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Grand Valley State University

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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services



Hillegonds to speak as 50th anniversary lecturer

In celebration of Grand Valley's 50th anniversary, former Speaker of the Michigan House Paul Hillegonds will bring his first-hand experience in government and business to his talk about what the next 50 years holds for Michigan.

Hillegonds' lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. A reception will be held at 5:45 p.m. and the lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer session. The event is free and open to the public.

Named by *Governing Magazine* in 1994 as Public Official of the Year, Hillegonds is currently senior vice president of corporate

affairs at DTE Energy. Former president of Detroit Renaissance, Hillegonds serves on many boards including the Cultural Alliance for Southeast Michigan, Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Future, Inc., Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Center for Michigan, and Kresge Foundation.

Hillegonds is the second of three speakers in Grand Valley's Distinguished Academic Lecture series speculating on what the next 50 years may hold. Hillegonds will discuss "The Next 50 Years in Michigan." Previously in September, author, academician and businesswoman Jill Ker Conway presented, "The Next 50 Years in the World." The series will conclude with

documentary filmmaker Ken Burns' presentation "The Next 50 Years in the United States" on April 21.

For more information on the series contact Jon Jellema in the Provost Office at x12400 or visit www.gvsu.edu/anniversary.



Paul Hillegonds

Across Campus

Kutsche office awards grant

The Kutsche Office of Local History has awarded a mini-grant to a community and faculty research team whose project focuses on Merze Tate, an area African American woman who served in the U.S. State Department.

Director Veta Tucker said the grant is consistent with the mission of the office that was founded by Paul Kutsche, a native of Grand Rapids and retired anthropology professor from Colorado College. Kutsche established the office at Grand Valley in 2008 with the intent to giving voice to local underrepresented groups.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Veta Tucker, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, recently awarded a grant from the office to a research team working on an exhibit for the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

Sherry Johnson, assistant professor of English, received a grant to collaborate with researcher Sonya Bernard Hollins and create an exhibit on the life of Tate, a Mecosta County woman who was the first African American woman to earn a doctorate from Oxford University. Tate later held a state department position. Tucker, professor of English and African/African American Studies, said the Tate exhibit will be on display at the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in Lansing. Students in one of Tucker's classes created a passport to guide visitors through the exhibit, and art and design students will mount digital photos.

Last fall, the Kutsche Office helped fund a book project, *A New Home in Michigan*, which tells the story of Mexican Americans who migrated to Muskegon prior to World War II. "That project started with oral histories and we provided seed money for them to publish a book," Tucker said. "If a community group has a project that fits with our mission, we can help them bring it to reality."

This spring the office will host its second forum for local historians from public museums, historical and genealogical societies, local libraries and other organizations.

Tucker said "Museum 101" sessions will be held in March, April and May to help volunteers understand the basics of artifact preservation and archive collection. The workshops will be open to Grand Valley students who are interested in museum careers; visit the website www.gvsu.edu/kutsche for details.

Tucker is also helping coordinate a Juneteenth celebration in Grand Rapids to coincide with the sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War.

"It's important to me as the country commemorates the sesquicentennial to look at the presence of African Americans and Native Americans and their role in the Civil War," Tucker said. Early plans for the Grand Rapids celebration include period costumes, re-enactors, food, arts and crafts, music and poetry.

Across Campus

Committee proposes changes to General Education program

The General Education Committee has proposed two broad changes to the current GE program that better align it with the national conversation on liberal education and address concerns about the upper-level component.

The proposed changes are to add three new general education goals (teamwork, problem-solving and civic responsibility) and reduce the number of goals per each GE course; and eliminate the 22 theme categories, create a new upper-level “Global Issues” requirement, and reduce the requirement from three courses to two.

Carol “Griff” Griffin, director of General Education, said she and the committee think that the proposal more closely aligns with the university mission.

Four campus-wide forums will be held to discuss the proposed changes:

- February 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2204;
- February 24, 1:30-3:30 p.m., DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium;
- February 28, 2-4 p.m., DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium;
- March 2, 9-11 a.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

Griffin said unit- and college-level discussions are also scheduled.

