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# Grand Valley Forum, volume 038, number 21, February 18, 2014

Grand Valley State University

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# FORUM

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

Published by University Communications



## Officials announce record endowment, construction

Grand Valley leaders announced a record endowment of \$98.5 million as of December 31.

The majority of the fund is dedicated to scholarships and academic programming. Leaders announced at the February 14 Board of Trustees meeting that the university's 10-year return is in the top 10 percent of the 835 colleges and universities participating in the National Association of Colleges and Universities Business Officers Survey.

The university also reported to the trustees an A+ rating from Standard and Poor's.

In other board action:

- Students will see a modest increase in room and board beginning with the Fall 2014 semester. The Board of Trustees voted to increase the rate 1.5 percent.

The cost per semester in a traditional living center at Grand Valley will be \$2,750, an increase of \$10. Students can choose from a variety of meal plans. The cost for the 14-meal plan per semester will increase \$50 and cost \$1,350.

The Fall 2013 occupancy rate at Grand Valley was again at an all-time high with 5,997 students living on campus. Campus dining plans have also reached an all-time high with 7,761 students purchasing a meal plan. That means students who don't live on campus still choose to use campus dining.

- The board also approved site and floor plans for a \$7.5 million expansion for the Kleiner Commons dining facility.

The project calls for an additional 18,000 square feet for food preparation areas, seating areas, food storage areas and a multi-purpose space for faculty and administrative support offices. The project will be funded by University General Funds and proceeds from Aramark. Construction is scheduled to begin this month and be completed in August.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

James Moyer, associate vice president for Facilities Planning, discusses plans to expand Kleiner Commons during the February 14 Board of Trustees meeting, held at the L. William Seidman Center.

- Trustees approved the purchase of 18 acres of vacant land off Lake Michigan Drive to serve as a commuter lot for students, faculty and staff members riding The Rapid bus to campus.

*continues on page 3*

## Across Campus

### Library Book Grant program receives funds

The newly created Classroom Library Book Grant program in the College of Education has been awarded a \$2,500 Meemic Foundation for



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

From left are Elaine Collins, Sheryl Vlietstra, Megan Freudigmann and Keith Steensma.

the Future of Education grant to help support the development of resources for new teacher classroom libraries.

Meemic agent Keith Steensma presented a check to College of Education Dean Elaine Collins and faculty members Sheryl Vlietstra and Megan Freudigmann February 11 at the Eberhard Center.

Vlietstra and Freudigmann came up with the idea for the grant program as a way to help new teachers build their classroom libraries. "New teachers are excited to land their first job," said Vlietstra. "They arrive with lots of energy and great ideas but often find there are no materials to help them teach. It can take new teachers several years of personal spending to develop a functional classroom library."

Their goal in the next few months is to gather children's literature for grades K-5 and provide classroom libraries to new teachers, with each containing at least 100 books. The program will

be open to alumni who began their elementary teaching careers within the last three years and who are teaching in underfunded districts in the greater Grand Rapids area.

The campus community can help by dropping off or sending new or like-new K-5 children's books to the College of Education, 388C DEV; making a donation, [gvsu.edu/coe/bookdrive](http://gvsu.edu/coe/bookdrive); or donating Scholastic Book Club bonus points, call (877) 266-8776 and provide customer #1803384690.

### Town hall continues climate study discussion

Committee members charged with creating action plans following the 2011 campus climate survey reported their recommendations during a town hall February 11 in the Kirkhof Center.

*continues on page 2*

# Across Campus

continued from page 1

Dwight Hamilton, associate vice president for Affirmative Action, said data from the survey was analyzed and three committees representing students, faculty members and staff members were asked to recommend strategies to further improve the campus climate. The recommendations from the Gender Identity and Expression Committee (GIEC) were also discussed.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Sean Huddleston answers a question during a town hall meeting regarding the climate survey action plans. At right is Dwight Hamilton.

All action plans are posted online, visit [www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu](http://www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu). Highlights are below.

