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Grand Valley State University

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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services



Lubbers, Niemeyer share memories of Grand Valley

President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers and retired Provost Glenn Niemeyer reminisced about Grand Valley's early history during a lecture that kicked off a series for the 50th anniversary celebration.

About 70 people attended the "50th at Noon" lecture held October 13 at the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Lubbers said there were three important characteristics of Grand Valley's founding that made it unique. "Grand Rapids was the most populous area in Michigan without indigenous, state-supported education," Lubbers said. "We were able to offer unique programs and a more efficient and less costly way to run an institution. These were advantages not fully understood at the outset."

Lubbers likened Grand Valley to an unexpected child born to 45-year-old parents after the other kids reached adulthood. "Just as the infant does not comprehend what



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker
Retired Provost Glenn Niemeyer, left, and President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers address the audience at a '50th at Noon' lecture on October 13.

will happen in life, so the new college did not know how profoundly these conditions would affect its future," he said.

Lubbers said he received resistance for some of his actions over the years, like pushing for professional programs and making steep cuts during the recession of the late 1970s and early '80s. "Some faculty wanted a vote of no confidence in the president, but the trustees and faculty chair supported me," Lubbers said.

Niemeyer called the early liberal arts curriculum rigorous. "There were nine courses offered in the first year and the institution was on a term or quarter schedule," Niemeyer explained. "Students were expected to take three, five-credit courses each term. Looking back, it was a fairly rigorous program of study for students."

Niemeyer said they faced several challenges in the early years, like not meeting enrollment expectations because of a limited curriculum to dispelling rumors that Grand Valley might be turned into a prison.

"Thing really started to change and the university started to flourish after the reorganization in 1982," he said. "The reorganization signaled a new era for Grand Valley."

The next lecture, "50th at Noon-Chili Cook-off," will be held October 20, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Alumni House, featuring John Scherff, Grand Valley's longest serving employee before his retirement. The event is open to faculty and staff members.

Across Campus

Engrained goes cashless

George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson are a few faces you will not find at Engrained, Grand Valley's first cashless campus restaurant.

The cashless system creates a cleanly and efficient environment, according to Campus Dining staff members. Guests order and pay in one line with their school I.D., debit or credit card. Guests with cash only can go to Provisions on Demand (P.O.D.), also in the Connection, to purchase a \$10 or \$25 gift card. The setup eliminates germs and allows employees to have more time to focus on service.

"With speed comes efficiency," said Tom Minor, Campus Dining general manager. "The employees have more time to focus on guest service and not on the transaction, leading to a better experience for guests."

Campus Dining did extensive marketing to make the Grand Valley community aware of



Photo by Amanda Pitts
Jessica VandenBrink hands a credit card to Christina Wise at Engrained, in the Connection, Grand Valley's first cashless restaurant.

the cashless system. They created posters, held information tables during move-in, and included it in Campus Dining training.

"We wanted to encourage everyone to get a meal plan or debit dollars and understand the setup," said Deb Rambadt, Campus Dining

marketing manager. Rambadt said they have received minimal complaints, and described the phenomenon similar to when Grand Valley eliminated trays in 2008.

"After people become educated and understand the setup they adopt it," said Minor. "This time instead of being with the crowd though, we are ahead of it."

Minor said that Kleiner Commons currently sees 97 percent cashless transactions and is a future candidate to adopt this method.

Grand Valley LipDub video now online

The University LipDub video produced by Grand Valley is now online at www.gvsu.edu/lipdub.

The video has gone viral and received a lot of local media attention.

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Across Campus

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The song “Come Sail Away,” by Styx, was selected for the project, which included more than a dozen locations and hundreds of performers.

Sustainability office creates online survey

The Sustainable Community Development Initiative has created a survey for faculty and staff members, and departments, to determine their level of sustainable practices.

Steve Glass, associate dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, said: “Every decision you make, you have to think of the impact. Taking the survey also helps individuals recognize good sustainable practices and educates people on how to be more sustainable.”

The survey is online at www.gvsu.edu/soa. When the survey is finished, participants will see their sustainability ranking and be able to print an award certificate.

Walking groups hosted by Health and Wellness

Weekly walking groups for faculty and staff members are sponsored by Health and Wellness on both the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses through November 11.

A qualified trainer will lead participants through 30-minute routes. Groups will walk inside or outside, depending on the weather. More information is online at www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness, click on the Walking Groups button.

- Mondays: 12:30-12:50 p.m., and 1:30-2 p.m., meet in Kirkhof Center by 2020 Desk;
- Tuesdays: 12:30-1 p.m., meet in DeVos Center by Starbucks;
- Thursdays: 12:30-1 p.m., meet at Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, main desk.

