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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services



Author chosen for CRP shares stories of 'Warmth'

The author of the Community Reading Project said the book she wrote was the "greatest underreported story of the 20th century."

Isabel Wilkerson said it took her 15 years to write *The Warmth of Other Suns*. She spoke to a capacity crowd in the Kirkhof Center March 14, following a visit to Herrick District Library in Holland the previous day.

Wilkerson interviewed 1,200 people for the book, which traces the migration of African Americans from the South to other parts of the country in search for better lives. She said it was difficult getting people to open up to her and relive their experiences under Jim Crow laws of the South.

"It's so painful for them, they often didn't tell their own children and grandchildren about it," she said.

The three main people profiled in *Warmth of Other Suns* migrated to the East Coast,

Midwest and California. They represented the migration paths of 6 million other African Americans who left the South.

"This migration was different because it was the only time the lowest caste of people were forced to leave to go to another region of the country to be recognized as citizens," she said.

Veta Tucker, associate professor of English and director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, introduced Wilkerson and called her book a "game-changer."

"It's changing our perspective of ourselves as African Americans," Tucker said.

Wilkerson asked the audience if they would have left their homes under similar conditions.



Photo by April Joy Galbreath

Isabel Wilkerson signs a book following her March 14 presentation as part of the Community Reading Project. 'The Warmth of Other Suns' traces of migration of African Americans from the South.

"We have the honor and duty to make their sacrifices mean something today," she said.

Across Campus

Delegation from India tours campus

A delegation from Pondicherry University in India visited Grand Valley March 20-23 to formalize a new faculty exchange program.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer for the Padnos International Center, said about five Grand Valley students visit Pondicherry each semester through the Semester in India program.

"This agreement is aimed at providing opportunities for faculty members to guest lecture there, and for Pondicherry faculty to come here," Schaub said.

Jalees A.K. Tareen, vice chancellor, signed the agreement with President Thomas J. Haas on March 22 during a luncheon at the DeVos Center. While at Grand Valley, Tareen and his wife, Syeda Gulnaz Tareen, met with faculty members from the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, Graduate Studies, Professional Science Masters

Programs and College of Community and Public Service, in addition to other departments.

Faculty members interested in the new exchange can visit the Padnos Center website for more information, www.gvsu.edu/pic and click on "Faculty and Staff."



Photo by Elizabeth Lienau

Jalees A.K. Tareen, left, talks with Tim Thimmesch and Brad Wallace during a tour of the Kelly Family Sports Center. Tareen is vice chancellor of Pondicherry University in India.

Grant will help college awareness program

A college awareness program at Grand Valley that provides academic support and encouragement to students from Grand Rapids Public Schools received a continuation grant for \$52,434.

The U.S. Department of Education and the State of Michigan awarded the grant that will fund the Michigan Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program in the Office of Multicultural Affairs through 2018. The program facilitates student tutoring and mentoring, workshops, college preparation and financial aid, and assists schools, teachers and parents to better prepare students for college studies.

Bobby Springer, associate director of OMA, said the grant will apply to current GRPS seventh-grade students. "They automatically became part of the GEAR UP program when they started seventh grade this year," he

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Across Campus

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said. “We will follow them through high school and their first year of college, and provide experiences along the way to help them succeed in the classroom and gain skills necessary to be a college graduate.”

Springer organizes one-day campus tours for seventh grade classes throughout the year, and will invite the whole class of 2017 — more than 500 students — to campus in June. This summer, groups of students will spend a few days on campus to become familiar with a college environment and tour other universities in the state.

The program is a national effort; all 15 public universities in Michigan support GEAR UP.

Michigan History Day regional contest held on campus

More than 230 students representing many West Michigan area middle and high schools attended the Michigan History Day western regional contest at Grand Valley on March 17.



Sean O'Neill, professor of history, congratulates a group of students during the Michigan History Day regional contest March 17.

Students performed self-directed research on an individually chosen topic then presented their work through the allied disciplines of writing, art, literature, music, drama and visual

communications. Entries for this year's contest followed the theme, “Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History.”

Seventy students qualified for the state contest to be held at Central Michigan University on April 28. Judges were Grand Valley faculty members, graduates, local teachers and community historians.

