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Grand Valley State University

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FORUM

Monday, March 9, 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services

Innovative professor nominated for state award

From using exercise balls in his classroom as chairs, to using stationary-bike riders to power generators, John Kilbourne's innovative and effective teaching methods may garner him a top award from the Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan.

Provost Gayle R. Davis has nominated Kilbourne, professor of movement science, for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year, an honor presented by the Presidents Council. Each of Michigan's 15 public universities nominates a faculty member for the honor. The council will present awards to three nominees in May at a luncheon in Lansing.

Last year, Scott Grissom, Grand Valley professor of computing and information science, was among the top three honorees.

Davis said Kilbourne's ingenuity as a scholar and teacher is illustrated in his ballroom dance class. "His class in ballroom dancing is not just rote learning the movements," she said. "Under his guidance, the students learn about diversity and etiquette. It becomes an experience in liberal education."

Kilbourne secured a grant from the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center to purchase exercise balls as chairs in lecture classes. His research showed that the exercise balls helped students pay attention and concentrate better than when sitting on chairs.

Kilbourne's SPARKLE (Spinning Physical and Renewable Kinetic Living Energy) Project, done in conjunction with Grand Valley's School



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

John Kilbourne, professor of movement science, teaches a class in which students sit on exercise balls. His innovative research, like the benefits of using exercise balls, led to Kilbourne's nomination for Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year.

of Engineering, has school children pedaling bicycles to power classrooms. "Our goal is to create a new generation of global residents who understand health and fitness and renewable energy," he said.

See 'Movement science' on page 2

Across Campus

Exchange agreement with German university expands

After successes with a departmental faculty exchange, Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has renewed an agreement with a German university that will provide opportunities for student exchanges and expand faculty exchanges.

President Thomas J. Haas and CLAS Dean Fred Antczak signed a partnership agreement with Paedagogische Hochschule-Schwaebisch-Gmuend (PHSG), a university that specializes in training students to be successful K-12 teachers.

Mark Schaub, executive director of the Padnos International Center, said the agreement is par-



Photo courtesy of Hermann Kurthen

Hermann Kurthen, associate professor of sociology, teaches a class at a German university as a participant in a faculty exchange.

ticularly notable as its the first to offer student exchanges with a German university. A faculty exchange agreement between Grand Valley's Sociology Department and PHSG began in 2005.

Antczak said expanding the agreement to all CLAS departments will provide more exchange opportunities from a variety of disciplines. "I believe GVSU faculty and students who teach or study at the PHSG will return with new ideas about effective teaching and learning, and PHSG faculty and students who teach and study at GVSU will enliven our classrooms and bring fresh perspectives to our activities," he said. Student exchanges will begin this summer semester.

Hermann Kurthen, associate professor of sociology, initiated the departmental-level exchange in 2005. He has taught at PHSG and said he also had his German students collaborate online with GVSU students who were taught, at that time, by a PHSG professor.

continues on page 2

Across Campus

continued from page 1

"Most students liked it and thought it was worthwhile," Kurthen said. "They recognized it was advantageous in helping them expand their knowledge about another country and about their foreign peers and their life, experiences and attitudes."

Sheline receives Mallinson Award

Mary Ann Sheline, a grant administrator with the Regional Math and Science Center, was selected by the Michigan Science Teachers Association to receive the George G. Mallinson Award. It is the highest award given by MSTA for contributions to science education and to the association.



Mary Ann Sheline

Sheline is being honored for her long service, achievements and contributions to the advancement of science education through her work at the regional, state and national level.

"Working with science teachers and students has been one of the most rewarding and productive aspects of my career," said Sheline. "I am so grateful for the wonderful relationships I have built with so many people who are passionate about education. I am honored and humbled to be recognized with the award named for the founder of the Michigan Science Teachers Association."

Sheline served as director of the Regional Math and Science Center from 1994-2007, and co-director of Science Olympiad at Grand Valley from 1985-2006.

Sheline received the award at the MSTA annual conference in Detroit on March 6.

Students return from helping others during spring break

About 150 Grand Valley students have returned from spending their spring break helping out the less fortunate all over the country.

