

Winter 2018

Grand Valley Magazine, vol. 17, no. 3 Winter 2018

Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gv_magazine



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

ScholarWorks Citation

Grand Valley State University, "Grand Valley Magazine, vol. 17, no. 3 Winter 2018" (2018). *Grand Valley Magazine*. 60.

https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gv_magazine/60

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Grand Valley Magazine by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

GVM

GRAND VALLEY MAGAZINE

WINTER
2018

GAMING ^{THE} LOTTERY

**PROFESSOR,
STUDENTS UNCOVER
LOTTERY SECRETS** P. 4

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Unique class collaborates on resource for seniors P. 7

Partnership advances high school engineering curriculum P. 14

GVM

GRAND VALLEY MAGAZINE

**VOL. 17
ISSUE 3
WINTER
2018**

EDITORIAL STAFF

Mary Eilleen Lyon, M.S., '05
Associate Vice President for
University Communications,
Executive Editor

Michele Coffill
Editor and Writer

Dottie Barnes, M.S., '05
Contributing Editor and Writer

Nate Hoekstra, B.S., '06
Contributing Editor and Writer

Matthew Makowski, B.S., '10
Contributing Editor and Writer

Leah Twilley, B.A., '10, M.S., '16
Contributing Editor and Writer

Bernadine Carey-Tucker, B.A., '99
Photo Editor and
Contributing Photographer

Elizabeth Lienau, B.S., '05
Photography Coordinator and
Contributing Photographer

Amanda Pitts, B.S., '05, M.S., '10
Senior Photographer and
Contributing Photographer

Katie Kochanny
Social Media Coordinator

Bill Cuppy, B.S., '95
Creative Director,
Video and Multimedia

Dave LeFurge-McLeod
Videographer

Tony Packer, B.S., '15
Videographer

*Susan M. K. Howard,
B.A., '10, M.A., '15*
Alumni Editor

Sherry Bouwman, B.S., '12
Editorial and
Circulation Assistant

Matthew E. McLogan
Vice President for
University Relations

DESIGN STAFF

Christine O'Brien, B.S., '06
Sr. Graphic Designer

Stephanie Aikens, B.F.A., '11
Graphic Designer

John Zerfas
Sr. Graphic Designer

Alexianna Mundy, B.A., '15
Production Artist



**Proudly
from West
Michigan**

Grand Valley State University is a comprehensive, four-year public university located in Allendale, Michigan, United States. The university was established in 1960, and its main campus is situated on 1,322 acres approximately 12 miles west of Grand Rapids.

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

Mission
Grand Valley State University educates students to shape their lives, their professions and their societies. The university contributes to the enrichment of society through excellent teaching, active scholarship and public service.

On the cover
A Grand Valley professor started investigating the global lottery system in 2013, read more on page 4. (Amanda Pitts)

On these pages
Graduate assistant Kyle Dinger, right, looks at the aircraft at West Michigan Aviation Academy, where he works in the classroom and with activities like FIRST Robotics. Read more on page 14. (Valerie Wojciechowski)

CONTACT US

Grand Valley Magazine is a quarterly publication by University Communications. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

E-mail
gvmagazine@gvsu.edu

Write
Grand Valley Magazine
Grand Valley State University
1 Campus Drive, 4090 JHZ
Allendale, MI 49401

Online
See the entire magazine, including additional content, online at
gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Social Media
Connect with students, faculty, staff and alumni through Grand Valley's official social media channels.



Place FSC logo
at .473 inches high

In support of GVSU's sustainability values, this magazine is printed on FSC-certified paper containing fiber from certified, responsibly managed forests and includes a minimum of 10% postconsumer waste.

18 CAMPUS NEWS

Focal Point | 18
Briefs | 20

Athletics | 25
Research | 26

Sustainability | 28
Q&A | 30

Arts | 32
Off the Path | 34

36 ALUMNI NEWS

Giving | 37
Events | 38

Profile | 39
Featured Event | 40
Laker Landings | 42



FEATURES

4

Gaming the lottery

Professor leads team of journalists, students to investigate global lottery industry

7

Learning across generations

Unique class finds solutions to help common aging issues

10

Give it to me straight

Mentorship program helps students grow personally and professionally

14

Flying high

GVSU, WMAA partner to advance engineering education



GAMING THE LOTTERY

**PROFESSOR LEADS TEAM OF
JOURNALISTS, STUDENTS TO INVESTIGATE
GLOBAL LOTTERY INDUSTRY**

STORY BY MATTHEW MAKOWSKI
PHOTOS BY AMANDA PITTS

Playing the lottery is a part of everyday life for many people around the world — a person stops at a gas station or convenience store and purchases anything from a \$2 scratch-off ticket to a Powerball ticket that could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Money has been spent, tickets scratched or numbers drawn, and life simply goes on for most people who miss out at winning big, while some lucky people find riches. But for a select few, like Massachusetts resident Clarence Jones, their luck doesn't seem to run out.

Jones, for example, won the lottery more than 7,000 times between 2011 and 2016 to the tune of \$11 million. How is it possible that some individuals can win the lottery numerous times, while others rarely take home any winnings?

Jeff Kelly Lowenstein, assistant professor of communications, has collaborated with more than 40 students and journalists from 10 different countries since November 2016 to investigate this question and others related to the global lottery industry.

The investigation has gained so much international attention that Kelly Lowenstein was invited to speak about his team's findings as a panelist at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in South Africa in November.

Two multimedia journalism students, McKenna Peariso and Eric Deyo, traveled with Kelly Lowenstein to the conference to learn the value of investigative journalism.

There, they networked with investigative journalists from around the world and participated in the event's student newsroom, working alongside students from South Africa and Germany to provide news coverage of the conference.

INVESTIGATING THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Kelly Lowenstein said his team's project is exploring uncharted waters because previous lottery investigations have focused on state or national levels, while this investigation is global.

"Our investigation has proven that there's an organized system behind what you think is just an ordinary part of daily life," he said. "The scale is massive."

Eight gaming companies play an outsized role in the global industry. One of the largest is International Game Technology (IGT), which Kelly Lowenstein said has a presence in 100 countries, including the U.S.

"Our investigation has proven that there's an organized system behind what you think is just an ordinary part of daily life. The scale of it is massive."

JEFF KELLY LOWENSTEIN,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Those companies heavily fund a nonprofit lobbying association based in Switzerland called the World Lottery Association.

"This association espouses that it is very committed to responsible gambling

Jeff Kelly Lowenstein has been investigating the lottery industry since 2013.



and says on its website that its members all give at least half of their proceeds to charity," said Kelly Lowenstein.

"Meanwhile, they get regional industry leaders together at a World Lottery Summit every other year to plan how they can extract more money from the world's lottery players who, research has shown, are disproportionately poor people."

After examining the public financial records of IGT, Kelly Lowenstein said a team member found the company was taking steps to avoid paying millions of dollars in taxes. While he said there is nothing to suggest that this practice is illegal, it is a dynamic that prior lottery research has not scrutinized.

Another primary piece of this global investigation involved tracing where money goes after people pay for lottery tickets.

For example, in Mali, West Africa, a reporter found that the lottery is supposed to help Mali's residents but his research found that the ruling political party was holding "lavish parties" funded with money from the lottery, Kelly Lowenstein said.

