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MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011

FORUM

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

Published by News & Information Services



Former board chair to address fall semester graduates

Nearly 1,000 students will participate in the December commencement ceremony, set for Saturday, December 10, at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

Dorothy A. Johnson, former member of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees and president emeritus of the Council of Michigan Foundations, will give the commencement address. Johnson will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters; her speech is "An Important FOUR Letter Word."

The namesake of Grand Valley's Johnson Center for Philanthropy, Johnson served as a board member from 1995-2010 and served as chair from 2001-2004.

She currently serves as a trustee of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and co-chairs a national Learning to Give Initiative, in addition to serving on the boards of Princeton Theological Seminary and the Grand Rapids Symphony. Both Presidents Clinton and Bush appointed Johnson to the board of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The Alumni Association will present two awards during the ceremony. Felix Ngassa, professor of chemistry, will receive the Outstanding Educator Award, and Michelle

Troseth, executive vice president and chief professional practice officer for Clinical Practice Model Resource Center, will receive the Distinguished Alumna Award.

Ngassa joined Grand Valley's faculty in 2003. He is an active supporter of K-12 science education. He has worked at Michigan Science Olympiad state tournaments and as a table leader for the Advanced Placement chemistry exam, administered by the College Board. Ngassa has been named Grand Valley Professor of the Year, earned an Excellence in Teaching Award, and Interfraternity Council Professor of the Month recognition.

Troseth earned bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Grand Valley. She worked as a critical care nurse for Butterworth Hospital for 14 years before joining Bonnie Wesorick, her former professor and mentor, to develop CPMRC. The company works with health care organizations to provide clinicians



File photo

Former Student Senate President Jarrett Martus thanks Dorothy A. Johnson for her leadership as a member of the Board of Trustees during a February meeting. Johnson will give the commencement address Saturday.

with resources to focus on interprofessional teamwork and improve patient care with the latest technology.

Faculty and staff members who plan to process should arrive at the arena by 9:30 a.m. More information about commencement is online at www.gvsu.edu/commencement.

Vandenberg documentary to premiere on WGVU

He was present at the creation of the United Nations and played a key role in the formation and adoption of the Marshall Plan.

Arthur H. Vandenberg was a legendary U.S. senator from Michigan from 1928-1951. He played major roles in foreign relations, especially during and after World War II when he abandoned his previous support of isolationist policies and became an internationalist.

Vandenberg's story is captured in a television documentary based on the forthcoming biography of Vandenberg written by Hank Meijer, a Grand Rapids historian, author and business leader. "America's Senator — The Unexpected Odyssey of Arthur H. Vandenberg" will premiere on WGVU on Wednesday,

December 7, at 8 p.m., to coincide with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that had much to do with Vandenberg's switch on policy.

The documentary also will be shown during two public events on Thursday,



A documentary about U.S. Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg will premiere on WGVU Wednesday.

December 8, at the Ford Library in Ann Arbor, 7:30 p.m.; and on Monday, December 12, at the Grand Rapids Public Library, 7 p.m.

Vandenberg was born and raised in Grand Rapids, where he rose from reporter to owner and publisher of the *Grand Rapids Herald*. A pragmatic politician, Vandenberg was often a bridge inside the Senate between the GOP's progressive and conservative wings.

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, served as historical advisor to Hank Meijer, the film's executive producer, and to Mike Grass, the program's writer and producer.

The program was narrated by NPR's Susan Stamberg.

Across Campus

Partnership brings solar power to income-eligible households

Grand Valley is part of an initiative to bring renewable energy technology to income-qualified households and programs that serve income-eligible people in Muskegon and Oceana counties.

Muskegon Oceana Community Action Partnership, Inc. was awarded a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy through a Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers grant. It allows several Michigan contractors to install one or more systems at residential and income-eligible group care facilities. Installations may include hybrid domestic hot water, solar domestic hot water, solar hot air and solar photovoltaic systems in single- and multi-family units. Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center provides technical assistance and serves as a resource for the project.



Grand Valley is part of a partnership to bring renewable energy technology, like these solar panels, to organizations that house and serve income-eligible people in Muskegon and Oceana counties.

The initiative was celebrated at an event hosted by MAREC on November 28. Fred Keller, CEO of Cascade Engineering, and Christina Scarpino, director of development for Every Woman's Place, were among the speakers.

There are four, large multi-family projects underway that will benefit 150 people, and about one-third of approximately 50 residential projects have begun, said Kim Walton, program coordinator at MAREC and technical advisor for the project. "All the money saved by these installations will go directly back into the community," she said.