They were participants in the Alternative Breaks student organization. The group sends students around the country to volunteer over weekend, holiday, and spring breaks each year. Groups went to 18 different locations in Maryland, Florida, Texas, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and the District of Columbia.

Geoff Hickox of Okemos is in his fourth year participating in the program, and this year he was the organizer. "I think participating in Alternative Break has been the catalyst for great personal growth. It has been a profound experience," Hickox said.

Hickox spent time working with domestic violence victims in Texas and inner-city youth in Philadelphia. He said that the experience was so life-changing that he changed his major to Public and Nonprofit Administration to continue working with those in need.

Each trip consists of two site leaders and up to 10 participants. Participants work on a variety of issues, including community health, affordable housing, animal rights, youth and poverty and individuals with special needs. The trips are based around those social issues, not geographic locations. Some 250 students participated in Alternative Breaks during the 2007-08 school year. Last year, the program sent out the largest number of trips in its history — 25 in total.

Grand Valley's Alternative Breaks program has received national recognition. It was named the best in the country at the national Break Away Conference in July. It was also one of the programs recognized when

continues on page 4

FORUM Volume 33, Number 24

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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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GVNOW

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

GRAND VALLEY

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.

Students present paper, film at international conference

Travis Cornwell and Joseph Woods presented a paper and short film about industrial security firms at the McMaster World Conference in Ontario. The two students spent last summer working on the project with Star Swift, an associate professor in the Seidman College of Business.

Cornwell and Woods were the only students invited to present at the global conference. They presented their paper, "What Every Business Should Know about Industrial Security Firms," along with a DVD that illustrated the paper. As a result, the paper was selected for inclusion in a special issue of the *International Journal of Business Governance and Ethics*.

Cornwell, a business and management major, said he was a little nervous during the presentation. "It was a little intimidating to speak in front of industry professionals and academic scholars," said Cornwell. "But, the director of the conference spoke to us afterward and said he was impressed with our research. He called our DVD an innovative learning tool."

Cornwell was responsible for conducting the legal research for the project. He said it was tough getting acquainted with laws pertaining to privacy rights and protections in the workplace.

Woods, an economics and management major, was the catalyst for the paper and DVD. His father owns an industrial security firm and Woods showed an interest in the legality of various security devices. "I was responsible for the practical research for the project," said Woods. "I was able to get detailed information for the paper by interviewing my dad."

Swift said: "I feel very fortunate to have worked with Travis and Joe. Industrial security is a growing field because of the ever increasing level of data theft globally.

"The film and paper were well received at the World Congress. However, the best part of the whole experience for me was seeing the proud faces of the students' families as they watched Joe and Travis give their presentations."

Movement science faculty member nominated for award

continued from page 1

Kilbourne said he is honored by the nomination. "The award really belongs to the students and colleagues who I have been fortunate to teach and work with during my five years at GVSU," he said. "As I always tell my students, 'I enjoy my position as a professor because you help me to continue to discover who I am.'"

Kilbourne earned a bachelor's degree from California State University-Long Beach, a master's in dance education from UCLA and a doctorate in health, physical education and recreation from Ohio State University. His work experience includes several years as a strength conditioning coach for the NBA; he worked with the Philadelphia 76ers when the team won the world championship in 1983.

What's Ahead

Sessions on financial fitness continue this week

The Health and Wellness Department continues to host a series of lunch discussions surrounding financial fitness.

All sessions will begin at noon; participants are encouraged to bring their lunches.

- Tuesday, March 10: "How to be a Better Health Care Consumer," Kirkhof Center, room 1104. Facilitators will give practical tips for at home and the doctor's office, including the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and how to be vocal in all aspects of health care. This session will be repeated on March 16 in the DeVos Center, room 499C.

- Thursday, March 12: "Your Money Personality," Kirkhof Center, room 1104. This session will help participants discover how they react to money and how to invest with confidence.

To register for either session, visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar, or call x12215.

Honors College to showcase LearnLabs

The Meijer Honors College will host two sessions to showcase the innovative LearnLab classrooms in the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center.

The sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, from 1-2 p.m., and March 17 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., both in room 219.

