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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by News & Information Services



Final library beam goes into place with autographs

More than 1,000 students made their mark on Laker history by signing the final beam for the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons April 12. The four-story beam will complete the steel erection of the library, which will open in the fall of 2013.

Signers included President Thomas J. Haas, Student Senate President Natalie Cleary and kids from the Children's Enrichment Center. Kate Pew Wolters, member of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees, was also in attendance and signed the beam for the building that is named for her mother.

"It's great to see all the Lakers here to celebrate the new library that will take us into another stage at Grand Valley," Haas said. "Seeing all the excitement and support is a great testimonial to our university."

Cleary said, "Being here and seeing us all come together is what it truly means to be a Laker for a lifetime."

The event gave students an opportunity to express their gratitude to the donors who made the project possible. More than 1,400 private donors, students, alumni, and faculty and staff members have provided support and donations for the new facility.



Photo by Elizabeth Lienau

David S. Hooker and Kate Pew Wolters, members of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees, sign the final beam for the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons April 12.

Across Campus

Wenner to retire as dean

Much like an experienced relay runner, Wendy Wenner said she's ready for the handoff.

Wenner will retire as dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies at the end of May. She was named founding dean of the new college in 2004. Wenner joined Grand Valley in 1988 as a visiting faculty member in the English department. In 1999, she was named assistant vice president for Academic Affairs.

"We've got a good transition plan in place here for the next person," Wenner said. "The college has a name, it's established. It is time for someone else to lead it for the next 10 years."

The college was established to provide innovative, integrative areas of study for students. It includes academic programs like the Meijer Honors College, Liberal Studies and Women and Gender Studies, and houses initiatives like the Fred Meijer Writing Center, Padnos International Center, and Sustainable Community Development Initiative.

Wenner said a model similar to Brooks College

wouldn't fit at all universities.

"At more traditional universities, institutions are bound by more traditional boundaries," she said. "At Grand Valley, we are able to make those boundaries more porous."

Gayle R. Davis, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said Wenner's talents helped developed Brooks College and give it a "firm foundation for the future."

"The Brooks College needed the rare combination of talents and interests that characterize Dean Wenner's work: creative energy, ability to inspire, optimism, intelligence, and willingness to design new paths toward academic innovation," Davis said.

Wenner said she began preparing for her



Wendy Wenner

retirement last year. She said she would like to spend more time coaching faculty and staff members who are ready for leadership positions. She recently took up painting, and would like to continue to take more art classes.

A reception to celebrate Wenner's retirement is set for Wednesday, April 25, from 4-6 p.m. at the Alumni House.

Events planned to celebrate Kingston partnership

Numerous events are planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the successful international partnership between Grand Valley and Kingston University, located outside of London.

Since it was established in 1986, hundreds of students, faculty and staff members have participated in exchanges between the two universities. Rebecca Hambleton, director of study abroad and international partnerships for the Padnos International Center, said the partnership first concentrated in the sciences

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but has since expanded to include diverse academic programs like art and design, nursing, English, business, public administration, engineering and more.

“This partnership currently offers the most comprehensive curricular options for student, faculty and staff exchanges,” Hambleton said.

Brian Curry, who had served as professor of biomedical sciences at Grand Valley, helped develop the partnership. Curry hosted Bob Godfrey from Kingston in 1986 and then explored a partnership. Curry, who now lives in the United Kingdom, will return to Grand Valley later this month for the celebration.

Ginger Randall, associate dean of students, was among the first faculty from Grand Valley to visit Kingston. In 1996, Randall served as international student advisor and traveled to Kingston to see how its student services operated.

“I wanted to meet with people in all areas of student services,” Randall said. She was also in London at the same time Grand Valley’s crew team raced in its first regatta against Kingston.

A reception to celebrate the partnership is planned for Friday, April 27, at Tre Cugini Restaurant, 122 Monroe Center NW in Grand Rapids. Grand Valley will welcome Kingston’s vice chancellor, Julius Weinberg, and the head of international development, Heather Forland, at the celebration. Faculty and staff members are invited; RSVP by sending an email to Vicki Wenger at wengerv@gvsu.edu or by calling x13898.