- Faculty Subcommittee: Develop training for effective personnel management, address bullying/retaliation behaviors, develop best practices regarding tenure/promotion, and address expectations for faculty members with children and those without children.
- Staff Subcommittee: Improve communication of policies regarding salaries and promotions, create an overall diversity program (formal/informal opportunities), benchmark best practices for supervisor training, and focus efforts on climate and staff retention.
- Student Subcommittee: Increase cross-cultural learning experiences, expand opportunities to address financial hardships, improve mentoring programs, define bullying and develop policies to address such behavior, and increase financial efforts to address sexual violence concerns.
- GIEC: Incorporate preferred name/pronoun into all university records and software, provide gender-neutral restrooms in all campus buildings, and provide training for faculty and staff members on transgender issues.

Sean Huddleston, assistant vice president for Strategic Implementation, said next steps include creating collaborative efforts to address and implement the recommendations.

## COT group changes name

Staff members in clerical, office, technical and engineering positions have selected a new independent representative, the Alliance of Professional Support Staff and are no longer affiliated with the MEA.

APSS leaders have decided to change the staff group name to Professional Support Staff (PSS), from Clerical, Office and Technical Staff (COT).

Officials said use of the word “clerical” as a description is dated and “support staff” accurately reflects the evolution of the work performed by this staff group. Departments are asked to make the staff group title change on documents, websites, committee names, etc.

Questions can be directed to Maggie McCrystal, Human Resources, at x12215 or [mccrystm@gvsu.edu](mailto:mccrystm@gvsu.edu).

## Weight loss study needs participants

An interdisciplinary team of faculty members and students is conducting an obesity study and seeking participants from the campus community.

Research subjects will participate in a free weight loss program that includes one-on-one coaching from a team member. Children older than age 4 and adults are needed for the study.

Brenda Pawl, director of special projects for the Vice Provost for Health, said the program consists of four behavior-based educational sessions: wellness, nutrition, eating behaviors and physical activity.

The weight loss program is sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Health, and is housed at the Kirkhof College of Nursing’s Family Health Center, 72 Sheldon Blvd SE in Grand Rapids. The study is supported by a Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention grant. Others on the team are from Grand Valley’s social work and athletic training programs.

To be eligible, adults need to have a BMI of 25 or greater. Children must

continues on page 3

## FORUM Volume 38, Number 21

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](mailto:forum@gvsu.edu). Telephone: 616-331-2221. Fax: 616-331-2250. Web: [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://www.gvsu.edu/forum).

Faculty and staff members can find an online “Sketches” submission form on the Web at [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://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](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

Visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVN<sup>ow</sup>, at [www.gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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



# Faculty and Staff Sketches

## In the News

**Paul Sicilian**, associate professor of economics, was interviewed by WOOD-AM for a story about efforts to raise the minimum wage in Michigan.

## Sketches

**Amy Russell**, assistant professor of biology, wrote articles, “Genetic Structure of Little Brown Bats Correlates with Spread of White-Nose Syndrome among Hibernacula,” published in the *Journal of Heredity*; and “Market Forces and Technological Substitutes Can Cause Fluctuations in the Value of Bat Pest-Control Services for Cotton,” published in the journal *PLoS ONE*.

**Craig Benjamin**, associate professor of history, Honors College, began a two-year term as president of the World History Association.

**Jonathan Engelsma**, associate professor of computing and information systems, gave a presentation, “A Hive Scale Web Portal,” at the Bee Informed Partnership annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

**Paul J Reitemeier**, chair of the Human Research Review Committee, gave a presentation, “Ethically Valid Consent and Assent in Persons with Diminished Cognitive Capacity,” for the Kent County Medical Society.

**Rick Iadonisi**, affiliate professor of writing, wrote an article, “Gerald Vizenor’s

‘Socioacupuncture’ through His Haiku,” published in the *Journal of Ethnic American Literature*.