Participants are encouraged to bring their lunches. The sessions are intended to introduce faculty members to teaching possibilities in the innovative, active learning, technology-rich classrooms. For more information, call x13219.

Peace Week to feature presentations by moms

Presentations by two women will help participants inspire their children to be peacemakers and celebrate cultural differences.

Nadyne Parr and Soraya Deen will give two presentations on Wednesday, March 11. "Peace Moms" will begin at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 2263; and "Peace Matters" will begin at 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

The noon presentation is focused on inspiring children to be peacemakers, and the evening discussion will focus on the question, "What does it mean to celebrate religious and cultural differences?" Both discussions are free and open to the public.

Parr is a film and television actor and a public school teacher. Deen wrote a children's book, *Papa Teach Me Peace*, and is founder of Resolution Revolution, a center for conflict resolution, negotiation and peacemaking.

Peace Week activities are sponsored by the Women's Center, Women and Gender Studies, Amnesty International, Spotlight Productions, Voices for Healthy Choices and the Yoga Club. For a complete list of events, visit www.gvsu.edu/women_cen.

Panel to discuss 'I.O.U.S.A.' documentary

The School of Public and Nonprofit Administration is sponsoring a showing of a critically acclaimed documentary, "I.O.U.S.A."

The movie, which explores America's budget and savings deficits, will be shown Wednesday, March 11, at 3 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium at the DeVos Center. After the movie, a panel will offer insight and observations. The event is free and open to the public.

Panelists include Public and Nonprofit Administration faculty members Stephen Borders and Donijo Robbins; Jon DeWitte, representing U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra; Rick Truer, representing U.S. Rep. Vern Ehlers; Lisa Metcalf, representing U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer; and Stewart Pigler, representing U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers.

"I.O.U.S.A." is directed by Patrick Creadon; it follows the Concord Coalition's "Fiscal Wake-Up Tour" and tells the story of America's four key deficits — budget, savings, balance of payments, and leadership — and their implications for the nation and U.S. citizens.

For more information, contact Robbins at x16740.

Grand Dialogue to feature U-M expert

The annual Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion conference will meet on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center.

This interdisciplinary, interfaith and positive discussion explores the relationship between



Brian Malley

science and religion. The sponsoring association consists of area colleges, universities and other organizations.

Keynote speaker Brian Malley, from the University of Michigan, has a background in anthropology and psychology, and is renowned for his work and writing in the new and growing field of the cognitive study of religion. Afternoon breakout sessions present more than 10 options, available through pre-registrations.

Admission is free and open to the public who

register in advance. An optional \$5 lunch can also be reserved online, by pre-payment with a credit card. For more information and to register visit www.GrandDialogue.org.

Awards ceremony will recognize campus women

The Celebration of Women Awards Ceremony, set for Tuesday, March 17, will recognize the achievements of students, faculty and staff members and their efforts to enrich the lives of women on campus and/or the community.

The awards ceremony will begin at noon in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room, doors will open at 11:45 a.m. A light lunch will be served.

Awards will be presented by the Women's Commission, Women and Gender Studies, Women's Center and Positive Black Women.

RSVP for the event by March 13 by sending an e-mail to wcommission@gvsu.edu.

Writers Series will include alumna

Two writers will be featured at the next GVSU Writers Series on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Alumni House.



Sandi Wisenberg

A reading will be given by Sandi Wisenberg, author of a short story collection, *The Sweetheart is In*, and an essay collection, *Holocaust Girls: History, Memory & Other Obsessions*. This month the University of Iowa Press will publish her nonfiction book, *The Adventures of Cancer Bitch*, based on her Cancer Bitch blog.

Wisenberg is the co-director of the MA/MFA Creative Writing program at Northwestern University and also teaches at the University of Chicago Graham School of General Studies. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern, and an MFA in fiction from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

The author has won a Pushcart Prize and has been the recipient of grants and awards from the Illinois Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

Also reading will be Grand Valley alumna Amanda Mitchell Gebhardt, who is now in the graduate program at Northwestern University.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call the Department of Writing at x13411.

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.