"We're not trying to disband the lottery, but I do think there is something significant to look at around how the system operates as it disproportionately impacts people who have fewer resources," said Kelly Lowenstein.

CHEATING THE SYSTEM

The key point of investigation in the U.S. regarding the lottery industry was the possibility that an individual can be so lucky as to win the lottery multiple times in a given lifetime.

Well, the answer may not boil down to luck as much as one might think.

An analysis through the investigation of more than 11 million records of lottery winners from 35 states and the District of Columbia found that more than 1,700 people won a significant number of lottery prizes.

"Basically, we found that there were individuals winning the lottery from 50 up to thousands of times, all with prizes over \$600," Kelly Lowenstein said. "It's hard to describe how low the odds are of this happening."

For the investigation, a statistician from the University of California, Berkley explained that every resident in Massachusetts would have to spend at least \$250 million to have a 1-in-10 million chance of winning as often as Jones did.

Kelly Lowenstein and his team collaborated with *PennLive*, a media outlet in Pennsylvania, on a national investigation examining repeat winners. The group analyzed previous news coverage to identify common techniques used to win the lottery multiple times.

These techniques included theft, cheating, money laundering, and “ticket cashing,” which is when a person has someone else cash-in a winning ticket to avoid having debts deducted from the winnings.

Some states, including Massachusetts, have developed lists of frequent lottery winners in order to track suspicious activity — Jones now finds himself on that list.

If an individual claims six or more lottery prizes of \$1,000 or more during the course of any consecutive 12-month period under the Massachusetts policy, the state’s lottery executive director has the authority to suspend that individual’s ability to claim additional prizes for a certain period of time.

Connecticut is now considering adopting the Massachusetts policy after Kelly Lowenstein’s team shared its findings. Additionally, Pennsylvania’s auditor general is examining frequent winners and New York had its first-ever arrest for frequent winning and suspended seven stores from selling lottery games.

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

The genesis of the investigation dates back to 2013 when Kelly Lowenstein worked at the *Chicago Tribune’s* Spanish-language newspaper as a database and investigative editor and began researching the state’s lottery industry.

He found that there was one zip code in a heavily Latino neighborhood that had 76 locations where residents could purchase lottery tickets, and there were none in a wealthier zip code in a suburban Chicago neighborhood.

“If you surround people with the opportunity to buy something, and that something could change their lives, it’s their choice to buy a lottery ticket, but it’s a choice that’s influenced by the environment around them,” he said.

He dug deeper working alongside students in 2014 when he taught a course at Columbia College in Chicago. In 2015 the investigation started going global. Kelly Lowenstein worked with students and faculty at two universities in New Zealand to examine the country’s lottery industry while he was serving as a Fulbright Specialist.

After obtaining public records from New Zealand’s lottery officials, they found the same scenario they discovered in Chicago: low income neighborhoods had many more places to play the lottery than richer communities.

The investigation picked up steam in 2016 when Kelly Lowenstein enlisted a group of investigative journalists at the African Investigative Journalism Conference. His pitch for the project: “Let’s expose the existence, architecture and impact of the global lottery industry.”

In the fall of 2016, Kelly Lowenstein recruited Grand Valley students to research the lottery industry in Michigan. The students in his advanced reporting techniques course assessed the places where people played the lottery and the demographics of those areas.

Students found that there are more lottery outlets and higher levels of per-person expenditures in low-income communities than in wealthier areas of West Michigan.

Peariso said there is an “absolute need” for this type



From left are Jeff Kelly Lowenstein and students McKenna Peariso and Eric Deyo at a journalism conference in South Africa.

of investigative journalism in the world today — a sentiment that spawned as a result of her experience at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference.

“I will always remember the stories I heard at this conference about some journalists being killed because of the people they exposed or those who continue to stand up to their governments who attempt to censor them,” said Peariso, from Lake Orion.

“These stories made me realize how important it is for me to utilize the privileges I have been given to help these journalists report the kinds of stories that make real change.”

Deyo said that attending the conference changed his approach to his craft, and he will apply this new direction to his studies at Grand Valley.

“I used to be somewhat apprehensive about pursuing an investigative story,” explained Deyo. “This experience has given me the confidence to do what it takes to uncover wrongdoings and bring injustice to light.”

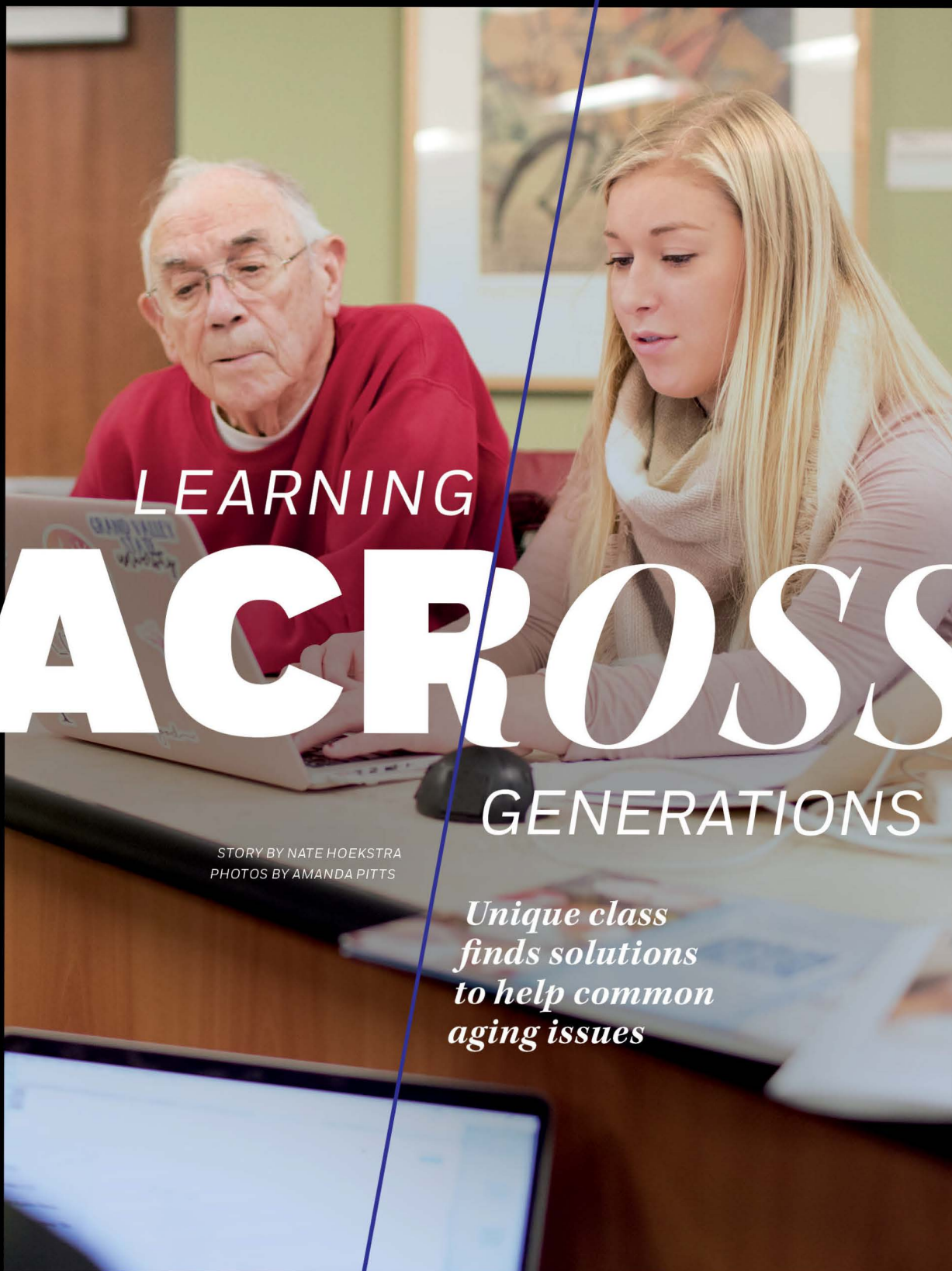
INVOLVING THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

