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Grand Valley State University

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# FORUM

**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

Published by University Communications



## Fifth campus climate survey begins this week

The myGVSU Campus Climate Survey 2015 will open on Thursday, November 12.

All students, faculty and staff members will receive an email with a personal link to the survey; the deadline to complete it is November 22.

The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete; participants can save responses and return to the survey later, if necessary.

This is the fifth campus climate survey Grand Valley has administered. Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said each survey has helped influence positive change and cited establishment of the Children's Enrichment Center, Women's Center, and LGBT

Resource Center as examples.

"These changes were informed by previous climate surveys, are the direct result of people letting their voices be heard, and sharing information about how Grand Valley can be more welcoming and inclusive," Bernal said.

Other positive changes are noted on the myGVSU website, [www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu](http://www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu), and include the creation of a collegiality policy, creating prayer space in Kirkhof Center,



and improving services for student veterans. The website also includes a video and information about the survey's independent data analyst, Amber Gonzalez from Sacramento State University.

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing for prizes. Students can win one of four \$2,000 tuition grants; faculty members can receive one of three \$1,000 research or professional development grants; and staff members can receive one of three \$1,000 professional development grants.

## Across Campus

### Professor featured on national wildlife show

Paul Keenlance, assistant professor of natural resources management, was recently featured on an episode of the Emmy-nominated show "The Wildlife Docs," highlighting his research with the Manistee National Forest marten population.

For the October 31 episode, the show's crew and host, Grand Rapids native Rachel Reenstra, traveled to northern Michigan to spotlight the American marten, a member of the weasel family. With assistance from the U.S. Forest Service, Detroit Zoo, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Busch Gardens, Keenlance is examining survival and reproduction, habitat selection and the genetic health of the marten population in the Manistee National Forest.

"The population of martens in the lower peninsula has not expanded geographically or numerically as was expected when they were reintroduced in the mid-1980s," Keenlance said. "We have documented that the population is inbred, but no one is really sure how close the population is to becoming extinct."

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, removal of evergreen forests and the unregulated harvest of martens in the 1930s reduced the species to small populations in the Upper Peninsula, which eventually disappeared from the state entirely. Recovery efforts began in 1958 and lasted through the translocation of 40 martens from Canada to



Paul Keenlance holds a marten in the Manistee National Forest. He was profiled on a wildlife show that highlighted his research on martens.

the Mackinac State Forest area of northern Michigan in 1985.

Keenlance added that his team is developing management recommendations for the U.S. Forest Service based on the results of their research. "These recommendations will allow the U.S. Forest Service to more effectively manage habitats for martens and support a population that is viable for the long term," he said.

Keenlance has also been assisted by three graduate and six undergraduate students throughout the course of his research project.

### Nominations open for 'I Am Grand Valley'

Nominations for the "I Am Grand Valley" student leadership recognition campaign opened November 2.

The campaign, hosted by the Office of Student Life, recognizes students who display and employ strong leadership skills that affect the campus community. Students, faculty and staff members can nominate any student.

Nominations are due November 20 and can be submitted on OrgSync at [www.gvsu.edu/orgsync](http://www.gvsu.edu/orgsync). Faculty and staff members who have not logged in to OrgSync should register before accessing the nomination form.

Nominated students will be notified in early December. The Office of Student Life will distribute "I Am Grand Valley" T-shirts and certificates to nominated students to wear on the first Wednesday of every month.

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/iamgv](http://www.gvsu.edu/iamgv).

### Scholarship renamed to honor educator

Grand Valley leaders introduced a renamed scholarship and new endowment fundraising partnership that honors Lupe Ramos-Montigny, West Michigan leader and member of the Michigan State Board of Education.

*continues on page 2*

# Across Campus

continued from page 1

The announcement was made in October during the annual Hispanic Scholarship and Awards Gala held at the Eberhard Center.

President Thomas J. Haas said the scholarship was established to honor Ramos-Montigny's "work and dedication to education in the West Michigan community and statewide."

