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Grand Valley State University

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FORUM

Monday, November 3, 2008

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services

Grand Valley names Honors College for Meijer

Frederik Meijer said he regretted not going to college and that the value of education today is absolutely imperative.

Meijer made his remarks at a reception before a Grand Valley University Foundation luncheon on October 29. Before a crowd of more than 100 people, Grand Valley and the Meijer family announced the university's Honors College will be named the Frederik Meijer Honors College.

"I've always been a strong advocate of higher education and we encouraged our children to go to college," said Meijer. "This university has been a symbol of excellence, not just here in West Michigan but nationwide. We hope that through this honors college and our support, we have an opportunity to assist young minds and help them achieve their goals."

The Meijer gift will benefit the Honors College in four ways: scholarships will be established for first-generation college students; an endowed chair will be created for



Photos by Amanda Pitts

Fred Meijer tries on a Grand Valley commencement cap. At right is Harvey Lemmen, who donated the Abraham Lincoln Collection to the university archives.

a permanent faculty member who will provide expertise in leadership in entrepreneurship; a lecture series will be established; and career development opportunities will be established for graduate students.

"Fred Meijer's support has spanned our history, and now he is helping us reach for new heights," said President Thomas J. Haas. "This



President Thomas J. Haas speaks at a news conference October 29 about the Meijer Foundation gift to Grand Valley, which led to the naming of the Frederik Meijer Honors College. Seated from left are Fred Meijer, Lena Meijer and Hank Meijer.

generous gift for the Frederik Meijer Honors College and its promising students will allow us to offer additional academic rigor and benefits. We will be able to attract a broader range of students to West Michigan and as graduates they will be our future leaders in their communities and vocations."

Across Campus

University issues second Accountability Report

In its second annual review of academic and fiscal performance, Grand Valley has again demonstrated its ability to educate successful students, despite a continued shift of the financial burden of education from the state to students.

President Thomas J. Haas created the report in 2007 to show that Grand Valley is a good steward of its resources. Haas highlighted the 2008 report at the October 27 Board of Trustees meeting.

The report shows that eroding support from the state for its public universities is clear and Michigan is at the very bottom when it comes to recent investment in higher education. The report is online at www.gvsu.edu/forms/accountabilityreport.pdf

Also at the meeting, members of the Board of Trustees approved a Women and Gender Studies major.

Wendy Wenner, dean of the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, said the program focuses on understanding the historical and contemporary ideas of gender and its significance in society.

Wenner said the major was developed because of student demand and currently 700 students are enrolled in WGS courses.

The board also approved a site plan and budget for the 514 Butterworth Avenue SW (bicycle factory) project. Assistant Vice President of Facilities Planning James Moyer said the \$2.6 million, 26,000-square-foot space will be used to relocate the Johnson Center for Philanthropy and the Charter School offices. The Johnson Center is currently in the DeVos Center and the Charter School offices are using leased

space. The project is scheduled to be completed in March.

Faculty staff campaign unveils theme

The Faculty and Staff Annual Giving Campaign announces its 2008-09 theme, "Growing A Greater Grand Valley."



Annual kickoff breakfasts for campaign volunteers will be held in late January. Campaign materials will be sent to the homes of faculty and staff members this week. Every gift to the campaign will count toward the university's first comprehensive campaign, Shaping Our Future. More information about the campaign is online at www.gvsu.edu/fscampaign.

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Across Campus

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Mary Ann Watters, office coordinator for the Regional Math and Science Center, and Paul Stephenson, chair and associate professor of statistics, are the co-chairs for the campaign. Watters said there are many ways that a campaign gift benefits Grand Valley.

“Working at Grand Valley is about helping students be successful,” she said. “To me, that means helping students financially. Some students couldn’t be here if they didn’t receive financial help.”

Benefits open enrollment ends soon

The deadline to complete benefits open enrollment is 5 p.m. on Monday, November 10.

Benefit-eligible faculty and staff members who do not update their plans will see no changes for the upcoming year. View plans online by visiting www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness and click on the “eBenefits” button. Those who plan to participate in flexible spending accounts must log on to the site and enter a 2009 deduction amount.

Benefits representatives in the Human Resources office are available to answer questions at x12220 or by e-mail at healthandwellness@gvsu.edu.

Former professor honored by MSU

Michigan State University’s School of Criminal Justice honored the late Clifford Van Meter, Grand Valley professor emeritus of criminal justice, as a distinguished alumni in October during its Wall of Fame ceremony.