“It is the goal of the program to empower students with research skills, critical thinking skills and outlets for creative expression,” said Sean O'Neill, professor of history and History Day regional coordinator. “These skills will enhance their academic abilities in all areas of study.”

HTM students to attend governor's conference

Thirty students majoring in hospitality and tourism management were selected to attend the Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism.

This year's conference is being held in Grand Rapids at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel March 25-27.

Students will hear from Gov. Rick Snyder and Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, as well as tourism industry leaders including George Zimmermann, vice president of Travel Michigan and Peter Greenberg, travel editor for CBS News.

“The importance of tourism as a contributor to the economy in Michigan cannot be understated and this conference will provide exciting opportunities for our students to interact with the key stakeholders involved in promoting tourism throughout the state,” said Paul Stansbie, chair of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Women's Center celebrates 10 years

Giving to the Women's Center was very natural for alumna Ann Marie Koltz. She was the Women's Center's first student employee and she said her experience at the center helped shape who she is today.

Koltz was one of many individuals who were recognized at the Women's Center 10th anniversary celebration on March 16. “Our Stories”— a visual showcase of past and present students — was unveiled, and 18 women who are part of the Women's Center Enrichment Circle were recognized.

The Enrichment Circle was established this year to provide the center with necessary resources to achieve plans for the next 10 years. About \$34,000 started the circle; donations will go toward the Women's

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

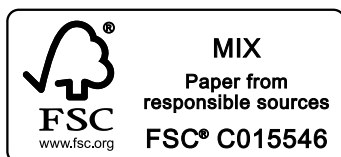
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Other publications by the News and Information Services Office include:

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

Amy Schelling, assistant professor of education

Integrating technology in the classroom is something that Amy Schelling, assistant professor of education, has a knack for.

“I like to find everyday types of things that I can include technology in,” said Schelling. “It serves as a model for my students so that they can become familiar with it, and hopefully use it later on.”

Schelling is also the coordinator of the College of Education's Cognitive Impairment Education Program. A majority of the classes she teaches take place online, so Schelling rarely has personal contact with her students. To counteract this, Schelling said that she uses technology to foster a welcoming and open environment.

“I'll give audio feedback to the students or post audio announcements to the class,” she said. “At one point, I attended a workshop on making and editing videos. I combined that knowledge with tools like Screencast and Camtasia to create a get-to-know-your instructor video, and another video that walks my students through their classroom interfaces.”

A member of the College of Education Technology Committee, Schelling is always looking for new tools or innovative techniques

that can be used within the school. “It's important to build a sense of community,” she said. “My students are always willing to connect with one another in order to gain as much as they can from their courses.”

Schelling received the FTLC Teaching and Learning Award at the 11th Annual Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium, held March 14. She also delivered a presentation, “Creating Community in the Online Classroom: It's the Little Things that Count,” based on her experiences.

Schelling explained that she enjoys the diversity online courses can bring. “Many students I see are people that have their teaching degrees and are coming back to receive their special education endorsement,” she said.

“It's important to know that these students already have some experience, but even more important to remember that these experiences are varied.”



Amy Schelling

What's Ahead

Lakers not afraid to get their hands dirty

Hundreds of alumni, faculty and staff members, students and friends are expected to participate in service projects during the week of March 26-31 for Community Outreach Week 2012. The program is a collaboration between the Alumni Association and the Community Service Learning Center.

The event has increased in popularity since it was established in 2009. More than 1,000 Lakers have participated in service projects.

Alumni groups in West Michigan, Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco, New York City, Phoenix and other areas will host projects during COW, including locally at Ronald McDonald House, Kids Food Basket, Hope Lodge, Boys & Girls Club, Humane Society, Habitat for Humanity, Kent County Parks and more.

Details are online at www.gvsu.edu/cow. Participants can sign up for a project or create their own and invite others to join.

Symposium to focus on women and environment

Environmental impacts on women's health, farming practices and eco-business are just some topics that will be discussed at a Women's History Month event.

The Women & Environment Symposium will take place from noon-9 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, at the Eberhard Center. It is the first large-scale meeting in West Michigan that will focus on women and the environment. Visit www.wmeac.org/women to register.

Sponsors are the Women's Center, Women and Gender Studies, Sustainable Community Development Initiative, and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council.

