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FORUM

Monday, January 26, 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY
Published by News & Information Services

Grand Valley celebrates historic inauguration

People were cheering, hugging and waving American flags as Barack Obama was announced as the nation's 44th president. Many had tears in their eyes as they witnessed the historic inauguration at a campus-wide event on January 20 in the Fieldhouse Arena.

A live Webcast of the speakers and a link to the inauguration was made available on Grand Valley's homepage. In addition to Allendale, viewing locations were made available at each campus. More than 1,500 people participated at one of the sites.

Michael Blair, a junior majoring in psychology, attended the Allendale celebration. "I am excited to see so many people coming together to witness the inauguration," said Blair. "This is a pivotal moment in history. Being half African American, this makes me feel like I can accomplish anything."

At the Fieldhouse, remarks were made by President Thomas J. Haas; Jeanne Arnold, vice president for Inclusion and Equity; Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies; and faculty members Mark Richards and Louis Moore.

Whitney said the U.S. seems larger today than it did yesterday — more filled with possibility. "This inauguration shows that our system of gov-



Photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Above, from left, Diana Pace, Eaaron Henderson-King and Donna Henderson-King celebrate the inauguration at the Fieldhouse Arena. At right, the audience watches the Obamas on one of the big screens.



ernment works. The promise of our democracy is fulfilled and the vision of our founders is redeemed," he said.

Richards, associate professor of political science, called Obama a transformational leader whose story inspires and gives hope, and one whose story is not fully written. He led the Fieldhouse crowd in a chant as everyone stood and shouted, "My president is Black!" This prompted cheering and clapping as several waved their American flags.

Across Campus

MLK speaker urges students to take risks

The keynote speaker for Grand Valley's Martin Luther King celebration reminded the campus audience that they might have more in common with the civil rights hero than they think.

Juan Williams, NPR senior correspondent and political analyst for FOX News, took audience members on a brief history



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Juan Williams speaks during the Martin Luther King celebration in the Fieldhouse.

lesson, saying historic leaders like King didn't always start out on that path. Williams spoke to hundreds of students, faculty and staff members on January 19 in the Fieldhouse Arena.

Williams said although people associate King with the 1955 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott, few know that it took a lot of persuasion from community and religious leaders to get King, who was 25 at that time, on board.

Williams also described the time he spent with former South African President Nelson Mandela after Mandela was released from prison in 1990. Williams said Mandela "never wanted to be a leader, he wanted to be a boxer or a lawyer." Political inequities led Mandela to join the African National Congress and rise through its

ranks to fight apartheid laws.

"Each and every one of us has to be aware of our potential," Williams said. He urged students to take off their blinders when considering their futures. "I think you are more than your grades. There is more to you than that good job," Williams said.

President Thomas J. Haas, speaking at the MLK luncheon earlier that day, echoed Williams' message. "Martin Luther King had higher aspirations to help all of us understand the potential we all have as individuals," he said.

Steinman to serve on EPA advisory board

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was invited to serve on the

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Across Campus

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Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board of the Environment Committee. The committee provides independent advice to the EPA regarding its Report of the Environment.

The reports track trends in environmental conditions, including water, land and air. Steinman has served on previous panels, reviewing reports from 2004 and 2008.

Alan Steinman "I am pleased to be asked to serve again," said Steinman. "It is rewarding to help shape the report that documents the state of the nation's environment." He added that the information from the report helps AWRI students and staff members "stay at the leading edge of the national indicators of our environmental status."

Seidman survey shows confidence in regional economy hits low

Each year, Grand Valley economist Hari Singh issues his annual benchmark survey of the regional economy. In last year's report, confidence in the local economy had slipped to its lowest in 13 years. Now it has declined even further, reaching the lowest point in the survey's history.

According to the survey, the prospects are dire. The business confidence index has dipped below 50 for the first time in 14 years. In 2009, employment is expected to decline by 1 percent and overall sales are expected to fall by 0.5 percent.

A major goal of the survey is to historically track the overall business confidence of the Grand Rapids metropolitan area by a confidence index. The confidence index respondents use a scale from 0 percent (no confidence at all) to 100 percent (complete confidence). Over the survey's history, when the economy has been growing steadily at a robust rate, the confidence



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Hari Singh, chair of the economics department, discusses a business confidence survey at the DeVos Place on January 16.

index depicted a high level of confidence — generally around 80 percent for the private sector. That confidence level has dipped to 48.4 percent in this year's survey. The sharp decline in regional confidence, employment, and sales reflect the impact of a continuing recession, Singh said.