Grand Valley students Christopher Lopez and Jessica Solis received the scholarship.

Ramos-Montigny spent much of her career as a teacher and building principal for Grand Rapids Public Schools, retiring in 2008. She was elected to the State Board of Education in 2012. Active in politics and the community, she was the first Latina to hold an office in the Michigan Democratic Party and she helped establish the Committee to Honor César E. Chávez.

Ramos-Montigny was honored the scholarship fund was named for her and said the work and legacy of Chávez continues in West Michigan.

"It's the individuals and students recognized, along with everyone supporting this important event, that espouse César's hard work and philosophy," she said. "By coming together for this cause, we continue to perpetuate his legacy for the entire community, not just Hispanics."

Contributions to the fund can be made online at [www.gvsu.edu/giving/luperamosmontigny](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/luperamosmontigny).



Pictured at the annual Hispanic Scholarship and Awards Gala are, from left, President Thomas J. Haas, Jessica Solis, Christopher Lopez, Lupe Ramos-Montigny and Vice President for Inclusion and Equity Jesse Bernal.

## Flu vaccines still available

The GVSU Family Health Center can administer flu vaccines to anyone in the campus community who missed a recent vaccine clinic.

The center, 72 Sheldon Blvd. SE in Grand Rapids, is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed for lunch from 1-2 p.m.) on Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday, and from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Wednesday (closed for lunch from 1-2 p.m.).

Questions can be directed to (616) 988-8774.

## Computing programs earn reaccreditation

The Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineers and Technology, Inc. (ABET) has granted reaccreditation to programs within the School of Computing and Information Systems at Grand Valley.

The accreditation is based on an assessment of each program's objectives and outcomes and how they are met. The review process is an ongoing endeavor and takes more than a year to complete. It concludes with a visit from ABET representatives to the university to tour facilities and meet with faculty members and students. Both undergraduate programs, computer science and information systems, received the maximum accreditation term of six years.

Paul Leidig, director of the School of Computing and Information Systems, said being accredited shows to potential students and employers that Grand Valley's programs meet the highest standards.

The CAC noted the required internship experience of students as the key strength of the programs.

The reaccreditation comes as the school celebrates a record number of students this fall semester. CIS enrollment in key required courses increased by 30 percent from last year; there are more than 700 undergraduate students and 100 graduate students.

Leidig said Grand Valley graduates are filling a severe talent need in the technology industry.

"The industry is growing very quickly and talent shortage in IT is very severe, so employers are struggling to find technology-competent professionals for roles in positions such as software development and programming," said Leidig.

Leidig said accreditation, curriculum, facilities and professional relationships with area employers directly contribute to the nearly 100 percent job placement rate of Grand Valley's computing graduates.



Paul Leidig

## FORUM Volume 40, Number 11

The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. 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. Web: [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://www.gvsu.edu/forum).

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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Other publications by University Communications include:

*Grand Valley Magazine*, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, *GVNow*, at [www.gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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



## GVFaces

### Etonia 'Toni' Todd, Testing Coordinator, Disability Support Resources

For students with hearing, visual problems, learning difficulties or other disabilities, taking tests in a classroom environment can be a daunting task.

It's the job of Etonia "Toni" Todd, testing coordinator for Disability Support Resources, to make sure these students are accommodated.

Todd helps students work with faculty members to create testing arrangements that will allow them to succeed. This could include extra time, a different location, special software or another solution.

Students who are diagnosed with a disability bring documentation to the Disability Support Resources office, and DSR staff help develop a plan to suit their particular needs. Todd then works with the student's faculty members to make sure the plan is implemented.

"If they don't have documentation, that's fine too. We don't turn anyone away," she said. "If they're in need of help, we'll try to work with them to help any way we can."

In addition to her main duties, Todd co-manages 20 student workers. She helps coordinate the office's front desk, co-writes grants and fills in other responsibilities as needed.

A desire to help others is the driving force behind Todd's career.