The full proposal draft and supporting documentation is online at www.gvsu.edu/gened. Students, faculty and staff members can comment on any aspect of the proposal by logging on to the discussion board on the website. The final proposal is scheduled to be presented to University Academic Senate in April.

Climate study survey reaches midpoint

More than 1,260 campus community members completed the myGVSU Survey within the first three days of its launch.

The survey will continue to be offered through February 14. Visit www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu for a link to the survey.

The anonymous survey is the fourth climate study in the university’s history. Positive results from prior surveys are also listed on the website.

WISE receives grant from AAUW

One of Grand Valley’s academic living and learning communities received a grant from the American Association of University Women to boost its mentoring program and enhance relationship building.

The Women in Sciences and Engineering Program earned a \$4,300 grant from AAUW’s Campus Action Project. Laurie Witucki, faculty director of the WISE program, said the grant will be used to help facilitate roundtable discussions among WISE students and faculty members, and to participate in Grand Valley’s Community Reading Project.

“Students also will give back to the community by participating in science events with middle and high school students,” said Witucki, associate professor of chemistry.

The Women’s Center partnered with WISE to apply for the grant. Ashley



Photo courtesy of Laurie Witucki

Members of WISE visit the Grand Rapids Public Museum to view the ‘Bodies Revealed’ exhibit. WISE received a grant from AAUW.

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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.

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, 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

Kim Walton Program Coordinator, MAREC

Kim Walton dedicates her life to working with natural resources, environmental issues and renewable energy technology. She joined the Grand Valley Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center in June as its first program coordinator.

Walton’s position fuses her background in business and environmental education, adding new dimensions to MAREC. She began and co-operates her own renewable energy company. She has worked extensively in North Carolina and Michigan with farmers to organize environmental workshops on the local, state and regional levels. She has also helped private schools develop curriculum that incorporates renewable energy topics.

Walton grew up in Barry County, and said she is a country girl at heart. She received a bachelor’s degree from Appalachian State University and a master’s degree from Western Michigan University in environmental analysis. “Working with environmental issues is my niche,” said Walton. “I had an interest in natural resources that began before there was an Earth Day!”

Since her arrival, Walton has provided sustainability and energy education for Grand Valley and the surrounding community. She is coordinating the first MAREC Lunch and Learn series and is planning a Renewable Energy Science Fair for spring, geared toward local



Kim Walton

high school and community college students. She said sharing the right information about renewable energy and environmental issues excites her.

“I enjoy helping people sort out facts from myths and misconceptions,” said Walton. “Each house and building site is different, and the effectiveness of renewable energy technology is very site specific.”

“Too many times, people are misinformed about the capacity, proper placement, and operation of a renewable energy system. This misinformation may result in a system working poorly or the system may work well, but the owners have unrealistic expectations and are disappointed.”

Walton also serves on the Midwest Solar Training Advisory Committee. She enjoys tending to her 30-acre farm and animals, including foundation-bred appaloosa and Suffolk Punch draft horses.

What's Ahead

Range of events will highlight Asian Pacific heritage celebration

Numerous events are planned to highlight the cultural richness of Asian Pacific Islander Americans. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the events will run from February 7-17.

Events are detailed below; they are free and open to the public. For details, visit www.gvsu.edu/oma or call x12177.

• **Monday, February 7, 1-2 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2263.**

Members of the Hmong American Student Association will present "A Walk To Remember," and share stories of their families' ancestry.

• **Tuesday, February 8, 3-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215/2216.**

Philippines folk dance performance featuring Minnie Morey, artistic director of the Pacific Island Dancers of Grand Rapids.

• **Wednesday, February 9, 5-7 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center.**

Ütaké, a trio of Rob Foster, Kurt Ellenberger and Ric Troll, will present songs from their CD "The Name of the Wind." Traditional Japanese poetry will also be read.

• **Thursday, February 10, 4-5:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215/2216.**

Amanda Kim, director of the Center for Multicultural and Diversity Studies at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, will present, "Broken Promises of the Model Minority Narrative."

• **February 14, 4-6 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 1240.**

"ExplorAsia" will highlight the diverse histories, languages and customs of the 50 countries represented by Asian Pacific Islander Americans.

• **February 16, 3-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2204.**

"East of Main Street," a 2010 HBO documentary that features stories of APIAs, will be shown and discussed.

