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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by University Communications



Three candidates for VP position to visit campus

Three candidates for the position of vice president for Inclusion and Equity will visit campus January 20-22 to give presentations at open forums.

They are Jesse M. Bernal, director of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at Santa Clara University in California; John F. Gates, president and CEO of Campus Diversity Agenda and principal of Criticality Management Consulting in New York City; and Carmen Suarez, director of the Office of Human Rights, Access, and Inclusion at the University of Idaho.

The forums, which are open to the campus community, are set as follows:

- Suarez: Tuesday, January 20, 11 a.m.-noon, Kirkhof Center, room 2204
- Gates: Wednesday, January 21, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2204
- Bernal: Thursday, January 22, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2250

In his position at Santa Clara University, Bernal develops strategies for recruitment and retention of faculty from underrepresented groups and coordinates with the Offices of

Enrollment Management and Affirmative Action to recruit and support a diverse student body. Prior to that position, he coordinated system-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives at the University of California in the Office of the President.

Bernal earned a bachelor's degree from Westmont College, and master's and doctoral degrees in education from UC Santa Barbara.

An organizational scientist, Gates specializes in institutional diversity and inclusion strategies. He has served as an associate dean at Harvard College, faculty member at Harvard University, as special assistant for diversity programs at the University of Vermont, and executive director of global operations at New



Jesse M. Bernal



John F. Gates

York University.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College, master's degree from New York University, and a doctoral degree in organizational behavior from the University of London.



Carmen Suarez

Suarez is assistant to the president for Diversity, associate vice provost for Student Affairs, and Title IX/ADA coordinator at the University of Idaho. She served in a variety of capacities at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, including director of the Office of Diversity and Equity, interim assistant vice chancellor for Enrollment Management, and assistant dean in the School of Law.

She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history, and a doctoral degree in education all from SIU.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/vpierearch to view each candidate's resume. Comments can be posted on the website.

Across Campus

Researchers: area health care costs rise sharply

Researchers at Grand Valley said health care costs in West Michigan have increased faster than other cities and may be eroding the competitive advantage the area once held for companies searching for low health care costs.

Economics professors Sonia Dalmia and Paul Isely released the 2015 Health Check Forecast January 9. The annual report identifies health-related trends and issues facing Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties.

Isely said hospital expenses in Grand Rapids have increase 108 percent over a 10-year period, 78 percent faster than comparison cities. He added the increase does not appear closely linked to length of stay, rate of hospital admissions, or changes in the demographics.

Isely, Dalmia and Seidman College of Business colleagues Kevin Callison and Leslie Muller used survey results and insurance data to analyze health care trends, health profession job outlook and demand, medical patents and

medical costs for the four-county area.

Researchers also found that 17 percent of area residents are in poor or fair health. These lifestyle choices correlate with increases in health care costs, researchers said. They recommend decreasing costs with routine testing. For example, if all West Michigan residents who have diabetes received routine testing, it could potentially save the area \$32 million in medical costs.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, said the report reveals possible challenges as the number of area residents over age 65 increases and a decrease in the number of residents ages 20-34 continues.

"If this trend continues," Nagelkerk said, "our community is likely to face an increasing number of chronic health problems, an increase in health care utilization and a limited labor pool."

The full report is available online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth. It was made possible by a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, and Priority Health.

On January 16 Isely will reveal his benchmark survey of the regional economy at the 2015 Collier's West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast. The event will be held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids; breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m. and presentations at 8 a.m.

Mileage rate changes

Effective January 1, 2015, the mileage reimbursement rate will be increased for Grand Valley faculty and staff members.

When traveling on university business, mileage will be reimbursed at 57.5 cents per mile. This is the new IRS-approved rate. This new rate is effective for all travel that occurs after December 31.

Travel before January 1 will be reimbursed at the previous rate (56 cents per mile) regardless of when the travel and expense reimbursement forms are submitted for payment.

continues on page 2

Across Campus

continued from page 1

Updated forms are available online at www.gvsu.edu/busfin. Questions can be directed to Kim Suber at x12203.

Interim policy on sexual misconduct approved

Grand Valley's interim sexual misconduct policy has been approved and administrators will seek input from students, faculty and staff on the new policy throughout the winter semester before it becomes permanent.

The new policy, approved by the Senior Management Team in November, affirms Grand Valley's commitment to create an environment that is free of harassing and violent behaviors that adversely impact learning, living and working. The policy recognizes that an act of sexual misconduct constitutes a wrong against an individual and the campus community as a whole.

The interim policy provides definitions of prohibited behaviors regarding stalking, domestic violence, dating violence and sexual assault involving students. It also establishes Grand Valley's procedures in responding to incidents of sexual misconduct.

