

2018

GVSU Press Releases, 2018

Grand Valley State University

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For Immediate Release

January 25, 2018

Contact: Grand Valley State University, Mary Eileen Lyon, lyonme@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2221.

Grand Valley State mourns loss of John Canepa, business leader, philanthropist

Grand Valley State University leaders join others in West Michigan mourning the loss of John Canepa, who died January 25. Canepa used his business acumen and his generosity to change the landscape of the city and to support the university with fierce dedication.

Canepa was on the advisory board of the Grand Valley University Foundation after serving for more than two decades as a director. He was a member of the Seidman College of Business Dean's Advisory Board from 2002 to 2011.

He served on the committees for the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and several campaigns to support various initiatives by Grand Valley, including the campaign for the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, which opened in 2003.

"John was a longtime, dedicated friend to Grand Valley," said President Thomas J. Haas. "He played a critical role in initiating Grand Valley's presence on Grand Rapids' Medical Mile, which has led to a vibrant and growing health campus. The move was considered bold at the time, and we will miss his leadership, steadfast support and wise counsel. He was a pillar in the community, and our prayers are with his wife, Marie, and his family."

Canepa was recognized for his successful career and his support of Grand Valley with an Enrichment Award in 2007 and an honorary degree in 2014.

Canepa was 87 years old and died after an accident in Grand Rapids.

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the car are available at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/ODG>

GVSU student-built vehicle to be showcased at Michigan International Auto Show

A racing vehicle designed and built by students from Grand Valley State University will be on display at the Michigan International Auto Show in Grand Rapids, February 1-4.

Students will be part of an exhibit of student-made cars at the West Michigan Society of Automotive Engineers booth. Student volunteers will be on hand to answer questions during the show.

Each year, students on the Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) team compete at one of the world's largest collegiate autocross car competitions at the Michigan International Speedway. The competition takes place May 9-12 this year.

For more information about Grand Valley's SAE chapter, contact team president Jacob Chapman at chapmjac@mail.gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

January 31, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Panelists at GVSU will discuss opioid epidemic

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area experts in opioid addiction will discuss the epidemic during a Health Forum of West Michigan event at Grand Valley State University on Friday, February 2.

Sponsored by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health, the event will run from 8-9:30 a.m. at Loosemore Auditorium, in the DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton St. It is free and open to the public; a light breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. RSVP online at gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Panelists are listed below. State Michael Bouthillier, from Ferris University's College of Pharmacy, will serve as moderator.

- Talal Khan, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services;
- Kim Gaedeke, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Services;
- Cara Poland, Spectrum Health;
- David Rahinsky, Grand Rapids police chief

This is the second straight year opioid addiction is a Health Forum topic.

Event partners are the Office of the Vice Provost for Health; MSU College of Human Medicine; Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center; and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement. The series is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For immediate release

January 31, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of authors are available [via Dropbox](#).

GVSU faculty authors to discuss their craft, careers during annual writers series

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two Grand Valley State University writing professors will discuss the inner-workings of their creativity and craft during the annual Grand Valley Writers Series.

Patricia Clark and Roger Gilles will present a faculty reading on Wednesday, February 7, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center, located on the Allendale Campus. Readings will be followed by a book signing.

Clark, who also serves as the Writing Department's Poet-in-Residence, is the author of five volumes of poetry, including *The Canopy* (2017) and *Sunday Rising* (2013). She has also published three chapbooks: *Wreath for the Red Admiral*, *Given the Trees*, and *Deadlifts*. Her work has been featured on *Poetry Daily* and *Verse Daily*, and has appeared in *The Atlantic* and *Gettysburg Review*, among other publications. Awards for her work include a Creative Artist Grant in Michigan, the Mississippi Review Prize, the Gwendolyn Brooks Prize, and being named co-winner of the Lucille Medwick Prize from the Poetry Society of America. From 2005-2007, she served as the poet laureate of Grand Rapids.

Gilles, who currently serves as the interim director of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, is the author of *Women on the Move: The Forgotten Era of Women's Bicycle Racing*. For 20 years, his scholarly work has focused on issues relating to writing program administration, primarily placement and assessment. With Dan Royer, professor of writing at Grand Valley, Gilles co-authored *Directed Self-Placement: An Attitude of Orientation* (1998), which led to the publication of their co-edited volume *Directed Self-Placement: Principles and Practices* (2003). Royer and Gilles contributed chapters to several volumes in *A Field of Dreams: Independent Writing Programs and the Future of Composition Studies* (2002), including "The Origins of the Department of Academic, Creative, and Professional Writing at Grand Valley State University."

The Grand Valley Writers Series will offer two additional events this winter season:

Nonfiction Craft Talk and Reading with Robert Long Foreman

Monday, March 12

Craft talk: 4:30-5:45 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270

Reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Poetry Craft Talk and Reading with Maggie Smith

Thursday, April 12

Craft talk: 10-11:15 a.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2266

Reading and book signing: 1-2:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270

For more information about the Grand Valley Writers Series, contact Todd Kaneko, series coordinator, at kanekot@gvsu.edu, or visit gvsu.edu/writing.

For immediate release

February 1, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for the below are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0vv>

GVSU March 2018 arts events tip sheet

Music, Theatre and Dance

For more information about Music, Theatre and Dance Department events, contact (616) 331-3484 or visit gvsu.edu/mtd. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Annual GVSU Student Composers Competition

March 1, at 7:30 p.m.

GVSU Art Gallery (room 1121), Haas Center, Allendale Campus

Music will meet art in conjunction with the “Ebb & Flow” Art Gallery exhibit at Grand Valley State University when music students create one-minute compositions inspired by Herbert Murrie’s artwork for the annual New Music Ensemble Composition Competition. The compositions will be performed by the award-winning New Music Ensemble in rapid succession and judged by a guest panel and the listening audience for prizes.

GVSU Arts at Noon presents Ensemble Caprice

March 14, at noon

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Ensemble Caprice, a baroque ensemble which performs on period instruments, was founded by acclaimed recorder soloist Matthias Maute and has become known for its innovative approach to an expanding musical repertoire. The group tours extensively, performing dozens of concerts in Canada, Europe, Asia, and across the U.S. The ensemble is a regular guest at many prestigious European festivals, including the Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music, Bruges Festival, Utrecht Festival, and Felicia Blumenthal International Music Festival, among many others. For more information about the annual Arts at Noon free concert series at Grand Valley State University, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

GVSU Arts at Noon presents Sanjukta Banerjee

March 21, at noon

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Sanjukta Banerjee is an Indian Classical dancer and educator specializing in Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam. An empaneled dancer with Indian Television, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre and Sangeet Natak Academy, Banerjee has extensively toured all over India, the Middle-East, the south-eastern countries of Asia, Europe and North America. She has performed at more than 300 major dance and theater festivals across India as well. For more information about the annual Arts at Noon free concert series at Grand Valley State University, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

GVSU Faculty and Guest Artist Piano Trio Concert**March 21, at 7:30 p.m.****Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Haas Center, Allendale Campus**

During this concert, Grand Valley State University music faculty members Lisa Feurzeig (musicologist) and Sookkyung Cho (piano) will join guest artists Airi Yoshioka (violin) and Si-Yan Li (cello) to present an evening focused on piano trios by Clara Schumann and Amy Beach.

Theatre at Grand Valley presents "J.B."**March 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, at 7:30 p.m.****March 25, 31, at 2 p.m.****Tickets: \$12 adults; \$10 for seniors, and GVSU alumni, faculty and staff; \$6 for students and groups*****Purchase tickets through the Louis Armstrong Theatre box office in-person Monday – Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., or by calling 616-331-2300. Tickets are also available via [Startickets.com](https://www.startickets.com).**

In an enormous circus tent, two vendors, Mr. Zuss and Nickles, begin to perform a play by assuming the roles of God and Stan, respectively. The pair overhear J.B., a wealthy banker, describe his prosperity as a just reward for his faithfulness to God. Scorning him, Nickles wagers that J.B. will curse God if his life is ruined. After numerous terrible life events happen to J.B., he is left living on the streets. J.B. is then visited by three Comforters (representing history, science and religion) who each offer a different explanation for his plight. J.B. declines to believe any of them, instead asking God himself to explain. Instead, he encounters Zuss and Nickles who try to convince J.B. to end his life. Will J.B. give in to temptation or move forward to create a new life for himself?

Faculty Artist Recital: Marlen Vavrikova, Victoria Olson and Sookkyung Cho**March 25, at 3 p.m.****Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Haas Center, Allendale Campus**

Francis Poulenc's "Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano" belongs to the standard chamber music repertoire, and has been popular with audiences and performers since its premier in the 1920s. During this concert, Grand Valley music faculty will perform a 2016 edition of the piece based on a manuscript discovered and published by Italian oboist and scholar, Sandro Caldini. The featured faculty musicians will include Marlen Vavrikova (oboe), Victoria Olson (bassoon) and Sookkyung Cho (piano).

GVSU Guest Artist Recital: Brian Hsu, piano**March 28, at 7:30 p.m.****Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Haas Center, Allendale Campus**

Since his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra as a teenager, Brian Hsu has gone on to establish himself as a pianist of great energy and unique communicative ability. Critics have described his performances in superlatives, noting his "breadth of expression and technical ability." He has won awards in numerous competitions, both in the U.S. and Asia, as well as concerto competitions at the University of Michigan and The Juilliard School. Hsu has appeared numerous times as a concerto soloist with such ensembles as the Philadelphia Orchestra, Taiwan National Symphony, Juilliard Orchestra, Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra, Haddonfield Symphony, Sendai Philharmonic, and University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

GVSU Arts at Noon presents Gene Bertoncini and Tom Knific Jazz Duo

March 28, at noon

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

This exciting Arts at Noon concert at Grand Valley State University will feature two acclaimed jazz musicians teaming up to perform old and new jazz standards. Gene Bertoncini is one of the pre-eminent jazz guitarists active today. Throughout his career, Bertoncini has performed with a wide range of jazz greats, as well as distinguished vocalists, including Tony Bennett, Lena Horne and Nancy Wilson. Bertoncini will perform alongside classical artist Tom Knific, who has appeared as a soloist with orchestras throughout the U.S. and Europe. Knific has also appeared at chamber music festivals in North America and Europe, and he is a founding member, bassist and composer for the contemporary music group OPUS 21. Knific is currently a professor of double bass and director of jazz studies at Western Michigan University. For more information about the annual Arts at Noon free concert series at Grand Valley State University, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

Theatre at Grand Valley presents "No Exit"

April 5, 6, 7, at 7:30 p.m.

April 8, at 2 p.m.

Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

***All tickets are \$6 for general admission. Purchase tickets through the Louis Armstrong Theatre box office in-person Monday – Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., or by calling 616-331-2300. Tickets are also available via Startickets.com.**

"No Exit" is a part of Grand Valley's annual Performance Studio Series, which gives upper-level theater students the opportunity to use the practical skills they have learned in the classroom by giving them creative control over directing, acting, backstage production, set design and costume design. "No Exit" will be directed by senior theater major Bruno Streck Rodrigues. In "No Exit," three damned souls, Garcin, Inez and Estelle, are brought to the same room in hell by a mysterious Valet. Under the expectation of finding medieval torture devices to punish them for eternity, they instead find a plain room furnished in Second Empire style. While trapped in the room together, the trio struggles to admit the reasons behind their damnation to each other and to themselves.

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Grand Valley Writers Series

Authors from around the world will visit Grand Valley State University as part of the 2017-18 Grand Valley Writers Series. The series has a rich history of bringing distinguished and emerging writers to campus to read work, visit classrooms and interact with students. For more information about the Writers Series, visit www.gvsu.edu/writing.

Robert Long Foreman

March 12, at 6-7:30 p.m. (reading and book signing)

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

***Reading and book signing will be preceded by a craft talk from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, room 2270.**

Robert Long Foreman's essays and short stories have won a Pushcart Prize and contests for *The Journal*, *Willow Springs*, *American Literary Review*, and *The Cincinnati Review*. His first book, *Among Other Things*, won the Robert C. Jones Prize for Short Prose, and was published by Pleiades Press in 2017. Five of his essays have been listed as "Notable" in the Best American Essays anthologies.

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GVSU Art Gallery

For more information about Art Gallery exhibitions, visit gvsu.edu/artgallery or call (616) 331-3638.

“Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy”

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection of Alten’s work in the world.

"Ebb and Flow: Explorations in Painting by Herbert Murrie"

Exhibition on display through March 30

GVSU Art Gallery (room 1121), Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts

For more than 40 years, Herbert Murrie had a successful advertising and design career based in Chicago. However, because of his artistic upbringing and drive, he always returned to the studio in pursuit of a more spontaneous and freeing output. In 1988, Murrie began painting more seriously and by the late 1990s, he was exhibiting regularly. Over the next 15 years, evidence of his freed state leapt off the canvas. Controlled manipulation of paint and color bore witness to his understanding of design, while his process of working intuitively noted elements of the artistic movements he grew up with in the mid-20th Century. Like many artists, Murrie often steps away from his art and then returns to work on pieces in his studio that he feels are unfinished. This exhibition examines the ebb and flow of his creative process, while looking back at his painting career and forward to a new body of work. It includes 26 pieces that span his career as a painter – from 1995 to the present. They are drawn out of private collections and the Grand Valley State University permanent art collection, which includes 16 works that were donated by Herbert and Lisa Murrie in 2015.

“2017 SeoulTech & GVSU Art & Design Student Exchange Exhibition”

Exhibition on display March 9-June 22

West Wall Gallery, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

This exhibition continues the collaboration between Grand Valley State University and Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), that was started in 2008. It features 40 photographs of artwork by SeoulTech art students, while a similar number of photographs by GVSU art and design students were sent to South Korea for a partner exhibition.

"Landscapes, Color & Light: Paintings by Virginia Jenkins"

Exhibition on display March 9-June 22

Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center (Building B), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Virginia Jenkins is a professor and former chair of the Department of Visual and Media Arts at Grand Valley State University. Landscape forms and images have been the primary focus of her work for more than two decades, and her areas of specialty are in painting, drawing and mixed media. This exhibition is drawn from a recent series created in response to the landscape of the Northwest coast of the United States.

PIC Pics

Exhibition on display March 9-June 22

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Every year, hundreds of Grand Valley State University students travel around the globe through study abroad programs. Students and alumni were invited to share their adventures by entering pictures into the 2017 Study Abroad Photo Contest. Finalists' work will be printed by Grand Valley's Padnos International Center and displayed on the Red Wall Gallery. All Grand Valley students, faculty & staff will be invited to vote for their favorite images during the first two weeks of the exhibition and the winning photographs will become part of Grand Valley's permanent art collection of more than 14,000 works.

Selections from *fishladder*

Exhibition on display March 9-June 22

Kirkhof Center Gallery, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Now in its 15th year of production, *fishladder* is a student-run journal at Grand Valley State University that publishes fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, drama, photography and art created by Grand Valley students. Individuals from across all disciplines within the university are encouraged to submit work in all styles, genres and forms. This exhibition presents a selection of these works.

For Immediate Release

February 2, 2018

Contact: Grand Valley State University, Mary Eileen Lyon, lyonme@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2221.

Spectrum Health, Tim Hawkins, timothy.hawkins@spectrumhealth.org, (616) 486-6091

MEDIA NOTE: Sound bites, B-roll, site plan renderings and photos of the meeting will be available via Dropbox at the following link no later than 3 p.m.: <http://qvsu.edu/s/ODS>

Grand Valley Board joins Spectrum Health in approving joint parking ramp

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich — Grand Valley State University, Spectrum Health System and the city of Grand Rapids moved a step closer to jointly addressing the parking issues along and around the Medical Mile in downtown Grand Rapids. The university's Board of Trustees joined Spectrum Health in formally approving a parking ramp that will be built on land owned by the institutions on Michigan Street.

The ramp was approved at the board's February 2 meeting, held at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The project is a six-level parking deck that will provide 1,220 spaces for Grand Valley students in the health professions and nursing programs, and for Spectrum Health employees. The ramp will replace existing surface parking lots owned by the university or Spectrum Health. It will be east of the existing Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences and adjacent to the state-funded health building approved for 333 Michigan and scheduled to open in 2021.

The two institutions worked with the city and the neighborhood organization, Neighbors of Belknap Lookout (NOBL), to preserve space in nearby neighborhoods by agreeing on the deal to join forces and build the ramp on Michigan.

"One of the university's goals in expanding the health campus has been to work with our neighbors," said Board of Trustees Chair John C. Kennedy. "We are pleased we could devise an efficient plan on Michigan that meets the parking needs of students and employees and eases the burden on people living near this area of tremendous growth. This is a great example of the cooperation West Michigan is known for and the solutions that drive this region forward."

Grand Rapids Second Ward Commissioner Joseph D. Jones agrees that the efforts to work together are reaping benefits for residents.

"Commissioner Ruth Kelly and I are truly grateful for the hard work that went into getting to this day," said Jones. "Several years ago, the Neighbors of Belknap Lookout, Grand Valley and the city of Grand Rapids signed a Memorandum of Understanding in an effort to reach consensus around development, affordable housing preservation, and being good neighbors. This decision between Grand Valley and Spectrum Health is a direct result of those efforts, and to build a structure that will not infringe upon the neighborhood of Belknap Lookout speaks volumes about the power of public/private partnerships as well as their respect for the residents of the community. We applaud Grand Valley and Spectrum Health and thank them both for their continued leadership in our city."

Richard C. Breon, president & CEO of Spectrum Health, said: "Spectrum Health is committed to working with Grand Valley and the city of Grand Rapids to address common needs in the most cost-effective manner possible, keeping in mind the neighborhood and proximity to our facilities. This is a testament to the importance of community collaboration on behalf of those we serve. Spectrum Health is proud to be a part of the solution."

The design of the 420,000-square-foot facility will be coordinated with the existing Center for Health Sciences building and the proposed health building. It will be designed and constructed to LEED standards, even though at this time, there is no LEED certification category for parking ramps. The choice of building materials and systems will be selected to minimize construction time, and Grand Valley will be the developer of the project. It is being designed keeping an eye toward changes in the way people use cars, for example, the use of car-sharing services.

The ramp will be operated as a condominium, with Grand Valley and Spectrum Health owning their respective units. The day-to-day operation of the completed ramp will be handled by Spectrum Health. Officials at Spectrum Health approved this project last fall.

Grand Valley's trustees approved \$39,354,000 for the project. The source of funds will be \$21,769,000 from the university's parking revenue bonds and \$17,585,000 from Spectrum Health. The architect is Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, and the construction manager is Pioneer Construction. Construction on the ramp is scheduled to begin in May of this year, and it is scheduled to be completed in May of 2021.

In other board action:

- The board approved the sale of a 1.35-acre parcel of land on the southern border of the Pew Grand Rapids Campus to Grand River Aseptic Manufacturing. The company plans to build a pharmaceutical fill finish production facility on the property. The purchase price will be \$1.4 million.
- The board approved a new bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders. The new degree will prepare students with specific coursework in speech science, speech pathology, and audiology needed to qualify for admissions into either a master's in speech-language pathology or a doctor in audiology program. Entry-level practice in the field of speech-language pathology requires a master's degree, whereas audiology requires a doctorate.
- The board approved funding for a \$4.95 million, two-story parking deck at 333 Michigan Street in Grand Rapids. The parking deck will be located underneath a new, state-funded health building due to open in spring 2021. The project will replace an existing surface parking lot on which the new health building is being constructed.
- Students will see a modest increase in room and board rates beginning with the fall 2018 semester; the board voted to increase the rate by 1.1 percent. The average cost for living on campus per semester will increase by \$20.
- The board approved a new master's degree program, the first graduate degree housed in Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. The professional master of arts degree in social innovation will prepare graduate students to address complex social problems facing organizations and communities.

They will be prepared to be change agents in diverse fields like education, health and human services, family development and community management.

- The board approved the reauthorization of two charter schools in Detroit; the authorization of a charter school in Detroit and another in Hillsdale; approved a grade addition at a school in Warren, and approved new charter contract terms and conditions and appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to GVSU authorized public school academy boards.

For Immediate Release

February 2, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Video bites and b-roll of students and the vehicle are available to use at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0DG>

GVSU students showcase vehicle at Michigan International Auto Show

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — When people steer their way to the Michigan International Auto Show this weekend in Grand Rapids, they will have the opportunity to see a racing vehicle designed and built by students from Grand Valley State University.

Students are part of an exhibition of student-made cars at the West Michigan Society of Automotive Engineers booth. Student volunteers are on hand to answer questions during the show at DeVos Place, which ends February 4.

The GVSU Formula Racing Team consists of 35 members from a variety of different academic programs including engineering and business. Each year, the team competes at one of the world's largest collegiate autocross car competitions at the Michigan International Speedway. The competition takes place May 9-12 this year.

Read more about the GVSU Formula Team at www.lakerracing.org or contact team president Jacob Chapman at chapmjac@mail.gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

January 3, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

Hundreds to gather for FIRST Robotics kick-off event at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Nearly 700 high school students and parents will gather at Grand Valley State University January 6 to participate in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition kick-off event. FIRST Robotics teams from high schools throughout West Michigan will learn about this year's game field and challenge.

The event will include a speech by Grand Valley alumnus Paul Brinks, president and CEO of Koops Engineering in Holland. There will also be a live broadcast from the national kick-off event where FIRST Founder Dean Kamen will help introduce this year's challenge. Teams will have six weeks to design and build robots to compete in the West Michigan district competition, which will take place at Grand Valley from March 22-24.

FIRST Robotics Competition Kick-off

January 6

Eberhard Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Doors open at 8 a.m., event begins at 9:30 a.m.

At about 10:30 a.m. the game field and challenge will be revealed and then students will go to the Keller Engineering Laboratories building to see game elements and pick up their kits.

The 2018 season will include more than 3,600 teams — nearly 90,000 high school students and mentors — participating in 160 regional and district events worldwide. Teams work together to build, program and test robots with the guidance of adult mentors. The 2018 FIRST Championship will take place in Houston and Detroit in April.

FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Learn more at www.usfirst.org.

For more information about the kick-off event, contact Ken Platteschorre, who coordinates the FIRST Robotics West Michigan Competition, at ken.platteschorre@haworth.com or (616) 890-7094.

For Immediate Release

January 5, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and a copy of Long's full report can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/OCi>

GVSU economist: 2017 ends with solid growth

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Historically, the end of the year has sometimes been rough for the West Michigan economy, however, a Grand Valley State University economic expert said the local economy finished 2017 on a solid footing.

"Business and consumer confidence remain high heading into 2018," said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business. "Our local numbers are strong and, according to international manufacturing reports, the world economy is the strongest it's been in seven years."

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of December.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) was virtually unchanged +19 from +20. The production index edged up to +22 from +17. The index of purchases remained positive at +16, down slightly from +18, and the employment index remained in double-digit growth for 11 straight months at +15, up from +13.

Long said West Michigan's recovery from the Great Recession has relied heavily on automotive strength. "We are blessed with auto parts fabricators that can compete toe-to-toe with the rest of the world," said Long. "However, the auto industry as a whole closed out the sales year with a 5 percent loss for December sales, and a 1.8 percent loss for the entire year. We can expect auto sales to continue with the same pattern of marginal monthly declines for most of 2018."

Long said the unemployment rate for West Michigan remains well below most of the rest of the state. "The shortage of qualified workers in 2018 will continue to be a problem for West Michigan and the entire state," he explained. "If all goes well, the 'official' national rate of unemployment should edge below 3.8 percent by the end of 2018. After the slowest recession recovery in history, the wage rates have finally started to edge up. The trend toward higher wages should continue for most of 2018."

As for the local housing market, Long said the availability of homes for sale has not come close to meeting the new demand so housing prices have skyrocketed in some areas of West Michigan.

Long added that the recently passed tax overhaul allows for billions of dollars to be repatriated and the large flow of money back into the domestic market could keep long-term rates low for the rest of 2018.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For immediate release

January 11, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221;

Jane Brierley, Mary Free Bed, (616) 481-4303

MEDIA NOTE: A video from the event is online: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OCD>; Photos are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OCE>

GVSU, Mary Free Bed partnership benefits talent pipeline, patients

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Leaders from Grand Valley State University and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital celebrated an expanded partnership January 11 that benefits area patients and the health care talent pipeline.

The two organizations are sharing a Motion Analysis Lab located in Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, on the Medical Mile. Mary Free Bed specialists conduct sophisticated studies of patient walking patterns and serve as preceptors to Grand Valley students and graduate fellows.

President Thomas J. Haas called the agreement a good example of a private-public partnership.

"We're so pleased to do this augmentation; this lab is another tool at our disposal to help you with your mission," Haas said.

Mary Free Bed CEO Kent Riddle said he's proud of the hospital's relationship with Grand Valley.

"Teaching the next generation of medical professionals is one of the factors that makes a hospital excel," Riddle said. "Our patients are well-served by the Grand Valley grads we hire."

The Mary Free Bed lab at CHS has 16 specialized cameras that take photos of a patient's gait at the rate of 120 photos per second, technology similar to that used in animated movies or video games.

Mitch Barr, a physical therapist for MFB, conducted a gait analysis on a 10-year-old girl with cerebral palsy during the event.

Grand Valley student Austin Cammire will graduate with a doctoral degree in physical therapy in August. He volunteered at MFB as an undergraduate.

"That experience helped me determine that physical therapy is what I want to do," Cammire said.

For immediate release

January 11, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Samples of Murrie's paintings are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU exhibit, events to explore the ebb and flow of artist's creative process

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For more than 40 years, Herbert Murrie found success in his career in advertising and design. Inspired by an artistic upbringing and personal motivation, Murrie often worked in his art studio to pursue a more spontaneous and freeing expression of creativity, regularly returning to complete unfinished work.

A new Art Gallery exhibition at Grand Valley State University will examine the ebb and flow of Murrie's creative process while reflecting back on his painting career and looking forward to a new body of his work.

"Ebb & Flow: Explorations in Painting by Herbert Murrie" will include 26 pieces that span his career as a painter from 1995 to the present, including newer works. The exhibit will feature artwork from both private collections and Grand Valley's permanent art collection, which includes 16 works that were donated by Murrie and his wife, Lisa Murrie, in 2015.

"What I appreciate most about Herb's paintings is the fluidity," said Joel Zwart, curator of exhibitions at Grand Valley. "Each piece moves your eye across the canvas, despite the chaos of shape, forms and color. He has a real talent for creating compositions that engage and uplift."

An opening reception for the exhibit will take place January 18, from 5-7 p.m., in the Art Gallery (room 1121), located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts. The exhibit will be on display January 15 through March 30. Parking will be available in the Kirkhof Center metered lot, located next to the Haas Center.

During the reception, guests will have the opportunity to create their own paintings in a 3-D virtual reality experience using Tilt Brush by Google and an HTC VIVE. Staff from Grand Valley's Atomic Object Technological Showcase will be onsite guiding guests through the technology.

To dive deeper into the creative process and varying styles of artistic minds, Murrie will join multiple Grand Valley faculty from the Department of Visual and Media Arts for a panel discussion. During the **"Explorations in Painting Discussion Panel" event occurring February 28 at 11 a.m. in the Art Gallery**, panelists will discuss the influences and inspirations behind their work along with other topics.

Panelists will include Murrie; Melanie Daniel, the Stuart B. and Barbara H. Padnos Distinguished Artist-in-Residence; Jill Eggers, associate professor of painting and foundations; Virginia Jenkins, professor of drawing and foundations; and Sarah Weber, visiting professor of drawing and foundations.

Music will meet art in conjunction with the "Ebb & Flow" exhibit when Grand Valley music composition students create one-minute compositions inspired by Murrie's artwork for the annual New Music

Ensemble Composition Competition. The compositions will be performed by the award-winning New Music Ensemble in rapid succession and judged by a guest panel and the listening audience for prizes.

The competition will take place March 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Art Gallery.

For more information about “Ebb & Flow” and other current and upcoming exhibitions, visit gvsu.edu/artgallery.

For immediate release

January 10, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: a headshot of Burton is available at <http://qvsu.edu/s/OCw>

GVSU names director of civic learning, community engagement

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Travus Burton has been named Grand Valley State University's director for civic learning and community engagement, a position housed in the Office of the Provost.

He began his new role January 9, replacing Ruth Stegeman, who retired in August.

Burton had worked as experiential learning coordinator for Oakland University's Office of Student Success and Experiential Learning Center.

Suzeanne Benet, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, said Burton brings prior experience and leadership skills necessary to move the university's civic action plan forward.

"The search committee was impressed with Travus' past work with faculty members and the support he garnered to develop community partnerships and assist faculty with designing experiential learning components of a course," Benet said.

Burton said he is honored to work at Grand Valley and said the university "values community engagement at the highest level."

"I am eager to begin exploring the possibilities for new collaborations, while building upon some of the great initiatives and plans already in motion," he said. "A major goal is to continue building a culture that values and utilizes community engagement in all aspects of the education we provide and the work we do at Grand Valley."

Prior to his position at Oakland University, Burton served as service learning coordinator for Central Michigan University's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. He was president of the Isabella County Restoration House Board of Directors and instrumental in establishing the county's first shelter to address homelessness.

He is working toward a doctoral degree in education from CMU; Burton earned a bachelor's degree in communication and sociology from Saginaw Valley State University, and a master's degree in educational leadership from CMU.

EMBARGOED FOR PUBLICATION until 8 a.m. January 12, 2018

MEDIA NOTE: To arrange for interviews, contact Michele Coffill, University Communications, coffillm@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2221

Researchers find rate of Michigan uninsured drops below 10 percent

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Researchers from Grand Valley State and Tulane universities have found the rate of people without health insurance in Michigan has dropped below 10 percent, yet barriers to obtaining health care remain problematic.

Kevin Callison, assistant professor of global health management and policy at Tulane University, and Leslie Muller, assistant professor of economics at Grand Valley, presented the Health Check report January 12 during the ninth annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast held at the Eberhard Center.

The report details health-related trends and issues in Michigan and the Grand Rapids metropolitan area of Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties.

Callison said the drop in the number of people without health insurance fell more than 18 percent from 2011 to 9.9 percent in 2016. He attributed the decrease to Medicaid expansion and the Affordable Care Act. He was a faculty member in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business before working at Tulane.

Muller said while there is a low uninsured rate in Kent County, about one in five people surveyed still reported a difficult time affording medical care and/or prescription drugs. Grand Valley's Johnson Center for Philanthropy partnered with researchers for the community survey using 2017 VoiceKent (formerly VoiceGR) results.

Barriers to health care included the ability to take time off from work, transportation and childcare issues, Muller said. Extended office hours and telemedicine may help eliminate some of those barriers, she added.

The Health Check also analyzes major medical expenditures. Callison noted the cost to treat someone in West Michigan who has coronary artery disease has risen 37 percent from 2014 to 2016, nearing \$30,000 per individual per year.

Health risk factors for Michigan residents were analyzed. Selected factors are listed below.

- 7% of the state's population is classified as heavy drinkers, above the national average of 6 percent.
- 20.4% of Michigan adults smoke, higher than the national average of 15.1 percent.
- 65% of Michigan adults are overweight or obese, similar to the national average.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health at Grand Valley, said the data within the report will guide area health care leaders when making decisions.

“We hope that continuing to provide this report annually facilitates better understanding of how health behaviors, growth trends, and health care access can impact our decisions and strategies for addressing health care issues in our region," Nagelkerk said.

Data was provided by Spectrum Health, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, Priority Health, GVSU Johnson Center for Philanthropy, and The Employers Association of West Michigan.

For immediate release

January 8, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221;

Jane Brierley, Mary Free Bed, (616) 481-4303

GVSU, Mary Free Bed to announce expanded partnership

-- Media opportunity with patient demonstration

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Leaders from Grand Valley State University and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital are expanding their partnership, which will strengthen the region's health care talent pipeline and serve the needs of rehabilitation patients.

The two organizations have a long history of collaboration. Mary Free Bed serves as a clinical site for Grand Valley nursing, therapy and non-clinical students with annual in-kind instruction time topping \$1 million dollars. Mary Free Bed has also contributed to Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall, Grand Valley's new health sciences building.

Now the two organizations are sharing a Motion Analysis Lab located in Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in downtown Grand Rapids. Mary Free Bed specialists conduct sophisticated studies of patient walking patterns and serve as preceptors to Grand Valley students and graduate fellows.

MEDIA NOTE:

Partnership details will be announced Thursday, January 11, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (CHS), 301 Michigan St. NE.

Members of the media are welcome to cover the announcement and a demonstration of a computerized gait analysis for a pediatric patient conducted by Mary Free Bed practitioners. The demonstration begins immediately following the comments at 5 p.m. in the Motion Analysis Lab, CHS, room 215.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas said strengthening the existing partnership with Mary Free Bed continues the university's commitment to providing relevant and timely learning opportunities for students.

"We're so very pleased that our colleagues at Mary Free Bed want to bring the great work from their own Motion Analysis Lab to our facility and work alongside our students and faculty members," Haas said. "This aligns with Grand Valley's strategic plan to produce graduates who are ready for the workforce and meets employer demands for trained health care workers."

Mary Free Bed CEO Kent Riddle echoes the benefits of collaboration. "Teaching the next generation of medical professionals is one of the factors that makes a hospital excel," Riddle said. "And our patients are well-served by the Grand Valley grads that we hire."

EMBARGOED until 4 a.m. January 17, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: The full report, which is **embargoed until 4 a.m. January 17**, can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/OCI>*

GVSU economist predicts local growth for 2018; shallow recession in 2019

Paul Isely to unveil findings of annual benchmark survey of regional economy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Paul Isely, professor of economics and associate dean in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University, will unveil his annual benchmark survey of the regional economy and predictions for 2018 at an event January 17.

For the past decade, employers have used Isely's historically accurate findings to guide their business decisions.

Isely will present his findings January 17, during the 2018 Colliers Annual West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast event at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids. The event runs from 7:30-10:30 a.m.; Isely's remarks begin at 8:30 a.m.

The economic survey of the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December of 2017.

Isely said West Michigan's economic strengths in 2018 will create a bottleneck for 2019.

"What we're really looking at in 2018 is a year that will probably be a little bit stronger than 2017 was nationwide," he said. "Sales will be stronger here in West Michigan, but those things will start to create constraints in finding workers, finding materials and finding space to work. All of those things will lead to an increased chance of a recession as we get into 2019."

Isely said the next recession will be a shallow recession. "It won't be anything like what we experienced in 2007 through 2009, not even close," he explained. "It will probably be a little bit more like what we saw in the early '90s or the early 2000s. And, it will not be broad-based, meaning things like residential construction probably won't feel it because we have a backlog."

Isely said although there is a slowdown in the expected growth in employment for 2018, the number of firms expecting to hire this year continues to increase. He said about 75 percent of those being hired are expected to be permanent jobs.

Export growth is expected to increase slightly for the first time in three years, reflecting growing strength in the global economy and that West Michigan firms are starting to be optimistic about exports again.

Overall findings for 2018:

- The Current Business Confidence Index for 2017 was 80.5%, a small improvement from 2016;
- The Forecast Business Confidence Index for 2018 is 80.3%, almost identical to the expectations for 2017;
- Employment is expected to grow by 1.1-1.5% in 2018, almost half the rate seen in 2017;
- Overall nominal sales are expected to increase by 3.1-3.5% for 2018, continuing last year's growth;
- Exports are expected to grow by 2.5-3.5% in 2018, an uptick after several years of weakness;
- All indicators signal the 2018 economy will continue to grow on par with 2017 except for employment, which is projected to slow during 2018.

The West Michigan economic survey was conducted by Isely, and Grand Valley economics professors Gerry Simons and Wei Sun, along with graduate assistant Richa Bhurtel. Staff members from the West Michigan Regional Small Business Development Center, housed in the Seidman College of Business, assisted with the survey.

For more information, contact Paul Isely at (616) 331-7418.

For Immediate Release

January 23, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Five students selected for competitive Gilman Scholarships

Five Grand Valley students were selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for the Spring 2018 semester to help fund opportunities to study abroad.

Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply toward their study abroad or internship program costs. Students receiving a Federal Pell Grant from two- and four-year institutions who will be studying abroad or participating in a career-oriented international internship for academic credit are eligible to apply.

Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of other cultures, countries, languages and economies, making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector.

The students were awarded the scholarships from a pool of nearly 2,800 applicants, with just more than 1,000 awards offered.

These Grand Valley students were awarded the scholarships, and are listed with their hometown, major(s), and country of study.

- Justice Briggs, Byron, Michigan; International Business/Accounting, France
- Krystle Lewis, Williamsburg, Michigan; Hospitality and Tourism Management, Thailand
- Crystal Juarez, Kentwood, Michigan; Biomedical Sciences, Mexico
- Rachel Villafuerte, Wyoming, Michigan; Allied Health Sciences, Spain
- Cameron Zbikowski, Wyoming, Michigan; Human Resources, Australia

The program is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The scholarships, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, are awarded to high-achieving students to help diversify the students who study and serve internships abroad, as well as the regions where they work and study.

For more information on competitive scholarships and fellowships, visit gvsu.edu/fellowships.

For More Information Contact: [Nate Hoekstra](#) in [University Communications](#) - [616-331-8138](tel:616-331-8138)

For Immediate Release

January 25, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, twilleyl@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the team and device are available on Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0Dr>

GVSU group helps develop device that improves spine surgery training

First-of-its-kind trainer is a 'game changer'

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University group worked with a local inventor and alumnus to help develop a first-of-its-kind device that can improve the way surgeons are trained for spinal procedures.

The applied Medical Device Institute at Grand Valley (aMDI) worked with Encoris to develop the S2T Surgical Smart Trainer and ready it for manufacturing and sales. Encoris, located in Holland, designs and manufactures medical models and surgical trainers for medical device companies around the world.

Jim TenBrink, co-founder and vice president of Encoris, graduated from Grand Valley in 1997 with a degree in marketing. He said the surgical training device has the potential to solve many issues, such as high exposure to radiation, and logistical and costly challenges of using cadavers.

"The use of cadavers for surgical training is a method that has been around forever — it's 19-century technology," TenBrink said. "We want to take surgical training to the 21st century. Not only will this device help medical device companies expedite sales and surgeon education, but it will also help expand their launch of medical devices. It will provide safer and more cost-effective training for students at teaching hospitals and medical schools."

The first device to launch is designed to replace the use of cadavers in training for minimally invasive procedures. It focuses on the posterior aspect of the spine and is shaped like a torso. Inside the torso shell is a sliding C-arm rail system with mounted cameras that mimic X-ray. TenBrink said a second version created for lateral spine surgery will follow shortly.

Brent Nowak, executive director of aMDI, connected with TenBrink through the University of Michigan's Small Company Innovation Program, Technology and Commercialization Assistance program, which helps small businesses access resources at Michigan's public universities.

Nowak involved several Grand Valley faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students to develop the device's camera system — a challenging feat.

"The team had to create a three-dimensional model of the spine, which included electrical and mechanical engineering expertise," Nowak explained. "Then they built a prototype and conducted testing. It was great to have bright, energetic minds on this because they came up with creative ideas to solve a very complex problem."

TenBrink said the prototype he presented to aMDI was lacking the X-ray visuals that surgeons need in order to train outside cadaver labs. The aMDI team converted four cameras into lifelike X-ray visuals, visible in real time.

"There's not a trainer in the world that can do that," TenBrink said. "It's a game-changer, a time- and money-saver, and it's saving people's lives because they're not being subjected to radiation. I couldn't be more thrilled with the level of knowledge and expertise the students and faculty provided."

Maruf Hossain, a mechanical engineering graduate student from Dhaka, Bangladesh, led the development of the 3-D prototype and its mechanical features. He said the most challenging part of the project was designing such a precise camera system that would align with the function of X-ray machines.

"I like challenges and this project initially presented a unique set of problems to be solved," said Hossain. "My favorite part of the project was the moment when our concept was well-accepted by Encoris after testing the prototype for proper functioning."

TenBrink plans to bring the device to market this year. The final version of the trainer will include soft tissue that replicates muscle and skin.

TenBrink is the Encoris' creative visionary along with Harley Domasik, the company's lead model maker. For more information about Encoris, visit www.encoris.com.

About aMDI

The applied Medical Device Institute (aMDI), a first of its kind in West Michigan, is located in Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Medical Mile in Grand Rapids. The institute provides access to researchers, engineers, medical professionals, and business and entrepreneurial professionals. It uses an integrated approach that includes intellectual property, business review and mentoring. It was established in 2016. Learn more at www.gvsu.edu/amdi.

For Immediate Release

January 26, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

GVSU events celebrate Black History Month

ALLENDALE, Mich. — African American traditions, activism through sports and a celebration of art will be featured throughout the month of February to celebrate Black History Month at Grand Valley State University.

The annual celebration is organized by Grand Valley's Office of Multicultural Affairs. Events are free and open to the public.

Some events are highlighted below. See a complete schedule at www.gvsu.edu/oma.

- **"Hip Hop Education,"** January 29, 6-8 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Chris Emdin, associate professor of mathematics at Columbia University, will discuss and challenge the perceptions of students of color being unteachable.
- **"Celebration of Black Arts,"** February 3, 7:30-9 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215. Members of the African American student body will pay homage to African American entertainers.
- **"Black Activism Through Sports,"** February 6, noon-1:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215. Louis Moore, associate professor of history, will discuss truths, rumor and myths about blackness, body image and social acceptance.
- **"Taste of Soul,"** February 16, noon-1 p.m., Kirkhof Center lobby. Event participants will taste-test and learn about traditional African American soul food.
- **"Accidental Courtesy,"** February 20, 1-2:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Author and musician Daryl Davis will discuss his encounters with members of the Ku Klux Klan and how racial tensions can be healed. Davis is author of *Klan-Destine Relationships* and is the subject of the documentary, "Accidental Courtesy."
- **"Racial Battle Fatigue Syndrome,"** February 27, 6-8 p.m., DeVos Center, room 302E. Lois Owens, professor in the School of Social Work and liberal studies, will lead a seminar about Racial Battle Fatigue Syndrome and ways to be an advocate for underrepresented populations.

For Immediate Release

February 6, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and a copy of Long's full report can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0E7>

GVSU economist: 2018 off to a good start

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is starting off on a positive note, according to a Grand Valley State University expert.

"The numbers for January are better than we expected," said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of January.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose modestly to +23 from +19. The production index edged up to +24 from +22. The index of purchases rose modestly to +18 from +16, and employment rose to +20, from +15.

Long said automotive parts producers can expect the market to continue to shift away from sedans and in the direction of light trucks, crossovers, and SUVs. He said the office furniture business continues to show signs of topping out, but the current level is both high and profitable.

"The back-to-work attitudes of the post-holiday season resulted in some modest improvement for our industrial distributors," Long said. "However, this month's big boom is centered on some of the manufacturers of capital equipment. Numerous firms were apparently waiting for the passage of the new tax law before making a firm commitment, so it is not a total surprise to find that a few local firms are swamped with orders."

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

February 9, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Laker Line receives federal funding, will offer more efficient travel between GVSU campuses

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University students and bus riders traveling between Allendale and Grand Rapids will have enhanced transportation options now that the Laker Line initiative has received federal funding.

The new bus rapid transit (BRT) line will replace the current Route 50 connecting the Allendale Campus with the Pew Grand Rapids Campus and the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Medical Mile.

The Laker Line will run 16 larger, articulated buses that have seats for 60 passengers and can carry up to 80 to 90 people. These buses have dual boarding with wider doors for quicker boarding.

Funding will be used to build stations that look more like light rail stations with seats, shelters, snowmelt and raised platforms so riders don't have to step up to get on the bus. Enhancements also include traffic signal priority technology that will allow buses to flow through traffic more efficiently.

"Funding for the Laker Line is great news for our students and the nearly 8,000 riders who travel between our campuses every day," said D. Scott Richardson, vice president for Finance and Administration at Grand Valley. "The Laker Line is the type of transit option that helps retain and attract talent to the West Michigan region.

The federal grant will pay for nearly 80 percent of the \$70 million project. The remaining cost will be covered by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Grand Valley will pay for operation of the Laker Line as a part of its existing 10-year contract with The Rapid that began in July 2013.

"West Michigan has become known as a hub for innovation, research and opportunity," said U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland. "The Laker Line will help our community take the next step by providing Grand Valley students with a greater ability to gain hands-on experience in the growing educational, medical and business fields available in downtown Grand Rapids. I believe the Laker Line will help connect students and West Michigan residents with greater opportunity, strengthen our workforce, and move our economy forward."

Construction on the Laker Line could begin as early as this spring, with completion in spring 2020.

The Laker Line will have 14 stops:

- Kirkhof Center
- Mackinac Hall
- Ferndale and Lake Michigan Drive
- Cummings and Lake Michigan Drive
- Standale Trail and Lake Michigan Drive
- Maynard and Lake Michigan Drive

- Covell and Lake Michigan Drive
- Fulton and Garfield
- Fulton and Straight
- Pew Grand Rapids Campus
- Monroe and Louis (Silver Line stop)
- Monroe and DeVos Place (Silver Line stop)
- Michigan and Bostwick (Silver Line stop)
- Michigan and Lafayette

Grand Valley accounts for more than two-and-a-half million annual rides on The Rapid bus system and offers a variety of alternative transportation services including car sharing, bike rentals, ride sharing, commuter parking and transit services.

For immediate release

February 12, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the event are available [via Dropbox](#). Credit: Elizabeth Lienau/GVSU University Communications

Radio Hall of Fame broadcaster receives surprise GVSU diploma during event

ALLENDALE, Mich. — John Records Landecker can look back on a storied career as a radio broadcaster, entertaining millions of listeners around the U.S. and Canada for more than 50 years.

In honor of his career, Landecker was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2017, but that wasn't the only "class" he joined last year — he also became a member of Grand Valley State University's Laker Class of 2017. He just didn't know it until this month.

Landecker visited the Allendale Campus February 8 to discuss his life, career and autobiography, *Records Truly Is My Middle Name*. What he didn't know was that following his talk, he would be presented with a diploma by Fred Antczak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In a moment that brought Landecker to tears, he said, while wearing a smile, "I walked in here a college dropout, and I'm walking out a graduate."

Landecker attended Grand Valley from 1965-1967, but because Grand Valley did not have a broadcasting program or radio station at that time, he transferred to Michigan State University. During his final semester at MSU, he received a job offer at a station in Philadelphia, which he accepted, thus never completing his degree. Landecker stated in his autobiography that not finishing college was one of his biggest regrets in life.

Records Truly Is My Middle Name was published in 2013, but Landecker updated the book in 2017 after his Hall of Fame nomination. During the summer of 2017, Landecker visited Grand Valley to interview nine students about the future of radio, and those interviews were all included in an additional new chapter of the updated version of the book.

Len O'Kelly, assistant professor of multimedia journalism and a former colleague of Landecker's, examined his transcripts to discover Landecker was only a handful of credits shy of earning a bachelor's degree based on the credits he accrued from Grand Valley, MSU and Columbia College in Chicago.

O'Kelly made Grand Valley administrators aware of Landecker's interviews with Grand Valley students, which qualified as independent research credits for the fall 2017 semester. Those credits fulfilled his degree requirements.

"There really are no words that I can use to express the gratitude that I have for Len and the university," said Landecker. "My father was a college professor and I was the only one in my family who didn't graduate from college. This goes beyond being inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame and I've never felt anything close to what I felt today."

Landecker said he plans to participate in Grand Valley's commencement ceremony on April 28 at 3 p.m.

Landecker was born and raised in Ann Arbor, which is where his radio career began. While a Grand Valley student, Landecker worked at the Top 40 radio station WERX in Wyoming, and would go on to work at various stations in Michigan, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland and Toronto over the course of his career. He was named *Billboard Magazine's* "Radio Personality of the Year" in the 1970s while working at WLS in Chicago, and in the 1990s, his morning show at WJMK, also based in Chicago, was named the best morning show in the city.

