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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services



GVSU remembers Meijer's many campus contributions

Leaders at Grand Valley and in Michigan mourned the passing of Frederik "Fred" Meijer, who died on November 25.

Meijer, former chairman emeritus of Meijer Inc., was a successful businessman and generous philanthropist who cared deeply about the Grand Rapids and West Michigan community. Throughout his life he made many contributions that helped local medical institutions, educational facilities and nature preserves. He was 91.

"As a university community we deeply regret the loss of Fred Meijer," said President Thomas J. Haas. "Mr. Meijer's generosity, from the beginning of Grand Valley's history, has been critical to our success and has helped make us the university that we are today. Our hearts are with the Meijer family."

Jeff Chamberlain, director of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, also expressed his condolences.

"The honors college won't be the same without Fred Meijer's regular contact with our students, faculty and staff," he said. "He was an incredible supporter of our programs and our students, but more than that, he was our friend.

We will deeply miss him."

Meijer also had close ties to WGVSU Public Television and Radio, as the stations broadcast from the Meijer Public Broadcast Center.

Michael T. Walenta, general manager at WGVSU, said: "Fred's support for PBS and NPR has enriched the lives of everyone who watches television and listens to radio in West Michigan. We will be forever in his debt."

A member of the Advisory Cabinet for the Grand Valley University Foundation, Meijer was a university supporter since the early days of the school. He generously gave to help create the Eberhard Center and the Meijer Public Broadcast Center.

After donating land to help create the Meijer Campus in Holland, he became a member of



Frederik 'Fred' Meijer, shown here at a 2008 ceremony that named the Meijer Honors College, died November 25.

the "Land Barons." Under the leadership of Richard M. DeVos, this small group of philanthropists helped secure land and funding for the Grand Design 2000 Campaign. Meijer's dedication to the project helped Grand Valley expand its downtown Grand Rapids campus and the Eberhard Center.

Across Campus

Calley talks job creation at Seidman breakfast

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley said Michigan needs a healthy, growing economy for long-term fiscal security during a speech at the DeVos Center December 1. Calley was the featured speaker for the Huntington Breakfast Lecture sponsored by the Seidman College of Business.

"We have a budget plan to pay down and cap state debt that gives us a firm, dependable, predictable foundation to move forward. Now, we need to create jobs through company expansions, start-ups and relocations," Calley said.

The lieutenant governor also said there are thousands of jobs available in Michigan with thousands of residents looking for work. "We have employers who say they can't find skilled

people for the jobs they have and workers who say they can't find jobs that match their skills," he said. "This means we're missing the mark in many areas in developing talent in this state."

Calley said Gov. Rick Snyder released a new plan that focuses on talent development



Lt. Gov. Brian Calley gives a presentation December 1 at the DeVos Center.

for Michigan workers. He also said that while government must do its part to make Michigan strong again, residents also must do their part.

"Strong individuals make strong families, and strong families make strong communities and states," said Calley, adding that West Michigan is a shining example of this.

STAIR graduates give presentations

Three Grand Valley students who completed a dual-degree program at an European university gave presentations about their study abroad experiences at the Midwest International Studies Association conference in November.

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Across Campus

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Emily Brown, Meghan Thatcher and Anna Marotti participated in the STAIR (Studies in Trans-Atlantic International Relations) Project. They completed the dual-degree program at the Cracow University in Economics. Grand Valley has agreements with two European universities, CUE in Poland and the University of Debrecen in Hungary. Participants earn degrees from Grand Valley and the partner institution.



From left are STAIR participants Emily Brown, Meghan Thatcher and Anna Marotti. They gave presentations about their study abroad experience at an international relations conference.

STAIR co-director Polly Diven, International Relations program coordinator, said the program, slated to end in 2013, is funded by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. It began in 2008 and allowed for a total 24 students from Grand Valley and 24 international students to participate.

Diven said there are three Hungarian and three Polish students studying on campus now. "They are all wonderful, and it really helps all the international relations students to have these students in our classes," she said.

