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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



## Second endowed professor of civil discourse named

The new Padnos/Sarosik Professor for Civil Discourse will bring his background in international relations and global migration to the position.

Jack Mangala was introduced as the second professor of civil discourse November 19 at a symposium at the Eberhard Center. The endowed professorship is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and was given as a gift to Grand Valley in 2013 from longtime university supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik.

Mangala is an associate professor of African and African American studies and political science. He plans to develop a course for the fall 2016 semester that focuses on global migration and the challenges and opportunities immigrants and refugees present for host communities.

"The focus of the course, which fills a gap in Grand Valley's curriculum, is to engage students in a critical understanding of the global issues impacting migration such as poverty, human rights, conflicts and the environment," Mangala said.

Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, said the advisory board was drawn to Mangala's proposal because of the current discussions about immigration and crises in the Middle East.

"The civil discourse initiative provides a professional development opportunity for Grand Valley's faculty and enriches the curriculum," Hiskes said. "Jack's course on immigration and refugees will enrich the curriculum of area studies and provide new opportunities for students for meaningful, community-based learning and to develop leadership skills in facilitating dialogue around difficult issues."

Mangala said he is interested in the virtues of civil discourse in personal and public spaces,



Jack Mangala

and he sees civil discourse as a critical skill for college students.

"Keeping a tradition of civil discourse, particularly when we confront complex and sensitive issues, is absolutely critical in preserving the essence of a public democratic life," he said. "The practice of civil discourse challenges us, both as individuals and citizens, to remain true to the best of human traditions."

He is also charged with planning a community symposium for fall 2016. Mangala said the event's overarching theme will be to bring together stakeholders involved in immigrant and refugee integration to engage in dialogue and share strategies and experiences on how West Michigan can create welcoming communities for those populations.

Lisa Perhamus, assistant professor of education, served as the inaugural Padnos/Sarosik Professor for Civil Discourse. Her focus was public dialogues in Detroit and leaders who are doing successful revitalization work.

For more on the professorship, visit [www.gvsu.edu/civildiscourse](http://www.gvsu.edu/civildiscourse).

## Across Campus

### Rally supports University of Missouri students

More than 150 Grand Valley students participated in a silent march and rally on the Allendale Campus November 12 to show "Solidarity with Missouri" and promote inclusion on campus.

The event was coordinated by 15 culturally based student organizations on campus.

The silent march began at Kleiner Commons at 6 p.m. and wound through the four floors of the Mary Idema Pew Library to the Kirkhof Center, leading to a 7 p.m. rally at the Cook Carillon Tower.

Several student speakers addressed the diverse crowd — some mentioned recent events at the University of Missouri, where hundreds of students and faculty members held protests

over a series of racial incidents. Others offered prayers for unity, healing and overcoming hate.

Students were encouraged to participate in the myGVSU Campus Climate Survey 2015,

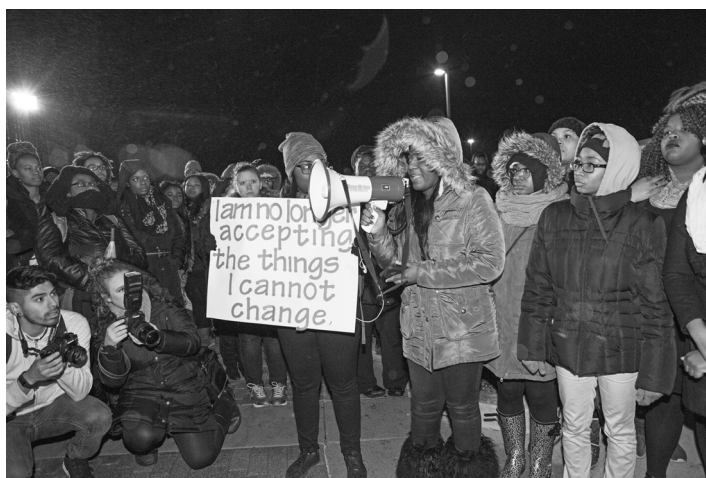


Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Students hold signs and address the crowd gathered at a rally November 12 on the Allendale Campus to show support for students at the University of Missouri.

which closed November 22. This is the fifth campus climate survey Grand Valley has administered.

