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FORUM

Monday, Sept. 29, 2008

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services

Proposed new library will be named for Mary Pew

To honor the generosity and legacy of a woman who links two important families in the history of Grand Rapids, the university's proposed Learning and Information Commons will be named in memory of Mary Idema Pew.

The announcement that the facility on the Allendale Campus will be known as the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons was made by President Thomas J. Haas on September 23.

Mary Idema Pew, who died in December, is the late wife of Robert C. Pew II, chairman emeritus of Steelcase Inc. She is the daughter of Walter and Mary Idema, also regarded as one of the founding families of Steelcase Inc.

Robert and Mary Pew have been generous benefactors of Grand Valley. Robert was instrumental in gaining support from Steelcase for land and funding that helped enable the creation of the Grand Rapids campus, beginning with the Eberhard Center and Meijer Public Broadcast Center and culminating in



Mary and Robert Pew

what is now the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

As strong supporters of public education, they also established the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center at Grand Valley and numerous other organizations in Michigan and Palm Beach, Florida, where they retired.

The Mary Idema Pew Library is named as a tribute to Mrs. Pew and members of her family who have been major supporters of Shaping

Our Future, the comprehensive campaign for Grand Valley. The campaign's centerpiece goal is funding for the library, which will use new technology to serve as an incubator for 21st century skills.

Support for the library and campaign came from Robert C. Pew II, Mary's husband, and Kate Pew Wolters, the daughter of Bob and Mary. Kate is a member of the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley. Robert served on this board during the university's early years, after serving on the citizen's council that helped found Grand Valley in 1960. Their combined seven-figure gift to Grand Valley is their largest gift to the university.

"It's very meaningful to us that Grand Valley would honor my mother in this way," said Kate Pew Wolters. "The new library stands for education and knowledge, and it also represents the pride that West Michigan takes in learning. We are proud to have her name associated with this building and Grand Valley's deep-rooted commitment to education."

Across Campus

Search begins for new director of Charter Schools Office

Ed Richardson, director of Grand Valley's Charter Schools Office, is leaving for a position with National Heritage Academies.

Former Grand Valley Vice President Patricia Oldt was appointed as interim director of the Charter Schools Office and to chair the search for a permanent director. Oldt has been teaching in the College of Education and consulting to the CSO since leaving the vice presidency last year.

Richardson joined Grand Valley in July 2002, following his position as superintendent with the Chelsea School District. He will assume the position of director of Measurement and Assessment with National Heritage Academies. NHA partners with local school boards to man-

age charter schools. Grand Valley charts 28 schools and 16 are managed by NHA.

Richardson's last day with Grand Valley will be October 17.

Student organization wins national award

For many, the concept of a college spring break elicits images of sunny beaches and carefree days. But for an increasing number of Grand Valley students, time off from school means time to help others.

Grand Valley's Alternative Breaks program was named the best in the country at the national Break Away Conference.

This student organization sends hundreds of GVSU students around the country to volunteer over weekend, holiday, and spring breaks



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

President Thomas J. Haas visits with students and organizers of Alternative Breaks during the Volunteer Opportunity Fair September 10. Alternative Breaks was recently named national program of the year.

each year. More than 250 students participated in Alternative Breaks during the 2007-08 school year.

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Across Campus

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Last year, the program sent out the largest number of trips in its history — 25 in total. Each trip consists of two site leaders and up to 10 participants. Participants traveled all over the country and worked on a variety of issues, including community health, affordable housing, animal rights, youth, poverty and individuals with special needs. The trips are based around social issues, not geographic locations.

Grand Valley named 'Best College Buy' for 13 straight years

For the 13th year in a row, Grand Valley has been named one of America's 100 Best College Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc., in Georgia.



File photo

Grand Valley was named one of America's 100 Best College Buys for the 13th straight year.

