

2-20-2012

# Grand Valley Forum, volume 036, number 23, February 20, 2012

Grand Valley State University

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## Recommended Citation

Grand Valley State University, "Grand Valley Forum, volume 036, number 23, February 20, 2012" (2012). *2011-2012, Volume 36*. 23.  
<http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/forum36/23>

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# FORUM

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

Published by News & Information Services



## Board approves new AWRI building, housing increase

Grand Valley's Board of Trustees, at a February 10 meeting, approved the construction of a new field research building for the Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon, set housing rates and granted a property purchase in Detroit for the Charter Schools Office.

The new AWRI facility will be located on the site of the existing field station building on the shores of Muskegon Lake, near the Lake Michigan Center. The \$3.4 million project will meet the immediate and long-term needs of the institute and will be paid for by a combination of an existing federal grant, private donations, and university capital development funds.

Construction drawings are expected to be completed in June, with construction starting in August. The new building is expected to be finished by December 2013. The old field station building will be removed to make space for the new facility.

Good news regarding state appropriations was shared at the board meeting. Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations, said that under Gov. Rick Snyder's budget proposal, Grand Valley would receive a one-time bonus

for meeting performance requirements. The bonus would net Grand Valley \$3.9 million, more than all other 15 public universities in the state.

Other board action items are detailed below.

- Trustees approved an increase in housing rates for the Fall 2012 semester. Students will see a modest 1.56 percent increase in room and board rates, following a freeze on housing rates for the current academic year.

The cost per semester in a traditional living center at Grand Valley will be \$2,700, an increase of \$28. Students have choices in meal plans. The cost of the 14-meal plan will go up \$45 to \$1,260.

- Trustees granted a property purchase in Detroit, near Comerica Park, that will house offices and support space for the university's



Photo by Amanda Pitts

James Moyer, assistant vice president for Facilities Planning, discusses renderings of a new research building for the Annis Water Resources Institute during a February 10 Board of Trustees meeting.

Charter Schools Office. Grand Valley oversees 24 schools in Detroit and currently provides professional development and programming in rental property in the area.

The university plans to purchase the building from Waycor Development Company for \$3 million.

## Across Campus

### Board of Trustees approves religious studies major, minor

Grand Valley's Board of Trustees approved a new religious studies major and minor at its February 10 meeting.

The curriculum will begin in the fall semester. Wendy Wenner, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, told board members that this integrated program combines best practices of current religious studies courses and four new courses.

"Our hope is that students will increase their skills in intercultural understanding," Wenner said.

Wenner added that the program is unique in Michigan as it is the only degree-granting program housed within an interdisciplinary

college. Other public universities that offer religious studies degrees are Michigan State, Western Michigan and Central Michigan.



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Professor Sheldon Kopperl leads students in a discussion about religious stereotypes. The Board of Trustees approved a new religious studies major and minor at a February 10 meeting.

The program will include courses in the humanities and social sciences. Wenner said students who earn religious studies degrees can find jobs in many fields, including human resources, non-governmental organizations and international relations.

### Four books added to collections

Grand Valley recently was the recipient of four books printed in the late 1400s.

They were transferred from the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University to the University Libraries' Special Collections at Grand Valley and will remain on permanent loan, joining other examples of 15th century printing.

The transfer was the latest in an ongoing

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# Across Campus

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collaboration between the two libraries. “Rather than competing and duplicating efforts, we find that it makes better sense to help each other with our respective collecting areas,” said Robert Beasecker, director of the University Libraries’ Special Collections. “In the past we’ve sent a few items that were not being used here to the Clarke, adding to their collection specialties.”

The Clarke’s four incunabula — a term used for books printed before 1501 — relate to several areas of academic interest at Grand Valley. “We see potential use of these books by the Classics, history, philosophy, and art and design departments, as well as the new religious studies program,” said Beasecker. “As with all of our collections, we also welcome use by scholars from other institutions as well as members of the community.”

Each of the four books, in Latin, concerns religious subjects. The earliest is a Psalter (the Book of Psalms together with other devotional works) printed about 1474 in Strasbourg. A description and links to the digital images is online at [www.gvsu.edu/library/specialcollections](http://www.gvsu.edu/library/specialcollections), click “Digital Collections.”

## Student opportunities at AWRI

The Annis Water Resources Institute is offering undergraduate internships — D. J. Angus-Sciencetech Educational Foundation Internship and the Robert B. Annis Foundation Undergraduate Student Internship — for the summer semester.

AWRI is also taking applications for a fall semester scholarship, Bill & Diana Wipperfurth Student Research Scholarship. The deadline to apply for these internships or scholarships is March 9. Details are posted online at [www.gvsu.edu/wri](http://www.gvsu.edu/wri), click on “Undergraduate Funding/Opportunities.”