"West Michigan had not recovered completely from the 2001 recession, and we are now in the midst of another prolonged recession," Singh said, citing the sub-prime housing market crisis, significant tightening of credit, and rising unemployment as drags on the economy.

Singh, chair of the Economics Department, unveiled his annual forecast for the regional economy on January 16 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. The survey polls business leaders in the greater Grand Rapids area and was conducted in November. Singh said it continues to be crucial for Michigan to diversify its economy.

"West Michigan will continue to find a foothold by diversifying away from manufacturing into specialized services such as health care, professional services and education," he said. "In spite of difficult times, the state needs to ensure that it will create a highly qualified workforce for the future. State resources need to be leveraged to position West Michigan strategically in growth sectors of the future. Besides health care and homeland security, state policies need to promote more renewable and alternative energy production options within Michigan."

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Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web at www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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GVNOW

Other publications by the News and Information Services Office include: To see video features and daily campus news, visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

GRAND VALLEY magazine

Grand Valley Magazine is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its Web site at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

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

GVFaces

Liz Smith Padnos International Center

Grand Valley alumna Liz Smith developed a love for travel as a study abroad participant in the United Kingdom. After graduating in 2004 with a degree in liberal studies and international relations, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal.

She now blends her international and cultural experiences as the coordinator of outreach and international students in the Padnos International Center.

While studying at Kingston University in the United Kingdom, Smith took a variety of courses that focused on U.S. foreign policy and cultural differences. She also traveled to seven European countries, which allowed her to interact with people of many cultures.

"Through classroom engagement and social interaction, my horizons were greatly broadened, and I gained the courage to go further," she said. "I really attribute my courage and motivation to join the Peace Corps to my study abroad experience."

Smith served in the Peace Corps for two years, leaving for Senegal in 2006 to work as a world health volunteer. She first worked on malaria initiatives, vaccination campaigns and basic health care. As she spent more time in Senegal, she worked on women's empowerment issues and girls' education.

She became proficient in two local languages,

Jaxanke and Malinke, as well as French. Eventually Smith worked as the training coordinator for the Senegal Gender and Development Committee, where she facilitated trainings for large groups. She said this contributed to her overall passion for international education, which led her to pursue her current position at Grand Valley.



Liz Smith

In her role at the PIC, Smith will promote study abroad opportunities to students through classroom visits, the center's Web site and catalog, as well as living center presentations.

"I feel so privileged to be able to share my international experiences to students through my position," she said. "Our international student and scholar population has grown, and I am thrilled to be a part of this intercultural experience at Grand Valley."

Smith plans to continue working in international education, and would like to become fluent in French. She would like to earn a master's degree in nonprofit administration.

What's Ahead

Artist-Faculty Series continues

The Artist-Faculty Series continues to provide a series of free concerts on the Allendale Campus.

On Tuesday, January 27, Pablo Mahave-Veglia will give a cello concert at 8 p.m. in the Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center.

Last week was the first performance of three trumpet concerts featuring Richard Stoelzel and Kevin Maloney, with alumna Ksenia Leletkina on piano. They will perform again on February 2 and April 17.

For more information, call the Department of Music at x13484, or visit www.gvsu.edu/music.

Lecturer to review Lincoln's legacy

Modern-day leaders often look back on the wisdom and extraordinary leadership of Abraham Lincoln; some say much of Barack Obama's political philosophy is influenced by the wisdom of Lincoln.

Even before Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office in 1861, seven states seceded from the Union. After the inauguration, four additional states seceded, taking all federal agencies, forts, and arsenals within their territory.

President Thomas J. Haas and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host Donald T. Phillips, author of 20 books, including

Lincoln On Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times.

"Lincoln on Leadership, Contemporary Lessons from a Legendary Leader," will be held Thursday, January 29, at 7 p.m., at the Gerald R. Ford Museum Auditorium, 303 Pearl St. NW, in downtown Grand Rapids. The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

For more information, call the Hauenstein Center at x12770.

Advising council to host majors fair

The Academic Advising Council will host an "Academic Majors Fair" on Tuesday, February 3, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River and Pere Marquette rooms.

Faculty and staff members from academic departments will be available to give students information about specific majors and career opportunities. Sulari White, director of the Pre-Major Advising Program, said alumni and student organizations will also be on hand to give perspectives on secondary admission, research opportunities and real-life experiences.