"I love helping people," she said. "I love helping college students achieve their academic goals, or help them figure out their direction. I have a passion for helping them be successful."

Todd arrived at Grand Valley in 2014, but her dedication to serving those in need, particularly college students, began long before that.

She worked at her alma mater, National Louis University, for 11 years. There she served as the assistant director of Student Finance and Student Services.

"I like the higher education environment because I think people are more serious. You have to go to high school, but it's a choice to go to college. Anyone who makes those choices feels invested in themselves to complete it."

Todd earned a bachelor's degree in management, a master's degree in psychology, and a master's certificate in counseling and psychological assessment.

"I love higher education," she said. "I feel that lifelong learning is good for everyone. You're never too old or too young to learn something."



Etonia Todd

# What's Ahead

## Battle of Valleys raises funds for nonprofits

Grand Valley and Saginaw Valley State University will compete in the 13th annual Battle of the Valleys from November 8-14 to raise the most donations for a selected organization.

For the second year, Grand Valley will raise donations for the Grand Valley Children's Fund, a fund established last year to assist Grand Valley students and local nonprofits who work with children.

The university that raises the most money will be announced at halftime during the Grand Valley vs. Saginaw Valley football game November 14 at Lubbers Stadium.

Since the start of the competition in 2003, Grand Valley has won the fundraising competition three times; the last time was in 2007 with \$31,382 raised.

A variety of events will take place throughout the week, including a \$10 BOTV T-shirt and a raffle ticket sale in the Kirkhof Center lobby. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys](http://www.gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys).

## Meijer Campus sponsors America Recycles Day event in Holland

Community experts on recycling and sustainability will give fast-paced presentations during Holland's third annual America Recycles Day, a collaborative effort by the City of Holland, Meijer Campus in Holland, and a new nonprofit organization, GreenMichigan.org.

"Where Does My Recycling Go: The Lifecycle of Recycled Materials" is set for Monday, November 9, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave.

Lisa Miller, director of the Meijer Holland Campus, said the event will be similar to TED Talks, with short presentations on a variety of topics. Ken Freestone, Grand Valley student and founder of GreenMichigan.org, will be the emcee.

Freestone said experts will discuss the lifecycles of fabric, electronics, medicine, hazardous waste and more when these materials are recycled. Freestone started GreenMichigan.org as a resource center for environmental concerns.

The event is part of the Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore series; it is sponsored by Comprenew. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/holland](http://www.gvsu.edu/holland) for more information.

## Design thinking leaders to explore storytelling, impact

Two national leaders in design thinking theory and practice will visit Grand Valley to discuss the importance of storytelling and education in design thinking.

Shane Meeker, founder of storyMYTHOS, company historian and corporate storyteller at Procter and Gamble, will present "Story Telling: From Culture Building to Design Thinking and Creative Problem Solving" Wednesday, November 11.



Shane Meeker



Hugh Musick

A session will be offered in the L. William Seidman Center, room 1008B, from 8:30-10 a.m. Another presentation will be from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Both presentations will be followed by a workshop for a limited number of participants.

Meeker is an accomplished storyteller who has helped hundreds of teams, brands and organizations, such as the Walt Disney Company, American Express and General Motors, develop the stories they want to create, tell and sell.

Hugh Musick will present "Design Thinking at IIT and Impacts on Organizations" Tuesday, November 17, from 6-7 p.m. in the L. William Seidman Center, room 1008B, with a reception beginning at 5 p.m.

Musick is the associate dean and director of Executive Education at IIT Institute of Design in Chicago. His talk will explore educating students on the principles and theories that encompass design thinking as well as the impact of design thinking in various types of organizations.

Musick's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion.

For more information and to register, visit [www.gvsu.edu/designthinking](http://www.gvsu.edu/designthinking).

## Priority Health to provide wellness coaches

Personal health coaches will be available to benefit-eligible faculty and staff members to help them meet their health and wellness goals.