**Mary Claire Schutten**, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, gave a presentation, “A Data Driven Advising Model for Student Retention and Success: A Pilot Program’s Initial Steps,” at the Hawaii International Conference on Education.

**Rob Franciosi**, professor of English, gave a presentation, “Reading Anne Frank’s Diaries,” at the Modern Language Association Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

**Figen Mekik**, professor of geology, wrote an article, “Radiocarbon Dating of Planktonic Foraminifer Shells: A Cautionary Tale,” published in *Paleoceanography*.

**Steve Mattox**, professor of geology, was invited to speak at the Future of Geoscience Undergraduate Education in Austin, Texas. **Virginia Peterson**, associate professor and chair of geology, also attended.

**Jason Crouthamel**, associate professor of history, wrote a chapter, “Love in the Trenches: German Soldiers’ Conceptions of Sexual Deviance and Hegemonic Masculinity in the First World War,” published in *Gender and the First World War*, by Palgrave Macmillan Press.

**Charles Pazdernik**, professor of Classics,

continues on page 4

## What's Ahead

### GVS(You) Week will celebrate giving

From February 17-21, students can celebrate the thousands of donors, including alumni and current students, who support and give to Grand Valley every year.

The Future Alumni Association will host the second GVS(You) Week to raise awareness about donors and how they impact the university. Last year, nearly 16,000 people donated to the university.

The week will kick off with a Hot Chocolate Social at the Cook Carillon Tower from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18.

On February 19 and 20, from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., students can write personal thank you messages to donors for their commitment to Grand Valley. Tables will be set up in the lobby of the Kirkhof Center February 19 and the DeVos Center February 20.

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/faa](http://www.gvsu.edu/faa). Learn more about being a Laker For a Lifetime at [www.gvsu.edu/lakerforalifetime](http://www.gvsu.edu/lakerforalifetime).

### Compensation workshop scheduled

Participants at a compensation workshop will gain a good understanding of how starting salaries are set and how market data is used to benchmark positions.

"Compensation 101" is set for Wednesday, February 19, beginning at noon in the DeVos Center, University Club.

Presenters are Linda Yuhas, director of Compensation and Employment Services; Joe Godwin and Jon Jellema, associate vice presidents for Academic Affairs. To register, visit [www.gvsu.edu/seminar](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar).

### Office of Public Culture will host discussion

The Office of Public Culture, housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, will host a public discussion, "Right to the City," on Friday, February 21.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. at 428 Bridge St. NW in Grand Rapids.

Paul Wittenbraker, associate professor of art and design, said discussion will focus on displacement of cultural spaces, homelessness and use of public property. Learn more on the Office of Public Culture's website, [look.gvsu.edu:8000/opc](http://look.gvsu.edu:8000/opc).

### Cardboard arcade raises money for nonprofit

Students will host the winter semester Cardboard Challenge, giving participants an opportunity to play games while raising money for a nonprofit organization.

The challenge is set for Friday, February 21, from 9-11:30 a.m. in Henry Hall Atrium.

Cost to participate is \$1. John Kilbourne, professor of movement science, said \$250 was raised in the fall during the first Cardboard Challenge. Money goes to the Imagination Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering and funding creativity and entrepreneurship.

### Student-directed series is 'Beyond Therapy'

The PS Series, which provides opportunities for student-directed productions, will host four performances of the comedy "Beyond Therapy" at the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

Evening performances are set for Friday, February 21, and Saturday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances at 2 p.m. are scheduled Saturday, February 22, and Sunday, February 23.

The play, by Christopher Durang, and directed by Matt Fowler, focuses on Prudence and Bruce, two Manhattanites who are seeking stable romantic relationships with the help of their psychiatrists, each of whom suggests the patient place a personal ad.

Tickets, \$6 or \$7 day of show, are available at the LAT box office at x12300. For more information visit [www.gvsu.edu/theatre](http://www.gvsu.edu/theatre).