A group photo was taken at the clock tower that will be sent to students at the University of Missouri.

President Thomas J. Haas and other university administrators attended the rally.

### Grand Valley noted for increasing access, maintaining outcomes

The Institute for Higher Education Policy released a report highlighting Grand Valley as one of 10 Access Improvers — colleges that have increased low-income student enrollments while maintaining strong outcomes.

The report, "Serving Their Share: Some Colleges Could be Doing a Much Better Job Enrolling and Graduating Low-Income Students," is an in-depth analysis of a report

# Across Campus

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released in August as part of *Washington Monthly* magazine's College Guide. The report delves deeper into the methodology and shares in greater detail how schools like Grand Valley are exceeding expectations.

The report noted that Grand Valley increasingly enrolls low-income students while maintaining high performance standards, such as a high graduation rate and low cohort default rate.

More information is online at [www.ihop.org](http://www.ihop.org).

## Study abroad participation grows slightly

Grand Valley saw greater participation in numbers of students who study abroad than previous reporting years.

According to the Institute of International Education, Grand Valley was ranked 11th among master's degree granting institutions in terms of number of study abroad participants, with 753. Grand Valley is ranked third among state institutions, following the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. The data is from the 2013-2014 reporting year.

For the 2012-2013 reporting year, Grand Valley was ranked 10th, with 721 students.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer, said the top three destinations for study abroad participants are the United Kingdom, Spain and Ghana and France tie for third place.

## Scholar shares stories of Native appropriation in fashion, media

A Native scholar, activist and blogger gave a presentation about cultural appropriation November 17 during Grand Valley's annual Native American Heritage Month celebration.

Adrienne Keene, a member of Cherokee Nation, discussed her research and how she became inspired to start "Native Appropriations," a popular blog and forum that focuses on Native (American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian) representations, including stereotypes in pop culture.

She started the blog while attending Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she researched college access for Native students.

"I was the only Native student in my cohort with no Native professors,

and I was struggling with visibility," Keene said. "One day I visited Urban Outfitters and noticed many clothing pieces and designs with Native stereotypes on them, so I took photos of them, started a blog and it took off from there."

She said there are 567 federally recognized tribes in the U.S., each with its own language, culture and history.

"Stereotyping shrinks diversity of Native peoples down to a series of one-sided stereotypes," she said. "I hope this blog provides a way to showcase issues that are important to the broader Native community."

She said ways to incorporate Native fashion without being offensive is to buy from Native designers, research the story behind the design, and not wear sacred or religious items like head dresses.

"Cultural exchange in film and fashion can be beautiful when it's equal, but cultural appropriation is not, because it's the action of taking and using without permission," she said.

Keene's visit was organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Native American Student Association at Grand Valley. The presentation was held in conjunction with the Professionals of Color Lecture Series. The next lecture will take place February 26 with a lecture by Linal Harris, vice president and chief diversity officer for U.S. Cellular.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Native scholar Adrienne Keene gives a presentation about cultural appropriation November 17 in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

## Literacy project receives donation

Representatives from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Outstate Michigan presented a check for \$20,000 to the College of Education Michigan Literacy Project.

Lesla Dion, executive director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of

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## FORUM Volume 40, Number 13

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).

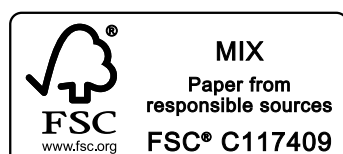
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Other publications by University Communications include:

*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

### Janean Couch, Assistant Director, Career Center

When Janean Couch was young her mother died and she was raised by her sister, Kyrra, who is 16 years older. Despite her youth and limited experience, Kyrra did her best to teach Janean about the world.

"Her sacrifice, and her commitment to making sure that I was successful is what I really admire about her," Couch said. "That, to me, is the most selfless act in the world."



Janean Couch

Couch is the assistant director of the Career Center and helps students create resumes and cover letters, assists with job searches and works with students to find internships.

Couch's sister was the inspiration for her own life of community service, which led to her to be named one of the *Grand Rapids Business Journal's* "40 Under Forty."

