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Grand Valley State University

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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services



Mader receives Lifetime Achievement award

About 15 years ago, Cynthia Mader, associate professor of education, led initiatives that improved the working climate for women on campus. Among Mader's lasting contributions was serving as one of the founders of the Women's Commission.

When Mader received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Commission March 13, she said there was not another university award that would mean more to her. Mader's award was presented during the annual Celebrating Women Awards Ceremony.

In the mid-1990s, the commission conducted a campus climate study that revealed concerns, including inequities in salary. A subsequent salary review by a consultant confirmed inequities and resulted in pay increases for some faculty and staff members on campus. The commission also played a vital role in the hiring of Grand Valley's first vice president for planning and equity, and helped establish a task force to research the viability of a women's center on campus.

"The world has moved forward since the '90s and so has Grand Valley," said Mader. "It's such a different place than it was 15 years ago."

Mader cited the Women's Center, Women and Gender Studies, LGBT Resource Center and Positive Black Women — now considered campus mainstays — as initiatives that grew from the efforts of the Women's Commission more than a decade ago.

Other awards were presented at the Celebrating Women Awards Ceremony. Harriet Singleton, senior counselor for the Counseling Center, received the Maxine Swanson Award, presented to an individual who advocates for the rights of women on campus.

Singleton co-founded Positive Black Women, an organization of African



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Chaunte Rodgers, left, chair of the Women's Commission, congratulates Cynthia Mader on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award during the Celebrating Women Awards Ceremony March 13.

American faculty and staff members who have contributed more than \$28,000 in scholarship money since it was established.

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'Ready to Run' helps more women seek political office

In an effort to increase the number of women who run for political offices, the Women Center will host a daylong workshop led by elected officials and campaign consultants.

"Ready to Run Michigan" is set for Saturday, April 21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., in the Kirkhof Center. Cost to attend is \$125 (\$140 after April 1). Visit www.gvsu.edu/women_cen for details or call x12748.

Ready to Run is a national, bipartisan program that targets states with low numbers of women serving in elected office. In Michigan government, four women serve in the Senate (out of 38 seats) and 27 serve in the state House (out of 110 seats). Michigan ranks 36th in the country when it comes to women holding elected offices, with women making up 21 percent of the state Legislature.

The keynote speaker will be Shirley Franklin, the first African American woman elected mayor of Atlanta. Franklin served as mayor from 2002-2010. Last year, she lectured at

Spelman College in an endowed professorship funded by Bill and Camille Cosby.

Former state Sen. Patty Birkholz will lead one of the breakout sessions, "Politics 101: What Would I Run For? What Would I Run As?" Birkholz served two terms in the Michigan Senate and three terms in the House. Gov. Rick Snyder appointed Birkholz as director of the Office of the Great Lakes last year.

Jo Ann Wassenaar, associate director of the Women's Center, said attending Ready to Run will help prepare women to run for any elected seat, from local school board to city council to state or national positions.

Shannon Garrett, formerly of the White House Project, is serving as a consultant for the



Shirley Franklin

workshop. Garrett said term limits imposed on Michigan senators and representatives have contributed to the sharp decline in the number of women in state office.

"Michigan has some of the shortest term limits in the country," Garrett said. "This has led to the quick turnover of people with experience serving in Lansing. We need more women in the elected office pipeline so that more women are ready to run for legislative seats when our current representation is termed out."

Ready to Run Michigan is supported with funding from Rutgers University Center for American Women and Politics, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Michigan ACE Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education and SMG Strategies.



Patty Birkholz

Across Campus

Faculty Staff Campaign continues

The Faculty Staff Campaign is off to a great start again this year, according to University Development campaign officials.

The campaign doesn't end until June 30, so faculty and staff members still have time to participate and leave a lasting legacy for Grand Valley students. In the competition between the blue and white teams, the blue team (university departments I-Z) is slightly ahead.

All gifts to endowed funds will be matched.

Mike Eichberger, assistant director of admissions, said giving back has become part of the culture at Grand Valley.

"As I look back at all the blessings I've received throughout my experience at Grand Valley, first as a student and then as a staff member, giving back to our university community is just one small token of that appreciation," he said. "It is an important part of being a Laker for a lifetime."

Dance program on the move

Dance faculty members at have been busy extending their reach beyond campus by preparing for an upcoming Grand Rapids Ballet Company collaboration and by hosting a regional conference.

The upcoming Grand Rapids Ballet Company's "Movemedia" concert series (March 23-24 and April 6-7) consists of performances by company dancers of contemporary works by six guest choreographers.