For Immediate Release

February 15, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Auto Suppliers Symposium addresses changing industry

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Automotive experts will discuss changing technology and new tooling requirements for auto suppliers at the 19th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium, hosted by Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center.

The event will be held March 8 on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The theme for this year's symposium is "Smart Moves: Tech, Tools, Talent."

The yearly event brings together business owners, senior management and decision makers from all tiers of the industry, providing the most up-to-date automotive forecasts and trends, and opportunities to network.

19th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium

Thursday, March 8

8 a.m.-noon

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center building D, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

401 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids

Speakers for the event:

- Ed Wulbrecht, senior vice president of manufacturing for Subaru of Indiana Automotive, is the keynote speaker. Wulbrecht began his career at Ford Motor Company as an assembly plant engineer, eventually moving into manufacturing management.
- Mike Wall, director of automotive analysis for IHS Markit, will talk about the outlook for the auto industry. Wall has 20 years of experience in consulting, forecasting and evaluating trends and vehicle markets.
- Daron Gifford, leader of strategy and automotive consulting for Plante Moran, has more than four decades of industry experience in automotive, manufacturing and energy.
- Scott McCormick, president of Connected Vehicle Trade Association, was appointed by Congress to advise the secretary of transportation on matters relating to the study, development and implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

To register or for more information, visit www.vagtc.org or call (616) 331-6811.

For immediate release

February 13, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of students from their study abroad trips are available via: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OEC>

GVSU will offer incoming students scholarships to study abroad

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will soon begin offering scholarships to 100 incoming students to help fund their study abroad experiences.

The "Lakers Go Abroad!" scholarship program will begin with the class of 2019. It is a unique collaboration between Grand Valley's Padnos International Center and Admissions Office aimed at attracting students who might select a college based on its study abroad opportunities.

Qualified first-year students will receive \$2,000 to use within four years of their start at Grand Valley.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer, said the money will have significant impact on the cost of most study abroad programs, and help increase the pipeline of students who participate in international education experiences.

Jodi Chycinski, director of Admissions, said the goal of "Lakers Go Abroad!" is to make study abroad accessible to a larger number of students.

"There will certainly be students with travel experience who will be attracted to this opportunity, but our hope is that other students who may not think they can afford to study abroad will see it as an option," Chycinski said.

The program's timeline will begin in October, when current high school juniors who have been admitted to Grand Valley (in the class of 2019) can apply for the scholarship.

With more than 4,000 study abroad options, Grand Valley has consistently been ranked in the top 10 nationally for study abroad participation. Learn more about study abroad opportunities at gvsu.edu/studyabroad.

For immediate release

February 15, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A promotional photo for "Oleanna" is [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU student-produced play "Oleanna" to explore the subjectivity of the truth

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A curious and questionable interaction between two fictional characters, a college professor and a student, during the professor's office hours, leads to a difference of opinion about what actually took place in that office.

This plot sets the stage for the upcoming performances of "Oleanna" at Grand Valley State University, which will take place **February 22-24, at 7:30 p.m., and February 25, at 2 p.m. All performances will take place in the Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus.**

Jacob Molli, a senior majoring in psychology who is serving as the student director for the production, said that if the above plot description seems vague, that's the point.

"The show is best experienced without reading a plot summary and coming in with strong opinions," said Molli, who is from the Chicagoland area. "I would say this show is a lot like a thriller — it is all about subtlety and allowing yourself to be surprised by what you see. There are no definitive answers to this play and the only truth is your own."

Molli said he chose "Oleanna" for the theater program's annual Performance Studio Series because the play is more relevant today than when it was produced in 1992.

"It explores complex, multifaceted issues without ever spoon feeding the audience and telling them what to think about those issues," he said.

Some of those issues explored in "Oleanna" include sexual harassment, censorship, the subjectivity of the truth, identity shaping interactions and how people deal with power.

The P.S. Series gives upper-level theater students the opportunity to use the practical skills they have learned in the classroom. During P.S. Series productions, students have creative control over directing, acting, backstage production, set design and costume design.

"I think students having creative control over the production is an incredible experience that you won't find anywhere else," said Molli. "It really gives students a taste for what's on the other side of graduation for those of us who will pursue jobs in the theater."

Tickets can be purchased for \$6 through the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office in-person Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. or by calling (616) 331-2300. Tickets are also available at the 2020 Desk in the Kirkhof Center or at [Startickets.com](#).

"Oleanna" contains sexually and politically provocative content. Viewer discretion is advised.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/theater.

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu;

Alyssa Jones, (989) 430-0827, jonesaly@mail.gvsu.edu

GVSU to host TEDx idea-sharing event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — As a way to inspire and connect the Grand Valley State University community, TEDxGVSU is again hosting an independent TEDx idea-sharing event.

TEDxGVSU 2018, "Shape," will take place March 16 from 5-8 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium at DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The conference will feature interdisciplinary speakers and performers who will share past experiences, current projects, and future ideas to promote critical inquiry, innovation and dialogue. The theme for this year's event, "Shape," focuses on how everyone plays a role in shaping their societies.

"TEDx events are an amazing tool to bring top thinkers and innovators together in one place," said DeMario Bell, Grand Valley alumnus and TEDxGVSU co-founder. "Organizing this event is a way we can display the high caliber of thought and ingenuity that comes from our community."

Tickets are required and the event will host 100 patrons. Tickets will go on sale February 26 and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. The ticket price is \$20 and includes admission, refreshments and a TEDxGVSU gift bag.

For more information, visit www.TEDxGVSU.com or email tedxgvsu@gmail.com.

About TED:

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less) delivered by today's leading thinkers and doers. Many of these talks are given at TED's annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, and made available online at TED.com.

For Immediate Release

February 19, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Culture and Coffee: Navigating Germany

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Germany has the third largest export economy in the world with its automotive industry alone generating \$151 billion in exports in 2016, consisting of 21.8 percent of total car exports worldwide. Doing business in this political and cultural center of Europe may include some challenges for U.S. companies, but it also provides exposure to vast international market opportunities.

The Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University will host "Culture and Coffee: Navigating Germany" February 23 in Grand Rapids. Topics of discussion will include business meetings, gift giving, communication, business attire and negotiating tactics.

Culture and Coffee: Navigating Germany

February 23

8-10 a.m.

L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front. Ave. SW, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Presenters will discuss best practices for doing business abroad and cultural nuances business professionals may face while traveling or receiving clients from Germany.

For more information, contact VAGTC at (616) 331-6811 or visit www.gvsu.edu/vagtc.

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138

MEDIA NOTE: This event is sold out, but media coverage is still welcome. Please RSVP if you plan to send a reporter/videographer.

Hauenstein Center namesake to posthumously receive Michigan Historical Commission award

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Ralph Hauenstein, the namesake of Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, will be honored posthumously with the MAK Award by the Michigan Historical Commission. The award recognizes significant contributions to the preservation, understanding and promotion of Michigan's history through lengthy and visionary service.

The award presentation will follow a lecture and discussion by H.W. Brands, a noted historian and author, about the parallels between the drastic polarization of the pre-Civil War years and political polarization in the modern political era.

Brands' lecture will focus on the "Golden Age" of the Senate, specifically the first half of the 19th century, when the "Great Triumvirate" of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and John C. Calhoun were representative of the varying sectors of the American public and gave them a distinct voice.

The MAK Award, which will be bestowed on Hauenstein, is the signature award of the Michigan Historical Commission and is named for Gov. William G. Milliken, Michigan Historical Commission member Elizabeth Sparks Adams and Attorney General Frank J. Kelley.

H.W. Brands: The Golden Age of the Senate

Thursday, February 22, 2018

7 p.m.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

303 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI

Seating is limited and registration is required.

Register online at gvsu.edu/HCEvents

The event, presented in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

For Immediate Release

February 21, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

Today: GVSU students hosting vigil for Parkland shooting victims

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Student Senate is hosting a vigil February 21 to honor victims of the Parkland, Florida, high school shooting.

The vigil will start at 6 p.m. at the Cook Carillon Tower on the Allendale Campus. Maria Cimitile, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, and Jonathan Bowman, president of Student Senate, will make remarks.

At the event, students will raise donations for relief efforts for victims and their families.

On February 14, 17 people were killed in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley a top producer of student, faculty Fulbrights

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University is the top producer of both students and faculty members earning Fulbright U.S. Student and Fulbright U.S. Scholar awards in the region, according to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program. Top-producing institutions are highlighted annually in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Four students from Grand Valley received Fulbright awards for the 2017-18 academic year, which is more than any other master's institution in the Midwest. All four students receiving the awards will serve as English Teaching Assistants in their respective countries.

The students awarded Fulbrights include:

Shukri Bana, '17, women, gender, and sexuality studies, to South Africa

Sarah Cullip, '17 (Honors College), German/English and applied linguistics, to Germany

Katie Gipe, '17 (Honors College), education, to Spain

Erika Schmitt, '13, psychology and applied linguistics and now a candidate for a master's degree in school psychology, to Brazil

Grand Valley also had the university's first Fulbright Mentor selected: **David Gonzalez**, '16, Spanish and international relations, to Brazil. Fulbright Mentors are second-year grantees.

Students interested in applying for a Fulbright U.S. Student award, contact the Grand Valley Office of Fellowships or visit gvsu.edu/fellowships.

Faculty members selected for the outbound Fulbright Core Scholars program include:

Lisa Feurzeig, professor of music, Austria

Brian Phillips, professor of sociology, Poland

Jitendra Mishra, professor of management, India

Grand Valley's three faculty Fulbright scholars are the second most in the nation for master's institutions and the highest in the Midwest.

The Padnos International Center will host a workshop for faculty members interested in earning Fulbright awards. The event is Friday, February 23, from 1:30-3 p.m. in the DeVos Center, University Club room; a wine and cheese reception with past Fulbright awardees will run from 3-4:15 p.m.

About the Fulbright U.S. Scholar program for faculty:

Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 380,000 participants - chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential - with the opportunity to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. More than 1,100 U.S. college and university faculty and administrators, professionals, artists, journalists, scientists, lawyers and independent scholars are awarded Fulbright grants to teach and/or conduct research annually. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program operates in more than 125 countries throughout the world.

About the Fulbright U.S. Student program:

More than 1,900 U.S. students, artists and young professionals in more than 100 different fields of study are offered Fulbright Program grants to study, teach English, and conduct research abroad each year. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program operates in more than 140 countries throughout the world.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State, funded by an annual appropriation from the U.S. Congress to the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education.

For immediate release

February 26, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Author of GVSU common read will visit West Michigan in March

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The author of the GVSU Community Reading Project selection will visit West Michigan in March to discuss her book, "All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation."

Rebecca Traister will visit Grand Valley's Allendale Campus March 13 for a presentation at 7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

She will be in Holland on March 12 for a presentation at Herrick District Library, 300 S. River St., beginning at 7 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public; book signings will follow each presentation.

Published in 2016, "All the Single Ladies" is a study of the political, economic, social and sexual consequences of the rise of unmarried women. Traister, a journalist, started writing the book in 2009, the year the proportion of American women who married dropped below 50 percent, and the median age of first marriages had risen to 27.

Jennifer Jameslyn, director of the Brooks College Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, said the CRP committee was struck by that marriage statistic and the opportunity to open the conversation to students.

"It's been amazing to be in conversation with students and faculty and staff all year about these questions of when, why and whether marriage appeals to us, and what we gain and lose when we enter marriage at different points in our lives," Jameslyn said.

"All the Single Ladies" was named a Notable Book of 2016 by the New York Times and Best Books selection by the Boston Globe. Traister is a writer at large for New York Magazine and contributing editor for Elle. Her first book, "Big Girls Don't Cry," was about women and the 2008 election.

More information about CRP is online at gvsu.edu/read.

For immediate release

March 2, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0vv>

GVSU April 2018 arts events tip sheet

Music, Theatre and Dance

For more information about Music, Theatre and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484 or visit gvsu.edu/mtd. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Free Play 43: Sightlines Percussion Duo

April 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Percussion Studio (room 1501), Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

This inaugural concert of the Sightlines Percussion Duo will feature the percussion artistry of Greg Secor and Josh Dreyer. Both veterans of the Grand Rapids music scene, the pair will join forces to present an evening of contemporary percussion duo literature.

GVSU Arts at Noon presents Grand Valley Winds

April 4, at noon

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

The Grand Valley Winds, established in 2006, currently includes Grand Valley music faculty members Christopher Kantner (flute), Marlen Vavrikova (oboe), Gary June (clarinet), Victoria Olson (bassoon) and Richard Britsch (horn). The ensemble was invited to perform in the Czech Republic at the 2018 Janáček Brnomusic festival, which this year will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic. For this Arts at Noon concert, the Grand Valley Winds will perform works composed by Leoš Janáček (1854-1928) and Eduard Drizga (1944-2017), which the ensemble will present during one of the closing concerts at the festival. Janáček's wind sextet, "Mládí," was composed in 1924 and features each instrument in their extreme ranges and dynamics. Drizga's wind quintet is an arrangement of his earlier work, "Violin Sonata," which premiered in Austria in 1996 and was performed for the first time in the U.S. in 2010 by Grand Valley music students at the Czech and Slovak Music and Related Arts Conference. For more information about the annual Arts at Noon free concert series at Grand Valley State University, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

GVSU New Music Ensemble presents Music and a Movie

April 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

For this special event, Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble will be screening the award-winning film "Glass: A Portrait of Philip in Twelve Parts." Interspersed throughout the film, the New Music Ensemble will perform Philip Glass' monumental composition "Glassworks." In the film, Scott Hicks documents a year in the life of prolific composer, Philip Glass, in order to explore the work that goes into creating a symphony and offers a detailed overview of his subject's remarkable career. A musician who is outwardly confident and at times unpredictable, Glass works tirelessly to create a composition entitled "Symphony No. 8" for orchestra, as well as an opera entitled "Waiting for the Barbarians." Additional conversations with Glass' family and friends highlight how the composer is able to retain his creative

spirit while simultaneously remaining a devoted family man. "Glassworks," a piece featuring six parts, remains Glass' bestseller from the middle period of his career. For more information about the New Music Ensemble, visit newmusicensemble.org.

Theatre at Grand Valley presents "No Exit"

April 5, 6, 7, at 7:30 p.m.

April 8, at 2 p.m.

Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

***All tickets are \$6 for general admission. Purchase tickets through the Louis Armstrong Theatre box office in-person Monday - Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., or by calling (616) 331-2300. Tickets are also available via Startickets.com.**

"No Exit" is a part of Grand Valley's annual Performance Studio Series, which gives upper-level theater students the opportunity to use the practical skills they have learned in the classroom by giving them creative control over directing, acting, backstage production, set design and costume design. "No Exit" will be directed by senior theater major Bruno Streck Rodrigues. In "No Exit," three damned souls, Garcin, Inez and Estelle are brought to the same room in hell by a mysterious valet. Under the expectation of finding medieval torture devices to punish them for eternity, they instead find a plain room furnished in Second Empire style. While trapped in the room together, the trio struggles to admit the reasons behind their damnation to each other, and to themselves.

GVSU Jazz Concert, featuring GVSU Large Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combos

April 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

GVSU Momentum Dance Concert

April 6 and 7, at 7 p.m.

Dance Studio Theatre (room 1600), Haas Center, Allendale Campus

Momentum Student Dance Organization gives Grand Valley State University dancers and choreographers the opportunity to showcase their talents in an evening of unique dance works. This student-produced concert draws on the excitement of live dance performance as a platform to raise money for a charity selected by the students.

GVSU Early Music Ensemble Concert

April 8, at 3 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Haas Center, Allendale Campus

GVSU Faculty-Artist Recital: Pablo Mahave-Veglia and Gregory Crowell

April 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Haas Center, Allendale Campus

Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello at Grand Valley State University, and Gregory Crowell (harpsichord) perform the second half of the complete Vivaldi Sonatas. They will be assisted by guest artists Joel Spears (theorbo), and Jerry Fuller (violin). Mahave-Veglia is a cellist and teacher of broad interests whose repertoire ranges from the early baroque performed on period instruments to his ongoing interest in researching, performing and recording the work of contemporary Latin-American composers. Crowell has appeared as an organist, harpsichordist, clavichordist, lecturer and conductor in Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Spain, Japan, Canada, and the U.S. Particularly noted for his performances of the keyboard works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Crowell has been a featured performer

at the Weener (Germany) International Bach Series, the Grand Rapids Bach Festival, the Old West Organ Society (Boston) Bach Marathon and the Valparaíso Bach Institute.

GVSU University Band Concert

April 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

GVSU Concert Band Concert

April 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

GVSU Orchestra Spring Concert Featuring Concerto Competition Winners

April 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Park Church, 10 East Park Place N.E., Grand Rapids

During this special performance, the two Grand Valley State University music students who won the 2018 Concerto Competition will perform their concertos with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra.

Concluding this final concert of the academic year, the ensemble will perform Camille Saint-Saëns's "Symphony No. 3," often called the "Organ Symphony." The GVSU Symphony Orchestra will perform the piece in collaboration with Steven Smith, principal organist at Park Church.

GVSU Spring Senior Dance Concert

April 13, at 7 p.m.

April 14, at 2 p.m.

Dance Studio Theatre (room 1600), Haas Center, Allendale Campus

Join Grand Valley State University dance program seniors as they showcase their choreography and performance in their Capstone concert.

GVSU Choral Concert

April 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

The University Arts Chorale and Cantate Chamber Ensemble will perform during this concert under the direction of Ellen Pool. The University Arts Chorale is a prestigious ensemble of 35 auditioned voices and maintains an active performance schedule presenting choral repertoire from all periods of music. The Cantate Chamber Ensemble is dedicated to the artistic performance of distinctive a cappella choral music for a small ensemble. The goal of this chamber music ensemble is to rehearse a wide variety of sacred and secular music of the early periods of music through vocal jazz.

GVSU Arts at Noon presents GVSU String Trio

April 18, at noon

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

The GVSU String Trio was formed in 2009 as a cultural and educational outreach of the university's music program. Heard throughout Michigan, the well-known and highly acclaimed members of the GVSU String Trio include Gregory Maytan (violin), Paul Swantek (viola) and Pablo-Mahave Veglia (cello). The versatile ensemble performs a wide variety of trio repertoire and enjoys their time coaching high school string ensembles. For more information about the annual Arts at Noon free concert series at Grand Valley State University, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

GVSU Varsity Men's Glee Club Spring Concert

April 19, at 7:30 p.m.
Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

GVSU Spring Dance Concert

April 20 and 21, at 7 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

The Grand Valley State University Dance Company and Freshman Dance Company will combine during this special event as the two ensembles perform a diverse selection of dance works.

GVSU Piano Major Studio Recital

April 21, at 3 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Haas Center, Allendale Campus

This special recital will feature piano students of Helen Marlais, associate professor of piano and piano pedagogy.

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Grand Valley Writers Series

Authors from around the world will visit Grand Valley State University as part of the 2017-18 Grand Valley Writers Series. The series has a rich history of bringing distinguished and emerging writers to campus to read work, visit classrooms and interact with students. For more information about the Writers Series, visit www.gvsu.edu/writing.

Maggie Smith

April 12

Poetry craft talk: 10-11:15 a.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2266

Reading and book signing: 1-2:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270

Maggie Smith is the author of *Good Bones* (Tupelo Press 2017), *The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison* (Tupelo Press 2015) and *Lamp of the Body* (Red Hen Press 2005). Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in the *New York Times*, *The Best American Poetry 2017*, *Plume*, *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, and many other journals and anthologies. In 2016, her poem "Good Bones" went viral internationally and was called the "Official Poem of 2016" by Public Radio International. Smith is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, and the Sustainable Arts Foundation, among others. She currently lives and writes in Bexley, Ohio.

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GVSU Art Gallery

For more information about Art Gallery exhibitions, visit gvsu.edu/artgallery or call (616) 331-3638.

"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft

brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection of Alten's work in the world.

"Graphic Design Senior BFA Exhibition"

Exhibition on display April 9-12

GVSU Art Gallery (room 1121), Haas Center

The Graphic Design Senior BFA Exhibition features work by the following students: Kaitlyn Allison, Michael Alvey, Skyelar Fountain, Adam Hummel, Zach Miskowski, Lan Nguyen, Jack Powers, Kendra Smith, Tyler Staley, Rachel Szegedy, and Courtney Wagasky.

"School of Communications Photography Senior Thesis Exhibition"

Exhibition on display April 17-27

Opening reception: April 19, from 5-7 p.m.

GVSU Art Gallery (room 1121), Haas Center

Students from Grand Valley State University's photography program will present "Fractal," a photographic journey through the creative iterations of 12 photographers in a single exhibition. The various pieces in the exhibit explore topics ranging from mental illness and emotional turmoil to abstraction, consumerism and landscapes. The exhibition reflects the combined efforts of all student artists into a unique experience where the work complements each other in natural ways.

Photographers featured in the exhibition include Rachel Britton, Sara Carte, Manuel Diaz, Elizabeth Dupree, Rebecca Glasgow, Olivia Karwoski, Daniel Schrager, Margaret Shaw, Jessica Small, Austin Sullivan, Olivia Thibeault, and Alyssa VanderWeg.

"SeoulTech & GVSU Art & Design Student Exchange Exhibition"

Exhibition on display through June 22

West Wall Gallery, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

This exhibition continues the collaboration between Grand Valley State University and Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), that was started in 2008. It features 40 photographs of artwork by SeoulTech art students, while a similar number of photographs by GVSU art and design students were sent to South Korea for a partner exhibition.

"Landscapes, Color & Light: Paintings by Virginia Jenkins"

Exhibition on display through June 22

Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center (Building B), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Virginia Jenkins is a professor and former chair of the Department of Visual and Media Arts at Grand Valley State University. Landscape forms and images have been the primary focus of her work for more than two decades, and her areas of specialty are in painting, drawing and mixed media. This exhibition is drawn from a recent series created in response to the landscape of the Northwest coast of the United States.

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

Middle schoolers to learn about computing careers at GVSU event

ALLENDALE, Mich. — About 50 middle school girls from Kentwood Public Schools will visit Grand Valley State University to learn about computers, coding and careers in computing and information systems. The visit will take place on March 8, which is International Women's Day.

The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the computer labs in Henry Hall on the Allendale Campus, where students will participate in coding activities. At 1 p.m., the group will visit the Technology Showcase in the Mary Idema Pew Library and Learning Center. The showcase is a space for campus community members to discover and learn how emerging technologies can enhance teaching and improve student learning. The day will conclude at 2 p.m.

The school visit is organized by faculty and staff members in Grand Valley's School of Computing and Information Systems. Computing professors will guide students and lead sessions during the event.

For more information, contact Sara Maas in the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing at maassa@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-6025.

For immediate release

March 6, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Speaker at GVSU event will discuss purposeful life

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Participants at the fifth annual Distinguished Wesorick Lectureship at Grand Valley State University will learn about living a purposeful life from someone who thought his world had ended.

Victor Strecher is the author of "Life on Purpose: How Living for What Matters Most Changes Everything." Strecher's life changed after his daughter, Julia, died from a rare heart disease. He coupled his grief with his background in behavioral science to pinpoint the impact of purpose in life and how it impacts overall health and happiness.

Event details:

The Distinguished Wesorick Lectureship is set for Wednesday, March 21, 6-7 p.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is free and open to the public; it will be followed by an author reception and opportunity to purchase Strecher's book.

Seating is limited, register online at gvsu.edu/wesorick. Free continuing education credits are available for registered nurses.

Evelyn Clingerman, executive director of The Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation, said Strecher's moving story links real-world experience with scientific evidence.

"He explains how living a purposeful life increases our quality and longevity of life and diminishes our risk for certain long-term chronic health conditions," Clingerman said.

Strecher is also professor and director for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. He founded HealthMedia, a company that develops tailored health interventions; in 2008, the company was purchased by Johnson & Johnson.

The Wesorick Center is an endowed center promoting interprofessional collaboration through the Kirkhof College of Nursing. Learn more about the center at gvsu.edu/wesorick.

For Immediate Release

March 6, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and a copy of Long's full report can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OFI>

GVSU economist: A significant bounce in February

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy was stronger than expected in January, and February was even better, according to Brian G. Long, of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of February.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose to +32 from +23. The production index edged up to +31 from +24. The index of purchases rose modestly to +22 from +18, and the employment index fell to +16, from +20.

"The positive result of the recent tax reform legislation has been a boom to the capital equipment manufacturers," said Long. "Although there are a few exceptions, most of these firms report being recently swamped with new orders."

Long said slower auto sales remain a concern to the automotive parts producers, but most remain stable, and a few are still growing. He said the same is true of the office furniture firms.

"Most are topping out, but a couple of the smaller firms are expanding," he said. "February was a great month for the industrial distributors, however, almost all of the manufacturing firms continue to be constrained by an inability to find new workers to fill open positions."

Long said while the threat of a trade war sparked a significant short-term panic in the stock market, the overall trend remains positive, and the prospect for a good 2018 remains on track.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

March 9, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138

CEO of Citizen University to lead next Wheelhouse Talk

The divisive politics of 2017 and 2018 have led to an increase in citizen-driven protest and political engagement not seen since the end of the Vietnam War, with citizens leading calls for change on a handful of difficult topics nationwide.

With that political climate in mind, Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host Eric Liu, the founder and CEO of Citizen University, a program which promotes and teaches the art of powerful citizenship, as the next speaker in the center's Wheelhouse Talks series. Liu was also a White House speechwriter and policy adviser for President Bill Clinton.

He will discuss his personal and professional leadership lessons with the members of the Hauenstein Center's Cook Leadership Academy as well as the general public.

- **Eric Liu Wheelhouse Talk: Leadership and Citizen Empowerment Across the Political Divide**
- **Hosted by Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies Cook Leadership Academy**
- **Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m.**
- **Eberhard Center, Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus**
- **Event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested at gvsu.edu/hcevents**

Liu is an author, educator and civic entrepreneur, as well as the executive director of the Aspen Institute Citizenship and American Identity Program. He is the host of the award-winning Citizen University TV and is a columnist and correspondent for media outlets including CNN and *The Atlantic*. His most recent book is *You're More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen's Guide to Making Change Happen*.

(<https://vimeo.com/207718837>). He is a graduate of Yale and Harvard Law School.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/hc

For Immediate Release

March 9, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Moyer and Ingle can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0FV>

Longtime head of GVSU Facilities Planning to retire

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The person who led construction at Grand Valley State University for the last 22 years will retire March 31.

James Moyer, associate vice president for Facilities Planning and member of the university's President's Cabinet, managed the development of more than 4 million square feet of expansion at the university, including major building projects at the Allendale and Grand Rapids campuses and centers in Muskegon.

Examples include the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons, L. William Seidman Center, John C. Kennedy Hall of Engineering, Muskegon Innovation Hub, Alumni House, P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science, Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall, Kelly Family Sports Center, and several living centers.

Under Moyer's supervision, the university expanded its role as a leader in sustainability with 21 LEED certified projects, including silver, gold and platinum.

Moyer came to Grand Valley as director of Facilities Planning in 1996; he was promoted to assistant vice president in 2004 and associate vice president in 2012. He earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from Howard University in 1971 and has held memberships in the American Institute of Architects, U.S. Green Building Council, National Organization of Minority Architects, Association of Physical Plant Administrators, and more.

"James is an inspirational leader and gifted professional," said D. Scott Richardson, vice president for Finance and Administration. "He will always be known for the positive changes he made on our campuses, not just in facilities, but in so many other ways."

Effective April 1, Karen Ingle will assume the role of associate vice president for Facilities Planning at Grand Valley. Ingle is currently a senior project manager and team leader at the university.

Ingle first came to Grand Valley in 1996 and has served as a plant engineer and project manager. She has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State University.

For immediate release

March 12, 2017

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Members of the media who are interested in attending can check-in and receive press packets and passes in room 192 in the Fieldhouse.

1,000 local students to compete in STEM contests during GVSU Science Olympiad

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 1,000 local middle and high school students will spend March 17 building bottle rockets, constructing hovercrafts, solving crimes, exploring the chemistry of food, and much more during the 34th annual Region 12 Science Olympiad tournament.

The competition, presented by Grand Valley State University's Regional Math and Science Center, will take place from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Fieldhouse arena on the Allendale Campus.

Students from more than 60 middle and high schools from across West Michigan will showcase their knowledge in biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology during various contests. Winners of this year's competition will advance to the state tournament April 28.

Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education by increasing student interest in the field, while providing recognition for outstanding achievements in science education by both students and teachers.

During Grand Valley's first Science Olympiad Tournament in 1984, 26 teams competed from schools in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Allegan and Oceana counties. Approximately 70 teams sign up to compete each year.

For 27 years, Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center has provided educational resources and programs to K-12 students and educators across Michigan. The RMSC collaborates with approximately 6,000 students and more than 600 teachers in approximately 42 school districts within Kent, Ottawa and Montcalm counties each year. The RMSC is also part of the MiSTEM Network, Region 8, focusing on improving equity and access to STEM education, literacy and workforce.

The Region 12 tournament is sponsored by Van Andel Education Institute, Acentek Foundation, Haviland USA, Webb Chemical, National Defense Industry Association - Michigan Chapter, Luurtema Garden Center, Allendale Grand Coney, and Trail Point Brewery.

For more information about the Science Olympiad Tournament, contact Chelsea Ridge, RMSC math program coordinator, at (616) 331-3172.

For Immediate Release

March 12, 2018

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Lynn Blue can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0FY>

Enrollment VP announces retirement from GVSU after 50 years

ALLENDALE, Mich. — When Lynn "Chick" McNamara Blue was hired at Grand Valley State University as a clerk typist in 1968, she was put on a six-month probation. Her performance must have been acceptable because she is now a vice president and will break the record for the longest-serving employee when she passes the 50-year mark in September. While she noted she is definitely a Laker for a Lifetime, Blue announced she will stop showing up at the office each day at the end of this year.

Blue worked every position in the records office and started with one filing cabinet that held the records of all 1,729 students at Grand Valley. Academic record-keeping kept evolving and becoming more automated. Blue is credited with being part of developing Grand Valley's innovative one-stop service center for students to register and pay bills. She steadily moved up the ranks, being promoted to vice president for Enrollment Development by President Thomas J. Haas in 2015. Enrollment now stands at more than 25,000 students. She said she never had to leave Grand Valley to change jobs because the university kept changing around her, but the one thing that has never changed is her commitment to students.

"Our rapid enrollment growth made my work innovative, fascinating and exciting," Blue said. "I found ways in each of the positions I held to connect positively with students. Over the years, I've been able to impact how we, as a university, intensify our focus on students and their Grand Valley experience. The work I've been able to do matching scholarships with students and guiding them through to a degree has been transformative. I'm incredibly grateful for 50 years on the job and for the students and my colleagues who make Grand Valley such an extraordinary place. I'm going to breathe in every last minute until my retirement on the last day of the year."

Haas said a half-century of service, in the integral roles that Blue has held at Grand Valley, has truly changed the fabric of the university.

"Chick has given her heart and soul in service to our students and to our university community," said Haas. "She is an amazing example of someone who puts the student experience and success front and center. From overseeing technical innovations to personally committing to many students, Chick has led by example. She's smart, practical and a steadfast champion of students. An era is coming to a close with the retirement of a person with her character, work ethic and devotion to students. Her contributions will live on in the spirit of how we serve students at Grand Valley."

Blue's 1968 appointment letter ended with this prescient sentence: "I am looking forward to your contributions to the college, and I wish you success and happiness in your work here." The letter was written by former vice president, then personnel officer, Ronald VanSteeland.

Although Blue remains on the job for nine more months, Haas said the university will immediately begin looking for her replacement with a search committee chaired by Vice President for Inclusion and Equity Jesse Bernal.

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Dorothy A. Johnson is available for media use at the following Dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3754140up540qqd/johnson%20headshot.jpg?dl=0>

Community philanthropist funds innovation

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy will be one step further in its mission to advance the public good and transform communities with a generous gift from namesake Dorothy A. Johnson.

The gift will create the Dorothy A. Johnson Philanthropy Innovation Fund, designed to support the exploration of innovative programs that will advance the field of philanthropy through expanded knowledge and resources.

"Dottie's gift will allow us to deeply examine ways to address the new pressures in the ever-changing field of philanthropy today," said Kyle Caldwell, executive director of the Johnson Center.

This most recent gift from Johnson will be the catalyst for continued support for this fund, including an additional investment from the university, which will help extend the impact of the endowment over time.

During her notable career in philanthropy, Johnson committed her extraordinary talents to increasing the effectiveness of Michigan's philanthropy and to building additional philanthropic resources for the state and the nation.

As president and CEO of the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) from 1975-2000, Johnson grew the organization into one of the nation's leading champions for philanthropy. Among her many leadership roles, she was a devoted trustee of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for 32 years.

Johnson helped to create the Michigan Community Foundation Youth Project that provided challenge grants to establish endowed funds across Michigan community foundations for young people to learn grantmaking. This is still one of the nation's largest youth grant programs teaching young people the value of philanthropy. She also helped create Learning to Give, a program providing educators the materials to teach youth about giving which is expanding around the world.

"As a child I was taught to always give back, whether it be of your time or resources," Johnson said.

"Mart and I have both tried to give back throughout our lives. The center provides the teaching, research and practical advice to help people serve and give. It provides the seed for future generations to do the same."

The Johnson Center was founded and expanded by previous gifts from Dottie and her late husband, Mart. She has been a supporter of Grand Valley for decades and currently serves as secretary of the Grand Valley University Foundation, as well as being an honorary lifetime member of the university's Board of Trustees.

Johnson's gift is part of the Laker Effect campaign, which is transforming the lives of students and enhancing the West Michigan community.

Learn more about the campaign at gvsu.edu/giving

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
George Davis, WGVU Public Media, (616) 331-6526, davisgeo@gvsu.edu

WGVU to address racial disparities through community engagement

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — WGVU Public Media will launch "Shaping Narratives," a project aimed at increasing West Michigan's capacity to influence public narratives affecting children and families of color.

The project is funded by a \$538,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan.

"Shaping Narratives enables WGVU to strengthen its mission and commitment to inclusion and equity," said Michael Walenta, WGVU general manager. "We are a trusted and neutral convener in West and Southwest Michigan around critical issues."

The first strategy is to produce media that sparks community conversations. Collaborating with a host of partners, WGVU will also provide workshops in civic engagement, leadership and media production, to community leaders in Grand Rapids.

"Simply put, people of color don't have enough access to platforms where issues that affect them are decided and the objective of the grant is to change that," said Steve Chappell, WGVU grant writer.

This effort follows a two-year partnership between WGVU's Mutually Inclusive programming, hosted and produced by journalist Mariano Avila, and the Kellogg Foundation.

About WGVU

WGVU Public Media's continued mission is to provide educational, informative and entertaining programs and events to the community as a service of Grand Valley State University. WGVU is proud to serve the 28 counties of West and Southwest Michigan providing PBS programming on television, and is the only local NPR radio station affiliate in the area. WGVU offers the opportunity to explore new ideas through television, radio and online. More information about WGVU is available at www.wgvu.org, or follow WGVU on Twitter or like WGVU on Facebook.

About W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States, and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF places priority on Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, on Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org.

For immediate release

March 16, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the lead students actors in "J.B." are [available via Dropbox](#). Credit: Valerie Wojo/GVSU University Communications

Performances of "J.B." at GVSU to question traditional views of mankind and religious belief

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Is there any meaning to human suffering? Is great wealth an indicator of anything? Is there a God or a Satan?

These are just a few of the moral questions that Grand Valley State University students will explore during upcoming performances of "J.B."

Performances of "J.B." will take place March 23, 24, 28, 29, and 30, at 7:30 p.m., and March 25 and 31, at 2 p.m. All performances will take place in Louis Armstrong Theatre, located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus. For ticket information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre box office by calling (616) 331-2300. Tickets are also available via [Startickets.com](#).

Written by Archibald MacLeish, winner of three Pulitzer Prize awards including one for "J.B.," the story takes place in an enormous circus tent. Two vendors, Mr. Zuss and Nickles, begin to perform a play by assuming the roles of God and Satan, respectively. The pair overhears J.B., a wealthy banker, describe his prosperity as a just reward for his faithfulness to God.

Scorning him, Nickles wagers that J.B. will curse God if his life is ruined. After numerous terrible life events happen to J.B., he is left living on the streets, but is later visited by three Comforters (representing history, science and religion) who each offer a different explanation for his plight. J.B. declines to believe any of them, instead asking God himself to explain. Instead, he encounters Zuss and Nickles: one tries to convince J.B. to end his life to spite God while the other offers him his old life back if he promised to obey God. Will J.B. give in to temptation or move forward to create a new life for himself?

Roger Ellis, "J.B." director and professor of theater, said he has been hoping to stage this particular production at Grand Valley for many years.

"Not only is it unusual because it's a poetic drama, but it's also an epic religious drama on a level with the great Christian cycle and mystery plays of the Middle Ages," said Ellis. "I love the circus setting and the clowning enactment that reminds us all that 'all the world's a stage.'"

Kevin McCasland, a senior communication studies major, said he had to almost develop multiple personalities to play the role of Mr. Zuss who adopts the role of God in J.B.

"Figuring out all of those moments where this character, who isn't exactly an angel, goes between sadistic, egotistical, humorous and playful, has led to plenty of challenges," said McCasland, from Grand

Rapids. "It's a really different kind of story with really odd elements that simply aren't present in many other shows."

Ellis said that "J.B." is a "Brechtian-style" play that will challenge student actors with a cappella singing, direct addresses to the audience, and ritual ceremony juxtaposed with heavy metal music and dance.

"These will be new flavors for our student actors to enjoy," said Ellis. "We try to make sure that Grand Valley students become exposed to a wide range of the masterworks in the dramatic canon over their years at GVSU, and 'J.B.' is certainly a landmark of the American theater that belongs in that canon."

For more information about "J.B.," visit gvsu.edu/theatre.

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU event: How automation is changing the economy, nature of work

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Technological innovations, especially automation and artificial intelligence, are changing the economy, and in particular the nature of work itself. Because of this, employers are challenged to manage existing workers while attracting new talent.

The Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University is sponsoring a panel discussion featuring three area business leaders who will share how technology is affecting their companies.

The Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture, "Convergence of Automation and Work," will be held March 21 from 8-9 a.m. in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus; breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m.

Speakers include Fred Keller, founder and chair of Cascade Engineering; John Kennedy, president and CEO of Autocam Medical; and Spencer Stiles, president of Stryker Instruments.

Michael DeWilde, director of the Koeze Business Ethics Initiative at Grand Valley, will serve as moderator.

For more information, contact the Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100 or visit www.gvsu.edu/seidman.

For immediate release

March 19, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Seth Johnson and Eleanor Bartosh are [available via Dropbox](#).

IBM leaders to discuss company's design thinking approach during GVSU event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — IBM defines design as "the intent behind an outcome," and the company uses design thinking to apply that intent to its products and services by developing understanding and empathy for its users.

During an upcoming presentation presented by Grand Valley's Design Thinking Academy, two design thinking leaders at IBM will describe the company's approach to the design thinking process and what it means for the future of the design profession.

Seth Johnson, IBM Designer Experience design advocate and program director, and Eleanor Bartosh, IBM design thinking practice lead, will present "IBM Design Thinking: Activating Design Thinking at Scale" on March 29. The free event will take place from 6-7 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

"Having key leaders from IBM who lead design thinking activities give a public talk and then visit with Design Thinking Academy students helps all students and faculty see how such skills and experiences are important to major employers," said John Berry, Design Thinking Academy director. "Their visit also indicates the growing interest in what GVSU is doing with design thinking for its undergraduates across the country. IBM, with more than 40,000 employees worldwide, is changing their innovative culture through design thinking."

For more information about this event, contact Berry at berryjr@gvsu.edu. For more information about the Design Thinking Academy, visit gvsu.edu/designthinking.

For Immediate Release

March 19, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU president to speak at education policy summit

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — U.S. Department of Education statistics show Michigan K-12 students are sliding further and further behind their peers nationally. What will it take to improve K-12 education in Michigan?

Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas will join other education leaders at an event in Grand Rapids to discuss opportunities and challenges, and get feedback from the community.

"The Solutions Summit: An Educated Michigan" will take place March 23, from 8-11:30 a.m. at the New Vintage Place at 889 Broadway Ave. NW in Grand Rapids. The event is sponsored by Bridge Magazine and co-hosted by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Haas chaired Gov. Snyder's 21st Century Education Commission; its 25 members studied ways to improve school performance in Michigan. Among several recommendations, commissioners called for universal access to preschool education, governmental accountability and improved teacher preparation.

Haas will join the following featured speakers at the March 23 summit:

- Mark Murray, Meijer, Inc.
- Amber Arellano, Education Trust - Midwest
- Kevin Stotts, Talent 2025
- David Campbell, Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency
- Tim Sowton, Business Leaders for Michigan
- Eileen Weiser, state Board of Education
- Karen McPhee, former education policy advisor to Gov. Snyder
- Chandra Madaffer, Michigan Education Association
- Beth DeShone, Great Lakes Education Project
- Daniela Garcia, Michigan House of Representatives

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Kwiatkowski will be available for interviews from 7:30-8 p.m. after the March 26 event. Media is also welcome to cover her presentation to a student audience at a separate event earlier the same day on the Allendale Campus from 1-2 p.m. in the Haas Center for Performing Arts. A high-resolution headshot is available via Dropbox here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/bexhsmzjk8felwi/KSBI_MarisaKwiatkowski_20170919_015.jpg?dl=0

Reporter who broke Nassar sex abuse story to speak at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Larry Nassar will spend the rest of his life in prison, serving sentences for the sexual abuse of more than 160 young women and possession of child pornography, but the long road to justice started with serious investigative reporting by Marisa Kwiatkowski and her colleagues from the *Indianapolis Star*.

Kwiatkowski, a 2005 graduate of Grand Valley State University, will speak about her investigative work and the impact of investigative journalism at an event at GVSU on March 26.

Kwiatkowski said she hopes to demonstrate the power of journalism and its role in explaining and uncovering complex systems during her presentation.

"The kind of journalism we do is not taking things at face value," Kwiatkowski said. "There's been a lot of great work done on gymnastics and the issue of sexual abuse in various sports and youth organizations, but what made our investigation different was we were able to show for the first time that there was a policy that USA Gymnastics executives had followed, and that policy had real implications for the safety of children in the sport."

She said the power of her team's investigative reporting to make change is based on being able to understand how systems work, but also learn how they break down. That work, Kwiatkowski said, ended up making a national impact in the Nassar story.

Local Reporting, National Impact: Marisa Kwiatkowski on Breaking the USA Gymnastics Story

Monday, March 26, 6 p.m.

Charles W. Loosmore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

This event is free and open to the public

Hosted by the GVSU School of Communications Robert Mayberry COMM-UNITY series

RSVP here: https://www.facebook.com/events/167028970761514/?active_tab=about

Kwiatkowski said the Nassar story took two years to come full circle, including a year of working exclusively on the investigation with her colleagues Tim Evans and Mark Alesia.

The biggest challenge, she said, was getting straight answers from USA Gymnastics. "Early on they wouldn't meet with us, they would only answer questions in writing most of the time, and would only give partial answers. It was hard to get a clear understanding at the beginning."

She said she also hopes to demonstrate the power of giving a voice to the voiceless.

"A lot of the people we interviewed told us that no one else had ever believed them before, or they'd never been heard until we were listening," Kwiatkowski said.

Kwiatkowski is an accomplished journalist who has earned more than 40 journalism awards throughout her career, including Indiana Journalist of the Year, the Tom Renner Award from the Investigative Reporters and Editors organization, a Sigma Delta Chi Award in public service, the Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism and the Will Rogers Humanitarian Award.

Kwiatkowski's presentation will be the first Robert Mayberry COMM-UNITY event and is sponsored by Grand Valley's School of Communications, Department of Public Safety, Division of Inclusion and Equity and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, along with the Center for Women In Transition and 8THIRTYFOUR Integrated Communications.

The Robert Mayberry COMM-UNITY Series celebrates Mayberry's academic vision of diverse academic programs forging a productive connection for students and for the Grand Valley community. The series features intellectuals, practitioners and alumni who have benefitted and/or engage in the kind of cross-disciplinary education and practice that leads to the betterment of localities across the U.S. and the world.

For more information, visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/soc/>

For immediate release

March 20, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Melanie Daniel, and samples of her artwork, can be found via Dropbox.

"Landscape painter of weird narratives" to discuss international inspirations during GVSU event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Melanie Daniel, Grand Valley State University's current Padnos Distinguished Artist-in-Residence, describes her academic career as "a long process of elimination."

Toying with ideas of majoring in fields related to medicine, literature, philosophy and history, Daniel was still missing a sense of direction after four years of studying. So, she took a break and traveled to India for about one year before returning to British Columbia, where she was born and raised.

All the while, she painted pictures when she could, but it never occurred to Daniel that pursuing a career in art could be an option, until she moved to Jerusalem in 1994.

"The move to Israel was the moment that I really understood what I wanted to do with my life — that I wanted to make art," said Daniel. "I discovered that it not only made me feel alive, but that I was not bad at it."

Daniel lived in Israel through 2017, at which time she and her family moved to West Michigan so she could adopt the mantle of Padnos Distinguished Artist-in-Residence — a position she will hold through the 2019-20 academic year.

Daniel will discuss her work and past projects during a special presentation at Grand Valley on March 28. The free event will take place at 6 p.m. in room 138E of the DeVos Center. A Q&A period will follow the formal presentation.

The Artist-in-Residence position, endowed by Holland area businessman Stuart Padnos, and his late wife, Barbara, offers an opportunity for renowned artists to teach and mentor students in the Department of Visual and Media Arts, as well as speak on campus and to the wider community.

The title is granted to a working artist or scholar with an established record of promise or achievement in art and teaching — a category in which Daniel inarguably belongs. She has carved out a niche for herself in terms of preferred mediums, and labels herself as a "landscape painter of weird narratives," while also making videos on occasion.

Daniel earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts from Bezalel Academy in Israel. Throughout her career, Daniel has displayed her work in numerous international exhibitions, including the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Chelouche Gallery, and Noga Gallery of Contemporary Art, all located in Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel; the Asya Geisberg Gallery in New York; the Shulamit Gallery in Los Angeles, California; the Kelowna Art Gallery in British Columbia; and Harvard Business School, among other galleries in Europe and the U.S. Her work has also appeared in numerous publications, including Newsweek, The Huffington Post, Artists Magazine, Frieze, Haaretz and CBC/Radio Canada.

While at Grand Valley, Daniel has utilized her own personal style to introduce her students to a more hybrid approach to drawing.

“I encourage students to be rigorous about the act of art,” said Daniel. “I make them aware of what they’re doing and let them find their own way. Although I want my students to be informed about art history and contemporary trends, I suggest they try to avoid fashionable trends so they can see what comes naturally to them.”

Much of the inspiration behind Daniel’s art stems from her experiences living in both Canada and Israel.

“This dual perspective imbues my paintings with elements of both the militaristic and anxiety-inducing environment of Israel and the tree dense historically charged landscape of my native Canada,” Daniel explained. “My works expose the hope of escaping back to nature or some hard-won peace as impossible ideals. Narratives remain unwritten, and figures are almost absorbed by their surroundings.”

For more information about the March 28 event, contact the Department of Visual and Media Arts at vma@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

GVSU to host 1,000 students at FIRST Robotics District Competition

ALLENDALE, Mich. – More than 1,000 high school students on 40 teams from across West Michigan will compete in the “varsity sport for the mind” March 22-24 at Grand Valley State University.

The For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics District Competition will take place in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. Teams will compete with robots they built and designed for the competition. This year’s game is “Power Up,” which includes two alliances of video game characters and their human operators who are trapped in an arcade game.