Van Meter joined Grand Valley’s faculty in 1992 after a distinguished teaching career at the University of Illinois. He held many roles in criminal justice, including serving as executive director of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Private Security Task Force for President’s Nixon’s administration.

Van Meter was forced to retire due to a terminal respiratory illness, but he returned to Grand Valley to guest lecture.

Jonathan White, professor of interdisciplinary studies and executive director of the Homeland Defense Initiative, said Van Meter helped put Grand Valley’s School of Criminal Justice “on the map.”

White, a former director and professor of criminal justice, is also on the MSU School of Criminal Justice Wall of Fame. “Of the 41 people they have honored, two are from Grand Valley,” White said. “It thrills me to be up there with Cliff.”

Van Meter died in 2003, shortly after giving a lecture at Grand Valley on President Kennedy’s assassination.



Photo courtesy of Michigan State University

From left, Marcia White, Jonathan White, Candy Curtis and Judy Van Meter celebrate Cliff Van Meter’s posthumous induction into the MSU School of Criminal Justice Wall of Fame.

Compact will support student success

Grand Valley has become a charter member of the College Board’s CollegeKeys Compact, which seeks to support students from low-income families as they work toward preparing for, getting into, and succeeding in college.

Grand Valley is one of the first 500 institutions to join the initiative issued by the College Board seven months ago. As part of the initiative, Grand

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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 magazine

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.

GVFaces

Gricelda Estrada OMA Assistant Director

The new assistant director for the Office of Multicultural Affairs brings a diverse and rounded background in student services to her position at Grand Valley.

While Gricelda Estrada’s initial career plans had her climbing the ladder in retail management, it was while she worked for Target that Estrada decided to switch careers.

“Target has a community service program in which donations are given to area schools,” she said. “I was the person responsible for bringing the checks to the schools. I realized I enjoyed meeting the kids and really wanted to do something more to help them achieve their goals.”

Estrada started working at Grand Valley in mid-September. She had worked for Goodwill Industries, coordinating a program that helps people overcome barriers. She had also worked at Davenport University as an academic advisor.

For OMA, Estrada is responsible for coordinating Hispanic Heritage Month and Cesar Chavez Week events, in addition to overseeing the Wade McCree

program for high school students and one of the OMA academic cohorts. “I love the opportunities I have here to work with students, to reach out and support them,” she said.

She had many similar duties while working for the Roberto Hernandez Center at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Estrada earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and is finishing a master’s degree in adult and higher education at Grand Valley.

She is the first generation in her family to attend college. Estrada was born in Mexico and moved to Illinois and then Wisconsin with her family at an early age.

Estrada said her varied careers are a benefit when working with students. “I believe that you’ll find your calling along the way. It might change, but you’ll find it,” she said.



Gricelda Estrada

What's Ahead

Session aims to help plan for GVSU admission

Several departments and organizations will host a session to help faculty and staff members learn more about college admission for their middle or high school students.

"Planning for Laker Admission Now" will be held Wednesday, November 5, from 10 a.m.-noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 2201. Speakers from the Admissions and Financial Aid offices will discuss how to prepare students for the admissions process and ways to increase chances of being accepted at Grand Valley.

The session is sponsored by Grand Valley's Clerical Office Technical Association, AFSCME Local No. 2074, University Development Faculty Staff Campaign, and Work Life Connections. Participants can register by visiting the Web site www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness and click on "Workshops and Registration," or calling Sue Sloop at x12215.

Counseling Center to host workshop on coping with group conflicts

The Counseling and Career Development Center will host a workshop that will focus on the challenges and opportunities that arise within diverse groups.

"Dealing with Multicultural Ruptures in an Organization" will be led by Melba Vasquez, a national leader in multicultural psychotherapy. During her career, Vasquez's publications and presentations have provided the field of psychology with a model for more inclusive and culturally responsive practice.

The workshop is set for Thursday, November 6, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Cost to attend is \$90 (\$50 for students) and includes lunch. For more information, call the Counseling Center at x13266.

Fashion show unveils budget wardrobes

Has the economic crunch affected your clothing budget? A presentation this week will detail how to shop consignment stores for bargains.

"Dressing on a Budget" is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 2263. It's part of the Women Connecting Series presented by the Women's Center and Health and Wellness.

