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## Grand Valley Forum, volume 040, number 22, February 22, 2016

Grand Valley State University

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# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by University Communications



## Presidential candidate holds town hall on campus

Republican presidential hopeful and Ohio Gov. John Kasich discussed what he said were three key components to creating jobs and gave life advice to students at a packed town hall event February 15 at the Kirkhof Center.

Kasich, whose stop at Grand Valley was sponsored by the College Republicans, touched on the economy, jobs and partisan politics in a wide-ranging discussion before taking questions.

spirit of our country. Let's pick up the baton and run for the finish line."

Life advice also figured prominently in Kasich's speech, advising students to abstain from drugs, surround themselves with people who believe in them, and to persist in the face of adversity. "You students are here to live big. You only have one time to be young," Kasich said. "Have very big dreams, because sometimes it's hard for people close to you to see the big dreams you have, and how they can help you make them come true."

Responding to audience questions, Kasich said he favored aggressively pursuing development of renewable energy, would favor medical use of marijuana but not legalize it for recreational use, and that funding for mental health programs should be increased.

Party politics also played a role in Kasich's speech. He said that the Republican party was "his vehicle, not his master," and said jokingly that the only people he takes orders from are his wife and teenage daughters.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

John Kasich, Republican candidate for president, is pictured after a town hall meeting in the Kirkhof Center February 15.

Kasich said that avoiding over-regulation of businesses, cutting taxes at every opportunity and balancing the budget are three things that must be done to improve the economy and jobs outlook. "A job is an essential part of this life," Kasich said. "We're made to do good, productive things. So we have to create an environment to create jobs."

Kasich also stressed the importance of local and state control on a number of issues, but told the audience that waiting on action from Washington on important issues in their own communities was a mistake.

"You can't wait for someone to ride in on a white horse from Washington," Kasich said. "I think they're all out of those over there. We need to revive the

## Board OKs agreements with Belknap neighborhood

Grand Valley's Board of Trustees approved two memos of understanding regarding property the university owns in the Belknap neighborhood in the city of Grand Rapids. The approvals came at the board's February 12 meeting at the L. William Seidman Center, following the city commission's approval at its meeting earlier that week.

The MOUs followed a collaborative process by representatives from Grand Valley, Neighbors of Belknap Lookout, and the city. The three parties are committed to cooperatively developing the property while keeping the needs of the neighborhood and those who live there in focus.

One agreement involves vacating an alley that is on the university's property, planning for affordable housing and the review process for building plans when they are developed. The other agreement uses the urban planning consultants Smithgroup JJR and involves how the university will work with the neighborhood to ensure that any future building on university property fits in with the character and integrity of the neighborhood.

"Grand Valley is committed to working with the neighborhood so that future development enhances the area," said President Thomas

J. Haas. "These memos of understanding illustrate our desire to help the city with affordable housing and the area residents with employment opportunities. The city and the neighborhood representatives are working with us and that will lead to the right outcome for all involved."

Now that the board and the city have approved these agreements, the university will move into the planning stages for a building that will expand Grand Valley's health campus. There is no timetable for construction at this time. Grand Valley is the region's number one provider of health care professionals.

In other board action:

Students will see a modest increase in room and board rates beginning with the fall 2016 semester. The board voted to increase the rate 1.6 percent. The average cost for living on campus per semester will increase by \$32; the cost per semester in a traditional living center will be \$2,725. Students can choose from a variety of meal plans. The cost for the 14-meal a week plan per semester will increase \$50 and cost \$1,475.

This year's increase in room and board rates



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Pat Waring, community relations director, discusses memos of understanding regarding the Belknap neighborhood of Grand Rapids during the February 12 Board of Trustees meeting.

is less than the five-year state average increase of 3 percent at public universities in Michigan. The fall 2015 occupancy rate at Grand Valley was 6,068 students living on campus. More than 7,800 students purchased a meal plan, which means students who don't live on campus still choose to use campus dining.

# Across Campus

## PBW honors retired faculty member

Members of Positive Black Women honored a retired faculty member at their annual Valentine's Luncheon February 11 in the Kirkhof Center.

Doris Rucks received the first PBW Trailblazer Award. Rucks, who served as an associate professor of sociology, worked at Grand Valley from 1987-1999. She was also the first coordinator of Grand Valley's women's studies program.

Now age 92 and living in Muskegon, Rucks' poor health kept her from attending the luncheon.

Shawn Jenkins, director of the Muskegon Regional Center, said Rucks was active in that lakeshore community, including a successful community drive to keep a neighborhood grocery store in Muskegon Heights.

The Trailblazer Award will subsequently be presented to a woman of color who has had tremendous impact on campus or community life.