The coaches are certified in various areas of expertise, such as nutrition or personal training, to fit each client's needs.

They will be at the DeVos center, room 297C, on Thursday, November 12, from 1-7 p.m.; and the Kirkhof Center, room 1249, on Friday, November 13, from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

The meetings are confidential, and participants can follow up with their coaches regularly by phone after their initial meeting.

"We've gotten a lot of good feedback from the individuals who have connected with a coach," said Lindsey DesArmo, health and wellness specialist. "If there's that person that they can talk to figure out what it is they're getting stuck in, it's really helpful."

This service is part of Grand Valley's Healthy Choices program; to enroll in this free program, visit [www.priorityhealth.com/](http://www.priorityhealth.com/)

## Fall Advising Conference planned

Faculty and professional advisors are invited to the inaugural Fall Advising Conference, sponsored by the Academic Advising and Professional Development Committee.

The conference is set for November 13 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Meijer Holland Campus.

Bernice Mitchell, a former student, will give keynote remarks focused on how advisors helped her find a degree path at Grand Valley. Concurrent sessions on study abroad, mental health and academic program updates are planned.

RSVP for the conference online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout).

*What's Ahead continues on page 4*

## Fall Arts Celebration welcomes 'Interstellar' producer, physicist

The 2014 film, "Interstellar," explores the idea of traveling across different galaxies via wormholes in space. This is a familiar topic for Kip Thorne, Fall Arts Celebration Distinguished Academic Lecturer.

The theoretical physicist and Einstein Medal winner served as an executive producer for "Interstellar" and co-authored *The Science of Interstellar*, which explores the physics behind the movie. Thorne was tapped to collaborate on the film thanks to his past research on Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, as well as astrophysics with an emphasis on wormholes, time travel, relativistic stars, black holes and gravitational waves.

Thorne's lecture at Grand Valley will discuss the marriage of visual arts and scientific discovery.

"Bringing together the visual arts with

cutting edge science will raise all sorts of topics, and the kinds of questions that Grand Valley's integrative approach to liberal education is wonderfully situated to answer," said Fred J. Antczak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Thorne will present "Discovery and Collaboration" on Monday, November 16, 7 p.m. at the Eberhard Center. His lecture will be followed by a book signing and reception.

Thorne served as a faculty member at Caltech from 1967 until his retirement as the Feynman professor of theoretical physics in 2009. He also cofounded the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Project, which consists of approximately 600 researchers who directly observe and report on gravitational waves of cosmic origin.

Before collaborating on "Interstellar," Thorne consulted on the 1997 film "Contact," where he proposed using wormholes to connect two points in time. Thorne is also an accomplished author, having penned numerous articles and books, including the educational textbook

*Gravitation*, and the award-winning book *Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy*, which introduces non-scientists to general relativity.

Ahead of Thorne's lecture, the Physics Department is sponsoring a screening of "Interstellar," which will take place Saturday, November 14, at 6 p.m. at Wealthy Theatre (1130 Wealthy St. SE) located in Grand Rapids. The screening is free and open to the public.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://www.gvsu.edu/fallarts), or call x12185.



Kip Thorne

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Robert Deaner**, associate professor of psychology, was interviewed by the *New York Times* for a story about sex differences in long distance running and hiking.

## Sketches

Social work faculty members **Brandon Youker** and **Steven Smith** gave a presentation, "Grand Valley's Simulation Center and its Effects on Social Work Undergrads' Interviewing Performances," at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching in Traverse City.

**Richard Rediske**, senior program manager and professor at the Annis Water Resources Institute, received a \$4,600 grant from Public Health Muskegon County for a project, "Great Lakes Beach Monitoring."

**Michael P. Lombardo**, professor of biology, gave a presentation, "Why Don't USA-based Scientists Publish Studies on the Role of Innate Variation in Athletic Performance?" at the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences at University Wisconsin Madison.

**Alan Steinman**, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, received a \$10,000 from the Community Fund for Muskegon County for a project, "A New Approach to Managing Water in the State of Michigan."