"This project places renewable energy systems with people in Michigan who haven't had access to this technology in the past, and those people are often the ones who can benefit from it the most," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC. "We are proud to be part of this initiative."

Walton said the single- and multi-family units selected were income-qualified, were deemed energy efficient or underwent weatherization for energy efficiency before the renewable energy technologies were installed. The project will be completed by March 31.

myGVSU Survey presentation posted online

One of the myGVSU Survey townhall meetings led by Sue Rankin was videotaped and is now available online for viewing.

Rankin, of Rankin and Associates, presented findings of the campus climate study in late September. Visit www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu to watch the presentation.

The survey was an anonymous, online survey conducted for two weeks in February. Nearly 30 percent of the campus community, or 7,571 people, responded. Nearly 90 percent of Grand Valley students and 76 percent of faculty and staff members said they are comfortable with the overall climate in their classes and workplaces, according to results.

Engineering school launches innovative GA program

Grand Valley's School of Engineering is introducing a new, unique graduate assistantship program that allows students receiving a master's degree in engineering to perform work outside of the university with West Michigan companies.

"Graduate students are usually offered assistantships as teaching or research assistants, and most schools fund the students through research and grants from government entities," said Paul Plotkowski, dean of the

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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. Web: www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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

Linda Rettig, Office coordinator, Freshman Academy

When Linda Rettig's oldest daughter joined the military, Rettig wanted to join a campus support group for parents with children in the service. Finding no formal group, she started one.

The Military Family Support Group meets bimonthly and has about 10 active faculty and staff members. Rettig, who is the office coordinator for the Oliver Wilson Freshman Academy, said meeting topics have ranged from post-traumatic stress disorder to deployment to service projects.

"We do things to help each other," Rettig said. "We're connected to the Veterans Network on campus and the Student Veterans Organization." Rettig's daughter, Samantha, is in the Army National Guard and will leave for Afghanistan in July.

Rettig is new to her job with Freshman Academy, one of the student support programs housed in the Student Academic Success Center, but not new to the students it serves. She had worked in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, which originally housed the program.

"It was really an easy transition to come to this office," she said. "It's a great fit for me; these are the students my heart goes out to the most."

Freshman Academy offers comprehensive services to about 110 students who are the first in their families to attend college or from an underrepresented high school.

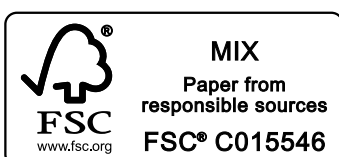
In addition to working with academy students, Rettig also helps with the Pre-Major Advising Program and Learning Skill Services. She started working at Grand Valley five years ago; she had been a second- and third-grade teacher at St. James Catholic School.

Rettig is active in the Clerical Office Technical Association and, in 2009, traveled to Ghana on a faculty/staff exchange program through the Padnos International Center. "I wanted to know what it's like to be in the minority and be in a new environment," she said.

She is pursuing a second master's degree and will start Grand Valley's College of Education program with an emphasis on adult and higher education.



Linda Rettig



What's Ahead

'That Takes Ovaries' sneak peek set for Monday

The Women's Center continues its 10th anniversary series with a presentation from Cecelia Wambach, co-playwright of "That Takes Ovaries!," which will be performed on campus in February.

Wambach's presentation, "Leading a Bold Life," is set for Monday, December 5, at 6 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. A sneak peak of the first performance of "That Takes Ovaries!" also will take place, followed by an open mic event where audience members will be encouraged to share their stories about the brave women in their lives.

Wambach, a former civil rights movement advocate who worked with Martin Luther King Jr., will share her experiences as an activist in the evolution of the women's movement. She is a professor emerita of education at Saint Francisco State University and contributed to the book *That Takes Ovaries!* Her visit is sponsored by Women and Gender Studies, School of Communications and the Women's Center.

Staff member will discuss coping with grief at workshops

Rob Friedhoff, academic advisor for the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, will lead a workshop on coping with grief after a death of a family member.

Sponsored by Health and Wellness, "Joy in the Mourning" is set for Tuesday and Wednesday, December 6-7, at noon both days. Tuesday's session is in Kirkhof Center, room 2266, and Wednesday's session is in the DeVos Center, room 302C.

Friedhoff watched his father battle cancer for eight years before dying. He will share the lessons learned from that experience. Register for the workshop online at www.gvsu.edu/seminar.

