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Grand Valley State University

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# FORUM

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

**Published by University Communications**



## *Beyrle receives Hauenstein Fellowship Medal*

John Beyrle, Grand Valley alumnus and former ambassador to the Russian Federation, was awarded the Hauenstein Fellowship Medal from the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Beyrle received the medal, one of the highest honors the university can give, after his remarks February 8 at the Grand Rapids Economic Club luncheon in Grand Rapids.

The medal was presented by President Thomas J. Haas; David Hooker, chair of the Grand Valley Board of Trustees; and Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center.

Beyrle graduated from Grand Valley in 1975 and served as an American diplomat for three decades in foreign postings and domestic assignments focused on Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Russia. He served as ambassador to Russia from 2008-2012 implementing policies that led to improved U.S.-Russian relations, highlighted by the signing of the START nuclear arms reduction treaty.

During his remarks, Beyrle said it is important to find ways to stay engaged with Russia.

"I see a difference that has evolved over the past 25 years that gives some cause for optimism, and that is in the Russian society itself," said Beyrle. "People are now connected globally — some travel abroad, some are employed by U.S. companies and others are getting a global education."

Beyrle thanked Grand Valley for the Fellowship Medal and singled out some of his professors for helping shape his career path.

The Fellowship Medal is periodically awarded to a distinguished public servant whose achievements are consistent with the ethical leadership and public service of Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein.

Previous recipients include Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, National



Photo by Amanda Pitts

President Haas, left, and David Hooker present medal to John Beyrle at the Grand Rapids Economic Club luncheon in Grand Rapids.

Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and President Gerald R. Ford, posthumously.

## *Across Campus*

### **Health professions programs expand**

Grand Valley will expand its Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Allied Health Sciences programs to the university's regional center in Traverse City.

Theresa Bacon-Baguley, associate dean for research in the College of Health Professions, said the decision to expand these two programs to Traverse City is based on the need for professionals to fill critical, health-related positions and for more educational health programs in northern Michigan.

The MPH program will focus on health promotion, a branch of public health that promotes health through education, intervention and policy work. The program will address how to identify specific needs of a community, and create ways to elevate its health status and reduce disparities.

Heather Wallace is an assistant professor who is working on the Traverse City expansion, she said the program is the first of its kind to be offered to people living and working in the Traverse City area.

"Graduates will gain a toolbox of knowledge



Roy Olsson



Theresa Bacon-Baguley

and skills, which are in high demand right now," Wallace said. "They will learn valuable skills like how to incorporate new wellness policies at a company and how to evaluate use of resources in a way that promotes efficiency and effectiveness. I see our graduates going on to work for many types of workplaces, including governmental agencies and private companies."

About 15 applicants will be admitted in the first cohort; applications are being accepted until May 1. Classes will begin in fall 2016

Enrollment for the allied health sciences program is now open and classes will also begin in fall 2016.

Michael Wambach, assistant professor and chair of allied health sciences, said the program was designed to complement Grand Valley's Master of Physician Assistant Studies program that is also offered in Traverse City.

"This will allow students interested in physician assistant studies to take both our undergraduate and graduate curriculum in a more seamless manner," said Wambach.

Roy Olsson, dean of the College of Health Professions, said expansion of the programs is part of an ongoing effort to place more graduates in jobs in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The physician assistant studies program expanded to Traverse City in 2015; the first cohort began classes last fall.

### **Faculty and Staff Campaign kicks off**

Each year, faculty and staff members show their steadfast support for Grand Valley and its students by participating in the Faculty and Staff Campaign.

The 2015-2016 campaign kicked off on

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# Across Campus

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February 3, giving Grand Valley employees the opportunity to reclaim their place as the most generous

university community in Michigan, as nearly 60 percent of faculty and staff members gave last year.

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to support their passions by giving to a scholarship, academic program, or other area of their interest. Gifts can also be made to the university endowment or Grand Valley Fund, which support areas of greatest need. During the campaign all gifts to any endowed fund will be matched, doubling the gift's impact.

Examples of funds that are matched 1:1 are the Bart & Anne Merkle Dean of Students Leadership Endowed Scholarship, Tom and Marcia Haas Power of 10 Endowed Scholarship, and Tim and Terry Selgo Student-Athlete Scholarship Endowment.

To check your personal giving history or to learn more about the Faculty and Staff Campaign, visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/facultystaff](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/facultystaff).

## With Laker Line, riders would see more space, enhancements

The Laker Line initiative would offer students and riders enhanced transportation options between the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses, with a shorter ride time and better schedule consistency.

Funding for The Laker Line will receive \$57 million if the federal budget receives approval. The U.S. Transportation secretary announced Wednesday that funding for the project is included in President Obama's 2017 budget.