**Sandra L. Spoelstra**, KCON associate dean for research and scholarship, participated in a panel, "mHealth Technology to Improve Medication Adherence Measurement and Intervention Research," at the National Institutes of Health Expert Panel in Rockville, Maryland.

**Matthew Roberts**, instructional designer for eLearning, gave presentations, "Sneaky Slides: How to Rescue PowerPoint from the Dark Side for More Engaging eLearning Videos" and "Let's Get Physical: Students as Visual Aids," at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching in Traverse City.

**Peimin Ni**, professor of philosophy, gave a presentation, "The Underlying Philosophy and Impact of the New Silk Road World Order," at the 13th Rhodes Forum, Dialogue of Civilizations.

**David Stark**, professor of history, gave a presentation, "Moving from the Sugar Plantation to the Hato Economy: A New Look at Slavery

and Slave Life in the Eighteenth-Century Spanish Caribbean," at the Fourth Conference on Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean in Richmond, Virginia.

WGVU Public Media staff members **Michael T. Walenta**, **Timothy E. Eernisse** and **Steve Chappell** were three PBS representatives appointed to the WETA Ken Burns Vietnam Station Advisory Board.

**Cynthia Coviak**, professor of nursing, presented an all-day nursing informatics workshop, "Nursing Informatics: Forging Ahead," for nursing leaders at the Battle Creek Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

**John Philbin**, associate professor of communications, earned the Best Screenplay award at the Miami Web Fest for his web series, "Lucky Jay," a comedy about life as a professor.

**Tracy Russo**, visiting professor of education, gave a presentation, "Outcomes that Work for Everyone (Especially the CTE Faculty and Students Using Them)" at the TRENDS in Occupational Studies 2015 Annual Conference in Traverse City.

## What's Ahead

### International Education Week celebration highlights three regions

To celebrate International Education Week, the Padnos International Center will host three study abroad open houses, each featuring a different world region.

Participants can meet students who have studied abroad and international students from these regions. Refreshments will be provided; all open houses will take place in Lake Ontario Hall, room 130.

- Latin America and the Caribbean: Friday, November 13, from 2-3 p.m.
- Asia: Thursday, November 19, from 2-3 p.m.
- Africa: Friday, November 20, from 3-4 p.m.

### Theater production to explore impact of riots

The 1992 acquittal of Los Angeles police officers involved in the Rodney King beating case will be the subject of an upcoming theater production.

Hours after the verdicts were announced, outrage and protest turned to violent riots in the streets of south-central Los Angeles, and the nation watched on television.

Grand Valley students will perform testimonials from a collection of approximately 300 interviews collected from people who experienced the riots firsthand.

Performances of "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992," will take place November 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, at 7:30 p.m., and November 15 and 22, at 2 p.m. in Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

"Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992" captures the identities of 36 famous, infamous and anonymous individuals linked to the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict. The show was originally written and performed as a one-woman show by award-winning playwright and actress Anna Deavere Smith, but Michael Mueller, director and visiting professor of theater, said 12 student actors will portray the 36 individuals.

"The students play multiple characters of different ethnicities and genders, which enables them to confront issues of stereotyping, as well as the characters' own prejudicial perspectives while finding empathy and understanding

through the stories being told," Mueller said.

Mueller said he hopes this production transcends the stage to create a broader dialogue about race relations and societal struggles both past and present.

"As a strong advocate for inclusion and equity, I think this production provides GVSU with an opportunity to engage with current societal struggles through the juxtaposition of a pivotal point in American history," Mueller said. "The largest takeaway I hope our audiences walk away with is the idea that awareness, though important as a first step in the process, is not enough to bring about positive social change."

This performance utilizes adult language and graphically violent images, and may not be appropriate for younger audiences. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors, faculty, alumni and staff; and \$6 for students and groups.

For more information about this production, visit [gvsu.edu/theater](http://gvsu.edu/theater), or call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at x12300.