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Grand Valley State University

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# FORUM

Monday, October 13, 2008

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services

## Three student services centers celebrated

Speaking at the grand opening of three student services centers, Dean of Students Bart Merkle said it was fitting that they were located in the building that serves as the hub of student activity on campus.

The Women's Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and LGBT Resource Center formally celebrated new spaces on October 7 during a luncheon and open house in the Kirkhof Center that drew hundreds of students, faculty and staff members, and community partners.

The Women's Center and OMA are housed in the new addition of Kirkhof, while the LGBT Resource Center has its first office suite in room 161.

Merkle called the centers' proximity to each other purposeful. "It will enable the centers to collaborate with each other and truly live out the university's values of diversity and community," he said.



Photos by Amanda Pitts

Dean of Students Bart Merkle addresses the audience during a grand opening for the Women's Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and LGBT Resource Center.



Following the luncheon, each office was open for tours. Pictured above is the Women's Center.

He also said the centers' opening was a vision that started many years ago, as plans for the new addition were forming. "Grand Valley is a special place. One that has great facilities and great programs, but it has really fabulous people. People who care about each other and care about constantly getting better," he said.

President Thomas J. Haas said the services provided by the centers give students not only the resources they need to succeed during college, but also after graduation. He said one of the most important lessons of a liberal education was learning to understand and respect people's experiences.

## Across Campus

### Some university funds frozen due to financial crisis

About 40 percent of Grand Valley's money that has been invested in a Wachovia Bank-managed fund has been returned to the university.

Jim Bachmeier, vice president for Finance and Administration, said he expects the balance to be returned within several months. The university had invested \$23 million in a Short Term Fund offered by Commonfund and managed by Wachovia. The investment fund serves about 1,000 universities across the country.

Bachmeier said, "The university continues to have all the liquidity needed to meet payroll, vendor payments, and all other obligations on schedule."

He added that funds on deposit with Wachovia continue to earn interest and the university

does not anticipate loss of value in this investment.

### Trip to Poland highlights oldest partnership

President Thomas J. Haas led a Grand Valley delegation on a visit to Poland to the university's oldest international partner, Cracow University of Economics.

Cracow University held installation ceremonies for its new rector, Roman Niestroj, on October 2. Administrators from both universities also signed an agreement formalizing the Studies in Trans-Atlantic International Relations Project.

The STAIR Project increases faculty and student exchanges among participating universities, and gives international relations majors opportunities to earn dual degrees. The third partner in STAIR, with Grand Valley and Cracow University, is the University of



Photo courtesy of Mark Schaub

From left, Board of Trustees Chair Lucille Taylor, Rector Roman Niestroj and President Thomas J. Haas acknowledge a proclamation for the Cracow University of Economics from the Grand Valley Board, celebrating the partnerships between the universities.

Debrecen in Hungary.

Traveling with Haas were Lucille Taylor, chair of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees; Marcia

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# Across Campus

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Haas; Teri Losey, special assistant to the president; Mark Markham, assistant professor of music; and Mark Schaub, executive director of the Padnos International Center. Markham performed on the piano during the inauguration ceremonies. Grand Valley and Cracow began exchanges in 1975.

## Election Web site features GVSU experts

News and Information Services launched a Web site to connect journalists and the campus community with the university's faculty and staff experts who able to speak on a variety of topics during the election season. The Web site, [www.gvsu.edu/electioncenter](http://www.gvsu.edu/electioncenter), features story tips and topical expert lists.

The Web site also includes audio from experts commenting on breaking news related to the presidential election. The following people were recently interviewed by area media.

- Whitt Kilburn, assistant professor of political science, commented on the town hall presidential debate for WOOD AM, WGUV, WKZO, WCSG and WWJQ radio stations.
- Roger Moiles, instructor of political science, was interviewed about the vice presidential debate and the presidential debate by WOOD AM. He was also on WOOD-TV's "To The Point" and commented on the debates for WGUV, WKZO, WCSG and WWJQ.
- Erika King, professor of political science, was interviewed about the presidential debates by the Detroit Free Press and Grand Rapids Press. She also appeared on "To The Point" and commented on the debates for WGUV, WKZO, WCSG and WWJQ.
- Ed Kerestly, director of financial aid, was interviewed by WXMI-TV about how the economic crisis could impact student loans.

## Health risk assessments offered

This week, benefit-eligible faculty and staff members can participate in the wellness program "Know Your Numbers," which provides clinical health risk assessments. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness](http://www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness) and click on "Know Your Numbers."

## Ryan honored for contributions to arts

Bill Ryan, assistant professor of music, will be honored November 13 for his contribution and dedication to the arts, at the 23rd Annual Governor's Awards for Arts & Culture (the Guvvys), presented at the Detroit Institute of Arts.