Artist and Grand Valley alumna Jacqueline Garner studied at Kingston in 2010. Photographs she took in London will be displayed at Tre Cugini



Grand Valley alumna Jacqueline Garner studied at Kingston in 2010. Her artwork, including the image above, will be displayed at the April 27 celebration at Tre Cugini.

during the reception. While at Kingston, Garner studied with Vince Wade, head of photography. Garner said Wade taught her to photograph London from a photographer’s eye, rather than a tourist’s eye.

In July, Grand Valley and Kingston will participate in a collaborative project “Bodies in Motion” combining dance, music and digital innovation, which will be broadcast online. More information about the Kingston partnership and upcoming events is online at www.gvsu.edu/kingston25.

Career Services holds internship luncheon

Career Services held its annual internship luncheon April 12 to celebrate its student interns, internship supervisors, and faculty partners and present awards.

Andrew Borgman, a biostatistics major, received the Intern of the Year Award for his work at the Van Andel Research Institute. Lindsey Rodarmer, web content specialist at Advantage Health/Saint Mary’s Medical Group, received the Outstanding Internship Supervisor of the Year Award.

Two area employers were recognized: Wolverine World Wide and Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

Tim Penning, associate professor of communications, and Gail Zemmol, affiliate professor of hospitality and tourism management, were recognized as Outstanding Internship Advocates.

KCON dean earns national honor

Cynthia McCurren, dean of the Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley State University, was elected to the National Academies of Practice as a distinguished scholar and fellow in late March.

The NAP is composed of 10 academies representing dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, podiatric medicine, psychology, social work, and veterinary medicine.

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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.



Faculty member advocates for international education

Amy Masko, associate professor of English, had a good story to share with Washington legislators when she met with them to help promote international education.

Masko traveled to Washington in late March on behalf of the Padnos International Center to participate in the NAFSA Day of Advocacy. Universities from all over the country sent representatives; Masko was the only representative from Michigan.

Masko relayed the story of how a dance-drum troupe from Ghana, Korye Dance Theatre, was denied visas last year to visit Grand Valley and West Michigan for performances on campus and at 13 area schools.

“We tried to bring them here last fall,” Masko said. “We had everything lined up: support from Grand Valley, donations from the West Michigan community. But the travel visas for all 25 members of the troupe were denied for various reasons.”

When she met with U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga

and aides for Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, Masko said her story illustrated how, at times, the U.S. visa process limits international education.

“Bringing international musicians, artists and professors here for cultural exchanges is necessary to provide international education to those students who aren’t able to participate in study abroad opportunities,” Masko said.

Masko earned a Fulbright Fellowship several years ago and studied in Ghana. She also serves as a board member for Korye Dance Theatre.



Amy Masko

What's Ahead

On-site health coaching available

Representatives from UMR will be on campus this week to review clinical health assessments with faculty and staff members.

Confidential appointments can be made for Tuesday, April 24, from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 1140; or Wednesday, April 25, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 297C. Call x12215 to schedule a appointment.

Politics, religion center of upcoming debate

Two well-known and influential speakers will discuss the role of Christianity in American politics at a debate hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

"Is Christianity Good For American Politics?" featuring Susan Jacoby, program director at the Center for Inquiry, and Dinesh D'Souza, president of King's College, will be held at Fountain Street Church on Thursday, April 26, beginning at 7 p.m.

D'Souza recently wrote *What's so Great About Christianity?* and has been called one of the "top young public-policy makers in the country" by *Investor's Business Daily*. D'Souza was named one of American's most influential conservative thinkers by the *New York Times*, and his articles have appeared in many major magazines and newspapers.

Jacoby is the author of *The Age of American Unreason* and *Alger Hiss and The Battle for History*. Jacoby is an independent scholar whose work focuses on American intellectual history. She has been a contributor for more than 25 years on topics including law, religion, medicine, aging, women's rights, political dissent in the Soviet Union, and Russian Literature, to a wide range of periodicals and newspapers.

For more information, contact the Hauenstein Center at x12770 or visit www.allpresidents.org.

Convocation honors first Woodrow Wilson Fellows

The College of Education will honor an outstanding alumni educator and the first

cohort of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows during its convocation ceremony.

About 215 graduates are expected to participate in convocation on Thursday, April 26, beginning at 7 p.m. at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. The ceremony is a precursor to commencement ceremonies on April 28 at Van Andel Arena.

During convocation, Michael Paskewicz, superintendent of Northview Public Schools, will receive the Outstanding Alumni Administrator Award. Paskewicz has been an educator for 34 years. He spent 21 years in Grand Rapids Public Schools as a teacher, science consultant, principal and executive assistant to the superintendent. He also taught as an adjunct professor at Grand Valley and Aquinas College.