The competition runs throughout the day on March 23 and 24. Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas will provide opening remarks at 9 a.m. on March 24, and he will present a \$20,000 scholarship to two incoming Grand Valley students.

Complete information, including a detailed schedule and list of teams, is available at <http://gvsu.edu/s/OGk>.

The competition helps students get hands-on experience solving real-world problems and discover the excitement and rewards of science and technology careers. The 2018 season includes more than 3,600 teams — nearly 90,000 high school students and mentors — participating in 160 regional and district events worldwide. Teams work together for six weeks to build, program and test robots with the guidance of adult mentors. Winners will go on to the 2018 FIRST Championship in Houston and Detroit in April.

FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Learn more at www.usfirst.org.

For more information about the event, contact Ken Platteschorre, event coordinator, at ken.platteschorre@haworth.com or Nicki Bonczyk, volunteer coordinator, at nbonczyk@gmail.com.

For Immediate Release

March 26, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Patty Janes, GVSU professor of hospitality & tourism management, (616) 331-3193 or (989) 424-0123

Tourism professionals and GVSU students to clean-up three Grand Rapids parks

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Tourism industry professionals who are attending the 2018 Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism in Grand Rapids this week will join students from Grand Valley State University to clean-up three area parks on March 27.

The effort is a part of Michigan Cares for Tourism (MC4T), an organization chartered by Grand Valley's Hospitality and Tourism Management Department along with the Michigan DNR, Travel Michigan, Tourism Cares, DRIVEN, and Indian Trails.

On March 27, from 9 a.m.-noon, more than 50 professionals and students will clean up Ah-Nab-Awen Park, Fish Ladder Park, and Riverside Park.

The volunteers will remove sand piles from the recent river flooding, remove brush and debris from the parks and flower beds, and sand and paint picnic tables and benches. In addition, they will be clearing the riverfront to improve the bike path view.

"More than 40 tourism industry members have volunteered to share their time and talents for this event," said Patty Janes, MC4T volunteer coordinator and professor of hospitality and tourism management at Grand Valley. "These volunteers are from around the state, all excited to volunteer and give back locally during their visit for the annual conference."

Janes said 60 Grand Valley students have coordinated an event on April 4 to return and continue to clean-up the started projects. In addition, from May 6-12, during National Tourism Week, MC4T and Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation will hold an Adopt-A-Bed event to give local tourism organizations the opportunity to help beautify the city's 74 parks and flower beds.

About Michigan Cares for Tourism

During the past five years, MC4T has sponsored six volunteer clean-up events around the state. More than 1,800 tourism professionals have volunteered their time and talents to renew and refresh some of Michigan's most treasured attractions including the Ralph A. MacMullen Center and Civilian Conservation Corps Museum in Roscommon, Felt Estate near Saugatuck, Fayette Historic Townsite in the Upper Peninsula, Sturgeon Point Lighthouse near Alpena, Detroit's Belle Isle Park, and the Waterloo Recreation Area's Historic Mill Lake Outdoor Center in Chelsea.

These volunteer efforts have contributed more than \$500,000 in supplies and labor savings to these locations. In addition, MC4T has raised funds and in-kind donations from more than 300 organizations.

Visit MichiganCaresforTourism.org for additional information on these initiatives as well as details for the 2018 clean-up event at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park, September 16-18, in the Upper Peninsula.

Michigan Cares for Tourism is a 100 percent volunteer, 100 percent give back organization with all proceeds solely designed to contribute to the clean-up of Michigan's historic attractions.

For immediate release

March 28, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the 2017 Momentum Dance Concert are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU students to support local human trafficking charity through dance performances

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A collective of 30 Grand Valley State University student dancers and choreographers will capitalize on the excitement of live dance performances as a way to raise money for a local charity.

Every semester, the Momentum student dance organization holds multiple dance events to benefit a charity organization, such as Hands for Haiti, Camp Aranzazu and Arts in Motion. This semester, the group will be supporting The Hope Project, an organization based in Muskegon that offers rehabilitation programs and aftercare services for victims of human trafficking.

“The purpose of Momentum is to utilize our passion for dance to benefit the lives of other people,” said Mackenzie Matyn, a senior who is majoring in dance and management information systems, and president of Momentum.

Performances of the Momentum Dance Concert will take place April 6 and 7 in the Dance Studio Theatre (room 1600), located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus. Admission to these performances is free, but donations will be accepted.

Jayma Carney, Momentum vice president and a junior majoring in dance and athletic training, said that these performances are also valuable experiences because each performance is produced by the students involved.

“We put so much outside time into doing something we love, and it is so exciting to be able to show a completely student-run performance twice every year,” said Carney, from Ortonville. “When I describe Momentum to others, I say that it is an organization made by dancers, for dancers. All of the people involved are so extremely talented, and we all just love to dance.”

For more information about the Momentum Dance Concert, contact the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

For immediate release

March 28, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host information sessions in health care, public administration

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host information sessions for students in northern Michigan who are interested in degree programs in health care and public administration.

- The university's Traverse City Regional Center will partner with Northwestern Michigan College and other University Center institutions to host a Health Care Programs Showcase on Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m.-noon at NMC's Health Sciences Building, 1701 E. Front St.

Area practitioners, faculty members and advisors will be available to discuss specialized health degree programs available to the northern Michigan community. More than 20 programs will be represented; RSVP for the showcase online at gvsu.edu/s/OGS, or call (231) 995-1785.

- Grand Valley's School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration will host an open house on Wednesday, April 25, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the NMC University Center, 2200 Dendrinis Drive.

Prospective students and nonprofit professionals can learn more about Grand Valley's programs, including the new online Certificate of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. Faculty members will be available to answer questions.

RSVP by sending an email to Claire Minnis at minniscl@mail.gvsu.edu. Questions can be directed to (231) 995-1785.

For immediate release
March 29, 2018
Contact: University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Organizers of White Privilege Conference will host news conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Organizers of the 19th annual White Privilege Conference will host a news conference in Grand Rapids prior to the April 4-7 conference, which is expected to draw more than 1,500 people.

Eddie Moore Jr., executive director of The Privilege Institute, and others will discuss the purpose of the conference and how it promotes an open discussion about race and privilege through a lens of respect and equality.

- News conference: Tuesday, April 3, 9 a.m., Amway Grand Plaza, Pearl Room, 187 Monroe Ave NW.

The Division of Inclusion and Equity at Grand Valley State University is among the local partners that worked to bring the conference to Grand Rapids.

Taran McZee, special assistant for Inclusion and Equity, and C.J. Mehall, faculty member in the College of Education, are co-chairs of the local host committee. McZee said the conference offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage in robust, yet at times difficult, dialogues about how privilege plays a role in work spaces, schools and communities.

"It's an opportunity for all communities to come together to seek understanding, enhance mutual respect, and build stronger connections with all of our diverse identities," McZee said. "WPC also examines issues of privilege beyond race and ethnicity, including intersections of race, gender, sexuality, class, (dis)ability and more."

For more information about the conference, visit whiteprivilegeconference.com.

For immediate release

March 29, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos for "No Exit" are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU students to depict that "hell is other people" during performances of "No Exit"

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Three people, who have never met before, are brought into a strange room by a mysterious Bellboy who gives them barely any information about their situation except for the knowledge that they will be in that room together for the rest of eternity.

All three characters only have one thing in common: they're all dead.

This is the foundation of the plot for the upcoming play, "No Exit," which will be produced and performed by Grand Valley State University theater students as a part of the annual Performance Studios Series.

The P.S. Series gives upper-level theater students the opportunity to use the practical skills they have learned in the classroom. During P.S. Series productions, students have creative control over directing, acting, backstage production, set design and costume design.

Performances of "No Exit" will take place April 5, 6, and 7, at 7:30 p.m. and April 8 at 2 p.m. All shows will take place the Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus. General admission tickets will be \$6, and tickets can be purchased through the Louis Armstrong Box Office by calling (616) 331-2300, or by visiting Startickets.com.

In "No Exit," Cradeau, a French journalist; Inez, a Spanish secretary; and Estelle, an American socialite, quickly discover that the mysterious room they have entered is actually hell.

"This show is an exploration of why those characters find themselves in hell, what mistakes they made in the past and how living a fake life can lead you to ruin," said Bruno Streck Rodrigues, a senior majoring in theater and communication studies who will sit in the director's chair for "No Exit." "Having to accept the fact that they are dead, unable to touch the outside world and slowly being forgotten, is a big part of the show."

Expecting to find some kind of torturer in the hellish venue, the three characters quickly learn that the real torture is spending eternity with each other.

"They have to learn to 'live' with each other, but the problem of 'living' with each other, as the show itself says, is that 'hell is other people,'" said Streck Rodrigues. "They can't stand the thought that the other two people in the room are judging them for every little thing they do, and that is the real torture."

"No Exit" marks Streck Rodrigues' directorial debut, and the São Carlos, Brazil, native said it is his favorite play primarily because of the diversity of the characters.

"The show was written in 1943 by French philosopher Jean Paul Sartre, and yet one of the main characters is a lesbian, which is groundbreaking," said Streck Rodrigues. "The male character in the original version of the play is Brazilian, like me, so I also really like my country being represented in theater."

Grand Valley's production of "No Exit" will be adopting the translated version by Paul Bowles in which the nationalities of Cradeau and Estelle were changed to French and American, respectively.

Emily Cobb, who plays Inez, said she looks forward to audiences reflecting on the themes of death, freedom and judgement found in "No Exit."

"I believe this show will get people to think about life and death and it will leave an impression on them," said Cobb, a sophomore majoring in psychology and theater. "A lot of great people put in the work to make this come to life and the results are spectacular."

For Immediate Release

April 2, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from past pow wows are available to use, <http://gvsu.edu/s/OH6>

GVSU to host 20th annual pow wow

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Events to celebrate and learn about Native American traditions and culture through dance and song will take place April 7-8 at Grand Valley State University.

The 20th annual Celebrating All Walks of Life Traditional Pow Wow will take place in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. Hundreds of people are expected to attend, including many traveling from Native American communities in the Upper Peninsula and Great Lakes region.

The event will celebrate traditional Native American dancing and music with Grand Entry performances at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. on April 7 and at noon on April 8; doors open at 11 a.m. on both days. There will be Native American handmade crafts and food vendors, as well as a silent auction to raise funds for Grand Valley's Native American Student Association.

This year, the co-coordinator of the first Grand Valley pow wow will attend the celebration. Scott Herron, a Grand Valley alumnus and biology professor at Ferris State University, coordinated the first pow wow in 1998.

The celebration is free, family friendly and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Native American Student Association, Office of Multicultural Affairs and Division of Inclusion and Equity at Grand Valley.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/oma/powwow or contact NASA at gvsu_nasa@yahoo.com or the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177.

For Immediate Release

April 3, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Progressive/Conservative Summit to tackle difficult political climate, discussions

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Americans' political positions are bitterly divided, driven apart by identity politics, partisan news coverage and algorithm-driven social media echo chambers. Meaningful, well-reasoned political discussion can be hard to find in this political climate.

With that difficulty in mind, the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University will provide substantive conversations about history, political thought and policy without the partisan rhetoric at its annual Progressive/Conservative Summit on April 13-14.

The two-day event will cover a wide variety of topics presented by authors, journalists and academics from various fields. Topics will range from the culture wars and identity liberalism to teaching empathy in a post-truth, pro-feelings age.

Presenters will include Mark Lilla, a contributor to the *New York Review of Books* and humanities professor at Columbia University; Patrick Deneen, associate professor of constitutional studies at Notre Dame and author of *Why Liberalism Failed*; and Molly Worthen, op-ed columnist at the *New York Times* and assistant professor of history at UNC-Chapel Hill; and many others.

Progressive/Conservative Summit 2018

April 13, 6 - 8:15 p.m. and April 14, 8:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus

401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Event is free and open to the public, but RSVPs are requested at gvsu.edu/hc

"The big aim of the program is to share knowledge with the hope of improving understanding, not necessarily finding one side that can 'beat' the other. We want to help people explore a variety of viewpoints," said Scott St. Louis, program manager at the Hauenstein Center.

Progressive/Conservative Summit 2018 is presented in partnership with the Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation, the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan and the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/hc.

For immediate release

April 3, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of works for x-height and Control and Creativity are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU visual and media arts seniors to showcase capstone works during multiple exhibitions

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 50 students from the Visual and Media Arts Department will showcase works that represent the culmination of their educational journeys at Grand Valley State University.

"x-height" is just one of these upcoming exhibits. Kendra Smith said the senior graphic design exhibition is meant to represent the starting point of the future careers of the eleven participating students.

"Graphic design is not always featured in shows, so it is even more beneficial that we learn the process through this experience in school," said Smith, a senior majoring in graphic design. "I personally had no idea about all of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into creating and promoting an exhibit. Everyone has really used their skills gained in the program to step out-of-the-box and create work they're really passionate about."

Smith's contribution to "x-height" includes branding elements for a fictional design museum called the Grand Rapids Institute of Design (GRID), including visitor guides, tickets, membership cards, a mock website and more.

"From a young age, I have always enjoyed visiting museums and gaining more knowledge," said Smith. "I also have not had the opportunity yet to create design work for a public space, so I wanted to challenge myself to try something new."

Justin Nienhuis, a senior studio art major with an emphasis on jewelry making and metalsmithing, said his solo exhibit revolves around 100 questions he asked himself while contemplating his showcase.

"I just wanted to be aware of what I was thinking about while I was creating my work," said Nienhuis, from Holland. "In my show, I explore how a vessel could be formed in metal versus ceramics."

"Control and Creativity (100 Questions I Asked Myself)" will showcase 20 works by Nienhuis, mostly consisting of pieces created from copper, brass, bronze and nickel silver.

Nienhuis said the Visual and Media Arts Department helped him develop the skills necessary to succeed in his future career.

"GVSU has some amazing professors, like Beverly Seley, the head of the jewelry and metalsmithing program," said Nienhuis. "The art program has really been formed to help students learn how to not only make art, but also prepare us for being professional artists in the future by teaching skills like how to build a resume, website, and professional portfolio, and how to apply for grants."

Below is a full list of upcoming senior thesis exhibitions:

x-height

Senior graphic design exhibition

Exhibition dates: April 9-12

Art Gallery, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Reception: April 12, from 5-7 p.m.

Control and Creativity (100 Questions I Asked Myself)

Senior BFA thesis exhibit by Justin Neinhuis, jewelry and metalsmithing major

Exhibition dates: April 9-12

Padnos Student Gallery, Calder Art Center, Allendale Campus

Reception: April 12, from 5-7 p.m.

Emerge

Senior illustration thesis exhibition

Exhibition dates: April 14-May 18

Nomad Galleries by Richard App, 74 Monroe Center Street NW, Grand Rapids

*Hours by appointment

Reception: April 14, from 5-9 p.m.

Teammates How Do/The Wall is Not Solid/how to ollie

Three senior visual studies exhibitions

Exhibition dates: April 16-22 (Monday-Thursday, from 5-9 p.m.)

106 Division Avenue South

Receptions: April 20, from 6-9 p.m.; April 21 and 22, from 2-5 p.m.

Fractal

Senior photography thesis exhibition

Exhibition dates: April 17-27

Art Gallery, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

Reception: April 19, from 5-7 p.m.

Film and Video Spring Showcase

April 24, from 7-10 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

For more information, contact the Visual and Media Arts Department at (616) 331-3486.

For immediate release

April 4, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU carillons will toll tonight to mark 50th anniversary of MLK assassination

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will be joining in a chorus of bells ringing at the same time tonight from carillon towers across the country to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Grand Valley's Cook Carillon Tower (Allendale Campus) and Beckering Family Carillon (Pew Grand Rapids Campus) will both toll 39 times beginning at 7 p.m. to represent King's age when he was assassinated.

For Immediate Release

April 5, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and a copy of Long's full report can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OHs>

GVSU economist: 2018 "bounce" continues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — For West Michigan, the first quarter of 2018 has started on strong footing, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of March.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose to +34, slightly better than last month's +32. The production index held steady at +31. The index of purchases jumped sharply to +37 from +22, and the employment index edged up to +19, from +16.

"The bounce we reported last month has continued and the general mood remains optimistic," said Long, "but the pricing pressure brought on by the recently announced tariffs has added a new dimension of stress to many purchasing offices. We have not seen this level of price pressure in several years."

Long said the "floodgates" of new orders were opened immediately after the corporate tax cuts were signed into law. He said the recent bounce in auto sales appears to have quelled the fears that local automotive parts producers may be starting to slow.

Despite the shortage of labor, Long said several companies are still growing. "The strength of the economy has resulted in the office furniture industry holding steady," he said. "Although there are a couple of exceptions, most of our industrial distributors are participating in the uptick of business and almost all of the manufacturing firms still cannot find enough new workers to fill open positions."

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

April 10, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Katherine Dreyer, Van Andel Global Trade Center at GVSU, (616) 331-6811

GVSU world trade conference focuses on global success

Student Global Awareness Day to be held May 2

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — During West Michigan World Trade Week, May 7-10, area business leaders will come together to celebrate international trade and business growth in the West Michigan region.

In conjunction with West Michigan World Trade Week, Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center will host a business conference May 9. The event, in its 33rd year, will focus on how to achieve global success.

This year's keynote is a panel of three speakers who will discuss global talent in today's environment. Speakers include Debra Auerbach Clephane from Murray Law Group, Lisa Hanning from Pridgeon & Clay, and Tami D. Vincent from EJ Group Inc.

West Michigan World Trade Week Business Conference

May 9 from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Noon-1:45 p.m. Luncheon panel speakers

L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Ave., Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Register at www.gvsu.edu/wtw

Several breakout sessions are planned on a variety of topics including:

- Finding Global Partners
- Cyber Security and Data Protection
- Understanding India's Market
- Michigan Exporter Tools

Student Global Awareness held May 2 at Grand Valley

A key component of West Michigan World Trade Week is the Student Global Awareness program. Volunteers have reached more than 1,400 middle school students in Grand Rapids since the program began in 2005. Volunteers work in the classroom to provide students with practical information on what makes world trade work, how the global economy affects their daily lives and how to prepare for an increasingly global job market.

Students from Harrison Middle School will attend a capstone event May 2 at the L. William Seidman Center, where they will interact and connect with professionals in the international trade community.

For a full schedule or more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/wtw or call (616) 331-6811.

For immediate release

April 13, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU will celebrate 117 sets of twins Sunday

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Here's a little-known fact: there are 117 sets of twins, five sets of triplets and one set of quadruplets enrolled at Grand Valley State University this year.

The university will "Double the Laker Effect" Sunday, April 15, and celebrate student and alumni twins and multiples; more than 110 people are expected.

The event will run from 1-3 p.m. in the Fieldhouse, with a group photo set for 2 p.m. President Thomas J. Haas and Louie the Laker will attend. Media members are welcome to cover the event.

In 2014, the inaugural Twin Day was held with more than 130 people in attendance; [this video documented](#) the occasion.

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

Space device, artificial intelligence among projects at GVSU engineering showcase

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A leak repair device for astronauts, a chess game that uses artificial intelligence and a tool that detects dry eye are just some of the more than 60 student-made projects that will be on display April 19 at Grand Valley State University's Project Day.

About 275 visitors and high school students from across Michigan will attend the event to meet with students, interact with projects and learn about careers in engineering and computing. The event is hosted by the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

GVSU Project Day

Thursday, April 19

10 a.m. - noon

Kennedy Hall of Engineering and Keller Engineering Labs

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

At the event, nearly 90 first-year engineering students on 27 teams will compete in a RoboSockey tournament in the Keller Labs building. Autonomous robots, built by students, will compete to find, collect and throw a ping-pong-sized ball to score a goal, while avoiding obstacles.

Padnos College hosts project days twice each academic year. Projects on display were designed and built by undergraduate and graduate students in engineering, computing and occupational safety and health management majors.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/pcec.

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2018

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Bob and Ellen Thompson can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://qvsu.edu/s/0l3>

Detroit couple increases scholarships to working families, Grand Valley students

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Hundreds of students at Grand Valley State University will get a financial boost thanks to the generosity of a Detroit area couple and their foundation. Bob and Ellen Thompson are increasing their investment in student success by expanding the Thompson Working Family Scholarship Program. This program is aimed at helping students who come from families who, despite working hard, cannot fund a child's college education.

They began the Thompson Working Family Scholarship Program (TWFS) at Grand Valley in 2011 with 15 students receiving \$3,000 each year of their four-year program. More students were added each year. In 2017, an accelerated phase of the program began. The Thompsons requested Grand Valley increase the number of students getting the scholarship, and they added other colleges to the list as well. Grand Valley is now selecting 100 incoming first-year students and 25 Michigan community college transfer students to receive \$5,000 each year for four years, and the number of student recipients will continue to grow.

"Bob and Ellen's passion for students and their commitment to giving is simply remarkable," said Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas. "Students from hard-working families around the state will more easily see a Grand Valley degree in their future because of this \$5,000-a-year award. The university has a long-term relationship with the Thompsons, and we're pleased and thankful they see we support students through to graduation, and they've decided we are responsible stewards of their gifts."

The Thompsons sold their company, Thompson-McCully, Michigan's largest asphalt paving company, after 40 years in business. Bob ran that business while Ellen began her career as an elementary school teacher. They both believe education changes lives. At the heart of their support for this program is Bob and Ellen's respect for the workers employed in their asphalt and concrete businesses.

"I see how long and hard some people work, and the dreams they have for their children," said Ellen Thompson. "We've been fortunate and want to help the students realize those dreams. I receive notes from those who have received Thompson scholarships, and they tell me they also want to give back some day. Bob and I know the investments we're making in these young people will pay hefty dividends in the future, not only in their lives, but in their communities."

Results are important to the Thompsons. Since working with Grand Valley, they've seen the impressive graduation rates of students and the dedication of faculty and staff to student success. The cohorts of students moving through the TWFS program must reach an 80 percent, six-year graduation rate, and Grand Valley must provide financial and practical support.

"I enjoy working with Bob and Ellen because they evaluate what we're doing for students," said Grand Valley Vice President for Enrollment Development Lynn Blue. "They see we have student success

initiatives that include tutoring, a writing center and advising services. Our class sizes are small enough so professors get to know their students and are able to offer guidance. We are dedicated to student success at Grand Valley and so are the Thompsons. We think it's a wonderful partnership in which our students are the beneficiaries."

For immediate release

April 17, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: photos and a video from the event can be downloaded, via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/017>

GVSU celebrates twins, multiples enrolled on campus

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University students and alumni who are twins or multiples celebrated family during Twin+ Day, held April 15 in the Fieldhouse Arena on the Allendale Campus.

There are 117 sets of twins, five sets of triplets and one set of quadruplets enrolled at Grand Valley this year. Laker alumni twins number 350.

Sixty-five people attended the "Double the Laker Effect" event, which was held during a unique April ice storm. The Galati quads came with their parents from Grosse Ile.

Lorenzo Galati said he and his three sisters decided to come to Grand Valley together "because it had everything we wanted." Nina joked it was easier on their parents to have one college move-in day, rather than four.

Jacqueline and Elizabeth Leonard Labadie, from Farmington Hills, are identical twins and also portray twins in TV shows and films, including a Sony Pictures movie, "Crowning Jules," released last fall.

Jacqueline said they decided to come to Grand Valley together because of the size of the campus and the resources offered. "Everything here seems to set students up for success," she said.

Briauna and Brittany Taylor graduated from Grand Valley with degrees in nursing and business, respectively. They returned on Twin+ Day to meet other twins and reflect on their college experience. They played varsity basketball and softball together and were part of an entrepreneurial team that created an electric sit-to-stand device to lift patients by their hips.

President Thomas J. Haas called the event a "magical moment" at Grand Valley.

"We're so grateful that you're here; we want to help you celebrate who you are as a family and how you contribute to the Grand Valley family," Haas said.

The first Twin Day at Grand Valley was held in 2014.

For immediate release

April 18, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: VIDEO/AUDIO AVAILABLE FOR MEDIA USE

GVSU President, Hauenstein Center director recall memories of Barbara Bush

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University, grew up one neighborhood over from the Bush family in Houston in the 1960s. He had a chance to meet the Bushes several times throughout his life, and commented on former First Lady Barbara Bush's personality, impact on American literacy, and dedication to public service.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas also met George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush while serving as a lieutenant in the Coast Guard. He and his wife, Marcia Haas, served as social aides for the Bushes during several events, including the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan.

Haas said the news reports describing Barbara Bush as genuine and authentic are true. Haas described the Bushes as having a true love for one another and the country.

Haas said during his several conversations and interactions with then-President Bush, he always talked about his family with great pride and about his relationship with Barbara, in particular.

Several SOTs from Gleaves Whitney are available for media use via Dropbox. Also included are four audio bites with President Thomas J. Haas: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e0t8hvs2fz9m5uy/AACzcU-aEIHsbliNxKwSRLraa?dl=0>

A description, runtime, and transcript of the bites from Gleaves Whitney for media use are below:

BITE 1:

SUBJECT: Barbara Bush was always dedicated to public service, as was her husband. They worked to serve the American people.

RUN :12

"When they married, they set out not just to run for political office and direct the CIA and serve in all those different ways, but also to give something of significance to the country."

BITE 2:

SUBJECT: Bush focused on literacy programs across the nation as First Lady. The project was personal because of difficulties faced by her son, Neil.

RUN :15

"One of the reasons literacy was passionate and personal for her was that her son, Neil, was dyslexic. She saw the impact on him and she knew how important it was that our young people be able to read and that their families could read so they could achieve the American dream."

BITE 3:

SUBJECT: Bush was known for being able to laugh at herself, and had a strong personal focus on love of family and friends, literacy, and levity.

RUN :44

"Barbara Bush always managed to keep things in perspective. She was a strong personality, no doubt about it, but she also could laugh, and most of all she could laugh at herself. The three things she's credited for are love, literacy and levity and the levity is really important to understanding her personality because people would come to her and ask her to do things all the time and volunteer and she would say "Me, volunteer? I've never worked a day in my life!" What she meant by that of course is that she never received an official paycheck but of course she contributed in so many ways and in so many capacities to make America a better place, she was a great first lady and we're so much the poorer not to have her any more."

BITE 4:

SUBJECT: Bush spoke at a graduation ceremony at Wellesley in 1990 where she told graduates that they should strive to live for something that was greater than themselves, and if they did, they would find joy and purpose.

RUN :07

"Barbara Bush always wanted young Americans to feel a sense of joy in their capacities of what they could do and give to others."

BITE 5:

SUBJECT: Bush placed a focus on family and friends, and was known to prioritize people over work and politics.

RUN :25

"Barbara Bush made a priority of her family and her friends, and she was fiercely loyal to them; you didn't want to disappoint her, but she always emphasized that it didn't matter so much if you closed another deal or you got another "A" on a test, or got a job promotion. Really what would count at the end of the day was that you were loyal and you were there for your family and your friends, and boy did she demonstrate that throughout her entire life."

BITE 6:

SUBJECT: Gleaves Whitney grew up in the neighborhood next to where the Bush family lived as a kid in Houston, and said when he met her for the first time, she made an incredible first impression.

RUN :26

"I remember the first time I met her, she just had such a direct way with you, she'd look you right in the eye, and when she spoke with you, it was obvious she was present there just for you, and that was when I was an 11 year old kid, and then I met her again when George Bush was running for office in the 1992 election, and they came to Michigan, and again, she was just wonderful."

BITE 7:

SUBJECT: The second time Whitney met Barbara Bush was at a campaign stop in Michigan, where he said she made a bigger splash than her husband.

RUN :19

"She was, I hate to say it, a bigger hit than he was. One got the impression that if Barbara Bush put on that bright blue dress and put on her pearls that she would steal the show with just a few lines. She had that kind of presence, she had that kind of gravitas, but combined with such a gracious sense of levity that just made people feel great around her."

BITE 8:

SUBJECT: Whitney recalled that Bush had a personality that was warm and inviting, but also commanded many situations she was in.

RUN :13

"She looked you right in the eye, she made you feel as if you were the only person in the room, she was just as funny as can be, and she was the boss, you always knew she was the boss in any situation."

BITE 9:

SUBJECT: Barbara Bush's commitment to public service and family combined with George H.W. Bush's passion for politics led the presidential couple to serve Americans in many ways over the years.

RUN :33

"Barbara Bush came from a family that was very much service-oriented and she married into a family, when the Pierces and the Bushes got together, married into a family that was also very service oriented. So for them politics was not just about running for office and winning elections, for them politics was about public service; it was what they could do for the American people. And that's one of her great legacies, that's a legacy that we continue to honor this day and we will honor for as long as this country exists."

For Immediate Release

April 23, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Headshots and bios of speakers are available to use: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0lv>. Skybox 101B is reserved for media. The skybox offers a mult box and an elevated, unobstructed view of the podium and platform.

Grand Valley to celebrate thousands of graduates at commencement

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 3,000 Grand Valley State University students will participate in commencement ceremonies April 27 and 28 at Van Andel Arena in downtown Grand Rapids.

The April 27 speaker is Raymond Bennett, a Grand Valley alumnus and chief global officer for Marriott International Inc. The morning speaker on April 28 is U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, who has represented Michigan in the U.S. Senate since 2014; the afternoon speaker is Teresa Weatherall Neal, superintendent for Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Grand Valley Commencement Ceremonies

Friday, April 27, at 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 28, at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids

Notable student stories

- April 28 will be a special day for **John Records Landecker**, who attended Grand Valley from 1965-1967. The Radio Hall of Famer dropped out of college in the '60s, a handful of credits shy of earning a bachelor's degree. He was surprised with a Grand Valley diploma during a special presentation in February, making him a member of the Laker Class of 2018. He will make his bachelor's degree official when he walks across the stage **April 28 at the 3 p.m. ceremony**. Read about how he earned those last few credits: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0le>. Landecker is available for interviews and can be reached at (312) 933-5911.
- Among the students graduating is a **mother-daughter duo** who earned their bachelor's degrees together. Heather Vlieg and her daughter, Amanda Martin, will walk across the stage April 28 at the 3 p.m. ceremony. Vlieg will graduate with a bachelor's degree in history; Martin will graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology. They are available for interviews and can be reached at amandamartin223@gmail.com or (616) 916-5310.

Awards and honorary degrees

The Alumni Association will present its Distinguished Alumni Award to Angie Crouch, '88, an Emmy-award winning journalist for KNBC-TV in Los Angeles. The Outstanding Educator Award will be presented to Barbara Hooper, assistant professor in the Kirkhof College of Nursing.

Robert Hooker, Judith Hooker (posthumously), Allen Hunting, and Donnalee Holton will receive honorary degrees. Robert Hooker is the retired president and CEO of Mazda Great Lakes and current director of the Grand Valley University Foundation. Robert's wife, Judith Hooker, was a kindergarten and first-grade teacher and a trustee for Grand Valley's Board of Trustees. Hunting is among the founders of Grand Valley. He led Stow and Davis Furniture Company for 30 years and was a director of the Grand Valley University Foundation. Holton, a supporter of Grand Valley, is a former member of the university's Board of Trustees and an advocate for education, health care and the arts.

The April 27 ceremony will include the following colleges: Seidman College of Business, College of Community and Public Service and Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. The morning ceremony on April 28 will include: College of Health Professions, science programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Kirkhof College of Nursing. The afternoon ceremony on April 28 will include: College of Education, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and liberal arts programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Ceremonies will be webcast live at www.gvsu.edu/commencement.

For Immediate Release

April 23, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Loren Rullman is available on Dropbox, <http://gvsu.edu/s/0lt>

GVSU names new vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University Provost Maria Cimitile has announced the appointment of Loren Rullman as vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students.

Rullman has more than 30 years of higher education experience and served as associate vice president for Student Life at the University of Michigan from 2007-2017. Currently, he is principal of higher education strategy and consulting at Workshop Architects, a firm that specializes in higher education planning and advising.

Rullman received a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from University of Missouri, St. Louis. He also has a master's degree in higher education from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in advertising and Spanish from Valparaiso University.

"Dr. Rullman impressed all of us with his leadership experience, enthusiasm for this position and eagerness to help students be successful in their academic and personal lives," Cimitile said. "He is a collaborative leader and is student centered in his decision making. I could not be more excited to extend a warm welcome as he joins the Grand Valley community."

Rullman, who grew up in Grant and East Jordan, Michigan, said he was drawn to Grand Valley's collegial culture, accomplishments and dedication to student success.

"I'm thrilled to be joining a team of talented student affairs professionals and I look forward to connecting with students and working alongside academic colleagues," Rullman said. "During the search process, I was able to meet students, staff members and faculty who showed me how much they genuinely care about Grand Valley. I am a child of public school teachers and a product of a public school education. A vast majority of my higher education career has been working for public institutions, so I believe in the purpose of a public university."

Rullman will begin his duties July 23. He will serve as the senior student affairs officer and provide leadership for the Division of Student Services.

For Immediate Release

April 23, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Leadership expert to celebrate Cook Leadership Academy graduation

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Robert Quinn, one of America's highest-regarded leadership experts, will be the speaker at a Wheelhouse Talk hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University on April 26.

Quinn, a best-selling author and professor emeritus at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, will speak following a ceremony to honor 42 graduates of the Hauenstein Center's Cook Leadership Academy. The academy is a program designed to improve leadership skills in exceptional Grand Valley students.

Quinn will share his personal and professional leadership lessons with Cook Leadership Academy fellows and the community at large. His research and teaching interests focus on organizational change, leadership and effectiveness.

Robert E. Quinn: Leadership and Positive Organizations

April 26, 6 p.m.

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center

401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI

The event is free and open to the public. An RSVP is requested at gvsu.edu/hc

Quinn holds the Margaret Elliot Tracey Collegiate Professorship at the University of Michigan and serves on the faculty of Organization and Management at the Ross School of Business.

He is the best-selling author of *Deep Change*, which has sold more than 100,000 copies.

About the Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy:

The Hauenstein Center's Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy is a leadership development program for 60+ undergraduate and graduate students during the academic year. The program is co-curricular and cross-disciplinary — this year representing 52 different areas of study — and it provides numerous opportunities for student fellows to develop leadership excellence.

For immediate release

April 25, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Bea Idema is available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0ll>

Longtime university supporter helps GVSU students succeed

-- Idema establishes three new scholarships

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University students now have an even greater opportunity to stay and succeed, thanks to a generous gift from community philanthropist Beatrice "Bea" Idema.

Idema established three new scholarships to benefit students who are majoring in criminal justice, physics, and nursing.

"We were brought up to give rather than to take," Idema said. "Being able to give is a gift, so I just feel good about doing what I am doing."

- Idema established the Philip Peter Versluis Criminal Justice Endowed Scholarship in memory of her brother-in-law, Philip, to continue his philanthropic legacy and assist students studying criminal justice.
- The William "Bill" W. Idema Physics Endowed Scholarship honors Idema's late husband by continuing his legacy and helping students who are studying physics.
- The Beatrice "Bea" A. Idema Nursing Endowed Scholarship is an expression of her passion for personally investing in helping others; it will help nursing students who often accrue extra costs associated with the program.

Michelle Rhodes, director of Financial Aid, said scholarships can be the difference in whether a student continues to attend classes, or drops out of college to work. More than 90 percent of Grand Valley students receive some type of financial aid.

"We want to encourage students to focus on finishing their degree and these scholarships go a long way to help alleviate some of that financial burden," Rhodes said.

Idema has supported Grand Valley for decades, providing leadership and service to the university and Grand Valley University Foundation. She played important roles in the campaigns for the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons, and the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

Idema's loyal support has created opportunities for thousands of students. Her latest gift is part of the Laker Effect campaign, which is transforming the lives of students and enhancing the West Michigan community. Learn more about the campaign at gvsu.edu/giving.

For immediate release

April 26, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the Herrington receiving her award are [available via Dropbox](#). Photo credit: Megan Harron Photography.

Michigan Professor of the Year honor awarded to GVSU professor

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Deborah Herrington has been named one of the top educators in the State of Michigan by the Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) – the coordinating board for Michigan’s 15 public universities.

Herrington, professor of chemistry and interim Chemistry Department chair at Grand Valley State University, was one of three collegiate educators to receive the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award during a ceremony on April 20 in Lansing. The award recognizes exceptional contributions and dedication toward educating undergraduate students.

“To be chosen as GVSU’s nominee from among hundreds of my colleagues who are equally committed to quality undergraduate education is very humbling,” said Herrington. “I was somewhat surprised and deeply honored.”

Herrington said she strives to help her students understand the worldly applicability of chemistry concepts.

“Chemistry is not just a collection of facts; it is a systematic way of examining and explaining the world around us,” said Herrington. “In my classes, we focus on really understanding chemistry concepts and using them to explain things, such as why we need to use sunscreen to protect us from UV radiation or why fruit farmers spray their fruit crops with water to protect them from frost.”

While Herrington has received support from a number of people throughout her career, she said the majority of her gratitude goes to her students.

“I am constantly looking for new approaches that will better help my students understand difficult chemistry concepts and ways to support students outside of the classroom,” said Herrington. “But, to understand how different strategies are affecting students, I need to constantly collect data from them. Without my students and their hard work and feedback, I couldn’t be a great teacher.”

Herrington is also the co-founder and current director of [Target Inquiry](#), a program that contributes toward improving the professional development of middle and high school science teachers while helping them create student-centered and inquiry-based classroom environments. The various classroom materials developed by Target Inquiry have been downloaded by hundreds of teachers in more than 40 countries. Herrington and her students take this work and other science-based teaching opportunities to local schools, afterschool programs and public spaces.

She also leads the [Retaining and Inspiring Students in Science and Engineering program \(RISE\)](#), which seeks to financially help low-income undergraduate students seeking an education in science or

engineering. RISE is creating a set of progressively increasing four-year scholarships for at least 50 Grand Valley students who may not otherwise be able to afford a college education.

The program came to fruition after Herrington and her team received a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program in December. Since beginning her time at Grand Valley in 2003, Herrington has obtained \$2.7 million in external funding to support programs focused on improving science education.

Throughout her time at Grand Valley, Herrington has been the recipient of multiple awards recognizing her teaching, scholarship and service, including the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award in 2014, which is the highest faculty honor at Grand Valley.

Herrington earned a bachelor's degree in Honours Chemistry from Wilfrid Laurier University, a bachelor's degree in education in secondary science and mathematics from Brock University, a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Waterloo, and a doctorate in chemistry with an education emphasis from Purdue University.

For Immediate Release

April 26, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Tim Eernisse, WGVU Public Media, (616) 331-6630

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Walenta can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/0ID>

WGVU general manager to retire after 30 years

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Longtime general manager of WGVU Public Media Michael Walenta, who led the station through tremendous growth, announced his retirement effective June 29, 2018.

Walenta, who came to Grand Valley in 1988, celebrated 30 years at WGVU in January. Under his leadership, WGVU has grown from one FM station and two TV stations to a multi-platform public media station with two FM NPR stations, two AM Real Oldies and NPR stations, two TV stations with five channels each, WGVU Digital Studios, and WGVU Engage.

Walenta received the National Association of Arts and Sciences Michigan Silver Circle Award in 2008; he has also won several Emmy Awards. He is the past president of the Michigan Association of Public Broadcasters Board as well as the Michigan Public Radio Network.

"I want to thank Michael for his unwavering dedication to WGVU and to the unique and essential mission of public broadcasting," said Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations at Grand Valley. "We thank him for all he has done to lead the exceptional WGVU team and wish him and his family — Nancy, Kevin and Kristen — all the best for a well-earned new chapter for the Walenta family."

Mike Riksen, vice president of Policy and Representation at NPR, said: "Michael's deep experience as a public broadcasting station leader helped to imbed the essential message that public broadcasting is a unique American collaboration with audiences and supporters of public radio and public television. Michael's career as a station leader will be remembered by all who worked with and know him and modeled by those looking to improve their performance."

Walenta has served on numerous boards and committees including the Ken Burns/WETA Vietnam War Station Advisory Committee, Public Media Joint Licensee Association Board, and NETA Member Service Committee. In 2016, he was appointed to a two-year term on the Governor's Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education.

In 2015, Walenta shared his story of battling cancer on "Family Health Matters," on WGVU TV, which also featured his family members giving insight into their journey.

"Michael has been a great leader within our public television community, demonstrating a passionate commitment to education and innovation," said Paula Kerger, president and CEO of PBS. "His willingness to share his battle with cancer with courage, honesty and humor has been an inspiration to all of us privileged to know him. His public television colleagues deeply appreciate his service and wish him all the best as he embarks on a new chapter."

ABOUT WGVU

WGVU Public Media currently serves 2.4 million people with 10 television broadcast channels featuring PBS, PBS Kids, WGVU Life, Worldview and the WGVU Guide. WGVU has two FM channels (featuring NPR and local news, blues and jazz) and two AM channels that are the only NPR stations in the country to feature "oldies" along with NPR and local news. WGVU Public Media has also expanded to include WGVU Engage – a community engagement committee that brings programming into neighborhoods with online video and audio services at wgvu.org, and through the WGVU app. WGVU Public Media is a service of Grand Valley State University.

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2018

Contact: University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU reports regional impact of \$849 million

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The annual economic impact that Grand Valley State University has on the region is estimated at \$849 million. Grand Valley issued its yearly tri-county economic impact report during its April 27 Board of Trustees meeting held at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The economic impact report covers Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties and used 2016-2017 data. Grand Valley employs more than 3,600 people and enrolls more than 25,000 students who spend money and pay taxes in the region.

Some additional highlights of this year's report include:

- New construction and renovations pumped more than \$109 million into the local economy in 2017, creating 2,295 trade and construction jobs.
- A \$20 million addition to the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts was completed on the Allendale Campus. Construction will begin in June for a new \$70 million health building at 333 Michigan St., next to Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Medical Mile. The five-story, 160,000 square-foot-building is scheduled to be finished in May 2021.
- Grand Valley alumni now number more than 117,000 and nearly half are living or working in West Michigan's tri-county area.

The entire Economic Impact brochure can be found at www.gvsu.edu/economicimpact. For more information on Grand Valley's impact visit www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

In other board discussion/action:

- James Moyer, who retired March 31 after serving as associate vice president of Facilities Planning, was honored by the board for his 22 years of dedication and service to Grand Valley. Moyer was commended for his reputation for delivering high-quality LEED certified buildings on-time and on-budget, and for his Boots on the Ground program which ensures persons of color have an equal opportunity for employment on Grand Valley projects.
- Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall, at 500 Lafayette on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, will open for classes May 7. The \$46.5 million, 84,000-square-foot health building includes classroom, laboratory and office space to support the College of Health Professions and Kirkhof College of Nursing. It includes four classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, a computer lab and 100 faculty and staff offices and parking spaces. The building also includes student study spaces, student organization space and work/break rooms.
- Utility work is underway on Michigan Street in downtown Grand Rapids in preparation for a six-level parking deck that will provide 1,200 spaces for Grand Valley students in the health professions and nursing programs, and for Spectrum Health employees. The ramp will be completed in May 2021.
- The Movement Science Department's athletic training program for undergraduate students will transition to become a master's degree program in order to reflect the clinical practice requirements of athletic trainers in the changing health care environment. The program begins in fall 2019. Students will now be able to earn a combined degree with a bachelor's degree in exercise science and a

master's degree in athletic training, or they can choose to apply to the stand-alone two-year master's in athletic training degree program.

- The board approved the reauthorization of eight charter school academies, including: East Arbor Charter Academy (Ypsilanti), Forest Academy (Kalamazoo), Washington-Parks Academy (Detroit), Arbor Academy (Battle Creek), Detroit Merit Charter Academy (Detroit), Oakland Academy (Portage), South Canton Scholars Charter Academy (Canton), and Vanderbilt Charter Academy (Holland). The board also approved the appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to GVSU-authorized public school academy boards.

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of the 2018 GVSU Police Academy recruits can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OJO>

GVSU Police Academy sees record number of female recruits

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Police Academy's 2018 class is the largest to date, with 43 recruits.

The class also includes a record number 14 females and is one of the most diverse with six people of color enrolled.

Williamson Wallace, director of Criminal Justice Training at Grand Valley, said there are 28 pre-service recruits (who will be seeking employment upon graduation) and 15 in-service recruits (who have been hired and are sponsored by a law enforcement agency).

The academy is conducted annually during the spring/summer semester, May–August. The 2018 class will graduate August 16 at 2 p.m. in the Haas Center for Performing Arts in Allendale.

Grand Valley's academy goes beyond the mandatory minimum training requirement of 594 hours set by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and provides 653 hours of instruction in 16 weeks.

Wallace said the academy is a leader in the state, introducing innovative training methods and techniques that are setting the bar for law enforcement education.

For more information, contact Wallace at (616) 331-8515.

For more stories about Grand Valley, visit gvsu.edu/gvnow and gvsu.edu/lakereffect.

For immediate release

May 2, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Kirkhof College of Nursing to implement holistic admissions process

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kirkhof College of Nursing will implement a holistic approach to its student admissions process through balanced consideration of attributes, experiences and traditional academic measures beginning fall 2018.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said the intention is to bring qualified students with different backgrounds and perspectives together for their educational experiences in order to position them to provide culturally competent care and optimal patient outcomes when they enter the workforce.

"We are pleased to join the national initiative to implement holistic admissions and see this as a way to provide a flexible, individualized way of assessing an applicant's capabilities, experiences and personal attributes alongside their academic metrics," McCurren said.

Kristin Norton, director of KCON's Office of Student Services, said holistic admissions is an important step to fulfill KCON's and Grand Valley's strategic plans for student recruitment and retention.

Norton said new criteria to apply for admission into traditional nursing degree programs will include a 3.0 prerequisite GPA, submitting a resume and essay, and completing an interview. The current practice of direct admit for first-year students who meet certain criteria will end in 2020.

McCurren said about half of the country's nursing education programs have adopted holistic admissions. "This change provides a wider lens and a person-centered approach to the review of applicants," she said.

For Immediate Release

May 4, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos are available to use on Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0IH>

GVSU, Beaumont Health develop medical device for people with neuromuscular diseases

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A group of engineering students from Grand Valley State University partnered with Beaumont Health to create a medical device that has the potential to improve the quality of life for people with neuromuscular diseases.

The cough assist device was created to help clear the airway of individuals with diseases such as muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis. The device, about the size of a stack of textbooks, is patent pending and was recently licensed to be commercially manufactured in China, making it the first commercial licensing agreement for Grand Valley's engineering program.

"We designed the device to be used for people of all ages who have pulmonary problems — from child to adult," said Jake Stephens, one of four students who designed and built the device. "We aimed to make it simple and easy to use and are thrilled with how it turned out."

Jordan Vanderham, a member of the student team, said several cough assist devices exist, but they are heavy, expensive and require electricity to operate. This new device is portable, lightweight and made out of plastic and vinyl. It includes a tube attached to a face mask and two valves to control air pressure and volume. It requires no electricity to operate.

Through a collaboration agreement between Beaumont Health and Grand Valley's School of Engineering, students majoring in product design and manufacturing engineering were tasked with designing and building a prototype of the device under the guidance of engineering professor John Farris.

The idea for the invention came from Bassel Salman, a pediatrician who specializes in critical care at Beaumont Health in Royal Oak. He noticed a need for his patients to have a cough assist device that is more affordable and portable.

"I am hopeful this device will impact patient care by offering patients worldwide a better quality of life by decreasing the cost of more intensive therapy," Salman said. "Compared with other cough products on the market, our device does the same at less cost."

The Beaumont Commercialization Center negotiated a license with TechBank Medical, a Shanghai-based medical commercialization organization.

"For developed markets, like the U.S., this technology will provide a truly portable device that is small, lightweight and does not require electrical power. For developing markets, like China and India, the design allows for those previously unable to afford a cough assist device to finally get relief from their disease, as the technology has a simple and low-cost design," said Brad Yang, founder and CEO of TechBank Medical.