While Kelly Lowenstein’s team has gone public with their findings, the investigation will continue. He said he is currently working with colleagues from the University of Bobes-Bolyai in Cluj, Romania, as well as communicating with journalists from England, Kenya and Germany about advancing the project.

Kelly Lowenstein hopes to involve the global community in the conversation about the lottery industry. To do this, Open Up, a nonprofit civic technology organization in South Africa, developed a tool that allows people to search how much money different organizations have received from the South African lottery in the past 16 years.

“I think what this tool is going to do is show that there are a lot of questionable practices and that a lot of people, when they play the lottery, trust that it’s fair and that the money is going to good causes,” said Kelly Lowenstein.

To access the tool, and for more information about the investigation, visit gamingthelottery.org.



LEARNING

ACROSS

GENERATIONS

STORY BY NATE HOEKSTRA
PHOTOS BY AMANDA PITTS

*Unique class
finds solutions
to help common
aging issues*

Americans, as a whole, are getting older.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of adults in the country over age 65 will nearly double to 84 million people by 2050; this drastic increase will have far-reaching implications for families nationwide.

As the population ages, it has different needs, said Jane Toot, a Frederik Meijer Honors College professor. Toot is leading a unique class of students from different generations to find ways to improve the lives of the aged.

Her class has partnered with Porter Hills, a retirement community in Grand Rapids, to bring different generational viewpoints together to create a resource for the community. Once a week, about 15 Porter Hills residents and other senior citizens come to campus to work with students in the honors college class and talk about the challenges of aging.

"When people get older they face a unique set of problems, but we're trying to show that a person doesn't become a problem," Toot said. "We focus on the 'saging process,' which is finding the wisdom-keepers of aging societies. Aged people can provide wisdom that younger people never think of."

Toot said gerontology focuses a bit narrowly on the medical side of things without considering problems related to non-medical issues. She hopes the class helps traditional college students look to the aged as a group to provide general guidance.

"They will share just about anything, and we've found that the degree of trust between the two groups is phenomenal," Toot said. "They're learning a lot about each other."

The end result of the partnership between the generations of students is a booklet Toot plans to distribute to West Michigan social service agencies and doctor's offices. "The GPS of Aging" will provide multi-

generational advice on topics from transportation and mobility to nutrition, exercise, retirement, assistive technology and more.

Grand Valley student Robly Garcia said he and his peers have learned first-hand the issues older people have. "We talked about mobility and how important lighting is on stairs; none of us had really thought about that because we don't understand what challenges the older generation faces in situations like that," Garcia said.

Some of the older students said they wanted to get involved not only to share multi-generational wisdom, but because they will directly benefit from the material they're gathering.

"I'm all on board because of what I'll get out of it," said Jeanne Lucas. "I live in a house with my husband and don't deal with any of these aging issues yet, but the things we're working on in this book will end up helping me."

Communication is a theme that students from all generations said has been a big part of the learning experience. Robbie Dubisky said he doesn't see his grandparents very often, and does not have many occasions to talk to older people.

"This class helped me learn a lot about how to communicate with older people, and also reinforced that when it comes to dealing with these issues, they are not all that different from us," Dubisky said.

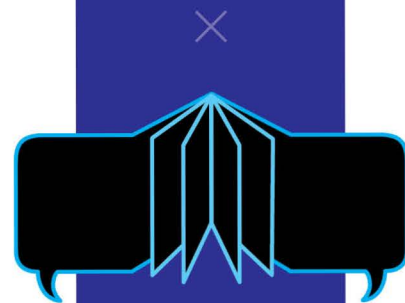
The intergenerational communication is a welcome change for the elders as well.

"The best thing about taking part in this class is being around some young people," said Stan Hone, a Porter Hills resident. "Where I live, I'm around all old people and it does affect you to a certain degree."

Other students said the class puts different generations on equal footing.

"For people our age, when you're around older people other than your grandparents, you're generally in a situation where you're not usually treated as equals and there's a bit more formality expected. But here, we're all students," Kelly McCormack said. "It's more of an even playing field and that lets us engage in a different kind of communication than we would normally have with anyone outside of family."

Toot said she will continue the class next fall and is working to establish intergenerational housing, in which several



THE GPS OF AGING

Students and members of the community are working in a multi-generational capacity to refine and improve a booklet, "The GPS of Aging," focused on aging and issues associated with aging.

The students and residents from Porter Hills retirement community are studying issues as fundamental to the aging process as "Going to the Doctor" and issues that can be drastically different from person to person, including driving and exercise.

Students said contributions from the different generations and stages of the aging process were valuable to the class.



Grand Valley students would live at Porter Hills and engage with the residents. She also hopes to develop an interdisciplinary certificate program that would focus on studying aging.

She said the benefits of the ongoing study aren't solely for college students.

"I think it helps put some assumptions about elders to rest, and it helps enrich the elders, too," Toot said. "It lets them know that there's a lot we can learn from young people and that younger generations aren't going to hell in a handbasket."

Toot said that the country, in large part, is not prepared for the demographic influx of elders. She hopes this course and the exposure students get will help them develop respect for elders and the problems they face on a regular basis.

Elizabeth Martin said she and other college students realized the generations are more similar than they thought.

"I realized being aged is like being a college student in some ways, picking where you want to spend parts of your life, and what you want to do with them. It's kind of a new beginning for both groups, and it's interesting to see the similarities," Martin said.

Another benefit: some new friends.

"I've created a lot of really good relationships with some of the elders in the class, and I really value those," Martin said.



"I realized being aged is like being a college student in some ways, picking where you want to spend parts of your life, and what you want to do with them. It's kind of a new beginning for both groups, and it's interesting to see the similarities."

ELIZABETH MARTIN, HONORS STUDENT



Students in an honors college class partnered with Porter Hills, a retirement community in Grand Rapids, bringing different generational viewpoints to create a resource for the community.



GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT

STORY BY DOTTIE BARNES / PHOTOS BY AMANDA PITTS





Some of the most life-changing advice can come from people who are straightforward, trusted and dedicated to bringing others to a higher place.

Those attributes can be used to describe local professionals who are working alongside Grand Valley students as mentors through the Seidman College of Business Professional Mentorship Program.

Mentorship program helps students grow personally and professionally



The program pairs mentors with students for an academic year to help the students grow personally and professionally.