Refreshments will be provided and current students will have opportunities to win door prizes. For more information, call White at x13780.

WMWSC speaker to address election

An expert in analyzing how the role of gender

affects power and politics will speak in Grand Rapids in February at a lecture sponsored by the West Michigan Women's Studies Council.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, author, political commentator and communications professor at the University of Pennsylvania, will present "Gender, Power, Politics and the Media in the 2008 Presidential Election" on Tuesday, February 3, at 7 p.m. at Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE in Grand Rapids. The event is free and open to the public.



Kathleen Hall Jamieson

Jamieson has written 15 books, including two published last year: *Presidents Creating the Presidency*, and *Echo Chamber: Rush Limbaugh and the Conservative Media Establishment*. During the fall election, she appeared regularly on PBS' "Bill Moyers Journal."

The West Michigan Women's Studies Council includes representatives from Aquinas College, Calvin College, Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley and Hope College, as well as the Delta Strategy, Community Media Center, and Grand Rapids Public Library.

For more information, call x12748 or visit www.wmwsc.org. For more about Jamieson, visit www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org. The Nokomis Foundation provided funding for this lecture.

Opera Theatre features 'Candide'

Grand Valley's Opera Theatre production of "Candide" features the legendary score by Leonard Bernstein.

Part sophisticated opera and part wacky, screwball comedy with shades of Monty Python, this funny and irreverent satire is the perfect musical expression of Voltaire's novel, a tongue-in-cheek send-up of optimistic philosophies.

Performances are February 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. and February 8 and 15, at 2 p.m. All performances are in the Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$14 general admission, \$12 faculty and staff members, and \$6 for all students. Tickets may be purchased at the Louis Armstrong



The cast of 'Candide' will begin performances February 6 in the PAC.

Theatre Box Office, Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. Tickets are also available through Startickets Plus, with a service fee, at www.starticketsplus.com, or by calling (616) 222-4000, or 800-585-3737.

"One aspect that makes Candide attractive to me is the richness of each element, from the brilliant music to the multi-dimensional humor and satire," said Director of Opera Theatre Dale Schriemer. "It has a very fast pace yet allows the actors to connect on stage at a very personal level that becomes infectious to the audience."

Schriemer began his professional career with an apprenticeship with the Minnesota Opera Company, where he made his debut as Maximillian in a production of "Candide."

The production of "Candide" is from the 1973 Broadway Revival version. Live music will be performed by Grand Valley's Opera Theatre Orchestra, conducted by Kevin Tutt.

The artistic staff continues to be of the highest caliber, including Stage Director Will Graham from Minneapolis, who brings vast experience in both professional and student opera productions.

Across Campus

Women's Center seeks submissions for journal

The Women's Center is seeking submissions for its seventh edition of *In Our Own Words: A Journal About Women*.

All students, faculty and staff members are welcome to enter submissions. Articles, short fiction, poetry, and personal reflections should be sent via e-mail to the Women's Center at womenctr@gvsu.edu. Include a short author's note with submission.

The deadline is February 11. Submissions will be considered for their diversity of thought and ability to spark conversation.

The journal will be printed in March. For more information, call the Women's Center at x12748.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

**Art Gallery Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.**

Jan. 15-March 20

Gallery Hours: Hoskin-Raible Collection of French Prints. Art Gallery, PAC.

Mon., Jan. 26

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group. 2242 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

Tues., Jan. 27

8 p.m.: Artist-Faculty Series. Pablo Mahave-Veglia, cello. Van Solkema Recital Hall, PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

Wed., Jan. 28

9 a.m.: Human Resources Excellence Series. "Managing Multiple Generations in the Workplace." 2204 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

11 a.m.: Volunteer Opportunities Fair. DEV Building E. Call x12468 for information.

Noon: Allendale Toastmasters. 2259 KC. Call x18655 for more information.

Thurs., Jan. 29

7:30 a.m.: Grand Rapids Toastmasters. University Club Room, DEV. Call x17378 for more information.

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts "UnNatural Causes" Film Series. 2270 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

John Kilbourne, professor of movement science, was interviewed by the *Grand Rapids Press* for a story about his research using exercise balls as chairs.

Dee Ann Sherwood Bosworth, director of Intercultural Training, was interviewed by WOOD-TV for a story about Grand Valley's presidential inauguration event.