This is the first time Grand Valley has worked with Beaumont Health, but it's not the first time students in the engineering program have given life to medical device ideas. The university has several similar collaboration agreements with area health care providers to identify needs and build medical devices. Engineering students have worked with Mercy Health and Spectrum Health, among others.

"These collaborations bring together clinical and engineering expertise," said Linda Chamberlain, of Grand Valley's Technology Commercialization Office. "We want the student engineers to have a valuable experience and the clinical teams we work with to have solutions. It's a great way for us to work together to solve a problem."

The students completed the project as part of a one-semester class; the group includes Sam Oostendorp, Austin Williams, Jake Stephens and Jordan Vanderham.

For Immediate Release

May 4, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and a copy of Long's full report can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://qvsu.edu/s/0Js>

GVSU economist: Summer looks strong

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The stronger-than-usual performance of the West Michigan economy has continued into the opening of the second quarter of 2018, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of April.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) retreated to +28 from +34. The production index edged lower to +28 from +31. The index of purchases eased to +34 from +37, and the employment index rose to +23 from +19.

"Most capital equipment manufacturers continue to be positive, but there are some exceptions," said Long. "Local automotive parts producers are still modestly expanding despite the slight downtick for the industry as a whole."

Long said the office furniture industry is holding steady, but signs indicate the peak for the current business cycle has been reached. He said most industrial distributors reported a good month, much as they have since the beginning of the year.

The latest numbers reported by the Department of Technology, Management and Budget pegged Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March at 4.7 percent. Long said from March 2017 to March 2018, payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 61,000 or 1.4 percent. The estimated unemployment rates range between 3.2 percent for Ottawa County to 4.2 percent in Barry County, all well below the state average.

The national U-6 unemployment rate, which includes various discouraged and marginally attached workers, has now fallen to a 17-year low of 7.8 percent.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

May 7, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Lorie Tuma, assistant professor of HTM, tumal@gvsu.edu, (989) 506-3805

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the students in Cannes will be added throughout the week to this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OJX>

GVSU students working at Cannes Film Festival

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Fourteen students in the hospitality and tourism management (HTM) program at Grand Valley State University are spending two weeks in France working at the Cannes International Film Festival.

The invitation-only festival previews new films of all genres and is considered one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world. This year's festival runs from May 8-19.

Lorie Tuma, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management at Grand Valley, said students are among the select few who have full access for the duration of the festival, coordinating events at The American Pavilion. They will hold official positions in international pavilions, host press panels, assist A-List celebrities and coordinate exclusive events.

"We know students benefit from international industry-related experience," said Tuma. "The GVSU program is the only sanctioned faculty-led program in the world at Cannes, and I am proud to share this experience with these 14 amazing students."

For more information, contact Lorie Tuma at (989) 506-3805 or tumal@gvsu.edu.

Students attending, their hometown, and assignment in Cannes:

- Aleisha Balhorn, Pinconning, Michigan – restaurant and bar
- Mollie Barnes, Royal Oak, Michigan – membership services
- Lauren Butzer, Rockford, Michigan – public relations (internal and external)
- Pierce Cesaretti, Midland, Michigan – coffee and cappuccino bar, owned by Robert DeNiro
- Kristi Dobreff, Harrison Township, Michigan – sponsorship liaison
- Emily Finn, Birmingham, Michigan – public relations (internal and external)
- Hannah Hooton, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan – membership services
- Delaney Hope, Flushing, Michigan – membership services
- Austin Irving, Riverview, Michigan – terrace VIP red carpet with Armand LaChance
- Adam Kimball, Saugatuck, Michigan – membership services
- Rebecca Maksimovic, Plainfield, Illinois – membership services
- Briana Plaisier, Kalamazoo, Michigan – terrace VIP red carpet with Armand LaChance
- Kiannah Vandenberg, Holland, Michigan – terrace VIP red carpet with Armand LaChance
- Veronica Visscher, Holland, Michigan – photographer and videographer

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images of 4 of the summer '18 Gilman recipients are available via Dropbox here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wqfiy11vtdsttzq/AAAFbCvwAuxmdayy-ZE7oPEsa?dl=0>

GVSU best in Michigan, Top 25 nationally among Gilman Fellowship-producing institutions for 2016-17

--Five Gilman Fellowships also awarded for Summer 2018

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University students earned more nationally-competitive Gilman Fellowships for the 2016-17 academic year than any other college or university in Michigan, and ranked in the top 25 Gilman Fellowships-producing schools in the nation.

Grand Valley was also recognized as a leading Gilman Fellowships producer for first-generation college students, students who identify as racial and ethnic minorities, students with disabilities, students studying in STEM fields, and total number of locations students traveled to while completing their study abroad.

A total of 20 Grand Valley students were awarded the Gilman Fellowship and successfully completed their study abroad experience in 2016-17. The students earned a cumulative total of \$82,500 in awards.

Five other Grand Valley students have also been selected to receive Gilman Fellowships for Summer 2018. Their names, hometowns, majors, and country of study are below:

- Theo Randall, Grand Rapids, Michigan; art history; Italy
- Daniel Arnold, Wayland, Michigan; business management; Ukraine
- Bailey Webb, Rochester Hills, Michigan; accounting and management; Ghana
- AJ (Albert) Carter, Royal Oak, Michigan; computer science and anthropology; China
- Jessica Knoertzer, Allendale, Michigan; biomedical sciences; Peru

Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply toward their study abroad or internship program costs. Students receiving a Federal Pell Grant from two- and four-year institutions who will be studying abroad or participating in a career-oriented international internship for academic credit are eligible to apply.

Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of other cultures, countries, languages and economies, making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector.

For more information about applying for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships, contact Elizabeth Lambert at the Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships at gvsu.edu/fellowships or fellowships@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU business program earns national recognition

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Program in the Seidman College of Business has been designated as a Next-Gen Chapter for its expertise and contributions in the area of digital enterprise.

Grand Valley was awarded the status by SAP, the market leader in ERP software, data analytics, cloud-based solutions and database integration. Grand Valley's ERP Program utilizes SAP software which is run by 250,000 companies in more than 130 countries.

Grand Valley was one of 11 universities to be designated as a Next-Gen Chapter in North America, which are academic centers of excellence supporting other educational institutions in the global SAP University Alliances network.

Simha Magal, professor of management and director of the Seidman ERP Program, said the designation will allow Grand Valley to collaborate with more than 500 educational institutions in the SAP Next-Gen program network. Chapter members share best practices to educate graduates using the latest SAP technologies.

For more information, contact Simha Magal at (616) 331-7439 or magals@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

May 9, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, Grand Valley State University Communications, (616) 331-2221,
twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos are available to use on Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0IH>

Michigan university, health system invent medical device for people with neuromuscular diseases

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A group of engineering students from Grand Valley State University partnered with Beaumont Health to create a medical device that has the potential to improve the quality of life for people with neuromuscular diseases.

The cough assist device was created to help clear the airway of individuals with diseases such as muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis. The device, about the size of a stack of textbooks, is patent pending and was recently licensed to be commercially manufactured in China, making it the first commercial licensing agreement for Grand Valley State's engineering program.

"We designed the device to be used for people of all ages who have pulmonary problems — from child to adult," said Jake Stephens, one of four GVSU students who designed and built the device. "We aimed to make it simple and easy to use and are thrilled with how it turned out."

Several cough assist devices exist, but they are heavy, expensive and require electricity to operate. This new device is portable, lightweight and made out of plastic and vinyl. It includes a tube attached to a face mask and two valves to control air pressure and volume. It requires no electricity to operate.

Through a collaboration agreement between Beaumont Health and Grand Valley State's School of Engineering, students majoring in product design and manufacturing engineering were tasked with designing and building a prototype of the device under the guidance of engineering professor John Farris.

The idea for the invention came from Bassel Salman, a pediatrician who specializes in critical care at Beaumont Health in Royal Oak. He noticed a need for his patients to have a cough assist device that is more affordable and portable.

"I am hopeful this device will impact patient care by offering patients worldwide a better quality of life by decreasing the cost of more intensive therapy," Salman said. "Compared with other cough products on the market, our device does the same at less cost."

The Beaumont Commercialization Center negotiated a license with TechBank Medical, a Shanghai-based medical commercialization organization.

"For developed markets, like the U.S., this technology will provide a truly portable device that is small, lightweight and does not require electrical power. For developing markets, like China and India, the design allows for those previously unable to afford a cough assist device to finally get relief from their disease, as the technology has a simple and low-cost design," said Brad Yang, founder and CEO of TechBank Medical.

This is the first time Grand Valley State University has worked with Beaumont Health, but it's not the first time students in the engineering program have given life to medical device ideas. The university has several similar collaboration agreements with area health care providers to identify needs and build medical devices. Engineering students have worked with Mercy Health and Spectrum Health, among others.

"These collaborations bring together clinical and engineering expertise," said Linda Chamberlain, of Grand Valley State's Technology Commercialization Office. "We want the student engineers to have a valuable experience and the clinical teams we work with to have solutions. It's a great way for us to work together to solve a problem."

The students completed the project as part of a one-semester class; the group includes Sam Oostendorp, Austin Williams, Jake Stephens and Jordan Vanderham.

About Grand Valley State University

Grand Valley State, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts more than 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 91 undergraduate and 39 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For Immediate Release

May 15, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Kimberly Pawelka, Groundswell manager at Grand Valley, (616) 331-6804 or
pawelkak@gvsu.edu

Students showcase efforts to protect Grand River watershed

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area K-12 students will showcase their projects designed to protect the Grand River watershed and the Great Lakes during the 2018 Groundswell Student Showcase May 23 at Celebration! Cinema North.

The showcase will recognize the accomplishments of 5,500 local students from 29 elementary, middle and high schools in the Grand Rapids region. Students will present videos featuring the actions they took this school year to help protect the environment.

Groundswell, which is housed in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University, creates opportunities for hands-on environmental learning for students throughout West Michigan.

Examples highlighted at the showcase include a project by students from Godwin Middle School who conducted chemical testing of a tributary of Plaster Creek. The students are using the results to determine the impact of pollution in stormwater runoff on the stream and working to educate the public on how to keep the watershed healthy.

Also, students from Crestwood Middle School are partnering with Steelcase to create a native plant garden that will capture rainwater from the Steelcase parking lot. The native plants will filter out pollution that otherwise would have gone down the storm drain and into the river.

Groundswell Student Showcase 2018

Wednesday, May 23

6 p.m. Video presentations

7:15-8 p.m. Table exhibits

Celebration! Cinema North at 2121 Celebration Dr. NE, Grand Rapids

Groundswell is a coalition of community partners that creates opportunities for hands-on environmental learning for K-12 students in West Michigan.

Financial support for Groundswell comes from Grand Valley's College of Education, the Wege Foundation, Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, and Baldwin Foundation.

The event is free and open to the public. Visit groundswellmi.org/showcase-2018 for details.

For more information contact Kimberly Pawelka at (616) 331-6804, pawelkak@gvsu.edu. Or Clayton Pelon at (616) 331-6813, pelonc@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

May 17, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Erin Fish and Gage Paul is available via this link:

GVSU's newest Beckman Scholars will research antibiotic resistance, Parkinson's

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two Grand Valley State University students selected for the rigorous Beckman Scholars Program will conduct research projects centered on advancing a treatment for Parkinson's disease and discovering novel ways to fight antibiotic resistance.

Sophomores Erin Fish and Gage Paul will each receive \$21,500 to conduct 15-month research projects under the guidance of faculty mentors. The national undergraduate research program is funded by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation; Grand Valley was selected in 2017 to participate in the program for three years.

Fish is a native of Allen Park, majoring in biochemistry; her mentor is Brad Wallar, professor of chemistry. Paul is from Grand Rapids and is a double-major in cell and molecular biology, and biomedical sciences; his mentor is Sok Kean Khoo, associate professor of cell and molecular biology and co-director of the Beckman Scholars Program.

Fish started working in Wallar's lab after completing her first year at Grand Valley. After learning about the possibility of research projects from a professor, she took the initiative to contact faculty members about opportunities.

"I sent a bunch of emails to professors, asking if I could work in their lab and Dr. Wallar responded," Fish said. "It's amazing that a professor cared enough to talk to me about research and another person followed through. I'm not sure this would have happened at another university. Grand Valley is a very special place."

Wallar, several colleagues, and a team of students have collaborated for many years to study antibiotic resistance. For her project, Fish will characterize enzyme structures and look for antibacterial inhibitors. Wallar said Fish has grown her research expertise while improving professional development skills like time management, grant proposal writing, and presenting her work.

"She is involved in solving a problem that hasn't been answered yet, and that requires critically thinking through a project from the big scale to the most focused experiment performed in the laboratory," he said.

For his research project, Paul will study transgenic fruit flies that express a human gene that causes protein clumps in patients with Parkinson's disease. Khoo has been researching Parkinson's disease since 2009 and said studying protein aggregation in flies could lead to stopping or slowing Parkinson's progression in humans.

Paul spent five months developing his research proposal before submitting his Beckman Scholars application. "The fact that we are responsible for our own projects is amazing. I'll be working with what I designed and be able to see the scientific process in action," he said.

Both Fish and Paul said this program will help them decide whether to pursue research studies or medical school after graduating from Grand Valley.

[The Beckman Scholars Program](#) is administered by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. Selection criteria includes having a strong research interest and a GPA of 3.7 or higher, and majoring in chemistry, biology, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology or biomedical sciences.

A team of 12 Grand Valley faculty members serve as mentors to Beckman Scholars.

For immediate release

May 25, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the banding are [available via Dropbox](#).

Endangered falcon chicks banded at GVSU Eberhard Center

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The peregrine falcon is listed as an endangered species in the State of Michigan but might not be for much longer.

Two falcon chicks were born in early May in a nesting box installed on the roof of Grand Valley's Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, adding more numbers to the diminished population in the state.

On May 24, a team from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources traveled to the roof of the nine-story facility to band the falcons. Banding birds with unique identification numbers creates opportunities to study migration, behavior, social structures, life-span, population growth, survival rate and more in various classes of birds.

Nik Kalejs, wildlife biologist for the Michigan DNR's Wildlife Division, said Michigan is rapidly reaching a point where there may be more peregrine falcons in the near future than were found in the state during settlement times.

"Michigan was never really blessed with an extremely large peregrine population because historically they were always nesting in cliffs and high mountainous ledges," said Kalejs. "Of course, that's not a topographical feature that we have in abundance around here, but the restoration of the peregrine has been based around man-made structures."

Kalejs said that power plants with tall smoke stacks and tall buildings in metropolitan areas, similar to those found in Grand Rapids, have proven to be the key element in restoring the species.

Both the male and female falcon chicks were banded with two bands: one on the right leg for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and one on the left leg that might give casual bird watchers an opportunity to identify the bird with binoculars or a spotting scope.

During the process, Kalejs and his team members carefully removed the chicks and placed them in a temporary holding box in order to evaluate their health, determine gender and then band them.

The two peregrine falcon parents made the nesting box their home in May 2017 after the box had been uninhabited since being installed in 2009 by Todd Aschenbach, professor of biology, and a team of students.

Since last year, four eggs have successfully hatched at the Eberhard Center, although the two born in 2017 were not banded. Kalejs said a crucial safety aspect of removing the chicks from the nesting box for banding is to make sure they cannot fall out of the open-air front of the box.

A door was added to the back of the nesting box after last year's nesting season ended in the fall so that future chicks could be safely removed from the back since the front would be covered.

Bill Lucksted, assistant director of Pew Campus and Regional Centers Operations, said the university's role is to be a kind and protective host for the falcons.

"We try to make sure that our normal contractors who work on the roof or heating and cooling are not disturbing them," said Lucksted. "For us, the falcons also help control the pigeons on campus that usually make nests in the parking ramp across the street from the DeVos Center."

Peregrine falcons were initially driven to the brink of extinction in the 1960s due to the use of the pesticide DDT. When DDT was banned in 1972, peregrines were added to the federal Endangered Species List. In 1982, peregrine falcon reintroduction first began in Minnesota and the birds were reintroduced to downtown Grand Rapids in 1986.

There is currently one other nesting box located in Grand Rapids, which is installed on the 63rd District Court building.

A grant from Grand Valley's Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence allowed Aschenbach's team to purchase and install a webcam in 2010 to monitor any inhabitants of the box.

The webcam can be viewed here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0sG>

For immediate release

May 29, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the Laker Marching Band are available [via Dropbox](#). Photo credit: Shea Sarns

“Voice of the Laker Marching Band” auditions at GVSU now open to the public

ALLENDALE, Mich. — “Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Pride of the Midwest — the Laker Marching Band!”

This statement enthusiastically proclaimed by the “Voice of the Laker Marching Band” can be commonly heard bellowing throughout Lubbers Stadium during home football games at Grand Valley State University to energize the crowd for performances by the 200-member ensemble.

For more than two decades, the man behind the voice has been Tom Yackish, a former professor of engineering who retired from Grand Valley in 2003.

Yackish has officially retired from his role as the “Voice of the Laker Marching Band,” and auditions are currently open in the search for the next announcer.

“There are not enough words to express my gratitude and adequately describe the enormous impact Tom has made on the Laker Marching Band in his role as the ‘Voice,’ as well as a benefactor and friend to all of us,” said John Martin, director of Athletic Bands. “For the past 23 years, Tom has provided support, unconditionally, to the program and is and will remain a vital part of the Laker Marching Band family.”

Martin said that the “Voice of the Laker Marching Band” is a crucial position that communicates to the audience the excitement and energy of the ensemble.

“It is vital that the ‘Voice’ interacts and leads the audience through our shows — from leading cheers during the pregame show to introducing show selections during halftime,” Martin explained. “The ‘Voice’ is the driving force that initiates audience participation and inclusion with the marching band.”

Martin said that the ideal candidate will be dedicated to the university, Grand Valley athletics and the Laker Marching Band.

“We are looking for a person who can communicate the excitement and energy of the LMB through their voice. Someone who can add their unique touch, such as a vocal moniker that is unique and identifiable to the ‘Voice.’ A person who has great interpersonal relationship skills and can immediately adapt to any new changes that may occur before a performance,” said Martin.

Responsibilities for this volunteer position include announcing for the marching band at all home football games during the pregame and halftime shows, exhibition shows scheduled for the fall season and the annual Laker Marching Band Bandorama concert. Additionally, the “Voice” will be required to attend Saturday rehearsals before home games and may be asked to announce at select away games.

Auditions are open to anyone and applications are due by Monday, July 30, through [the Laker Marching Band website](#). For more information, contact Martin at marjohnt@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU launches entrepreneur accelerator for veterans

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Studies show veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed than those with no military experience.

Grand Valley State University has established the Michigan Veteran Entrepreneur-Lab (MVE-Lab), a new outreach program designed to give veteran entrepreneurs the know-how, resources and network to start or grow a company in the region.

The program is being led by Grand Valley's Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation in the Seidman College of Business, in partnership with the GVSU Veterans Network.

"MVE-Lab is an intensive and accelerated program designed for veterans and military-connected families that combines instruction and hands-on learning with mentorship, networking and access to funding," said Julie Cowie, MVE-Lab program manager.

Michigan has some of the highest unemployment rates in the country for veterans (16.2 percent for those between the ages of 18-24).

The program begins with a two-day ideation boot camp August 23 and 24. Up to 15 participants will be selected for an accelerated nine-session course beginning in September which includes being paired with mentors. An MVE-Lab Pitch Night will be held in November. The MVE-Lab is free to veterans who are selected for the program.

"We know that many people with military experience prefer self-employment," said Shorouq Almallah, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation. "Through rigorous and supportive entrepreneurship education, MVE-Lab will help veterans launch a new business in about three months."

Grand Valley has been recognized by GIJOBS.com, Military Advanced Education, and *Military Times* for exemplary support of veterans. The university has also been awarded Gold status for the past three years by the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency. Grand Valley has a TRIO Veterans Upward Bound program which serves low-income, first-generation veterans from Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties.

To register for MVE-Lab, visit www.gvsu.edu/mve. For more information contact Julie Cowie at (269) 214-1227.

For immediate release

June 18, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A headshot of Davis is available for download via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OLi>

GVSU researcher spearheads \$2.2 million NIH grant

-- Will study how dementia patients find their way in long-term care facilities

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Imagine the hallways within an assisted living or long-term care facility: long and lined with doors, often making one hallway indistinct from another. Now imagine attempting to navigate those hallways as a resident with dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

Rebecca Davis, professor of nursing in the Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley State University, spearheaded a \$2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct an intervention study over five years, testing if visual cues will help residents effectively find their way.

This study advances Davis' research on wayfinding, the ability to find one's way. In 2013, Davis secured a NIH grant to conduct a study with senior citizens, some with Alzheimer's disease, testing how they found their way using a virtual reality environment and eye-tracking goggles. Her initial study began in 2008 and was funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation.

The current intervention study will be conducted in 12 long-term care facilities in West Michigan and Cleveland.

Davis said her team will recruit nearly 140 people within the facilities for the study. "Six times over a year, they will be asked to find their way to certain places within their community," she said. Some facilities will have enhanced signs and decorative elements (like a large painting) added, others will incorporate signage and education, and a control group will have no enhancements.

The issue, Davis said, is many long-term care facilities were constructed to meet multiple needs of residents and, of course, to be aesthetically pleasing. "Signage is often hidden and designers are brought in to make the building look less institutional. A giant photo or large signs at the end of a hallway may not be eye-pleasing," she said.

For residents with dementia, not remembering how to get to the dining hall, for example, creates feelings of anxiousness and frustration, and can cause them to limit their life space, which Davis termed as the area where a person lives.

"Staff at facilities recognize it as a huge problem, so they are very willing to participate in this study and see if their residents improve," Davis said.

Davis and her team plan to see if changes in wayfinding and life space occur due to the interventions in the study, because over a year many people experience changes in their abilities. "One question we have is if we intervene with cues and education, will their wayfinding abilities get better or will they stay the same?" she said.

The grant Davis received was from NIH's National Institutes of Aging and is in the most prestigious category of funding, R01. It's the first time a Grand Valley researcher has secured R01 funding.

Davis said R01 funding is desirable for clinical trials such as this one due to the complexity of the study. "We're really pleased to receive this. It's a very different study on how environmental changes can influence behavior, and it is in line with what nurses and other health care workers do to improve the quality of life for patients with dementia," she said.

For immediate release

June 14, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the 2017 Allendale Community Field Day are [available via Dropbox](#). Photo credit: GVSU University Communications.

West Michigan's natural history to be explored during community field day

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The 7th annual Allendale Community Field Day will offer members of the West Michigan community the chance to learn about the natural history of the region.

The free event, coordinated by Grand Valley State University faculty in collaboration with the Allendale Public School system, will take place from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, June 18, on the K-8 campus of Allendale Public Schools, located on Learning Lane, just off Pierce Street.

Celebrating the theme of "Things that Count," community members will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities, such as planting flowers in a butterfly garden, constructing origami animals, solving puzzles using codes, exploring patterns in nature and learning how math was done before calculators were invented. The event includes a free lunch.

For more information about the event, contact Peter Riemersma, associate professor of geology and event co-founder, at riemersp@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3553.

For immediate release

June 14, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the 2017 Energizing Our World camp are [available via Dropbox](#). Photo credit: GVSU University Communications.

GVSU camp to teach students about benefits of renewable energy

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Fifty students from 28 local middle schools will learn about the benefits of renewable energy and how that form of energy impacts the environment during Grand Valley State University's Energizing Our World summer camp. The three-day, interactive outreach camp will take place on the Allendale Campus June 18-21.

During the camp, presented by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center (RMSC), students will participate in various sessions where they will engage in hands-on STEM activities to learn about solar, wind and hydro power. The lessons highlight the benefits of renewable energy, best sustainable practices and the applications of renewable energy in various fields of study.

"This camp allows students to see how multiple pieces fit together into the bigger puzzle of solutions to authentic problems," said Chelsea Ridge, RMSC mathematics program coordinator. "We are working with a generation of students that may actually see 100 percent renewable energy, and a generation that cares deeply about sustainability. To connect them to an experience this rich is to provide them a window into their future."

This year, students will also be answering the question: "How might we make our homes more energy independent?" During multiple interactive sessions, students will utilize the design thinking process through guidance from Grand Valley faculty and advisors from the Design Thinking Academy to frame possible solutions to that question. Campers will then develop and test prototypes that they will showcase in the Kirkhof Center's Grand River Room from 1:30-3:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 21.

New to this year's camp, students will also have the opportunity to visit the Holland Energy Park on Wednesday, June 20, from 8:40-11 a.m.

Sponsors for this year's camp include the Michigan Space Grant Consortium, Consumers Energy and AccenTek.

For more information, contact Chelsea Ridge, Regional Math and Science Center math program coordinator, at (616) 331-3172 or ridgec@gvsu.edu. Check-in for media will be in the Grand River Room of the Kirkhof Center.

For immediate release

June 13, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: A headshot of Lisa Marie Haas is available to use: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0L8>

GVSU camp introduces girls to engineering

-- Special guest is candidate to become first female German astronaut

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Middle school girls will get a glimpse into the careers of engineering during a four-day camp in June at Grand Valley State University. Campers will get to meet a special guest this year: Lisa Marie Haas, a physicist and engineer for Bosch who is one of six finalists to become the first female German astronaut.

Science, Technology and Engineering Preview Summer (STEPS) Day Camps will be held June 18-21 and June 25-28 in the Kennedy Hall of Engineering on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The camp is held to expose female students to careers in STEM occupations, which are made up of less than 30 percent women.

About 95 campers from 47 area schools will get hands-on engineering experience by designing, manufacturing and flying electric airplanes. Campers will attend classes and engage in topics such as coding, aerodynamics and 3D printing. They will also visit the Gerald R. Ford International Airport to see fixed wing and helicopter airplanes.

MEDIA NOTE:

- **Campers will fly their airplanes at the Warped Wings Fly Field located at the corner of Alger and 56th Avenue in Allendale on June 21 and 28 from 6-8 p.m.**
- **Lisa Marie Haas (no relation to Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas) will give a presentation at the camp on June 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Eberhard Center, room 215 on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, and on June 25 from 8:35-9:05 a.m. in Kennedy Hall, room 124.**

The camp is coordinated by the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. Haas' visit is sponsored by Bosch.

The STEPS Day Camp began at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and has been replicated in Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan and South Dakota. Grand Valley has hosted more than 1,000 campers since the STEPS Day Camp began in 2002.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.gvsu.edu/steps or contact Sara Maas at (616) 331-6025.

For immediate release

June 13, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the New Music Ensemble are available [via Dropbox](#).

GVSU New Music Ensemble to perform at five national parks

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The student members of Grand Valley State University's award-winning New Music Ensemble will travel 5,000 miles over the course of 17 days to perform at some of the most famous national parks in the U.S.

The ensemble commissioned five composers to write original compositions for the tour inspired by the natural beauty of the selected national parks, which include Voyageurs, Glacier, North Cascades, Olympic and Mount Rainier. These pieces, funded through the National Endowment for the Arts, will be performed at the parks through interactive and educational performances.

Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director, said the tour will not only benefit the student musicians, but will also help show the importance of the National Parks system through music.

“Students will get a taste of the life of a professional musician — long hours traveling, performing in different venues each day, learning how to take care of themselves and learning how to continue to perform at a high level even when conditions aren't perfect,” said Ryan. “I am hoping that our concerts will enhance the audience's overall park experience by illustrating to them how incredible landscapes can inspire composers.”

Composers for the commissioned works include Kristin Kuster, Rachel Grimes, Alexander Miller, Michael Laurello and Jennifer Jolley. Additionally, a new arrangement of music by filmmaker and composer Ethan Newberry will be performed, along with a composition by John Jansen that uses natural objects from the parks as instruments.

Rounding out the program will be music from the ensemble's two previous national park tours by composers Ashley Stanley, David Biedenbender, Adam Cuthbert, Zoe Keating and Niko Schroeder.

Below is the full schedule of performances. All concerts will be free and open to the public.

Voyageurs National Park (International Falls, Minnesota)

June 27 at 1 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center

Glacier National Park (West Glacier, Montana)

July 1 at 8 p.m., Apgar Amphitheater

North Cascades National Park (Sedro-Woolley, Washington)

July 3 at 2 p.m., North Cascades Visitor Center

July 3 at 7 p.m., Newhalem Amphitheater

Olympic National Park (Port Angeles, Washington)

July 5 at noon, Lake Crescent Lodge Amphitheater

July 5 at 7:30 p.m., Kalaloch Amphitheater

Mount Rainier National Park (Ashford, Washington)

July 7 at 12:30 p.m., Paradise Inn

July 7 at 7 p.m., Ohanapecosh Amphitheater

The New Music Ensemble promotes contemporary classical chamber music, with a special focus on music of the past 20 years, through commissions, tours, recordings, educational events, workshops and videos.

Since the ensemble formed in 2006, the group's three other critically acclaimed recordings have appeared on "best release lists" by *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Weekly* and *Time Out Chicago*. In 2017, the New Music Ensemble was included in NPR's list of the "100 Best Songs of 2017" for the song "Glass Surface" from the group's album titled "Return." Some of the ensemble's recordings have also appeared in film, on television shows on MTV, Showtime, and at more than 75 film festivals around the world.

For more information about the New Music Ensemble, visit newmusicensemble.org or contact Bill Ryan, ensemble director, at ryanwi@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

June 12, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Lowe can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/OLb>

Lowe named acting general manager of WGVU Public Media

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Jay Lowe has been named acting general manager of WGVU Public Media, effective June 30. Lowe has served as assistant general manager of WGVU since being hired in 2015.

Lowe is a longtime television professional; before coming to WGVU he worked at WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids where he was promoted to management and served as operations supervisor.

In February, he was honored by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with the Silver Circle Award for his 34 years of service in the television industry.

Lowe earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Grand Valley.

"Jay is a consummate professional with a consistent record of success in public and commercial broadcasting," said Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations. "Jay is a thoughtful listener with a style that fits perfectly at WGVU and Grand Valley."

Lowe replaces current general manager Michael Walenta who will retire June 29.

For immediate release

June 12, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU office earns Michigan Humanities Council grant focused on state's waterways

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University was among 18 organizations to receive grants from the Michigan Humanities Council to support a series of public conversations that focus on the factors that connect Michigan residents to water.

Each organization received \$5,000 through the "Third Coast Conversations: Dialogues about Water in Michigan" program, an initiative made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Kimberly McKee, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said the grant money allows for the creation of two events that will focus on the Grand River, which stretches from Jackson to Grand Haven, making it the longest river in Michigan.

In March, the Kutsche Office will host a symposium for local historians centered on how residents who live near the Grand River have been impacted by the river and how it has impacted them. This event will be held at the L. William Seidman Center, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. In October 2019, an exhibit based on discussions at the March event will be on display at the Mary Idema Pew Library, on the Allendale Campus. Both events will be free and open to the public. The office's website, gvsu.edu/kutsche, will have more information.

McKee said the broad scope of topics related to the Grand River will create rich symposium topics from a variety of researchers, historians and students.

"When you think of the word 'coast,' it's often associated with the East Coast or West Coast," she said. "The Third Coast discussions will show how other waterways are seen just as vital in impacting our communities."

The other organizations receiving Third Coast Conversations grants are [listed online](#).

Since it was established in 2008, the Kutsche Office of Local History has conducted multiple oral history collections of diverse populations. The most recent project involves collecting "Stories of Summer," documenting the history of summers in the Saugatuck-Douglas area in the mid-20th century. A National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage grant funded that project.

For Immediate Release

June 12, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU teen entrepreneur camp focuses on creating smart cities

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area high school students will work alongside Grand Valley State University faculty members and students to come up with a new product concept or service during a week-long summer camp.

The Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy (TESA), hosted by Grand Valley's Richard M. & Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation in the Seidman College of Business, will take place June 18-22 at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

TESA is a hands-on, interactive camp where more than 50 high school students immerse themselves in the entrepreneurial experience by learning about problem solving, opportunity recognition, creativity, teamwork and conceptualizing an idea for a business.

Students are presented with a different challenge or theme and asked to come up with a new product concept or service and present it to a panel of judges for a chance to win \$5,000. Students will engineer advanced digital solutions to turn urban areas into smart cities.

Grand Valley faculty, staff members, current entrepreneurial college students and local entrepreneurs will provide training, mentoring and facilitation of business idea development and marketing processes.

Shorouq Almallah, director of CEI, said data collected on 148 students who participated in the camp between 2009-2015 shows the program inspired students to start businesses and further their education.

"Based on the data that was collected, 13 percent started a business, 42 percent are employed and have a career and 54 percent are currently pursuing a higher education degree," said Almallah. "These numbers corroborate other national studies and research that suggest youth entrepreneurship programs increase the students' occupational aspirations, interest in college and leadership aspirations after participation."

For more information on TESA and the 2018 camp schedule, visit www.gvsu.edu/cei or contact Shorouq Almallah at (616) 331-7256.

For immediate release

June 28, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from today's event are available via this link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/OLD>

GVSU joins initiative to increase students of color in health care fields

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University and six other area higher education institutions will work to increase the number of students of color who choose health care fields while in college, then succeed in the workforce.

The Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI) announced a "Pathways to Careers in Health Care" initiative to engage with area colleges and universities through a \$400,000 planning grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek. Shannon Wilson, executive director of GRAAHI, said the grant allows for college-specific plans of action to engage students of color and help reduce barriers to choosing to study in health care professions.

"This is by far the most influential grant we have received," Wilson said during a news conference held June 28 at the Kent ISD Conference Center. "It has the potential to change how medical care is delivered in Grand Rapids, and by whom. We can reduce disparities in health care when our health care workforce mirrors the diversity of our community."

President Thomas J. Haas said the Pathways initiative supports Grand Valley's strategic plan to increase the diversity of its campus community to reflect that of West Michigan's population. Hear more in [this video](#).

"This work fits with the university's other initiatives to prepare students of color for success in college and the workforce; and this project is aligned with Grand Valley's commitment to the state of Michigan to fill the health care talent pipeline with qualified and diverse health care employees," Haas said.

Other institutions participating in the Pathways initiative are Aquinas College, Calvin College, Davenport University, Ferris State University, Grand Rapids Community College and Hope College. GRAAHI will engage with each institution in addition to connecting with parents and high school counselors.

Wilson said white health care workers represent more than 50 percent of employees in almost every occupation category. She cited a 2004 report from the Institute of Medicine and the Sullivan Commission that identified the lack of people of color in health care fields as a contributing factor in overall quality of care.

The Pathways project has overall goals of mirroring diversity in the community by 2040, establishing early exposure to advance health care practice careers throughout the K-12 experience, and developing a cohort of African American and Latino/a health care leaders.

For immediate release

June 27, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: a headshot of Walsh is available via <http://qvsu.edu/s/OLy>

GVSU names new AVP for human resources

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Maureen M. Walsh was named associate vice president for Human Resources at Grand Valley State University.

Walsh most recently served as director of human resources at Aquinas College, where she was a member of the President's Cabinet. At Aquinas, she led the transformation of the human resources function from an outsourced service department to a strategic campus partner.

Prior to her role at Aquinas, Walsh served as vice president for Global Human Resources at Bissell Homecare Inc., and held leadership roles in employee relations, internal communications, and learning development at U.S. Cellular in Chicago. Earlier in her career, she worked in sales, marketing and customer service at several Fortune 500 companies.

At Grand Valley, Walsh will serve as the university's chief human resources officer and a member of the President's Cabinet. Scott Richardson, vice president for Administrative Services, said Walsh brings a diverse background to the position. She began her role June 25.

"Maureen has held increasingly demanding roles and has always led with the organization's mission central to human resource operations," Richardson said. "We are pleased to welcome her to Grand Valley and are confident she will lead the university's human resources functions well into the future."

Walsh earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northern Illinois University, master's degree in communication studies from Grand Valley, a management certificate from Loyola University Chicago, and a certificate in human resources from DePaul University.

Walsh is an active community member and belongs to several organizations including Michigan Women Forward, G.R.O.W (Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women), and Inforum Michigan.

"I'm honored to be leading human resources at Grand Valley," she said. "The team is an exceptional group of HR professionals and together we will continue to focus on creating a positive campus culture in support of the university's mission."

For Immediate Release

June 27, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU president to speak at Old Mission Peninsula ribbon-cutting ceremony

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. - Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas will be the keynote speaker at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Old Mission Peninsula School (OMPS).

The ceremony, scheduled for Sunday, July 1 at 5:30 p.m., is to celebrate the school's transition to a GVSU-authorized charter school.

The school has been a cornerstone of the community since it opened in 1956. Dena Schweitzer, director of Academics, said the transition is meaningful to families on the Peninsula and around the Traverse City area.

"We are excited OMPS will be able to continue its tradition of providing high-quality educational experiences on Old Mission Peninsula," said Schweitzer. "The new school fosters a sense of community pride and responsibility, and keeps the Peninsula vibrant, allowing for many opportunities to create and sustain multigenerational connections."

OMPS completed its transition to a charter with the assistance of the Old Mission Peninsula Education Foundation, a group composed of local residents. Foundation board member Amanda Renkiewicz said the inclusion of Haas adds another layer of excitement to the celebration.

"The presence of President Haas demonstrates the outstanding support and generosity that we have received from partnership with Grand Valley," said Renkiewicz. "The entire community can delight in this amazing accomplishment."

The GVSU Board of Trustees approved charter authorization for OMPS in April 2017 and has appointed a seven-member board of directors to govern the school. It is the first school Grand Valley has chartered in Northern Michigan.

"Grand Valley is proud to partner with the community and its visionary educators to provide Traverse City families an innovative learning opportunity," said Rob Kimball, associate vice president for Charter Schools. "The new school's academics will have an immediate application for improving students' well-being and their communities."

Families and community members are invited to join the OMPS team members for a celebratory picnic in Bowers Harbor Park immediately following the ceremony.

OMPS will serve students in grades K-6 during the 2018-19 school year and the school has partnered with Angel Care to offer child care and preschool services. Families interested in enrolling their children can visit OMPSchool.org for more information and to complete an online application.

For more information, contact Don Cooper at coopedon@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2240.

For immediate release

June 27, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU program supports veterans with degree completion

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Nearly five months after opening its doors, the Veterans Upward Bound program at Grand Valley State University is doing as promised — supporting area veterans who want to complete a college degree.

Antonia Gordon is one example. Gordon served four years in the Army and is now a member of the Army Reserve. When she first enrolled at Grand Valley, she found it a difficult place to navigate without knowing what resources and services were available.

"My family members were not familiar with the college experience, and couldn't understand why I just didn't want to keep working at my same job," Gordon said.

Through VUB, Gordon attends workshops and meets regularly with an advisor, gaining information on study skills and budgeting. She said she feels better prepared to tackle the fall semester at Grand Valley, where she will major in public and nonprofit administration, with a concentration on personnel management.

"I got a reenlistment bonus and the financial workshop taught me how to manage that money and set up a budget," she said.

Last fall, Grand Valley received a \$1.3 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a TRIO Veterans Upward Bound program, providing free academic support services to low-income veterans from Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties who want to complete degree programs at any college or university. The office officially opened its doors in January.

Tim Marroquin, director of VUB, said staff members are busy recruiting participants like Gordon, reaching out through area veterans organizations and attending community events.

Participants enrolled in VUB undergo assessments to assist with placement and can choose from online coursework or other services based on their individual plans; tutoring services are also available. Workshops are available in various topics: resume building, time management, study skills and budgeting.

Learn more about VUB at gvsu.edu/vub or call (616) 331-8387.

For Immediate Release

July 9, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A copy of Long's full report can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OLQ>

GVSU economist: summer still on solid footing

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The local economy continues to maintain solid growth, while some area business leaders express concern about an impending tariff war, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of June.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) came in at +33, up from +30. The production index rose to +39 from +37. The index of purchases also increased to +27 from +19, and the employment index remains strong at +30.

"Many local manufacturers are worried that this tariff war is going to come down in the form of higher prices and lack of availability of some of the key commodities, like steel and aluminum, that are needed by local businesses," said Long. "The office furniture industry, which uses a lot of steel, and the aerospace industry, which uses aluminum, could be especially impacted by the new tariffs."

Long said local farmers who sell produce like blueberries and cherries worldwide are also worried about tariff wars. He also said local business owners feel positive about the future.

"Unemployment is down to 2.9 percent in Kent County and 2.7 percent Ottawa County, which is the county with the lowest unemployment in all of Michigan's 83 counties," he said.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

July 2, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: A high-resolution photo of Juan Olivarez is available for media use here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sms3gmfttv21rad/Juan2.jpg?dl=0>

New position at GVSU to study diversity, equity issues in nonprofit sector

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Leaders in the field of philanthropy from across the country have noticed a shortcoming in how the nonprofit sector applies principles of diversity, equity and inclusion throughout its critically important and economically substantial work.

The nonprofit sector is a \$1.6 trillion industry in the United States, and 1 in 10 American workers are employed in the field. However, people of color and other minority populations tend to be underrepresented in leadership positions in the industry.

Monumental demographic shifts taking place in the U.S. necessitate that the nonprofit sector adapt to changing needs in communities to ensure equitable access to healthcare, education and the workforce.

With this need in mind, the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University is adding former Aquinas College president Juan Olivarez to its ranks to help study, understand and share knowledge about how to improve inclusive practices in the nonprofit sector.

Olivarez will serve as the Johnson Center's Distinguished Scholar in Residence for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for a three-year term, and will advance the center's work on building capacity in the nonprofit sector while incorporating principles of equity.

The Distinguished Scholar in Residence position is funded in part by recent grants from the Frey Foundation, the Wege Foundation, the Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation as well as support from the center's founder, Dorothy A. Johnson. The gifts are part of Grand Valley's Laker Effect campaign.

Part of the work Olivarez will take on is developing a prototype talent pipeline initiative in the West Michigan area that seeks to better understand the role of employment in inclusive community development. A portion of the initiative will include research and conversations with thought leaders on diversity, equity and inclusive practices, as well as focus on how to make those principles integral to nonprofit work. This research will be shared on a national and global scale to widely advance equitable practices across the sector.

"Philanthropy has the potential to touch all Americans, yet we still have the sense that we're not truly reaching and assisting all communities enough," Olivarez said. "So the need is to study, to look at best practices and determine how we can influence the advancement of diversity, inclusion and equity efforts."

Olivarez brings nonprofit leadership and higher education experience to the position, having served as president of Aquinas College for six years and Grand Rapids Community College for almost 10 years. He also served several years as the president and CEO of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation where he championed innovative community initiatives that focused on improving education opportunities for all people.

“Juan Olivarez is highly respected and experienced in the fields of higher education and philanthropy and will be able to spark the kinds of meaningful, probing conversations this work needs,” said Mark Van Putten, president and CEO of the Wege Foundation. “With the research and convening power of the Johnson Center behind him, we expect to see great outcomes.”

The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy is a well-regarded center of excellence at Grand Valley State University and a vital resource for the charitable sector both locally and globally, with engagements in Michigan, across the United States, and internationally in Canada, Australia, Europe, and Saudi Arabia.

For more information, visit johnsoncenter.org/residence

For Immediate Release

July 13, 2018

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University,
lyonme@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Renderings of the affordable housing are available via Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ao4qv8di24f3cup/AADRkpvq0qm8J4G-wdblrKHha?dl=0>

Grand Valley State and Grand Rapids collaborate on affordable housing project

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A project to bring new affordable housing to a Grand Rapids neighborhood is one step closer following action by the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University. At their July meeting, trustees authorized the university to lease property on its health campus in Grand Rapids to a developer who intends to build affordable housing compatible with the Belknap Lookout neighborhood.

Grand Valley's Community Relations Director Patricia Waring presented the resolution to the board. She and others from Grand Valley worked with representatives from the City of Grand Rapids and from the Neighbors of Belknap Lookout (NOBL) to create a Memorandum of Understanding after the university purchased land to expand its health campus north of Michigan Street. The MOU required the committee to prepare a request for proposal and choose a developer.

The board's action authorizes Grand Valley to lease .85 acres to Three CPK, which is a joint venture of Third Coast Development and PK Housing, for development of the affordable housing project, which is a provision of the MOU. The housing will be built on the south side of Trowbridge, between Lafayette and Prospect, in the Belknap area of the city of Grand Rapids.

"Moving forward with this project represents steady cooperation between Grand Valley, city officials and those representing the Belknap Lookout neighborhood," said Waring. "We have shared a goal of providing the best quality of life for those who live, work and attend classes in this busy area of the city. There are many details to projects like this one, and I'm pleased we had bright minds and wonderful attitudes around the table. We're looking forward to the addition of this housing project in the neighborhood with our health campus."

The project will have a housing mix of 70 percent affordable and 30 percent market rate. CPK will submit an application for low-income housing tax credits in November, and if successful, the project could be completed as early as fall 2019. The university will not use tuition revenue or any of its funds for the construction of the project, operating expenses or any future repairs or renovations.

"This collaborative effort should serve as a model for development within the city," said Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss. "This project is consistent with what the residents of the neighborhood want, and it's consistent with the strategy outlined by the city commission, which calls for preserving affordable housing, encouraging mixed-income neighborhoods and supporting our vulnerable populations. Progress can truly be good for all involved."

Other board action:

— The trustees also adopted the university's FY 2019 budget and set tuition rates for the academic year. Trustees approved a \$245 per semester increase in tuition, bringing the annual tuition to \$12,484 for a full-time undergraduate Michigan resident. The budget includes \$52.4 million in financial aid for students, which is an increase of \$5.1 million to be awarded in the form of scholarships and grants.

Grand Valley is expected to receive \$72.1 million in state funding, some of which is awarded based on the university's superior performance in key areas such as retention and graduation rates. Grand Valley ranks third in retention and fourth in graduation rates among the 15 public universities in Michigan.

— The board approved a resolution to name the Student Services Building on the Allendale Campus for President Emeritus Arend (Don) Lubbers and his wife Nancy Lubbers.

Don Lubbers served as president of Grand Valley for 32 years, and with Nancy worked to build Grand Valley from a small college to a regional university. Both have been leaders in the creation of Grand Valley's Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus, the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on Grand Rapids' Medical Mile, The Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon, the Meijer Campus in Holland and the Traverse City Regional Center.

— The board also approved a resolution for authorization of Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center Academy (Detroit), approval of an extended start date for Saginaw Covenant Academy to February 1, 2019 (Saginaw), and appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to GVSU-authorized public school academy boards.

— The board also selected a new chair and vice chair. Mary Kramer will serve as the next chair of the Board of Trustees; Megan Sall will serve as the next vice chair. The board also approved a resolution thanking outgoing chair John Kennedy for his service to the board for the last two years.

For Immediate Release

July 12, 2018

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, lyonme@gvsu.edu

Grand Valley had largest and most diverse graduating class; summer enrollment growing

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The totals are in and show a record number of graduates at Grand Valley State University during the last academic year, and a class that was the most racially diverse.

The university awarded the most degrees in its history during 2017-2018: 5,730; the most bachelor's degrees: 4,609; and the most doctoral degrees: 80. The number of degrees earned by students of color was 891, the highest ever, both in numbers and in percentage: 15.5 percent.

Grand Valley is also seeing a four percent enrollment hike for its spring/summer session, with 8,479 students taking classes. The university engaged in an educational campaign to show students how enrolling in needed classes during the spring and summer could decrease their overall time to earning a degree, and it worked.

President Thomas J. Haas also noted that the university is showing a decrease in the average time it takes to graduate with a bachelor's degree for the fourth year in a row.

"Supporting students and their success is what we're about at Grand Valley, and the records we're setting in awarding degrees is the most wonderful evidence our goals are being met," said Haas. "This means students are getting into their chosen fields faster and employers in the region are getting top-notch talent. This news comes as we're welcoming our new students on campus for orientation and high school students for tours. What great timing."

Lynn Blue, vice president for Enrollment Development, said a congressional policy change last year restored the year-round Pell Grant, making it easier for financially stressed students to attend during the spring and summer.