File photo

Bill Ryan, assistant professor of music, will be honored by ArtServe Michigan at the Guvvys in November.

ArtServe Michigan announced Ryan as an Arts Educator Award honoree, along with two other candidates, the winner being announced at the awards ceremony.

"I am incredibly honored by this news," he said. "Not only does this mean a lot to me personally, but it also affirms that education of the highest caliber can take place in an environment focused on contemporary music."

Ryan teaches music composition and is founder and producer of the university's Free Play concert series, which allows students to directly interact and learn from some of today's most successful and professional musicians and ensembles. He is also founder and director of the university's New Music Ensemble.

## FORUM

### Volume 33, Number 8

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, GVNnow, at [www.gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://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](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

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

# Faculty and Staff Sketches

## Correction

**Robert Hendersen**, professor and chair of psychology, received the Professor of the Year award from the local chapter of Psi Chi.

## In the News

**Steve Glass**, associate dean of COIS and professor of movement science, was interviewed by *Runners World* for a story about strength training and cross training for runners.

## Sketches

**Laura Arcila Villa**, visiting assistant professor of philosophy, gave a presentation, "Race, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Identity," during Grand Valley's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

**Judith Corr**, assistant professor of anthropology, was appointed to the board of the Midwest Primate Interest Group.

**Bopi Biddanda**, research scientist at the Annis Water Resources Institute, participated in a Web cast to schools across the nation from NOAA's research vessel *Laurentian*.

**Jonathan White**, professor of interdisciplinary studies and executive director of the Homeland Defense

Initiative, was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Pakistan Society of Criminology. White has served as a police advisor and instructor in Pakistan.

**Shawn Watson**, student services coordinator for the Muskegon Regional Center, was appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm to the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy.

**Kay Kline**, professor of nursing, co-wrote an article, "How to Prevent Competition for Clinical Nursing Education Placements," published in the *Annual Review of Nursing Education*.

**Deborah Herrington**, associate professor of chemistry, gave a presentation, "Target Inquiry: Transforming Teacher Professional Development and Instruction in High School Chemistry," at the University of Cape Town and the University of Western Cape in South Africa.

**Felix Ngassa**, assistant professor of chemistry, co-wrote an article, "Understanding the Interactions of Peptides with Each Other and with the Human Leucine Zipper: A Computational Modeling Study," published in the *Journal of Undergraduate Chemistry Research*.

**Alan Steinman**, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was an invited panel member to review proposals for the EPA's program on Consequences of Global Change on Water Quality in the U.S.

# What's Ahead

## Benefits Fairs scheduled

Staff members from the Human Resources office and vendors will be available during two informational sessions this week to answer questions about the university's benefit plans.

Benefits Fairs are scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall, DeVos Center; and Thursday, October 16, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Refreshments and opportunities for door prizes will be provided. Vendors scheduled include Encompass, Delta Dental, TIAA-CREF, Fidelity Investments, YMCA, among others. For more information, call Human Resources at x12215.

## WMWSC speaker will discuss election

With roots in the past but eyes on the future, political psychologist Martha Burk will discuss November's election and issues that impact women during a lecture in Grand Rapids sponsored by the West Michigan Women's Studies Council in its annual Nokomis Lecture Series.

"The High Stakes in 2008: Issues, the Women's Vote and You" is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, in the Eberhard Center, beginning at 7 p.m. A book signing and reception will follow Burk's lecture.

Now a syndicated columnist and money editor for *Ms.* magazine, Burk gained national notoriety in 2003 when she took on Augusta National Golf Club and tried to force the private club to open its membership to women. Burk is a former chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations. Her latest book, *Your Money and Your Life*, has been called a manifesto for women voters — and for male voters who care about the women in their lives.

The West Michigan Women's Studies Council includes representatives from area colleges and universities, as well as the Delta Strategy, Community Media Center, and Grand Rapids Public Library. For more information, call the Women's Center at x12748 or visit [www.wmwsc.org](http://www.wmwsc.org).

## Conference focuses on religious similarities, differences

"One God, Three Scriptures: Judaism, Christianity and Islam" is a daylong conference sponsored by Grand Valley's Kaufman Interfaith Institute, West Shore Committee for Interfaith Dialogue and West Michigan Academic Consortium.

The October 16 conference, held at Aquinas College, is free and open to the public. Lunch is available for \$10 with advance registration. For more information call x15702, or visit [www.interfaith-mi.com](http://www.interfaith-mi.com).