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, was interviewed for stories about the inauguration and Bush legacy by CNN, FOX, WOOD-TV, WOOD-AM, *Detroit Free Press*, WJR-AM, WWJ-AM, McClatchy Newspapers, K-Star Country Radio, WGVU-AM, *Arab News*, WZZM-TV, *Detroit News* and WXMI-TV.

Amy Russell, assistant professor of biology, was interviewed by *ScienceNow* for a story about her research on the impact of road construction on bat populations.

Sketches

Elaine Sterrett Isely, research associate at the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave a presentation, "Alternative Stormwater Management Practices in Spring Lake, Rein in the Runoff: An Integrated Assessment," at the International Submerged Lands Management Conference in Seattle, Washington.

Azizur R. Molla, assistant professor of anthropology, gave a presentation, "Public Health Risks Associated With Indoor Radon Gas in Tioga County, Pennsylvania," at the American Anthropological Association Meeting at San Francisco, California.

Library staff members **Doug Way**, **Sarah Beaubien** and **Julie Garrison** gave a presentation, "Developing a Multifaceted Approach to Identify a Core Undergraduate Browsing Collection," at the Charleston Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.

Cliff Welch, associate professor of history, appeared on YouTube as a member of the Rural Development Working Group of the Council of Latin American Social Scientists speaking about the expansion of soy bean export agriculture in Latin America.

Firas Hindeleh, mathematics postdoctoral teaching fellow, co-wrote an article, "Seven Dimensional Lie Algebras with a Four-Dimensional Nilradical," published in *Algebras, Groups and Geometries*.

Polly Diven, professor of political science, gave a presentation, "The Domestic Politics of U.S. AIDS Policy: The Hyperpluralism of PEPFAR," and participated in a roundtable on U.S. foreign policy after George W. Bush at the Midwest International Studies Association Conference. She also wrote a chapter, "Dissecting Anti-Americanism: Personalities, Policies, Popular Culture, and Paradigms," in a book, *U.S. Foreign Policy: Theory, Mechanisms, Practice*.

News and Information Services received Ava Awards from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals for the following video productions: April 2008 Commencement, Scholarship Dinner/Study Abroad, Padnos International Center International Students, and Around Grand Valley Tour.

WGVU Productions received Accolade Awards for "Battle Creek: Celebrating Flight 2008" and "Stefon Harris: The Art of Listening." It received Ava Awards for "Messiah with the Calvin Oratorio Society 2008," "Stefon Harris: Portraits of The Promised," "Battle Creek: Celebrating Flight 2008," "Stefon Harris and Friends," "Stefon Harris: The Art of Listening," "Decision 2008: U.S. Senatorial Debate," "Grand Valley State Sports Report," and "Coast Guard Festival Highlights 2008."

Jerry Scripps, instructor of computing and information systems, gave a presentation, "A Matrix Alignment Approach for Link Prediction," at the International Conference on Pattern Recognition in Tampa, Florida.

Maria Landon, affiliate instructor of marketing, wrote an article, "Diversity in Business: The Role of Higher Education," published in the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*.

Student Life staff members **Michelle Burke** and **Valerie Jones** gave a presentation, "Internships Spanning Academic Disciplines: Students as Learners, Leaders and Paraprofessionals," at the National Leadership Educators Institute, held at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Yosay Wangdi, assistant professor of history, wrote an article, "Tibetan Identity: Transformations within the Diaspora," published in *Global Studies Journal*; and a book chapter, "Displaced People, Adjusting to New Cultural Vocabulary: Tibetan Immigrants in North America," in *Emerging Voices: The Experiences of the Underrepresented Asian Americans*.

Jeanine Biese, assistant professor of occupational therapy, gave a seminar, "Hand Splinting," at Spectrum Health.

Patrick Fuliang Shan, assistant professor of history, was elected president of the Chinese Historians in the United States.

James Houston, professor of criminal justice, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Correctional Association.

Mark Schwartz, assistant professor of anthropology, participated in a podcast on warfare in the Ancient Near East sponsored by *Ancient Warfare Magazine*.

Ashok Kumar, professor of management, was honored with the Association of Indian Management Scholars International Distinguished Service Award.

Rick Iadonisi, affiliate professor of writing, wrote an article, "'I Am Nobody': The Haiku of Richard Wright," re-published in *Valley Voices*.

Brian Lakey, professor of psychology, was appointed to the editorial board of *Psychological Science*.