## Classics professor to lead local NEH program events

A series of local events is included in a major national program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with communities, libraries and theaters. The “Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives:

Poetry-Drama-Dialogue” program aims to inspire people to come together to read, see and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life.

The first local event is a public lecture by Classics Professor Diane Rayor on Wednesday, February 22, from 7-8 p.m. at the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St. NE.



Shown here with students, Diane Rayor, professor of Classics, will lead three events at Grand Rapids Public Library in a program that brings classical literature to the public.

Rayor, who co-founded Grand Valley’s Classics Department in 2000, recently translated Sophocles’ *Antigone*. Her lecture will use *Antigone* to illustrate the struggle for justice between individuals and those in power. “I’m excited to team up with the library and Aquila Theatre to introduce Greek drama to a broad audience,” Rayor said. “Ancient Greek stories, for nearly 2,500 years, have continued to raise questions about human behavior and vital ethical issues.”

In addition, Rayor will lead a reading group at GRPL on four straight Wednesdays, beginning March 7. The program will explore the theme “Strangers in a Strange Land” and will include four books free of charge and snacks during the discussions. Veterans and their families, immigrants and people new to Greek drama are especially encouraged to participate.

On April 18, Rayor will also lead a discussion at GRPL following a staged reading of scenes from Greek drama by professional actors from Aquila Theatre.

The programs are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.grpl.org](http://www.grpl.org) and search for “Ancient Greeks.”

## FORUM Volume 36, Number 23

The GVSU Forum is published by the News and Information Services Office. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, [c/o\\_forum@gvsu.edu](mailto:c/o_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 the News and Information Services Office 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, GVNNow, 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

### Matthew Walsh, visiting professor of Art and Design

For Matthew Walsh, introspection and reflection are critical aspects of the design process.

“Design is a system of choosing,” said Walsh, “and considering why you make those choices.”

After earning a master’s degree in graphic design from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Walsh taught classes in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Portland, Oregon, before he was hired at Grand Valley last fall as a visiting professor of graphic design.

A large part of Walsh’s work at Grand Valley includes overseeing the graphic design Senior Project course. This class is a final requirement before graduation, allowing students to host an event and display work they’ve developed specifically for this last show. “The entire project is student driven,” he said. “They find a space, they think up the advertising. For many, this is the first chance they have to take real ownership of what they make.”

Walsh has also taught introductory design courses, and finds that a guiding role is most effective in each context, especially for his senior students. “I try not to editorialize them,” he said. “These students have great ideas that

are prepared really well. Instead I ask them questions like, ‘Why do you like the things that you like?’ I get them to assess what they themselves are doing.”

In addition to his time spent teaching, Walsh has completed a variety of freelance work and personal projects.

His portfolio is diverse, including graphic design, typography, photography and even poetry. “I’m more of a generalist than a specialist,” he said. “As a freelancer, you have to maintain all the elements. But when you’re working on one aspect or skill that you’re strong in, you can create a lot more in-depth things.”

Much of Walsh’s free time is dedicated to working on his various projects, but it’s something he’s always enjoyed. “I think it’s relaxing and necessary,” he said. “I like to always be working, thinking about new ideas to use later on. They may not mean anything yet, but they will down the road.”



Matthew Walsh



# What's Ahead

## Baseball team will discuss trip to Cuba

Laker baseball team members will give a presentation for the campus community on their humanitarian trip to Cuba.

The event is set for Tuesday, February 21, beginning at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204. The Grand Valley contingent traveled to Cuba in early January to play three baseball games against the Cuban national team. With help from First Hand Aid, team members also delivered medical supplies to Cuban clinics and other organizations.

Speakers for the event include President Thomas J. Haas, coaches Steve Lyon and Gordon Alderink, and Steve Cron, who teaches courses in Cuban culture. The presentation is free and open to the public.

## Expert to detail how Roosevelt saved football

It's one of the most popular sports in the U.S. today, but more than 100 years ago, football, as we know it, was on its last legs.

The troubled past of the sport, and how President Theodore Roosevelt helped to save the game will be the subject of "The Big Scrum — How Teddy Roosevelt Saved Football," hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Author and football historian John J. Miller will share the story of how Roosevelt viewed the sport, and saved it from those who would have had it banned forever.

The event is set for Tuesday, February 21, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids. RSVPs are requested; visit [www.allpresidents.org](http://www.allpresidents.org) to reserve a seat or for more information.

## Muslim-American comedian to perform

Award-winning comedian Dean Obeidallah will perform Wednesday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The international performer has appeared on the "Axis of Evil" comedy show on Comedy Central and co-produced a new show, "The Watch List," for Comedy Central's Internet channel.