Faculty and staff members will model clothes from Savannah Fine Consignments of Jenison; clothes will be available for purchase after the show and light refreshments will be served.

Register for the presentation online at www.gvsu.edu/seminar. For more information, call the Women's Center at x12748.

Holiday weight challenge will aid local family

A holiday weight challenge sponsored by the Health and Wellness Department will not only benefit the waistlines of participants, but also benefit a local family struggling with finances.

"Hold it for the Holidays" begins November 10 and continues through January 8. The program's goal is for participants to avoid gaining extra pounds during the holidays, staying within three pounds of their initial weight. Cost to participate is \$10, which will be returned to those participants who stay within the weight guidelines.

Program proceeds, along with donations from any faculty or staff member, will go toward helping the Swiney family of Grand Rapids obtain a family membership at the Grand Rapids YMCA.

Tim Swiney was recently laid off; he said the membership will help his family stay active and participate in YMCA programs they otherwise would not be able to afford. "Essentially, they're trying to hold it together for the holidays," said Josie Goldberg, Health and Wellness program coordinator.

Three weigh-ins are scheduled throughout the six-week program, beginning on November 10 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. in Lake Michigan Hall, room 140; 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 499C; and 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, room 136.

Register for the program online at www.gvsu.edu/seminar. Questions can be directed to the Health and Wellness Department at x12215 or healthandwellness@gvsu.edu.

'Vinegar Tom' staged by Jenison native

As a junior high student in 1994, Ben Cole was quite inspired by Grand Valley's Shakespeare Festival production of "Twelfth Night." This fall he returned to campus as a visiting professor and will direct students in the stage production "Vinegar Tom."



Performances of 'Vinegar Tom' are November 14-22 in the Performing Arts Center.

Performances are November 14-15 and 20-22, at 7:30 p.m. and November 16, at 2 p.m., in the Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 seniors/faculty/staff/alumni, and \$6 for all students. Tickets may be purchased through Star Tickets Plus with a service fee, by calling (616) 222-4000 or (800) 585-3737, online at www.starticketsplus.com or at any Star Tickets Plus outlet. Tickets are also available weekdays noon-5 p.m., at the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office.

After following his muse and performing on stage throughout his high school and college years, Cole earned a master's degree in acting from Western Illinois University. The Jenison native has previously taught in Oklahoma, Florida and Ireland, and has taught, acted and directed with the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre.

"Vinegar Tom" is a tale of religious intolerance and witchcraft set in 17th-century Europe. Writer Caryl Churchill examines western society's prejudices against women, with an ending guaranteed to inspire and delight. Though based in the 1640s-1650s, it deals with issues that are still current today. The point is punctuated by the contemporary characters during musical interludes used throughout the production.

A talk-back session will follow each performance to discuss issues of oppression. Partnering with Grand Valley's Women's Center, Cole said he hopes the discussions will be enlightening and educational.

Across Campus

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Valley will pursue ways and dedicate resources to help students get into and excel in college. This could include creating partnerships to provide mentors for young people, helping administrators and counselors and providing tutoring and supplemental instruction.

College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in

1900, the association is composed of more than 5,400 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations.

Deadline to apply for internship nears

The Annis Water Resources Institute is offering a winter semester internship made possible by a gift from the late Herbert L. VanderMay.

The internship, with compensation of \$1,800, will be awarded to a Grand Valley student majoring in the sciences.

Deadline to apply for the internship is November 7. Applicants must send an essay, resume and application to AWRI, Lake Michigan Center, 740 W. Shoreline Dr., Muskegon, MI 49441. For more information, contact AWRI Director Alan Steinman at steinmaa@gvsu.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Mon., Nov. 3

8 p.m.: Free Play 13 presents Jacqueline Leclair, oboe. Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

Tues., Nov. 4

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts “Work Outs Made Easy.” 2266 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

2 p.m.: Career Services hosts West Michigan Careerfest. DeVos Place Convention Center. Call x13311 for more information.

3 p.m.: Retirement Open House for Jacqui Hill. AH. Call x13588 for more information.

Wed., Nov. 5

10 a.m.: Planning for Laker Admission Now. 2201 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Arts at Noon Series: David Hall, marimba. CDC. Call x13484 for more information.

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

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts “Work Outs Made Easy.” 302E DEV. Call x12215 for more information.