The new bus rapid transit (BRT) line would connect the Allendale Campus with the downtown Pew Campus and the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on Medical Mile.

Enhancements include increasing capacity by utilizing larger, articulated buses; installing sheltered and raised bus stations; and improving connectivity via traffic signal priority.

"We are excited to see this in the proposed budget," said Lisa Haynes, assistant vice president for Operations for the Pew Campus and Regional

 **Together**

2015 - 2016  
Faculty & Staff Campaign

Centers. "The articulated buses proposed will increase capacity to meet the ongoing demand of ridership."

Haynes said funding would be used to build stations that look more like light rail stations with seats, shelters with snowmelt and raised platforms so riders don't have to step up to get on the bus. She said the articulated buses would have dual boarding with wider doors for quicker boarding.

Grand Valley accounts for more than three million annual rides on the Rapid bus system and offers a variety of alternative transportation services including car sharing, bike rentals, ride sharing, commuter parking and transit services.

The Rapid's most popular route is the Route 50 bus between downtown Grand Rapids and the Allendale Campus. It carries between 9,000 and 11,000 riders every weekday.

## AWRI offers internships

The Annis Water Resources Institute is offering several undergraduate internships: the Scientech Club Foundation Internship and the Robert B. Annis Foundation Undergraduate Student Internship, both for this summer.

Deadline to apply is March 4; criteria for applying for these internships is available at [www.gvsu.edu/wri/internships](http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/internships).

AWRI is also accepting applications for a fall semester scholarship, Bill & Diana Wipperfurth Student Research Scholarship, for graduate or undergraduate students. Information is posted online at [www.gvsu.edu/myscholarship](http://www.gvsu.edu/myscholarship). The application deadline is March 1.

## KCON faculty can offer support to caregivers

Two Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members with expertise in caring for people with dementia are available to support faculty and staff members who serve as caregivers to someone with a memory problem.

Through a Health and Wellness initiative, professors of nursing Cynthia Beel-Bates and Rebecca Davis can offer help to caregivers about common questions like area resources or signs and symptoms of memory problems.

Davis said a common problem for caregivers is getting a diagnosis for their loved one. "They are unsure if the cognitive changes their loved one is having are due to normal aging changes or to something else, and many

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Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVNnow, at [www.gvsu.edu/gvnnow](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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

## GVFaces

### Oliver Aguilera, Library Specialist

Oliver Aguilera is getting to know different territory on campus in his new position as a library specialist.

Aguilera works as an evening library specialist in access and delivery at the Mary Idema Pew Library. In that role, Aguilera supervises student workers, and collaborates with his colleagues to ensure that library operations run smoothly. He explained that he is still new to the position, and has much to learn.

"I work with an incredible team," he said. "They continue to teach me the necessary skills to be successful in this position. It has been an exciting experience!"

Aguilera was born and raised in Mexico. He migrated to Arizona where he attended high school, and then moved to Grand Rapids.

Soon after arriving in Michigan, Aguilera began working at Grand Valley. For the past 15 years he has worked for the Copy Center, School of Social Work and, most recently, the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

He is also pursuing a bachelor's degree in liberal studies. Aguilera has combined multiple

interests into the degree, such as anthropology, archaeology, urban planning and sculpture.

"The whole cliché about the lifelong-learner, I really feel that it applies to me. I don't feel like there's something I wouldn't want to try or explore," he said.

Throughout his classes and the variety of positions he has held, Aguilera said that he has continually admired the people he has interacted with.

"These experiences have introduced me to many unique and incredible individuals and cultures that have not been limited by space or time. Our institution is amazing in a way that it attracts talent from across the world," he said.



Oliver Aguilera with his youngest daughter, Jasmine





# What's Ahead

## Arts at Noon to present piano, percussion duo

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series continues on Wednesday, February 17, with a musical mix of piano and percussion.

Jani Parsons, pianist, and Chris Sies, percussionist, have performed across North America both as soloists and as members of the mixed chamber sextet, Latitude 49. During this performance, the Chicago-based duo will perform works that celebrate the versatility of their instruments.

Born in Cranbrook, British Columbia, Parsons made her orchestral debut with the Symphony of the Kootenays at age 16. Parsons has established herself throughout western Canada and the U.S. as a sensitive pianist whose performances are noted for their warmth, personality and vivid expression. She earned a bachelor's of music degree from the Vancouver Academy of Music S.K. Lee College in Vancouver, and a master's of music degree from the University of Michigan. She is currently pursuing her doctorate there.