Obeidallah is also co-producing "The Muslims Are Coming," a documentary that follows a group of Muslim-American comedians as they go on a tour and meet people who have never met a Muslim before.

The event at Grand Valley is made possible through the Muslim Studies Program and the Asian Studies Center at Michigan State University. Co-sponsors are Grand Valley's School of Communications, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Muslim Students Association and Middle East Studies, along with the Migrations of Islam project at MSU.

This performance is in conjunction with the 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding events at Grand Valley.

## President to hold virtual office hours

President Thomas J. Haas will hold virtual office hours on Thursday, February 23, from 2:30-4 p.m.

The online program allows students, faculty and staff members to ask questions and chat with Haas. The discussions are available only to the campus community, and users will need to use their network login to participate.

To participate, visit [www.gvsu.edu/virtualofficehours](http://www.gvsu.edu/virtualofficehours).

## Women's Center to host sweet fundraiser

All-you-can-eat chocolate desserts and a silent auction will highlight the Women's Center annual fundraiser, "Indulge in a Cause."

Proceeds from the event will benefit Women's Center programs and its endowment fund. The center offers scholarships to non-traditional students who may not otherwise qualify for financial aid.

"Indulge in a Cause" will take place Thursday, February 23, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Eberhard Center. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$30 for community members.

Desserts will be provided by local companies including Cabot Cheese, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and San Chez Bistro. Silent auction items include a spa package, Apple iPad and a Grand Rapids night-on-the-town package.

Reserve tickets by calling the Women's Center at x12748 or purchase online at [www.gvsu.edu/women\\_cen](http://www.gvsu.edu/women_cen).

## Reception will recognize students, organizations

The campus community is invited to a biannual reception that recognizes student leaders and organizations on campus.

The Venderbush Leadership Reception will take place Friday, February 24, from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. Register for the event at [www.gvsu.edu/leadership](http://www.gvsu.edu/leadership).

The keynote speaker is Dan Breuker, a Grand Valley alumnus who worked in the Office of Student Life and was a resident assistant before he graduated in 1992. He will discuss how his campus engagement experiences impacted his life and thoughts on leadership.

Nominees and the recipient of the Student Organization Center's Immediate Impact Award will be announced and new members of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honorary Society will be recognized.

## Max Bush returns to Grand Valley

The Theatre Program at Grand Valley has commissioned a new play on the Iraq War by playwright and alumnus Max Bush, '72.

"An Identified Enemy" will receive its first staged readings in the Louis Armstrong



Shown above at left, Max Bush, '72, is the playwright for a new production by the Theatre Department, 'An Identified Enemy.'

Theatre, Performing Arts Center, on Saturday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 26, at 2 p.m. The play, open to the public with free admission, runs approximately 90 minutes without an intermission.

As artist-in-residence since November, Bush developed his script with the aid of Iraq War veterans, and with a company of 25 students who have been working with him in a specially created 50-hour workshop.

The drama tells the story of Jamie Foster, a war veteran now enrolled in college, as he tries to piece together the truth about his friend Jalil, a local Iraqi national.

Bush is a freelance playwright and director from Hamilton, Michigan, whose plays have been widely produced on professional, educational and amateur stages across the country, including Chicago's Goodman Theatre, Grand Rapids' Community Circle Theatre, Central Michigan University, Holland Community Theatre and elsewhere.

## Bush next speaker for Meijer Lecture Series

Barbara Pierce Bush, CEO and founder of Global Health Corps, will address global health care challenges during a presentation on Monday, February 27, at 7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.



Barbara Pierce Bush

The former first daughter's presentation is next in the Frederik Meijer Lecture Series. The lecture is free and open to the public.

RSVP online at [www.gvsu.edu/honor](http://www.gvsu.edu/honor), click on the Lecture Series icon. Her presentation is sponsored by the Frederik Meijer Honors College.

Global Health Corps, founded by Bush in 2008, creates a pipeline of young professionals who work as fellows on global health initiatives with partner organizations like the U.S. State Department, ActionAid International and the Clinton Health Access Initiative.

Jeffrey Chamberlain, director of the Honors College, said Bush's presentation is generating buzz among students.

"Her work will be of interest to so many of our students," Chamberlain said. "The organization Miss Bush started is involved in health care in Africa — a huge number of our students are headed into health care occupations, and many of them are keenly interested in the developing world."

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## General Events

### Mon., Feb. 20

10 a.m.: Human Resources Career Services hosts “Selling Yourself to Win.” Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts Healthy Mondays. Lobby, CHS. Call x12215 for more information.

6 p.m.: World Affairs Council Global Decisions Discussion Series: “End Game: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq,” by George A. Lopez. Performing Arts Center, Aquinas College.