Open enrollment presentation



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Dave Smith, director of benefits and wellness, explains changes in the university’s medical plans during an information session.

There are five remaining information sessions, before open enrollment begins on October 26. Visit www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness to see a presentation schedule.

Alumna’s art on exhibit in Lansing

A vibrant illustration by Grand Valley alumna BreeAnn Veenstra was selected to represent Grand Valley in the 2010 “Arts in the House” exhibition in Lansing, at the Anderson House Office Building, home to the Michigan House of Representatives.

The exhibition, which includes a piece from each of the state’s public universities, is a partnership between the President’s Council, State Universities of Michigan and the Michigan House of Representatives to promote art in everyday life.

Veenstra’s “The Ceryneian Hind,” is a stylized pen and ink digital piece depicting a deer standing near a large flowering almond tree.

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Faculty and staff members can find an online “Sketches” submission form on the Web at www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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Other publications by the News and Information Services Office include:

Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVN^{ow}, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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



GVFaces

Diane Rayor Classics Professor

Diane Rayor is commemorating many milestones this academic year. She is publishing her first translated play, while celebrating the Classics Department’s 10th anniversary and her 19th year as a Grand Valley faculty member.

As a translator of Greek poetry, Rayor fulfilled her longtime dream of translating a play. Early next year, Cambridge University Press will publish *Antigone: A New Translation*, one of the most performed and well-known Greek tragedies.

During the winter 2009 semester, Rayor’s students performed her version of “Antigone.” She said the experience served as an interactive, editing process.

“This version is actable and accurate,” said Rayor. “I liked working with actors, hearing it and seeing it in performance.”

Rayor is incorporating service-learning in her classroom. Students in her Honors Classical Mythology class participate in “Myth and Action” workshops, in which they visit high school classrooms to read, discuss, and perform Greek myths in small groups.

As the first Classics faculty member (she arrived in 1991), Rayor helped create



Diane Rayor

the department and grow it to what it is today. She said Grand Valley is a place of opportunity that fosters department growth.

“Grand Valley allows for experimentation, being younger and innovative,” said Rayor. “From team-teaching to performing in classrooms, people don’t see this everywhere.”

Rayor was the first student to receive a Classics degree from Colorado College; she returned in September to receive an honorary degree.

She is currently working on a translation of “Medea.” Outside of her teaching and translation work, Rayor enjoys reading novels, gardening, making pies, and hiking with her family.

What's Ahead

Free cholesterol screenings available

Free and confidential cholesterol screenings will be offered to faculty and staff members Monday-Wednesday, October 18-20, from 8-11 a.m. at the Fitness and Wellness Center, lower level of the Recreation Center.

A 12-hour fast is required prior to the test. To make an appointment call x13263.

Three presidents to sign copies of anniversary book

It's not often that three of Grand Valley's presidents are in the same room. When they are, it's sure to be a special occasion.

President Thomas J. Haas, former President Mark A. Murray and President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers will be together to sign copies of the 50th anniversary commemorative book on Monday, October 18, during an event from 3-5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Thornapple Room.

Copies of *Grand Valley Celebrates 50 Years of Shaping Lives* will be available for sale, \$19.95 plus tax, during the event.

Teri L. Losey, chair of the 50th anniversary steering committee, said committee members felt it was important to bring the three presidents together to personally autograph copies of the commemorative book.

"We're so grateful to each of the presidents for taking time from their schedules to do this," said Losey, special assistant to the president. "So many faculty and staff members, and students feel a special connection to one or more of them."

Fair set for study abroad

The Padnos International Center will host the 2010 Study Abroad Fair on Tuesday, October 19, in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information contact Meaghann Myers-Smith at x13898 or visit www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad.

Poetry Night highlights Forché, Hicok

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Great Britain Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy will be unable to join poet Bob Hicok for Poetry Night at Grand Valley.

The popular Fall Arts Celebration event will feature two Michigan writers who have gone on to achieve national and international acclaim. "An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Carolyn Forché and Bob Hicok," is planned for Thursday, October 21, at 7 p.m., at the Eberhard Center. The event is free and open to the public.