Shawn T Bible, assistant professor of dance, and Calin Radulescu, affiliate professor of dance and former GRBC professional dancer, have choreographed pieces for the two-concert series.

Dale Schriemer, professor of voice, will perform in a piece set by Patricia Parker, GRBC artistic director, along with pianist James Barnett in the live music for "Rueckert Song."



Mike Eichberger

Grand Valley hosted the American College Dance Festival East-Central Region March 6-10 on the Allendale Campus. The ACDFA is the primary academic teaching and performance conference for dance in higher education. Attendees included dance department chairs, faculty members, students, tech crews and accompanists from 26 universities in the Midwest.

Not too late for Know Your Numbers

Health and Wellness reminds faculty and staff members that it's not too late to participate in Know Your Numbers, a component of Healthy Choices.

Faculty and staff members can qualify for Healthy Choices incentives by submitting an annual physical form completed by a health care professional. The physical must include the same biometric components as Know Your Numbers, the clinical health assessments.

More information is online at www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness.

Office of Fellowships offers workshops

The Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships is encouraging students to "Dream Big" and offering students workshops to help in the application process for competitive fellowship and scholarship opportunities.

"We invite students to connect their biggest dreams with nationally competitive award opportunities," said Amanda Cuevas, director of the Office of Fellowships. "These workshops are designed to introduce students to prestigious funding opportunities and how to align their strengths and interests to make an impact on their world."

The 2012 "Dream Big" workshop series kicked off in mid-March and will continue through April.

The next workshop, set for March 28, highlights the Rotary Ambassadorial and Fulbright Scholarship programs, geared for students who are interested in study or service abroad after graduation.

For more information, contact Cuevas at fellowships@gvsu.edu or visit www.gvsu.edu/fellowships.

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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. 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 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.

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

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



GVFaces

Jason Yancey, assistant professor of Spanish

Assistant professor of Spanish Jason Yancey loves observing evidence of history, or what he calls "fingerprints of the past."

"In my house, there are logs in the basement where you can see the marks from workers handling them," he said. "Seeing marks like that gives you a certain feeling, knowing this thing has been here longer than you have."

In his third year at Grand Valley, Yancey teaches Spanish literature, theater, puppetry, creative writing and storytelling. He said many of his courses intersect with one another. "My favorite is Spanish history," said Yancey. "I like all the questions and the quirky, cool stories that you don't see in a textbook."

Yancey said that history seems like a really good story to him, and he enjoys telling it to his students, particularly details that history books leave out.

"There are stories like a 15th century Spanish king commissioning a clockwork automaton to be built," he said. "History books mainly talk about wars, things that have lasting and far-reaching influence. My students will learn about the political stuff too, but stories like this make the person more than just some guy in a book."

Over spring break, Yancey traveled with a group of 30 students to perform at the 2012

International Spanish Golden Age Drama Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas. Yancey worked with James Bell, assistant professor of theater, to develop an English translation of the play "Antona Garcia," written by Tirso de Molina in 1635.



Jason Yancey

While a majority of the play is in English, Yancey led 12 students in developing traditional Spanish interludes that provide comic relief, a common feature of Spanish Golden Age theater. "When act one is done you see a silly, over-the-top comedy sketch," he said. "These are performed by masked actors, and aren't related to the play."

Yancey said that it was an honor for Grand Valley to be the only group from the U.S. invited by the National Park Service to perform.

"The groups that put on performances are usually professional theater companies, not students," he said. "Or performing translated work, for that matter. This was a fantastic opportunity for everyone."

Campus performance of "Antona Garcia" are set for March 30-April 7 at the Performing Arts Center.

What's Ahead

Roundtable to focus on Arab unrest

As political and social unrest continues throughout the Middle East and northern Africa, a group of political science faculty members will host a roundtable discussion on the events of the past year.

“The Arab World Awakening Revisited: One Year Later” will be held on Tuesday, March 20, from 6-8 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2270.

The roundtable comes one year after a similar program was held at Grand Valley. During this year's event, the faculty members hope to discuss what's happened since then, including regime change in Libya and Yemen, and civil unrest in Syria.

“We hope to match and increase participation from last year's event,” said Paul Cornish, associate professor of political science. “The political change in the Middle East is an important global event and citizens need to be aware of the interests and aspirations of those involved.”

The faculty members who will participate include Jim Goode, Sebastian Maisel, Gamal Gasim, Thomas Walker, Wael Berjaoui and Heather Tafel.

Author of community book project will visit

The author of the Community Reading Project book selected for the campus community will visit West Michigan March 20-21.