Jalen Gipson is a junior majoring in both business economics and finance. He said he jumped at the opportunity to be part of the program and learn from a mentor.

"I'm always looking for ways to grow and further my personal development and expand my network," said Gipson. "I have already learned a lot about the

importance of relationships, time management and how meetings on your calendar should make you think differently about that day."

Laura Worline is a first-year student who has developed a strong connection with her mentor. "We are both laid-back. I don't have to worry about impressing her," said Worline. "She has given me routes and options to take when I share a problem and has offered great counsel, like, be yourself in every situation."

(above) First-year student Laura Worline, right, meets with her mentor, Anna Trenshaw, at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. (below) Jalen Gipson, left, discusses economics and finance with his mentor, Rick Chapla, at the L. William Seidman Center in downtown Grand Rapids.



→ *MATCHING MENTORS*

The mentorship program started about five years ago in the management department and has expanded to include the finance and economics departments. Mentors come from a wide variety of industries such as manufacturing, supply chain, human resources, banking, finance and international business.

“Our mentors provide students with specialized industry knowledge that will help them transition to the workforce,” said Yalonda Ross-Davis, professional development manager for Seidman Student Academic Services, who runs the program. “These mentors serve as a confidant, a trusted guide for students.”

Ross-Davis said great care goes into matching mentors with students. She said sometimes a healthy mentorship relationship isn’t industry specific, adding the process runs deeper than simply matching a student’s major with a mentor’s current profession.

“We also look at the skills a student may need to develop: hard skills, like setting priorities, interviewing skills and goal setting, and soft skills, like leadership development, networking and emotional intelligence,” she said.

Parents and professors play an important role in preparing students for college and for their major, said Ross-Davis, and mentors help take them to the next level.

“Often, students don’t understand the process of going from being a student to being a professional,” she said. “Mentors offer a deeper understanding of what is necessary to make that transition.”

She said critical feedback and “straight conversations” with mentors, who range from managers to directors to CEOs, are well-received by students.

“Students can feel safe to ask anything; there is no such thing as a dumb question,” Ross-Davis said. “Mentors have that industry expertise, but at the same time can offer wisdom about all types of issues because their advice comes from a place of love.”

→ *RICK AND JALEN*

Gipson’s mentor is Rick Chapla, vice president of strategic initiatives for The Right Place, a nonprofit economic development organization in Grand Rapids.

The two have been meeting twice a month since September, spending about an hour each time talking about business, school and life.

“I’m just trying to be a sponge right now,” said Gipson. “I want to absorb anything and everything that helps me learn about myself and career choices.”

Gipson said he takes careful notes at each meeting and reviews them to remember key points, like this favorite piece of advice from Chapla: “Be mindful of how I react to events in my life, because that shapes whatever outcomes I may have to deal with.”

Gipson said he and Chapla talk about economic development, news headlines and general advice on how to grow personally.

“This is a great opportunity to

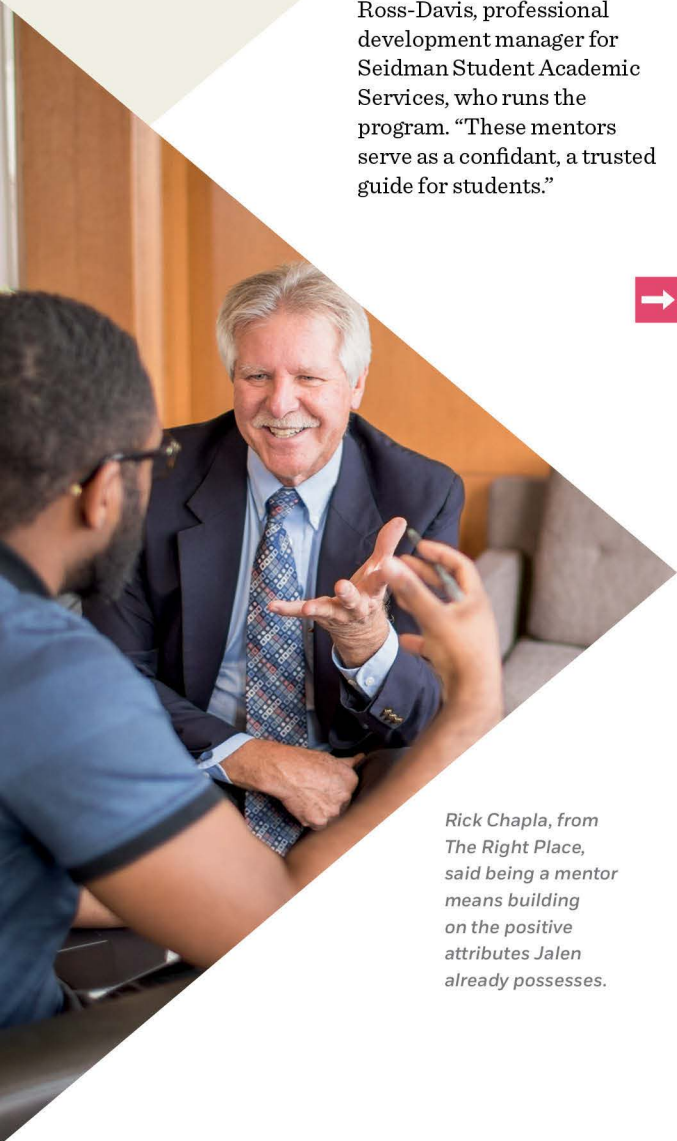
learn from someone who has been where I aim to be, and has done things that I want to do,” said Gipson. “We can have conversations about things I have read, conversations that people my age don’t typically have.”

Chapla said Gipson has already developed skills that go way beyond a classroom.

“Jalen is a good decision maker and has self-confidence. I want to propel that,” said Chapla. “Mentoring is about shaping a little more of who he is and building on the positive attributes that he already possesses.”

Chapla described mentoring as a two-way exchange and said Gipson has given him insight about young talent.

“This relationship advances my own intellectual curiosity and there’s no better way to be challenged intellectually than by active students,” he said. “Even people who touch your life in a small way can have lasting value on your life.”



Rick Chapla, from The Right Place, said being a mentor means building on the positive attributes Jalen already possesses.



Anna Trenshaw, right, was part of the mentorship program as a student and became a mentor after she graduated from Grand Valley.



ANNA AND LAURA

Anna Trenshaw graduated from Grand Valley in 2016 with a degree in supply chain management and marketing.

She was part of the mentorship program as a student and decided to participate as a mentor after she landed a job as a product data analyst in Grand Rapids.

Trenshaw said her mentor wasn't afraid to "tell her like it is."

"I realize more and more how much I learned from my mentor," said Trenshaw. "We talked a lot about the communication chain, how to get things done and how to problem-solve. He shared experiences from his job and how he made the transition from college to the professional workforce."

Trenshaw said she wanted to stay connected to Grand Valley and give back to the university. Helping a student have the same positive experience was one way to do that. That student is Worline.

The two meet for coffee twice a month and have already clicked on several levels.

"We started out talking about how to bolster my resume," said Worline, a native of Kalamazoo, "but that quickly turned into talking about my aspirations and goals. I'm not from the area and Anna said she has connections here that can help me."

Worline described herself as an over-planner, initially

bringing to their meetings a checklist of things to talk about. She said Trenshaw's easy personality and positive attitude helped make subsequent meetings more free-flowing.

