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Grand Valley State University

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FORUM

Monday, March 2, 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services

WGS students, supporters celebrate honor society

The newest honor society at Grand Valley inducted 25 students and 13 faculty and staff, and alumnae into its ranks during a ceremony held February 23 in the Kirkhof Center.

The Iota Iota Iota (Triota) induction ceremony was also a celebration of the first majors graduating from the Women and Gender Studies program. Kathleen Underwood, director of WGS and associate professor of history, said women's studies courses at Grand Valley began in 1973. The program was made a minor in the mid-1980s, and in 1997 it changed to include gender studies, consistent with a shift at other universities.

"In the past three years, there has been a striking increase in the numbers of students who have graduated with the minor; and the first majors, seven students, will graduate this April," Underwood said.

Provost Gayle R. Davis also spoke to the Triota inductees. As a women's studies gradu-

ate and scholar, Davis told the students about her experiences in the field.

"I learned that once you start examining the world through the lens of gender, you never look at it the same way again," Davis said.

There are 51 chapters of Triota throughout the country. Triota is named for ancient goddesses Inanna, Istar and Isis.

Inductees who are honorary or associate members are Kathleen Blumreich, Maria Cimitile, Danielle DeMuth, Gayle Davis, Marlene Kowalski-Braun, Karen Libman, Julia Mason, Viochita Nachescu, Kathryn Remlinger, Linda Rynbrandt, Sara Waalkes, Wendy Wenner and Joanne Ziembo-Vogl. Student



Photo by Heather Dixon

A student walks down a receiving line after being inducted into Triota, the honor society for Women and Gender Studies. From left are Kathleen Underwood, Gayle Davis, Marlene Kowalski-Braun, Linda Rynbrandt, Sara Waalkes and Wendy Wenner.

inductees need to meet requirements of a GPA of 3.0 or higher following six credits of WGS courses.

Across Campus

Faculty member to be featured on History Channel

An anthropology professor will be a featured expert on a History Channel series about ancient battles and warriors.

"Battles BC" premieres Monday, March 9, at 9 p.m. on the History Channel. Mark Schwartz, assistant professor of anthropology, will be a featured expert every Monday night for eight weeks after the premiere.

"Battles BC" will showcase leaders from the ancient world in some of the greatest conflicts in history. The eight-part series will explore the strategies, tactics, and weapons used by commanders such as Hannibal, David, Caesar, Alexander, Moses and Joshua.

"I've seen versions of the show and it looks entertaining," said Schwartz. "The show uses

a graphic style comparable to the hit feature film '300.' I like to tell people it's 'Ken Burns meets Conan the Barbarian.' Some of the production was done in Michigan because of the great tax incentives Michigan has for film producers."

Schwartz has been featured on the History Channel in the past. In 2005, he was interviewed for the show "Bible Battles."

Poet receives NEA Literature Fellowship

William Notter, a visiting writer at Grand Valley, recently received a Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. The fellowships alternate annually between poetry and prose.

For 2009, Notter is one of 41 poets to receive fellowships, which include \$25,000 to encourage focusing on creativity and the production

of new work.

Notter has taught introductory level writing classes at Grand Valley and gave a reading last year in the Writers Series. His book, *Holding Everything Down*, received the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book

Award, and will be published this fall. Much of his poetry is a testimony to the rural landscapes of his youth in Colorado, and how it affects people.

"It wasn't until I left home, to attend the



William Notter

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Across Campus

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University of Evansville in Indiana as an undergrad, that I realized how much I missed my local landscape,” Notter said. “Actually, I became more aware of it on the 18-hour drives home, when, about 40 miles from my destination, I’d relax into the bluffs and river alongside the highway.”

With his bachelor’s degree in hand, Notter moved to Oxford, Mississippi, hoping to work in a bookstore there, while writing poetry. That job fell through, though he found another — digging fence post holes for the famed author John Grisham. He still chuckles over the irony of it. Notter went on to earn a MFA from the University of Arkansas.

Over the years Notter has traveled and lived throughout the West, Midwest and South, paying attention to the landscape of each and the names of indigenous plants and trees. Many have found their way into his poetry, which has appeared on NPR’s “The Writer’s Almanac,” and in journals such as *Alaska Quarterly*, *Midwest Quarterly* and *Southern Poetry Review*.

