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Grand Valley State University

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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by University Communications



Author of CRP selection will visit campus

The author of the Community Reading Project selection will visit campus in late March to discuss her book, which takes readers through a harrowing week at a New Orleans hospital during and after Hurricane Katrina.

Sheri Fink, author of *Five Days at Memorial*, will give a presentation March 24, 7 p.m., at the Herrick District Library in Holland, and March 25, 7 p.m., in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

Both presentations are free and open to the public. Fink will sign books after each event; doors of the Kirkhof Center will open at 6 p.m.

Fink is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who received both a doctoral degree and medical degree from Stanford University.

Published in 2013, *Five Days at Memorial* exposes the hidden dilemmas of end-of-life care while bringing the reader into a hospital fighting for its life. Fink also reveals how ill-prepared many major hospitals and medical centers

are for large-scale natural disasters.

The book earned numerous accolades, including the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, and it was named to many best-selling lists such as the *New York Times*, NPR and *Wall Street Journal*.

Brian Jbara, director of Integrative Learning, said nearly 50 faculty members incorporated the book in their classes this year.

"Each year, the CRP book reaches a different group of constituents, but this year



Sheri Fink

in particular, we were able to connect closely with the professional schools," Jbara said. "More importantly, it was great to hear their perspectives on all of this."

He added that it may have been difficult for readers to maintain empathy and perspective while reading the book, and listening to Fink's presentation will hopefully add to their understanding.

"Sheri did some incredibly thorough research to write this book, and I hope she can humanize the experience of what it was like to hear from people directly involved," Jbara said.

Next year's CRP book will be announced after Fink's March 25 lecture.

The CRP is sponsored by the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, University Libraries, Herrick District Library and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation in addition to many on-campus departments.

Across Campus

Scholarships offer first step to study abroad

Thanks to a collaborative effort from three campus departments, several first-generation students earned scholarships to purchase passports, the first step to studying abroad.

The Padnos International Center, Educational Support Program and the Oliver Wilson Freshman Academy Program teamed to provide passport scholarships to three students during the February 24 Passport Fair.

Alissa Lane, outreach coordinator for PIC, said the idea came from a national conference.

"It might seem like a small amount, but it's a good driver to get students interested in studying abroad," Lane said.

To apply for a scholarship, students were required to attend a Study Abroad Fair, write an essay and attend an advising session.



Photo by Alissa Lane

From left are Zoie Williams, Nina Hatter and Angel Williams, who earned scholarships to purchase passports.

The three recipients are detailed below.

- Zoie Williams, a sophomore majoring in biology, is a member of the Pre-Vet Club and said she would like to go to Australia or South Africa and shadow a veterinarian who works with large animals.
- Nina Hatter will graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in marketing. She would like to study fashion in Italy or France.
- Angel Williams, a sophomore who is majoring in advertising/public relations, would like to study in China.

Study: race, socioeconomic status impact how residents rate Grand Rapids

Eighty percent of Grand Rapids residents say they would give the city a grade of 'A' or 'B' as a place to live, according to the results of a city-wide survey and study by the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley. However, the new research shows differences in race, geography and socioeconomic status account for wide disparities in how respondents rank the city on many factors.

'A' ratings vary from 20 percent from residents of the city's southwest side to 36 percent on the northeast side, and from 14 percent for Hispanic/Latino residents, to 17 percent of black residents, and 36 percent of white (non-Hispanic) residents.

These insights and many more are drawn from the 2014 VoiceGR survey that researchers at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy's Community Research Institute conducted last fall, seeking input from city residents

Across Campus

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about the city, safety, work, health care, economy, ability to meet basic needs and more.

The Johnson Center research indicates that while the city thrives as a whole, there is a critical need to address disparities between subgroups of the population. Results show that different demographic, geographic and socioeconomic groups have very different experiences within the same city.

For more information, visit VoiceGR.org or JohnsonCenter.org.

Student's life remembered through scholarship fund

Stephanie Anne Urbanawiz, a graduate student majoring in physician assistant studies, died February 28 after battling breast cancer.

Andrew Booth, assistant professor and chair of PAS, said Urbanawiz, 29, was a dedicated student, compassionate provider and an inspiration to her classmates and faculty members.

Urbanawiz, 29, graduated with honors from Central Michigan University with a degree in chemistry before enrolling in Grand Valley's program.