Last printed 'Forum' for semester

This issue marks the last printed issue of *Forum* for the fall semester. Look for campus news updates online at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

Video chat with Netherlands sheds light on wind turbines

About 40 people attended a "Holland to Holland" public meeting to discuss the benefits and challenges of offshore wind energy development.

The meeting included a video chat with a tourism program manager from the Netherlands. The December 5 meeting, hosted by Grand Valley in partnership with Michigan Sea Grant and the Michigan Energy Office, was held at the Meijer Campus in Holland.

Representatives from the West Michigan tourism and government sectors, along with community members, heard about how the Egmond aan Zee offshore wind farm and the Princess Amalia wind farm has affected tourism in coastal communities in the Netherlands. Tourism manager Adriana Stam said the Egmond aan Zee was constructed eight years ago in the North Sea, about six miles off shore, northwest of Amsterdam. She said there hasn't been much opposition to the wind farm.

"Because of our history, we are used to seeing windmills," said Stam. "The turbines are too far off the coast to see. They are rarely visible from the shore, only on a day with perfect weather."

Stam said the area along the North Sea is known for being very windy. The coastal properties near the wind farm are owned by the government and because of the conditions of the North Seas, recreational boaters stay closer to shore and wouldn't venture out as far as the turbines. Stam said there were initial complaints from local fisherman because fishing and boating traffic around the wind farm is prohibited.

Erik Nordman, assistant professor of biology and principal investigator for West Michigan Wind Assessment at Grand Valley, has conducted research on the benefits and challenges of wind energy development in coastal West Michigan. His latest study showed:

- Water depths in Lake Michigan increase rapidly with distance from shore so offshore wind turbines are likely to be located within view of the shore.
- A wind farm located six miles offshore in Lake Michigan would be visible about 64 percent of the time based on average weather conditions.
- Sound from an offshore wind turbine can reflect off the water and travel farther than similar sounds on land, although it is unlikely that any sound would reach the shore six miles away.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/wind.

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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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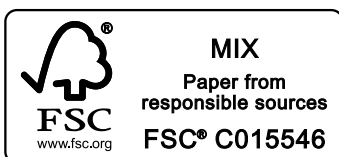
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Other publications by the News and Information Services Office include:

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, GVNNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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



Graduate Studies presents top awards

The Office of Graduate Studies hosted the Graduate Student Celebration and Dean's Citation Awards for Excellence for fall 2011. The awards ceremony was held December 9 in Loosemore Auditorium.

Jeffrey A. Potteiger, dean of Graduate Studies, presented 27 graduate students and three faculty members with the Dean's Citation Awards.

Academic Excellence in the Major

Victoria Ichungwa, MBA
Laura Verkaik, counseling
Marenta Klinger, MHA
Bridget Aman, MSA
David VandeWaa, English
Dolores Catlin, MPA
Stacy Wabeke, MST
Kenneth Leister, biology
Ian Fields, criminal justice
Jeff Dewitt, CIS
Deana Girbach, PAS

Outstanding Master's Thesis

Whitney Nelson, biology
Deborah Schuitema, TESOL
Jonathan Whitmer, English
Brandon Kramb, criminal justice
Mike Lingg, CIS

Outstanding Master's Final Project

Jennifer DeYoung, instruction/curriculum
Mandalyn Keeler, communications
Kristin Linscott, MPA
Melvin Cooke, engineering

Outstanding Publication

Mike Lingg, CIS

Excellence in Service, Community

Kaili Walker, PAS
Rebecca Black, English
Mike Goorhouse, MPA

Excellence in Leadership and Service, GVSU

Joseph Amisi, MBA
Selma Tucker, MPA
Ian Fields, criminal justice

Graduate and Professional Student Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentor

Corey Anton, professor of communications
Priscilla Kimboko, professor of public, nonprofit and health administration
Paul Mudde, associate professor of management