"We know the benefit to students if they can pick up classes at Grand Valley during the summer, so the deans of the colleges worked hard on scheduling classes, making them convenient for students, including online options. We also made sure they knew about them early enough to plan," said Blue. "We have more undergraduates taking classes because the Pell Grant became available again in the summer. We have a lot of students who rely on the grant, and all these pieces of the puzzle have to be put together in a way that works for them."

The summer enrollment shows a 14 percent increase in students of color. Students coming from outside of Michigan increased by nearly 11 percent, and that includes students from other states and countries.

Grand Valley rewards students who stay on track toward graduating in four years. The Grand Finish grant awards \$1,000 at the start of the fourth year to students with at least 90 credits. Since the scholarship program began in 2011, more than 13,500 students have received the award heading into the final year of their undergraduate degree.

For Immediate Release

July 10, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Finkelstein Hall are available at this Dropbox link. Photos of the dedication will be added. <http://gvsu.edu/s/OLU>

GVSU Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall dedication set for July 17

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Members of the media are invited to the formal dedication of Grand Valley State University's Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall on **Tuesday, July 17 from 6-8 p.m.**

The new building, located at 500 Lafayette Ave. just north of the university's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, completes the first step in the expansion of Grand Valley's health campus in downtown Grand Rapids.

The event is planned for the more than 1,100 donors who helped raise \$37.5 million for the project. (Note: A community open house is planned for Thursday, July 19 from 5-8 p.m.)

Those giving remarks at the July 17 dedication ceremony include:

- Thomas J. Haas, president of Grand Valley
- Maria Cimitile, GVSU provost
- Raleigh J. Finkelstein, lead donor
- Joe Jones, Grand Rapids Second Ward commissioner
- Ellen Schendel, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs at GVSU
- Lucy Finkel, '05, speech-language pathology graduate student

The ribbon cutting will be led by GVSU Foundation general chairs Jim and Donna Brooks.

Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall dedication

- 6 p.m. Reception begins
- 6:15 p.m. Program and remarks begin
- 6:45 p.m. Ribbon cutting
- 7 p.m. Guests can tour the building

The five-story, 84,000-square-foot building has 16 teaching labs and 90 faculty and staff offices to support Grand Valley's growing health sciences programs.

Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall will provide a home for occupational therapy, therapeutic recreation, speech-language pathology, sonography, public health, and allied health programs that require intensive interactive learning spaces and the room to work as interprofessional teams.

The addition of space on the health campus will allow Grand Valley to add new health sciences programs as regional and statewide health care providers need them.

Grand Valley offers the most comprehensive array of health sciences programs in Michigan with 20 programs in nursing and health professions. More than 5,000 students are currently enrolled in health-related courses.

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber served as the project architect and Rockford Construction Company served as the construction manager.

For Immediate Release

July 10, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Students get prepped for college at GVSU camp

ALLENDALE, Mich.— 150 high school students from schools across Michigan are kicking off a series of week-long camps at Grand Valley State University that will help prepare them for life and education after high school.

The two week-long programs, called College Prep Week, run from July 8-July 13 and July 15-July 20.

All of the students taking part in College Prep Week are students in Grand Valley-authorized charter schools and are either entering their junior or senior year of high school. Fifteen different schools are represented, which is the most since the program began. Five schools are represented for the first time ever.

During camp, the students will live like college students, living in residence halls, taking mock classes led by Grand Valley faculty, and participate in activities led by Grand Valley student organizations. They will also take part in "life skills" classes that focus on subjects like professionalism, communication ethics, resume building and personal finance. They will also participate in mock job interviews led by faculty and staff from more than 20 different departments throughout the university.

Students will also take part in cultural exploration activities that highlight distinct aspects of West Michigan. They will spend a day in downtown Grand Rapids and on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, and also spend a day around Silver Lake learning about Lake Michigan.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/cso.

For Immediate Release

July 18, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A video of remarks and photos of the ceremony can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OLU>

GVSU Finkelstein Hall called a 'game changer' for students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - President Thomas J. Haas said Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall is both an example of what deep collaboration can accomplish and a game changer for students studying health sciences.

Haas made the remarks during a July 17 dedication ceremony for Finkelstein Hall, celebrating the expansion of Grand Valley's Health Campus in downtown Grand Rapids.

More than 400 people attended the event; another 150 are expected to attend a community open house July 19.

The five-story, 84,000-square-foot building, which opened for classes in May, is located at 500 Lafayette Ave., across I-196 and north of Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

Finkelstein Hall has 16 teaching labs, 90 faculty and staff offices and was awarded LEED® Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

During the ceremony, Haas thanked lead donor Raleigh J. Finkelstein, the 1,100 donors who supported the facility, and Neighbors of Belknap Lookout and Grand Rapids city commissioners for making the expansion a reality.

"The addition of Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall on our expanding health campus will allow us to better meet the growing needs of this community," Haas said. "West Michigan depends on Grand Valley's health science graduates and we are committed to providing top quality care in our region and state."

Finkelstein Hall will provide a home for occupational therapy, therapeutic recreation, speech-language pathology, sonography, public health, and allied health programs that require intensive interactive learning spaces and the room to work as interprofessional teams.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to help make this expansion happen," said Finkelstein. "Quality health care is vital and very personal to me." Finkelstein then mentioned the early deaths of his two sons and that his daughter has muscular dystrophy.

Joe Jones, Grand Rapids Second Ward city commissioner, quoted Coretta Scott King who said the greatness of a community can be measured by the compassionate actions of its members.

"I want to thank Grand Valley for the wisdom to listen, for empathy and discernment," said Jones. "We all worked together from the beginning to create a greater sense of community. Our membership has expanded to include Grand Valley."

Lucy Finkel graduated from Grand Valley in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in music. After working as an opera singer in New York, she has returned to Grand Valley and is currently a speech-language pathology graduate student.

"Grand Valley is allowing me to merge both of my passions," said Finkel. "I have a love for the human voice and a love to help others find theirs. The collaborative spaces in this new building and the compassionate faculty will help me pay it forward by becoming a skilled clinician."

Grand Valley offers the most comprehensive array of health sciences programs in Michigan with 20 programs in nursing and health professions. More than 5,000 students are currently enrolled in health-related courses.

Ellen Schendel, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, said the addition of space on the Health Campus will allow Grand Valley to add new health sciences programs as regional and statewide health care providers need them.

"The expanded spaces in the building were specially designed for students to work in teams and the more flexible lab spaces provide real-life health care treatment scenarios," said Schendel.

Grand Valley will celebrate the continued expansion of its Health Campus in October during a groundbreaking ceremony for a third health building — the Center for Interprofessional Health.

The building is under construction right next to the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on Michigan Street, along the Medical Mile in downtown Grand Rapids.

The Center for Interprofessional Health is expected to open in May 2021 and will allow for interaction between students across all health sciences programs and learning with state-of-the-industry simulation and technology.

For immediate release

July 18, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Laura Probyn, communications director, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine,
Laura.Probyn@hc.msu.edu, (517) 884-3755

Media advisory: GVSU, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine leaders will sign agreement

-- Early assurance program benefits GVSU premedical students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University and the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine will sign an agreement next week granting GVSU premedical students early assurance of admission into the state's only osteopathic medical school.

Leaders from both institutions and a student will give remarks at a signing ceremony, discussing how this agreement will help advance the health care talent pipeline. Media members are welcome to cover the event.

Early Assurance Program Signing

Monday, July 23, 10 a.m.

Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall, 500 Lafayette Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Attending from Grand Valley will be Maria Cimitile, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, and Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health; from MSU COM will be June Youatt, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, and Andrea Amalfitano, interim dean.

For Immediate Release

July 17, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of the Haas Center for Performing Arts can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0M4>

GVSU Center for Performing Arts receives LEED® Silver status

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts on Grand Valley State University's Allendale Campus has been awarded LEED® Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, demonstrating the university's commitment to sustainable progress through innovative design and construction.

LEED® certification is based on several factors, including site sustainability, water efficiency, energy use, materials and resources, environmental quality and innovation in design.

A two-story, 47,000-square-foot addition to the center in 2017 included the Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, an expanded theater costume shop, new dressing rooms, two theater classrooms for costume design and fabrication, four music ensemble rooms and additional rehearsal spaces.

Several factors led to LEED® Silver certification including:

- Pollution prevention during construction
- Alternative transportation, public transportation access
- Preservation of habitat and natural resources
- Management of storm water runoff
- Water-efficient landscaping
- Building recycling program
- Use of locally manufactured materials
- Recycled material use
- Use of forest-certified wood
- Indoor air quality management and performance during and after construction
- Low-VOC emitting materials, adhesives, sealants, paints, flooring
- Indoor chemical and pollutant source controls

For immediate release

July 17, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of David Coffey is [available via Dropbox](#).

New director named for GVSU Design Thinking Academy

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Design Thinking Academy at Grand Valley State University helps students develop into inventive thinkers and problems solvers by utilizing the design thinking process.

Ahead of the 2018-19 academic year, David Coffey, professor of mathematics, has been named the new director of the academy.

The 2017-18 academic year was the inaugural year of the academy. During that time, the program paired more than 40 students with faculty mentors and community partners to learn as fellows about the design thinking process and help solve real-world problems. West Michigan companies and organizations academy fellows have worked with in the past include Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Gentex and United Way.

“Design thinking is often referred to as ‘creative problem solving,’ and I see that as being in line with the Grand Valley vision,” said Coffey. “The hope is that the Fellows might be teaching assistants to professors who want to include the design cycle in their courses.”

While the inaugural year was divided into two semester-long sessions, Coffey said this coming year’s iteration of the program will transition into encompassing an entire academic year.

Also new this year, the Design Thinking Academy will be housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

“I am pleased to welcome the Design Thinking Academy into Brooks College as a program that further enhances the college’s reputation for innovation and integrative learning, and I look forward to supporting David in his new role,” said Anne Hiskes, dean of Brooks College.

Prior to being named director, Coffey worked with Design Thinking academy fellows as a team coach, director of coaches and as a presenter. Coffey has also contributed to Grand Valley’s overall Design Thinking Initiative through faculty summits, the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center’s Learning Communities, and the proposal process to approve the design thinking certificate students earn upon completing their time in the academy.

When the Design Thinking Initiative began at Grand Valley in 2014, former Provost Gayle Davis appointed Coffey to a faculty task force whose mission was to introduce faculty to the design thinking process as a tool for experiential learning. Since 2015, Coffey has experienced two design thinking “deep dive” seminars, one at the Henry Ford Learning Institute and another at the Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford University. He has also co-facilitated two design thinking book studies through FTLC and led more than a dozen design thinking challenges in the community and for Grand Valley students, faculty and staff.

Coffey replaces John Berry as director of the Design Thinking Academy.

For more information about the Design Thinking Academy, visit gvsu.edu/designthinking.

For immediate release

July 16, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Richardson and Puscas are available to download: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OM1>

Snyder appointments to Michigan Board of Nursing have GVSU connections

LANSING, Mich. — Two people with connections to Grand Valley State University were appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Board of Nursing.

Scott Richardson, vice president for Administrative Services, and Jason Puscas, who graduated from Grand Valley in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in political science, were appointed to four-year terms expiring in 2022. Puscas is the director of government relations for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Richardson and Puscas join the 24-member board that is responsible for establishing qualifications for nurse licensure, approving standards for nurse education programs and taking disciplinary action against licensees when the health and safety of the public has been affected.

The board is housed under the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

For Immediate Release

July 30, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Researcher studying whether food production could be safer with new E. Coli test

MUSKEGON, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University researcher has been awarded nearly \$100,000 to study the effectiveness of a new method of detecting E. Coli bacteria that could improve the safety of agricultural food production in Michigan.

Kevin Strychar, an ecological researcher at Grand Valley's Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon, was awarded the \$96,007 grant by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to test the use of an imaging flow cytometer — a tool that can sample thousands of cells per second with a laser, and identify and mark specified pathogens — to discover E. Coli contamination in food as it's being brought to production from harvest. The technique that's being tested can result in positive E. Coli identification within minutes or seconds, rather than hours or days like current testing methods. The testing could also include identifying pathogens in the water being used to irrigate crops, thereby limiting the exposure in the first place.

"The benefit here is speed," said Strychar. "If we can successfully detect E. Coli in a sample within 60 seconds after it's brought in from a field, or detect other pathogens in the water being used for irrigation, it's much easier to fix those problems immediately before food is packaged and shipped and then must be recalled from all across the country. The advantage would be immediate."

Initial testing is ongoing in Strychar's lab, with the help of Darrick Gates, an undergraduate student studying biology.

"If it works in the lab, we'll bring in samples from a real field and test that, and if our results are good, there's a chance we'd get to pilot mobile units that could travel to different production facilities around the state," Gates said. "This testing has the potential to make agricultural food production safer and healthier, and increase profitability for farmers because of reduced recall costs and lost production time."

The grant was inspired by massive nationwide recalls on produce like lettuce and spinach that have sickened dozens across the country in recent months. The concern is that similar pathogen-based recalls could happen to staple Michigan crops, like apples, blueberries or cherries, among others.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/wri

For immediate release

July 25, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU extends veterans program to employers

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Veterans Upward Bound program at Grand Valley State University has expanded to bring its services to area employers with large populations of veterans who have not earned college degrees.

Tim Marroquin, director of VUB, said he sees this as a natural extension of the program.

"We realized there were large populations of veterans we weren't reaching through our recruitment methods," Marroquin said. "We're now connecting with employers who publicize themselves as veteran friendly."

VUB advisors and instructors will travel to companies with at least 10 participants to conduct workshops on preparing for college, financial literacy, area veteran resources, VA benefits, goal setting, career development, or other topics.

"It's very employer-driven on what they would want to see in terms of enhancing employee skills," Marroquin said.

Last fall, Grand Valley received a \$1.3 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a TRIO Veterans Upward Bound program, providing free academic support services to low-income veterans from Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties who want to complete degree programs at any college or university. The office opened its doors in January in the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

More information about VUB is online at gvsu.edu/vub.

For immediate release

July 23, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Laura Probyn, communications director, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine,

Laura.Probyn@hc.msu.edu, (517) 884-3755

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the event are available via <http://gvsu.edu/s/OMq>

GVSU partners with MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine

-- Agreement grants early admission assurance for GVSU premed students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Qualified premedical students at Grand Valley State University will receive early assurance of admission into the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine following an agreement signed July 23.

Leaders from both institutions signed the agreement at Grand Valley's Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall.

The agreement reserves up to five positions for GVSU students per year. Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health at Grand Valley, said preference will be given to students who are recipients of Pell grants, first-generation college students, or graduates of a high school in a medically underserved rural or urban area.

"We are so pleased our two public institutions are working together in partnership to help solve a physician shortage and fill gaps in the talent pipeline," Nagelkerk said.

Under the agreement, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine agreed to waive supplemental application fees for GVSU students who qualify and provide them with opportunities to network with medical students, faculty and staff members.

"This collaboration will provide a wonderful opportunity, not just for the students, but for all of Michigan," said Andrea Amalfitano, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine interim dean. "Our priority is on recruiting candidates who are not only academically talented, but are also dedicated to becoming committed, caring osteopathic physicians. This initiative will enable us to strengthen that effort and produce more of the state's best doctors."

John Westfall earned a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley in biomedical sciences in 2014 and is now a second-year medical student at MSU COM. Westfall, who also played football for the Lakers, took a page from his playbook while giving advice to current GVSU students who are interested in applying to medical school.

"Take advantage of the opportunities you are given and make sure to be collaborative and be a good team member," he said.

Westfall said he was turned down the first time he applied to MSU COM. "But they gave me feedback, which is a rarity among medical schools," he said. Westfall said he turned the feedback into action and was accepted on a second attempt.

"Now I believe that both these great institutions have provided me with a path to success," he said.

Maria Cimitile, Grand Valley's provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, said current Grand Valley students accepted into the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine will not have to submit multiple medical school applications, affording them opportunities to concentrate on broadening their knowledge base and skill set during their senior year at Grand Valley.

"Our partnership with MSU is important as it aligns with Grand Valley's mission of providing relevant experiences for our students," Cimitile said. "Students who are accepted early will work with our pre-professional advising program and be well on their way to becoming contributing first-year medical students."

Qualified students can apply to the MSU COM program in early February for admission in 2020. Grand Valley and Grand Rapids Community College entered a similar agreement with MSU's College of Human Medicine in 2012.

About GVSU:

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in 200+ areas of study from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Holland, and from regional centers in Detroit, Muskegon, and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

About the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine:

The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is Michigan's largest medical school, with 1,200 students who pursue careers as outstanding osteopathic physicians at sites in East Lansing, Clinton Township and Detroit. The college is recognized for its strong graduate medical education system, with opportunities for graduates in numerous specialties at 45 health systems and 30 federally qualified health centers across the state, and its efforts to address Michigan's physician shortage, as two thirds of its graduate stay and practice in the state.

For immediate release

July 23, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos for each Fall Arts Celebration event are [available via Dropbox](#).

Fall Arts Celebration to spotlight the arts during multiple free events

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the past 15 years, West Michigan audiences have enjoyed a series of six free events every fall at Grand Valley that celebrate the positive impact of the arts. President Thomas J. Haas said these events are offered as gifts to the local community that has supported the evolution of the university.

“Each year, these six diverse and free events provide us with the opportunity to thank the West Michigan community for its continued support of the performing arts at Grand Valley, and the university as a whole,” said Haas. “The arts lift us up, make us think and provide an endless variety of entertainment and enrichment, and we hope others will join us in celebrating the richness of the worlds of poetry, dance, art, music and more this fall.”

Below is a full list of Fall Arts Celebration events. For more event details, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts.

Mars: Astronomy and Culture

Exhibition Dates: August 24-October 31

Exhibition Reception: September 13, from 5-7 p.m.

Art Gallery, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Throughout the years, Mars has been depicted in multiple forms. The “Mars: Astronomy and Culture” exhibit will bring together photographs, drawings, movie posters, book covers and video projections spotlighting the Red Planet, as well as feature a showcase of Martian-themed toys and collectibles from a private collection based in Chicago. During an opening reception on September 13, guests will be able to enjoy a virtual reality simulator for an immersive experience on Mars. Portions of the exhibition will be hosted at both the Center Art Gallery at Calvin College and the Holland Museum. This exhibition was curated by the Pasadena Arts Council for the Williamson Gallery, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California. It is a project of the Pasadena Arts Council’s EMERGE Fiscal Sponsorship Program.

An Italian Journey: Tesla Quartet performs Tchaikovsky’s “Souvenir de Florence”

September 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Inspired by numerous pleasurable escapes from harsh Russian winters, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s love of Italy is reflected in his “String Sextet in D Minor, Op. 70 ‘Souvenir de Florence.’” Best known as a master composer of symphonies and ballets, Tchaikovsky crafted this work through a rich blend of well-known Italian street songs and melodies. The internationally acclaimed Tesla Quartet will open this program with “Quartet in B minor, Op. 33, No. 1” by Franz Joseph Haydn, and then be joined by Grand Valley music faculty members Paul Swantek (viola) and Pablo Mahave-Veglia (cello) to perform “Souvenir de Florence.” Formed at The Julliard School in 2008, members of the Tesla String Quartet include Ross Snyder (violin), Michelle Lie (violin), Edwin Kaplan (viola) and Serafim Smigelskiy (cello).

What is Art in the 21st Century?

Lecture presented by William Deresiewicz

October 1, at 7:30 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center, 2nd floor, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

In today's world, creativity is a necessity for successful collaborations in business and to develop and expand vibrant cultures. As business and the arts draw closer together, how are they changing each other? Expanding on his viral essay for *The Atlantic*, "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur," award-winning essayist, critic and best-selling author William Deresiewicz will answer that question by addressing the understanding and practice of creative work and the creative life. Deresiewicz is the author of *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The American Scholar* and *The London Review of Books*.

An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Ada Limón and Carl Phillips

October 18, at 7:30 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center, 2nd floor, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Two unique poetic voices will share their work with the West Michigan community during an evening of poetry and conversation. Ada Limón is the author of five books of poetry, including her new book, *The Carrying* (2018). Her volume *Bright Dead Things* was named one of the top 10 poetry books of the year by *The New York Times*. Limón currently serves on the faculty of Queens University of Charlotte's low-residency Master of Fine Arts program.

Carl Phillips is the author of 14 books of poetry, including his most recent works, *Wild Is the Wind* (2018) and *Reconnaissance* (2015). The latter won the PEN USA Award and the Lambda Literary Award. A four-time finalist for the National Book Award, Phillips' honors include the *Los Angeles Times*' Book Prize for Poetry, the Kingsley Tufts Award and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, Library of Congress and Academy of American Poets. He is currently a professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis.

Kariamuw and Company: Traditions — A Celebration of African Dance

November 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Kariamuw Welsh is a Guggenheim award-winning dance scholar, choreographer, educator and the founder of the Umfundalai technique. For the past 40 years, Welsh has developed Umfundalai as a contemporary dance technique that seeks to articulate the essence of African-oriented movement while highlighting the cultural and aesthetic continuity found in the rhythm and artistic sensibilities that cover the full range of African dance. As an "artist," Welsh feels that one of her responsibilities is to tell the stories, myths, legends and histories of the marginalized, invisible, forgotten and oppressed. Welsh is currently a professor of dance in the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University.

Celebrating Holiday Splendor: Craig Jessop Conducts "The Many Moods of Christmas"

December 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids

Robert Shaw's "The Many Moods of Christmas" meshes pieces of 18 of the most traditional carols combined with music from composers such as Handel, Bizet and Bach. Renowned choral conductor Craig Jessop will lead the GVSU Arts Chorale and local high school students for this special holiday celebration concert. Jessop, professor of music and founding dean of the Cain College of the Arts at Utah State University, is the former director of the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He led the ensemble as a featured conductor during the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

For Immediate Release

August 1, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

GVSU engineering students to display designs created for local companies

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Projects completed for West Michigan companies by the newest graduating class of engineers from Grand Valley State University will be on display at a special public event August 3.

The 20th annual **Engineering Design Conference** will take place from 1-4 p.m. in the Kennedy Hall of Engineering and Keller Engineering Laboratories on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. About 20 projects completed by 130 students will be on display.

The event will celebrate the completion of the students' senior design projects and Grand Valley's partnership with local businesses, in which teams of students solve real-world engineering design problems. The event is open to the public.

The **Order of the Engineer Graduate Ceremony** will take place on the same day to celebrate the 130 graduating students. The event will include a keynote presentation by Grand Valley Provost Maria Cimitile. Engineering graduates at Grand Valley earn their degrees later than the traditional spring ceremony because they complete a year-long co-op experience with a company. The ceremony will follow the conference at 5 p.m. on the second floor of the Eberhard Center.

The conference and graduation ceremony are part of a week-long celebration that includes a co-op employer appreciation luncheon and a new event to welcome incoming students. On August 2, the School of Engineering will host the welcome event for 60 first-year students and their parents/guardians at noon in the Eberhard Center.

Students completed projects for the following companies this year: American Seating, DornerWorks, E3 Compliance, Flexco, Hutchinson, Koops, National Nail, ODL, OMT, Veyhl and PADNOS.

For more information, contact the GVSU School of Engineering at (616) 331-6750.

For immediate release

August 1, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU September 2018 arts events tip sheet

FALL ARTS CELEBRATION

For the past 15 years, West Michigan audiences have enjoyed a series of six free events every fall at Grand Valley State University that celebrate the positive impact of the arts. Since its inception, Fall Arts Celebration has shined the spotlight on some of the world's foremost writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars. During this year's Fall Arts Celebration, audiences will have the opportunity to explore the mysteries of Mars, listen to variations of Italian street songs, enjoy the rhythm and artistic nature of African dance, contemplate the idea that business and art are changing each other, and much more. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts.

Mars: Astronomy and Culture

Exhibition Dates: August 24-October 31

Exhibition Reception: September 13, from 5-7 p.m.

Art Gallery, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

The planet Mars has fascinated people around the world since the early days of human history. Throughout the years, Mars has been depicted in multiple forms, including astronomical drawings, ground-based and spacecraft photography, science fiction films and literature, and even images directly from NASA's Curiosity rover on the surface of the planet. During this year's Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley State University, the "Mars: Astronomy and Culture" exhibit will bring together photographs, drawings, movie posters, book covers and video projections spotlighting the Red Planet. The exhibit will aim to connect the recent scientific images of Mars to the entire history of photography of the planet, and to drawings by famous astronomers that preceded the development of photography. The exhibit will also feature a showcase of Martian-themed toys and collectibles from a private collection based in Chicago, and a virtual reality simulator will provide visitors with an immersive experience on the Red Planet during a special reception on September 13. Additionally, part of the exhibition will be hosted at the Center Art Gallery at Calvin College as well as the Holland Museum. This exhibition was curated by Pasadena Arts Council for the Williamson Gallery, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California. It is a project of the Pasadena Arts Council's EMERGE Fiscal Sponsorship Program.

An Italian Journey: Tesla Quartet performs Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence"

September 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

***Concert will be preceded by a carillon concert featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur**

Inspired by numerous pleasurable escapes from harsh Russian winters, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's love of Italy is reflected in his much-loved "String Sextet in D Minor, Op. 70 'Souvenir de Florence.'" Best known as a master composer of symphonies and ballets, Tchaikovsky crafted this work through a rich blend of well-known Italian street songs and melodies. During this Fall Arts Celebration concert at Grand Valley State University, the internationally acclaimed Tesla Quartet will open the program with "Quartet in B

minor, Op. 33, No. 1" by Franz Joseph Haydn. The Tesla Quartet will then be joined by Grand Valley music faculty members Paul Swantek (viola) and Pablo Mahave-Veglia (cello) to perform "Souvenir de Florence." Formed at The Julliard School in 2008, members of the Tesla String Quartet include Ross Snyder (violin), Michelle Lie (violin), Edwin Kaplan (viola) and Serafim Smigelskiy (cello). The quartet has won numerous prizes and awards at international competitions, including the 2012 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, 2012 London International String Quartet Competition, and 2013 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition.

What is Art in the 21st Century?

Lecture presented by William Deresiewicz

October 1, at 7:30 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center, 2nd floor, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

***Lecture followed by reception and book signing**

In today's world, creativity is a necessity for successful collaborations in business and to develop and expand rich cultures. As business and the arts draw closer together, how are they changing each other? Expanding on his viral essay for *The Atlantic*, "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur," award-winning essayist, critic and best-selling author William Deresiewicz will answer that question by addressing the understanding and practice of creative work and the creative life. Deresiewicz will trace the age-old conception of the artist from artesian to solitary genius to the current culture surrounding the modern-day creative economy. Deresiewicz is the author of *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The American Scholar* and *The London Review of Books*.

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Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival

The Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival is the oldest and largest festival celebrating the Bard's life and works in Michigan. For the past 25 years, festival events have attracted thousands of people of all ages to the campuses of Grand Valley State University and to West Michigan to enjoy the legacy of Shakespeare. The Grand Valley community will honor the "silver coronation" of the festival with a series of events beginning in September. For more information about the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit gvsu.edu/shakes or contact James Bell, festival coordinator, at bellja@gvsu.edu.

King Lear

September 28, 29, October 4, 5, 6, at 7:30 p.m.

September 30, October 7, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus
Tickets: \$14 for general admission; \$12 for seniors and Grand Valley faculty, staff and alumni; \$6 for students and groups of 10 or more. For more ticket information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

Ready to "shake off the cares and business from our age," King Lear stages a love test with his three daughters to give away his kingdom to the one who loves him most. The result of these trials is the breaking of family bonds and unleashing of tragic forces in the kingdom as Lear confronts the nature of human existence (love and loss, power and futility, pride and humility, and good and evil). In the role of Lear, Brian Webb Russell joins Grand Valley's company of students, faculty, staff and professional guest artists collaborating to bring Shakespeare to life. Russell was last seen on a Grand Valley stage in the role of Paroles in the 2015 Shakespeare Festival mainstage production of "All's Well That Ends Well." "King

Lear” will be directed by Karen Libman, professor of theater. This production is recommended for ages 8 and up.

My Crown is My Heart, Not on my Head
Biannual Performance and Pedagogy Conference

September 27-29

Allendale Campus

***Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Performance is scheduled for September 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

***Keynote address, which is free and open to the public, will be presented by Michael LoMonico on September 28 at 4 p.m.**

Shakespeare enthusiasts, educators and students will come together during the bi-annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Conference to engage in workshops, performances, presentations and discussions about the Bard. This year's Resident Shakespeare Scholar will be Michael LoMonico, senior consultant on national education for the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. LoMonico will present the keynote address on September 28. Registration is required for conference sessions, but the keynote address is free and open to the public.

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Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance

For more information about Music, Theatre, and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484, or visit gvsu.edu/mtd.

GVSU Faculty-Artist Recital: Pablo Mahave-Veglia, cello, and Sookkyung Cho, piano
September 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

GVSU New Music Ensemble Concert

September 16, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church (555 Michigan Avenue), Holland

Arts at Noon

Arts at Noon brings nationally and internationally-known musicians to Grand Valley State University for 14 performances each academic year. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center located on the Allendale Campus. They will begin at noon and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon or contact Henry Duitman, series coordinator, at duitmanh@gvsu.edu.

September 12 – Mirror Visions Ensemble

The Mirror Visions Ensemble was founded more than 25 years ago from a desire to explore the relationship between music and text, initially through the creation of “mirror visions” — settings of the same text to music by different composers. The group's passion for storytelling has produced thematic concerts on surprising subjects, based on scholarly research and laced with humor. Now in its 26th season, Mirror Visions Ensemble has encouraged the work of new composers by providing a platform for their works to be showcased through the commissioning and performance of more than 85 pieces by 28 composers, including Pulitzer Prize recipient Yehudi Wyner. The ensemble even launched its first-ever Young Composers Competition in the 2015-2016 season, awarding four commissions to early-

career composers. The ensemble has presented its programs, residencies, and master classes both in the U.S. and abroad at concert halls, schools, libraries and museums. Members of Mirror Visions Ensemble include Justine Aronson, Mireille Asselin, Jesse Blumberg, Mischa Bouvier, Gary Chapman, Alan Darling, Margaret Kampmeier, Abigail Levis, Scott Murphree and Grant Wenaus.

September 26 – Die Tanzgeiger

For more than three decades, Die Tanzgeiger performs through intimate ties to their roots and an ear for contemporary music. The ensemble has performed at festivals, celebrations, dances and conferences all over the globe, including Austria and much of Europe. Members of Die Tanzgeiger include Rudi Pietsch, Theresa Aigner, Michi Gmasz, Marie-Theres Stickler, Sebastian Rastl, Claus Huber and Dieter Schickbichler.

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GVSU ART GALLERY

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit gvsu.edu/artgallery.

Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection in the world of Alten's work.

Wandering Seeds: Experiencing and Engaging Haiti Through Study Abroad

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibition dates: July 13-December 14, 2018

"The tall tree says it sees far, the wandering seed says it sees more" is a Haitian poem that served as the theme for a recent service-learning expedition to Haiti by a group of a dozen Grand Valley State University faculty and students. The trip, led by Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology and Frederik Meijer Honors College Faculty in Residence, was designed to allow students from various academic backgrounds the opportunity to experience Haitian culture and gain an understanding of daily life in rural Haiti. In addition, students participated in a variety of service learning and community-based teaching experiences, allowing them to apply their energy toward real-world problems in Haiti. During the first half of the trip, Ellen Adams, Frederik Meijer Honors College assistant professor and Grand Valley Art Gallery staff member, also assisted in mediating experiences with Haitian artists and art collectives at various sites. Included in this exhibition will be narratives and reflections by both the faculty members and students, photographs documenting their encounters, and a variety of original Haitian paintings, voodoo flags, metal art and masks representing the vibrant and diverse artistic culture in the country.

Plastination — The Art of Preservation**Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus****Exhibition dates: July 13-December 14, 2018**

Plastination is the process of infusing animal, human or plant tissues with a variety of plastic or silicone products to render the tissues odor-free, dry and permanently preserved for educational and instructional purposes. The process was invented by Gunther von Hagens in 1977 at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and became popular through his many “Body Worlds” exhibitions around the world. Beginning in 2007, members of Grand Valley State University began studying plastination and investigating the opportunity to create a lab at the university. That became a reality in 2013, and since then, more than 300 specimens have been plastinated for use in a variety of teaching roles. This exhibition tells the story of plastination at Grand Valley and walks viewers through the process and uses of plastinates. It brings together more than 20 animal specimens from the lab – currently the only plastination lab in Michigan.

Common Balance: Still Life Paintings by Mike McDonnell**Exhibition dates: July 13-October 26, 2018****Kirkhof Center Gallery, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus**

In the early 1980s, Michigan-based artist Mike McDonnell became enamored with still life arrangements of common household objects. He began by drawing each object individually, then patiently applied multiple glazes of watercolor paint to achieve rich color and the illusion of realism. This exhibit features a selection of McDonnell’s work from 1982-2009 that spotlights his desire to idealize common objects in balanced and unique groupings.

For immediate release

August 9, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Free concerts planned to spotlight String Leadership Camp students, GVSU faculty

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 35 local high school students with experience playing string instruments will visit Grand Valley State University for the opportunity to learn from and perform with Grand Valley faculty and industry professionals during the third annual String Leadership Camp.

The camp will take place August 13-15 on the Allendale Campus. Henry Duitman, GVSU Symphony Orchestra director and String Leadership Camp coordinator, said the camp is beneficial for high school students who don't typically perform chamber music.

For the first time in the camp's history, six piano students will participate, which Duitman said will complement the string musicians.

"Piano trios, quartets and quintets comprise much of the finest chamber music written for string players," said Duitman. "It will be a rewarding and exciting three days for these high school piano and string students."

A series of four recitals, which are all free and open to the public, will take place in conjunction with the camp.

Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano, and Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello and Early Music Ensemble director, will be joined by Elayna Duitman, Cleveland Orchestra violinist, during a faculty recital on August 13. The concert will take place at 1 p.m. in the Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts.

A recital on August 14 will feature members of Grand Valley's string faculty, including Megan Crawford, Paul Swantek, Mahave-Veglia and Michael Hovnanian. Faculty will be joined in the performance by James Crawford, concertmaster of the Grand Rapids Symphony, as well as his brother Anthony, a professional violinist based in California. This recital will also take place at 1 p.m. in Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall.

Rounding out the week of performances will be two recitals by the 39 String Leadership Camp students on August 15. The first recital will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall and feature six piano trios, quartets and quintets. The second recital will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center and feature four string trios and quartets, as well as the String Leadership Orchestra conducted by Duitman.

For more information, contact Duitman at duitmanh@gvsu.edu, or visit gvsu.edu/orchestra.

For Immediate Release

August 9, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU Charter School Office to provide free professional education programs for all teachers, school leaders

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Starting in September, Grand Valley State University will offer free workshops and seminars to any public or private school teachers and personnel in Michigan, opening the possibility of savings on professional development for schools across the state. These learning opportunities will be provided through the university's Charter Schools Office.

"All Michigan educators work hard to help students learn, and they need a place where they can share their results with each other and gain new tactics for success," said Rob Kimball, associate vice president for charter schools at Grand Valley. "We fully believe in our state's teachers and school leaders, and we're stepping up to support them like never before. We know that doing so will help them achieve more for the kids their schools serve."

Grand Valley has been chartering public elementary, middle and high schools since 1995, and this fall Grand Valley's 78 charter schools will educate approximately 37,000 students. Kimball said the university's approach to chartering has been based on the belief that a strong partnership between the university and the schools will result in the best learning environment for students. The GVSU CSO professional education offerings are an outgrowth of that partnership.

School teams can take part in these workshops free of charge. All workshops will be made available in Grand Rapids and Detroit.

"We are seeing recommendations for more high-quality professional learning from Michigan's business leaders and K-12 advocates," Kimball said. "At Grand Valley, we're responding to that call in an innovative way — by offering tested, effective programming to schools and educators across the state."

Kimball said the change demonstrates how the university is thinking differently about the ways it can impact public education.

"When we offer free programming, we offer choices. Schools can take advantage of this high-quality programming and use existing funds for other essential purposes," Kimball said.

The Grand Valley Charter Schools Office has ramped up its support for educators over the past decade. During the 2017-2018 school year alone, the Grand Valley CSO provided approximately 6,300 hours of free professional education to charter school teams.

While new professional education workshops are being added all the time, past session topics have included:

- NWEA™
- Technology Tools and Tricks

- Synthetic Phonics
- Google Suite
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Reading and Math RTI
- Coding in the Classroom
- Science and STEAM
- Culture and Climate
- Improving Student Writing

In addition to these public offerings, teachers at schools chartered by GVSU will also have access to enhanced professional education opportunities, including GVSU-only cohort programs and tuition support for master's degrees offered by the GVSU College of Education.

Educators interested in learning more about GVSU's free professional education programs can visit www.gvsu.edu/cso/learn.

For Immediate Release

August 6, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OMT>

GVSU economist: Tariffs are beginning to hurt

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Tariffs have been threatened for many months, and now that they are actually being imposed, the West Michigan economy is beginning to feel the pinch, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of July.

After 18 months of solid growth, the survey's index of business improvement (new orders) is down sharply from June at -3, down from +33. The production index eased to +23 from a robust +39. The index of purchases tapered to +13 from +27, and the employment index eased to +21 from +30.

"Although our last report was quite strong, growth has slowed in almost every sector of the West Michigan economy," said Long. "Business planners hate uncertainty, and many firms appear to be putting expansion plans on hold until they can see a clearer picture of where the trade war is taking us and exactly how much it will cost."

Long said auto sales are continuing to soften, especially for local auto parts suppliers. He said local firms producing capital equipment are still benefitting from the recently passed tax advantages for new capital investments, but rising costs are a major concern. Many local industrial distributors reported flat business conditions for July, some of which may be seasonal.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

August 16, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos and b-roll of students moving in are available to use, <http://gvsu.edu/s/0Ne>

GVSU president, alumni to help thousands move to campus

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas and hundreds of alumni, students, faculty and staff members will help more than 6,000 students move to campus August 20-22.

President Haas and his wife, Marcia Haas, will serve ice cream to families and new students on Wednesday, August 22, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. by Kleiner Commons on the Allendale Campus.

August 27 marks the first day of the fall semester.

A variety of welcome events will take place on the Allendale Campus:

- August 24: President Thomas J. Haas will deliver his annual **Faculty/Staff Address** at 10 a.m. in Louis Armstrong Theatre.
- August 24: Faculty and staff members will welcome the newest class of students during **Convocation**, a celebration that marks the beginning of the academic year, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fieldhouse.
- August 24: A **dedication ceremony** for the Arend and Nancy Lubbers Student Services Center will take place at 2 p.m.
- August 26: Grand Valley's first annual [Live Eat RecFest](#) invites students to learn about all things Campus Recreation, Housing and Campus Dining from 2-6 p.m. at the Rec Center.
- September 4: Thousands of students will learn about the more than 400 student organizations at [Campus Life Night](#), a campus tradition that will take place in parking lot H from 6-8 p.m.

For Immediate Release

August 21, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Arend and Nancy Lubbers can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/ONy>

GVSU dedication planned for Lubbers Student Services Center

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Student Services Building on Grand Valley State University's Allendale Campus will be named for President Emeritus Arend D. "Don" Lubbers and Nancy Lubbers on August 24.

Don Lubbers served as Grand Valley's president for more than three decades with his wife, Nancy, at his side. The couple have continued to serve and impact students and the university through their counsel, actions and personal support.

A dedication ceremony for the Arend and Nancy Lubbers Student Services Center will take place Friday, August 24, at 2 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.

Event speakers include President Thomas J. Haas; Lynn Blue, vice president for Enrollment Development; Rachel Jenkin, Student Senate president; and Don and Nancy Lubbers.

Recently, the couple created the Don and Nancy Lubbers Opportunity Scholarship, which helps attract students with high academic achievement from working families who do not qualify for other government aid. The scholarship aims to widen the pathway to graduation without burdensome debt.

Don and Nancy came to West Michigan in 1969 when Don was elected Grand Valley's second president. Before coming to Grand Valley, he had already distinguished himself by becoming the nation's youngest college president at age 29, when he served as the president of Central College in Pella, Iowa. When he stepped down as president of Grand Valley in 2001, he had the longest tenure of any university president in the country at 32 years.

During the couple's tenure at Grand Valley, the university experienced tremendous growth. They led the way for the creation of the Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus, the Meijer Holland Campus, the Traverse City Regional Center, the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon and the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Medical Mile in downtown Grand Rapids.

The pair was instrumental in initiating and growing Grand Valley's nationally recognized study abroad program and the university's expansive art collection, as well as academic programs such as engineering, nursing, health professions and business.

The Lubbers Student Services Center houses several departments including Admissions, Financial Aid, Dean of Students Office, and Registrar's Office, as well as a newly added reception area called the Laker Experience Suite that will be used to meet with prospective students and their families.

For Immediate Release

Aug. 27, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Groundswell wins national innovative education award

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Groundswell, housed in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University, has been named a winner of the 2018 UL Innovative Education Award (ULIEA) and \$25,000.

The annual award is presented to five non-profits throughout the U.S. and Canada who advance E-STEM, sustainable communities and youth empowerment.

Groundswell is a coalition of community partners that creates opportunities for hands-on environmental learning for K-12 students in West Michigan.

The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) launched the UL Innovative Education Award in 2014 to invest in programs that demonstrate effective educational benefits and community engagement in linking environmental focus to STEM education.

This year, applicants from 33 states and three Canadian provinces applied for the award.

"This really celebrates all the amazing work of Groundswell teachers, students, and community partners," said Joanna Allerhand, assistant director of the Center for Educational Partnerships in the College of Education. "We look forward to using this award to further support student-led environmental stewardship in West Michigan."

Applicants must either use environmental education to address STEM or use STEM to address environmental challenges. The award recognizes and supports innovative programs that already make positive impacts on their communities.

Financial support for Groundswell comes from Grand Valley's College of Education, the Wege Foundation, Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, and Baldwin Foundation.

For Immediate Release

August 23, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU named a top college by Forbes

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named one of America's Top Colleges for 2018 by Forbes.

Rankings focused on the direct benefits schools provide their graduates. Forbes considered debt after graduation, retention and graduation rates, alumni salaries, and signs of individual success including academic and career accolades.

For more information, visit forbes.com/top-colleges.

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts more than 24,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 89 undergraduate and 40 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For immediate release

August 31, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Big Data events to focus on FOIAs, health care, climate change and more

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The benefits of data analysis in areas such as journalism, climate change, health care and even analyzing ancient Greek texts, will be examined during multiple Big Data Month events at Grand Valley State University throughout September.

Below is the full schedule of Big Data Month events. Excluding the Big Data Ignite Conference, all events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/bigdata.

Open Data Empowering Community: Equity, Health, and Civic Initiatives

September 6, from 6-7:30 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

During this presentation, the City of Grand Rapids Digital Team will describe how they use real-time data to inform their decisions and set key metrics to determine if programs and services are regularly meeting objectives. The team will also explain how they analyze data to gain insights and drive actions that help improve outcomes in the Grand Rapids community. Grand Rapids Digital Team members presenting include Alex Melton, Jon Oeverman, Zac Thiel, and Hannah Walters. This event is sponsored by Grand Valley's Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

Quantifying Variability in Environmental Systems to Improve Management, Planning, and Policy Development

September 13, from noon-1 p.m.

Kindschi Hall of Science, room 4402, Allendale Campus

Drew Gronewold, hydrologist and physical scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, will discuss innovative approaches to quantifying uncertainties in environmental systems using probability theory and Bayesian inference. This event is sponsored by the Biology Department.

Models and Data for Studying Water Quality and Climate Change

September 13, from 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Kirkhof Center, room 2250, Allendale Campus

During Gronewold's second presentation on September 13, he will describe recent research on combining models and data to help improve understanding of changes in hydrologic systems over seasons and times, with a focus on the impact on water quality and climate change. This event is sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

Big Data Ignite Conference

September 19-21

DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

Grand Valley is a sponsor of this year's annual Big Data Ignite conference, which will highlight examples of symbiotic intelligence through automation. Conference participants will explore emerging trends in data science, data analytics, cloud computing and data management in industries ranging from health

care and manufacturing, to nonprofits and retail. For more information about the conference, visit the [Big Data Ignite website](#).

Life at the Intersection of Biology, Statistics, Mathematics, and Computer Science

September 26, from 1-2 p.m.

Mackinac Hall, room B-2110, Allendale Campus

During this presentation, Mary Winn, program evaluation and coordination manager for Core Technologies and Services at Van Andel Institute, will discuss how mathematicians, statisticians and computer scientists collaborate with biologists to uncover the complexities of life through data. This seminar is sponsored by the Mathematics Department.

FOIA-Fest

September 27, from 6-9 p.m.

Kirkhof Center, room 2270, Allendale Campus

Michael Morisy, co-founder of MuckRock, a non-governmental organization dedicated to freedom of information issues, will kick off FOIA-Fest with a keynote address about a national overview of the freedom of information landscape. He will explain the process and mechanics of writing a FOIA request. Anne Jbara, assistant general counsel and Freedom of Information Act coordinator at Grand Valley, and Patrick Beatty, staff attorney in the City of Grand Rapids City Attorney's Office, will explain how to file an effective FOIA request. Local journalists will also be on-hand to describe their experiences using FOIA requests in their reporting. FOIA-Fest will conclude with a hands-on session during which Grand Valley faculty, members of the Michigan Freedom of Information Coalition and the presenters will help attendees write and file their own FOIA requests. This event is sponsored by the School of Communications.

Bodies of Work: Digital Corpora for Teaching and Research

September 28, from 3-4 p.m.

Lake Ontario Hall, room 179, Allendale Campus

Following his work during the 2018 NEH Institute for Advanced Technology in Digital Humanities, Peter Anderson, professor of classics, will discuss his current project on early modern Latin translations of ancient Greek texts. When Greek texts were rediscovered and began to be published in volume during the 15th-17th centuries, they were often printed with a Latin translation, which was usually the point of access for most readers. Thousands of pages of these translations are increasingly available as digital images. Anderson will explore the potential and challenges of "translating" these image resources into useable bodies of textual data for his research project. More broadly, Anderson will discuss opportunities for teaching, and faculty and student research collaborations, that can occur through creating sustainable digital humanities resources. This event is sponsored by the Classics Department.

For Immediate Release

August 30, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, twilleyl@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2221

GVSU again named top performer by national sustainability group

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has again been named a top performer in the country by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), achieving high-ranking spots in the categories of waste minimization, and well-being and work.

The university is included in AASHE's 2018 Sustainable Campus Index, a publication that highlights the performance of colleges and universities in 17 impact areas. Nationally, Grand Valley ranks fourth for waste minimization and 10th for well-being and work for master's level universities.

"The progress along the Grand Valley sustainability journey is attributed to the hard work and efforts of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Council, which helps integrate sustainability on campus and in the community," said Norman Christopher, director of the Office of Sustainability Practices. "Health and wellness and waste minimization are several of those key focus areas where continual improvements can be seen year after year."

The rankings are based on data from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). The assessment gauges the progress of colleges and universities toward sustainability in all sectors, including education and research, operations, planning and administration. Grand Valley became the first Michigan university to receive gold status in 2013 and has maintained its gold status ever since.

Yumi Jakobcic, campus sustainability coordinator, credits the recognition to numerous waste-minimizing efforts on campus, including the university's Surplus Store, Facilities Services office, and Green Team, a student organization that performs trash audits and educates the campus community about proper waste disposal.

Grand Valley is a member of the national initiative Partnership for a Healthier America and is designated as a Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists. The university's Human Resources and Campus Recreation offices host wellness workshops and events, including a Farmers Market, to encourage healthy lifestyles for the Grand Valley community.

View the university's STARS report at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0sR> and the 2018 Sustainable Campus Index [here](#).