Paskewicz then served as superintendent for three school districts in Utah, Chicago and Colorado before returning to the Grand Rapids area in 2009 to serve as superintendent of Northview Public Schools. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Grand Valley and a doctorate from Western Michigan University.

For more information contact Forrest Clift at x16230.

Grand Valley film to premiere

Grand Valley will premiere its new Summer Film Project, "Message Sent," Friday, April 27, at 8 p.m. at Celebration Cinema North in Grand Rapids. The box office opens at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5.

The plot of "Message Sent" involves a vagrant, played by Michael McCallum from Lansing, who begins to receive emergency messages on a cell phone he found and becomes



Pictured is a scene from 'Message Sent,' the Summer Film Project that will premiere Friday at Celebration Cinema North.

compelled to find the owner. The cast also includes 15-year-old Kaitlyn Squires, from Byron Center, who recently played the role of Helen Keller at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre.

The screenplay of "Message Sent" was written by Angelo Eidse of Vancouver and selected for the university's 17th annual Summer Film Project. The project was established in 1995 to offer junior and senior students an opportunity to work side-by-side with professionals to produce a short film. More than 25 students enrolled in the six-week practicum course that shot the film in late July and early August.

Director John Harper Philbin, associate professor of communications, and cinematographer Jack Anderson reunited for their fifth summer film. The producer is Carian White, a 2011 graduate of Grand Valley's Film and Video Program. Megan Soderberg, art director, and Adam Rock, camera operator, are also 2011 graduates. Cast and crew members will be in attendance.

With a grant from Panavision and Fuji Motion Picture Film, the production was again shot on 35mm film, as it was the first year of the project. "In the past we've shot on Super-16mm, a format more common for independent and college films because 35mm is too expensive," said Philbin. "Last summer, students were able to experience making a movie on the same camera and film that Hollywood uses for feature filmmaking."

Irwin Fund Golf Outing set

The 40th Annual Irwin Athletic Fund Golf Outing is scheduled for June 7 at the Meadows.

Registration times are 6:30 a.m. and noon. Teams of four can choose a morning (7:30 a.m.) or afternoon (1:30 p.m.) tee time. Cost for faculty and staff members is \$100 for 18 holes.

Proceeds from the scramble benefit the Charles H. Irwin Athletic Fund. A continental breakfast will be served at 6:30 a.m., and lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. Guests can attend the luncheon only for \$25. There will also be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m.

Register online at www.gvsu.edu/athletics/irwingolf. The deadline to register is May 25. Questions can be directed to Janine Warfield at x12330.

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Each academy can elect 150 active distinguished practitioners.

"It's an incredible honor," McCurren said. "No other organization has the breadth of knowledge and experience within its membership to discuss today's health care delivery questions from an interdisciplinary perspective."

McCurren joined Grand Valley in 2007. She had served as dean of the school of nursing at the University of Louisville. During her tenure at Grand Valley, McCurren has collaborated to develop an endowed center,

the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation, within KCON. She currently serves on the Michigan Area Health Education Center advisory board.

Summer camps for kids listed

Work Life Connections has compiled a listing of area summer camps for K-12 students.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness and click on "Summer Camps" to view the list, or call Work Place Options, (800) 952-3586 and press 4. For more information, contact Sue Sloop at sloops@gvsu.edu.

Last issue for semester

This marks the last printed issue of *Forum* for the winter semester.

News content, including Faculty and Staff Sketches, will be published online during the spring/summer semester on the news website, GVNow, www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

Keep up with campus news by subscribing to GVNow. Each day new stories are added to GVNow, subscribers will receive an email with news headlines and links. Visit the website and click "News Alerts" at the bottom of the page to subscribe.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Events

Mon., April 23

11:45 a.m.: A/P Annual Luncheon. 2250 KC.

Tues., April 24

9 a.m.-7 p.m.: UMR On-Site Health Coaching. 1140 KC. Call x12215 to sign up for appointments.

Wed., April 25

8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: UMR On-Site Health Coaching. 297C DEV. Call x12215 to sign up for appointments.

11:30 a.m.: Johnson Center Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series: "Intercultural Competence," by Sean Huddleston. BIK. Call x17585 for more information.

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

Noon: Women's Commission General Meeting. 0042 KC. Call x12748 for more information.