Funeral services were held March 7 in Muskegon.

Urbanawiz's family and the PAS program have established a scholarship fund in Urbanawiz's name that will benefit the Physician Assistant Studies department, visit www.gvsu.edu/giving for more information.

Student-produced Ford ad launches online

A national Ford Motor Company ad produced by seven students from the School of Communications can now be viewed by audiences around the globe.

The video, available at gvsu.edu/s/QW, is a byproduct of a 2014 competition that pitted Grand Valley's team against students from Calvin College and Compass College for Cinematic Arts. The challenge, presented by Ford's advertising agency Team Detroit, was to develop and produce online videos showcasing inspirational stories about people or organizations in Michigan.

Grand Valley's team won the competition in December and was awarded the opportunity to continue working with Team Detroit to expand and improve their video project.

The video highlights Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, an organization dedicated to fighting global warming by cloning the world's largest and most iconic trees.

After winning the original competition, Ian Kast, the project's director of photography, traveled to California with Team Detroit and Archangel Ancient Tree Archive founder David Milarch to collect additional footage of monumental Redwood trees for the video.

Throughout January and February, the entire Grand Valley team assembled in Detroit to finalize the postproduction process with Team Detroit.



School of Communications students Atikh Bana, Chad Rodgers, Lindsey VanDenBoom, Joseph Buckenmeyer, Ian Kast, Olga Sarayeva and Richard Iseppi pose with members of Archangel Ancient Tree Archive.

Nominate a sustainability champion

The Office of Sustainability Practices is accepting nominations for its seventh annual Sustainability Champions Awards.

The awards ceremony celebrates the contributions of students, faculty and staff members, and community members who practice and support the ideals of sustainable living. The deadline for nominations is March 27.

Selected champions will be recognized at an awards breakfast April 10 in the Kirkhof Center.

Nominate a champion at www.gvsu.edu/sustainability/breakfast-313.htm.

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

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

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Other publications by University Communications include:

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

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, *GVNow*, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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



GVFaces

Shorouq Almallah, Associate Director, CEI

In her position as associate director of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Shorouq Almallah finds that she wears many hats.

Almallah provides the necessary leadership and strategic direction for the center's management, program and curriculum development, marketing, public relations and community outreach.

"There's not one day where it's the same," Almallah said. "My duties can change by the hour."

Almallah has been at Grand Valley since 2001 and said working with students has made her time at the university special.

"The positions I've been in specifically have allowed me to offer guidance and mentorship to students," she said. "It's really gratifying to see that you're making an impact on their lives. Working with students makes everything worthwhile."

Almallah earned a bachelor's degree in English and linguistics, with a minor in Middle East studies, from Indiana University in 1999; and a master's degree in information science from Indiana University in 2001.

With her technical background, Almallah said she never expected to be where she is now, but has loved the evolutionary process of

switching to the human side of her work. "I started taking on more responsibilities and I just loved the interaction with students, faculty and the community," she said.

Currently, Almallah is working on the second annual MWest Challenge, a regional business plan competition, which provides a forum to grow and support the next generation of up and coming entrepreneurs. The community-wide event consists of students from nine local colleges who compete for seed money to help them transform their idea into a business concept. Almallah said the event is one of her favorites.

"Now Grand Valley students are not only working across disciplines to build their team, but they're working across universities," she said.

In her free time, she enjoys being outside with her children, reading books, going to movies and traveling.

Note: Almallah will be among the award recipients at the March 31 Celebrating Women's Awards ceremony; read more on page 4.



Shorouq Almallah

What's Ahead

Intercultural Festival celebrates 10 years

A weeklong festival that celebrates cultures and inclusion is marking 10 years as a campus tradition.

Many events are planned for Intercultural Festival, which will take place from March 15-21 on the Allendale Campus.

The festival, organized by the Laker Traditions Team in the Office of Student Life, will feature food, music, dance and displays from a variety of cultures including Dutch, Muslim and Spanish. View a list of events at www.gvsu.edu/if.

Intercultural Festival has been a Grand Valley tradition since 2005, but has roots dating back to the first class of Grand Valley State College in 1963.

Follow along with social media using the hashtag #GVSUIF15.