"The interim policy establishes processes that provide prompt and thorough investigations of sexual misconduct, fair adjudication, and appropriate sanctioning," said Dwight Hamilton, associate vice president for Affirmative Action and Title IX coordinator.

University, area groups recognized at worldwide sustainability conference

Grand Valley was recognized at the United Nations University 2014 Global RCE Conference for preparing students for the workforce by teaching sustainability skill sets.

Representatives from 77 countries and 129 Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development gathered at the conference in Okayama, Japan, in November. Norman Christopher, director of the Office of Sustainability Practices, gave a presentation, "Sustainability Skill Sets and Jobs in the New Economy," at the conference and accepted an RCE Recognition Award that acknowledged the project.

Christopher's presentation focused on the results of a survey he conducted with companies to understand the type of sustainability skill

sets they seek in new employees. He found that 93 percent of those surveyed responded with a "yes" or "somewhat" to the importance of hiring employees with sustainability skill sets, while 59 percent of respondents said they already employee a person with those skills.

The Grand Rapids RCE has implemented several programs since its inception in 2007: Seeds of Promise, Plaster Creek Watershed project, Christopher's "Employable Sustainability Skill Sets" study, the Wege Prize Competition on the Wicked Programs of Sustainability, and the annual Virtual Youth Conference through Grand Rapids Public Schools.

A group of non- and for-profit organizations in Grand Rapids was the first to establish an RCE in the United States. Current members include Grand Valley, Kendall College of Art and Design, City of Grand Rapids, Hope College, Calvin College, Western Michigan University and Catalyst Partners.



From left are Norman Christopher, Gail Heffner from Calvin College and Gayle Debruyne from Ferris State University.

Begin new year with Healthy Choices

Healthy Choices is a wellness program that complements the university's commitment to healthy lifestyles.

Faculty or staff members can achieve their health goals by participating in Health and Wellness programs and using available resources, like Healthy Choices. Benefit-eligible faculty and staff members have an opportunity to earn up to \$300 by participating in the program.

New for 2015: spouses and enrollees of the household member program who participate in Know Your Numbers (biometric screen and health assessment) and Active Management components are eligible to receive up to \$200 in addition to the \$300 earned by the faculty or staff member.

All program tracking is now through the Priority Health website, www.priorityhealth.com. Log in and click on the "My Wellness" button.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness for more information.

FORUM Volume 39, Number 16

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. 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 University Communications 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.



GVFaces

Chadd Dowding, Program Manager of the Cook Leadership Academy

Chadd Dowding joined Grand Valley nearly two years ago as the program manager for the Cook Leadership Academy at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Dowding earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from Michigan State University in 2011. After graduation, he worked for General Electric in Cincinnati, Grand Rapids and Boston, then returned home to Michigan. He said he likes working in Grand Valley's liberal education atmosphere.

"A liberal education is a great environment for students to learn key life skills," Dowding said. "I am lucky that my job also gives me an opportunity to work with some of the best and brightest students at Grand Valley."

Through his role as program manager, he is able to watch students grow as they participate in a yearlong leadership development cohort that includes community talks, self-assessment,

mentorships, and public speaking opportunities.

"I've always had a passion for student learning and the growth process students go through in college," he said.

Dowding said he is greatly enjoying his time at Grand Valley, which he attributes to working with a great staff and team to create a strong program for students.

"I am constantly amazed by the great achievements of my students and the strides they are making toward their future goals," he said.

In his free time, Dowding enjoys spending time on Lake Michigan, following current events and developments in international relations, spending time with friends, and traveling.



Chadd Dowding

What's Ahead

Weeklong celebration recognizes student leaders

Student leaders will be recognized and celebrated during Campus Leadership Week, January 12-16.

Hosted by the Office of Student Life and Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, students are invited to participate in a variety of events and activities that represent the Five Phases of Campus Life: scholarship, athletics, community service, journalism/speech/mass media and performing arts.

Highlighted events are described below; all events can be found at www.gvsu.edu/leadership.

- Leadership University Information Night; January 13, 6 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2259
- "I Am Grand Valley" Leadership Reception; January 14, 2:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room
- Resume Workshop; January 15, 1 p.m., Student Services Building, room 206
- Campus Life Night 2.0; January 16, 7 p.m., Kirkhof Center.

Arts at Noon presents jazz group

The 37th season of the Arts at Noon series resumes Wednesday, January 14, at noon in the Cook-DeWitt Center with a performance by local jazz band, Cooper, Hay, Van Lente Group.

CHV, which formed in 2005, features Jim Cooper on vibes and marimba, Dave Hay on keyboards and Mike Van Lente on drums and percussion. The group boasts a history of creating lively versions of jazz standards and original compositions influenced by swing, fusion, Latin and world music rhythms.