Isabel Wilkerson wrote *The Warmth of Other Suns*, an award-winning book about African Americans who migrated from the South in search of better lives. Susan Mendoza, director of Undergraduate Research and Integrative Learning, said the book was chosen, in part, because its narrative stories represent the 6 million people who moved from the South to the North or West, searching for better futures.

Wilkerson will visit Herrick District Library in Holland on Tuesday, March 20, at 7 p.m.; and Grand Valley on Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m., in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Book signings will follow both presentations. Both events are free and open to the public.

Wilkerson, who spent much of her career at the New York Times' Chicago bureau, won the Pulitzer Prize for individual reporting for her coverage of the 1993 Midwestern floods and a young boy who was responsible for his four

siblings. She was the first African American woman to receive the writing award.

For *The Warmth of Other Suns*, she interviewed 1,200 people and searched archives to tell the story of the relocation of an entire people. It is Wilkerson's first book, published in 2010. She is currently professor of journalism and director of narrative nonfiction at Boston University.

The Warmth of Other Suns won the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction along with numerous other juried prizes and was named to more than 30 “Best of the Year” lists.

The Community Reading Project now in its seventh year. More information is online at www.gvsu.edu/read.



Isabel Wilkerson

Huntington lecture to feature Doug Rothwell

The Huntington Breakfast Lecture on Wednesday, March 21, will feature Doug Rothwell, president of Business Leaders for Michigan and former CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Rothwell's talk, “From Turning Around to Growing a New Michigan,” will begin at 8 a.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium; it is sponsored by the Seidman College of Business. The event is free and open to the public.

Rothwell is the first president and CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan, formed in 2009 by uniting Detroit Renaissance and the Michigan Business Leadership Council. During his tenure as president of Detroit Renaissance, he led the development of the region's first economic growth strategy — the Road to Renaissance — which raised more than \$70 million in investments.

For more information or to RSVP, call x17100.

Fundraiser will benefit Project Jamaica

Grand Valley is hosting a fundraiser to raise money for Project Jamaica, a service project conducted by students in the higher education graduate program.

From 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, LiaRose Boutique and Gina's Boutique in downtown Grand Rapids will donate 15 percent of their proceeds to the Grand Valley University Foundation to support Project Jamaica. Sent an email to style@ginaboutiquegr.com to RSVP.

In May, a group of students and faculty and staff members will study abroad at the University of West Indies in Jamaica and will work to renovate the Seaview Primary School in St. Elizabeth Parish. Grand Valley will team up with the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse and Boise State University to renovate a building that will house a preschool and life skills education area called the “Center for Excellence.” All donations from the fundraiser will support construction and renovation costs.

In early March, Kate DeGraaf, Student Life graduate assistant, Michelle Burke, director of Student Life, and Jay Cooper, associate professor of education, visited the school to coordinate renovation plans.

Grand Dialogue explores Science and Religion

An expert and author of four books on the relationship between science and religion is the keynote speaker of the 2012 Grand Dialogue conference hosted by Grand Valley. The event is set for Saturday, March 24, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Keynote speaker Gerald Schroeder currently teaches at the Aish HaTorah College of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem on topics related to the confluence between modern scientific discoveries and ancient biblical commentaries. He earned a doctoral degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in two fields: applied nuclear physics, and earth and planetary sciences. He served seven years at MIT on the physics staff prior to moving to Israel, where he joined the Weizmann Institute of Science, and then the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

This annual conference is an inter-institutional, interdisciplinary, interfaith exploration of science and religion. Grand Dialogue is an association of area colleges, universities and related organizations exploring the relationship between these two great ideas.

The conference is free and open to the public. Lunch and breakout sessions will follow the morning welcome and keynote addresses. Registration for the conference and lunch (\$5) should be made at www.GrandDialogue.org. For more information, call x15702.

Ceremony celebrates achievements of campus women

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Women and Gender Studies presented its Barbara Jordan Award to Grace Coolidge, associate professor of history.

There were two recipients of the Women's Impact Award: Debra Ross, associate professor of criminal justice; and Pat Smith, deputy university counsel.

Michelle Duram, history department coordinator, received the Unsung Hero Award.

The Women's Center named three students as Outstanding Student recipients: Molly

Barnard, Elizabeth Bryker and Jessica Krebs. Monique Tumbleson earned the Jean Enright Scholarship.

Six students earned PBW scholarships: Leah Hess, Kendra Hoskins, Nicole Moore, Andrea Taylor, Patricia Ware and Dmitri Westbrook.