A team of representatives from Grand Valley, WMEAC, area universities and local nonprofits organized the event. The symposium will begin with a luncheon panel and breakout sessions in the afternoon, and will close with a reception and keynote address from Susan Hedman, administrator of the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5.

The panels and keynote address are free and open to the public. The luncheon is \$25, reception is \$15; both can be purchased for \$35. The luncheon and reception are free for students.

Campus events will honor Cesar Chavez

A silent march and keynote address at Grand Valley are planned to honor Cesar Chavez on Thursday, March 29.

The silent march will begin at noon in front of Zumberge Library, and a keynote address by Miguel Martinez-Saenz, will follow at 1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Martinez-Saenz is the associate provost of Undergraduate Education and Student Support Services at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. He has worked extensively with students on the importance of multicultural education.

Cesar Chavez events are sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs with support from many other campus departments. For more information, call x12177 or visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

Retirement seminar planned

Health and Wellness will host its annual seminar geared for faculty and staff members who are nearing retirement.

"How to Retire Happy and Informed" is set for Thursday, March 29, from 1-5 p.m. in the Bicycle Factory, room 330. To register visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar.

Speakers will address financial planning, social security and career transitions. For more information, call x12215.

Campus Dining hosts Relay for Life fundraiser

The campus community is invited to a silent

auction to help raise funds for the Campus Dining Relay for Life team. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

The silent auction will take place on Friday, March 30, from 2-4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2263. There will be a variety of items for all price ranges, including comedy club passes, an autographed Red Wings puck, artwork and movie passes.

Faculty and staff members can still join or form teams for the 10th annual Relay for Life event at Grand Valley, set for April 13. The 12-hour event is sponsored by the student group Colleges Against Cancer.

Last year, more than \$100,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society. More information is online at www.relayforlifegvsu.com.

Event raises awareness about student parents

The Children's Enrichment Center will host an event to raise awareness about students who are parents at Grand Valley.

"Walking the Talk" will take place on April 19 from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. on the Allendale Campus. Sharalle Arnold, director of CEC, will walk on campus for 11 hours to raise awareness about the importance of having quality childcare for student parents. Participants can opt-in during the walk at various hours.

Funds raised will go toward the Children's Enrichment Center scholarship endowment fund, which was established to assist student parents with child care costs.

There are more than 500 students at Grand Valley who are parents, said Arnold.

"The big effort here is to help our student parents stay at Grand Valley and complete their degrees. We can do that by offering child care services that are affordable and accessible," she said.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/cec and click on "Upcoming Events" to register; the deadline is April 2.

Across Campus

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Center Endowment Fund. Since the Women's Center was founded in 2001, it has assisted hundreds of students each year, hosted more than 600 programs, raised more than \$100,000 for organizations that work with women and girls, and provided dozens of nonprofit agencies with volunteers.

"When the university initially began thinking about starting a women's center, they weren't sure if it would be used. But since it was founded, I've talked with many students who told me they can't imagine life without it," said Klotz, now assistant director of residential education at DePaul University.

Marlene Kowalski-Braun, assistant vice provost for Student Affairs and director of the Women's Center, said looking ahead, the center

has many exciting plans, including a study abroad trip to South Africa, a new residential Women's Leadership Living and Learning Academic Community, and new and innovative projects and initiatives.

"The Enrichment Circle will help sustain the programs and initiatives at the center long after we leave," she said. "Establishing this group will help the center

extend its reach at Grand Valley, throughout West Michigan and beyond."

Bart Merkle, dean of Students, said: "Nearly every department on campus has collaborated with the center. The developmental and leadership skills they teach are truly remarkable, and I look forward to the next 10 years with excitement and anticipation."



Photo by April Joy Galbreath

Mary Seeger, retired dean, was recognized as one of 18 people who contributed toward the Women's Center Enrichment Circle.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Mon., March 26

3 p.m.: Women's Center hosts "In Our Own Words: Journal Reading." JHZ. Call x12748 for more information.

Wed., March 28

10 a.m.: FTLC Workshop: Beyond Civility: Supporting Each Other as Faculty Colleagues. 302E DEV. Call x13498 for more information.

11 a.m.: Career Connections: The Elevator Pitch and Verbal Resume. 1142 KC. Call x12215 for more information.

11:30 a.m.: Johnson Center Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series: "Leadership in Sustainability," by Richard Jelier. BIK. Call x17585 for more information.