8 p.m.: Saxophone Studio Recital. Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

Thurs., Nov. 6

8:30 a.m.: Counseling Center hosts “Dealing with Multicultural Ruptures in an Organization,” by Melba Vasquez. 2250 KC. Call x13266 for more information.

Noon: Women’s Center hosts Dressing on a Budget Fashion Show. 2263 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts film series “UnNatural Causes.” 2201 KC. Call x12215

for more information.

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

6 p.m.: Women’s Center hosts “Racism, Sexism and Homophobia: Debunking the Double Standard,” by Tomas Bell. CDC. Call x12748 for more information.

Fri., Nov. 7

3:30 p.m.: Philosophy Colloquium. “Adorno, Imagination, and Politics,” by Michael Reno. 110 MAK. Call x12114 for more information.

5 p.m.: UClub hosts “Countdown to DTV with WGVU.” EC. Call x13529 for information.

Sun., Nov. 9

3 p.m.: Perugino String Quartet. Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x13484 for more information.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Erika King, professor of political science, was interviewed by the *Grand Rapids Press*, Detroit Public Radio and WOOD-TV Channel 8 about the presidential race.

Rod Denning, research associate at the Annis Water Resources Institute, was interviewed by the *Grand Rapids Press* and *Muskegon Chronicle* for stories about a study that examined the value of ecological services that are being provided by each city’s urban tree canopy.

Tim Thimmesch, assistant vice president for Facilities Services, was interviewed by WGVU-AM for a story about sustainability.

Sketches

Peimin Ni, professor of philosophy and East Asian studies, wrote an article, “An Alternative to Universalism — the Chinese Holistic Vision,” published in the *World Public Forum’s Dialogue of Civilizations*. He also gave a presentation, “Opening the Space of Dialogue Beyond Rational Discourse,” at the general meeting of the World Public Forum in Rhodes, Greece.

Deanna Morse, professor of communications, gave a presentation of her film, “Deanna Morse: Move Click Move,” at the International Animation Conference in Xiamen, China. She is vice president for ASIFA International, the oldest international organization of animators.

Teresa Castelao-Lawless, professor of philosophy, had one of her graduate students success-

fully defend his master’s thesis at the Federal University of Bahia in Salvador, Brazil.

Rob Franciosi, professor of English, wrote an article, “Designing John Hersey’s The Wall: W. A. Dwiggin, George Salter, and the Challenges of American Holocaust Memory,” published in *Book History, Volume 11*.

Ester Burns, procurement services manager, received the Corporate/Government Volunteer of the Year Award at the Annual Michigan Women’s Business Conference and Expo in Novi.

Biology faculty members **Michael P. Lombardo** and **Patrick A. Thorpe** co-wrote an article, “Digit Ratio in Birds,” published in *Anatomical Record*.

Cindi Winowiecki, client services manager for Conference and Event Planning, was elected regional director-elect for the Association of Collegiate Conference and Event Directors International.

Gerald DeHondt, assistant professor of computing and information systems, wrote a chapter, “Towards Code Reuse and Refactoring as a Practice within Extreme Programming,” published in the book, *Advanced Principles for Improving Database Design, Systems Modeling, and Software Development*.

John Koches, associate research scientist at the Annis Water Resources Institute, served as panelist for the Muskegon Area Sustainability Coalition conference in Ferrysburg. He also hosted a roundtable discussion, “Adapting to our Future — Communities and Climate Change.”

Jennifer Stewart, associate professor of sociology, received the Larry T. Reynolds Award for Outstanding Teaching of Sociology from the Michigan Sociological Association.

Heather Van Wormer, assistant professor of anthropology, was elected to a two-year term as president of the Communal Studies Association.

Dave Gabrielse, affiliate professor of social work, gave a presentation, “Toward a More Collaborative Child Welfare System: Using Data to Enhance Goal Setting and Permanency,” at the annual Child Welfare Leadership in Action conference in Washington, D.C.

Jo Ann Litton, scholarships and outreach manager for Financial Aid, gave a presentation, “De-Mystifying School Financial Aid,” at the Council of Michigan Foundations’ annual conference in Grand Rapids.

Elaine Schott, interim director and professor of social work, gave a presentation, “Boys to Men: Competence and Resilience Among African American Adolescent Males,” at the Michigan Association of School Social Workers conference.

George Klay Kieh, professor of political science and African American studies, received honorable mention for his book, *Liberia’s First Civil War: The Crises of Underdevelopment*, from the Association of Third World Studies for the best book published in African Studies.