Originally from Maryland, Sies has appeared with the U.S. Navy Band, New Music Detroit, Michigan Arab Orchestra, Jackson Symphony Orchestra and So Percussion. Sies has performed at the Midwest Composer's Symposium, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival and New Music Detroit's annual Strange Beautiful Music Festival. Sies has given his time and talents to the worlds of dance and performance art, as well as various multimedia projects with works presented by the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States, Percussion Arts Society and Ann Arbor Dance Works.

All Arts at Noon concerts are free, open to the public, begin at noon, last approximately one hour and take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

For more information about the Arts at Noon concert series, visit [www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon](http://www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon).



Chris Sies and Jani Parsons will perform during Arts at Noon on February 17.

## Graduate School to host thesis competition

It's like "Shark Tank" for intellectuals. Graduate students will have just a few minutes to present their research to a panel of judges during the first-ever 3-Minute Thesis Competition hosted by The Graduate School.

Twelve students will compete Thursday, February 18, from 3:30-5 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

The first-place winner will receive \$500 and the chance to advance to the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools 3-Minute Thesis competition in April in Chicago. The second-place winner will receive \$200 and third-place winner \$100. A People's Choice award will also be presented.

Faculty judges include Corey Anton, Lori Houghton-Rahrig, Roger Wilson, Brandon Youker, Katie Barnhart, Shabbir Choudhuri and Shannon Biros. Len O'Kelly will serve as emcee.

The competition began at the University of Queensland in Australia and has expanded across the world.

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/gs](http://www.gvsu.edu/gs).

## Students to participate in puppeteering workshop, performance

Thanks to the likes of "Sesame Street," "The Muppets" and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," puppets have been character staples in the worlds of television, film and theater for many years.

Grand Valley students are currently learning to perform with puppets, and even creating their own, during an intensive, week-long workshop that concludes Saturday, February 20, with a performance at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre. This performance will be free and open to the public.

During the intensive workshop, students will experiment with puppet manipulation techniques, explore the features and capabilities of a custom puppetry stage, work in small groups to develop a short play, and develop character voicing and movements.

The workshop will be facilitated by Jason Yancey, assistant professor of Spanish at Grand Valley, who has more than 15 years of puppeteering experience. While these types of workshops are rare for Yancey to facilitate, he regularly teaches an upper-level Spanish course during which his students write and produce puppet shows that they later perform in local Spanish-speaking elementary schools. For example, in 2013, Yancey wrote and produced a bilingual puppet adaptation for "Don Quixote," which he performed with four of his students across several states in the U.S.

Yancey said the natural abilities of theater students to create and portray characters on stage will easily translate to puppetry — although this workshop is open to all Grand Valley students.

"I find that working with puppets causes me to focus even more intently on every tiny aspect of what my voice and body are doing at every moment," Yancey said. "The puppet itself is really just a prop and a skilled puppeteer almost magically breathes life into its limbs, arms, body and soul. That process, I believe, makes actors better performers in every way."

Yancey added that there is also a humanistic benefit to working and performing with puppets.

"You learn how to work very intimately with your fellow performers, in close physical proximity with puppets that require multiple operators, as well as close proximity during complicated behind-the-scenes action," Yancey said. "Diving into the experience and succeeding supplies confidence to actors, especially student actors still learning and growing."

James Bell, associate professor of theater and the department's faculty facilitator for the workshop, said every year workshops are provided for students to give them opportunities to expand their theatrical training.

"Puppeteering is not an area that we have in our curriculum, nor is it an area that we have had previously as a workshop," Bell said. "But, this type of theater performance dates back centuries and is currently used in contemporary theater."

For more information about the workshop and performance, contact Yancey at [yanceyj@gvsu.edu](mailto:yanceyj@gvsu.edu) or contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at x12300.

## Music ensembles team with local church choir for free concert

Teaming with Park Church's Chancel Choir for the first time, the GVSU Symphony Orchestra and University Arts Chorale will present an afternoon of choral and musical excellence during a free concert.

The Great American Voices Series Collaboration Concert will take place Sunday, February 21, at 3 p.m. at Park Church, 101 E Park Plaza NE in Grand Rapids.

The program will open with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra performing a Mozart overture, and the Park Chancel Choir will join the orchestra to perform "Tue Deum," by Bruckner.

Henry Duitman, Symphony Orchestra director, will conduct the University Arts Chorale and orchestra in a performance of Fauré's "Requiem." Ellen Pool, director of choral ensembles, will conduct the combined choirs with harp accompaniment on two of John Rutter's arrangements of folk hymns.

The concert will conclude with Duitman conducting the full orchestra and combined choirs in a finale utilizing Vaughan Williams' "O Clap Your Hands," a piece first heard at Queen Elizabeth's coronation more than 50 years ago. A freewill offering to benefit string scholarships at Grand Valley will be taken.