Each year, Institutional Research identifies the 100 American colleges and universities providing students the very highest quality education at the lowest cost. Grand Valley has made the list far more times than any other Michigan institution; authors of the report said it is because of Grand Valley's high academic performance coupled with its low cost.

To be considered for the designation, an institution must:

- Be an accredited, four-year institution;
- Offer full residential facilities;

- Have an entering freshman class in the fall of 2007 with a high school GPA and/or SAT/ACT equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen;

- Have out-of-state tuition in 2008-09 below the national average or not exceeding the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

The average GPA for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2007 was 3.57, compared to the national average of 3.29, according to Institutional Research. The average ACT score for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2007 was 24, compared to the national average of 23.

Universities sign agreement to help students, underserved areas of medicine

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and Grand Valley signed an agreement that provides a link between premedical students at Grand Valley and MSU's medical school.

The presidents of both universities on September 19 finalized the Early Assurance Program for admission, which will help both disadvantaged students and underserved areas of medicine.

The program provides an enhanced opportunity for admission to medical school to qualified premedical students who wish to practice in underserved areas. Preference for admission will be given to students who are the first generation to attend college, students who graduated from a low-income high school, those eligible for Pell grants, or those who express interest in a high-need medical specialty area.

Grand Valley students interested in caring for underserved populations will complete a program of enriching clinical and service experiences as well as academic advising directed toward admission to MSU College of Human Medicine. The emphasis on care for the underserved is at the core of the College of Human Medicine's mission.

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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. 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.

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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

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.

Living center focuses on health, wellness

Fitting an exercise routine and a healthy diet into a busy schedule isn't often the first priority for freshmen. This year Housing and Residence Life has made it easier for students to do so.

Students are able to participate in many health and wellness activities offered at the North C Living Center, which had housed the Passport Program.

Barbara Palombi, director of the Counseling and Career Development Center, said the Passport Program arranged activities to offer students as alternatives to drinking. Changing the focus of the living center, she said, gives students more of a well-rounded approach to health and wellness.

Students still have the option of having a Passport mentor who will help them develop their personal goals and educate them on wellness. Students can also participate in yoga classes and have their level of fitness assessed.

"I think that it's really important that students learn how to better take care of themselves. If we can concentrate on wellness among students, they will do better academically," said Palombi. "Students will find other resources to take care of themselves, and hopefully prevent emotional issues from becoming major life stressors."

The new wellness program in the North C Living Center houses the wellness activities but any student can participate regardless of which living center they reside.



Photo courtesy of Sue Dilsworth

Christine Baker and Lisa Ham, of the Counseling Center, lead a yoga class in the North C Living Center, where Housing and Residence Life established a wellness program for students.

"It's really exciting to have a campus that's doing this. It really adds to our idea for sustainability and it's a very exciting process. I think part of wellness is being sustainable," said Palombi.

She added that the student wellness component matches university initiatives for faculty and staff members. One of those components, "Know Your Numbers," begins October 13 with free clinical health risk assessments for benefit-eligible faculty and staff members. To learn more about Know Your Numbers, visit www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness and click on "Know Your Numbers."

What's Ahead

Seidman experts host discussions about financial crisis

The Seidman College of Business invites faculty and staff to attend a special meeting to learn more about the current financial crisis and its impact on individuals' investments. An advisor from TIAA-CREF will also be available to answer questions.

"Survival in a Financial Meltdown," will feature finance Professor Gregg Dimkoff; the event is set for Thursday, October 2, noon-1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. Beverages and cookies will be provided, and participants can feel free to bring their lunches.

Topics will include how the crisis got started, what the federal government is doing to stabilize the economy, what it will cost, and rules for financial survival.

The session is part of a series of "emergency" events that will feature Seidman faculty members who are well-versed in the areas of banking, investments, housing market issues, and federal regulation, along with members of the Grand Rapids business community. A panel event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, with breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the DeVos Center.