Since PBW was established in 1994, it has endowed a scholarship fund and presented more than \$25,000 in scholarship aid to more than 70 students. More information about the faculty/staff organization is online at [www.gvsu.edu/pbw](http://www.gvsu.edu/pbw).



Photo by Christi Wiltenburg

Members of Positive Black Women are pictured at their annual Valentine's Luncheon February 11 in the Kirkhof Center. They presented a Trailblazer Award to retired faculty member Doris Rucks.

## Students place second in competition

Three Grand Valley students competed against 24 teams from five continents to take second place at the Global Family Enterprise Case Competition in mid-January at the University of Vermont.

Josue Rigueiro, management major; Sydney Ecker, accounting major; and Melissa Atkins, double-major in supply chain and management

information systems, spent several hours a week for nearly three months practicing case analysis.

The family business cases given to the competitors are taken from real situations. In a 20-minute presentation and 10-minute question-and-answer session with judges, students must solve a business case in a practical way that would be acceptable to the family who owns the business.

"We faced very strong competitors and strong schools, but we felt prepared from all the time we spent practicing," said Rigueiro. "Our goal was to make it to the finals, which would be a first for Grand Valley. We were thrilled to not only pass our goal, but win second place."

During the final round of competition, Atkins was given the Best Presenter award.

Seidman College of Business faculty coaches for the competition were Joseph Horak, Tim Syfert and Rita Grant.

"Our students came close to winning it all, but more importantly they showed what real teamwork and grace under fire looks like," said Horak, director of the Family Owned Business Institute. "They trusted each other's expertise and came up with an amazing presentation."



Pictured from left are judge Takao Kawamoto, Josue Rigueiro, Melissa Atkins, Sydney Ecker and Joe Horak.

## Grant to return to Johnson Center role

Provost Gayle R. Davis announced that Beverly Grant will complete her term in the Division of Inclusion and Equity as interim assistant vice president and return to her position at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

Grant will transition back to her Johnson Center position as associate director in April.

"Beverly has been an asset to the team in Inclusion and Equity during this transition period and the university appreciates her willingness to

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*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.

## GVFaces

### David Stark, Latin American Studies Coordinator

As a professor of history and several Latin American Studies courses, David Stark felt that taking on the role of Latin American Studies coordinator would provide him a way to increase awareness of the LAS program on campus and in the community.

Stark was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Indiana when he was 10. He completed all of his education at Indiana University, including a doctorate in Latin American History.

Stark has worked at Grand Valley for 17 years; he said he accepted the LAS coordinator position last fall because he wanted to become more involved.

Stark said his goal is to help grow interest in the program to meet the needs of the campus community as well as Hispanics who live in West Michigan. LAS is among the programs (African/

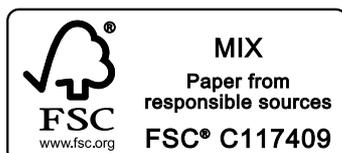
African American, East Asian, and Middle East) within the Area Studies department in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

"I want to develop the Latin American Studies program by increasing the number of student minors and bringing in a greater variety of programmed events," he said. "We also have new courses being offered, and are planning a new Latino/Latina certificate."

LAS is among the sponsors of an event on Wednesday, February 24, with award-winning journalist Rubén Martínez. He will give a presentation, "Transnational Communities and Imagination," beginning at 11 a.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.



David Stark



# What's Ahead

## PIC to hold Passport Fair

The Padnos International Center will host a Passport Fair on Tuesday, February 23, for people who would like to renew a passport or apply for a new one.

The event will run from 1-4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

Participants applying for a new passport should bring proof of U.S. citizenship, proof of identity with photo, and two separate checks or money orders (\$110 to the Department of State, \$25 to the Postal Service). Renewals require two checks (\$110 to the Department of State, \$6.45 to the Postal Service).

Passport photos can be taken at the fair for \$3. People needing a photo can also stop at the PIC office, Lake Ontario Hall room 130, during office hours to get a photo taken.

More information is online at [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad).

## Writers Series will host Emmy award-winning journalist

An Emmy award-winning journalist will share his work and experiences on campus Wednesday, February 24, as the Grand Valley Writers Series continues with Rubén Martínez.

Martínez will present "Browning Heartland: Transnational Communities and Imagination" from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. His presentation will be followed by a craft talk from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, room 2263, and a reading and book signing from 6:30-7:45 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

A native of Los Angeles, Martínez holds the Fletcher Jones Chair in Literature and Writing position at Loyola Marymount University, and also functions as an artist-in-residence at Stanford University's Institute for Diversity in the Arts. He is the author of *Desert America: A Journey Across Our Most Divided Landscape*, *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*, *The New Americans*, and *The Other Side: Notes from the New L.A., Mexico City and Beyond*.