"We found out we both have an interest in women's health issues and women in the workplace ideas. It's been cool to bounce my ideas and perspective off someone else who understands," she said.

Worline said she looks forward to their meetings, knowing she has someone who will help her find solutions and who is automatically in her corner. She said her pairing with Trenshaw was a great match.

"I'd like to think if we met in a different time and place, outside of Grand Valley, we would still connect the way we do and be friends," she said.

Trenshaw said the best part of the mentorship program is having the ability to shape it.

"My relationship with my mentor was a little bit different than my mentorship with Laura, which is good. What I needed is different from what Laura needs," she said. "You can make the experience what you want it to be and that's why it's been successful and life-changing."

For more information about the Seidman College of Business Professional Mentorship Program, visit gvsu.edu/mentorship.

JALEN'S NOTES

- Be mindful of how I react to events in my life, because that shapes whatever outcomes I may have to deal with.
- Job No. 1 is to always manage myself.
- How you react to situations shows your values.
- Never stop learning.

LAURA'S NOTES

- Be who you are in every situation.
- Stay driven, don't stand still in what you're doing.
- Incorporate your strengths and attributes into your work environment.

ANNA'S NOTES

- If you want something, you have to ask for it; it's not just handed to you.
- Good communication is key in problem-solving.

*Partnership
Pillars*

**GRAD
ASSISTANTS**

The partnership includes a graduate assistant provided by Grand Valley. For the past two years, Kyle Dinger has filled that role as a teaching assistant and the school's FIRST Robotics coach.





Flying high

GVSU, WMAA partner to advance engineering education

STORY BY LEAH TWILLEY
PHOTOS BY VALERIE WOJCIECHOWSKI

Aaron Jonckheere, an 11th-grade student attending West Michigan Aviation Academy, wants to be a mechanical or aerospace engineer. Although he hasn't decided which one to pursue yet, he wants it to involve his favorite subject: physics.

"I love engineering because it's a practical use of mathematics and science, and you get to solve real problems," said Jonckheere, from Grand Rapids.

Students attending WMAA, like Jonckheere, aren't only learning how to become pilots — they're learning how to make planes and other engineering feats thanks to a strong curriculum, which, in part, is supported by Grand Valley.

A partnership between Grand Valley and WMAA, a charter school on the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, supports students learning STEM disciplines, and focuses on helping teachers develop curriculum and extra-curricular activities, like FIRST Robotics. As part of the collaboration, a Grand Valley

graduate student assists teachers and students, and the university donated equipment to help establish the school's first fabrication lab.

The idea for a partnership began with Michelle Lindale, assistant dean in the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, when her son was accepted to WMAA two years ago.



→
February 17, 2016:
President Thomas J. Haas
and WMAA CEO Patrick J.
Cwayna established the
partnership between
GVSU and WMAA.

Partnership
Pillars

**COURSE
DEVELOPMENT**

Several professors helped WMAA teachers develop engineering curriculum, including a new biomedical engineering course that was offered at WMAA for the first time this year.



Partnership
Pillars

**EXTRA-
CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

The Grand Valley graduate assistant leads a FIRST Robotics team and serves as its coach. The team will compete in the West Michigan District Competition at Grand Valley in March.

She invited students and teachers from WMAA to visit Grand Valley and, as they say, the rest is history.

At the partnership signing event in February 2016, President Thomas J. Haas said it's important that the university invests in students before they start college.

"We live in a community that values innovation and entrepreneurship, so it's only natural for Grand Valley and West Michigan Aviation Academy to work together to prepare students as they create, design and build," he said.

**INTRODUCING
BIOMEDICAL
ENGINEERING**

WMAA faculty member Peter VandenBerg, head of the engineering department, said the partnership is mutually beneficial.

"We've been able to expose our students to different topics and opportunities that we couldn't purely on our own," he said. "We asked Grand Valley professors to look at our engineering curriculum and determine areas of weakness. They spent a lot of time reviewing it, helping us make decisions and refine our curriculum. That process really solidified our partnership."

Last summer, WMAA faculty member Stephanie Monroe developed a new course on biomedical engineering that was introduced to students this fall. Samhita Rhodes, assistant director of the School of Engineering and chair of biomedical engineering, helped Monroe by providing guidance and direction.

Monroe expected about 20 students to sign up; she was surprised when 57 students enrolled, including 12th-graders Ashley Bogardus and Avery Balaskovitz. The students and

their classmates were asked to design custom shoes for people with arch pain for one group project.

"I'm learning so much," said Balaskovitz, from Coopersville. "This class has not only taught me about biomedical engineering, but I've learned about the design process, business models and how to start a company. The material and homework can be hefty, but I really enjoy it."

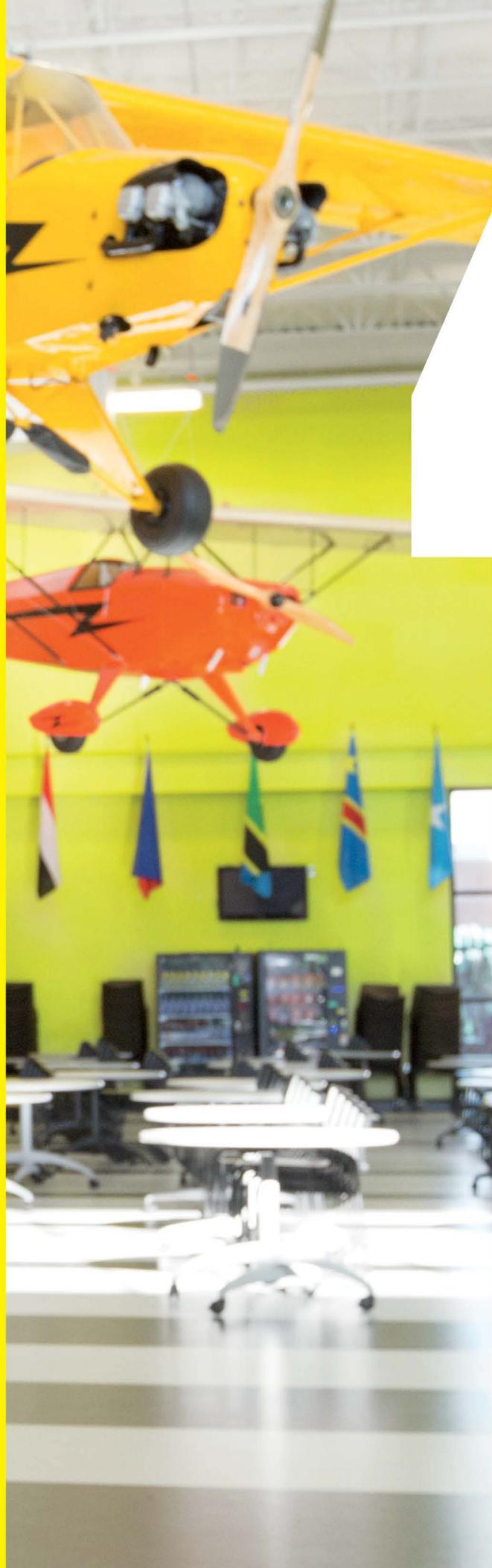
Bogardus, from Newaygo, signed up for Monroe's class because she wants to be a pediatric oncology surgeon. She said the class helped her gain a better understanding of how biomedical engineering fits into the medical industry.