Johnson Center publishes first journal

The first issue of the *Foundation Review* is now available. The peer-reviewed journal for philanthropy is a quarterly journal published through The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership at Grand Valley State University.

The journal is the first of its kind, devoted specifically to improving foundation philanthropy. A copy of the first issue can be found at www.foundationreview.org

“As more evaluation and research is being done in and about philanthropy, the need for a place to share this knowledge is greater than ever,” said Teri Behrens, editor-in-chief. “Our goal is to publish rigorous and readable articles about the work of foundations and the foundation sector.” Behrens said the theme for the first issue is “Community Change,” with

each article focused on some facet of how foundations pursue change at the community level.

For more information, contact Teri Behrens at behrenst@gvsu.edu or (734) 646-2874.

Students travel to Washington seminar

Four political science students said they learned a lot from a week-long seminar in Washington, D.C., that, oh yeah, coincided with President Obama’s Inauguration Day.

The students, MaryBeth Dieters, Felix Sharpe, Alexis Stanczuk and Selma Tucker, applied and were accepted to attend a week-long seminar at the Washington Center, a nonprofit organization that coordinates seminars and internships for hundreds of universities.



Photo courtesy of MaryBeth Dieters

Political science majors stand with a cardboard cutout of Vice President Joe Biden during their trip to Washington, D.C. From left are MaryBeth Dieters, Felix Sharpe, Selma Tucker and Alexis Stanczuk.

While the seminar was enjoyable, they said the highlight was the inauguration.

“I really felt like we were attending a ceremony for royalty,” said Sharpe. “Everyone on the train and in the crowd had an Obama piece of clothing, and he’s held in such high regard. But, historically, I believe he is really the right person for the job.”

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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:

GVNOW

To see video features and daily campus news, visit Grand Valley’s online publication, GVNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

GRAND VALLEY magazine

Grand Valley Magazine is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its Web site at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

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

GVFaces

Jack Lane Box Office and House Manager

After earning a bachelor’s degree in political science and history, Jack Lane never thought that he would end up in the theater business.

However, while working at a record store during college, he was introduced to a career in box office management. Now with 24 years of experience in box office management, he is the box office and house manager for the Louis Armstrong Theatre.

Before coming to Grand Valley in November, Lane worked in box office management for the DeVos Performance Hall and the Broadway Theatre Guild. He handled the administrative side of the shows that were performed, organizing season ticket packages and working with clients to bring shows to Grand Rapids.

“I primarily work in the business side of performing arts. There’s so much that goes on administratively and behind-the-scenes that’s necessary in order to do a show,” said Lane. “Not everyone interested in performing arts ends up being a performer. I’m not creative nor an artist, but I enjoy performing arts, and I can critique them.”

As the box office and house manager for the Louis Armstrong Theatre, Lane manages the box office

during the day, and during performances. He organizes upcoming shows with the ticketing system, and also manages box office ticket



Jack Lane

sales. During performance nights, he helps the ushers prepare their materials together, and makes sure everything in the box office and house are organized.

“I am enjoying working with student clientele,” said Lane. “I’m still learning about Grand Valley’s theater program everyday, and I’ve noticed the talent here is right on par with the national shows that came through the DeVos Performance Hall.”

Lane enjoys taking his wife and three daughters to shows. After viewing many performances, his favorite musical is “Les Misérables” and his favorite play is “Inherit the Wind.”

Lane also serves on the Arts Council Board in Lowell. Away from theater, he also enjoys the outdoors and Lake Michigan by camping, sailing and boating with his family.

What's Ahead

Auto Suppliers Symposium looks at evolution

A representative from Volkswagen will address the 11th annual Automotive Suppliers Symposium at Grand Valley.

In partnership with Comerica Bank, Grand Valley's Van Andel Global Trade Center is presenting the symposium, "Successful Evolution," on Thursday, March 5, from 7:30-11:30 a.m.

At the symposium, auto suppliers will learn how companies are capitalizing and benefiting from successful evolution into other leading industries and niche markets. The event features an entire program dedicated to benchmarking with other manufacturers and find out how they are breaking through into new industries.