The panel will be moderated by Sri Sundaram, chair of the Finance Department, and will feature faculty members Paul Isely, Dan Giedeman and Larry Blose, plus several experts from the business community.

The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required by calling x17100 or sending an e-mail to busalumn@gvsu.edu.

Staff members lead talks on sustainability

"Menu for the Future," noontime discussions led by staff members that focus on food systems and sustainability will begin Thursday, October 2, and Monday, October 6.

Last year, similar classes focused on voluntary simplicity. Participants are asked to buy a book and attend an introductory class, which will be held today at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 1247.

For more information, call John Gabrosek at x13691 or send an e-mail to Esther Ricco at riccoe@gvsu.edu.

Flu shots available

The GVSU Family Health Center will again offer flu shots for retirees, faculty and staff members and their dependents. The cost for the shots is covered by Grand Valley.

The schedule is as follows:

- Lake Michigan Center, Muskegon: Wednesday, October 1, 9-10:30 a.m.
- Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, room 331: Monday, October 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- GVSU Family Health Center, 72 Sheldon Blvd.: Tuesday, October 7, 5-7 p.m.
- Henry Hall Atrium: Thursday, October 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Meijer Holland Campus: Monday, October 13, 9 a.m.-noon.
- DeVos Center, building C: Friday, October 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Panel will focus on race, watch Obama speech

Five panelists will bring their diverse views on race during a discussion, "Does Race Matter?" sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs as part of its Professionals of Color Lecture Series.

The event is set for Monday, October 6, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. There is no cost to attend and the event is open to the public.

Prior to the panel discussion, audience members will watch part of Barack Obama's speech on race, given in March in Philadelphia. The panel will be moderated by WOOD-TV Channel 8 anchor Jennifer Moss.

Panelists are Mark Fancher, senior staff attorney at ACLU of Michigan; Melissa Harris-Lacewell, associate professor of politics and African American studies at Princeton University; Kim Osorio, vice president of the Web site company Global Grind; Tim Wise, author of *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* and other books; and Helen Zia, journalist and scholar.

For more information about the event, call OMA at x12177.



Photo courtesy of Karen Libman

Students from the drama programs at East China Normal University and GVSU celebrate the Bard to Go visit to Shanghai.

Chinese 'Hamlet' comes to Grand Valley

Grand Valley's special guest drama students from Shanghai, China, will give two performances of their version of "Hamlet" in "Who Killed the King? Chinese Variations on Hamlet." The one-hour performances will be in Mandarin, but knowledge of the Chinese language is not necessary for audiences to enjoy the performances.

Admission is free to both performances: Monday, October 6, at 7 p.m., in Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center; and Tuesday, October 7, at 2:30 p.m., in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

The performances are part of an exchange program with East China Normal University, a Grand Valley partner institution. In May, students from Grand Valley's theater program visited the university in Shanghai to give performances of Bard to Go, a 50-minute collage of various Shakespeare plays. Donations toward earthquake recovery in the Szchuen Province of China will be collected at the GVSU Box Office through October 5. Grand Valley students were in China during the earthquake.

The Chinese visitors and performances are sponsored by the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, Padnos International Center and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

For more information, call x13668, or visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

Across Campus

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During their junior year, students who excel in the Grand Valley program may apply to the College of Human Medicine and be assured of admission by the MSU admissions committee, as long as the students maintain their academic performance. There will be five admissions slots available; it is a three-year pilot program that will be reviewed annually by both universities.

Former music professor dies

Former Grand Valley music professor William Bordine Beidler died on September 16 at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. He was 82.

Beidler joined the Grand Valley faculty in 1964. He served as choir director and voice teacher for 19 years. He spent several years in New

York City as a singer, dancer and actor. He served as choirmaster at St. Andrews Episcopal Church and was active in Grand Rapids Civic Theatre and Circle Theatre.

A memorial service was held September 20. Contributions may be sent to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503; or the Van Andel Institute for Parkinson's Research, 333 Bostwick Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

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.