"It's been really awesome to be a part of a class that no other schools offer," she said. "I've learned how to take a biomedical engineering problem and design something that is tailored to someone's specific need."

Monroe is now offering two sections of her class. She said Rhodes' insight and experience were invaluable. "I would not have gone in the direction I did without her assistance," she said.

Monroe incorporates design thinking into her curriculum and several Grand Valley student-entrepreneurs have visited WMAA to give presentations.

"Engineering is driven by the discovery of a solution to a problem. Design thinking simply extends that idea to consider how a design might affect a person's quality of life as well," Monroe said. "Our students are experiencing so many unique things that come from our partnership with Grand Valley, which not only affords them a more innovative learning experience, but also lends to a growing excitement by some to go there some day."



*Partnership
Pillars*

**FABRICATION
LAB**

Grand Valley donated equipment, including several machines, to help establish the school's first fabrication lab. It's a space where students learn how to safely use machines to complete engineering projects.

**FLIGHT OF THE
IMAGINATION**

The GVSU-WMAA partnership includes the support of a graduate assistant, who spends about 20 hours a week at WMAA. For two years, Kyle Dinger has filled this role as a For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics coach, and as a teacher.

"I've really enjoyed being able to help students come up with new ideas and projects, as well as push them and give them the support they need to make progress," he said.

VandenBerg said Dinger provides a very diverse set of skills. "In a lot of ways, Kyle has almost become another faculty member here, with the advantage that he has an engineering specific degree," he said.

Dinger, from Grand Blanc, is completing his last year as a graduate student in the mechanical engineering master's program. Last year, he assisted a teacher with an advanced robotics class. Halfway through the class, he took over as teacher.

Dinger plans to pursue a doctoral degree. He said when he began looking at programs, he thought he wanted to teach, purely because of his experience at WMAA. While he's still deciding what to do, he said being a teacher is still on the table.

"I learned that in order to really understand something, you have to teach it," Dinger said. "The experience was humbling, and the students are so driven and want to learn. It has been a pleasure to be able to interact with them and give them the support they need."

CAMPUS NEWS



FOCAL POINT

Campus Life Night 2.0

PHOTO BY AMANDA PITTS

Just another busy night in the Kirkhof Center, the student hub on the Allendale Campus, where many of the 400-plus student organizations ready for a night of recruiting new members.

KIRKHOF CENTER



Special thanks to the Office of Student Life for helping to coordinate this photo, and to these student organizations for participating: (top row, from left) Cheerleading, Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association, Rowing Club, Kpop Group Evolution, Ski and Snowboard Club, Pompon Team; (middle row, from left) Student Veterans of America, Belly Dance Club, Future Alumni Association, Renaissance Festival, Fencing Club, Pre-Med Club, Lanthorn, Taekwondo Club, Student Senate, STAGE, Black Greek Council; (bottom row) Spotlight, Laker Traditions Team and Promotions Office.

GVM+ Watch the "Behind the Lens" video to see the teamwork that went into organizing and creating this photoshoot at gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

LINN MAXWELL KELLER BLACK BOX THEATRE



New theater dedicated to vocalist

Grand Valley's new Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre is providing students and faculty members who are studying and teaching the performing arts with opportunities to tackle new types of productions.

The campus community celebrated the formal dedication of the Keller Theatre, in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, on October 17.

To honor Linn's memory, the Keller family established the Linn Maxwell Keller Professional Vocalist Experience Endowment at Grand Valley in 2017. The fund provides enrichment opportunities for committed vocal performance students and will aim to encourage them in their professional career development. The Keller Theatre was named in appreciation for their generosity.

Danny Phipps, chair of the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department, said the endowment will empower vocal students by providing resources through advanced study, professional production and community outreach. "These experiences are critical to their success as they launch their professional careers as the next generation of performing artists," he said.

Fred Keller, Linn's husband, said that



The Keller family, President Thomas J. Haas, Marcia Haas, students and faculty members cut the dedication ribbon for the Keller Black Box Theatre. (Amanda Pitts)

the endowment supports her long-held desire to inspire young, aspiring musicians, especially vocalists.

"Linn was an incredible artist, and I'm so proud that we can have this space in her memory, and an endowment that is going to be inspiring students in the future," he said. "You'll never remember what somebody did or said, but you'll remember how they made you feel, and that's what Linn brought to the stage."

Linn was a dedicated professional singer who performed in 28 countries throughout her career. She was a mezzo soprano who performed on many operatic and concert stages, and went on to write and develop numerous shows, including the critically acclaimed "Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light," and "St. Hildegard, Trumpet of God," both of which were made into movies.

The dedication ceremony included an inaugural cabaret in the theater, with vocal performances by students and alumni from the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department.

A black box theater is an indoor performance space with plain black walls and a level floor, typically designed to provide flexibility in stage configuration



Linn Maxwell Keller

and audience seating. Black box theaters gained popularity in the 1960s and the unique performance space creates a closer proximity between the audience and performers.

President Thomas J. Haas said the endowment and Keller Theatre align with Grand Valley's mission of encouraging students to reach their full potential. "No matter what we do in the Linn Maxwell Black Box Theatre, we are going to be driven by sustained attention to excellence and quality," said Haas.

UNIVERSITY EARNS GRANT TO SUPPORT DEGREE COMPLETION FOR VETERANS

Grand Valley received a \$1.3 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a TRIO Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program, providing free academic support services to low-income veterans who want to complete degree programs.

President Thomas J. Haas said he is pleased that Grand Valley is the second university in Michigan to offer this program, which complements the university's Veterans Network, a network of campus resources dedicated to supporting veterans, active service members and their dependents. Wayne State University is the other institution to offer TRIO VUB.

"Grand Valley has a well-established commitment to serving veterans," Haas said. "TRIO VUB will extend existing notable efforts by providing needed resources to support veterans who are pre-college, or transferring from community colleges or other institutions."

The federal grant will provide \$263,000 annually over five years to serve 125 pre-college, low-income, first-generation veterans per year from Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties. The college access and degree completion services tailored to veterans will include advising and



Tim Marroquin

mentoring programs, instructor-led computer courses, course materials and supplies.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said the reach of this program is significant in West Michigan, which has more than 65,000 veterans in the four-county region. Of that population, 8 percent are unemployed, 2,000 are homeless, and 77 percent do not have a bachelor's degree.

Tim Marroquin was hired as the program's director. Since 2013, Marroquin has served as assistant director of TRIO Educational Talent Search, a program housed in the College of Education.

+ Learn more about VUB online at gvsu.edu/vub.

Hauenstein family gives gift to area institutions

Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies was one of three West Michigan institutions — along with Aquinas College and Mercy Health — to receive a major gift from the family of Ralph W. Hauenstein, the center's namesake.

The gift will allow the center to reach more students than ever, and transform them from learners into leaders, said Hauenstein Center director Gleaves Whitney.

"Ralph Hauenstein was an American hero, and we honor him in all we do at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies," Whitney said.

Brian Hauenstein, Ralph's grandson, said the gift to Grand Valley, Aquinas College and Mercy Health represented the "mind, body and soul," three things Ralph W. Hauenstein thought were very important.