### Tues., Feb. 21

Noon: Athletics hosts “Laker Baseball Cuba Experience.” 2204 KC. Call x18800 for more information.

7:30 p.m.: Hauenstein Center hosts “The Big Scrum: How Teddy Roosevelt Saved Football.” Gerald R. Ford Museum, Grand Rapids. Visit [www.allpresidents.org](http://www.allpresidents.org) for more information.

### Wed., Feb. 22

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

Noon: Arts at Noon: Coalescence Percussion Duo. CDC. Call x13484 for more information.

Noon: African Diaspora Conversation Series: “Has African American Literature Really Ended?” by Dwayne Tunstall. 2270 KC. Call x18110 for more information.

6 p.m.: Psychology hosts Projection Film Series, “A Hard Day’s Night.” 114 LMH. Call x12195 for more information.

7:30 p.m.: School of Communications hosts Comedian Dean Obeidallah. CDC. Call x13668 for more information.

### Thurs., Feb. 23

7:30 a.m.: Downtown Toastmasters. University Club Room, DEV. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters](http://www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters) for information.

Noon: OMA Diversity Brownbag Series: “From Where I Stand,” by H. James Williams. 2204 KC. Call x12177 for more information.

1-5 p.m.: Career Services hosts Winter Career Fair. DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids. Call x13311 for information.

2:30-4 p.m.: President’s Virtual Office Hours. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/virtualofficehours](http://www.gvsu.edu/virtualofficehours) to participate.

3:30 p.m.: Excellence Series: Bias Incident Protocol. 107C DEV. Register online at [www.gvsu.edu/seminar](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar).

5 p.m.: Woman’s Center hosts Indulge in a Cause. 215 EC. Call x12748 for more information.

### Fri., Feb. 24

1 p.m.: Venderbush Leadership Reception. 2204 KC. Register at [www.gvsu.edu/leadership](http://www.gvsu.edu/leadership).

3:30 p.m.: Evolution for Everyone hosts “Evolution and Morality,” by Michael DeWilde and Mark Pestana. Call x12195 for more information.

7 p.m.: Black History Month Event: “Real. Soulful. Music.” Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x12177 for more information.

### Sat., Feb. 25

10 a.m.-3 p.m.: Campus Recreation hosts Wellness Retreat. FH. Call x13659 for more information.

7:30 p.m.: GVSU Theatre presents “An Identified Enemy.” LAT, PAC. Call x12300 for a free ticket.

### Sun., Feb. 26

2 p.m.: GVSU Theatre presents “An Identified Enemy.” LAT, PAC. Call x12300 for a free ticket.

3 p.m.: William Baum Series presents Jeffrey Brown, pianist. 1325 PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

## Sports

### Tues., Feb. 21

Noon: Men’s Tennis hosts Northwood University.

### Sat., Feb. 25

6 p.m.: Women’s Basketball hosts Ferris State University.

8 p.m.: Men’s Basketball hosts Ferris State University.

## Faculty and Staff Sketches

### In the News

**Shelley Irwin**, WGVU Morning Show host and producer, was named one of the 50 “Most Influential Women in West Michigan” by the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*.

**Matthew Downey**, nonprofit services program director for the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, was interviewed by MLive for a story about fundraising outlooks for Michigan nonprofits.

### Sketches

**George McBane**, professor of chemistry, co-wrote an article, “Product Angular Distributions in the Ultraviolet Photodissociation of N<sub>2</sub>O”, published in the *Journal of Chemical Physics*.

**Alexandra Schmid**, special programs

coordinator for Seidman College of Business, **Carol Sánchez**, professor of management, and **Steve Goldberg**, professor of accounting, co-wrote an article, “M&A Today: Great Challenges, but Great Opportunities,” published in the *Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance*.

**Deanna Morse**, professor of communications, was selected as an artist-in-residence at the Everglades National Park in Florida, through funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as part of its Knight Arts Challenge.

WGVU received a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services for the Health, Safe, Drug-Free Schools and Communities Coalition in Kent County program.

**Mary Schutten**, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, gave a presentation, “Efficacy of Technology vs. Text

for Development of Fundamental Skill Analysis in Physical Educators,” at the Hawaii International Conference on Education in Honolulu.

**Akalu Tefera**, associate professor of mathematics, co-wrote an article, “Computerized Proof Techniques for Undergraduates,” published in the *International Journal of Mathematical Education in Science and Technology*.

**Cathy Harro**, assistant professor of physical therapy, gave the keynote address at the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in Chicago.

**Craig Benjamin**, associate professor of history, gave a presentation, “The Historiography of Big History,” at the American Historical Association Annual Conference in Chicago.