• **February 17, 3-5 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.**

"Unveiling the Truth: The Muslim Women," will feature Tahera Ahmad, the first Muslim woman chaplain at Northwestern University.

Conference has tips for optimal aging

National and local experts will discuss new approaches for everyday and proactive aging at Grand Valley's Sixth Annual Art and Science of Aging Multidisciplinary Conference. The theme for the 2011 conference is "Optimal Aging: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

The conference will open with a presentation, "The Modern Fountain of Youth: An Ecology of Optimal Aging," by Larry Lawhorne, director of Geriatrics at the Wright State Boonhof School of Medicine and former director of the MSU-based Geriatric Education Center of Michigan.

The conference is scheduled for Friday, February 11, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Morning and afternoon break-out sessions will cover a wide range of topics including the benefits of exercise, healthy eating, prescription purchasing practices, picking a retirement community, and more.

Another recurring feature of the conference is the presentation of Grand Valley student research on aging, in poster format, which allows attendees to engage the students in discussions of their research.

For questions about the conference call x16641 or send an e-mail to geroconference@gvsu.edu. Registration fees and conference details can be found at www.gvsu.edu/gerontology.

'Vagina Monologues' celebrate 10th year

The Women's Center at Grand Valley will celebrate its 10th year of producing Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" with two performances set for February 11-12.

Performances will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, February 11-12, at the Fieldhouse on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus. Admission is \$10 for students and \$20 for non-students. Tickets are available in advance at the Kirkhof Center 20/20 Desk and through Star Tickets



The 10th anniversary 'Vagina Monologues' performances will be held Friday and Saturday in the Fieldhouse.

at www.startickets.com or (800) 585-3737.

Ensler's provocative yet wildly entertaining and acclaimed play has been performed at GVSU for the past nine years. It has reached more than 9,000 audience members with its message of ending violence and has raised more than \$90,000 for local, national and international anti-violence initiatives.

This year, Grand Valley hopes to raise \$10,000 in proceeds from the productions. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit local organizations and the VDay designated initiative Women of Haiti, which focuses on women and girls of Haiti who have been victims of violence.

For information about the performances, call the Women's Center at x12748.

PBW hosts poetry jam

Positive Black Women will host its second Poetry Love Jam to celebrate Valentine's Day.

The event is set for Monday, February 14, noon-1:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Readings from spoken word artists will be presented and a light lunch will be served. The event is free and open to the campus community.

At the event, PBW will kick off its African American hair care drive. Donations of shampoos, oil sheens, relaxers and other hair care products designed for African American hair will be given to a local women's shelter. Gift cards from drug stores or supermarkets where ethnic hair care supplies can be purchased will also be accepted.

More information is posted online at www.gvsu.edu/pbw.

Across Campus

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Nickels, assistant director, said it presented a good opportunity for collaboration. "In terms of the grant, the Women's Center will assist with administrative tasks and reach out to various community organizations, including AAUW, to enhance the professional network available to students," Nickels said.

Grand Valley was one of 11 universities to receive a AAUW CAP grant. The theme for the one-semester grants was "Breaking Through Barriers in Science, Technology,

Engineering and Mathematics."

In August, WISE moved to the South C apartments; 75 students live in the community and three faculty members hold office hours there. The program was established in 2006.

Nominations sought for Venderbush Leadership Award

Faculty and staff members are reminded that nominations for the Kenneth R. Venderbush

Student Leadership Award are due in the Dean of Students Office (202 STU) no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, February 11. The award will be presented to a senior at the Awards Banquet on April 11.

Criteria and a nomination form are posted online at www.gvsu.edu/dos. Nominations should be sent in a sealed envelope and marked confidential.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Through Feb. 25

Gallery Hours: MultiMedia III: Art and Design, School of Communications Celebrate 50th Anniversary. Art Gallery, PAC. Call x12563 for information.

Mon., Feb. 7

1 p.m.: Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration Event. "A Walk to Remember." 2263 KC. Call x12177 for information.

Tues., Feb. 8

9 a.m.-noon: Human Resources Excellence Series. Professional and Persuasive Writing. 2215/2216 KC. Call x12215 for information.

Noon: FTLC Workshop. "Pedagogical Trading Zone," by Christine Rener. 303C DEV. Call x13498 for information.