Photo by Amanda Pitts

Pictured, from left, are recipients of Celebrating Women Awards: Cynthia Mader, Pat Smith, Harriet Singleton, Debra Ross, Grace Coolidge and Michelle Duram.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Mon., March 19

6 p.m.: World Affairs Council Global Decisions Discussion Series: “Debriefing: Indonesia,” by William Liddle. Performing Arts Center, Aquinas College.

Tues., March 20

Noon: Health and Wellness Event: “Why What He Thought She Said Isn’t So!” by Alison Brown. 302E DEV. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

Noon: What Mommies Do Best: “Birth Stories from a Midwife,” by Shannon Pawson. 1201 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

1 p.m.: Excellence Series: “Assertive Communication,” by Shirley Jallad. 2270 KC. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

Wed., March 21

7:30 a.m.: Huntington Breakfast Series with Doug Rothwell. Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x17100 for more information.

11 a.m.: Career Connections: “Be a Better Writer at Work.” 302E DEV. Call x12215 for more information.

Noon: Allendale Toastmasters. 2259 KC. Visit www.gvsu.edu/toastmasters for information.

Noon and 5 p.m.: Health and Wellness hosts CHS Fitness Stairwell Orientation. Lobby, CHS. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

3 p.m.: Women’s Center hosts Women’s Center EqualiTEA. 2204 KC. Call x12748 to register.

6 p.m.: Projection Film Series: “The Maid.” 114 LMH. Call x12195 for more information.

7 p.m.: Latin American Studies Event: “Border Politics from Above and Below,” by Macrina Cardenas de Alarcon and Tony Nelson. B-LL-126 MAK. Call x18110 for more information.

Thurs., March 22

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

8:30 a.m.: Excellence Series: “Costumer Service – Embracing the Student as Customer,” by Andy Masters. 2204 KC. To register visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar.

Noon-9 p.m.: Made in Michigan Renewable Energy Technology Show. MAREC. Call x16907 for more information.

1 p.m.: Excellence Series: “Customer Service – Embracing the Student as Customer,” by Andy Masters. 122E DEV. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

2:30 p.m.: Women’s Center Her Story by Maureen Wolverton. 2263 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

6 p.m.: Grants on the Grand Celebration. 215 EC. Call x16826 for more information.

Fri., March 23

9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Made in Michigan Renewable Energy Technology Show. MAREC. Call x16907 for more information.

3:30 p.m.: Evolution for Everyone: “Shifting Gears in The Evolution of Infectious Diseases,” by Larry Lutwick. 102 LTT. Call x12423 for more information.

Sat., March 24

7 a.m.-6:30 p.m.: Region 12 Science Olympiad Tournament. FH and other locations.

Sun., March 25

2 p.m.: Saxophone Studio Recital. 1325 PAC. Call x13484 for more information.

Sports

Tues., March 20

3 p.m.: Softball hosts Rochester College.

Wed., March 21

3 p.m.: Men’s Tennis hosts Aquinas College.

Sat., March 24

1 p.m.: Lacrosse hosts Tiffin University.

1 p.m.: Baseball hosts Lake Erie College.

Sun., March 25

Noon: Baseball hosts Lake Erie College.

2 p.m.: Lacrosse hosts Olivet College.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Dawn Richiert, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, was interviewed by WXMI-TV for a story about the cadaver laboratories.

T. Arnold (Arn) Boezaart, director of the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, was named as one of Michigan’s “green leaders” by the *Detroit Free Press*.

Sketches

Azizur Molla, assistant professor of anthropology, will chair a session, “Medical

Anthropology,” and give a presentation, “Health Disparities and the Role of Government in the Developing Countries: An Ethnographic Study,” at the Central States Anthropological Society conference in Toledo, Ohio.

Annis Water Resources Institute staff members **Bopi Biddanda** and **Scott Kendall** co-wrote an article, “Cyanobacterial Life at Low O₂,” published in *Geobiology*.

Elena Lioubimtseva, associate professor of geography and planning, gave a presentation, “Grain Production Trends in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan,” at the annual conference of the Association of American Geographers in

New York. She also wrote a chapter, “Africa and Global Climate Change: Impacts, Vulnerability and Climate Policies,” published in the *Handbook of Africa’s International Relations*.

News and Information Services received two Telly Awards: silver award for the 2011 Convocation video, in the motivational category; and bronze award for 2011 Scholarship video in the fundraising category.

Dan Balfour, professor of public, nonprofit, and health administration, co-wrote a chapter, “The Dynamics of Administrative Evil in Organizations,” in *The Foundations of Organizational Evil*.