"I was completely surprised, but absolutely humbled to be recognized in such a great publication in a citywide way," she said.

Her nomination was, in part, due to her involvement with BL2END, a group for young professionals of color in the greater Grand Rapids area.

Couch co-founded BL2END with three other Grand Valley alumni shortly after graduating in 2005. She and her peers were intrigued by the Grand Rapids community but unsure of how to participate. They launched the organization to help other professionals of color in similar situations.

"Ten years later, it's the premiere organization for diverse young professionals," she said.

Couch said she and the co-founders of BL2END were at the right place at the right time.

"Grand Rapids was just at the beginning of wanting to diversify," she said. "It was time for Grand Rapids to focus on getting diverse young professionals of color to get jobs here, stay here and want to live here."

Serving one's community is something of a family tradition to Couch.

"I watched my sister and my grandmother be servants," she said. "They were both great examples of what it means to serve other people, what it means to serve something greater than you."

Through Couch's life of service, one activity stands out to her the most: she has mentored a girl for the past seven years, from ages 7 to 14, as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization.

"To see her grow up has been phenomenal. She's an amazing young lady," she said. "She's already dual-enrolled at GRCC."



# What's Ahead

## Grand Valley to host business pitch competition

Sixteen innovators from across the state will pitch their ideas at the Pitch & Prize Showcase on November 30 at the L. William Seidman Center.

The competition, sponsored by the Sprout Lab program at Grand Valley, offers a grand prize of \$5,000. Julie Cowie, Sprout Lab project manager, said the event connects innovators to Michigan's entrepreneur ecosystem, where people with clever ideas can find the support they need to launch a startup successfully.

"The showcase is the culmination of two years of workshops around the state," said Cowie. "We have found and supported innovators working in small towns and rural places, inventing solutions for agriculture, developing food businesses and exploring new products and services."

The showcase will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m., with appetizers at 5.

Cowie said Grand Valley has partnered with community colleges and other institutions of higher education, including Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, Kirtland Community College in Roscommon and West Branch, Baker College in Fremont and U-M Flint to provide entrepreneurship education.

The competition is sponsored by the Fremont Area Community Foundation, USDA, Michigan Initiative for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Grand Valley's Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

For more information, visit [sproutlab.org](http://sproutlab.org) or call (269) 214-1227.

## Photo exhibit explores life in Amazonian region

Over the past 30 years, Jim Penn, associate professor of geography and planning, has traveled on numerous occasions to the Loreto Region of Peru, South America. There he has participated in programs ranging from wildlife research and natural resource management, to community development, healthcare and human rights initiatives.

Penn's experiences will be showcased through a photographic exhibition, "Different Waters: Thirty Years in the Western Amazon," through December 18 on the Red Wall Gallery located in Lake Ontario Hall.

A special exhibition reception will be held Tuesday, December 1, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Lake Ontario Hall, room 167. The event will be free and open to the campus community.

Penn said he was first invited to travel to the Loreto Region to work as a wildlife research assistant after graduating from college. His collection of photographs document how people adapt to the many dynamic and changing environments of Amazonia.

"There are many themes present throughout my exhibit, ranging from the challenges of living in isolated rainforest villages to the struggles of living in the 'concrete jungles' of urban Amazonia," Penn said. "I hope that viewers will learn that Amazonia is much more varied and complex than the lush green and peaceful forest that comes to mind when we think of this region."

David Newell, Galleries and Collections curator of exhibitions, said more than 400



Jim Penn's photos from the western Amazon will remain on exhibit in Lake Ontario Hall through December 18. A reception is set for December 1.

of Penn's photographs were narrowed down to 75, making "Different Waters" the largest photographic exhibit ever included in an Art Gallery installation on the Red Wall Gallery.

Newell added that this exhibition provides a very personal insight into a world not normally seen.

"Exhibits like this are important in that they take us out of our comfort zones and complacency and makes us confront cultures and situations that are present in the world," Newell said.

"Jim has seen death and disease intimately on the frontline of an ongoing cholera epidemic; he has witnessed environmental changes and the onslaught of pollution dramatically changing the region; and, he has seen the adaptability of the human race in the face of corruption and adversity."