The GVSU Symphony Orchestra and University Arts Chorale will perform with the Park Church's Chancel Choir in Grand Rapids on February 21.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Kurt Ellenberger**, professor of music, honors, wrote an article, "Hero: Thoughts on the Music and Career of David Bowie," published in the *Huffington Post*.

## Sketches

**Lara Jaskiewicz**, assistant professor of public, nonprofit, and health administration, gave a presentation, "Impact of a New Local Food Market on Low-income Neighborhood Availability of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables," at the Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association. She also wrote an article, "Finding Food Deserts: Issues of Spatial Measurement," published in *Health Promotion Practice*.

**Brent Smith**, assistant professor of liberal studies and religious studies, wrote an article, "Beyond the Concepts of the Secular and the Religious," published in the *Journal of Cultural and Religious Studies*.

**Jason Crouthamel**, associate professor of history, gave a presentation, "Trauma Studies: New Paths of Research," at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin.

**Salvatore Alaimo**, associate professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, wrote an article, "The Impact of the Demand for Program Evaluation on Professional Fundraisers," published in the *Journal of Grant Professionals Association*.

**Isabelle Cata**, professor of French, wrote a book, a critical study on the Congolese poet and writer, Kama Sywor Kamanda, *La Quête du rêve d'absolu*, and an article, "Yasmina Khadra:

à la recherche d'un miracle?" published in the *Proceedings on a Conference on Algerian Literature*.

**Rick Iadonisi**, affiliate professor of writing, wrote an article, "Writing the (Revolutionary) Body: The Haiku of Sonia Sanchez," published in *African American Haiku: Cultural Visions*.

**Chris Haven**, associate professor of writing, wrote a poem, "Instant Replay," published in the *Beloit Poetry Journal*.

**Gamal Gasim**, associate professor of Middle East Studies, was a co-author of an article, "The Political, Social, and Religious Attitudes of Muslim Americans," published by *Islamic Perspective and Culture*.

## Across Campus

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doctors do not screen for these problems," Davis said. "Many families do not know who to go to or what to ask for in terms of getting a diagnosis."

Beel-Bates and Davis will give a presentation on memory support during the Health and Wellness Ambassador event on March 1 from 8:45-9:15 a.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. Faculty and staff members can register for the event online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout).

Beel-Bates can be contacted at [beelbatc@gvsu.edu](mailto:beelbatc@gvsu.edu) and Davis can be reached at [davirebe@gvsu.edu](mailto:davirebe@gvsu.edu).

### Nominations open for A/P awards

Nominations are sought for Administrative/Professional awards.

Students, faculty and staff can nominate an A/P staff member for individual or team awards in six categories: Achievement, Commitment to Diversity, Commitment to Students, Innovation, Outstanding Team Project and Service To Community.

The deadline to nominate someone is March 18. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/ap/awards](http://www.gvsu.edu/ap/awards) for more information about criteria and the submission process.

### Winter gear collection drive supports refugees

Several Grand Valley groups are working together to collect winter gear for refugees who are settling in West Michigan.

Kaufman Interfaith Institute, Better Together, Wesley Fellowship, and Community Service Learning Center are receiving donations of coats, hats and mittens that will be donated to Bethany Christian Services.

Items can be dropped off at the CSLC in the Kirkhof Center, room 1110, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or in the donation box at North Community Center in Laker Village.

Ranya Hwail, president of the student organization Better Together, estimates that there are about 700 refugees currently living in West Michigan. She said many are in need of basic items when they first arrive in the U.S.

"We are accepting gear for families and individuals who have just

arrived here from countries all over the world and are about to endure our cold West Michigan weather," said Hwail.

Hwail said the winter gear collection drive is part of Better Together's ongoing efforts to provide a space for students to build interfaith cooperation and talk about diversity, inclusion and religion.

Aquinas and Calvin colleges are also participating in the winter gear collection drive. For more information, contact CSLC at x12468.

### Asian Student Union hosts heritage celebration

The Asian Student Union hosted a festival in the Kirkhof Center February 4 to showcase traditional Asian New Year celebrations.

Organizers said Grand Valley students enjoyed experiencing different cultures. "We actually have a large Vietnamese population in the Grand Rapids area," said Hillary Rentfrow, ASU activities coordinator. "The Lunar New Year is a huge celebration in Vietnam, China and other countries. This is a really important time for students, just to be able to have that experience and share it with other students."

The event was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, East Asian Studies Department, and the Grand Rapids Community College Asian Student Union. It highlighted the richness and diversity of Asia and featured Asian cuisine and traditional performances from ethnic groups.

The event also raised money for Heartland Hospice.



Photo by Christi Wiltenburg

Students at the Asian New Year festival donate money to Heartland Hospice.