Bells will ring at carillon concert

Ring in the holidays with a visit to the Cook Carillon. The annual Cook Carillon Open Tower, Wednesday, December 7, from 1:30-3 p.m., is an opportunity to view the inner workings and observe a performance by University Carillonneur Julianne Vanden Wyngaard.

Climb the 61-step tower to view the bells, ranging from 7.5 inches to 51.7 inches in diameter, and connected by cables to a keyboard. The piano keyboard is played by striking the keys with the side of the hand. Free refreshments will be served and visitors can register for door prizes.

The carillon is named in honor of donors Peter C. and Pat Cook. It was installed in 1994 in the 110-foot



Julianne Vanden Wyngaard will perform a holiday concert Wednesday on the Cook Carillon Tower.

tower that has become a landmark on the Allendale Campus. The 48 bells, ranging in weight from 14 to 3,000 pounds, were cast in bronze and installed by the Royal Eijsbouts Bell Foundry in the Netherlands. In 2001, Grand Valley's second carillon, the Beckering Family Carillon was dedicated on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The Annual Christmas Eve Carillon Concert on the Beckering Family Carillon is planned for December 24 from 9:30-10:15 p.m. Free concert parking in DeVos and Winter lots.

Two special CDs "A Carillon Celebration on the Cook Carillon," and the Beckering Family Carillon CD, "A Carillon Holiday," are available at Grand Valley's University Bookstore, or online at www.ubs.gvsu.edu.

For more information, call the Department of Music at x13484.

Two area educators to be honored at convocation

Two outstanding educators will be honored during the College of Education convocation ceremony Wednesday, December 7, at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Performance Hall in downtown Grand Rapids.

More than 100 graduates are expected to participate. The ceremony is a precursor to Grand Valley's commencement ceremony Saturday, December 10, at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

During convocation, Char Firlirk and Patronella Koster will receive Outstanding Alumni Educator Awards.

Firlirk earned a bachelor's and master's degree in psychology from Grand Valley. She is currently an educational consultant working with the Kent Intermediate School District. She serves on the advisory council of the Community Literacy Coalition of West Michigan and on United Way's Vision Council for Education. Firlirk had worked as a special education teacher and elementary principal in the Grand Rapids and Kentwood public school districts.

Koster earned a master's degree in special education from Grand Valley. She worked for 30 years at Sparta Middle School where she taught in a resource room, fifth grade, and sixth grade language arts and social studies. She served on many district and building committees, which focused on literacy and student achievement. Koster retired in 2006 and currently works with the Kent Intermediate School District.

For more information about convocation, contact Forrest Clift at x16230.

Studio Series production set

Mid-winter with the northern lights flickering, the residents of the imaginary town, "Almost, Maine," find themselves falling in and out of love in mysterious ways. This Performance Studio Series production explores the wonders of the human heart in laughter, heartbreak, and hope.

Performances are set for Wednesday-Sunday, December 8-11, in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre. Performance Studio Series tickets are \$6. To purchase tickets, call the Louis Armstrong box office at x12300, or Startickets at (800) 585-3737, or visit www.startickets.com. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/theatre.

Across Campus

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Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. "With our new program, engineering graduate students will be sponsored by a local West Michigan company where they will do real engineering work."

Plotkowski explained that the graduate assistant will perform supervised engineering work and applied research in the field for up to 20 hours per week during the fall and winter semesters while taking a full course load, then transition to 40 hours of field work each week in the summer.

Compared to an internship, in which a com-

pany employs a student for a specific block of time, graduate students will be part of a company for a full year or more. "These graduate students already have a valued undergraduate degree under their belt, so they will be overseeing real engineering work," said Shabbir Choudhuri, associate professor of engineering and graduate program director.

Grand Rapids Chair is the first company to join the program and will sponsor a GA next year. Geoff Miller, vice president of operations for Grand Rapids Chair, said this new arrangement will provide an exciting, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "Few students have the opportunity to not only get a master's degree, but to work

on an actual project for a small manufacturing company like ours," he said. "Our graduate student will have the opportunity to not only learn and experience engineering, but many different aspects of our company like manufacturing, materials, finance, sales and marketing."

The number of internships for engineering students increased by 42 percent in 2010, and computing and information systems co-ops increased by 31 percent, compared to 2009. "Employers are seeing the value of industry-sponsored experience, so our reaction is to provide it for our graduate students, as well," Plotkowski said.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Mon., Dec. 5

6 p.m.: Women's Center 10th Anniversary Speaker Series: "Leading the Bold Life: That Takes Ovaries," by Bobbie Ausubel. CDC. Call x12748 for more information.