"These organizations are something he strongly believed in," Brian said. "That's why he lived to be nearly 104 years old, because he believed that all three of those things were very important. We thank you for all that you do in his name."

Hauenstein, who died in January 2016, lived his life in service, helped others through his military career and used his success in business to further causes that he supported throughout his life as a generous philanthropist.

His son, Ralph D. Hauenstein, presented the gifts to each institution to support Grand Valley's center, Aquinas College's Grace Hauenstein Library and its Albertus Magnus Hall of Science expansion, and the Mercy Health Hauenstein Neurosciences Center.

Celebrating the Hauenstein family gift are, from left, Dr. Philip Gorelick, Mercy Health Hauenstein Neurosciences; Brian Hauenstein; Sister Damien Marie Savino, F.S.E., Aquinas College; Ralph D. Hauenstein; and Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. (Bernadine Carey-Tucker)



Agreement signed with CMU College of Medicine

A new cooperative agreement will grant Grand Valley premedical students early assurance of admission to the Central Michigan University College of Medicine through the Early Assurance Program.

The agreement was signed by Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas and CMU President George Ross October 19 in Mount Pleasant. It will enhance opportunities for GVSU premed students to navigate more easily through the CMU College of Medicine admissions process, and reserve up to five positions for qualified students to be admitted.

Maria Cimitile, provost and executive vice

president for Academic and Student Affairs, said: "This partnership is important for our students, and for our state. If we can create pathways for shaping, fostering a hope, a dream, we can open doors to those students at Grand Valley who want to be doctors."

Dr. George E. Kikano, CMU College of Medicine dean, said the agreement expands on an existing interprofessional education relationship with Grand Valley, and will provide opportunities for GVSU students who demonstrate a desire to practice medicine in Michigan.



President Tommy Remengesau and students from Palau pose in Lake Ontario Hall next to a traditional woodcarving from the country. Remengesau graduated from Grand Valley in 1979. (Amanda Pitts)

President of Palau: GVSU HELPED ME SUCCEED

Tommy Remengesau, president of the Pacific island nation of Palau, told a standing-room-only crowd in the Kirkhof Center that he succeeded because Grand Valley had the perfect learning environment for him.

"I was away from the island for the first time, but there was diversity here," he said. "And, I must say the cold weather made me study; a warmer place would have offered distractions."

Remengesau, who graduated in 1979, addressed students, faculty and staff members November 1 as part of three-day trip to campus. He visited West Michigan October 30-November 3 to address the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan and discuss what his country is doing on an international scale about global warming.

He said global warming and preserving the island of Palau for future generations are among his biggest concerns and challenges.

"The issue of global warming is beyond debate and discussion," he said. "It's time for leadership and action. Let's look at the science so we can plan. Let's look at the cause of the rising sea levels."

Remengesau is leading a government that is in the center of not only climate change, but U.S.-China relations and outside threats to an ocean economy.

He said while roughly 20,000 people live on the island, more than 200,000 tourists visit each year. He said Palau is a large ocean state with a responsibility to take care of the ocean.

"Big or small, you have a role to play; every nation matters," he said. "The world relies heavily on marine issues. We can contribute to issues like marine life protection, climate change and sustainability."



From left are President Thomas J. Haas, CMU medical student Shelby Falkenhagen (a GVSU graduate), and CMU President George Ross. (courtesy of Central Michigan University)

REPORT SHOWS UNIVERSITY IS TOP PERFORMER IN STATE

The 11th annual Accountability Report shows Grand Valley is again a top performer in Michigan in several key areas, including providing access to students who might not otherwise be able to afford a college degree and keeping students on a path to a timely graduation.

The report was released at the November 3 Board of Trustees meeting on the Allendale Campus. Highlights from the report are detailed on the right:

Enrollment

For the fourth consecutive year, Grand Valley welcomed more than 25,000 students (25,049 in fall 2017), and a record number of students of color (4,344). More than 4,000 freshmen have enrolled for six years in a row.

Retention

Grand Valley ranks in the top four of all public universities in Michigan for graduation rates, and third for retention.

ROI

93% of recent graduates are employed or in graduate school, and 86% are working and giving back in Michigan.

+ The full report can be viewed online at gvsu.edu/accountability.

Funding

The university was rewarded by the state legislature and the governor for the sixth year in a row with a portion of appropriations based on performance.

Tuition

Tuition remains in the bottom half of all Michigan public universities, while Grand Valley receives the second-lowest funding per student.

Economic Impact

The economic impact of Grand Valley on Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties is \$816 million.



Merritt DeLano-Taylor

PROFESSOR LEADS RESEARCH TO TEST CURE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE

A team of researchers from Grand Valley, Van Andel Research Institute and Rush University received a \$500,000 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the National Institutes of Health to test a possible cure for Parkinson's disease.

The main targets of neuronal loss in Parkinson's disease are dopamine neurons, and this research project will test if the introduction of a modified protein, known as PM-Nato3, will protect those neurons from the toxicity of the disease.

The patent-pending technology that will be used in the research was developed by Grand Valley alumni Nicholas Huisingh, Jordan Straight, Daniel Doyle and Douglas Peterson while they were undergraduate students.

Merritt DeLano-Taylor, associate professor of biomedical sciences, will serve as one of three principal investigators for the research. He said his team hopes that the results will indicate potential for the technology to be translated into a product that meets the needs of researchers and clinicians.



SONG BY ENSEMBLE LISTED AMONG YEAR'S BEST BY NPR

Among the likes of Jay-Z, Kelly Clarkson, Little Big Town, Selena Gomez and Kendrick Lamar, Grand Valley's award-winning New Music Ensemble has been included on NPR's list of the 100 Best Songs of 2017. The ensemble was recognized for its song "Glass Surface" from the album "Return," which debuted in October.

"Return" is 15 pieces composed by three alumni, and is the New Music Ensemble's fourth commercial CD. The album's three composers were Adam Cuthbert, '10, Matthew Finch, '15, and Daniel Rhodé, '12. "Glass Surface" was composed by Rhodé.

"I am thrilled for everyone involved to have our work recognized at the national level," said Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director.

For the NPR list, Tom Huizenga, a music producer, reporter and blogger for NPR Music, praised "Glass Surface" for its blend of traditional

instrumentation and electronic "tailoring."

"Return" is available for purchase on iTunes and Amazon.

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.

GRANT WILL SUPPORT STEM STUDENTS



A new project will financially help academically talented, low-income students seeking an

education in science or engineering, while providing them with mentoring and hands-on learning and research opportunities. The project received a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program (S-STEM).

Retaining and Inspiring students in Science and Engineering (RISE) will create 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.

RISE will also immerse scholarship recipients in a cohort with faculty mentors, and provide them with experiential learning opportunities, such as summer research and internships, and career preparation tactics.

RISE will build on a previously successful S-STEM program at Grand Valley called "Mentoring, Academic Support and Scholarships for Science Students" (MAS4). While MAS4 targeted juniors and seniors, RISE will offer scholarship opportunities to students in all grade levels, with an emphasis on incoming first-year students.

It will also enlist area community colleges to help the project team identify potential RISE scholars at their institutions and provide mentoring for those students before they enroll at Grand Valley.