Tues., Sept. 30

Noon: Women's Center hosts "What Mommies Do Best: The Birth Tour." 2201 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

6:30 p.m.: GVSU Writers Series hosts Peter Ho Davis. AH. Call x13411 for more information.

Wed., Oct. 1

Noon: Arts at Noon. The Kapell Trio. CDC. Call x13484 for more information.

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

7 p.m.: Women's Center hosts "Homecoming," by Paula Allen. 2250 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

Thurs., Oct. 2

Noon: Women's Center hosts "Gender, Race and

Media Coverage," by Erika King. 2270 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts Experts Panel. 303C DEV. Call x12215 for more information.

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

2:30 p.m.: Hispanic Heritage Month Event. "Contrasting Perspectives on the Presidency of Hugo Chavez." 2250 KC. Call x12177 for more information.

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

Fri., Oct. 3

9 a.m.: Human Resources Excellence Series. "Talent Management," by Dan Wiljanen. 2215 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

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

Sat., Oct. 4

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

Sun., Oct. 5

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

Sports

Fri., Oct. 3

3 p.m.: Men's and Women's Tennis hosts Ferris State University.

4 p.m.: Soccer hosts Northwood University.

7 p.m.: Volleyball hosts University of Findlay.

Sat., Oct. 4

1 p.m.: Softball hosts tournament.

4 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Hillsdale College.

Sun., Oct. 5

Noon: Softball hosts Aquinas College.

Noon: Soccer hosts Saginaw Valley State University.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

Sketches

Ginny Peterson, associate professor of geology, gave a presentation, "Petrogenesis of the Buck Creek Mafic-Ultramafic Complex, Southern Appalachians," at the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway.

Dan Balfour, professor of public and nonprofit administration, gave a presentation, "Can the Study and Practice of Public Service Ethics be Recovered in a New Governance Era?" at the Minnowbrook III Conference in Lake Placid, New York.

James Houston, professor of criminal justice, co-authored a book, *Criminal Justice and the Policy Process*, second edition, published by University Press of America.

Jeff Steffel, assistant professor of criminal justice, gave a presentation, "The Evanescent Exclusionary Rule," at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Conference in Chicago.

Salim M. Haidar, associate professor of mathematics, gave a presentation, "On J. Ball's Fundamental Existence Theory and Weak Equilibria in Radial Hyperelasticity," at the 10th

International Conference on Integral Methods in Science and Engineering held at the University of Cantabria in Spain.

Roy Cole, professor of geography and planning, wrote an article, "The Regionalization of Africa in Undergraduate Geography of Africa Textbooks, 1953 to 2004," published in the *Journal of Geography*.

Patrick Gerkin, assistant professor of criminal justice, gave a presentation, "Meth Use and Criminal Behavior: Results from 200 Offender Interviews," at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Conference in Chicago.

Institutional Marketing received nine Awards of Excellence from the American Graphic Design Awards competition.

Ryan Thum, assistant professor at the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave a presentation, "Species and Genetic Diversity," at the Ecological Society of America meetings; co-wrote an article published in the journal *Hydrobiologia*; and received grants from the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation and the Montana Weed Trust to use DNA-based identification methods for invasive aquatic plants.

Mark Schwartz, assistant professor of anthropology, co-wrote an article, "Reconstructing Broad Economic Patterns of the Uruk Expansion," published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Vandana Pednekar-Magal, associate professor of communications, participated in a panel, "The Middle East in the International Communication Class," at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Chicago.

Annis Water Resources Institute staff members **Bopi Biddanda** and **Scott Kendall** were featured explorers on NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration's 2008 Signature Project in Lake Huron.

Pat Bravender, librarian, was honored by the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Mardigian Library's Juvenile Historic Collection for her donation of 75 books.

Janet Vail, associate professor at the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave a presentation, "EPA's Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan," at the West Michigan Watershed Partners Forum.