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

Noon: Women's Commission Fireside Chat: "Gender: Privilege, Power, and Oppression," by Ayana Weekley and Kyrié Kirkland. 1201 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

Noon: Arts at Noon: Athenia Chamber Ensemble. CDC. Call x13484 for more information.

6 p.m.: Projection Film Series: "McCabe & Mrs. Miller." 114 LMH. Call x12195 for more information.

Thurs., March 29

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

Noon: César E. Chávez Celebration Silent March. JHZ. Call x12177 for more information.

1 p.m.: César E. Chávez Celebration Event: "Courage, Hope, and Love: Honoring the Legacy of Cesar Chavez," by Miguel Martinez-Saenz. 2250 KC. Call x12177 for more information.

1 p.m.: Health and Wellness hosts "How to Retire Happy and Informed." 330 BIK. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

1 p.m.: Excellence Series: "Crucial Conversations: Tips for Talking When Stakes are High," by Sean Huddleston. 2270 KC. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

1:30 p.m.: Excellence Series: "Social Media for Advanced Users," by Ben Rapin and Dave Poortvliet. 123 CHS. Visit www.gvsu.edu/seminar to register.

6 p.m.: Latin American Studies hosts "Transposing the Urban to the Mall: Routes, Relationships, and Resistance in two Santiago, Chile Shopping Centers," by Joel Stillerman. CDC. Call x18110 for more information.

Fri., March 30

7:30 p.m.: Theater performance: "Antona Garcia." LAT, PAC. Call x12300 for tickets.

Sat., March 31

8 a.m.: R.I.C.E. Conference. Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x12177 for more information.

7:30 p.m.: Theater performance: "Antona Garcia." LAT, PAC. Call x12300 for tickets.

Sun., April 1

2 p.m.: Theater performance: "Antona Garcia." LAT, PAC. Call x12300 for tickets.

Sports

Fri., March 30

3:30 p.m.: Men's Tennis hosts Lake Erie College.

Sat., March 31

10 a.m.: Men's Tennis hosts Ohio Dominican University.

Noon: Track & Field hosts Saginaw Valley State University.

1 p.m.: Softball hosts Ferris State University.

1 p.m.: Baseball hosts Ashland University.

Sun., April 1

Noon: Softball hosts Ferris State University.

1 p.m.: Men's Tennis hosts Ashland University.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Michael Moody, Frey chair for family philanthropy at the Johnson Center, was interviewed by WGVU for a story about philanthropy in West Michigan.

Sketches

Christen M. Pearson, associate professor of English, wrote an article, "When Learning a Language is Not Enough — Knowing How to Use It," published in *Family Focus*.

Deana Weibel, associate professor of anthropology, wrote a chapter, "Magnetism and Microwaves: Religion as Radiation," in a book, *Religion and the Body: Modern Science and the Construction of Religious Meaning*.

Figen A. Mekik, associate professor of geology, co-wrote an article, "The Mystery of the Missing Deglacial Carbonate Preservation Maximum," published in *Quaternary Science Reviews*.

WGVU wins FM station of the year

WGVU Radio won six Michigan Association of Broadcasters Broadcast Excellence awards including FM Station of the Year. WGVU TV won seven Broadcast Excellence awards. The MAB ceremony was held March 15 in Lansing.

Radio

- WGVU FM Station of the Year
- WGVU Engage Children's Health: Best in Community Involvement
- Gifts for the Greater Good: Merit in Mini-Documentary or Series
- Air Service Overabundance: Best in Hard News and Current Events Story
- Jewish History: Best in Special Interest and Cultural Programming
- Homeless Runners: Best in Feature/Use of Media
- Heart Health Series: Best in Mini-Documentary or Series

TV

- Cool Teacher: Best in Marketing Materials and Promos
- Depth of Field Photographs of the American Soldier: Best in Special Interest Programming
- Depth of Field Photographs of the American Soldier: Best in News Special or Documentary
- Get Your Diploma. Get Your Dream: Best in Community Involvement
- WGVU Engage: Merit in Community Involvement
- Buddy the Dinosaur Promo: Merit in Marketing Materials and Promos
- West Michigan Week: Grand Rapids Homicide – Merit in News or Public Affairs Special.