With two decades of experience in journalism, Martínez's essays, opinions and reports have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Salon* and *Village Voice*, among others. He also hosted and co-wrote the feature-length documentary film "When Words Collide" for PBS. As a musician, Martínez has collaborated with The Roches, Los Illegals and Concrete Blonde.

This event is sponsored by Latin American Studies and School of Communications.



Rubén Martínez will share his work at several campus events February 24.

## Arts at Noon presents international musical tour

The Arts at Noon concert series continues Wednesday, February 24, when Marlen Vavříková, oboe, and Sheryl Iott, piano, present a musical tour of Germany, Italy, France, England, the U.S. and the Czech Republic.

Currently an associate professor of oboe and member of the faculty wind quintet Grand Valley Winds, Vavříková began her musical journey in the Czech Republic and moved to the U.S. to study at Eastman School of Music, where she received a master's degree in music, and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where she earned a doctorate in musical arts. Vavříková has performed with ensembles in Europe, Japan and the U.S., and has appeared as a soloist with orchestras in Ostrava, St. Louis, Champaign-Urbana, Allendale and Grand Rapids.

As a member of Open Gate, Vavříková appeared at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in New York City in a concert featuring music of American composer Gregory Mertl.

Iott is a frequent solo and collaborative performer, and serves on the piano faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp and Grand Rapids Community



Marlen Vavříková



Sheryl Iott

College. She also serves as music director at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Iott is currently working on a series of recitals and a CD with the Aries Trio after performing on a tour of the British Isles with Big Rapids-based women's choir Voca Lyrica. Iott collaborates in performance frequently with many members of the Grand Rapids Symphony and Grand Valley faculty.

All Arts at Noon concerts are free and open to the public; they begin at noon in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

## Winter Career Fair set

The Winter Career Fair will take place Thursday, February 25, from 1-5 p.m., at DeVos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids.

The fair is free and open to students and alumni seeking professional employment or internship opportunities in a wide variety of disciplines. More than 230 employers will attend, offering thousands of immediate open full-time jobs, internships and co-ops.

"First- and second-year students should go to explore job titles, career paths and companies within the major they've chosen or are considering," said Susan Proctor, employer development manager for Grand Valley's Career Center. "Connecting early will help these students find the link between their passions and academic pursuits to their future career goals, ultimately helping reduce the risk of having to change their major and decrease time to graduation."

New this year are tours scheduled throughout the day, which include a brief presentation to learn what questions to ask employers and how to talk about yourself, followed by a guided tour of the career fair room. Tour guides will be near the registration area.

The Health Career Expo, featuring health care employers, will be held in conjunction with the fair.

Participant pre-registration is not required, but students should bring their student ID. Follow and participate in the conversation on Twitter at @GVSUCareers and #GVCareerFair.

For a list of registered employers, visit [www.gvsu.edu/careers/wintercareerfair16](http://www.gvsu.edu/careers/wintercareerfair16).

## Composition contest to celebrate Great Lakes

Grand Valley students will flex their musical muscles by creating original compositions inspired by the current Art Gallery exhibition "Great Lakes: Image & Word." The one-minute compositions will be performed by the New Music Ensemble in rapid succession and judged by a guest panel and the listening audience for various prizes.

The New Music Ensemble Composition Competition will take place Thursday, February 25, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Art Gallery.

Great Lakes: Image & Word is a visual exploration of the natural resources and region of the Great Lakes. David Newell, Gallery and Collections curator of exhibitions, said the showcase spotlights the unique life experiences of those who live in this region of the Midwest through paintings, poems and more.

Nikolaus Schroeder, senior music and nonprofit administration major from Big Rapids, said he is striving to create a humanistic "balance" between the art and his composition.

"I tried to respond both to artists' and poets' personal emotions, and the ideas and concepts that the Great Lakes represent to all of us - grandeur, calmness, chaos, reflectiveness, entertainment, romance and more," Schroeder said. "It is very common practice to compose about places and concepts that have personal meaning, so it is fulfilling to artistically respond to the Lakes that I have been visiting for nearly a decade."

Great Lakes: Image & Word is on display through April 1.

## Cardboard Challenge raises money for nonprofit

Liberal studies students will present cardboard arcade games on Friday, February 26, from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Kindschi Hall outdoor lobby.

The Global Cardboard Challenge is an initiative of the Imagination Foundation. This year's Challenge aims to engage 1 million children in 70 countries in creative play.

Tickets to play are \$1. John Kilbourne, professor of movement science, said past Cardboard Challenges have raised more than \$650 for the foundation.

*What's Ahead continues on page 4*

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Gerry Simons**, professor of economics, was interviewed by MLive for a story about the effect of the strong dollar on West Michigan global companies.