4 p.m.: Retirement reception for Dean Wendy Wenner. AH. Call x18655 for more information.

Thurs., April 26

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

7 p.m.: College of Education Convocation. DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids. Call x16650 for more information.

Fri., April 27

2 p.m.: Johnson Center Seminar: "Strategies &

Steps for Successful Mission Achievement," by Heather Carpenter. BIK. Call x17585 for more information.

Sat., April 28

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.: Commencement. Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids. Visit www.gvsu.edu/commencement for more information.

Sports

Sat., April 28

1 p.m.: Baseball hosts Wayne State University.

Sun., April 29

Noon: Baseball hosts Wayne State University.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

In the News

Troy Farley, director of Career Services, was interviewed by WZZM-TV for a story about internships, career fairs and job placement.

Paul Lane, professor of marketing, was interviewed by the *Detroit Free Press* for a story about gas prices and spending habits.

Todd Willams, assistant professor of psychology, was interviewed by WZZM-TV for a story about the psychology of rising gas prices.

Sketches

Nanette Reynolds, who served as senior advisor to former President Mark Murray, will receive the 2012 Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni Council Award for outstanding contributions to education.

Regional Math and Science Center staff members **Karen Meyers** and **Michelle Bunton** gave a presentation, "Partnerships in Mediated Professional Development: University and Local Facilitators Improving the Learning of Spatial Measurement," at the Association for Mathematics Teacher Educators Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. Meyers gave a presentation, "25 Years of Science Education," at the Michigan Science Teachers Association Annual Conference in Lansing.

Amy Russell, assistant professor of biology, received a grant from Bat Conservation International for a project, "Analyzing Population Limits and Gene Flow in *Perimyotis subflavus* with Application to White-Nose Conservation."

Azizur Molla, assistant professor of

anthropology, gave two presentations, "Power of Culture in Sustaining Safe Water and Sanitation Use in Rural Bangladesh: An Ethnographic Study" and "Veterans' Healthcare: Has it Improved or Worsened Overall Quality of Life? An Ethno-scientific Analysis," at the Society for Applied Anthropology meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. He also gave a presentation, "Sustaining Use of Safe Water and Sanitation in Rural Bangladesh: An Ethnoscience Analysis," at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

John Stevenson, associate dean for Graduate Studies, gave a presentation, "Student Success Programs at Master's Comprehensives: PACES Program Overview," at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools in Chicago.

Kingshuk Majumdar, associate professor of physics, and **Doug Furton**, professor of physics, co-wrote an article, "Effects of Ring Exchange Interaction on the Neel Phase of Two-Dimensional, Spatially Anisotropic, Frustrated Heisenberg Quantum Antiferromagnet," published in *Physical Review B*.

Jean Silbar, visiting professor of allied health science, gave presentations, "Champion Readers Workshop: Building Family Literacy" and "Read to Me: Parent Literacy Development," at the Michigan Speech-Language Hearing Association Conference in Kalamazoo.

Steve Mattox, associate professor of geology, received a grant from the National Science Foundation for a project, "Track 2: Collaborations for Building Michigan Geology Talent."

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, received a

National Endowment for the Humanities grant to complete his project on Michigan Sen. Arthur Vandenberg. The grant will be used to bring historians, political scientists, and commentators to a national meeting on bipartisan cooperation in Washington, D.C., in November.

George McBane, professor of chemistry, co-wrote an article, "Multi-State Analysis of the OCS Ultraviolet Absorption Including Vibrational Structure," published in the *Journal of Chemical Physics*.

Annikka Thelen, student services coordinator for the College of Education, received the Grand Rapids Area Higher Education Network Outstanding Adult Learner Award for 2012.

Craig Benjamin, associate professor of history and honors, gave a presentation, "Turkmenistan at the Center of the Ancient Eurasian World System," at the Medieval Cities of Turkmenistan Conference in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Writing Center staff members **Ellen Schendel**, **Patrick Johnson** and **Michelle Sanchez** gave a presentation, "Not Just for Students: Extending Writing Center Services to Faculty," at the East Central Writing Centers Association in Indianapolis in March.

Ellen Schendel, director of the Writing Center and associate professor of writing, gave a presentation, "(Re)Conceiving of the Writing Center as a Site of Transfer," at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in St. Louis, Missouri. She also facilitated discussions at the Research Network Forum.