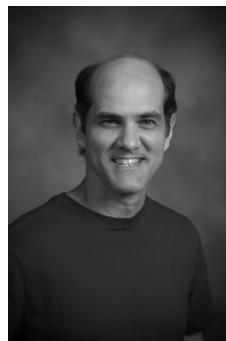
Forché was born in Detroit in 1950 and received a master's of fine arts degree from Bowling Green State University. She is currently the Lannan Visiting Professor of Poetry and Professor of English at Georgetown University. Forché is the author of four books of poetry. *Gathering The Tribes*, received the Yale Younger Poets Award; *The Country Between Us*, was chosen as the Lamont Selection of the Academy of American Poets; *The Angel of History*, won the Los Angeles Times Book Award; and *Blue Hour* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Hicok is a Michigan native who attended Grand Valley in the early 1980s as a student in William James College. He now teaches at Virginia Tech University. A recipient of many awards, Hicok's poetry has been selected for inclusion in six volumes of *Best American Poetry*. His newest book is *Words for Empty and Words for Full* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010).

Limited edition broadsides of a poem by each author will be available at the event, while supplies last. Books by both poets will be



Carolyn Forché



Bob Hicok

available for sale and signing after the performance.

Generous support and commitment to Fall Arts Celebration 2010 have been provided by Ginny Gearhart and the Gearhart Family, Liesel and Hank Meijer, Elaine and Larry Shay, and Judy and Peter Theune.

Volunteers ready for Make a Difference Day

More than 350 Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members are expected to participate in Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 23, which will also serve as a kick-off event for Grand Valley's Sustainability Week.

Entering its 20th year, Make a Difference Day is promoted by *USA Today* and focuses on putting individual cares on hold for one day to care for others.

There are 19 participating agencies in Grand Rapids, including Kent County Parks, Habitat for Humanity and John Ball Zoo. Participants are scheduled to arrive at the Kirkhof Center at 9 a.m. when Tish Norman, from Campus Speak, will greet them with a motivational speech. Volunteers will then be bused to various sites from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

'Appalachian Spring' opens dress rehearsal

As part of Fall Arts Celebration 2010, music and dance faculty members and students present "Appalachian Spring," on Monday, November 1, at 8 p.m., at the Louis Armstrong Theatre in the Performing Arts Center.

Due to strong interest in the performance and limited seating, the full dress rehearsal at 5 p.m. on the same day will also be open to the public, students, faculty and staff members. Light refreshments will be served after the rehearsal.

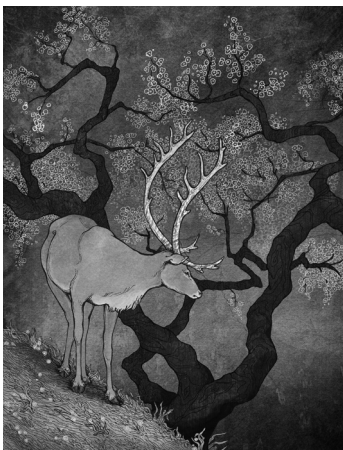
Complimentary tickets, required for admission, are available at the LAT Box Office. Anyone with tickets for the 8 p.m. performance has the opportunity to trade for admission to the 5 p.m. full dress rehearsal. All tickets are general admission, without assigned seating. For more information, call the box office at x12300.

Across Campus

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The piece was purchased from Veenstra to be included in Grand Valley's permanent collection and is on loan to Lansing for the yearlong exhibition.

Veenstra graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's of fine arts degree, emphasis in illustration. She



"The Ceryneian Hand"

currently works in Grand Rapids at a design imaging company and as a freelance artist.

NYT reporter speaks to Seidman students

Seidman College of Business students got career advice from *New York Times* reporter and columnist Andrew Ross Sorkin on October 12 during his visit to West Michigan.

Sorkin, 33, talked about his best-selling book, *Too Big To Fail: The Inside Story of How Wall Street and Washington Fought to Save the Financial System and Themselves*. He told students he spent more than 500 hours interviewing 200 people to see what really happened.

"It is easy to place blame or make judgments until you actually get on the floor," said Sorkin.

"Your field of vision changes and you get a different view of the players. Things aren't so black and white, but gray."

Sorkin said his book is really about the fallibility of people and that he now has a new respect for what really took place in 2008.

A student asked Sorkin what business schools can do to prepare young professionals who want to work on Wall Street. "I have to answer that with a question," said Sorkin. "Can you teach values? Can you teach morals? I'm afraid that's something you're either instilled with or not."

Sorkin's visit was sponsored by the World Affairs Council and Seidman College of Business.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Mon., Oct. 18

3 p.m.: 50th Anniversary Event: Book Signing with Past and Present GVSU Presidents. 0058 KC.

5:15 p.m.: Guest Artist Series. Hyunjung Chung, Piano. Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, PAC. Call x13484 for information.

8 p.m.: Concert Band Performance. LAT, PAC.