David Nirenberg, professor of medieval history and social thought at the University of Chicago, is the keynote speaker. His morning address,

"The Seal of the Prophets: Muhammad's Relationship to Those Who Came Before Him," is at 10:30 a.m. in the Wege Student Center. His evening keynote, at 7 p.m. in the Art & Music Center, is "Unto Every Prophet an Adversary: The Wordview of Political Islam."

The West Michigan Academic Consortium consists of Aquinas College, Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Valley, Hope College and Western Theological Seminary.

## School of Accounting to hold celebration

Eastern Michigan University President Susan Martin will help celebrate Seidman College of Business' new School of Accounting on Thursday, October 16, during a reception.

Martin is the former chair of the Accounting Department, which became the School of Accounting this year. The event runs from 5-8 p.m. in the Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall, DeVos Center. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call x17414.

## ACES to hold open house

Grand Valley's ACES (Alcohol Campus Education Services) Office will host an open house on Thursday, October 16, to celebrate its new location.

ACES is in Water Tower Place on the Allendale Campus. The event will run from 4-6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. At 6 p.m., staff members will host an open 12-step meeting, in which Grand Valley students will discuss their recovery processes. RSVP for the open house by calling x12537.

## Expert to speak about freedom from foreign oil

Rising gas prices, global instability and environmental degradation all point to the need for energy independence.

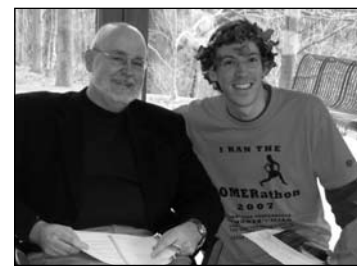
The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies is hosting a speech by Jay Hakes, director of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Hakes will outline a seven-point plan for breaking free from the costly energy trap from his new book, *A Declaration of Energy Independence: The American Presidency and the Energy Crisis in the 21st Century*. He will speak Thursday, October 16, at 7 p.m., at Schuler Books & Music, 40 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids.

Hakes, an alumnus of the Carter Administration, spent most of his time there as an assistant to Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus. He is a former professor of political science at the University of New Orleans and holds a doctorate degree from Duke University.

## Classics brought to life

An invocation of a "rosy-fingered dawn," a noontime celebratory discus throw and a spirited reading of the encounter with the Cyclops

Polyphemus are all part of Homerathon Reloaded at Grand Valley's Allendale Campus.



File photo

On Friday, October 17, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the

Department of Classics will present an epic performance of Homer's "Odyssey" in the Kirkhof Center Lounge, with an ongoing rotation of student, faculty and staff readers, including special guest Stanley Lombardo.

"Reloaded" is the second Homerathon event, reprising the successful performance last year of Homer's epic poem, "The Iliad." Acclaimed poet and translator Stanley Lombardo will reprise his appearance in the original Homerathon. He returns to the Cook-DeWitt Center at 1 p.m., and will perform selections from his own celebrated translation of the "Odyssey." Lombardo is a professor of Classics and director of the University Honors program at the University of Kansas.

For more information and a complete schedule visit [www.gvsu.edu/classics](http://www.gvsu.edu/classics).

## Gender historians featured at history conference

"Gender and Society: Explorations, Discoveries, and Revelations in a Gendered World," is the theme of the 33rd Annual Great Lakes History Conference at Grand Valley.

A particularly noteworthy feature of this year's conference is that it will run in conjunction with the first U.S. Intellectual History Conference. Panel discussions will range from exploring the history of women's reproductive rights and legal representation to equality in higher education and the depiction of women in the media and popular culture.

The two-day conference, October 17-18, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, brings together academics and independent scholars from across the country to share their research and cultivate interdisciplinary work. The cost for the complete conference is \$35, which includes lunch on Saturday.

Judith P. Zinsser is the keynote speaker at the Saturday lunch, at 12:45 p.m., in the Eberhard Center. The professor in women's studies at Miami University is a former president of the World History Association and representative at the United Nations World Councils. The Friday keynote speech, at 8 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, is free and open to the public. It will feature Bonnie S. Anderson, professor of history at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

For more information and a complete schedule, visit [www.gvsu.edu/history](http://www.gvsu.edu/history), or call the history department at x13298.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## General Events

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

### Through Oct. 31

Gallery Hours: "Separation as Together:  
Soonjung Hong and Eunmee Lee, Korean  
Ceramists at GVSU." Art Gallery, PAC.

### Mon., Oct. 13

7:30 a.m.-noon: Know Your Numbers Clinical  
Health Risk Assessment Screenings. HOL and  
440 CHS. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: History Colloquium. "The Spoils System  
Goes West from Washington," by Scott  
Stabler. D-1-141 MAK. Call x13298 for more  
information.

1 p.m.: Earth Science Week. "Landscape  
Response to Megadroughts," by Steve  
Forman. 107 MAN. Call x13553 for more  
information.