Mon., March 9

3 p.m.: African and African American Studies hosts "African Peace Paradigms," by Abdul Karim Bangura. 2204 KC. Call x18110 for more information.

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

Tues., March 10

10 a.m.: Human Resources Excellence Series. "Nonverbal Communication, Your Ultimate Survival Tool." 2266 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts "How to Be a Better Health Care Consumer: Practical Tips." 1104 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

2:30 p.m.: Padnos International Center hosts "A Man Who Dreamt With Dreamers," by James Cowan. 2215/2216 KC. Call x13898 for more information.

Wed., March 11

Noon: Women's Center hosts "PEACE Moms." 2263 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

Noon: Arts at Noon presents Tarab Cello Ensemble. CDC. Call x13484 for more information.

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

1 p.m.: Meijer Honors College LearnLab Demonstration. 219 HON. Call x13219 for more information.

3 p.m.: School of Public and Nonprofit Administration hosts screening of "I.O.U.S.A.," followed by panel discussion. Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x16740 for more information.

6 p.m.: Women's Center hosts "PEACE Matters." 2204 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

Thurs., March 12

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

11 a.m.: Padnos International Center hosts "Art as Spirit Among the Australian Aborigines," by James Cowan. 2215/2216 KC. Call x13898 for more information.

Noon: Health and Wellness hosts "Your Money Personality." 1104 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

6 p.m.: New Music Ensemble performs "Musical Postcards from Paris." Art Gallery, PAC. Call x12563 for more information.

Sat., March 14

9 a.m.: Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion 2009. Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x15702 for more information.

Sun., March 15

8 p.m.: GVSU Guitar Ensemble. Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

Sketches

Annis Water Resources Institute staff members **Bopi Biddanda** and **Scott T. Kendall** co-wrote an article on sinkholes in Lake Huron published in *Eos, Transactions, American Geophysical Union*.

Scott Stabler, assistant professor of history, gave a presentation, "American Indians and the Great Emancipator," at the Michigan Council for the Social Studies' Abraham Lincoln conference.

Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies staff members **Gleaves Whitney**, **Brian Flanagan**

and **Austin Knuppe** gave presentations at the Michigan Council for the Social Studies' Abraham Lincoln conference. Whitney discussed Lincoln's leadership; Flanagan gave two presentations, "Three Heroic Journeys: Abraham Lincoln and the Power of Myth" and "The Right to Rise: Abraham Lincoln and the Pursuit of Happiness." Knuppe's presentation was "Abraham Lincoln and the Middle East."

David Stark, associate professor of history, wrote an article, "'There Is No City Here, But a Desert': The Contours of City Life in 1673 San Juan," published in the *Journal of Caribbean History*.

Peter Wampler, assistant professor of geology, gave a presentation, "Evaluation of Spring Flow, Bacterial Contamination, and Distribution of Fresh Water Resources in the Vicinity of Verrettes, Haiti," at the National Ground Water Association Karst Conference in Safety Harbor, Florida.

George Klay Kieh Jr., professor of political science and African and African American Studies, wrote an article, "Rethinking the Non-Aligned Movement," published in the *Journal of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations*.

Across Campus

continued from page 2

Grand Valley was named to the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

WGUVU engineer earns Silver Circle Award

Robert Lumbert, director of engineering at WGUVU, has been inducted into the Silver Circle by the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He was honored on March 1 in Birmingham for his 25-plus years of service.

Lumbert joins WGUVU colleagues Chuck Furman, Carrie Corbin, Ken Kolbe and Michael Walenta, who were inducted within the last four years.

Lumbert headed the 1999 Michigan Engineering Study for Digital Conversion of the state's public broadcasting sta-



Robert Lumbert

tions, including statewide interconnect facilities planning. Currently, he is heading WGUVU's digital conversion process. He has also been working to converting WGUVU's radio stations to digital signals; WGUVU's 1480 AM is now broadcasting In Band On Channel (IBOC). He also secured grant money in order to move WGUVU-FM and WGVS-FM to an IBOC broadcast.

In 2002, Lumbert was awarded the MAB Pioneer Award for his considerable contributions to the broadcast engineering field and his efforts to correlate all of the stations in Michigan.