Tues., Oct. 19

9 a.m.: Human Resources Excellence Series. Enhance Your Effectiveness: Tips for Better Business Communication. 2204 KC. Call x12215 for information.

10 a.m.: Blood Drive. KLC. Call x12468 for information.

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

Noon: Women's Center hosts Divorce Discussion Group. 0042 KC. Call x12748 for information.

3 p.m.: FTLC Workshop: Preparing a Personal Portfolio. 2201 KC. Call x13498 for information.

4:30 p.m.: FTLC Workshop: Is This the Right Technology for My Class? 107C DEV.

6 p.m.: Seidman College of Business Panel Discussion: What Do Employers Want? Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x17100 for information.

6 p.m.: Hispanic Heritage Month Event. Lecture by Care Santos. 121 BLL, MAK. Call x2177 for information.

7 p.m.: LGBT Resource Center Conference: OUT in the Workplace. 2204 KC. Call x12530 for information.

7 p.m.: Seidman College of Business Open House. HOL. Call x17100 for information.

8 p.m.: Concert: Varsity Men, Select Women's Ensemble and University Singers. LAT, PAC.

Wed., Oct. 20

11:30 a.m.: 50th Anniversary Event: Chili Cook-Off with John Scherff. AH.

Noon: Women's Center hosts Fireside Chat. 1142 KC. Call x12748 for information.

Noon: FTLC Workshop: Preparing a Personal Portfolio. 303C DEV.

Noon: Allendale Toastmasters. 2259 KC. Visit. www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters for information.

Noon: Arts at Noon Series. Cello Fest! CDC.

Noon: Blood Drive. KLC.

3 p.m.: FLTC Workshop: Developing Intercultural Competence Skills for the 21st Century. 2259 KC.

4:30 p.m.: Graduate Studies Department PACES: Managing and Dealing with Change. 303C DEV. Call x16858 to register.

5 p.m.: Middle East Film Festival Opening Reception. CDC. Call x18110 for more information.

6 p.m.: Psychology Film Series: "The Wild Child." 114 LMH. Call x12195 for information.

7 p.m.: Healing Children of Conflict Film Series: "Rethink Afghanistan." 132 LHH. Call x13581 for information.

Thurs., Oct. 21

7:30 a.m.: Downtown Toastmasters. University Club Room, DEV. Visit www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters for information.

Noon: Work Life Connections hosts Alzheimer's Discussion Group. 2264 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: FLTC Workshop: Developing Intercultural Competence Skills for the 21st Century. 302E, DEV.

Noon: Women's Commission Meeting. 2259 KC. Visit www.gvsu.edu/w_commission for information.

4 p.m.: Women's Center Lecture: "Gleeks, Grenades and Girls with Curves: Images of the Body in Pop Culture," by Jennifer Jameslyn. GRR, KC. Call x12748 for more information.

7 p.m.: Fall Arts Celebration Poetry Night. EC.

8 p.m.: Jazz Orchestra Performance. LAT, PAC.

Fri., Oct. 22

11 a.m.: Board of Trustees Meeting. 2204 KC. Call x12180 for more information.

2 p.m.: Venderbush Leadership Reception. GRR, KC. Call x12345 for information.

3 p.m.: Philosophy Colloquium: "The Role of Mathematics in Philosophy," by Doug Kindschi. 110 BLL, MAC. Call x12114 for information.

7 p.m.: Library hosts "RIP: A Remix Manifesto." 2263 KC. Call x15937 for more information.

Sat., Oct. 23

8 p.m.: University Arts Chorale and Cantate Chamber Ensemble. CDC.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Maureen Wolverton, assistant chair of Liberal Studies, was interviewed by the *Grand Rapids Press* for a story about presenter C. Michael Smith and "Why Shamanism Now?"

Sketches

Institutional Marketing received awards of excellence from the American Graphic Design Awards for *Grand Valley Magazine*, 2009 DeVos

Art Lecture Series Invitation, 50th Anniversary Celebration Picnic Invitation and 2008-2010 Charter Schools Office Report.

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, gave a presentation, "Hidden Roots of American Philanthropy: The Unlikely Case of Adam Smith," at the joint conference held by the Hauenstein Center and Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, received a \$247,212 grant

from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for a project, "Studies to Support Ruddiman Creek Implementation-Ready TMDL."

Shawn Bible, assistant professor of dance, was elected to the National Board of Directors of the American Dance Festival Association for the East-Central region.

Sandra Maytan, adjunct professor of music, won third prize at the Nicolas Loren voice competition in Holland.