Models for Meaningful Learning in the High School Chemistry Classroom*, published by the American Chemical Society.

**William Crawley**, associate professor of criminal justice, gave a presentation, "Intelligence-Led Policing: Organizational and Management Strategies," at the Midwest Criminal Justice Association conference in Chicago.

**Susan Mendoza-Jones**, director of Integrative

Learning, co-wrote an article, "Toward a Sustainable Future: the Role of Student Affairs in Creating Healthy Environments, Social Justice, and Strong Economies," published in *ACPA: College Student Educators International*.

**Pablo A. Llerandi-Román**, assistant professor of geology, gave a presentation, "Design, Implementation, and Assessment of a Geoscience Teacher Education Institute," at the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway.

Geology faculty members **Pablo A. Llerandi-Román** and **John Weber** led the first Grand Valley international geology field camp in Trinidad and Puerto Rico.

**Paul J Reitemeier**, chair of the Human Research Review Committee and associate professor of philosophy, was a featured participant in the documentary film on hospice care, "Except for Six."