# Across Campus

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Outstate Michigan, and Randell G. Price, owner of the Allendale McDonalds, presented the donation November 13 at the Seidman Center.

The Michigan Literacy Project is an initiative that gives quality children's literature to recent College of Education graduates teaching in K-5 classrooms in underserved Michigan public schools. College of Education faculty members Sheryl Vlietstra, Megan Freudigmann and COE staff member Forrest Clift started the initiative in 2014 as a way to help new teachers build their classroom libraries.

The program is open to alumni who started their elementary teaching careers within the last three years and who are teaching in underserved Michigan public school districts across the state. In the past two years, 11 teachers received hundreds of books through MLP. The RMHC grant will enable MLP to provide 45 classroom libraries over the next three years.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Pictured with a check for the College of Education Michigan Literacy Project are, from left, President Thomas J. Haas, Lesa Dion, Sheryl Vlietstra, Megan Freudigmann, Forrest Clift and Randell G. Price.

## Students compete in math challenge

Local middle and high school students put their mathematical knowledge to the test as they competed against each other during the third annual Math-Team-Matics competition at Grand Valley.

Hosted by the Department of Mathematics and Regional Math and Science Center, the November 7 competition saw 45 students from five local schools competing in four contests involving content from K-8 mathematics, high school algebra and high school geometry.

West Catholic High School captured this year's top prize in the high school division, while the Northern Hills Middle School team won the middle school division.

"This program gives seventh- through 10th-grade students the opportunity to collaborate and think differently about problem solving in mathematics," said Chelsea Ridge, RMSC math program coordinator. "Math-Team-Matics is also a great opportunity for students to experience what it is like to be on a college campus, some of them for the first time."

Ridge added that the competition is predominately planned by Grand Valley students from the Mathematics Department with an interest in education. Students Jennifer Moon, Brittany Bordewyk and Nick Schweitzer organized this year's contest.

Contests during this year's competition included a team challenge with students working in teams of five to solve a mathematical problem, individual tests, a team problem-solving relay race, and a bracket-style quiz bowl.

## Deadline nears to apply for healthy department status

Five campus departments earned "Certified Healthy" status last year from Health and Wellness. The deadline to apply to become certified for this academic year is December 18.

Applications are available online at [www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness](http://www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness); criteria to be named a Certified Healthy Department includes creating a healthy office culture through a variety of resources and programs.

The award recipients are Alumni Relations, Career Center, Charter Schools, Human Resources, and Institutional Marketing.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Louis Moore**, associate professor of history, was interviewed by the *Huffington Post* for a story about the University of Missouri football team protest over racial incidents.

**Mark Schaub**, chief international officer, was interviewed by WOOD-AM, WZZM-TV and WGTV Public Media for stories about study abroad trends and student participation.

**Brian Kingshott**, professor of criminal justice, was interviewed by WOOD-TV for a story about the terrorist attacks in Paris.

**Jonathan White**, professor and executive director of the Homeland Defense Initiative, was interviewed by several media outlets about the terrorist attacks in Paris.

## Sketches

**Amy Masko**, associate professor of English, gave a presentation, “Adolescent Reflections on Urban Schooling,” at the Annual Conference for the American Association for Teaching and Curriculum in Portland, Maine; and a plenary address, “Empowering Women Through Education in the Developing World: The Case of Ghana,” at the National Council of Women Societies Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members **Deborah Bambini**, **Barbara Hooper**, **Sally Stockdale** and **Luanne Shaw** gave a presentation, “The Development and Implementation of a Faculty Simulation Team From the Ground Up: Successes and Continuing Challenges,” at the National League for Nursing Technology Conference in Tampa, Florida.

**Dianne Slager**, assistant professor of nursing, was a co-author of an article, “A Feasibility Study of Women’s Confidence and Comfort in Use of a Kit to Monitor Ovulation,” published in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health*.

**Sylvia Mupepi**, associate professor of nursing, had her instrument, Cervical Screening Barriers and Belief Questionnaires, indexed in the APA PsycTESTS Database.

**Rick Albrecht**, professor of movement science, gave a keynote address, “Sports Specialization: Training One-Trick Ponies,” at the National Alliance for Youth Sports Annual Youth Sports Congress in New Orleans, Louisiana. He also lead a session, “Our Role in Creating Great Youth Sports Programs.”