This winter the West Michigan community can enjoy seven concerts ranging from the Grand Rapids Symphony to Todd Reynolds, one of the "founding fathers of the hybrid-musician movement." All concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. They are free and open to the public.

Hauenstein Center will host Smolenski

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host longtime District Judge Sara Smolenski as the first speaker of the center's 2015 Wheelhouse Talks Series.

Smolenski, a highly regarded community leader for her work both in and out of the courtroom, will speak about her view of leadership from the bench and beyond at her presentation at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, at the L. William Seidman Center.

Smolenski, chief judge of the 63rd District Court, is a strong advocate for education, prevention of violence against women and community engagement. She has served the District Court since 1996.

For more information and to RSVP, visit hauensteincenter.org.

Study abroad fair set

The Padnos International Center will host a study abroad fair on Thursday, January 15, in Henry Hall.

The event will run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Participants will have opportunities to meet faculty program directors and students who are study abroad alumni.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad or call x13898.

Special exhibit marks retirement of art professor

A special exhibition of paintings by Ed Wong-Ligda, coordinator of illustration in the Art and Design Department, will celebrate the professor's retirement from Grand Valley.

"Veracity, Distortion, Reduction: Visual Explorations by Ed Wong-Ligda" will feature 15 oil-on-canvas paintings created by Wong-Ligda during his time at Grand Valley. Wong-Ligda said visitors will follow the journeys of multiple figure narratives as well as representations of solitary figures, figures with landscapes and invented landscapes based on 19th century artistic conventions.

The exhibit debuts Thursday, January 15, with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. at the Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center. It will run through March 20.

While Wong-Ligda has been a professional painter since the early 1970s, he began his Grand Valley career in 1996 after being hired to develop and coordinate the department's illustration emphasis. He will step down as coordinator at the end of the winter semester.

"I don't think of not working at Grand Valley so much as retirement, but as a change of jobs, where my full-time work will be painting," Wong-Ligda said. "The rich mix of ideas, attitudes and opinions of faculty, staff and students has definitely influenced my work. The loss of those influences will certainly affect my



'Detail of Passing Storm, Black Hills, South Dakota' is among the paintings in the exhibition of Ed Wong-Ligda's work.

painting, but how — I can't guess."

His works can be found in many private and public collections, including the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Appalachian State University, the State of Oregon, and the State of Missouri.

CRP will host symposium about New Orleans culture, issues

The Community Reading Project will help readers prepare for the March author lecture by offering a taste of New Orleans during a two-day symposium in January.

"The New Orleans Symposium" is set for January 15-16 at the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons. Faculty and staff members and community members will lead sessions on New Orleans culture and food, and discussions about the city's recovery after Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf oil spill.

Brian Jbara, director of Integrative Learning and Advising, said helping readers establish a sense of place is important. The CRP book selection is *Five Days at Memorial*, by Sheri Fink; it details the days at Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans during and after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"Knowing the history of the city, construction of levees, geography and more allows us to make connections to why things happened during Katrina," Jbara said. "Understanding the people helps us understand the resiliency they displayed during the story and the rebuilding of New Orleans."

The symposium will begin at 10 a.m. January 15 with a performance by Vince Browand and His Dixieland Quartet. Other sessions that day include a health care

continues on page 4

Many events set for King Commemoration Week

Along with keynote speakers Sybrina Fulton and Marc Lamont Hill, many activities are planned on campus to commemorate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

The week begins on January 19 with concurrent social justice activities in the Kirkhof Center. Beginning at 10 a.m., participants can choose from marathon readings, crafting, lectures or a film series. A second set of sessions will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, will speak in the Fieldhouse at 1:30 p.m., following a silent march. Martin was 17 when he was shot to death in Florida in 2012.

College of Education faculty members Linda Pickett, Raul Ysasi, C.J. Mehall and Lisa Perhamus will present separate lectures on January 20-22, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk to see

dates, times and locations.

Hill, an author, activist and journalist, will give a presentation on January 21 at 4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center. His presentation will be simulcast to the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

The LGBT Resource Center will present a film in conjunction with its Change U series on January 23 at 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center. The Change U training session is set for January 24; RSVPs are required.

The week will conclude with a day of service, coordinated by the Community Service Learning Center.

For details, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk.



Participants make goods to be donated to area organizations at a 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Day event. This year's commemoration week will run January 19-24.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Kimberly McKee, assistant professor of liberal studies, was interviewed by Detroit's Fox 2 News for a story about a social media movement led by adult adoptees.

Randa Elbih, visiting professor of liberal studies, was interviewed by WZZM-TV for a story about establishing the first full-time Islamic school in Grand Rapids.

Brian Kingshott, associate professor of criminal justice, was interviewed by WOOD-TV for a story about rail travel security.

Kelly Clark, visiting professor of religious studies and honors, was interviewed by BBC Mundo for a story about atheists in Muslim-majority countries.