### PAS to help host conference for young girls

Physician Assistant Studies faculty members and students have collaborated with two organizations to host a free conference for area girls and their parents during National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

"everyBODY is Beautiful" is set for Monday, February 24, from 6-8 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. It's geared toward girls ages 10-14 and their parents or guardians.

The partnering organizations are the Michigan Eating Disorders Alliance and Timberline Knolls Residential Treatment Center. Andrew Booth, program director and assistant professor of PAS, said sessions during the conference will be targeted towards girls and adults. Sessions will focus on self-esteem and healthy eating.

For information about the conference, call (616) 957-7700 ext. 7 or send an email to Gail Hall at [ghall@eatingdisordersmichigan.org](mailto:ghall@eatingdisordersmichigan.org).

## Across Campus

*continued from page 2*

have a BMI higher than the 85th percentile for their age and gender.

Appointments can be scheduled through the Office of the Vice Provost for Health at x15883; contact Pawl at x15960 or [pawlb@gvsu.edu](mailto:pawlb@gvsu.edu) with questions.



Participants at the Faculty and Staff Campaign kickoff are pictured. More than 32 percent of faculty and staff members have given to the campaign thus far.

### Faculty and Staff Campaign in full swing

The 2014 Faculty and Staff Campaign is off to a great start. More than 32 percent of faculty and

staff members have given to the campaign since its kickoff on January 22.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to support their passion by giving to a scholarship, academic program or other area of their interest. Gifts can also be made to the Grand Valley Fund or university endowment, which fund areas of the greatest need.

To give a gift or learn more about the campaign, visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/facultystaff](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/facultystaff).

### E-cigarettes included in interim policy

University leaders announced an interim policy that includes e-cigarettes in the smoking policy.

Because e-cigarettes emit a vapor that disperses chemicals, use of that type of cigarette follows the policy related to smoking a tobacco product.

Human Resources has created a committee to review the interim policy, study use of e-cigarettes on campus and recommend a permanent policy.

The smoking policy is online at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmanual](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmanual), search Policy Index A-Z.

### Trustees OK new charter schools

*continued from page 1*

The land is located between Collindale and Maynard avenues. There are already park and ride lots at two locations on Lake Michigan Drive, but they are inadequate.

The purchase of this land, which has immediate access to Lake Michigan Drive, will pick up the overflow parking. The university will pay \$1.24 million excluding closing costs, and the money will come from the Campus Development Fund.

- The board also approved requests from the university's charter schools office to authorize two new public school academies and a site addition at another.

The two new public school academies include Canton Preparatory High School in Canton, and Partnership Park Academy in Jackson. The site addition was approved for New Paradigm College Prep in Detroit.

- Trustees approved a name change for the News and Information Services department, changing it to University Communications, effective immediately. The department remains part of the University Relations division.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## General Events

### Tues., Feb. 18

9 a.m.: Human Resources Workshop "ePDP 2.0 Assessment to Completion Phase for Staff." 2263 KC. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/seminar](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar) to register.

10 a.m.: Human Resources Workshop "ePDP 2.0 Assessment to Completion Phase for Supervisors." 2263 KC. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/seminar](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar) to register.

4 p.m.: Black History Month Event: "The Meeting." CDC. Call x12177 for more information.

6 p.m.: Opening Reception for "Portrayal of Women on Social Media" Exhibit. MIPL. Call x12748 for more information.

6 p.m.: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Event: "Listen," by Carissa Woodwyk. 2215/2216 KC. Call x12177 for more information.

7 p.m.: Veterans History Project: "My Year in Vietnam." Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x13422 for more information.

### Wed., Feb. 19

11:30 a.m.: Health and Wellness hosts Alzheimer's Support Group. 2264 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Allendale Toastmasters. 2259 KC. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters](http://www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters) for more information.

Noon: Arts at Noon Series: Perugino String Quartet. CDC. Call x13484 for information.

Noon: Human Resources Workshop: "Compensation 101." 107C DEV. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/seminar](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar) to register.

6 p.m.: Inclusion and Equity hosts "Fruitvale Station" Film and Discussion. GRR, KC. Call x13296 for more information.

