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Grand Valley State University

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MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014

FORUM

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

Published by University Communications



Volunteers needed during annual outreach week

From helping construct a home for a single mother in Holland, collecting canned goods in Florida or cleaning the Belle Isle Aquarium in Detroit, hundreds of people will volunteer in the name of Grand Valley during the annual Community Outreach Week.

Set for March 24-30, the sixth annual event is sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Community Service Learning Center.

Last year's COW saw more than 3,600 hours of service logged by 930 volunteers.

Projects have already been created in Allendale, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Arizona and Texas. Abigayle Sloan, assistant director for Alumni Relations, said the project list continues to grow. Visit www.gvsu.edu/cow to join an already created project or add a new one.

The website also includes project ideas, resources, and a world map that shows the impact of Laker volunteers.

The CSLC will host larger projects for students. More information about student service opportunities is online at www.gvsu.edu/service.



Members of the San Francisco Bay Alumni Club paint a community center during COW 2013. Sign up to participate in this year's Community Outreach Week by visiting www.gvsu.edu/cow.

Across Campus

Recycled cartridges will support COE program

The College of Education is collecting used ink and laser cartridges from campus departments and offices.

Funds exchanged for the recycled cartridges will support the Adopt-A-District program, which works to provide school districts with a variety of professional development opportunities, grant writing assistance and program development.

Cartridges can be sent to Carol Gielow in the COE Student Information and Services Center at the DeVos Center, room 402C. For more information, contact Gielow at x16203.

Student contest held for social media

Students with creative ideas for Grand Valley's social media platforms can enter a contest organized by the Marketing Department in the Seidman College of Business.

Social:You challenges teams of students to create a social media plan for the university's

official social media platforms. The contest is open to all undergraduate and graduate students. Registration ends March 10, plans are due March 24.

"The contest is a great opportunity to think differently about something that students use constantly," said Justin Lawrence, graduate assistant in the Marketing Department.

Lawrence said content should showcase Grand Valley pride, student life, tradition, academics and athletics.

All materials, including videos, photos, graphics and text must be created by participants and included in the finished social media plan. Submissions should span three to four months and can use one or all of the social media platforms where the university has a presence, including Pinterest, Instagram, LinkedIn, Flickr, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. A full list can be found at www.gvsu.edu/socialmedia.

The top three plans will be presented to a panel of judges April 1-3. The winners will be announced April 8. The first-place winner will receive \$500; second-place winner will receive \$100.

Registration forms and contest guidelines

can be found on the Marketing Department's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/seidmanmarketing.

GVSU Facebook page recognized for engagement

Grand Valley's official Facebook page has been named as one of the "Most Engaging College Facebook Pages of 2013" by Varsity Outreach.

Grand Valley is included in a top 10 list of universities that have been most successful at consistently engaging fans. The list includes universities and colleges that have a fanbase of 20,000-74,000. Grand Valley is the only Michigan university included in that list.

Varsity Outreach, a business that helps colleges and graduate schools build communities for students within Facebook, analyzed every Facebook post on more than 700 college and university pages in the U.S. and Canada.

The amount of likes, comments and shares for more than 300,000 posts in 2013 were analyzed and given an engagement score.

Across Campus

Official signing



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

University leaders, from left, Maggie McCrystal, Coreen Bedford and Scott Richardson sign paperwork to officially designate the Alliance of Professional Support Staff February 25 in the Kirkhof Center.

Events will celebrate Women's History Month

A variety of events are planned throughout March to celebrate Women's History Month on campus.

Sponsored by the Women's Center and Women and Gender Studies, events are free and open to the public.

The first event, "Hands Off! Ending the War on Women," will take place on March 10, 7-9 p.m. at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts in Grand Rapids.

Jessica Jennrich, director of the Women's Center, will join a panel for a discussion on women's rights in the U.S.

Other events are highlighted below.

- **Her Story with Jo Ann Wassenaar:** March 11, noon, Kirkhof Center, room 2204.
- **EqualiTEA:** March 18, 3 p.m., room 2204, Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

Students, faculty and staff members are invited to celebrate a centuries-old tradition of combining tea parties with discussions of literature, politics and reform. RSVP at www.gvsu.edu/women_cen.

- **Women's Commission Fireside Chats:** March 26, noon, Kirkhof Center, room 1201.

The series provides an environment for diverse women from across campus to engage in intercultural education.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, assistant professor of liberal studies, will give a presentation, "Migration and Social Justice Movements."

- **Masculopathy:** March 28, noon, Meijer Holland Campus, room 102.

Randy Flood, director and co-founder of the Men's Resource Center of West Michigan will share his research, knowledge and expertise of masculopathy, pathological masculinity.

For more information, contact the Women's Center at x12748 or visit www.gvsu.edu/women_cen.

What's Ahead

Happiness Club to meet

The Happiness Club will meet Thursday, March 6, at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 1104.

The topic will be "Overcoming the Winter Blahs." All faculty and staff members are invited, no registration is necessary.

Readings, websites and videos related to maintaining a greater sense of happiness are online at www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness, search "Happiness Spot."

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The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, c/o forum@gvsu.edu. Telephone: 616-331-2221. Fax: 616-331-2250. Web: www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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

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Other publications by University Communications include:

Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVN^{ow}, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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



GVFaces

Rhonda LeMieux, Student Services Assistant

Rhonda LeMieux lives by a motto, "Everything we do in life prepares us for something in the future." Looking back, she said she can now see how that applies to her own life.

LeMieux attended Michigan State University and then transferred to the Radiologic Technology School at Saint Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids in 1984. She worked as an X-ray technician in California and Kentucky before returning to her hometown of Coopersville.

"As an X-ray technician I learned a number of skills that I use in my current role at Grand Valley, including working in a fast-paced environment, having to think on your feet and the fact that no two days are the same," said LeMieux.

LeMieux also worked in direct sales for a number of years, and as the director of religious education at a local church. She began her career at Grand Valley with the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies in 2008.

As the student services assistant for the Dean of Students Office, LeMieux said all the skills she has learned in past roles are brought to the forefront.

LeMieux is responsible for coordinating

the summer parent orientation sessions, working with the College of Student Affairs Leadership Program and assisting the vice provost for student affairs and the director of judicial and special programs. Another important aspect of her role is supervising the student workers for the office.



Rhonda LeMieux

"I enjoy being able to help students see the value in their role with our office," said LeMieux. "It is important that they understand that the job skills they learn here are applicable to what they will do in the future. I also want them to know that the university cares about them as people."

LeMieux is also involved on campus and takes a personal interest in professional development opportunities around inclusion and equity. She helps facilitate the Allies and Advocates training programs for students and Greek organizations.

LeMieux said she enjoys spending time with her husband and friends. She is also the primary caretaker of her mother and older brother, calling it a rewarding and challenging role that she said makes her appreciate life and the time she is given.