Noon: Health and Wellness Divorce Recovery Group. 0042 KC. Call x12215 for information.

3 p.m.: Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration Event. Philippine Dance Performance. 2215/2216 KC.

7 p.m.: Women's Center hosts V-Day 10th Anniversary Celebration Reception. AH. Call x12748 for information.

Wed., Feb. 9

10 a.m.: FTLC Workshop. "Pedagogical Trading Zone," by Christine Rener. 1142 KC.

Noon: Women's Center hosts Fireside Chat. 1142 KC. Call x12748 for information.

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

1 p.m.: Johnson Center for Philanthropy

Workshop. "The Evolving Donor," by Michael Moody. Bicycle Factory. Call x17585 for information.

4 p.m.: American Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration Event. "Ütaké." CDC.

4:30 p.m.: Office of Graduate Studies PACES Workshop. "Finding Funding for Your Research and Preparing for the Application." 303C DEV. Call x16858 for information.

Thurs., Feb. 10

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

Noon: FTLC Workshop. "Introducing Google Docs into the Classroom and Our Professional Work," by Charlie Lowe. 111 HRY.

Noon: Health and Wellness Workshop. "Your Personal Journey Through Grief: How to Care for Your Grieving Heart." 302E DEV.

4 p.m.: Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration Event. "Broken Promises of the Model Minority Narrative." 2215/2216 KC.

Fri., Feb. 11

8:30 a.m.: Sixth Annual Art and Science Aging Conference. "Optimal Aging: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x17265 for information.

11 a.m.: FTLC Workshop. "Introducing Google Docs into the Classroom and Our Professional Work," by Charlie Lowe. 205A DEV.

11 a.m.: Board of Trustees Meeting. 2204 KC.

2 p.m.: AWRI Seminar. "Development of a Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Strategy," by Lindsay Chadderton. Multipurpose Room, LMC. Call x13749 for information.

3-4:30 p.m.: Philosophy Colloquium. Panel Discussion: "Why Philosophy?" B-LL 110 MAK. Call x12114 for information.

7 p.m.: Black History Month Event. "When the Spirit Gets You," by John Hair and New Connections. Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x12177 for information.

7 p.m.: "The Vagina Monologues." FH. Tickets available at 20/20 Desk, www.startickets.com.

Sat., Feb. 12

8 a.m.: Office of Student Life hosts Leadership Summit. KC. Call x12345 for information.

9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.: Campus departments host Winter Wellness Retreat. FH. Call x13659 for information.

7 p.m.: "The Vagina Monologues." FH. Tickets available at 20/20 Desk, www.startickets.com.

7 p.m.: Music Department hosts String Leadership Day Conference. LAT, PAC. Call x13484 for information.

Sun., Feb. 13

3 p.m.: Concert featuring University Arts Chorus, Cantata Chamber Ensemble, Muskegon Community College Singers. LAT, PAC.

Sports

Wed., Feb. 9

5:30 p.m.: Swimming and Diving hosts GLIAC Championships.

Thurs., Feb. 10-Sat., Feb. 12

10:30 a.m.: Swimming and Diving hosts GLIAC Championships. Jenison.

Fri., Feb. 11- Sat., Feb. 12

Noon: Track and Field hosts GVSU Big Meet.

Across Campus

Women's Center sets deadline for journal entries

Each winter semester, the Women's Center compiles works submitted by students, faculty and staff members, and community members for "In Our Own Words: A Journal about Women."

The deadline for the 2011 edition is February 14. To celebrate the university's 50th anniversary,

writers of essays, poetry and short fiction are encouraged to give voice to the past. The journal is highlighted in March during the Women's Tea.

More information about the journal and specifics about entries is posted online at www.gvsu.edu/women_cen and click on "Annual Programs and Celebrations."

Names omitted

The following people were not mentioned in the

January 31 article, "Faculty Awards Convocation set for Thursday." We regret the omission.

Jennifer Gross, associate professor of psychology, received a Pew Teaching with Technology Award; Jodi Tyron, assistant librarian, received the Pew Excellence Award for Library Faculty; and Norman Kravitz, adjunct instructor of Honors College, received the Pew Teaching Excellence Award for Part-Time Faculty.