This is the latest recognition Grand Valley has received for its sustainability efforts. In August, the Sierra Club named Grand Valley one of the country's greenest universities. In April, Grand Valley was named among the top 10 universities in country in the recycling category of Recyclemania; more than one million pounds were recycled during the two-month competition. In September, Grand Valley was named one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges by Princeton Review.

For more information, contact the Office of Sustainability Practices at www.gvsu.edu/sustainability.

For Immediate Release

August 29, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Hauenstein Center to host eight events during fall speaker series

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Speakers hosted by Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will generate meaningful discussions about leadership and the search for common ground at a deep level, without the heated political rhetoric of the day.

The Hauenstein Center will feature eight speakers on topics ranging from contemporary politics to history to public health, featuring authors, policy experts, journalists and historians to explain many facets of public leadership and political difference.

The events are a cross-section of the Hauenstein Center's two main speaker series: Wheelhouse Talks and the Common Ground Initiative. Wheelhouse Talk speakers will focus on leadership experiences while Common Ground Initiative speakers will cover history and the shifting terrain of American civic life today.

The series kicks off with Debra Furr-Holden, Director of the Michigan State University Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions, who works on structural and policy interventions to improve public health for the city's residents following the Flint water crisis.

Other speakers will include noted West Michigan historians Hank Meijer and Richard Norton Smith, who will discuss the enduring significance of the GOP Mackinac Conference 75 years ago; Dean of Yale Law School Heather K. Gerken, who will discuss how, in a polarized political environment, members of the left and right can use federalism to address their differences productively; and George H. Nash, a presidential biographer and historian who will address "American Conservatism and Populism in the Age of Trump."

The full fall schedule is as follows. Event descriptions and free registration are available at www.gvsu.edu/hc/events

Debra Furr-Holden: Leading for Public Health in Flint

A Wheelhouse Talk event

Friday, August 31, 4 p.m.

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Hank Meijer and Richard Norton Smith: The Mackinac Conference at 75

A Common Ground Initiative event

Friday, September 7, 7 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center, Room 215, 301 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Heather K. Gerken: Federalism in the 21st Century

A Common Ground Initiative event

Tuesday, September 18, 7 p.m.

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

William Deresiewicz: What is Art in the 21st Century?

Partnership with Grand Valley's Fall Arts Celebration

Monday, October 1, 7:30 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center, Room 215, 301 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Joe Jones: Empowering Grand Rapids

A Wheelhouse Talks event

Friday, October 5, 4 p.m.

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

George H. Nash: American Conservatism and Populism in the Age of Trump

A Common Ground Initiative event

Tuesday, October 16, 7 p.m.

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Kathy Crosby: Leading to Build Goodwill

A Wheelhouse Talks event

Friday, November 30, 4 p.m.

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Gleaves Whitney: Seeking Common Ground: A Dumb Idea — or the Best Hope for America?

A Common Ground Initiative event

Wednesday, December 5, 7 p.m.

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

All events are free and open to the public, but registration for each is requested at gvsu.edu/hc/events.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/hc

For immediate release

September 10, 2017

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Fall Arts Celebration images are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU free concert to take audience on musical tour of Italy

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Inspired by numerous enjoyable escapes from harsh Russian winters, composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's love of Italy is reflected in his "String Sextet in D Minor, Op. 70 'Souvenir de Florence.'"

This musical tour of Italy will be performed by the internationally acclaimed Tesla Quartet and Grand Valley State University music faculty members during this year's Fall Arts Celebration.

"An Italian Journey: Tesla Quartet performs Tchaikovsky's 'Souvenir de Florence'" will take place September 17, at 7:30 p.m., in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus.

The Tesla Quartet will open the program with "Quartet in B minor, Op. 33, No. 1" by Franz Joseph Haydn, and then be joined by Paul Swantek, affiliate professor of viola, and Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello and Early Music Ensemble director, to perform "Souvenir de Florence."

Best known as a master composer of symphonies and ballets, Tchaikovsky crafted this work through a rich blend of well-known Italian street songs and melodies.

"The music of Haydn is timeless and the music of Tchaikovsky opens us up to the romantic century which defined his compositions," said Danny Phipps, chair of Grand Valley's Music, Theatre, and Dance Department. "Having both of these masterpieces performed with a new and fresh perspective and vision will be an extraordinary treat."

Formed at The Julliard School in 2008, members of the Tesla String Quartet include Ross Snyder (violin), Michelle Lie (violin), Edwin Kaplan (viola) and Serafim Smigelskiy (cello). The quartet regularly performs across North America and internationally, with recent appearances in Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, South Korea and the United Kingdom.

"What I think will stand out to our audiences is how much they love what they do," said Phipps. "Their playing is virtuosic and brilliant, and they are very personable. All of this is apparent when they perform, adding to the audience's enjoyment."

The quartet has won numerous awards and prizes at international competitions, including the 2017 John Lad Prize; the Gold Medal at the 2012 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition; and Second Prize, Haydn Prize, and Canadian Commission Prize at the 12th Banff International String Quartet Competition.

The quartet's first album, "Haydn, Ravel, Stravinsky," debuted on September 7.

Community involvement and outreach are integral aspects of the quartet's mission as they perform inspiring music at children's hospitals, soup kitchens, libraries, retirement communities, schools and more.

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts. All events are free and open to the public.

For immediate release

September 10, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU named Best in Region, Best Value, Most Innovative by U.S. News

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has once again been named a top university in the Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In the "2019 Best Colleges rankings" Grand Valley ranked 3rd for "Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest" and 29th for "Best Regional Universities in the Midwest."

Grand Valley is also ranked among Midwest universities for "Best Value" (14th) and "Most Innovative" (9th).

Grand Valley rose to 45th (from 57th) for "Best in Undergraduate Engineering" programs and the Seidman College of Business is ranked among the "Best Undergraduate Business" programs.

Grand Valley is also listed among universities with low student debt load at graduation.

The rankings are based on several key measures of quality including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving. Data was collected from each institution that included several indicators of academic excellence.

For more information on the rankings, visit www.usnews.com/education.

For more information on how Grand Valley continues to excel in the areas of graduation and retention rates, alumni working in Michigan, and keeping down the cost of a college degree, view Grand Valley's accountability report at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts more than 24,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 89 undergraduate and 41 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For Immediate Release

September 10, 2018

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU enrollment shows increase in first-year students, diversity

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University welcomed one of its largest first-year classes in its history. The university has enrolled more than 4,000 first-year students for the seventh year in a row, and they are coming in with stellar academic records and taking more classes. This is one of the highest freshman enrollments in Michigan, which is seeing a decline in the number of high school graduates.

Total enrollment at the university is 24,677, with a first-year class of 4,369, which is an increase of more than 4 percent (4.4). There is a 6 percent increase in the number of new students of color (678 to 719), and the total percentage of racial and ethnic minority students is up slightly at 17.4 percent compared to 17.3 percent last year. The number of new students, undergraduate and graduate, coming from out of state is up 9.5 percent (610 compared to 557).

These numbers come on the heels of Grand Valley awarding the most degrees in its history during the 2017-2018 academic year (5,730).

"We continue to attract top students who will succeed and graduate," said President Thomas J. Haas. "Students are seeing what a great value a Grand Valley degree is, both in terms of affordability and the options they have after graduation. They come and they stay with their programs because of faculty and staff members who are dedicated to student success. Even with the demographic challenges in the state, Grand Valley's enrollment is strong and ensures a stable future for the university and the communities and employers who depend on our graduates."

University data shows the second-highest retention rate in its history for first-year students at 84.5 percent. Grand Valley is in the top three for Michigan's public universities for retaining students. The average course load undergraduates are taking has also increased, meaning the time to a degree is shortened. The university motivates students to finish in four years by awarding the \$1,000 Grand Finish scholarship to students entering their fourth year with at least 90 credits. The university boosted financial aid for students by \$5.1 million in July to give more scholarships and grants to students.

"We were able to award the most financial aid in our history this fall," said Lynn Blue, vice president for Enrollment Development. "President Haas and his administration, along with the Board of Trustees, are committed to keeping a Grand Valley degree within financial reach. Scholarships allow us to attract strong students who need financial assistance. We have great partnerships that result in programs like the Thompson Working Family Scholarship which allow a smoother pathway to a degree. We are excited about the students who are choosing to study with us and thrilled we can offer financial help along the way."

This fall, 200 more students received a Thompson Scholarship, which awards \$5,000 per year for four years. Grand Valley currently has 325 Thompson Scholars.

Students have enrolled from all across Michigan, with 1,783 coming from other states, and 396 coming from other countries.

Of recent Grand Valley graduates, 93 percent are employed or pursuing advanced degrees, and of those working, 86 percent are in Michigan. The university has been chosen as a "Best Value" and "Best Public Regional University" by U.S. News and World Report. Princeton Review named Grand Valley among the "Best in the Midwest," and for more than two decades, Grand Valley has been named one of "America's 100 Best College Buys" by Institutional Research and Evaluation.

For more details on Grand Valley's performance, visit www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

For Immediate Release

September 7, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2222, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

Hundreds to attend FIRST Tech Challenge kick-off at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Hundreds of young technology enthusiasts will gather at Grand Valley State University September 8 to celebrate the beginning of the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Tech Challenge season.

More than 400 area middle school students will gather on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus to learn about this year's spaced-themed challenge and game, Rover Ruckus.

FIRST — a national program founded in 1989 — challenges teams of students to work together to design, build, program and test robots to play a floor game. Teams are guided by coaches and mentors while developing STEM skills and practicing engineering principles. The kick-off event at Grand Valley is one of 13 events in Michigan taking place on Saturday.

FIRST Tech Challenge Kick-off

Saturday, September 8

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Eberhard Center and Keller Engineering Lab building, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

At noon, the challenge will be revealed in the Eberhard Center, room 215. After the reveal, students will head to the Keller Engineering Laboratories building see a replica of the game arena and network with other teams. In the morning and afternoon, students will participate in several workshops to discuss planning and strategy for this year's competition.

Sara Maas, outreach coordinator for Grand Valley's Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said the event is an opportunity for students to experience what it's like on a college campus.

"For some, it may be their first time on a college campus, and for others, it allows them to see and work in a real-life engineering space," she said.

The West Michigan teams will compete in regional tournaments in November and December to advance to the national championship in Detroit in April.

For more information, contact Sara Maas at (616) 331-6025 or maassa@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

September 6, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Exhibition photos and B-ROLL are available [via Dropbox](#).

The mysteries of Mars to be explored during GVSU art exhibit

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Throughout the years, Mars has been depicted in multiple forms as societies around the world have gazed at the Red Planet.

During this year's Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley State University, the "Mars: Astronomy and Culture" exhibit will bring together 140 photographs, drawings, movie posters, book covers and video projections spotlighting Mars. The exhibit will also include a showcase of Martian-themed toys and collectibles from a private collection based in Chicago.

A special exhibition reception will take place September 13 from 5-7 p.m. in the Art Gallery (room 1121), located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus. The exhibit's time at Grand Valley will conclude on October 31 with a Martian-themed Halloween event where guests are encouraged to dress as their favorite Martian.

During the reception, guests will be able to enjoy a virtual reality simulator for an immersive experience on the surface of Mars. The "Mars 2030" experience was produced by Fusion Media Group in partnership with NASA and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's AeroAstro Lab. "Mars 2030" allows users to wander around 15 square miles of the Red Planet's landscape while planting a flag on the surface, picking up rocks, driving a rover and visiting a habitat.

Joel Zwart, Art Gallery curator of exhibitions, said the exhibit is the perfect blend of astronomy and popular culture.

"A visitor can learn about the geographic features of Mars and history of its exploration while at the same time discover how Martians have become such a huge part of science fiction, literature, film and culture," he explained. "Where else can you engage with beautiful panoramas of the Martian landscape, 'War of the Worlds' memorabilia, a historic photo of the first landing on Mars, an alien drinking cup, an image of the largest known volcano in the solar system and a Mars VR experience?"

Portions of the exhibition will be hosted at both the Center Art Gallery at Calvin College and the Holland Museum. The exhibit will be on display at Calvin College through October 20, and the Holland Museum September 20-December 29.

This exhibition was curated by the Pasadena Arts Council for the Williamson Gallery, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California. It is a project of the Pasadena Arts Council's EMERGE Fiscal Sponsorship Program.

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts. All events are free and open to the public.

Multiple free events will occur in the Art Gallery in conjunction with this Fall Arts Celebration exhibit.

Curator Talk and Reception

September 13, at 2 p.m.

Visiting art and astronomy curator Jay Belloli will talk about how the "Mars: Astronomy and Culture" exhibit was created to foster an understanding of Mars' impact in societies around the world.

"The War that Never Was: The 1938 Radio Broadcast of 'The War of the Worlds'"

October 17, at 1 p.m.

This presentation will explore the impact of H.G. Wells' science fiction classic within the historical context of the infamous radio adaptation and how it continues to be popularized in film, television and music.

"Confronting the Martian: Humanity's Changing Concepts about Life on the Red Planet"

October 18, at 1 p.m.

Deana Weibel, professor of anthropology and religious studies at Grand Valley, will take an anthropological look at humanity's fascination with life on Mars, from ancient civilizations to popular culture, and explore what this reveals about societies around the world.

For more information about exhibition-related events, visit the [Art Gallery website](#).

For Immediate Release

September 4, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU to partner with Ottawa County on groundwater management plan

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute will partner with Ottawa County's planning department and other groups to implement a new proactive groundwater management plan for the county, which includes Grand Valley's Allendale Campus.

The new county groundwater management plan will address a number of groundwater management problems that are impacting communities in central Ottawa County. Alan Steinman, the Allen and Helen Hunting Director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, will serve on an executive committee that oversees the management plan.

With 24 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and the Grand River crossing through it, Ottawa County is not a place where groundwater issues would generally be expected, but unique geology in the area is affecting supplies and conditions of groundwater. Water that is located underground, which is used by thousands of residents as their primary source of drinking water, as well as crop irrigation water, is at risk.

A recent comprehensive study of the county's groundwater system showed that water levels in the deep bedrock aquifer under the county are declining and chloride concentrations are increasing. The study's findings also confirm that water conservation and management is critically important, even in an area with abundant surface water.

The groundwater study revealed that several areas in central Ottawa County are seeing significant declines in groundwater levels due to thick layers of clay that prevent water from re-entering the bedrock aquifer locally. As groundwater is pumped from the aquifer, the system is not able to recharge as fast as it is being used. That also impacts water quality, as naturally occurring salt in the bedrock is mixing with the groundwater at an increasing rate, resulting in higher chloride concentrations in the water. That can result in corroded pipes and damage to crops, along with exacerbating health concerns among people with high blood pressure.

Historical data shows some areas of the county have seen a drop in the aquifer level of as much as 40 feet over the past 50 years. Estimates indicate that if water use continues on the same path without intervention, areas could see further declines of as much as 10-15 feet in the next 20 years. This decline could render wells unusable because of low water levels or water undrinkable because of high chloride concentrations.

"Groundwater is a very underappreciated resource in Michigan. Unless we have a crisis such as PFAS contamination or lawsuits such as Nestle Ice Mountain, it is out of sight and out of mind. However, conditions in Ottawa County, where groundwater levels have dropped 40 feet over the past 50 years in locations such as Allendale Township, are vivid reminders that we must use this precious resource sustainably," Steinman said. "Ottawa County has addressed this crisis in a well-thought-out and carefully planned manner, where the appropriate scientific studies were first conducted, and are now being used to inform policies that will help maintain the region's quality of life into the future."

The county plans to promote and reinforce the need for all residents and businesses to practice water conservation. Partners in the county groundwater management plan include the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department, the Michigan Geological Survey, Michigan Groundwater Association, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, the Ottawa County Road Commission Public Utilities Department, as well as many other scientists, experts, and local decision makers.

To learn more about the Annis Water Resources Institute, visit www.gvsu.edu/wri.

To learn more about the county groundwater management plan, visit www.miOttawa.org/groundwater

For immediate release

September 4, 2017

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of musicians are available [via Dropbox](#).

Grand Rapids Symphony, international musicians to perform during GVSU Arts at Noon concert series

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University will kick off a new season this fall featuring multiple free performances by renowned musicians from around the world.

The series will feature seven concerts this fall, beginning September 12 with the Mirror Visions Ensemble, followed by seven winter performances beginning in January.

All Arts at Noon concerts will take place on Wednesdays in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Each concert is free and open to the public.

Below is a full schedule of fall Arts at Noon concerts:

September 12 – Mirror Visions Ensemble

The Mirror Visions Ensemble was founded more than 25 years ago from a desire to explore the relationship between music and text. The group's passion for storytelling has produced thematic concerts based on scholarly research and humor. Now in its 26th season, Mirror Visions Ensemble is encouraging new composers by providing a platform for their works to be showcased through the commissioning and performance of more than 85 pieces by 28 composers, including Pulitzer Prize recipient Yehudi Wyner. Members of Mirror Visions Ensemble include Justine Aronson, Mireille Asselin, Jesse Blumberg, Mischa Bouvier, Gary Chapman, Alan Darling, Margaret Kampmeier, Abigail Levis, Scott Murphree and Grant Wenaus.

September 26 – Die Tanzgeiger

For more than three decades, Die Tanzgeiger has performed through intimate ties to their roots and contemporary music. The ensemble has performed at festivals, celebrations, dances and conferences all over the globe, including in Austria and Europe. Members of Die Tanzgeiger include Rudi Pietsch, Theresa Aigner, Michi Gmasz, Marie-Theres Stickler, Sebastian Rastl, Claus Huber and Dieter Schickbichler.

October 3 – REBEL Ensemble for Baroque Music

REBEL specializes in 17th and 18th century repertoire performed on period instruments. The ensemble was formed in The Netherlands in 1991 and took first prize in the Van Wassenaer International Competition in Utrecht that same year. Since then the ensemble has developed an acclaimed international reputation while performing for diverse audiences. REBEL is regularly featured on the nationally syndicated shows "Performance Today" and "Sunday Baroque," and has appeared several times on MPR's "St. Paul Sunday." REBEL is also the only period instrument ensemble to receive an artists' residency at National Public Radio.

October 10 – Donald Sinta Quartet

Winner of a prestigious gold medal in the Senior Wind Division of the 2018 Fischhoff Competition, the Donald Sinta Quartet strives to elevate the standard of the classical saxophone quartet. The quartet has won multiple notable awards in the past, including first place at the 2013 Concert Artists Guild Competition, first prize at the 2017 M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition, the Alice Coleman Grand Prize at the 2013 Coleman Chamber Music Competition and first prize in the 2012 North American Saxophone Alliance Quartet. The quartet will release its first CD, "Collider," in 2018. Members of the Donald Sinta Quartet include, Dan Graser, associate professor of saxophone at Grand Valley, Joe Girard (tenor saxophone), Zach Stern (alto saxophone) and Danny Hawthorne-Foss (baritone saxophone).

October 31 - Foltýn & Foltýnová

Dušan Foltýn studied the oboe at the Ostrava Conservatoire and graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. He is the laureate of many national and international competitions, and currently performs as the principal oboist of the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra Ostrava. He is also the head of the Department of Wind Instruments at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Ostrava, and a member of the wind quintet Musica.

Radana Foltýnová graduated from the Janáček Conservatoire in Ostrava and the University of Ostrava where she honed her craft as a pianist. Currently, she is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts at University of Ostrava. Foltýnová is a coveted chamber musician and has collaborated with both wind and string soloists. She has appeared as a soloist with leading Czech orchestras, gives solo and chamber recitals in the Czech Republic and abroad (Austria, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden), and records for Czech radio and television.

November 7 – Grand Rapids Symphony

Thirty members of the Grand Rapids Symphony will return to Grand Valley for their annual Arts at Noon appearance to perform Mozart's "Symphony No. 39" and Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll." Since 1930, the Grand Rapids Symphony has been committed to serving the West Michigan community through performances, educational outreach and collaborations with partners, including Grand Valley, the Grand Rapids Ballet and Opera Grand Rapids. The symphony has performed at Carnegie Hall twice, first in 2005 and again in April of this year alongside the Grand Rapids Chorus and led by Grand Rapids Symphony music director Marcelo Lehninger.

November 28 – GVSU Brass Quintet Holiday Celebration

The annual holiday concert featuring the GVSU Brass Quintet is an Arts at Noon tradition. The ensemble is comprised of Grand Valley music faculty members, including Alex Wilson (trumpet), Richard Britsch (horn), Mark Williams (trombone), Paul Carlson (tuba) and visiting performer Paul Hardaker (trumpet). Each year, the quintet also performs multiple outreach concerts, and facilitates master classes and coaching sessions at high schools throughout Michigan.

For more information about the individual performances, visit the [Arts at Noon website](#).

For immediate release

September 4, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Health care access subject of medical colloquy at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's annual DeVos Medical Colloquy will focus on "The Ethics of Health Care Access" as presented by a respected philosopher and a well-known journalist-documentary filmmaker.

Larry S. Temkin, distinguished professor of philosophy at Rutgers University, and Thomas R. (TR) Reid, author and filmmaker, will highlight the event set for Monday, September 17, from 6-8 p.m. in the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Health, the event is free and open to the public; register online at gvsu.edu/colloquy. The colloquy will be webcast live, participants who register will receive a link several days in advance of the event.

Continuing education credits will be offered for nursing and medical education.

Temkin is the author of *Rethinking the Good: Moral Ideals and the Nature of Practical Reasoning* (2012); his 1993 work, *Inequality*, has been touted as an important contribution to analytical political philosophy. Temkin's individualistic approach to inequality has been adopted by the World Health Organization and the Gates Foundation in their measurements of the global burden of disease.

Reid is among the nation's best-known reporters and a contributor to the Washington Post and NPR. He is the author of many books including *The Healing of America*, a national best-seller that spurred two PBS "Frontline" documentaries. Reid's recent PBS documentary, "U.S. Health Care: The Good News," is airing on affiliate stations across the country.

Carl E. Ver Beek, labor and employment attorney for Varnum Law, will serve as moderator. VerBeek has served as chairs for the boards of Holland Home, Health Net of West Michigan, Jellema House and Bethany Christian Services.

The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy is held twice per year. Grand Valley began hosting this series in 2015, after receiving a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.

For Immediate Release

September 10, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE

GVSU students to remember 9/11 with flag display

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A group of Grand Valley State University students is organizing a daylong memorial on the 17th anniversary of 9/11.

Starting at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11, students will place 2,977 mini American flags — one for each victim who died in the attacks — in the ground on the lawn on the east side of the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus, and by the Beckering Family Carillon Tower at the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The memorial is organized by several student organizations, including Grand Valley's Student Senate, College Republicans and College Democrats.

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221,
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Hauenstein Center to host dean of Yale Law School

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — As the United States approaches the 2018 midterm elections and the Senate considers Brett Kavanaugh for the U.S. Supreme Court, Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host one of the nation's foremost experts on constitutional law and election law, Heather Gerken, dean of Yale Law School.

Gerken's work focuses on federalism, dissent and diversity, and she will share her thoughts on achieving common ground in the intensely polarized political climate of 2018.

Hailed as an "intellectual guru" by the *New York Times*, Gerken's scholarship and work has been featured in *The Atlantic*, the *Boston Globe*, *NPR*, and *Time*. In 2017, she was named to The Politico 50, a list of idea makers in American politics, and her work on election reform has influenced policy decisions at a national level.

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies Constitution Day event

Heather Gerken: Federalism in the 21st Century

7 p.m., Tuesday, September 18

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is requested at gvsu.edu/hc/events

Gerken graduated from Princeton in 1991 and earned a J.D. from Michigan Law School in 1994. After law school, she clerked for Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the 9th Circuit and Justice David Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court, and served as an appellate lawyer in Washington, D.C., before joining the faculty of the Harvard Law School in 2000. Gerken came to Yale in 2006 and was named the inaugural J. Skelly Wright Professor of Law in 2008. She became dean of Yale Law School in 2017.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/hc.

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU researchers investigate biological, chemical effects of microplastics

MUSKEGON, Mich. — An international group of scientists led by a pair of Grand Valley researchers is exploring the biological and chemical impact of microplastics in a West Michigan lake.

Alan Steinman, the Allen and Helen Hunting director of Grand Valley's Annis Water Resources Institute, is leading an exploratory research study to find out what kinds of toxic chemicals and bacteria are attracted to tiny pieces of plastic that are increasingly being found in lakes and oceans worldwide.

"When a piece of microplastic winds up in the water, it generates a biofilm, a consortium of different organisms that tends to form on almost any surface that spends time in the water. Chemicals, which we refer to as persistent organic pollutants or POPs, can be either taken up by the microorganisms in the biofilm or attach to the biofilm layer. As the biofilm is eaten by other organisms, such as fish, they can work their way up the food web. We're doing genomic and chemical analyses on what is associated with three different types of plastics that are often found in microplastic waste to see what kinds of materials they are absorbing and attracting," Steinman said.

Plastics are becoming more controversial in communities across the U.S. as a handful of municipalities are taking small steps to ban certain plastic products from use, like shopping bags and straws, and as information about the global plastic problem in oceans becomes more widely known.

"Microplastics are a hot topic here in the Great Lakes and in our oceans, so we're gathering information from three different kinds of plastic that we're letting incubate underwater for periods of one month and three months at two different locations and two different depths in Muskegon Lake," Steinman said. "We hope to see what kinds of organic chemicals attach to these plastics because that can be a source of toxicity for fish and other aquatic organisms.

"We also want to know what kind of organisms colonize these tiny plastic spheres because that kind of information is simply not known at present. We're really going to see what's attached to plastics, as opposed to most studies that sample the water or sediment to see what plastics are present."

Charlyn Partridge, the molecular ecologist at the Annis Water Resources Institute will perform genomic analysis on the samples, while samples will be sent to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for chemical analysis. Other samples will be sent to researchers in the United Kingdom for additional analysis.

"This experiment will help tell us what kinds of plastics are more toxic than others, and where that toxicity is coming from. Right now, we know they are a problem, but we don't know the mechanisms by which they are a problem," Steinman said. "There are direct impacts from plastics where animals might ingest them and clog their internal systems, or there can be indirect impacts where they're taking up the plastics but the plastics have toxic chemicals attached to them, and it's the chemicals that are actually

impacting the animals. This will tell us how important those chemicals are that are attached to different kinds of plastics."

Steinman said this study is attempting to build a baseline of understanding of the problem rather than testing a specific hypothesis. The study is being funded by the Allen and Helen Hunting Innovation Fund.

"We're fortunate that we have the Allen and Helen Hunting Research and Innovation Fund to support this work because this kind of exploratory research is very difficult to get funded by traditional agencies," Steinman said. "We're trying to see what's out there and from that information, we can generate testable hypotheses. That will allow us to pursue funding from more traditional sources, such as the US EPA, MDEQ, and NSF."

Steinman is assisted in his research by Maggie Oudsema, research assistant in his lab at AWRI. Chemical analysis for the project is being completed by John Scott, senior analytical chemist at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For immediate release

September 12, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of authors are available [via Dropbox](#).

Acclaimed authors to discuss their craft during annual GVSU writers series

The Grand Valley Writers Series has a long history of enlisting distinguished and emerging writers to visit the campuses of Grand Valley State University to read from their work for the community, visit classes to interact with students and discuss their career paths.

This year's Writers Series will feature eight acclaimed authors, two of which are Grand Valley writing faculty members, during multiple events between September 17, 2018 and April 9, 2019.

Author Marian Crotty will kick off this year's Writers Series on September 17 when she discusses her craft of fiction writing. Crotty is the author of the short story collection *What Counts as Love*, which won the John Simmons Award for Short Fiction.

She has received fellowships from the Yaddo Corporation, The Camargo Foundation and the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creating Writing, and also received a Fulbright research grant to the United Arab Emirates. She currently serves as an assistant professor of writing at Loyola University Maryland and as an assistant editor for *The Common*.

Her fiction work has appeared in *Kenyon Review*, *Southern Review* and *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and her personal essays have appeared in various journals, including *Guernica*, *Gettysburg Review* and *New England Review*.

Below is the full schedule of this year's Writers Series events. For more information, the [Writers Series website](#), or contact Todd Kaneko, Writers Series coordinator and assistant professor of writing at kanekot@gvsu.edu.

Fiction Craft Talk and Reading with Marian Crotty

September 17, 2018

Fiction craft talk: 1:30-2:45 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270, Allendale Campus

Reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library Multi-Purpose Room, Allendale Campus

Fiction Reading and Q&A Session with Distinguished Visiting Alumna Lindsey Drager

October 4, 2018

Reading and book signing: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library Multi-Purpose Room

Q&A session: 4-5:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 0072

Nonfiction Craft Talk and Reading with Michele Morano

November 15, 2018

Craft talk: 4-5 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270

Reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 0072

Grand Valley Faculty Reading with Chris Haven and Gale Marie Thompson

February 5, 2019

Reading: 6-7:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library Multi-Purpose Room

Poetry Craft Talk and Reading with Kaveh Akbar and Paige Lewis

March 14, 2019

Craft talk: 6-7 p.m., DeVos Center, room 203E, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Reading and book signing: 7:30-8:30 p.m., DeVos Center University Club, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Translation Craft Talk and Reading with Arunava Sinha

April 9, 2019

Craft talk: 4-5 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270

Reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library Multi-Purpose Room

For immediate release

September 11, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo rendering of "Locked and Loaded" is [available via Dropbox](#).

ArtPrize artist and Army veteran to discuss her journey from soldier to artist during GVSU event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — After retiring from the United States Army in 2015 following 17 years of service, Kimberly Walker began searching for her purpose as an artist, which she eventually found in the form of sharing stories of sexual assault in the military through art.

During this year's 10th anniversary of ArtPrize, Walker's piece, "Locked and Loaded," will be the sole entry located at the Eberhard Center on Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The piece will consist of 46 military-issue duffle bags representing 46 cases of sexual assault in the military. Walker, an Ohio-based artist, said through her research, she discovered that none of the cases were disclosed to the general public.

Walker will discuss her ArtPrize entry, as well as her journey from soldier to artist, during a special presentation on September 20. "Finding Your Purpose With Art" will take place at 6 p.m. in room 716 in the Eberhard Center. A reception will precede remarks at 5:30 p.m. outside the Veterans Upward Bound office.

Following Walker's remarks, Tim Marroquin, director of [Veterans Upward Bound](#), and Krystal Diel, Victim Advocate in Grand Valley's [Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity](#), will discuss resources on campus available to veterans, current students, victims and survivors of sexual assault, and advocate community members.

"Locked and Loaded" was chosen by members of Grand Valley's Art Gallery staff during an ArtPrize Pitch Night in May. These events provide artists in five different cities an opportunity to present to judges an idea for a piece of artwork that would be on display at a high-profile venue in Grand Rapids during the competition. The selected artists each received a \$5,000 grant to bring their ideas to life.

ArtPrize takes place September 19-October 7.

For more information about this event, visit gvsu.edu/artgallery.

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host Climate Change Conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Two Dutch scholars will join local and state government officials at Grand Valley State University to discuss the types of threats and challenges climate change is causing for businesses.

"Preserving Ourselves: Local and International Perspectives on Climate Change Threats and Solutions" is sponsored by the Koeze Business Ethics Initiative in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business.

The event will be held October 10, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Seating is limited so an RSVP is required. To reserve a seat, email Robbi Osipoff at osipoffr@gvsu.edu.

The keynote luncheon speaker will be Mandy de Wilde, a researcher and author with the Environmental Policy Group at Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands. She will discuss how the Dutch are transitioning to a low-carbon, circular and sustainable society by emphasizing the role played by market-based solutions and social movements.

Other topics at the conference include:

- * Energy and Michigan's Future: Policies and Practices
- * Business: Progress and Profit in an Age of Climate Change
- * Moving Forward Together: What We Can All Do

Conference panelists include:

- * Norman J. Saari, Michigan Public Service Commission
- * Jeff Myrom, Consumers Energy
- * Margrethe K. Kearney, Environmental Law & Policy Center
- * Erik Petrovskis, Meijer, Inc.
- * Mary Ellen Mika, Steelcase
- * Steve Ramus, Perrigo
- * Steve Mulder, Climate Witness Project
- * Jan O'Connell, Sierra Club
- * Thomas Franssen, Leiden University, The Netherlands
- * Alison Sutter, City of Grand Rapids
- * Gillian Giem, U.S. Green Building Council - West Michigan Chapter

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/seidman/ethics or contact Michael DeWilde at the Koeze Business Ethics Initiative at (616) 331-3612.

For immediate release

September 20, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU event to focus on understanding the FOIA process

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Freedom of Information Act has been used as a way for the general public to encourage transparency from governments, corporations and organizations.

An upcoming event at Grand Valley State University will explore the mechanics of writing and submitting a FOIA request.

FOIA-Fest will take place September 27, from 6-9 p.m., in the Kirkhof Center, room 2270, on the Allendale Campus.

“This is a critical time for the international community, and people's ability to access public information about their countries is arguably more important than ever,” said Jeff Kelly Lowenstein, assistant professor of multimedia journalism and event coordinator. “People who attend FOIA-Fest will gain more information about their rights, specific information about how to use them, and a sense of the global community of people engaged in this important work.”

During the event, Michael Morisy, co-founder of MuckRock, will deliver a keynote address providing a national overview of the freedom of information landscape. He will also explain the process and mechanics of writing a FOIA request. MuckRock is a nonprofit news site that brings together journalists, researchers, activists and citizens to request, analyze and share government documents in an attempt to make politics more transparent.

Following Morisy's presentation, Anne Jbara, assistant general counsel and Freedom of Information Act coordinator at Grand Valley, and Patrick Beatty, staff attorney for the City of Grand Rapids, will explain how to file an effective FOIA request.

Local journalists, including Nick Manes, staff writer for *MiBiz*, will also be on-hand to describe their experiences using FOIA requests in their reporting.

FOIA-Fest will conclude with an interactive session during which Grand Valley faculty, members of the Michigan Freedom of Information Coalition, and the event's presenters will help attendees write and file their own FOIA requests.

This event is one of this year's Big Data Month events occurring at Grand Valley throughout the month of September. For more information, contact Lowenstein at kellyloj@gvsu.edu, or visit gvsu.edu/bigdata.

For immediate release

September 19, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Ed Tywoniak is [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU lecture will explore technology's impact on Generation Z

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Social media and other contemporary technologies have impacted societies around the world, most notably in the arenas of politics, religion, race relations and journalism. An upcoming presentation at Grand Valley State University will explore how the post-Millennial generation known as Generation Z is impacted by these technological changes.

Ed Tywoniak, professor of communication and media studies and director of the W.M. Keck Digital Studies Lab at Saint Mary's College of California, will present "Fighting the Politics of Illusions" during this year's James W. Carey Memorial Lecture.

The event will take place September 26 at 7 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium (room 122E), located inside the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Tywoniak claims that members of "Gen Z" are often described as "digital natives" — people who are technology savvy and "connected" from birth, and who often describe themselves as diverse, entrepreneurial, progressive and individualistic. But, Tywoniak argues that this generation is also described as having less religious identification, greater disappointment and dissatisfaction with government leaders, and more feelings of being overwhelmed by the demands and responsibilities placed on them by their families, peers, technology and society.

During his presentation, Tywoniak will provide an analysis of current political, social and technical trends that are shaping the political and cultural landscapes both domestically and abroad. He will also explore challenges facing Gen Z as they prepare to take over the task of providing stewardship for the planet over the next three decades.

For more information, contact Valerie Peterson, professor of communications studies, at (616) 331-2981 or petersov@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

September 19, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Registration open for GVSU interfaith leadership workshop

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area college students will convene at Grand Valley State University October 13 for the third annual Made in Michigan Interfaith Leadership Lab, a day dedicating to expanding leadership and interfaith dialogue skills.

Kevin McIntosh, coordinator of Campus Interfaith Resources, said about 40 student leaders from different faith backgrounds will explore religion and citizenship, storytelling and campus activism.

The Leadership Lab will run from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Registration is open, visit gvsu.edu/campusinterfaith for details. Cost to attend is \$15, there are scholarships available. Interfaith Youth Core, a nonprofit organization based in Chicago, provided grant money for the conference.

Questions can be directed to McIntosh at CIR@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

September 18, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host documentary, panel discussion about patient safety

-- Continuing education credits available for registered nurses

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Following heart disease and cancer, medical mistakes are the third leading cause of death in the U.S.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of the Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley State University, put it another way: the third leading cause of death in the U.S. is its own health care system.

To raise awareness of patient safety, particularly among emerging nursing and health professionals, KCON will host the first West Michigan screening of a new documentary, "To Err is Human," followed by panel discussions in two locations for specific populations on Tuesday, September 25, from 6:15-8:30 p.m. The events are free and open to the public.

•**KCON alumni and community members:** L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A reception will precede the event at 5:30 p.m. RSVP online at gvsu.edu/kcon/edevents. Continuing education credits are available to registered nurses.

Panelists at the community screening will be Bret Jackson, president of the Economic Alliance for Michigan; Julie Klausing, vice president of product, integration and operations for Great Lakes Health Connect; Thomas Peterson, vice president of quality and safety for Munson Healthcare; and Mary Kay VanDriel, president of Spectrum Health Big Rapids & Reed City hospitals.

•**Area students, faculty and staff members:** DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A reception will precede the event at 5:30 p.m. RSVP at gvsu.edu/kcon/edevents.

Student panelists will be represented by KCON, Grand Valley's College of Health Professions, and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

"To Err is Human" is produced by Tall Tale Productions and directed by Mike Eisenberg, son of the late Dr. John Eisenberg, who was a pioneer in patient safety. The documentary reports medical mistakes lead to as many as 440,000 preventable deaths every year, features interviews with a family who endured two deaths due to preventable errors, and highlights employees who are creating a new path to patient safety.

McCurren said the documentary is a follow-up to a 1999 report by the U.S. Institutes of Medicine, To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System, which detailed medical mistakes and made recommendations to build a culture of safety among health care workers that would decrease the number of errors made. She said progress has been made, but "there's a long way to go."

"By shedding light on the realities of our progress and the urgency for action, we hope professionals will set the tone for constant awareness and the significance of patient safety cultures," she said.

For immediate release

September 18, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Shakespeare Festival graphics and promotional photos for "King Lear" are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU Shakespeare Festival to celebrate 25th anniversary with multiple events

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival is the oldest and largest festival celebrating the Bard's life and works in Michigan. For the past 25 years, festival events have attracted thousands of people of all ages to Grand Valley State University to enjoy the legacy of Shakespeare.

The Grand Valley community will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the festival with "A Silver Coronation: The Grand Valley Shakespeare Effect" — a series of events taking place September 28-November 3.

Jim Bell, Shakespeare Festival managing director, said the goal of the festival is to involve both the Grand Valley and West Michigan communities, as well as communities around the world. Over the years, this has been accomplished through various events, including a mainstage production, performances abroad, a biannual Shakespeare conference, involvement by guest artists and alumni, and outreach performances at local schools by Bard to Go, Grand Valley's all-student touring Shakespeare company.

"Participating in the festival means the opportunity to enter the laboratory of live theater performance to experience the world's greatest storyteller and humanity's greatest spokesman in the arena where he is best understood," said Bell. "Times change, but thoughts about life still often involve those areas of life that Shakespeare's plays and characters contemplate, confront and challenge."

More than 30,000 middle and high school students have visited Grand Valley to experience the mainstage production since the festival's inception. This year, audiences of all ages will experience "King Lear" — a tale of a retiring king who determines through a series of tests of love how to divide his kingdom among his three daughters.

Special to the 25th anniversary of the festival will be the staged reading by festival alumni of a commissioned play by Grand Valley alumnus Scott Watson called "Defy the Stars."

Based on true events, the play follows two actors who are held at the Westerbork Transit Camp in 1942. The actors perform "Romeo and Juliet" to save themselves and others from deportation to Auschwitz.

Below is the full schedule of Shakespeare Festival events. All events are free and open to the public, except performances of "King Lear." Contact the Louis Armstrong Box Office at (616) 331-2300 for additional ticket information. For all event information, visit the [Shakespeare Festival website](#).

"King Lear"

September 28-October 7

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Biannual Performance and Pedagogy Conference — “My Crown is My Heart, Not on my Head”

September 27-September 29

Haas Center

*Keynote presentation (free and open to the public) by Michael LoMonico, Resident Shakespeare Scholar, will take place September 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center's Pere Marquette Room on the Allendale Campus.

“Defy the Stars”

October 3, 6, and 7

Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, Haas Center, Allendale Campus

Bard to Go: Twelfth Night

September 29 and October 7 during ArtPrize [as an official time-based entry](#) outside Eberhard Center, at noon and 1 p.m.

November 3, at 1 p.m., Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

For immediate release

September 17, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the 2017 ArtPrize opening ceremony are [available via Dropbox](#). Photo credit: GVSU University Communications/Kristina Bird.

ArtPrize 10 to kick off with GVSU marching band, dancers, president during opening ceremony

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The air in downtown Grand Rapids will be filled with the thunderous sounds of the Grand Valley State University Laker Marching Band and cheers for the GVSU Dance Company as the two ensembles help kick off the milestone 10th anniversary of ArtPrize.

The ArtPrize kickoff event will take place Wednesday, September 19, from 7-9 p.m. at Rosa Parks Circle, located in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids near the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

The Laker Marching Band will begin the festivities with a performance at the Eberhard Center on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus at 6:15 p.m. before marching in cadence across the Blue Pedestrian Bridge through downtown to Rosa Parks Circle.

The band and Dance Company will then perform a second time at 7 p.m. under the direction of President Thomas J. Haas, with Louie the Laker revving up the crowd.

Grand Valley has served as an official ArtPrize venue each year the 19-day event has taken place, and now showcases a single entry exclusively at the Eberhard Center. This year, that piece will be "Locked and Loaded" by Ohio-based artist and United States Army veteran Kimberly Walker.

The piece consists of 46 military-issue duffle bags representing 46 cases of sexual assault in the military. Walker said that through her research, she discovered that none of the cases were disclosed to the general public.

Also, more than 50 former ArtPrize entries now reside in Grand Valley's permanent art collection, which consists of more than 16,000 pieces of art. To explore all of the ArtPrize pieces in the collection, visit gvsu.edu/artgallery/ArtPrizeArt.

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

Registration unit to visit GVSU on National Voter Registration Day

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Students, faculty and staff members at Grand Valley State University can register to vote at the Secretary of State's Mobile Unit when it visits campus September 25 on National Voter Registration Day.

The unit will be set up from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cook Carillon Tower on the Allendale Campus. The midterm election in Michigan is November 6.

Other services that will be available at the unit include license, tabs and registration renewals and organ donor registry. The visit is part of Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's 2018 "ExpressSOS" Voter Registration Drive, which includes visits to universities, colleges and community centers to raise awareness and educate voters about what to expect on Election Day.

The event is part of Grand Valley's National Voter Registration Week, which includes events and activities that encourage and engage the campus community about the importance of voting. See a schedule of events at www.gvsu.edu/service/vote.

For immediate release

September 25, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: a photo of Spoelstra is available for download from this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OPA>

GVSU earns federal grant to implement program that will reach 15,000 Medicaid participants

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University nursing professor spearheaded a \$311,351 federal grant to facilitate statewide implementation of an intervention in a Medicaid program that helps vulnerable adults age-in-place rather than move into a nursing home.

Sandra Spoelstra, professor of nursing for GVSU's Kirkhof College of Nursing, said the three-year grant from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health will expand the current CAPABLE (Community Aging in Place, Advancing Better Living for Elders) program to 18 waiver sites throughout Michigan, reaching 15,000 Medicaid participants. CAPABLE had been in place in Grand Rapids, Detroit, Flint and Saginaw.

Under the grant, Spoelstra said more than 750 clinicians and 100 managers will be trained to provide CAPABLE for Medicaid participants enrolled in MI Choice, a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services program established in 1992. The program provides support for disabled adults by offering a menu of services, such as personal care, meals, emergency response systems, adult day care or medical supplies.

"What we're doing is evidence-based practice, providing a standard plan of care to clinicians that will be delivered in a person-centered way to support aging-in-place in the community to one of the most vulnerable underserved populations in the Medicaid program," Spoelstra said.

Spoelstra has co-led aging-in-place initiatives for nearly 20 years and collaborated with Sarah Szanton, from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, and Laura Gitlin, from Drexel University.

An online certification program will be offered beginning in January to clinicians under contract with the state who manage MI Choice. Sites will receive quality improvement bonuses dependent on the number of clinicians (nurses, social workers, occupational therapists) who complete the certification program.

Spoelstra said Medicaid participants who have utilized CAPABLE experienced improved function, less pain and fewer hospitalizations. This trend is expected to continue, as CAPABLE is used statewide, she said.

The grant will also provide funding for graduate and undergraduate research assistants to work on the project and learn more about becoming a research scientist.

For Immediate Release

September 25, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Missy Young can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OPH>

GVSU speaker to discuss artificial intelligence

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — An expert in technology trends and data strategies will be the featured speaker at the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture October 3, sponsored by the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Missy Young, chief information officer for Switch, Inc., will give a presentation, "Artificial Intelligence: Keeping the Human in Humanity."

The event takes place October 3, from 7:30-9 a.m., in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and the presentation begins at 8 a.m. The event is free, however, seating is limited. RSVP at gvsu.edu/seidman.

Switch is a global technology company based in Las Vegas that designs, constructs and operates data centers.

Since joining the company in 2005, Young has held roles with leadership responsibilities for all sales operations and solutions. Prior to becoming a partner at Switch, she was director of sales engineering and Voice over Internet Protocol services for Mpower Communications.

Young also served in senior sales engineering positions at ICG Communications, IntelNet Data Centers, and FirstWorld Communications. She is part of the Forbes Technology Council, an invite-only community for technology executives.

Young entered the industry in the dot-com days of the mid-90s as a network engineer through her Cisco, Microsoft and Novell certifications.

For more information, contact the Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100.

For immediate release

September 25, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of William Deresiewicz is [available via Dropbox](#).

Creative economy's impact on art to be explored during GVSU event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Art is no longer confined to art galleries and museums; It is now a part of the daily fabric of life. Individuals of all skill levels and in various industries can access tools and apps that allow them to draw, take pictures and capture movies, and share that content around the world as a means of communication or to make money.

Award-winning essayist, critic and best-selling author William Deresiewicz will address how the definition of an artist is changing with technology when he expands on his viral essay for *The Atlantic*, "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur," during an upcoming Fall Arts Celebration event at Grand Valley State University.

"What is Art in the 21st Century?" will take place on October 1 at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Eberhard Center, located on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The lecture will be followed by a reception and book signing.

"William is engaging in a current dialog regarding the role of education as our tools of communication and access to digital content continues to evolve," said Julie Goldstein, assistant professor of film and video production, and lecture coordinator. "His work challenges assumptions and focuses on the impact of the humanities on our humanity."

Deresiewicz will additionally dissect the idea that the current "creative economy" blurs the line between business and art, allowing anyone the opportunity to project their visions within a shared landscape and call themselves artists. With multiple ways to view and review art in digital spaces, such as on social media, Deresiewicz claims that group consensus and clicks have become the dominant gauge of influence and success.

"A competition for 'hits,' the value of art as a product, making a profit or communicating content is beginning to outweigh a critic's review of art for art's sake," said Goldstein. "Human expression is evolving from a philosophical reflection of the self to an extension of the self."

Deresiewicz is the author of *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The American Scholar*, and *The London Review of Books*.

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts. All Fall Arts Celebration events are free and open to the public.

For immediate release

September 26, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Health Forum event at GVSU will spotlight water quality

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Water safety will be the focus of the first Health Forum of West Michigan event of the academic year.

Sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Office of the Vice Provost for Health, Health Forum events are held the first Friday of each month and center on a health topic pertinent to the community.