## Sketches

**Dalila Kovacs**, associate professor of chemistry, organized a two-day symposium, "Green and Sustainable Chemistry Education for Tomorrow's Citizens of the World," at the International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies. Kovacs also gave a presentation, "What Is the Value of an Undergraduate Certification in Green Chemistry?" at the conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Rick Albrecht**, professor of movement science, gave a keynote address, "Our Role as Leaders in Creating Great Youth Sports Programs in Air Force and Military Communities," and another presentation, "From Good to Better to Best: Taking Our Coaching — and Our Athletes' Experiences — to the Next Level," at the U.S. Air Force Child and Youth Sports Fitness Training Course in San Antonio, Texas.

## KCON staff member dies

**Cheryl Borgman**, academic department coordinator for the Kirkhof College of Nursing, died February 14 at her home in Pennsylvania after a battle with cancer. She was 66.

Borgman began working for Grand Valley in 1997; she worked in Alumni Relations and then KCON since 2004. She was involved in Grand Valley's Cancer Warriors organization and the university's military families network. Her son, Justin, has served in the military.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said Borgman will be missed by

students, faculty and staff members. McCurren said KCON will plan a tribute to Borgman and details will be announced later.

"Cheryl gave tirelessly of her time to support many causes within Grand Valley and our community," McCurren said. "At KCON, we will always remember her caring heart, giving spirit and sparkling personality. She was a wonderful friend and colleague to many. We will miss her very much."

Funeral services were held February 17 in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Jameson Hospice of Lawrence County, 1211 Wilmington Ave., New Castle, PA, 16105.



Cheryl Borgman

## Freshman Academy team presents at OU

The Oliver Wilson Freshman Academy team gave a presentation at the Michigan Student Success Conference at Oakland University.

The presentation, "Together We Can. Together We Will: Collaborating to Meet the Needs of At Risk, Conditionally Admitted Students," highlighted the partnerships with campus departments that have created successful programming for students.



Freshman Academy staff members are pictured, from left, Linda Rettig, V'Lecea Hunter, Sulari White, Mike Messner and Gabe Peña.

## What's Ahead

### Voices of GVSU to sponsor benefit concert in Flint

The Voices of GVSU will sponsor a concert in Flint to uplift the spirits of residents affected by the water crisis and collect supplies and donations to be distributed in that community.

Cassonya Carter, director and founder of the gospel choir, said many current and alumni choir members have family members in Flint. "This is our way to let our Lakers know that we care," Carter said.

Carter worked with leaders from Flint's Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church to stage a

concert that she said "will uplift the spirits and encourage the residents of Flint."

"Living Water" is set for Saturday, February 27, at 6 p.m. at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2109 M L King Ave. in Flint.

The concert is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be collected. Flint radio personality Delores, from WFLT-AM, will be the emcee; other collegiate choirs, Heritage Voices of Praise from Grand Rapids, and Flint choirs will perform.

The Voices of GVSU will bring water and other supplies they have collected from Grand Valley. The campus community is encouraged

to drop off donations of water, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, wet wipes and other supplies to the Women's Center, Kirkhof Center room 1201, or the Kirkhof College of Nursing, Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences room 300. Proceeds will be given to Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church to distribute to people in need.

Carter established Voices as a student in 1987. Since that time, the choir has performed at signature Grand Valley events and throughout Michigan at collegiate gospel concerts and other events. For more information, contact Carter at [carterc@gvsu.edu](mailto:carterc@gvsu.edu).

## Across Campus

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serve temporarily to support Vice President Jesse Bernal as he set up the office and completed the strategic planning that will guide the division's work," Davis said.

Inclusion and Equity will begin searches for several key positions, several of which were developed under Grant's leadership.

### FTLC grant deadline nears

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center offers grants to support faculty members who are pursuing innovative projects that enhance teaching and learning.

The deadline to apply for a Teaching Innovation Grant is March 15.

Details and application instructions are online at [www.gvsu.edu/ftlc](http://www.gvsu.edu/ftlc).

### Volunteers needed for SSD

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship is looking for volunteers for 20th Annual Student Scholars Day, set for April 13.

SSD showcases faculty-mentored student work, shared through many venues, including oral presentations, discussion and panel sessions, fine arts exhibits and performances, and poster presentations.

Volunteers are needed to fill two-hour time blocks to assist with registration, hosting sessions, greeting participants and spectators, and setting up and tearing down the event.

Questions can be directed to Jakia Fuller at [fullerj1@gvsu.edu](mailto:fullerj1@gvsu.edu).

Volunteer information and a link to register are posted online at [www.gvsu.edu/ours/ssd](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours/ssd).