Keynote speaker Thomas J. Loafman, director of purchasing for Volkswagen Group of America, will discuss his company's expectations from their suppliers.

Other speakers include George A. Erickcek of the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, and Randall P. Stille of Shape Corporation. A discussion panel moderated by Charles (Chuck) Hadden of the Michigan Manufacturers Association will feature panelists Rich Antonini of Plante and Moran; Joe Davio of Comerica Bank; Jeff Doornbos of Brillcast; Jim Medsker of Keystone PD; Richard Perreault of Gill Industries, Inc.

Register online at www.vagtc.org or call x16811 for details.

Steinway Artist to perform at Grand Valley

Steinway Artist Louis Nagel will perform for the William Baum Lecture Series at Grand Valley.

A graduate of the Juilliard School and a student of Rosina Lhevinne and Joseph Raieff, Nagel has been performing for more than 50 years. He has played and taught at the University of Michigan since 1969.

His performance will be on Sunday, March 8, from 3-5 p.m. in the Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center.

The concert is presented by the Political Science Department, honoring the memory of Professor Emeritus William Baum. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please call x13484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/music.



Louis Nagel

Free yoga classes will be offered

The Health and Wellness department will offer two free yoga classes next week, giving faculty and staff members an opportunity to try it before purchasing a class pass for Yoga in the Workplace.

The free yoga classes are set for Monday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 11, from noon-12:45 in the Fieldhouse multipurpose room and the DeVos Center, room 117E. The next session will begin March 23; cost to participate is \$40 for the 10-week session.

For more information, call Health and Wellness at x12215.

Art and Design brings Smithsonian curator to UICA

The Department of Art and Design at Grand Valley will present a free, public lecture by Karen Milbourne, curator at the National Museum of African Art of the Smithsonian Institution.

On Monday, March 9, at 7 p.m., Milbourne will speak at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids.

Her talk will focus on the exhibit, "Artists in Dialogue: António Ole and Aimé Mpane," on view at the National Museum until August 2.

This exhibition inaugurates a new series in which talented African artists are invited to participate in a dialogue — a visual one in which each artist responds to the work of the other. António Ole, of Angola, and Aimé Mpane, of the Democratic Republic of Congo, bring their subtle and sophisticated manipulation of found and organic materials to create visually rich, multi-media installations that speak to the political and economic challenges of their home countries.

For more information, call Art and Design at x13486. For details about the exhibit, visit africa.si.edu.

Health and Wellness events for March focus on finances

The Health and Wellness department has planned several events for March that focus on finances, including money spent on health care.

Two sessions of "How to be a Better Health Care Consumer," presented by staff members of the Advantage Benefits Group, are scheduled: Tuesday, March 10, in the Kirkhof Center, room 1104; and March 16 in the DeVos Center, room 499C. Both sessions will start at noon; participants are encouraged to bring their lunches.

Lindsey DesArmo, health and wellness coordinator, said participants will learn what role consumers have in reducing medical errors, and how to be a more active health care consumer. Discussion will include how to save money on prescription drugs and why reviewing medical bills can save you money.

Other presentations planned by the department during March include "Understanding Your Money Profile" and "Fundamentals of Investing." To register for Health and Wellness events, visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar, or call x12215.

Across Campus

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The group secured inaugural ceremony tickets through U.S. Rep. Vern Ehlers' office and stood in the blue section near the Capitol.

Prior to that, they spent a week with 750 other college students at the Washington Center. Sharpe said he enjoyed networking and debating with other people. "After this experience, it's my obligation to seek out someone who has a different stance on an issue than I do and have a conversation," he said.

Kevin den Dulk, associate professor of political science, has had a student pipeline to the Washington Center for several years. "GVSU is always looking for ways to get students out of

their typical orbit, and there is probably no better short-term opportunity than an experience in Washington, D.C., for an inauguration with so much historical significance," he said.

Numerous campus departments helped sponsor the trip, including the Provost's Office, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Political Science, University Relations, and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Help with writing projects available during retreats

Two writing retreats are scheduled in April and August to help faculty and staff members with their dissertations, manuscripts, grant applica-

tions or other projects.

Sponsored by the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and the Provost's Office, the week-long retreats will be held at the writing center in Lake Ontario Hall on April 27-May 1 and August 3-7.