"Water Quality and Safety" is set for Friday, October 5, from 8-9:30 a.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, 401 Fulton St. W. A light breakfast precedes the event at 7:30 a.m. It is free and open to the public, RSVP online at gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Speakers will address water quality in groundwater, the Great Lakes and area rivers. Panelists are Erik DeLong, deputy city manager for Grand Rapids; Liz Kirkwood, executive director of For Love of Water; Eric Oswald, Department of Environmental Quality drinking water and municipal assistance division; Rick Rediske, professor of water resources, Annis Water Resources Institute; and Teresa Seidel, Department of Environmental Quality water resources division. Adam London, administrative health officer for Kent County Health Department, will serve as moderator.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, said the topic is particularly current as Michigan media has reported on issues with PFAS and the Line 5 pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac.

Health Forums are coordinated with community partners, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement, and sponsorship is provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For Immediate Release

October 8, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Hauenstein speaker to address American conservatism and populism in Trump era at GVSU event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — As the United States approaches important midterm elections, political division and social volatility are high, and pundits describe the massive shifts that are currently reconfiguring American politics as "unprecedented" in nature.

However, George Nash, an expert in American political and intellectual history, says those pundits are wrong. He finds that this moment is not completely without precedent, but also that we have never witnessed such upheaval in the public mood as caused by social media, the cable TV news cycle and the Internet.

Nash, a senior fellow at the Russel Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal, will be the guest of Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies on October 16, and will discuss these social and political trends.

George Nash: American Conservatism and Populism in the Age of Trump

October 16, 7 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center

401 West Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Event is free and open to the public, however RSVPs are appreciated at gvsu.edu/hc

The presentation is part of the Hauenstein Center's Common Ground Initiative, which provides a rigorous, open forum for leading scholars, writers and public officials — progressives and conservatives alike — to discuss the cultural, intellectual and political challenges Americans face.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/hc.

For Immediate Release

October 18, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Muskegon Innovation Hub to hold October 25 open house

MUSKEGON, MICH. — Grand Valley's Muskegon Innovation Hub is hosting its annual Community Open House on October 25.

The event is free and open to the public.

Kevin Ricco, director of the Muskegon Innovation Hub, said the event is intended to help the community learn more about the work being done at the Hub and what is planned for the year ahead.

Visitors can take guided tours of the facility and there will be demonstrations of products that have been developed by Hub clients.

There will also be refreshments from Village Baker and Fetch Brewing, along with live music from Julia and the Greensides.

The Muskegon Innovation Hub offers business incubation services, coworking space, and funding assistance for start-up businesses. Staff members also have expertise in many areas of business development.

The Hub is located at 200 Viridian Drive in Muskegon.

Registration is encouraged but not required, and can be provided at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

For immediate release

October 5, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Grand Valley students participating in a Reacting to the Past simulation, as well as a photo of Mark Carnes, are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU conference to focus on using games in history education

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Games and simulations are not just for leisurely fun — they are commonly used as educational resources to help better engage students, especially when it comes to learning about the past.

The Great Lakes History Conference at Grand Valley State University, this year themed “Playing with History,” will examine how “playing” can help expand a person’s understanding of history.

The conference will take place October 12-13 at the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For the full session schedule and to register, visit the [Great Lakes History Conference website](#).

David Eaton, associate professor of world and African history and conference co-organizer, said the conference will place a heavy emphasis on exploring teaching methods that use game dynamics.

“These pedagogies represent an opportunity to make history more exciting for students,” said Eaton. “Historically based computer games like ‘Crusader Kings II’ and ‘Europa Universalis IV’ remain extremely popular.”

One such teaching method is Reacting to the Past (RTTP) — an interdisciplinary teaching method that involves complex games that are set in the past during periods such as the Renaissance, Enlightenment and French Revolution.

The goal is to have students learn about history through adopting roles inspired by classic texts, and then refining their problem-solving and communication skills in order to prevail in scenarios that closely parallel historical events. More than 150 games are being used in classes across the country, including at Grand Valley.

Mark Carnes, the founder of RTTP and professor of history at both Barnard College and Columbia University, will present this year’s keynote address.

“The Students’ War Against Higher Education: Avoiding a Rout” will take place October 12 at 6 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, located in the DeVos Center.

Eaton said the conference will include five RTTP games, as well as a number of breakout sessions about issues faced by “gamemasters” (professors) or others utilizing RTTP, ethical challenges posed by simulations, and other types of gaming that can be incorporated into the classroom, such as computer games.

For more information, contact Eaton at eatond@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

October 4, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long and his full report can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0QM>

GVSU economist: More growth, pace improves

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The economic pace for West Michigan picked up in the month of September, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of September.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) edged up to +28, from +21. The production index rose sharply to +29, from +16. The index of purchases edged higher to +21, from +15, and the employment index improved to +29, up from +21.

Long said growth remains positive for most sectors in the West Michigan economy.

"Although auto sales continue to soften, the decline has, so far, been very orderly. Business conditions for the local auto parts suppliers remain positive," Long said. "Although the office furniture business plateaued last year, the new tax incentives have continued to boost many segments of the industry. Local firms producing capital equipment are also continuing to benefit from the tax incentives enacted in late 2017."

Long said the tax cuts will continue to move the U.S. economy in a positive direction, but uncertainty about the trade talks will limit future economic growth.

"Recessions have historically occurred when a proverbial 'bubble breaks.' The problem is identifying the bubble," Long said. "After the collapse of the housing market, it was obvious that the banks buried themselves in sub-prime loans. Today, we have several bubbles that are starting to form, but none of them appear to be great enough to upset the current economic momentum."

Long added the recent report of a new trade agreement with Canada and Mexico relaxed some of the fear of an international trade war.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For immediate release

October 3, 2018

Contacts: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Laura Eller, WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, (269) 337-4513

MEDIA NOTE : Photos from today's signing are available via this link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/0Qy>

GVSU signs preferred relationship agreement with WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University students who want to pursue medical careers will benefit from a "preferred relationship," which includes an early decision program, with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed).

Leaders from both institutions signed the agreement October 3 at Grand Valley's Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas said the agreement represents the commitment from both institutions to fulfill the talent pipeline and help ease the regional and national shortage of physicians.

"The unique missions of our two institutions overlap to produce the talent needed in the medical profession," Haas said.

The preferred relationship with WMed means students receive an early look during the medical school's admission process. Students must meet all admission requirements. Under the WMedStart early decision program, Grand Valley students at the beginning of their junior year can apply to WMed for an early decision of admission following completion of their bachelor's degree.

Edward Montgomery, president of Western Michigan University, said the agreement is part of the "ecosystem to provide opportunities for young men and women."

WMed graduated its first class of medical students in 2018. Dr. Hal Jenson, founding dean, said WMed had great success in recruiting students to a newer medical school due, in part, to agreements like this.

"The preferred relationship seeks to have outstanding students apply to our medical school and become outstanding students in our classrooms," Jenson said.

Jenson said GVSU students who apply through the early decision program benefit as they can focus on completing a bachelor's degree without the additional stress and expense of applying to multiple medical schools.

About GVSU: Grand Valley State University attracts more than 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in 200+ areas of study from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Holland, and from regional centers in Detroit, Muskegon, and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

About WMed: Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine is a collaboration of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo's two teaching hospitals, Ascension Borgess and Bronson Healthcare. The medical school is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation supported by private gifts, clinical revenues, research activities, tuition, and endowment income. WMed is fully accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and also by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The inaugural medical student class graduated in 2018 after completing an innovative, patient-centered four-year curriculum that prepares them to be exceptional clinicians, leaders, educators, advocates, and researchers of tomorrow.

For immediate release

October 2, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Panelists will discuss faith and end-of-life care at two GVSU events

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — What happens when you die? It's a deep question that will bring many different answers.

Panelists who represent seven different faiths will discuss that question at two events in October sponsored by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley State University in partnership with Making Choices Michigan.

"What Happens When You Die?" will explore the beliefs and practices of faith traditions that inform end-of-life care. The two events will be held at the Eberhard Center, 301 Fulton St. W. Events are free and open to the public, details are below. RSVP for either or both dates online at gvsu.edu/interfaith.

- October 9, 7-8:30 p.m.: Panelists representing Judaism, Islam, Baha'i, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- October 16, 7-8:30 p.m.: Panelists representing Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism

Kyle Kooyers, program manager for the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, said many health care providers and hospice agencies operate from an assumed "Christian norm" or are unaware of terms of care faith communities use at the end of a patient's life. "They are eager to have a space for this type of learning in order to better serve their diverse clientele," he said.

Continuing education credits will be offered for social workers and registered nurses for \$20, payable to Making Choices Michigan, a nonprofit organization that advocates advance care planning.

Questions can be directed to the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at interfaith@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-5702.

For immediate release

October 1, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU November and December 2018 arts events tip sheet

FALL ARTS CELEBRATION

For the past 15 years, West Michigan audiences have enjoyed a series of six free events every fall at Grand Valley State University that celebrate the positive impact of the arts. Since its inception, Fall Arts Celebration has shined the spotlight on some of the world's foremost writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars. During this year's Fall Arts Celebration, audiences will have the opportunity to explore the mysteries of Mars, listen to variations of Italian street songs, enjoy the rhythm and artistic nature of African dance, contemplate the idea that business and art are changing each other, and much more. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts.

Kariamuu and Company: Traditions — A Celebration of African Dance

November 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Kariamuu Welsh is a Guggenheim award-winning dance scholar, choreographer, educator and the founder of the Umfundalai technique. For the past 40 years, Welsh has developed Umfundalai as a contemporary dance technique that seeks to articulate the essence of African-oriented movement while highlighting the cultural and aesthetic continuity found in the rhythm and artistic sensibilities that cover the full range of African dance. As an "artist," Welsh feels that one of her responsibilities is to tell the stories, myths, legends and histories of the marginalized, invisible, forgotten and oppressed. Welsh is currently a professor of dance in the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University.

Celebrating Holiday Splendor: Craig Jessop Conducts "The Many Moods of Christmas"

December 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids

Robert Shaw's "The Many Moods of Christmas" meshes pieces of 18 of the most traditional carols combined with music from composers such as Handel, Bizet and Bach. Renowned choral conductor Craig Jessop will lead the GVSU Arts Chorale and local high school students for this special holiday celebration concert. Jessop, professor of music and founding dean of the Cain College of the Arts at Utah State University, is the former director of the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He led the ensemble as a featured conductor during the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

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Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance

For more information about Music, Theatre, and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484, or visit gvsu.edu/mtd. All performances are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Theatre at Grand Valley presents "The Jungle Book"

November 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, at 7:30 p.m.

November 11, 18, at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$13 for GVSU faculty and staff and all seniors; \$7 for all students; \$10 for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

The "Law of the Jungle" rules Mowgli's adventures while growing up with a wolf pack, but when his identity is challenged after realizing his human origins, his quest to master the laws becomes more complicated and dangerous. Tensions mount when Mowgli becomes entangled with Shere Khan, the most feared animal of all, and Mowgli's choices affect life in the jungle forever. This Theatre for Youth play, aimed at middle school and high school student audiences, is a new take on a beloved classic that will resonate with audiences of all ages through the production's topical treatment of physical conflict, identity and community.

Grand Valley Opera Theatre presents "Masquerade: A Baroque Extravaganza
November 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m.
November 11, at 2 p.m.

Peter Martin Wege Theatre, Grand Rapids Ballet (341 Ellsworth Avenue SW, Grand Rapids)
For ticket information, contact the Grand Rapids Ballet Box Office at (616) 454-4771 (x10).

This evening of baroque music crafted by notable composers such as Handel, Purcell and Monteverdi will be a collaborative production featuring GVSU Opera Theatre, Grand Valley's Early Music Ensemble and Department of Visual and Media Arts, and the Junior Company of the Grand Rapids Ballet School.

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Arts at Noon

Arts at Noon brings nationally and internationally known musicians to Grand Valley State University for 14 performances each academic year. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center located on the Allendale Campus. They will begin at noon and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon or contact Henry Duitman, series coordinator, at duitmanh@gvsu.edu.

November 7 – Grand Rapids Symphony

Thirty members of the Grand Rapids Symphony will return to Grand Valley for their annual Arts at Noon performance when they will perform Mozart's "Symphony No. 39" and Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll." Since 1930, the Grand Rapids Symphony has been committed to serving the West Michigan community through performances, educational outreach and collaborations with partners, including Grand Valley, the Grand Rapids Ballet, and Opera Grand Rapids. The symphony has performed at Carnegie Hall twice, first in 2005 and again in April 2018 alongside the Grand Rapids Chorus and led by Grand Rapids Symphony music director Marcelo Lehninger.

November 28 – GVSU Brass Quintet Holiday Celebration

The annual holiday concert featuring the GVSU Brass Quintet is an Arts at Noon tradition. The ensemble is composed of Grand Valley music faculty members, including Alex Wilson (trumpet), Richard Britsch (horn), Mark Williams (trombone), Paul Carlson (tuba) and visiting performing Paul Hardaker (trumpet). Each year, the quintet also performs multiple outreach concerts, and facilitates master classes and coaching sessions at high schools throughout Michigan.

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James Iman Piano Recital at GVSU**November 7, at 7:30 p.m.****Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

Guest pianist James Iman will perform the music of Webern, Beck, Roslavets, Stockhausen, Feldman and Furrer during this concert at Grand Valley State University. Iman has established himself as a specialist in music of the 20th and 21st centuries and released his debut album in 2017. A graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Department of Music, Iman holds a master's degree in piano performance and a bachelor's degree in music history and piano performance.

GVSU Laker Marching Band presents Bandorama**November 11, at 7:30 p.m.****Kelly Family Sports Center, Allendale Campus**

Join the Laker Marching Band at Grand Valley State University as they perform a sampling of their 2018 football season halftime shows. This performance will feature Broadway hits, theme songs from TV shows like "The Flintstones," "The Simpsons" and "Star Trek," and music by influential female artists, like Aretha Franklin, Gloria Gaynor, Ariana Grande and Rhianna.

GVSU Faculty Piano Recital featuring Sookkyung Cho**November 19, at 7:30 p.m.****Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

Before being appointed an assistant professor of piano at Grand Valley, Sookkyung Cho served on the piano faculty at New England Conservatory Preparatory School and Continuing Education in Boston. She was also adjunct faculty in theory at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and served as a Teaching Fellow in the piano minor and music theory departments at The Juilliard School. Cho has performed throughout North America, Europe, and her native country, Korea, in prestigious venues, including Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Steinway Hall in New York, Beaux concerts de la releve in Quebec, Château de Fontainebleau in France, and Zijiangang Theater at Zhejiang University in China, among others. She received a bachelor's degree in music and a doctoral degree in musical arts from The Juilliard School, and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

GVSU Jazz Band Concert**November 20, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus****GVSU Faculty Tuba Recital featuring Paul Carlson****November 30, at 7:30 p.m.****Sherman Van Solkema Hall (room 1325), Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

Grand Valley State University music faculty member Paul Carlson (tuba) will be joined by fellow faculty member Robert Byrens (piano) for an evening of tuba music.

GVSU Piano and Clarinet Student Recital**December 1, at 2 p.m.****St. Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom NE, Grand Rapids**

Grand Valley State University piano students of associate professor Helen Marlais, and clarinet students of professor Arthur Campbell, will perform during this special concert in the main auditorium of St. Cecilia Music Center.

GVSU Piano Studio Recital**December 2, at 2:30 p.m.****First Park Congregational Church, 10 East Park Plaza NE, Grand Rapids**

Grand Valley State University piano students of assistant professor Sookkyung Cho will perform during this special concert at Park Church in Grand Rapids.

GVSU Choral Concert**December 4, at 7:30 p.m.****Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

This concert at Grand Valley State University will feature the vocal expertise of three ensembles: Select Women's Ensemble, University Singers and Cantate Chamber Ensemble. The Select Women's Ensemble has earned a reputation for quality performances of challenging choral literature and performing both accompanied and a cappella repertoire that is representative of a variety of musical periods and styles. University Singers is composed of students from all majors; over 90 percent of its members are non-music majors. The Cantate Chamber Ensemble is dedicated to the artistic performance of distinctive a cappella choral music for a small ensemble.

GVSU Concert Band Concert**December 5, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus****GVSU Orchestra Concert****December 6, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus****GVSU Symphonic Band Concert****December 7, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

The Grand Valley State University Symphonic Band (formerly known as the Symphonic Wind Ensemble) will perform under the direction of Kevin Tutt during this free concert. The Symphonic Band is widely recognized as one of the elite undergraduate wind ensembles, committed to the performance of the finest band literature. In 2016, the ensemble released its first CD, titled "Under Western Skies," which is available on iTunes and Amazon.

GVSU Varsity Men's Glee Club Concert**December 8, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

The Grand Valley State University Varsity Men's Glee Club is an all-male ensemble composed of young men who represent a variety of musical and academic disciplines. The ensemble's diverse repertoire includes literature that spans from Gregorian chant to 21st century music.

GVSU Fall Dance Concert**December 1, at 7 p.m.****December 2, at 2 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

During this fall dance concert at Grand Valley State University, which is free and open to the public, the GVSU Dance Company and Freshman Dance Company will perform a diverse collection of dance works.

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GVSU ART GALLERY

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit gvsu.edu/artgallery.

"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection in the world of Alten's work.

"Wandering Seeds: Experiencing and Engaging Haiti Through Study Abroad"

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibition on display through December 14, 2018

"The tall tree says it sees far, the wandering seed says it sees more" is a Haitian poem that served as the theme for a recent service-learning expedition to Haiti by a group of a dozen Grand Valley State University faculty and students. The trip, led by Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology and Frederik Meijer Honors College faculty member, was designed to allow students from various academic backgrounds the opportunity to experience Haitian culture and gain an understanding of daily life in rural Haiti. In addition, students participated in a variety of service learning and community-based teaching experiences, allowing them to apply their energy toward real-world problems in Haiti. During the first half of the trip, Ellen Adams, Frederik Meijer Honors College assistant professor and Grand Valley Art Gallery staff member, also assisted in mediating experiences with Haitian artists and art collectives at various sites. Included in this exhibition will be narratives and reflections by both the faculty members and students, photographs documenting their encounters, and a variety of original Haitian paintings, voodoo flags, metal art and masks representing the vibrant and diverse artistic culture in the country.

"Plastination — The Art of Preservation"

Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition on display through December 14, 2018

Plastination is the process of infusing animal, human or plant tissues with a variety of plastic or silicone products to render the tissues odor-free, dry and permanently preserved for educational and instructional purposes. The process was invented by Gunther von Hagens in 1977 at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and became popular through his many "Body Worlds" exhibitions around the world. Beginning in 2007, members of Grand Valley State University began studying plastination and investigating the opportunity to create a lab at the university. That became a reality in 2013, and since then, more than 300 specimens have been plastinated for use in a variety of teaching roles. This exhibition tells the story of plastination at Grand Valley and walks viewers through the process and uses of plastinates. It brings together more than 20 animal specimens from the lab – currently the only plastination lab in Michigan.

“Strange & Magical Beasts: Etchings by Tony Fitzpatrick”

Exhibit on display November 2, 2018 – March 1, 2019

Kirkhof Center Gallery, Allendale Campus

Tony Fitzpatrick was born in 1958, and raised in and around Chicago as a member of a large middle-class Irish Catholic family. His father worked as a burial vault salesman, and often took Fitzpatrick along to appointments around the city when he was suspended from school. Drawing was a pervasive part of his life, and he'd sketch anything that caught his eye. He graduated from Montini Catholic High School in 1977, untrained in the arts. Over the years, Fitzpatrick spent time as boxer, bartender, actor, waiter and tattoo artist. These experiences, coupled with an insatiable appetite for drawing, had a profound effect on his work. This exhibition features 21 etchings by the artist. They are drawn out of a recent gift to Grand Valley State University's permanent art collection of more than 120 works on paper. Filled with strange and magical beasts, they draw on his childhood imagination, Catholic upbringing and immersive experience in street culture.

Seeds Museums: Viewing and Using Nature by Shilin Hora

West Wall Gallery, Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition on display November 2, 2018-March 1, 2019

Shilin Hora is a multidisciplinary American-Canadian visual artist and educator based in the Chicagoland area. She pokes, prods, bends, dissects, harvests and sorts materials found in the natural environment in order to build unique artwork. Hora was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in 2002, and has held various positions at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Through installations, prints and sculptures, Hora explores ideas about the relationships people have to places and the natural environment. In the “Seeds Museum” exhibit, Hora presents some of her most recent sculptural work, inspired by natural history museum displays and 19th century Wardian cases used by botanists to import foreign plant species to Europe. Seeds are dried, arranged, and placed behind Plexiglas, emphasizing their unique inherent qualities. Hora's strong commitment to sustainability can be seen through the repurposed and sustainable materials used to house seed collections, becoming part of a larger ecological narrative.

For immediate release

October 1, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU receives \$1.3 million grant to fund McNair Scholars Program

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University received a five-year, \$1.3 million grant to fund a TRIO McNair Scholars Program that will prepare first-generation and low-income, or underrepresented students for doctoral studies.

The U.S. Department of Education grant will fund annual cohorts of about 34 Grand Valley students who show great interest in research and earning doctoral degrees. Susan Mendoza, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, said recruitment will begin this fall and McNair Scholars will begin their program next summer.

"They will engage in undergraduate research as a way to better understand what it means to become a Ph.D.," Mendoza said. "Scholars will be paired with faculty mentors who supervise and support their research. Scholars will present at academic conferences, prepare for the graduate school application process and the challenges of graduate school."

Mendoza serves as the principal investigator for the program; Rachel Powers, professor of chemistry, is the co-principal investigator. Powers said her motivation to be involved stems from personal experience as a first-generation student and struggles to make career plans.

"I have no doubt that with a mentor, I could have discovered my interests in research and the possibility of graduate school much sooner," Powers said. "This is what fuels my motivation in the program."

Amber Sackett was a McNair Scholar who graduated from Grand Valley in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in French and minors in Middle East studies and Arabic. Sackett is now a doctoral student at the University of California Los Angeles studying French and Francophone studies. She said her research centers on "the other" in French society and what it means to be French.

While at Grand Valley, Sackett said her college experience proved different from her peers who were not first-generation students, especially learning to navigate the university to find resources and services. Sackett found a faculty mentor in David Eick, associate professor of French, who recommended the McNair Scholars program to her.

McNair Scholars spend a summer conducting research with their faculty mentors. Sackett's project focused on the French encyclopedia and its portrayal of Islam and Arabs.

"McNair helped refine my existing academic and professional skills, while simultaneously addressing areas that I needed to develop, like scholarly writing," she said. "I felt confident applying to graduate schools because we developed all the materials for a competitive graduate dossier in the program."

The McNair Scholars Program is one of six, federally funded TRIO programs at Grand Valley; participants are either first-generation college students with financial need, or students who are underrepresented in their academic discipline at the graduate level. Learn more about Grand Valley's program at gvsu.edu/ours/mcnair.

For immediate release

September 28, 2018

Contacts: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221;

Laura Eller, WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, (269) 337-4513

Media advisory: GVSU to sign agreement with WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University graduates who want to pursue medical careers will benefit from a "preferred relationship," which includes an early decision program, with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed).

Leaders from both institutions will sign an agreement and discuss how the partnership helps fulfill the state's shortage of physicians on Wednesday, October 3, at 9 a.m. at GVSU's Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall, room 122, 500 Lafayette Ave. NE. Media members are welcome to cover the event.

Jean Nagelkerk, Grand Valley's vice provost for health, said a preferred relationship with WMed means students receive an early look during the medical school's admission process. Students must meet all admission requirements.

Under the WMedStart early decision program, Grand Valley students at the beginning of their junior year can apply to WMed for an early decision of admission following completion of their bachelor's degree.

Dr. Hal Jenson, founding dean of WMed, said: "The early decision program is a benefit for students, as it allows them to focus on learning and successfully completing their undergraduate studies knowing that they are already accepted into medical school. They avoid expending energy, time, and money on applying, traveling, and interviewing at multiple medical schools."

GVSU President Thomas J. Haas said these agreements help fulfill the talent pipeline.

"This partnership provides a wonderful opportunity for Grand Valley students, and enables us to work as public partners in the effort to produce more of the state's best doctors," Haas said.

About GVSU: [Grand Valley State University](#) attracts more than 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in 200+ areas of study from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Holland, and from regional centers in Detroit, Muskegon, and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

About WMed: [Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine](#) is a collaboration of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo's two teaching hospitals, Ascension Borgess and Bronson Healthcare. The medical school is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation supported by private gifts, clinical revenues, research activities, tuition, and endowment income. WMed is fully accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and also by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The inaugural medical student class graduated in 2018 after completing an innovative, patient-centered

four-year curriculum that prepares them to be exceptional clinicians, leaders, educators, advocates, and researchers of tomorrow.

For Immediate Release

October 1, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A copy of the full IR&E report can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0Q2>

GVSU named Best College Buy for 23 consecutive years

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the 23rd year in a row, Grand Valley State University has been named one of America's 100 Best College Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc. (IR&E) in Georgia.

Each year, IR&E identifies the 100 colleges and universities across the country that provide students the highest quality education at the lowest cost.

Grand Valley has made the list each year since the designation began, and far more times than any other Michigan institution. The only other Michigan institutions on the list this year are Hillsdale College and Western Michigan University.

To be considered for the designation, an institution must:

- Be an accredited, four-year institution offering bachelor's degrees;
- Offer full residential facilities, including residence halls and dining services;
- Have an entering freshman class in fall 2017 with a high school GPA and/or SAT/ACT equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen;
- Have out-of-state tuition in 2018-2019 below the national average or not exceeding the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

The average GPA for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2017 was 3.58, compared to the national average of 3.44, according to Institutional Research and Evaluation. The average ACT score for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2017 was 24, compared to the national average of 23.

IR&E calculates cost of attendance by using out-of-state tuition at public institutions and regular cost of tuition at private institutions. Room and board is also included using the cost of a double occupancy room and the most common meal plan.

Under these guidelines, the 2018-19 cost of attendance at Grand Valley is \$27,366, compared to the national average of \$44,165, according to IR&E.

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 90 undergraduate and 41 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships. www.gvsu.edu

For immediate release

October 9, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Grand Valley faculty and students conducting research in Alaska are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU receives \$1 million grant to study impact of climate change in Arctic tundra

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University faculty member has been awarded a \$1 million grant by the National Science Foundation to work with students to study the impact climate change has on vegetation in the Arctic tundra.

The funding will support the next five years of research by Robert Hollister, professor of biology, and a team of five Grand Valley undergraduate and graduate students in northern Alaska. The team will specifically explore how climate change impacts vegetation in the regions of Utqiagvik, Atkasuk and Toolik Lake.

Hollister established the Arctic Ecology Program at Grand Valley in 2007, and the project is funded as part of the Arctic Observatory Network. The team's research sites were originally established as part of the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) — a collective of researchers conducting similar warming experiments in the tundra since the early 1990s. Hollister currently serves as the co-chair of ITEX.

Graduate student Katlyn Betway has been working with Hollister for three years; she started as an undergraduate biology major. She said the research is important because it connects to the larger climate change conversation.

“Everyone is talking about climate change, and the implications it has for our future are worrisome,” said Betway, from Flat Rock, Michigan. “We are attempting to understand how it is affecting plant life which will then fuel further research on how ecosystems as a whole might respond to a warming climate. Ecosystems are very complex, so we are focusing on just one piece of the puzzle.”

One of the main aspects of the vegetation that Hollister and his team will continue to monitor is energy balance, which effects how certain plants grow depending on the season. Another area of study is carbon balance and how fast or slow carbon metabolizes in the soil of the region.

“There is more carbon in the soils of the tundra than there is in the trees of the Rainforest, so people talk about deforestation as being a big contributor to climate change, and that’s true, but the soil in cold regions contains a huge amount of carbon,” said Hollister.

To monitor the vegetation over time, Hollister and his team will continue conducting a variety of experiments. Students monitor plants each summer by estimating the quantity of different species, measuring when plants flower and produce seeds and when they go dormant, among other measurements.

Hollister said another main objective of the research is to make the data understandable for the general public.

For more information, contact Hollister at hollistr@gvsu.edu or visit the [Arctic Ecology Program website](#).

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos, bites and b-roll are available to use at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0R4>

GVSU hosts Sue Snyder for discussion on sexual violence prevention

ALLENDALE, Mich. — During a visit to Grand Valley State University October 10, Michigan's first lady Sue Snyder encouraged campus community members to continue to get involved in sexual violence prevention and applauded the university's many efforts to reduce assaults.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity at Grand Valley, invited Snyder to visit the Allendale Campus to discuss prevention and to meet with students, administrators and community members.

"Now more than ever, people are talking about sexual assault on campus," Snyder said. "While we've made significant progress, we still have more work to do. Preventing sexual assault and helping survivors sends a message to our young people that they matter. With Grand Valley's help, I know we can make more supportive and safer environments."

The meeting was an extension of an ongoing discussion about sexual assault prevention at universities across the state. In 2015, Snyder began the statewide "Let's End Campus Sexual Assault" initiative; Grand Valley has received multiple grants from the initiative to bolster campus sexual assault prevention programming and education.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas said it's the university's responsibility to create a safe and secure campus. "We will continue to work with area law enforcement, and educate our students and look to them as role models," he said.

"I'm so impressed that law enforcement and Grand Valley have come together to work closely and understand each other's processes," Snyder said. "This collaboration should be a model for other universities."

During the meeting, students and staff members gave presentations on topics ranging from current prevention efforts to campus safety practices.

Aaron Haight, associate dean of students, and Rachel Jenkin, Student Senate president, discussed outreach and education.

"New students arrive on campus without a lot of prevention education during K-12, so the Dean of Students Office partners with several offices to provide education within their first few days on campus," said Haight.

Last year, Jenkin chaired the Student Senate's sexual assault awareness committee and is working to foster partnerships with local restaurants, liquor stores and off-campus housing.

"For the first time this year, we're hosting a campus safety walk on November 1 to identify spots on campus where some students don't feel safe, and we're working on requiring all student senators to complete bystander intervention training," said Jenkin.

During the meeting, Bernal announced two new initiatives: a program to engage men in prevention work and a micro-grant program to fund on-campus work in prevention and education. The meeting ended with a discussion about challenges and ways to continue to combat sexual assault.

Those in attendance also included students from Grand Valley's It's On Us chapter and representatives from Kent County, Ottawa County and Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.

Following the meeting, Snyder visited the Center for Women and Gender Equity in the Kirkhof Center.

For immediate release

October 11, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU vice president among community leaders to be honored at César Chávez gala

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity at Grand Valley State University, will be among the honorees at the 14th annual César E. Chávez Hispanic Excellence Scholarship and Community Awards Gala.

Hosted by the Committee to Honor César E. Chávez, the event is Thursday, October 25, at 6 p.m. at Noto's Old World Italian Dining, 6600 28th St. SE. A cash bar at 5:30 p.m. precedes the dinner.

Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased online at gvsu.edu/inclusion/2018gala. Proceeds support the Lupe Ramos-Montigny Legacy Endowed Scholarship at Grand Valley.

Bernal will receive an Aguila Award, which committee chair Ramos-Montigny said recognizes his leadership skills and commitment to students. Since Bernal came to Grand Valley in 2015 as its second vice president for Inclusion and Equity, Grand Valley has adopted a social justice and intersectional framework that guides university initiatives and community partnerships.

Other award recipients are listed below.

- Youth Award: Juan Paulo Palacios, Grand Valley engineering major
- Golden Citizen Award: Rick Muñiz, educator, motivator and musician
- Hispanic Advocate Award: Wendy VerHage Falb, executive director of the Literacy Center of West Michigan
- La Familia Award: Gema Lowe & Family
- Aguila Award: Jesse Bernal, GVSU; and Elizabeth Reyes-Rosario, Grand Rapids Law Group

Area college students will be awarded scholarships. More information about the event is on Facebook, facebook.com/CommitteeToHonorCEC.

For immediate release

October 11, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Fall Arts Celebration images are [available via Dropbox](#).

Award-winning poets to discuss their work, inspirations during GVSU event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Two unique poetic voices will share their work and discuss their inspirations with the West Michigan community during Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley State University.

“An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Ada Limón and Carl Phillips” will take place October 18, at 7:30 p.m., on the 2nd floor of the Eberhard Center, located on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A reception and book signing will take place after both authors read samples from their work.

“Carl Phillips and Ada Limón both write out of their passions,” said Patricia Clark, professor of writing and Grand Valley’s Poet-in-Residence. “If Phillips is the more somber voice of the two poets, his words are still lit by brief moments of intensity and beauty. Limón’s relaxed, seemingly casual voice dazzles with precision and directness.”

Clark said attendees of the event will experience the power of poetry when it is heard instead of read.

“It is a completely different experience to hear poets live, not just on the page,” she said. “They reveal quite a bit about themselves and their work, and they say things that help illuminate the poems.

Limón is the author of five books of poetry, including her new book, *The Carrying* (2018). Her volume *Bright Dead Things* was named one of the top 10 poetry books of 2015 by *The New York Times*. Limón currently serves on the faculty of Queens University of Charlotte’s low-residency Master of Fine Arts program.

Phillips is the author of 14 books of poetry, including his most recent works, *Wild Is the Wind* (2018) and *Reconnaissance* (2015). The latter won the PEN USA Award and the Lambda Literary Award. A four-time finalist for the National Book Award, Phillips’ honors include the *Los Angeles Times*’ Book Prize for Poetry, the Kingsley Tufts Award and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, Library of Congress and Academy of American Poets. He is currently a professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis.

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts. All Fall Arts Celebration events are free and open to the public.

For Immediate Release

October 19, 2018

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221 or (616) 560-2548.

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Jandernoa and Emmitt can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/URL>

Gov. appoints community leader and state administrator to Grand Valley board

Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment of Sue Jandernoa and Elizabeth (Beth) Emmitt to the Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees. The eight-year terms begin January 1, 2019.

Jandernoa, of West Olive, is a graduate of Central Michigan University and a former elementary school teacher in East Grand Rapids. She now dedicates much of her time to community service. She is currently serving on the boards of Make-a-Wish Michigan, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation, Broadway Grand Rapids and ArtPrize Grand Rapids.

"Grand Valley is an important part of the fabric of West Michigan," said Jandernoa. "I am pleased to be associated with an institution of higher learning that plays an integral role in the vitality of our region. My background as an educator indicates my keen interest in the role teaching and learning have in our communities. I am looking forward to working with my board colleagues and the administration in supporting the mission of Grand Valley."

Emmitt, of Byron Center, is the deputy chief of staff for Gov. Snyder and has served in his administration since 2011. She has previous experience as director of constituent relations in the Secretary of State office. She is a Hope College graduate with a degree in political science and communications and was a 2010 fellow with the Michigan Political Leadership Program.

"I am honored for the opportunity to work with the outstanding leaders at the university," said Emmitt. "Grand Valley has a strong administration as well as accomplished trustees. My husband and father graduated from Grand Valley, so I am well aware of the positive and respected culture. Grand Valley is focused on student success and is truly an innovative university. It is exciting to be part of its future and I'm ready to get to work."

Jandernoa and Emmitt will replace David Hooker and John Kennedy, whose terms expire at the end of the year.

The appointments are subject to state Senate approval.

For immediate release

October 18, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Helix Scribe Solutions earns MIPERC award

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Helix Scribe Solutions, a Grand Rapids company that trains people to work as medical scribes, earned the Community Award at the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research Center (MIPERC) annual conference in September.

MIPERC is an organization founded by Grand Valley, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine to support collaborative health care initiatives across disciplines and institutions. Each year, MIPERC recognizes one community partner who has actively promoted interprofessional care in the local or regional community to improve the health of at-risk populations.

The award recognizes Helix's commitment to supporting GVSU students by training them to work in medical settings. More than 100 students have had clinical experiences as scribes over the last three years.

ABOUT GVSU SCRIBE ACADEMY

The Grand Valley State University Scribe Academy provides free scribe training to pre-health students that includes 80 hours of theory and clinical training. The hybrid education offers online instruction as well as in-classroom charting simulations. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/scribe.

ABOUT HELIX

Helix Scribe Solutions provides trained personnel to serve as medical scribes in various medical settings. Utilizing local pre-health students and recent graduates, Helix scribes assist health care providers with the required documentation so providers can focus on caring for the patient. Helix currently has over 100 employees and provides service at 10 locations in southwest Michigan. For more information, visit helixscribes.com.

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A rendering of the health building and a map showing the area for media parking can be found on Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/ORm>

GVSU Health Campus expanding with third building

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of its Health Campus on the Medical Mile in downtown Grand Rapids.

The Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health will be the third health building on Grand Valley's Health Campus, joining the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences and Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall.

Media is welcome to join invited guests October 23 from 5-7 p.m. at the groundbreaking site, 333 Michigan St., just east of the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, (which is at 301 Michigan St. NE).

Remarks begin at 5:45 p.m. A media platform and mult box will be available. Parking for media is available in an area off Michigan Street, just west of the McDonalds (see map in Dropbox).

Speakers will include Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, State Rep. David LaGrand (D-Grand Rapids), State Sen. Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive), Dan and Pamella DeVos, and Grand Valley Provost Maria Cimitile.

With more than 5,000 students enrolled in Grand Valley's health-related courses, the new facility will maximize interaction between students across programs, learning on state-of-the-industry simulation and technology.

The five-story, 160,000-square-foot center will allow Grand Valley to significantly expand and update its simulation center, doubling space available for student experiences.

The DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health will include 15 classrooms and 14 interactive laboratories and help accommodate expanding programs in growing fields at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

The Kirkhof College of Nursing will be housed in this center, bringing faculty and students together in collaborative spaces to accommodate interactive learning.

The expansion will also allow for additional programming and the ability to accommodate more students to meet the increasing demand for graduates in Grand Valley's more than 20 health sciences programs. Grand Valley is the region's leading provider of health care professionals.

The State of Michigan is providing \$29 million for the \$70 million project; the remaining funds will come from private donors and university bonds.

Construction is expected to be completed in May 2021.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/giving/healthcampus.

For immediate release

October 16, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Climate change focus on civil discourse symposium at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Climate change will be the topic at the fifth annual Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Symposium at Grand Valley State University.

The event is set for Thursday, October 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St., on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. It is free and open to the public, RSVP online at gvsu.edu/civildiscourse. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

Elizabeth Arnold, associate professor of anthropology, is the Padnos/Sarosik endowed professor of civil discourse. Arnold said the symposium will feature a panel discussion and invited organizations will give various perspectives on climate change.

"The event intends to demonstrate that we can have civil conversations about climate change and potentially discuss constructive solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptations to impacts of climate change, even if we disagree," Arnold said.

Panelists are Kelly Parker, professor of philosophy and director of environmental studies at GVSU; Jordan Crispell, West Michigan clean energy organization for the Sierra Club; and Steve Goreham, author and executive director of the Climate Science Coalition of America.

Representatives from various organizations will be available, including the Sierra Club, Acton Institute, Citizen's Climate Lobby and the WMU Cooley Law School Center for Civil Discourse.

Arnold said students in her civil discourse class will serve as moderators.

The Padnos/Sarosik endowed professorship is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and was given as a gift to Grand Valley in 2013 from longtime university supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik.

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

Today: GVSU students holding vigil for synagogue shooting victims

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Students from two Jewish campus organizations at Grand Valley State University are hosting a candlelight vigil October 29 to remember victims of the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh.

The vigil, organized by the Grand Valley Hillel Chapter and Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, will start at 7:15 p.m. at the Cook Carillon Tower on the Allendale Campus. Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas, Provost Maria Cimitile, Dean of Students Loren Rullman and several students and staff members will give remarks.

A community space for dialogue and support has been organized for October 29 at 2 p.m. in Grand Valley's Office of Multicultural Affairs, located in room 1240 of the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

On October 27, 11 people were killed in a mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Hillel is an international Jewish campus organization, and AEPi is an international Jewish leadership fraternity.

For Immediate Release

October 23, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos and video of the groundbreaking ceremony can be found on Dropbox at:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0Rm>

Grand Valley breaks ground on DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 300 people attended a groundbreaking ceremony October 23 for the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health on Grand Valley State University's expanding Health Campus in downtown Grand Rapids.

The new center, under construction at 333 Michigan St. on the Medical Mile, will be the third and flagship building on the Health Campus, joining the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences and Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall.

President Thomas J. Haas thanked donors and elected officials for their "continuing transformative support" of Grand Valley and its students. Haas said the naming of the building for Dan and Pamella DeVos reflects the genuine care and concern they have for the community and its future.

"We will generate a great return on your investment by continuing to provide top talent for our region and our state," Haas said. "I'm often told by employers across the state that our health sciences graduates are exceptional caregivers."

The DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health will include 15 classrooms and 14 interactive laboratories, and help accommodate expanding programs in growing fields at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, who earned an MBA from Grand Valley in 2000, said the university is a significant talent pipeline for the state.

"Talent is the new currency of economic development and Grand Valley is playing an important and pivotal role in developing that pipeline," Calley said. "Education is everything — education is freedom and connection to all the things that are important in life, and right in the middle of it is Grand Valley State University."

The new five-story, 160,000-square-foot center will allow Grand Valley to significantly expand and update its simulation center and space available for collaborative work.

Dan DeVos said the groundbreaking ceremony was also a celebration of his late parents, Rich and Helen DeVos, who had an early vision for the Medical Mile and matched the generosity of their son and daughter-in-law as leadership donors for the building.

"I've heard my dad and others say, 'What would West Michigan be like without Grand Valley?' It is hard to imagine," DeVos said. "Grand Valley faculty, staff members and students will give the building life and students will use it to change lives."

Maria Cimitile, GVSU provost, said the new health building will advance health education with the newest technology. "It will double our simulation space, giving us more room for interprofessional collaboration," Cimitile said.

The Kirkhof College of Nursing will be housed in the center, bringing faculty and students together in collaborative spaces to accommodate interactive learning.

Nursing student Doug Chambers said Grand Valley's professionalism and caring faculty drew him from the east side of the state. "I learned how important it is to choose a school in close proximity to clinical opportunities and I've taken advantage of my rotations in psychiatry, oncology and other areas right here in Grand Rapids," Chambers said.

Grand Valley is the region's leading provider of health care professionals with more than 20 health sciences programs.

The State of Michigan is providing \$29 million for the \$70 million project; the remaining funds will come from private donors and university bonds. Construction is expected to be completed in May 2021.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/interprofessionalhealth

For immediate release

November 1, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are available [via Dropbox](#).

GVSU December 2018 arts events tip sheet

FALL ARTS CELEBRATION

For the past 15 years, West Michigan audiences have enjoyed a series of six free events every fall at Grand Valley State University that celebrate the positive impact of the arts. Since its inception, Fall Arts Celebration has shined the spotlight on some of the world's foremost writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars. During this year's Fall Arts Celebration, audiences will have the opportunity to explore the mysteries of Mars, listen to variations of Italian street songs, enjoy the rhythm and artistic nature of African dance, contemplate the idea that business and art are changing each other, and much more. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts.

Celebrating Holiday Splendor: Craig Jessop Conducts "The Many Moods of Christmas"

December 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids

Robert Shaw's "The Many Moods of Christmas" meshes pieces of 18 of the most traditional carols combined with music from composers such as Handel, Bizet and Bach. Renowned choral conductor Craig Jessop will lead the GVSU Arts Chorale and local high school students for this special holiday celebration concert. Jessop, professor of music and founding dean of the Cain College of the Arts at Utah State University, is the former director of the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He led the ensemble as a featured conductor during the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

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Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance

For more information about Music, Theatre, and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484, or visit gvsu.edu/mttd. All performances are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

GVSU Piano and Clarinet Student Recital

December 1, at 2 p.m.

St. Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom NE, Grand Rapids

Grand Valley State University piano students of associate professor Helen Marlais, and clarinet students of professor Arthur Campbell, will perform during this special concert in the main auditorium of St. Cecilia Music Center.

GVSU Piano Studio Recital

December 2, at 2:30 p.m.

First Park Congregational Church, 10 East Park Plaza NE, Grand Rapids

Grand Valley State University piano students of assistant professor Sookkyung Cho will perform during this special concert at Park Church in Grand Rapids.

GVSU Choral Concert**December 4, at 7:30 p.m.****Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

This concert at Grand Valley State University will feature the vocal expertise of three ensembles: Select Women's Ensemble, University Singers and Cantate Chamber Ensemble. The Select Women's Ensemble has earned a reputation for quality performances of challenging choral literature and performing both accompanied and a cappella repertoire that is representative of a variety of musical periods and styles. University Singers is composed of students from all majors; over 90 percent of its members are non-music majors. The Cantate Chamber Ensemble is dedicated to the artistic performance of distinctive a cappella choral music for a small ensemble.

GVSU Concert Band Concert**December 5, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus****GVSU Orchestra Concert****December 6, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus****GVSU Symphonic Band Concert****December 7, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

The Grand Valley State University Symphonic Band (formerly known as the Symphonic Wind Ensemble) will perform under the direction of Kevin Tutt during this free concert. The Symphonic Band is widely recognized as one of the elite undergraduate wind ensembles, committed to the performance of the finest band literature. In 2016, the ensemble released its first CD, titled "Under Western Skies," which is available on iTunes and Amazon.

GVSU Varsity Men's Glee Club Concert**December 8, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

The Grand Valley State University Varsity Men's Glee Club is an all-male ensemble composed of young men who represent a variety of musical and academic disciplines. The ensemble's diverse repertoire includes literature that spans from Gregorian chant to 21st century music.

GVSU Fall Dance Concert**December 1, at 7 p.m.****December 2, at 2 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

During this fall dance concert at Grand Valley State University, which is free and open to the public, the GVSU Dance Company and Freshman Dance Company will perform a diverse collection of dance works.

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Visual and Media Arts Department

For more information about the VMA Department, visit gvsu.edu/vma or call (616) 331-3486.

"Tactile Experience"

Bachelor of Fine Arts Metals, Print, Painting senior thesis showcase

Exhibition dates: December 3-7

Exhibit reception: December 6, from 5-7 p.m.

Padnos Gallery, Calder Arts Center, Allendale Campus

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GVSU ART GALLERY

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit gvsu.edu/artgallery.

"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection in the world of Alten's work.

"Resonate"

Photography senior thesis showcase

Exhibition on display November 27-December 8

GVSU Art Gallery, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Photography senior thesis showcase will feature works by Ashley Cefali, Ana Grace Dykstra, Markeyna Jay, Kendalyn Liebrecht, Jodi VanWagnen and Valerie Wojo.

"Wandering Seeds: Experiencing and Engaging Haiti Through Study Abroad"

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibition on display through December 14, 2018

"The tall tree says it sees far, the wandering seed says it sees more" is a Haitian poem that served as the theme for a recent service-learning expedition to Haiti by a group of a dozen Grand Valley State University faculty and students. The trip, led by Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology and Frederik Meijer Honors College faculty member, was designed to allow students from various academic backgrounds the opportunity to experience Haitian culture and gain an understanding of daily life in rural Haiti. In addition, students participated in a variety of service learning and community-based teaching experiences, allowing them to apply their energy toward real-world problems in Haiti. During the first half of the trip, Ellen Adams, Frederik Meijer Honors College assistant professor and Grand Valley Art Gallery staff member, also assisted in mediating experiences with Haitian artists and art

collectives at various sites. Included in this exhibition will be narratives and reflections by both the faculty members and students, photographs documenting their encounters, and a variety of original Haitian paintings, voodoo flags, metal art and masks representing the vibrant and diverse artistic culture in the country.