2 and 3 p.m.: NCA Accreditation Visit. 2204 KC,  
telecast to 211A DEV. Call x12400 for more  
information.

4 p.m.: Earth Science Week. "Insights into  
Finding a Career in Geology," by Steve  
Mattox. 101 LTT.

### Oct. 14-17

7:30 a.m.-noon: Know Your Numbers Clinical  
Health Risk Assessment Screenings. 2263 KC  
and 303E DEV.

### Tues., Oct. 14

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

Noon: Campus Recreation hosts Mini Strides  
Against Breast Cancer. Cook Carillon Tower.  
Call x13659 for more information.

1 p.m.: Earth Science Week. "Underground  
Sequestration of Coal-Fired Power Plant  
Carbon Dioxide Emissions," by Judy Visscher  
and Dan Nally. 103 LTT.

2 p.m.: NCA Accreditation Visit. Traverse City  
via ITV.

2:30 p.m.: Hispanic Heritage Month Event.  
"U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Columbia," by  
John Dugas. 2250 KC. Call x12177 for more  
information.

4 p.m.: NCA Accreditation Visit. University Club  
Room, DEV.

### Wed., Oct. 15

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.: Human Resources Benefits  
Fair. Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call  
x12215 for more information.

10 a.m.: Padnos International Center hosts Study  
Abroad Fair. 2250 KC. Call x13898 for more  
information.

Noon: Arts at Noon. "Ensemble Montage,"  
Grand Rapids Symphony. CDC. Call x13484  
for more information.

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

1 p.m.: Earth Science Week. "Emerging Issues  
in Waterborne Pathogen Research," by Larry  
McKay. 107 MAN.

5:30 p.m.: Earth Science Week. "Chattanooga  
Creek," by Larry McKay. 122 MAN.

7 p.m.: West Michigan Women's Studies Council  
hosts "The High Stakes in 2008: Issues, The  
Women's Vote, and You," by Martha Burk.  
EC. Call x12748 for more information.

### Thurs., Oct. 16

All Day: "One God, Three Scriptures: Judaism,  
Christianity and Islam." Aquinas College.  
Call x15702 for more information.

7:30 a.m.-noon: Know Your Numbers Clinical  
Health Risk Assessment Screenings. 230  
LMC, Muskegon.

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.: Human Resources Benefits  
Fair. Grand River Room, KC. Call x12215 for  
more information.

Noon: Women's Center hosts "Electoral  
College," by Roger Moiles. 2270 KC. Call  
x12748 for more information.

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

3 p.m.: AWRI Seminar. "Dreissenid Mussels in  
the Nearshore Phosphorus Cycle," by Harvey  
Bootsma. LMC. Call x13749 for more infor-  
mation.

3 p.m.: Earth Science Week. "What's Up With  
Gasoline?" by Jim O'Connor. 101 LTT.

4 p.m.: Alcohol Campus Education Services  
Open House. 10383B Water Tower Plaza. Call  
x12537 for more information.

5 p.m.: School of Accounting reception.  
Exhibition Hall, DEV. Call x17414 for more  
information.

6 p.m.: Women's Center hosts ATHENA  
Connections. EC. Call x12748 for more infor-  
mation.

7 p.m.: Hauenstein Center hosts "A Declaration  
of Energy Independence," by Jay Hakes.  
Schuler Books, 40 Fountain NE. Call x12770  
for more information.

### Fri., Oct. 17

8 a.m.: Homerathon. KC Lounge. Call x13600  
for more information.

1 p.m.: Women's Commission hosts Fireside  
Chat. 2201 KC. Call x15437 for more infor-  
mation.

7 p.m.: Sustainability Initiative hosts "The  
Longest Summer Tour," by Will Steger and  
Elena Lioubimtseva, followed by panel dis-  
cussion. EC. Call x17366 for information.

8 p.m.: Great Lakes History Conference Keynote  
Address by Bonnie Anderson. Loosemore  
Auditorium, DEV. Call x13298 for more  
information.

8 p.m.: GVSU Symphony Orchestra. LAT, PAC.  
Call x13484 for more information.

### Sat., Oct. 18

12:45 p.m.: Great Lakes History Conference  
Keynote Address by Judith P. Zinsser. EC.

### Sun., Oct. 19

3 p.m.: Choral Concert. LAT, PAC. Call x13484  
for more information.

## Sports

### Fri., Oct. 17

3 p.m.: Women's Tennis hosts Ashland  
University.

4 p.m.: Women's Soccer hosts University of  
Findlay.

### Sat., Oct. 18

3 p.m.: Women's Tennis hosts Tiffin University.

### Sun., Oct. 19

Noon: Women's Soccer hosts Tiffin University.