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

### Thurs., Feb. 20

7:30 a.m.: Downtown Toastmasters. 107C DEV. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters](http://www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters) for more information.

11:30 a.m.: Health and Wellness hosts Alzheimer's Support Group. 302C DEV. Email [sloops@gvsu.edu](mailto:sloops@gvsu.edu) to register.

1:30 p.m.: Human Resources Excellence Series: "International Students in the Classroom/Working With International Students," by Kate Stoetzner. 2263 KC. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/seminar](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar) to register.

8 p.m.: University Arts Chorale, Cantate Chamber Ensemble, and Varsity XIV. CDC. Call x13484 for more information.

### Fri., Feb. 21

9-11:30 a.m.: Cardboard Challenge. Atrium, HRY. Call x18683 for more information.

10 a.m.: Health and Wellness hosts Cancer Warriors Network. 2270 KC. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/seminar](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar) to register.

Noon: Black History Month Event: "A Taste of Soul." KC Lobby. Call x12177 for more information.

5 p.m.: Guest Artist Series: Schuyler Slack, cello, and Garnet Ungar, piano. 1325 PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

7:30 p.m.: Theater presents "Beyond Therapy." Visit [www.gvsu.edu/theatre](http://www.gvsu.edu/theatre) for more information.

### Sat., Feb. 22

Noon: Black History Month Event: Day of Service, God's Kitchen, Grand Rapids. Call x12177 to register.

2 and 7:30 p.m.: Theater presents "Beyond Therapy." Visit [www.gvsu.edu/theatre](http://www.gvsu.edu/theatre) for more information.

### Sun., Feb. 23

2 p.m.: Theater presents "Beyond Therapy." Visit [www.gvsu.edu/theatre](http://www.gvsu.edu/theatre) for more information.

## Sports

### Thurs., Feb. 20

6 and 8 p.m.: Women's and Men's Basketball hosts Saginaw Valley State University.

### Fri., Feb. 21

3 p.m.: Track & Field hosts GVSU Tune-Up.

7 p.m.: Women's Lacrosse hosts Adelphi University.

## Faculty and Staff Sketches

*continued from page 2*

gave a presentation, "Reinventing Theoderic in Procopius' Gothic War," at Reinventing Procopius: New Readings on Late Antique Historiography held at Corpus Christi College in Oxford, UK.

**Diane Rayor**, professor of Classics, wrote a new book, *Sappho: A New Translation of the Complete Work*, published by Cambridge University Press. Her English translation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, published in 2011, will be used to stage a production at Colgate University in March, and was translated into Assamese for a February stage production in northern India.

**John K. Koches**, associate research scientist for AWRI, hosted the Second Mayors' Summit for the West Michigan Community Sustainability Partnership held at the Alumni House.

**John Kilbourne**, professor of movement science, had his research on activity permissible

classrooms featured in *360-Wellbeing: A Bottom Line Issue*.

**Marie Ullrich**, assistant professor of communications, had her documentary, "Disappearing France," accepted to the Ethnografilm Festival in Paris, France.

**Amy Matthews**, professor of psychology and project director for START, received a grant from the Michigan Department of Education for the START Project.

**Karen Meyers**, director of the Regional Math and Science Center, received a grant from the Michigan Department of Education for the Regional Math and Science Center.

**Cynthia Thompson**, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, received a grant from the American Society of Primatologists for a project, "Non-Invasive Methods to Evaluate Thermoregulatory and Metabolic Hormones in Free-Ranging New World Primates."

## Scientist of the year

Ryan Thum, a researcher at Grand Valley's Annis Water Resources Institute, has been awarded Scientist of the Year honors by the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society.



Ryan Thum

Thum's research at AWRI focuses on evolutionary and molecular ecology, with a specific emphasis on invasive aquatic species.

His lab is currently working on experiments that will help explain herbicide resistance in aquatic plants, along with the evolutionary ecology of invasive plants.