8 p.m.: Falls Arts Celebration Event: "Gloria: Music of the Holiday Season from Grand Valley." Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids. Visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts for more information.

Tues., Dec. 6

Noon: Women's Center hosts "What Mommies Do Best: Pamper Me." 1201 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts Divorce Recovery Group. 2264 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts "Joy in the Mourning," by Rob Friedhoff. 2266 KC. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

8 p.m.: Music by University Singers, Cantate Chamber Ensemble, and Select Women's Ensemble. First Congressional Church,

Grand Rapids. Call x13484 for more information.

Wed., Dec. 7

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts "Joy in the Mourning," by Rob Friedhoff. 302C DEV. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

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

Noon-2 p.m.: Health and Wellness hosts Wellness Wednesdays. 107 DEV. Call x12215 for more information.

6 p.m.: Psychology hosts Projection Film Series, "Wild Strawberries." 114 LMH. Call x12195 for more information.

7 p.m.: College of Education Convocation. DeVos Performance Hall, Grand Rapids. Call x16230 for more information.

Thurs., Dec. 8

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

1:30 p.m.: Excellence Series: "Social Media

for Beginners," by Ben Rapin and Dave Poortvliet. 2263 KC. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

Fri., Dec. 9

9 a.m.: Excellence Series: "Crucial Conversations: Tips for Talking When the Stakes are High," by Sean Huddleston. 2270 KC. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

Sat., Dec. 10

10 a.m.: Commencement. Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids. Visit www.gvsu.edu/commencement for more information.

Sports

Sat., Dec. 10

1 p.m.: Women's basketball hosts Rochester College.

3 p.m.: Men's basketball hosts Rochester College.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Matthew Downey, program director for nonprofit services at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, was interviewed by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* for a story on what nonprofit organizations can learn from the child abuse scandal at Penn State University.

Annis Water Resources Institute staff members **Bopi Biddanda**, **Scott Kendall** and **Tom Holcomb** were interviewed by the *Muskegon Chronicle* for a story about the EPA-funded Muskegon Lake Observatory project.

Peter A. Letzmann, adjunct professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, was interviewed by WGVU for a story about budget problems in the City of Detroit.

Paul Leidig, director and professor of computing and information systems, was interviewed by WXMI-TV for a story about developing applications for mobile devices.

Sketches

Jeroen Wagendorp, chair of geography and planning, was recognized for excellence as a GIS Pioneer by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget at the annual Michigan Digital Government Summit.

Mark Richards, chair of political science, gave a presentation, "The Civil Rights Movement

and Development of the Supreme Court's Content-Neutrality Jurisprudence," at the University of Colorado.

Lee Van Orsdel, dean of university libraries, was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees.

A. Scott Rood, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, was re-elected to the City of Norton Shores City Council.

Mary Schutten, associate dean of CLAS, gave a presentation, "Breaking Down Silos: Associate Deans, Student Affairs, and Academic Advising," at the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences conference in Montreal.

Mary Reimink, Administrative Computing, and Business and Finance staff members **Brenda Lindberg** and **Michelle McCloud** gave a presentation, "Banner Effort Certification: Opportunities & Rewards," at the Sungard Education Training Association Conference.

Stephen Rowe, professor of philosophy, wrote a book, *Overcoming America/America Overcoming: Can We Survive Modernity?*, published by Lexington Books and available at University Bookstore and other sources.

John Kilbourne, professor of movement science, gave a presentation, "Monitoring and Managing Local knowledge as it Relates to Indigenous Arctic Games," at the Exchange

for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic Workshop at the University of Colorado.

Bopi Biddanda, associate professor at Annis Water Resources Institute, had a research project, "Submerged Sinkholes in Lake Huron," featured in *Earth Magazine*.

Norman Christopher, director of the Sustainable Community Development Initiative, created a presentation, "The Positive Impact of Social Sustainability!" for the First World Sustainability Forum, an online, international conference.

News and Information Services received MarCom Awards for the following videos: 2011 Convocation Video, 50th Anniversary Video, 2011 Scholarship Video, Donor "Thank You" Video and Public Safety Department Video.

Larry Kotman, associate professor of computing and information systems, gave a presentation, "Programming Language Development with the Microsoft .NET platform," at the Grand Rapids Day of .NET Conference.

WGVU received MarCom Awards for the following: KidsDay at the Zoo, WGVU Clubhouse Welcome Card, Real Oldies Mobile App, Daniel Ellsberg Screening, Buddy - Dinosaur Train Promo, Catch the Cat in the Hat Promo, My Source, Sustainer Brochure, and WGVU Blues.