Networking event features GRCC, Grand Valley leaders

Young Professionals in Higher Education will host a networking event Tuesday, March 17, that will feature a panel of higher education leaders.

"Going from Today to Tomorrow" will take place from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the DeVos Center, University Club Room. Faculty and staff members are invited; register at www.gvsu.edu/sprout.

The event will allow young professionals to engage in meaningful dialogue with leaders from Grand Valley and Grand Rapids Community College.

The panelists include:

- Keri Becker, associate athletic director and senior woman administrator, Grand Valley
- Domingo Hernandez-Gomez, associate director of the College Success Center, GRCC
- Rachel Siglow, executive assistant to the president, Grand Valley
- Brian Van Doeselaar, associate controller for accounting, Grand Valley
- Kate Harmon, director of Campus Recreation, Grand Valley
- Rhonda Lubberts, associate vice president for Institutional Marketing, Grand Valley

YPHE helps young professionals have a successful and satisfying career in higher education. The group organizes monthly programs to encourage professional development and networking. Visit gvsu.edu/yphe for more information.

Habitat for Humanity director will speak at Venderbush reception

Mary Buikema, executive director at Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, is the keynote speaker for the Venderbush Leadership Reception on Wednesday, March 18.

The biannual event recognizes student leadership on campus and is named after Kenneth R. Venderbush, who came to Grand Valley in 1969 as an associate professor, and served as a dean and vice president of Student Affairs.

The reception is set for 2-4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204. RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/leadership.

Buikema started at Habitat for Humanity in 2010. Under her leadership, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County has received recognitions that include the Chamber of Commerce's Non-Profit of the Year EPIC Award and Center for Community Leadership Systems Thinking Award. Prior to her current position, she was a builder, designer and project manager for BDR Custom Homes Inc. in Grand Rapids for 15 years.

At the reception, new members of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society will be recognized and the Student Organization Center will present the Immediate Impact Award.

Mosaic Lecture to celebrate diversity in mathematics

The second Mosaic Lecture, which celebrates diversity within the mathematical community, will focus on the fun and engaging aspects of the field.

"My Favorite Math Fun Facts" will feature Francis Su, author of the popular Math Fun Facts website and mobile device application. The event is set for Wednesday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. in Loutit Hall.

Su is president of the Mathematical Association of America, one of two major professional societies for mathematicians in the U.S.

Jonathan Hodge, chair of mathematics, called Su an engaging speaker.

Su, professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College, received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin and a doctoral degree from Harvard University. His research focuses on geometric combinatorics — the study of geometric objects and their combinatorial structure — and applications to the social sciences.



Francis Su

The 2015 Mosaic Lecture is co-sponsored by the Political Science Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Meijer Honors College.

For more information about Su's Math Fun Facts, visit www.math.hmc.edu/funfacts.

President to host virtual office hours

President Thomas J. Haas will hold virtual office hours on Thursday, March 19, from 1-2:30 p.m.

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

Haas began hosting virtual office hours in 2007 in an effort to make it easier to communicate with students, faculty and staff members.

To participate, visit www.gvsu.edu/virtualofficehours.

Second reception set for Bernal

The second of two receptions for faculty and staff members is set for Thursday, March 19, to welcome the new vice president for Inclusion and Equity to campus.

All faculty and staff members are invited to meet Jesse M. Bernal from 3:30-5 p.m. in the DeVos Center, University Club Room.

Bernal began his role on campus in late February.

Teaching in a 'Wicked World'

How can teachers prepare students to tackle large-scale "wicked" problems? This issue will be addressed during the next Community As Classroom, sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement.

"Community-based Teaching in a Wicked World: Preparing Students for Messy Inquiry" will take place Friday, March 20, at 10 a.m. in the DeVos Center, University Club Room.

A "wicked" or high-stakes issue can be defined as dynamically complex and interdependent with no simple or obvious definition or solution. Current top-down, siloed, and abstract pedagogical strategies do not provide students with the tools for managing such problems.

This colloquium will address the need for an experiential, collaborative learning model in the classroom: working across networks, disciplines and institutions in order to tackle social messes.

Speakers include Danielle Lake, assistant professor of liberal studies, who has conducted research on the need for democratic deliberation in a wicked world; and Anna Sluka, who works with a number of community organizations to combat poverty.