**Dawn Evans**, assistant professor of English, gave a presentation, “Organizational Habitus: Restructuring Youth’s Views of Possible

School Reform,” at the American Association for Teaching And Curriculum Conference in Portland, Maine.

**Colleen Brice**, professor of English, gave a presentation, “Advocacy and Policy SIG Meeting: How Can We Advocate for ELS?,” at the annual conference of Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages held at Michigan State University.

**David Linn**, associate professor of biomedical sciences, gave a presentation, “RGC Survival with a Selective Nicotinic Agonist and Modulator,” at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

**Bopi Biddanda**, professor of water resources, Annis Water Resources Institute, received a \$25,000 grant from NOAA through the University of Michigan for a project, “Lake Sentinel: Observatory for Ecosystem Changes.”

**Dianne Conrad**, assistant professor of nursing, was invited to participate in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Competency-Based Education for Doctoral-Prepared Advanced Practice Registered Nurses work group.

Nursing faculty members **Janet Winter** and **Geraldine Terry** gave a presentation, “Chaotic Exercise in Innovation to Promote System’s Thinking in Interprofessional Healthcare Teams,” at the American Nurses Association-Michigan Conference and Annual Meeting in East Lansing.

**Jean Barry**, associate professor of nursing, gave a presentation, “Moral Distress: The Facts, and A Path to Healing,” at the American Nurses Association-Michigan Conference and Annual Meeting in East Lansing.

**Donald Mitchell Jr.**, assistant professor of education, gave presentations, “Addressing Perceived Skill Deficiencies in Student Affairs Graduate Preparation Programs” and “A Multi-institutional Analysis of Greek Affiliation and Academic/Involvement Outcomes for African American College Students,” at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. **Jay Cooper**, associate professor of education and interim chair of leadership and learning, was a co-author for the first presentation.

**Ranelle Brew**, associate professor of public health, gave a presentation, “LoWellness Health Assessment Project in Partnership with GVSU Public Health,” at Michigan’s Premier Public Health Conference at Crystal Mountain; and “Innovative Pipeline Programming into Health Careers — A Community and University Collaboration,” at the American Public Health Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Information Technology staff members gave presentations — **Glenna Decker**, “Applying Principles of Andragogy in Online Teaching”; **Matt Roberts**, “Grading Nirvana: Toward a Better System and How to Implement It”; and **Justin Melick**, “Increasing Instructor Presence through the use of a Lightboard,” at the ETOM Fall Conference, hosted by Grand Valley.

**Ivo Soljan**, professor of English, and his wife, **Vinka Soljan**, co-authored an anthology of Croatian poetry, *The Canon of Croatian Poetry: 1450-2000*, published by the Edwin Mellen Press Publishing House.

**Erica Hamilton**, assistant professor of education, gave presentations, “Examining the Substitution-Augmentation-Modification-Redefinition Model for Instructional Design and Technology Integration,” and “Tweeting U.S.A.: An Examination of State Educational Twitter Hashtags,” at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Gregory Maytan**, associate professor of music, was awarded the loan of a 1683 Giovanni Grancino violin by the Swedish Järnåker Foundation, which supports promising string players through providing the loan of vintage Italian violins. Maytan was selected on the basis of his professional accomplishments and his active performing schedule. Grancino is widely considered to be the greatest of violin makers in history.

**Janet Vail**, research scientist at the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave a presentation, “Making Lake Michigan Great: An Onboard Outreach and Education Project,” at the Ninth Biennial State of Lake Michigan Conference in Traverse City.

Library faculty **Hazel McClure** and **Gayle Schaub** gave a webinar, “Making the Most of Threshold Concept Lesson Plans: Ideas for Practical Teaching,” for the Florida Library Association.

**Tracy Russo**, visiting professor of education, gave a presentation, “A Survey of Social Media Use and the Effects of a Social Media Initiative on Graduate Student Engagement,” at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology International Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Social work faculty members **Jamie Langlois** and **Matt Langlois** conducted a presentation, “Zero Tolerance for Disproportionality,” at the Michigan Association of School Social Worker’s Conference in Lansing.