“Plastination — The Art of Preservation”

Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition on display through December 14, 2018

Plastination is the process of infusing animal, human or plant tissues with a variety of plastic or silicone products to render the tissues odor-free, dry and permanently preserved for educational and instructional purposes. The process was invented by Gunther von Hagens in 1977 at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and became popular through his many “Body Worlds” exhibitions around the world. Beginning in 2007, members of Grand Valley State University began studying plastination and investigating the opportunity to create a lab at the university. That became a reality in 2013, and since then, more than 300 specimens have been plastinated for use in a variety of teaching roles. This exhibition tells the story of plastination at Grand Valley and walks viewers through the process and uses of plastinates. It brings together more than 20 animal specimens from the lab – currently the only plastination lab in Michigan.

“Strange & Magical Beasts: Etchings by Tony Fitzpatrick”

Exhibit on display November 2, 2018 – March 1, 2019

Kirkhof Center Gallery, Allendale Campus

Tony Fitzpatrick was born in 1958, and raised in and around Chicago as a member of a large middle-class Irish Catholic family. His father worked as a burial vault salesman, and often took Fitzpatrick along to appointments around the city when he was suspended from school. Drawing was a pervasive part of his life, and he’d sketch anything that caught his eye. He graduated from Montini Catholic High School in 1977, untrained in the arts. Over the years, Fitzpatrick spent time as boxer, bartender, actor, waiter and tattoo artist. These experiences, coupled with an insatiable appetite for drawing, had a profound effect on his work. This exhibition features 21 etchings by the artist. They are drawn out of a recent gift to Grand Valley State University’s permanent art collection of more than 120 works on paper. Filled with strange and magical beasts, they draw on his childhood imagination, Catholic upbringing and immersive experience in street culture.

Seeds Museums: Viewing and Using Nature by Shilin Hora

West Wall Gallery, Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition on display November 2, 2018-March 1, 2019

Shilin Hora is a multidisciplinary American-Canadian visual artist and educator based in the Chicagoland area. She pokes, prods, bends, dissects, harvests and sorts materials found in the natural environment in order to build unique artwork. Hora was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor’s degree in 2002, and has held various positions at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Through installations, prints and sculptures, Hora explores ideas about the relationships people have to places and the natural environment. In the “Seeds Museum” exhibit, Hora presents some of her most recent sculptural work, inspired by natural history museum displays and 19th century Wardian cases used by botanists to import foreign plant species to Europe. Seeds are dried, arranged, and placed behind Plexiglas, emphasizing their unique inherent qualities. Hora’s strong commitment to sustainability can be seen through the repurposed and sustainable materials used to house seed collections, becoming part of a larger ecological narrative.

For immediate release

November 1, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Speakers at GVSU interfaith conference will discuss religion in current climates

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The role of religious communities to both cause and rectify social division and tribalism will be discussed during the Jewish/Christian/Muslim Triennial Interfaith Dialogue Conference. The event will be hosted by Grand Valley State University's Kaufman Interfaith Institute on November 14-15.

Presenters are Jennifer Howe Peace, professor of interfaith studies at Andover Newton Theological School; Elliot J. Cosgrove, senior rabbi at Park Avenue Synagogue, the largest conservative synagogue in New York City; and Eboo Patel, founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core.

Each speaker will give brief presentations on November 14 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, on the Allendale Campus and students are encouraged to attend. The day-long conference on November 15 will take place in the Eberhard Center from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The conference is free and open to the public; RSVP online at gvsu.edu/interfaith.

With the theme "Religious Identity: Dividing or Uniting?," speakers will discuss how or if religion contributes to increased polarization or increased understanding. Douglas Kindschi, director of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, said the topic is particularly relevant given the current social and political climates.

"What's happening politically is that we're becoming more and more polarized, we're becoming divided, and part of the division has a religious base," Kindschi said. "Politically, religions are being singled out as being evil or bad. On the other hand, there are other people who are saying no, religion is a search for God, and while we don't say that all religions are the same, we can still respect people."

The conference takes place every three years, bringing together representatives from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths to engage in dialogue. This fits into the greater mission of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, which Kindschi said is "understanding and acceptance."

"Not only should we know about others, but we should actually respect and accept them for who they are," Kindschi said. "That's part of being a respectful, educated human being, not only to know but to accept and understand."

For immediate release

October 31, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU, Grand Rapids Ballet School to reintroduce famous baroque music through performances

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Opera Theatre, Early Music Ensemble and Department of Visual and Media Arts will join forces with the Grand Rapids Ballet School Junior Company to reinvigorate baroque music for modern audiences during "Masquerade: A Baroque Extravaganza."

Performances will take place November 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m., and November 11 at 2 p.m. at the Grand Rapids Ballet's Peter Martin Wege Theatre (341 Ellsworth Ave SW, Grand Rapids). Tickets are available through the Grand Rapids Ballet's box office at (616) 454-4771, extension 10.

Dale Schriemer, GVSU Opera Theatre artistic director and professor of voice, said his goal with these performances is to reintroduce music from 1690-1750 in a visually stunning way.

"We are taking the music of the baroque era with singers, instrumentalists and dancers, and layering 3D projection design over those performances," said Schriemer. "The end result is reminiscent of the Disney film 'Fantasia.'"

More than 20 students from the Visual and Media Arts Department will create the projection designs for the performance that will accompany the music of composers such as George Frideric Handel, Henry Purcell and Claudio Monteverdi.

"It has been so exciting for them to take their work from the computer to a stage and see how that becomes an immersive environment," said Schriemer. "They, as well as the singers, are learning to make older music feel fresh and alive for the 21st century, and I'm excited about that."

For more information, contact Schriemer at schriemd@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

October 30, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Panelists will discuss trafficking at Health Forum at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area experts on human trafficking will provide updates and resources at the next Health Forum of West Michigan event, set for Friday, November 2, at the DeVos Center on Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Panelists are Nikeidra Battle-DeBarge, Manasseh Program coordinator for Wedgwood Christian Services; Jeff Bouma, Grand Rapids Police Department detective; Kelly Carter, State of Michigan assistant attorney general; and Ruth Rondon, author and trafficking survivor. They will provide perspectives from state and local law enforcement, and details about the services available to victims of trafficking.

Joy Washburn, associate professor of nursing, will serve as moderator.

The event will run from 8-9:30 a.m. with a light breakfast at 7:30 a.m. It is free and open to the public; RSVP online at gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Health, Health Forum events are held the first Friday of each month and center on a health topic pertinent to the community.

Health Forums are coordinated with community partners, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement, and sponsorship is provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For immediate release

October 29, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221; Tim Nott, Sports Information, (616) 331-3275

MEDIA NOTE: The Grand Valley State Sawyers logo and other images are available to download via this link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/OS1>

Grand Valley State Lakers will change name to Sawyers for one day

ALLENDALE, Mich. — With a nod to history, the Grand Valley State Lakers will change their team name to the Sawyers on February 23 when the women's and men's basketball teams host Michigan Tech.

Keri Becker, director of athletics, said uniforms, logos and the mascot will feature the Sawyers during the fauxback games set for 1 and 3 p.m. in the Fieldhouse Arena on the Allendale Campus.

"We love Louie the Laker, but the logo and images created for these games recall a time in the university's history before Grand Valley established men's and women's basketball teams," Becker said.

What is a Sawyer? A sawyer is a lumberjack, someone who saws wood.

Why the Sawyers? In 1965, Grand Valley leaders asked the public to help choose a mascot; students would vote from six final names — Bruisers, Warriors, Bluejays, Ottawas, Archers and Voyagers. A late write-in vote, Lakers, was submitted by student Annie Kate McDonald. The Lakers won by 11 votes. In 1969, there was a push by students to change the mascot and proposed names included Sawyers. By that year, Grand Valley's eight athletic teams had uniforms printed with "Lakers" and support for the name change died down.

Sawyers t-shirts and other merchandise will be available to purchase in January.

President Thomas J. Haas joined Becker to announce the name change; he said it offers an opportunity for a history lesson for students and fans.

"Logging was a big industry in Michigan in the early 19th century," Haas said. "People may not know that West Michigan had nearly 50 sawmills in the late 1800s, so there were plenty of Sawyers around."

For immediate release

November 12, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2224

GVSU will offer professional development course in e-marketing

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley's new digital marketing professional development program will offer industry-recognized certification in platforms like Google Analytics and Hubspot and opportunities to collaborate with industry leaders on projects.

As the demand for specific digital marketing skills grows, the technology and tactics used by professionals changes even quicker. Simone Jonaitis, executive director of Center for Adult and Continuing Studies, said professionals need to continually refresh their skills to keep up with this rapidly changing industry.

CACS piloted this program this fall and will open the four-month long program January 15. The digital marketing science professional development program is operated in partnership with GreenFig, an Oregon company that offers professional development in applied business science. Jonaitis said the program's format consists of live virtual and online content, as well as in-person small group work, networking and collaboration opportunities.

"Through this program, people will earn industry-recognized certifications in programs that businesses need and require," Jonaitis said. "It will give professionals an opportunity to learn from industry leaders across the country, network with people from West Michigan and work on real-world projects."

Jonathan Crowell participated as a classroom coach for GreenFig. He earned a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley in marketing and said the material presented expands on his marketing foundation and allows for a deep dive into changing arenas and skill sets.

Certifications in the program are offered in Google Analytics, Google Ads, Marketo, Hubspot Email, and the TradeDesk.

Details and a link to register for the program are online at gvsu.greenfig.net.

For immediate release

November 7, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Pictures of Patrik Brundin and Terra Tarango are available [via Dropbox](#). Courtesy Van Andel Research Institute.

GVSU conference to help K-12 educators inspire future scientists

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Educators from districts across Michigan will gather at Grand Valley State University to expand their K-12 teaching strategies during the annual Fall Science Update.

The conference, sponsored by Grand Valley's [Regional Math and Science Center](#), will take place from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on November 14 in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

Kathy Agee, RMSC science program coordinator, said this year's conference theme is "inspiring science."

"With all the demands on teachers, we thought that they could use a positive theme during a day of encouragement," said Agee. "We hope teachers will be inspired as they hear about the content and pedagogy of science, and feel encouraged to inspire their students to pursue science and careers in STEM."

The Fall Science Update keynote presentation, which will take place at 8:30 a.m., will feature Terra Tarango and Patrik Brundin. Tarango serves as the Van Andel Research Institute's director and education officer. She will share her vision of what a "wonder-filled" classroom looks, feels and sounds like.

Brundin is the Van Andel Research Institute's associate director of research and director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Science. He is one of the top cited researchers in the field of neuroscience with more than 300 publications on Parkinson's disease and related topics. Brundin was also recently involved in a research study showing that removing the appendix early in life reduces the risk of developing Parkinson's disease by 19-25 percent. During the conference, Brundin will speak about the inspiration that led him to become a scientist.

Break-out sessions designed for elementary and secondary school educators will include a variety of topics, including technology used to track animals, introducing astrology into the classroom, using robots to promote STEM education, how to inspire future scientists, and more.

"Teachers are so busy in their classrooms and pouring their energy into their students, so they can really use a break from that routine to learn and collaborate in these sessions, while discussing strategies with their colleagues from other school districts," said Agee.

In addition to the various sessions, attendees will also have the opportunity to visit Grand Valley's Atomic Object Technology Showcase to learn how to incorporate technology into their classrooms. Attendees will also visit the 3,000-square-foot Barbara Kindschi Greenhouse to explore how to incorporate plants into curriculum.

The deadline to register is November 9, but registration can also be completed the day of the event. For more information and to register, visit the [Fall Science Update website](#). or contact Agee at (616) 331-3031.

For Immediate Release

November 8, 2018

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the hand hygiene system are available to use: <http://gvsu.edu/s/ORY>

GVSU group develops system to reduce hospital infections

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A group of Grand Valley State University students has developed a series of devices for a Michigan-based company that addresses a common problem for health care workers: keeping hands sanitized and clean.

Grand Valley's applied Medical Device Institute (aMDI) worked with Sterility to develop the hand hygiene compliance system with a goal to reduce hospital infections. The three-device system was designed for nurses, doctors and other health care workers who come in direct contact with patients.

"Every day, about 250 people across the country die from hospital infections, and over half of infections are caused by direct contact," said Hal Zaima, president of Sterility, located in Bloomfield Hills. "It results in more than \$30 billion in unnecessary costs to hospitals."

The idea for the system came from Bradley Ahlgren, an orthopedic surgeon and co-founder of Sterility. He said wall-mounted sanitizers were inconvenient and often empty, so he started carrying around canisters of sanitizers in his scrubs.

Zaima enlisted the help of aMDI in spring 2017 to design, build and test a series of prototypes for the hand hygiene system, which includes three separate devices. The **personal sanitizer unit** (PSU) is a body-worn device that dispenses the foam sanitizer; the **zone alert emitter unit** is attached to a patient's bed and communicates with the PSU to remind health care workers to sanitize; and **the base station unit** is placed at a central location, like a nurse's station, and uploads data from PSUs when they are in close range.

The aMDI team that developed the system included graduate assistants, undergraduate students and a professor, Karl Brakora, from the School of Engineering. The group recently finished the first set of prototypes and conducted demonstrations in a hospital patient room simulation unit at Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

Jonathon Vinsko, a computer engineering graduate assistant, said it was a valuable experience to be able to take Sterility's concept and build it from the ground up.

"All three devices work together to ensure that health care workers are complying with health standards," Vinsko said. "When a nurse or doctor walks up to a new patient or away from a patient, they are required to sterilize their hands. Sometimes people forget, so this system serves as a quick reminder."

Zaima said the system will also help hospital administrators determine its compliance rate and improve workflow.

"If there are multiple patients in a room, it's more convenient to have a portable sanitizing unit at the 'point of care,' rather than having to run back and forth to one mounted on a wall or to a sink," he said.

Zaima said several hospitals in the Detroit area are interested in beta testing the new system, which has five patents granted and one patent pending. He said Sterility will continue to work with aMDI to fine-tune the current design in preparation for beta testing and mass production.

About aMDI

The applied Medical Device Institute (aMDI), a first of its kind in West Michigan, is located in Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Medical Mile in Grand Rapids. The institute provides access to researchers, engineers, medical professionals, and business and entrepreneurial professionals. It uses an integrated approach that includes intellectual property, business review and mentoring. It was established in 2016 and is part of the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. Learn more at www.gvsu.edu/amdi.

For Immediate Release

November 8, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Behrens named executive director at Johnson Center for Philanthropy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Teresa (Teri) Behrens has been appointed executive director of the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley.

Behrens assumed her new role October 22.

Prior to accepting the position as executive director, Behrens served as the director of strategy and programs at the Johnson Center and worked to integrate an applied research mission with the needs of the changing nonprofit sector.

Behrens has also served as the director of the Institute for Foundation and Donor Learning and has served as the editor-in-chief for The Foundation Review, the nation's first peer-reviewed journal of philanthropy, since founding the publication at the Johnson Center in 2009.

"Teri's long-term dedication to the work and the people of the Johnson Center is inspiring," said Dorothy Johnson, the center's namesake. "Her proven expertise and visionary leadership in the practice of philanthropy put this organization in the best possible position to meet the needs of an evolving and diverse social sector and university community."

George Grant, dean of Grand Valley's College of Community and Public Service, said Behrens' leadership and depth of expertise in philanthropy have helped to shape the Johnson Center into what it is today.

Behrens replaces Kyle Caldwell, who is now serving as the executive director of the Council of Michigan Foundations.

The Johnson Center will also host an [open house and celebration](#) at the Johnson Center offices to welcome Behrens to her new role from 4-6 p.m. on December 18.

For immediate release

November 6, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Presentation at GVSU will focus on Alzheimer's disease

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Presenters at a community event will discuss the latest research on Alzheimer's disease and the impact it has on patients, caregivers and the health system.

"Alzheimer's Disease: A Look into the Future" is set for November 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Ave. SW, on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at gvsu.edu/vphealth.

The event is part of the "Your Health Lecture Series," an annual collaboration among Grand Valley, Spectrum Health and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Presenters are Rebecca Davis, professor of nursing at GVSU; Dr. Cynthia Hingtgen, department of clinical neurosciences, Spectrum Health, and associate professor at MSU CHM; and David Morgan, professor of human medicine, MSU CHM.

Representatives from the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Spectrum Health Neurosciences and the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m. to share resources.

For immediate release

November 5, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the cast are [available via Dropbox](#).

'Jungle Book' to break down bear necessities during GVSU performances

ALLENDALE Mich. — Grand Valley State University students will adhere to the "Law of the Jungle" when they perform a play that's a newer take on the beloved Disney classic film "The Jungle Book."

Theatre at Grand Valley presents "The Jungle Book"

November 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, at 7:30 p.m.

November 11, 18, at 2 p.m.

Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$13 for GVSU faculty and staff and all seniors; \$7 for all students; \$10 for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

NOTE: Younger children are welcome to attend performances of "Jungle Book," however this production is darker in themes and content than the Disney musical version.

In "Jungle Book," the "Law of the Jungle" rules Mowgli's adventures while growing up with a wolf pack, but when his identity is challenged after realizing he's human, his quest to master the laws becomes more complicated and dangerous. Tensions mount when Mowgli becomes entangled with Shere Khan, the most feared animal, and Mowgli's choices affect life in the jungle forever.

While the character of Mowgli has historically been be a boy, this iteration of the story will see Mowgli as a female protagonist, played by Leanne Hoag, a sophomore majoring in hospitality and tourism management.

"Mowgli is such a fun role because I get to incorporate childlike acting techniques that I normally don't get to delve into while also showing this beautiful arc of character development where Mowgli finds her true self," said Hoag.

Hoag said that audiences will experience another key diversion from the Disney film — the absence of songs.

"This version is more about survival in the jungle and the power hierarchy that results between predator and prey," said Hoag.

In addition to changing Mowgli's gender, Hoag said acting in the Keller Black Box Theatre, in which actors and the stage are surrounded by the audience, has also been a fun challenge.

"Instead of performing to one side of an audience, we have to think about three, so in this way we have to tailor our staging and actions differently so that everyone in the audience can see the show," said Hoag. "As an audience member, being in the black box is such an immersive experience, and being stuck

in the middle of the Jungle watching the struggle between predator and prey is an opportunity you don't want to miss."

Playing the role of Mowgli has been a surreal experience for Hoag since "Jungle Book" was one of her favorite movies throughout her childhood.

"I remember I used to ask my grandma to watch it when I was over at her house," said Hoag. "It is honestly surreal to be playing a character that I am so familiar with, but it is also so different from the Disney version that I am able to take a few essential elements from that movie and spin it to fit this version of Mowgli."

For more information about "Jungle Book," visit gvsu.edu/theater or contact Allison Metz, director, at metza@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

November 5, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long and his full report can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OSO>

GVSU economist: Strong October for West Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The economic pace for West Michigan was strong in September, but October was even stronger, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of October.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose confidently to +36, from +28. The production index edged up to +30, from +29. The index of purchases rose to +29, from +21, and the employment index came in at +24, down from +29.

Long said auto sales numbers continue to surprise many economists. "After all the talk about auto sales softening, the October sales report from *Automotive News* posted a minor gain of 0.4 percent," Long said. "The seasonally adjusted sales rate (SAAR) rose to 17.59 million vehicles from 17.44 in September."

Long said year-over-year unemployment rates continue to fall; Kent County is at 2.6 percent, Ottawa County is at 2.5 percent and Kalamazoo County is at 3.0 percent.

The current economy is about as good as it gets, Long said. "Hiring and retaining new workers continues to be a big problem for some firms, so we can't expect much more expansion."

Long said there has been an interesting twist on the tariffs. "Because of some Chinese firms experiencing declining business, they have been willing to cut prices enough to cover the cost of the tariffs," he said.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For immediate release

November 19, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Ela Ben-Ur is available [via Dropbox](#).

Design thinking expert to host community workshops at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A design thinking expert will help Grand Valley State University students, faculty and the West Michigan community solve challenges through multiple design thinking workshops.

Ela Ben-Ur has more than 20 years of experience consulting, coaching and teaching in design thinking research, strategy and innovation, and currently does so through her independent organization, i2i Experience. For more than 13 years prior to launching her own practice, Ben-Ur practiced design thinking at IDEO, an award-winning global design firm that utilizes design thinking to help public and private organizations innovate and grow. With IDEO, Ben-Ur worked with many notable brands, including General Motors, Advil, IAMS Company and PowerBar.

Ben-Ur will present **“Design Thinking and You” on November 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room, located on the Allendale Campus**. This event, which is a part of the Design Thinking at GVSU series hosted by Grand Valley’s [Design Thinking Academy](#), is free and open to the public.

Ben-Ur will introduce attendees to design thinking and show them how to apply the process by using the Innovators’ Compass — a user-friendly framework she developed to help people creatively address challenges. She will also help attendees practice coaching and facilitating the process with others.

“Too often we focus on a single solution, but the Innovators’ Compass allows people to consider several possible solutions while bringing creativity back into the problem-solving process,” said David Coffey, Design Thinking Academy director. “Ela’s approach can be applied to planning a meal, working on a project or creating a start-up. Faculty who have seen the Compass have suggested it would even be useful in helping students to write their papers.”

Ben-Ur will facilitate two design thinking “Deeper Dive” workshops on November 28. The first will take place from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center’s Multipurpose Room on the Allendale Campus, and the second will take place from 1-3 p.m. in the Seidman Forum room in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The morning session will teach students how to design meaningful lives, and teach faculty how to design meaningful courses. The afternoon workshop will focus on improving health care and education using design thinking.

Both workshops are free to students and faculty; there will be a \$10 admission fee for community members. To RSVP and for more information, visit gvsu.edu/designthinking.

Ben-Ur earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from MIT where she specialized in design and developed a force-feedback laparoscopy simulator for the Massachusetts General Hospital. The patented simulator is on display at the MIT museum.

For immediate release

November 15, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Samples of Mathias Alten's paintings are available [via Dropbox](#).

GVSU announces digital library, traveling exhibit of art by Mathias Alten

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Art Gallery has launched a new online digital library that provides a comprehensive database of the life and works of late artist Mathias J. Alten. The university currently owns the largest single public collection of Alten's work, which includes more than 150 pieces of art.

The Mathias J. Alten Online Digital Library allows users to seamlessly browse through Alten's life and work on computers and mobile devices. Nathan Kemler, assistant director of Galleries and Collections, said this system answers the question of how to best engage Grand Valley students and the global community in Alten's legacy in a modern technological age.

"The Mathias J. Alten Online Digital Library provides our students and faculty with an ever-growing and changing wealth of both primary and secondary visual research materials to support academic learning," said Kemler. "This collection of paintings, archival materials, scholarship, timeline entries and oral histories is presented fully integrated together thus encouraging learning connections across both time and space."

The digital library, which can be accessed on the [Art Gallery's website](#), includes eight new paintings recently added to Grand Valley's Alten collection. Seven paintings, including rare depictions of the Lake Michigan shoreline, were gifted by Anita Gilleo, one of Alten's granddaughters.

One of Alten's paintings created during trip to Spain in 1912 was gifted by George and Barbara Gordon, local collectors who have added to Grand Valley's Alten collection annually since 1998.

Gilleo also presented to the university the Alten Catalog Raisonné — a comprehensive, annotated listing of all the known works by Alten written by local art historian James Straub— and created the Anita M. Gilleo Endowment Fund to support the maintenance of the catalog in perpetuity.

"This is a very significant gift to Grand Valley because it holds all known paintings of Alten worldwide, which is over 2,200, and it is the undisputed authority of the artist's body of work," said Kemler. "This gift gives our community the ability to browse the artist's work at a scale and depth that is incredibly unique compared to most artists."

Alten's legacy will spread beyond Grand Valley when the "Mathias J. Alten: An American Artist at the Turn of the Century" exhibit travels to museums and galleries around the State of Michigan in 2021 during the 150th anniversary of Alten's birth.

The Art Gallery staff is currently developing the traveling exhibit, which will include more than 40 works of art and other objects that provide context for Alten's artistic legacy, such as pictures, personal items, oral histories and letters.

A native of Germany, Alten immigrated to Grand Rapids as a teenager. Often referred to as the "Dean of Michigan Painters," Alten spent his 40-year career painting in Europe and across the U.S., but always returned to Grand Rapids, his professional base of operations and home, until his death in 1938.

For immediate release

November 26, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Fall Arts Celebration images are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU holiday concert to celebrate "The Many Moods of Christmas"

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Robert Shaw's "The Many Moods of Christmas" meshes together pieces of 18 of the most traditional carols combined with music from famous composers such as Handel, Bizet and Bach.

Renowned choral conductor Craig Jessop will lead the Grand Valley State University Arts Chorale and local high school students as they perform the piece during a special Fall Arts Celebration concert.

"Celebrating Holiday Splendor: Craig Jessop Conducts 'The Many Moods of Christmas'" will take place December 3, at 7:30 p.m., at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids (24 Fountain Street NE). The concert is free and open to the public.

Jessop, professor of music and founding dean of the Cain College of the Arts at Utah State University, is the former director of the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He led the ensemble as a featured conductor during the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

"Craig Jessop is a true American treasure, and he is without doubt one of the foremost expert choral conductors and choral interpreters in the world today," said Danny Phipps, chair of Grand Valley's Music, Theatre, and Dance Department. "I am very excited that our students will have an opportunity to work with this legendary conductor because those who remain in the fields of choral performance or choral education will never forget working with him, nor will audiences forget that they heard the 'Many Moods' conducted by one of the most accomplished and celebrated Choral conductors in America today."

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit gvsu.edu/fallarts.

For immediate release

November 21, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of artwork from the "System Processing" exhibit are available [via Dropbox](#).

GVSU students curating art exhibit in educational farm

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A group of Grand Valley State University students are developing an art exhibition that will showcase work by artists from around the U.S. in a unique venue near campus.

"System Processing" will be on display at Grand Valley's [Sustainable Agriculture Project](#), the university's educational farm located just north of the Allendale Campus at 4539 Luce St. in Jenison. The exhibition will be on display from 6-9 p.m. on November 29-30 with a reception taking place November 29.

The creative minds curating the exhibit are the students currently enrolled in the Curatorial Studio course offered through the [Visual and Media Arts Department](#). The Curatorial Studio course explores the study and creation of visual presentations within a studio context.

Hayley Ganshaw, a junior majoring in art history, said managing executive decisions, budget dollars and collaborating with her classmates and out-of-state artists, have given her valuable experience in professional curating.

"The process of curating this exhibition has broadened our experience working with professional artists, forced us to be able to imagine where work would go in an unconventional gallery space, and opened our eyes to look at the work not only in the contained sense of the work itself, but also the work in relation to the space," said Ganshaw.

The Curatorial Studio students selected artwork through an open call to artists around the U.S. Ganshaw said the pieces of art and the venue were chosen because they all represent the process of life and how the natural world influences that process.

"The SAP has never hosted anything like this before, so we thought it would be interesting to collaborate with this agricultural space and expose it to the art world," said Ganshaw. "This show has the ability to provoke interest from many different people, such as those interested in art, science and agriculture. It gives everyone an opportunity to not only support the artists and curators involved, but it also shines a new light on the Sustainable Agriculture Project."

For more information about the exhibit, visit the ["System Processing" website](#).

For immediate release

November 20, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Samples of work by Valerie Wojo and Jacob Mol are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU visual and media arts students to showcase capstone work through exhibits

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 20 students from Grand Valley State University's Visual and Media Arts Department will showcase works that represent the culmination of their collegiate educational experiences.

Valerie Wojo, a senior majoring in photography, said the senior photography exhibition, "Resonate," places a strong emphasis on community.

"As an all-female team, we have found empowerment in our common goal of representing a community that resonates within us," said Valerie Wojo, a senior majoring in photography. "While that community varies from one series to another, we each have a personal connection to our subject matter."

For the exhibit, Wojo chose to represent the Flint community, specifically those who have been impacted by the Flint water crisis.

"While photographing my thesis series this semester, I have met so many new people who shared their personal stories of suffering with me, and it was both eye-opening and extremely frustrating to learn that these people have been neglected for so long," said Wojo. "However, each individual inspired me to channel that frustration into my work and strive for change, so being able to use my gift to do that has been rewarding."

Jacob Mol, a senior majoring in graphic design, will be showcasing his designs for an emergency survival kit e-commerce product line called "72 Critical Hours" in the senior graphic design exhibit, "Command + N." Mol designed the branding, packaging, print and digital components for the product line.

He said his work for this exhibit reflects the skills he has acquired at Grand Valley.

"Not only did I learn to be a designer, but I learned to be an artist, a critical thinker, a problem solver and self-motivator," said Mol. "To be able to think beyond just the design to how it might be perceived, interacted with and what impact it might make on others has been a valuable experience."

Mol said the name of the exhibit is representative of the keyboard shortcut graphic designers can use on Apple computers to create a new project.

"In a way, this represents us in this show," said Mol. "Everything we are doing is new work, it's a new exhibit and we are becoming new designers in the design community."

Below is a full list of upcoming senior thesis exhibitions:

Command + N

Senior graphic design exhibition

Exhibition dates: November 26-30

Reception: November 29, from 5-8 p.m.

Padnos Student Visual and Media Arts Gallery, Calder Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Students: Jessica Allen, Christina Elsholz, Stephanie Freeman, Kristine Hynes, Jacob Mol, Sydney Schurig, Shelby Verstrate

Resonate

Senior photography exhibition

Exhibition dates: November 27-December 8

Reception: November 29, from 5-7 p.m.

GVSU Art Gallery, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts

Students: Ashley Cefali, Ana Grace Dykstra, Markeyna Jay, Kendalyn Liebzeit, Jodi VanWagnen, Valerie Wojo

Tactile Existence

Senior metals, printmaking and painting exhibition

Exhibition dates: December 3-7

Reception: December 6, from 5-7 p.m.

Padnos Student Visual and Media Arts Gallery, Calder Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Students: Morgan Lloyd (metals), Katelyn Venema (metals), Caitlyn Brandt (painting), Jane Dandron (printmaking)

Explorations of the Body

Senior visual studies exhibition

Exhibition dates: December 3-7

Reception: December 7, from 6-9 p.m.

Spiral Gallery, 44 Division Ave. South, Grand Rapids

Students: Ashley Acton, Emily McKenna

Echo Unspoken

Senior illustration exhibition

Exhibition dates: December 7-January 7

Reception: December 8, from 7-10 p.m.

The Nomad Galleries, 74 Monroe Center Northwest, Grand Rapids

Students: Chloe Burns, Amelia Cleveland, Erin Davis, Kenzie Fox, Dana Witherspoon

For more information, contact the Visual and Media Arts Department at (616) 331-3486 or visit gvsu.edu/vma.

For Immediate Release

November 30, 2018

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: A headshot of Whitney is available for download for 30 days at the following link:
<http://gvsu.edu/r/?690>

Hauenstein Center director to discuss cultural, political divides

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The 2016 election of Donald Trump, Kavanaugh hearings, and 2018 midterm elections have stirred up deep emotions about what kind of nation America is and should be. Conservative and progressive debates over the meaning of these events have opened old wounds and created new injuries in our body politic.

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University, will address the divide in the country, and explain why failure to resolve our most difficult challenges is not an option.

"Fortunately, America has usually had enough people of goodwill who want to work with others over the divide of their differences," Whitney said. "A major aim of the Hauenstein Center is to tap this civic energy by enlightening, encouraging, and empowering Americans to seek common ground for the common good."

Gleaves Whitney: Common Ground?

Wednesday, December 5, 7 p.m.

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center

401 Fulton St. W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Free and open to the public, but an RSVP is requested at gvsu.edu/hc

Whitney will lead a searching exploration of how we can do better — and be better — as a people.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/hc.

For immediate release

November 30, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Prescription drug pricing topic of Health Forum at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Panelists at the next Health Forum of West Michigan event held at Grand Valley State University will discuss prescription drug pricing.

"The Cost of Prescription Drugs: Highs and Lows" is set for Friday, December 7, from 8-9:30 a.m. in the DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton St., on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Panelists, listed below, will discuss the fundamentals of drug pricing, legislative issues, and challenges in the process. The event is free and open to the public. A light breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.; RSVP online at gvsu.edu/vphealth.

- Christina Barrington, vice president of pharmacy programs for Priority Health;
- Atheer Kaddis, vice president of pharmacy services for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan;
- Eric Roath, clinical care coordinator for Spartan Nash;
- Greg Wellman, professor of pharmacy administration for Ferris State's College of Pharmacy.

Michael Bouthillier, director of operations for Ferris State University College of Pharmacy, will serve as moderator.

Health Forums are sponsored by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health and coordinated with community partners, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement. Sponsorship is provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For immediate release

November 27, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the event are available for download via <http://gvsu.edu/s/OTx>

GVSU, Mercy Health partner with MCC to open health, wellness center

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Ten years after an idea was first shared, leaders from Muskegon Community College, Grand Valley State University and Mercy Health held a ribbon cutting ceremony November 27 at the new MCC Health and Wellness Center.

The 52,000-square-foot facility on MCC's campus on Quarterline Road will house a health simulation lab, classrooms, a fitness center and gymnasium and a nurse-managed primary care center.

The Mercy Health Partners Primary Care Center is a collaboration among MCC, GVSU's Kirkhof College of Nursing (KCON) and Mercy Health. The suite contains eight exam rooms, a treatment room and a lab, and will provide Grand Valley nursing students and MCC's nursing, medical assistant and respiratory therapy students with opportunities for clinical experiences.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said the three institutions began imagining a nurse-managed primary care center 10 years ago.

"When academia and health care practice collaborate on an endeavor, students will flourish and partnerships will grow into deep commitments," McCurren said.

The center will open to the public in January and offer primary care services to MCC students, faculty and staff members, and the public.

Dr. Kristen Brown, vice president for Mercy Health Physician Partners, said the center will serve a need on Muskegon's east side.

"This center will be aimed at keeping the community in the driver's seat of their well-being," Brown said. "It will be focused on the practice of nursing and will create a platform for students to grow into their clinical practice."

For immediate release

November 26, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: photos of Barnes conducting research are available via this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OTq>

GVSU researcher compares running economy in Nike shoe, track spikes

ALLENDALE, Mich. — In 2014, shoe giant Nike began developing a shoe for elite marathon runners to help them run a marathon in under two hours. In September, a Kenyan running the Berlin Marathon came close with a world record time of 2:01:39.

Kyle Barnes, assistant professor of movement science at Grand Valley State University, has researched strategies to improve running economy and performance for years.

He incorporated the Nike Vaporfly 4% (NVF) shoes in his studies and in October published results in the journal [Sports Medicine](#) that validated Nike's original study results giving the shoe the 4% name, while at the same time, comparing the NVF to traditional track spikes worn during track racing. It's considered the first study to compare NVF with a spike shoe.

Barnes' co-author is Andrew Kilding, from the Sports Performance Research Institute in New Zealand. They compared the metabolic cost of running in three different shoes — NVF, Nike Zoom Matumbo 3 with track spikes, and Adidas Adizero Adios 3 (ADI) a marathon shoe. Results from their study are below.

- NVF shoe improved running economy by an average of 2.6 percent compared to track spikes, and 4.2 percent compared to ADI.
- NVF lowered rates of oxygen uptake (improved running economy) and improved performance and should be considered a viable option for track and road racing.

Barnes said lighter running shoes reduce the inertia of a leg swing, therefore reducing energy spent. He said the NVF is built with a special foam and carbon-fiber plate that helps propel athletes forward more efficiently than other shoes, but added that exactly how this occurs is not fully understood.

For the study, Barnes used 24 highly trained West Michigan runners, including men and women from Grand Valley's track and field team. Participants ran on a level treadmill made to accommodate spikes. He said after a warm-up, runners ran for five minutes at three different speeds in each of the three shoes.

"If the NVF improves running economy by several percentage points, it would make sense that these shoes can be used during road and distance track racing," Barnes said.

Barnes has since continued this line of research, incorporating Adidas' version of a sub-two-hour marathon shoe (Adidas Sub2) in studies.

For Immediate Release

December 7, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long and his full report can be found at this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OTQ>

GVSU economist: November a strong month for West Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — For the West Michigan industrial economy, September was strong, October was stronger and November was the best month of the year, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of November.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) edged higher to +38, from +36. The production index edged up to +33, from +30. The index of purchases rose to +36, from +32, and the employment index came in at +25, up slightly from +24.

Long said November's bad news from the automotive sector came from General Motors; the company plans to close three plants associated with small car production and lay off 14,000 workers, presumably to get ahead of the predicted slump in auto sales for 2019.

"Although auto sales continue to soften, our West Michigan auto parts suppliers continue to report positive business conditions and remain cautiously optimistic about the first half of 2019," he said.

The 2017 tax incentives may have run their course for at least some of the capital equipment firms, Long said, and business conditions remain strong for most industrial distributors.

He added that the office furniture industry is profitable at the current level, but the expansion for this phase of the business cycle for office furniture is apparently over. "The 'sugar high' for office furniture sales brought on by the 2017 tax reform package has now run its course," said Long.

Looking forward, Long said unless trade talks with China break down, there is no apparent problem in the short term that will upset the economy for the first half of 2019.

Other report highlights:

- Some firms are seeing falling prices for some key commodities. However, the tariffs are still being used as an excuse to raise prices.
- Year-over-year unemployment rates are still running about a full percentage point below a year ago.
- Hiring and retaining new workers continues to be a big problem for some firms, but with the current hesitancy in the economy, this problem may be receding.
- The European economy continues to slow. Not collapse, just slow. The Italian fiscal budget problem is not yet resolved, and could cause trouble for the other eurozone countries.
- Mike Dunlap survey of the office furniture firms clearly depicts an industry that is topping out.

- Our two largest trading partners are Canada and Mexico. The Mexican PMI dipped to 49.7 in November, down from 50.7. However, the Canadian PMI upticked to 54.9 in November from September's 53.9.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For immediate release

December 4, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Skybox 101B in Van Andel Arena is reserved for media, it offers a mult box and an elevated, unobstructed view of the podium and platform. Photos of the speaker and honorary degree recipients are available to download via: <http://qvsu.edu/s/OTJ>

Autocam Medical president will speak at GVSU commencement

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 1,150 students will participate in Grand Valley State University's fall semester commencement ceremony, set for Saturday, December 8, at 10 a.m. at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

John C. Kennedy, member of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees, will give the commencement address. Kennedy, president and CEO of Autocam Medical, will end his second term as a trustee at the end of December.

An active community member, Kennedy serves as a board member for Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy, Lacks Enterprises, Shape Corporation, Van Andel Institute, Acton Institute, West Michigan Policy Forum, and the Right Place. He is an advisory board member of the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, and Samuel Zell and Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies.

State Sen. Arlan B. Meekhof and Raleigh J. Finkelstein will receive honorary degrees.

Meekhof (R-West Olive) was first elected to serve the 30th Senate District in 2010. He was chosen by his Republican colleagues to serve as majority floor leader for the 2011-2014 term, and was elected as Senate Majority Leader for his second term. He serves as chair of the Government Operations committee and the Michigan Capitol committee.

Finkelstein was the lead donor for the initial building in Grand Valley's expanding Health Campus and the building was named in his honor. He worked with his brothers to grow their parents' business into what was MC Sporting Goods. After selling the retail chain, the brothers maintain an active real estate business.

The ceremony will be webcast live at gvsu.edu/commencement.

For Immediate Release

December 3, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Seidman College of Business named among best schools to earn a MBA

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business has been named as one of the top business schools in the nation for 2019 by Princeton Review. Grand Valley was recognized as one of the best universities to earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA).

Selection was narrowed to the top 252 business schools, based on academics and student responses to questions about campus life and career plans. Princeton Review analyzed data from 23,000 survey responses from MBA students attending business schools across the country.

For more on the rankings, visit www.princetonreview.com/best-business-schools.

Graduate degrees offered in the Seidman College of Business include: Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Accounting, Master of Science in Taxation, and Executive Master of Business Administration.

The Seidman College of Business is accredited through AACSB International. The college is located in the L. William Seidman Center on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Seidman College develops business talent that contributes to the economic growth of West Michigan and the Great Lakes region. Through the exchange and application of knowledge with a global perspective, students learn to make informed decisions, act ethically and take initiative.

For more information visit www.gvsu.edu/seidman.

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 90 undergraduate and 41 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For immediate release

December 3, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are [available via Dropbox](#).

GVSU January 2019 arts events tip sheet

Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance

For more information about Music, Theatre, and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484, or visit gvsu.edu/mttd. All performances are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Grand Valley Opera Theatre presents "Wonderful Town"

February 8, 9, 15, 16, at 7:30 p.m.

February 10, 17, at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$13 for GVSU faculty and staff and all seniors; \$7 for all students; \$10 for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

Two sisters. One incredible city. Unlimited possibilities. Join Ruth and Eileen Sherwood as they leave behind their ordinary Ohio lives in pursuit of making it big in New York City. Bursting with swinging show tunes and plenty of charm, Grand Valley State University students will showcase how "Wonderful Town" captures the thrill of chasing dreams.

Arts at Noon

Arts at Noon brings nationally and internationally known musicians to Grand Valley State University for 14 performances each academic year. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center located on the Allendale Campus. They will begin at noon and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon or contact Henry Duitman, series coordinator, at duitmanh@gvsu.edu.

January 16 – Perugino Quartet

Named after Renaissance artist Pietro Perugino of Grand Rapids' sister city Perugia, Italy, The Perugino String Quartet has performed across Michigan and at the world-renowned Julliard String Quartet Seminar at the Lincoln Center in New York City. The group is composed of Grand Rapids Symphony members including, violinists Eric Tanner and Christopher Martin, violinist Barbara Corbato and cellist Stacey Bosman Tanner. Together, the quartet performs classics of the string quartet repertoire, as well as a variety of new chamber works. The Perugino String Quartet centers its appearances around Michigan, having performed at many arts-based series and events, such as the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, Art Reach of Mid Michigan and Muskegon's Feeding the Soul of the City concert series.

January 23 – GVSU Faculty Recital

This Arts at Noon concert will feature performances by two Grand Valley State University music faculty members: Pablo Mahave-Veglia, professor of cello and director of the university's Early Music Ensemble, and Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano.

Mahave-Veglia is a cellist and teacher of broad interests whose repertoire ranges from the early baroque, performed on period instruments, to his ongoing interest in researching, performing and recording the work of contemporary Latin-American composers.

Before taking her position as an assistant professor of piano at Grand Valley, Cho served on the piano faculty at New England Conservatory Preparatory School and Continuing Education in Boston. She was also adjunct faculty in theory at Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and served as a Teaching Fellow in the piano minor and music theory departments at The Juilliard School. Cho has performed throughout North America, Europe, and her native country, Korea, in prestigious venues, including Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Beaux concerts de la relève in Quebec, Château de Fontainebleau in France and Zijingang Theater at Zhejiang University in China, among others. She received a bachelor's degree in music and doctorate of musical arts from The Juilliard School, and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

GVSU ART GALLERY

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit gvsu.edu/artgallery.

"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection in the world of Alten's work.

"Water: Human Right or Commodity?"

Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center, Building B

Exhibition on display January 7-June 21

This exhibition explores human rights in a world of increasingly limited natural resources; specifically, access to clean water. A result of the research and collaborations arranged by two Grand Valley State University social work faculty members, Paola León and Steven Smith, this exhibition includes images and descriptions of the challenges faced in El Salvador and Flint, Michigan. Organized into themes dealing with civic engagement, infrastructure, ownership/legislation, public health and scarcity/contamination, these materials provide local, national and international context to water rights. The El Salvador portion of the exhibition, focusing on the lack of running water in homes, social activism and contamination by the mining industry, was organized by León. Smith organized the Flint portion of the exhibition, documenting the ongoing issues and continuing recovery of the City of Flint's tainted water supply.

VMA Sabbatical Showcase

Art Gallery, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts

Exhibition on display January 14-March 29

This sabbatical showcase will feature works by Grand Valley faculty members Brett Colley, Dellas Henke, Hoon Lee and Anthony Thompson.

“Plastination — The Art of Preservation”

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibition on display January 14-June 21

Plastination is the process of infusing animal, human or plant tissues with a variety of plastic or silicone products to render the tissues odor-free, dry and permanently preserved for educational and instructional purposes. The process was invented by Gunther von Hagens in 1977 at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and became popular through his many “Body Worlds” exhibitions around the world. Beginning in 2007, members of Grand Valley State University began studying plastination and investigating the opportunity to create a lab at the university. That became a reality in 2013, and since then, more than 300 specimens have been plastinated for use in a variety of teaching roles. This exhibition tells the story of plastination at Grand Valley and walks viewers through the process and uses of plastinates. It brings together more than 20 animal specimens from the lab – currently the only plastination lab in Michigan.

For immediate release

December 13, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: photos of Callison and Linde are available to download via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OU3>

Researchers to discuss trends at GVSU's annual Health Care Economic Forecast

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Researchers from Grand Valley State and Tulane universities will discuss health-related trends and costs during the 10th annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast, scheduled for January 11 at the Eberhard Center, on GVSU's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Sponsored by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health, the event will run from 8-9:45 a.m. It is free and open to the public; RSVPs are requested online at gvsu.edu/vphealth. The event will be webcast live, and can be accessed via gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Economics faculty member Sebastian Linde, from Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business, and Kevin Callison, assistant professor of public health and tropical medicine at Tulane, will present the Health Check, which analyzes health care access, risk factors and demographic data from Kent, Ottawa, Allegan and Muskegon counties.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health, said the report serves as a tool to assist in shaping policy and planning for health care workforce, services and delivery systems.

After their report, the following area health care leaders will discuss health trends.

- Robert Casalou, president and CEO of Mercy Health & Saint Joseph Mercy Health System
- Tina Freese Decker, president and CEO of Spectrum Health
- Dr. Rakesh Pai, president of the medical group and chief population health officer of Metro Health University of Michigan Health.

The Health Check report is made possible by a partnership among Grand Valley's Vice Provost for Health and Seidman College of Business, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, and Priority Health.

For immediate release

December 11, 2018

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU earns grant to support aging in place by providing onsite care to low-income seniors

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Through a \$493,690 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, teams of Grand Valley State University faculty members and students will provide onsite care to older adults and senior citizens who are income-eligible or disabled.

With oversight by Della Hughes Carter, assistant professor of nursing, onsite primary care will be provided to older adults who are served through Grand Rapids Housing Commission (GRHC) and the Dwelling Place. Hughes Carter will serve as the grant's primary investigator.

The project will begin in January at two locations: Reflections, a senior housing community managed by Dwelling Place in southeast Grand Rapids that maintains 60 units; and Mount Mercy Apartments, a 180-unit building on Grand Rapids' northwest side managed by the GRHC.

The GVSU Family Health Center, a nurse-managed center operated by the Kirkhof College of Nursing (KCON), will be the collaborating partner and deploy primary care teams.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said interdisciplinary teams that include nursing students will provide care to patients with a focus on improving mental, physical and functional health, which will help decrease emergency room and hospital visits, delay nursing home placements and support aging in place.

"We are very fortunate to be given this opportunity to help the community, as well as provide high-impact clinical experiences for our students," McCurren said.

Hughes Carter said teams of faculty and students from nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, clinical dietetics and social work will collaborate in the evaluation, treatment and monitoring of participants. Anticipated outcomes, she said, include decreased number of falls, improved medication tracking, and reduced financial costs.

Kari Sederburg, senior program officer for the Health Fund, said the grant was among \$14 million in awards to Michigan organizations through two programs: Healthy Aging, and Special Projects & Emerging Ideas.

"Michigan's population is aging, and as a state we must adapt to support older adults and those who care for them," Sederburg said.

This gift is a part of GVSU's Laker Effect campaign, which is transforming the lives of students and enhancing the West Michigan community. Learn more about the campaign at gvsu.edu/giving.

About GVSU: [Grand Valley State University](https://gvsu.edu) attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers undergraduate

and graduate degree programs in 300+ areas of study from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Holland, and from regional centers in Detroit, Muskegon, and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

About Michigan Health Endowment Fund: The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of healthcare, with a special focus on children and seniors. You can find more information about the Health Fund at mihealthfund.org.