Michigan History Day regional contest set

More than 150 West Michigan students will showcase their research in creative and engaging formats during the Michigan History Day Western Regional Contest being held at the Kirkhof Center on Saturday, March 21.

The event will run from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Attendees can expect to see presentations rooted in art, literature, music, drama, visual communications and writing, all following the theme of "Leadership and Legacy in History."

Faculty and graduates from the Grand Valley's History Department, local educators and historians will judge the presentations.

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FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

José Alejandro Amorós, adjunct professor of philosophy, is a cast member in "South Pacific," which runs through March 22 at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre.

John Stevenson, associate dean for Graduate Studies, was interviewed by *PT in Motion* for a story on ergonomics and occupational health practice for physical therapists.

WOOD-TV's "Eight West" featured the **Technology Showcase** during a segment about the G3 Camp, sponsored by **Regional Math and Science Center**.

Grant appointed to MCSC

Beverly Grant, associate director of the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, has been appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Community Service Commission.

The commission serves the state by fostering a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. It also develops a three-year comprehensive community and national service plan that is updated annually.

"I am confident Beverly will do great work to

help inspire people to further embrace volunteerism in our state. A strong sense of community service is what makes Michigan, Michigan," Snyder said.

Grant will serve a three-year term.

Grant serves as the chief operational leader at the Johnson Center, supporting the executive director in key leadership projects. She also serves as key strategist in the center's overall daily maintenance and operations.

She earned a bachelor's and master's in social work from Grambling State University and Atlanta University, respectively.



Beverly Grant

Sketches

David Stark, professor of history, wrote a book, *Slave Families and the Hato Economy in Puerto Rico*, published by University Press of Florida.

Coeli Fitzpatrick, associate professor, Meijer Honors College, earned the 2015 ALA-RUSA

Outstanding Reference Source award for a book, *Muhammad in History, Thought, and Culture: An Encyclopedia of the Prophet of God*. She served as co-editor.

Kelly James Clark, visiting professor, Meijer Honors College, has his book, *Religion and the Sciences of Origins*, reviewed by *Forbes*.

Roy Cole, professor of geography and planning, was appointed co-editor for the *Michigan Academician*, the scholarly, peer-reviewed journal of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters.

Kari Czarnecki, business development coordinator for Conference and Event Planning, earned a Certified Hospitality Sales Professional designation.

Todd Aschenbach, assistant professor of biology, recently received a grant for a project, "The Application of Prescribed Fire and Herbicide to Reduce Carex Pensylvanica Cover at the Newaygo Prairies Research Natural Area, Manistee National Forest, Michigan."

Richard Lord, assistant professor of chemistry, received a grant from Research Corporation for Science Advancement for a project, "Towards a Chemical Rationale for Redox-Induced Electron Transfer."

What's Ahead

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Regardless of who wins, Sean O'Neil, professor of history, said the ultimate goal of the contest is to teach students how to conduct historical research and present their work to the public.

"Students benefit from participating even if they do not advance in the contest because they look at the history they learn in school in a different, more informed and sophisticated way," O'Neil said.

Celebrating Women Awards preview

Four campus organizations will recognize the accomplishments of faculty and staff members who have made a positive impact on the lives of women and girls during the annual Celebrating Women Awards.

The event is set for March 31 at 3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. RSVPs can be made through March 20 by visiting www.gvsu.edu/wcommission.

Awards and some recipients are listed below:

- Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies will present the Barbara Jordan Award and the Jean Enright Scholarship.

- The Women's Commission will present the Maxine Swanson Award to Mary deYoung, professor of sociology; the Unsung Hero Award to Linda Rettig, office coordinator for SASC; and the Women's Impact Award to Shorouq Almallah, associate director of the CEI. Jo Ann Wassenaar, associate director of the Women's Center, and Kathleen Underwood, chair of WGSS and associate professor of history, will each receive Lifetime Achievement Awards.

- The Women's Center will present several Outstanding Student Awards.

- Positive Black Women will present several scholarships.

Compensation workshop planned

A workshop is planned to focus on Grand Valley's compensation philosophy and how market data is used to benchmark salaries.

"Compensation 101" is set for Wednesday, March 25, at 3:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 107C. Linda Yuhas, director of Compensation and Employment Services, will give a presentation.

Register online for the workshop at www.gvsu.edu/sprout. This program is limited to AP staff.