Sketches

Jeff Sykes, assistive technology coordinator, gave a presentation, "Emerging Technology for Students with Disabilities," at the Michigan Occupational Special Populations Organization Region 7 fall conference.

Cynthia Thompson, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, co-wrote an article, "Accessing Foods Can Exert Multiple Distinct, and Potentially Competing, Selective Pressures on Feeding in Common Marmoset Monkeys," published in the *Journal of Zoology*.

Stephen Rowe, professor of philosophy, wrote an article, "Standing Up to Managerialism,"

published in AAC&U's *Liberal Education*.

Debbie Lown, associate professor of biomedical sciences, gave presentations, "The Nutrient Intake of Women Experiencing Homelessness in Grand Rapids, Michigan," and "The Influence of Raised-Bed Garden Participation on Fruit and Vegetable Consumption," at the Obesity Society National Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

Donald Mitchell Jr., assistant professor of education, co-wrote an article, "Journals in the Field of Higher Education: A Racial Analysis," published in the *Journal of Research Initiatives*.

Mary Schutten, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, gave a presentation, "Increasing Academic Achievement Through Physical Fitness, K-12," at the West Michigan Education Leadership Conference at the Kent Intermediate School District.

Sylvia Mupepi, associate professor of nursing, gave a presentation, "Knowledge and Practice of Cervical Cancer Screening Among Female Nurses in a Ghanaian Teaching Hospital," at the International Conference on Nursing and Health Care in Chicago, Illinois.

Rick Albrecht, professor of movement science, gave a presentation, "From Good to Better to Best: Taking Our Coaching — and Our Athletes' Experiences — to the Next Level," at the National Alliance for Youth Sports Congress in Orlando, Florida.

Mary O'Kelly, head of instructional services for University Libraries, co-wrote a chapter, "Connecting Theory to Practice: Making Research Real for Graduate Students," in a

book, *Handbook of Research on Scholarly Publishing and Research Methods*, published by IGI Global.

Housing and Residence Life staff members **Dexter Earney** and **Ken Horne** gave a presentation, "Engaging and Retaining Students through their Employment Experiences," at the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers conference. Earney gave another presentation, "Microsoft Marketing Magic," which was selected for a Conference Top 10 Award.

TRIO Educational Support Program staff members **Jeff Keson**, **Patrick Wilson** and **MarcQus Wright** gave a presentation, "Moving Forward: 21st Century High Impact Practices for Success," at the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Brittany Dernberger, assistant director of the Women's Center, gave a presentation, "Leading WGS Study Abroad Programs: Challenges and Opportunities," at the National Women's Studies Association conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Amy Masko, associate professor of English, gave a presentation with a student, "Identifying the Characteristics of the Ideal Reading Intervention Program for Teen Mothers," at the American Association for Teaching and Curriculum conference in Tampa, Florida. She gave another presentation, "An Assets Based Model for Addressing Poverty in Schooling."

What's Ahead

continued from page 3

simulation led by Susan Strouse, assistant professor of nursing; "Service and Civic Engagement" by Quincy Williams, Janean Couch and Erik Scholten; and presentation about the Louisiana State Museum by Timothy Chester, museum consultant.

January 16 sessions include family disbursement trauma, service learning and Creole cuisine.

To see details about the symposium, visit the CRP website at www.gvsu.edu/read.

Fink will give presentations on March 24 in Holland at the Herrick District Library and March 25 in the Kirkhof Center.

Community engagement session planned

How can students better understand social justice and long-term partnerships while engaging in short-term community-based

learning? This answer to this question and more will be discussed at the next Community As Classroom, sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement.

"Community-based Learning as Justice-oriented Education" will take place Friday, January 16, from 10-11:30 a.m., in the DeVos Center, University Club room.

A panel of current Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members, and community partners will briefly share in a panel format, and then the remaining time will be for open discussion and questions. Participants will gain an increased understanding of "justice learning," an approach to community-based learning from a social justice perspective, and the potential tensions that exist in community-based learning and how to address these tensions.

Panelists are Brittany Dernberger, assistant director of the Women's Center; Rachel Hood, executive director of the West Michigan Environmental Action Council; Susan F. Carson, professor of education; and Kanyn Doan, a women and gender studies major.

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

Keynote speaker announced for SSD

Archaeologist and best-selling author Brian Fagan will be the keynote speaker during Student Scholars Day, scheduled for April 8.

Fagan is a noted authority on climate change and its relationship with human society and the environment. His bestseller, *The Great Warming: Climate Change and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations*, showcases the power of climate change to disrupt and alter history.

Fagan is professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he has taught since 1967. He has written more than 45 books, including eight college textbooks.

SSD is held annually to showcase the scholarship and creative work of students. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/ours.