Ellen Schendel, associate professor of writing and director of the Meijer Center for Writing, will facilitate the retreats. The retreats are available at no charge and snacks and lunches will be provided to participants each day.

To register for either retreat, visit the center's Web site, www.gvsu.edu/wc. Applications are due by April 13.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

**Art Gallery Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.**

Jan. 15-March 20

Gallery Hours: Hoskin-Raible Collection of French Prints. Art Gallery, PAC.

Wed., March 4

Noon: Allendale Toastmasters. 2259 KC. Call x18655 for more information.

Thurs., March 5

7:30 a.m.: Grand Rapids Toastmasters. University Club Room, DEV. Call x17378 for more information.

8 a.m.: Counseling Center hosts Critical Incident Stress Management training. (Day 1 of 2.) 2250 KC. Call x13266 for more information.

Fri., March 6

8 a.m.: Counseling Center hosts Critical Incident Stress Management training. (Day 2 of 2.) 2250 KC. Call x13266 for more information.

Sun., March 8

3 p.m.: William Baum Lecture Series presents Louis Nagel, piano. Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

Mon., March 9

6 p.m.: Poetry Hour with Patricia Clark's Advanced Poetry Students. CDC. Call x13411 for more information.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, was interviewed by FOX News for a story about presidential dynasties and by WXMI-TV for a story about President Obama's major address to a joint session of Congress.

Sketches

Bopi Biddanda, research scientist at the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave a presentation, "Rock, Water, Critters: Explorations in Lake Huron," at Michigan State University.

Ben Lockerd, professor of English, wrote an article, "The Truth of Beauty: Educating the Moral Imagination," published in the *Saint Austin Review*.

Criminal Justice faculty members **Christine Yalda** and **William Crawley** gave a presentation, "Youth Violence Reduction Initiatives: A Review of Demonstration Programs," at a Richard DeVos Corporate Research Foundation meeting.

WGVU Productions received seven Bronze Awards from the 2009 Telly Awards for three programs, "Stefon Harris and Friends: African Tarantella — Dances with Duke," "Stefon Harris: The Art of Listening," and "Stefon Harris: Portraits of The Promised."

Matt Cooper, research assistant at the Annis

Water Resources Institute, co-wrote an article, "The Ecological Impacts of Fragmentation and Vegetation Removal In Lake Huron Coastal Wetlands," published in the journal *Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management*.

George Klay Kieh Jr., professor of political science and African and African-American studies, gave a presentation, "The Limits of Liberal Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict States in Africa," at the Conference on Africa in Motion at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Ginny Peterson, associate professor of geology, co-wrote an article, "Petrogenesis and Structure of the Buck Creek Mafic-Ultramafic Suite, Southern Appalachians: Constraints on Ophiolite Evolution and Emplacement in Collisional Orogens," published in the *Geological Society of America Bulletin*.

Char Beckmann, professor of mathematics, gave a presentation, "Developing Prospective Teachers' Ability to Ask Questions That Support Student Thinking," at the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators' annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Paul Yu, assistant professor of mathematics, gave a presentation, "Pragmatic Methods Courses," at the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators' annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Mathematics faculty members **Esther Billings** and **David Coffey** co-wrote an article, "Teachers as Lifelong Learners: The Role of Reading,"

published in *Teaching Children Mathematics*.

Bradley Ambrose, associate professor of physics, gave a presentation, "Connecting Physics and Mathematics: Probing Student Learning in Intermediate Mechanics," at the Joint Meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Michael Webster, associate professor of English, gave a presentation, "'almost all I don't know about art': E. E. Cummings Explicates His Dust Jacket Blurb for Him," at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900 in Louisville, Kentucky.

John Kilbourne, professor of movement science, wrote an article, "Sharpening the Mind Through Movement: Using Exercise Balls as Chairs in a University Class," published in the *Chronicle of Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education*. He was also interviewed by the Associated Press for a story about his research.

Kingshuk Majumdar, assistant professor of physics, wrote an article, "Von Neumann Entropy and On-site Localization for Perpetually Coupled Qubits," published in *Physical Review B*.

Michael P. Lombardo, professor of biology, gave a presentation, "Who's Really in Charge?: Microbes and the Evolution of Behavior," at Hope College.