Dean recognized for talent development

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, received the MFG Talent Champion Award from the Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA).

The award was presented to Plotkowski at the MFG Excellence Awards Gala November 9 in Lansing. It is given to an individual who advocates for the critical need of attracting the next generation workforce to manufacturing careers in Michigan.

Plotkowski was nominated by Charlie Standridge, associate dean



Paul Plotkowski, center, received the MFG Talent Champion Award from the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

and professor of product design and manufacturing engineering at Grand Valley. Standridge said the manufacturing engineering program Plotkowski introduced to Grand Valley 25 years ago

is now at peak enrollment and includes a product design and biomedical engineering design component.

MMA President Chuck Hadden said Plotkowski's development of a manufacturing engineering

program prepares students to meet the needs for careers in manufacturing.

"Paul has worked tirelessly to champion the industrial-academic partnership in West Michigan and through engagement with more than 250 businesses, manufacturing's future success owes a debt of gratitude to this industry champion," said Hadden.

An advertisement for a baseball game between the Tigers and the Reds at Comerica Park. The background is a grayscale aerial view of the stadium filled with fans. Overlaid on the image is the text "TIGERS X REDS" at the top, followed by "GVSU NIGHT" in large, bold, blue letters. Below that is "COMERICA PARK" and "JULY 31 2018". At the bottom, there is a promotional message: "LIMITED QUANTITY CO-BRANDED TIGERS AND GVSU BASEBALL CAP AND \$5 DONATION TO THE GVSU SCHOLARSHIP FUND WITH PURCHASE OF TICKET". A blue banner at the very bottom contains the text "TICKETS NOW ON SALE!" and "GVSU.EDU/TIGERS" along with the Grand Valley State University logo.

Classroom excellence

In addition to winning trophies on the field and court, Laker student athletes are stellar performers in the classroom. These numbers below detail GPAs, retention and graduation rates for student athletes during the 2016-2017 academic year.



TOP TEAM GPA

FALL 2016

Softball: **3.66**

Men's tennis: **3.42**

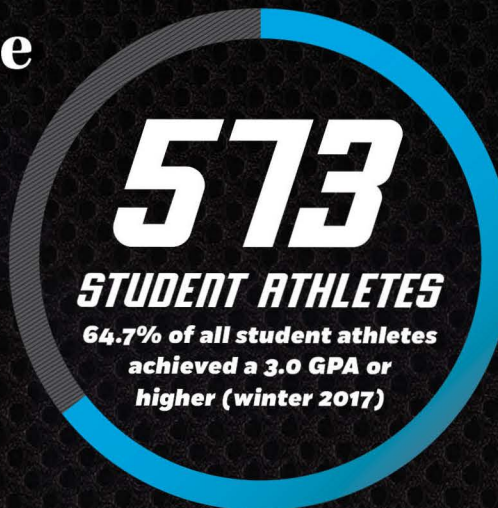
WINTER 2017

Women's basketball: **3.72**

Men's tennis: **3.55**

65%

of student athletes who were first-year students in 2010 have earned degrees



STUDENT ATHLETES WITH 3.0 GPA OR HIGHER

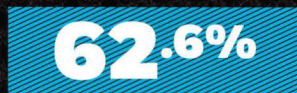


Fall 2016



Winter 2017

NON-STUDENT ATHLETES WITH 3.0 GPA OR HIGHER



Fall 2016

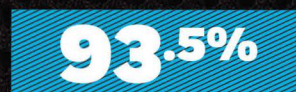


Winter 2017

STUDENT ATHLETE RETENTION

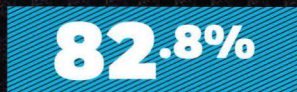


Female student athletes



Male student athletes

RETENTION FOR NON-STUDENT ATHLETES



Female students



Male students

311

GLIAC ALL-ACADEMIC HONORS

311 individual honors; teams with most individual honors are men's and women's track and field, football, lacrosse and women's cross country

Unique health care collaboration will benefit West Michigan patients, families

STORY BY MICHELE COFFILL / PHOTO BY AMANDA PITTS

A Grand Valley nursing alumna successfully obtained a \$400,000 grant to expand Spectrum Health's hospice and palliative care services within the community.

The Spectrum Health Foundation grant is one of many positive outcomes of a unique collaboration between the Kirkhof College of Nursing and Dr. Simin Beg, chief of hospice and palliative care services for Spectrum Health.

Rachel Cardosa was the first of three Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students from Grand Valley who were placed in Beg's office for a clinical immersion rotation. Cardosa took a project she started as a doctoral student and turned it into the successful grant application.

"A big part of the project was collecting data on patients who were not able to be serviced to help identify why we needed to expand the program," said Cardosa, who earned a DNP degree in 2016 and works as a nurse practitioner for Spectrum Hospice and Palliative Care.

“

As a DNP prepared nurse practitioner, I have a skill set that can immensely improve health care delivery and outcomes at the patient, community and systems levels.”

TANYA ROWERDINK

In particular, Cardosa studied patients with advanced heart failure, which she termed among the most expensive and most chronic illness. She found as many heart patients were treated at an outpatient clinic, palliative services were not forefront of mind. It meant educating physicians, patients and their families about options to enter palliative care sooner.

"It's having patient-centered discussions with the patients and families to learn their goals for care," she said. "Palliative care focuses on the whole person and their comfort management, to make sure their care aligns with what they want."

Dianne Conrad, associate professor of nursing, said Beg's leadership, mentorship and expertise fits well with KCON's certificate program in hospice and palliative care (see sidebar).

"Dr. Beg is an energetic and supportive practice partner, committed to her work as well as the patients and students she works with," Conrad said.

Beg was asked to be a preceptor for KCON's DNP students while she was finishing the executive MBA course through the Seidman College of Business.

"I wanted to do this, I felt it was not only beneficial for Grand Valley but had opportunities to make our division better," Beg said. "It's the perspective that DNP students bring. They have a different way of looking at systems and how best to improve patient care."

The community-based palliative care project started when Tanya Rowerdink was a DNP student in Beg's office in 2016. Rowerdink, who now works as a nurse practitioner in survivorship for the Cancer and Hematology Centers of Western Michigan, analyzed outcomes of the Medicare Care Choices Model and developed an evidence-based toolkit so the next DNP student could put it into practice.

She said the skills she developed while in Beg's office — develop, initiate and evaluate

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Kirkhof College of Nursing offers an interprofessional certificate program in hospice and palliative care in Grand Rapids and Traverse City.

The program was established in 2015, answering a need for health care workers who have advanced knowledge of end-of-life care.

The four-course certificate program was designed for professionals who work with patients facing life-limiting and terminal illnesses, including nurses, social workers, physicians, clergy members and other health professionals.

Courses are offered in a combination of online and in-seat classes and includes palliative and hospice care, pain/symptom management, death and grief, and an elective in pharmacology, social work or health care systems. Classes meet five times per semester.



For more information about the program, contact Linda Buck at buckli@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7160.





program outcomes — has set her on a path for success.

“As a DNP prepared nurse practitioner, I have a skill set that can immensely improve health care delivery and outcomes at the patient, community and systems levels,” Rowerdink said.

Katlyn Gettel is currently working in Beg’s office; she will graduate in April with a DNP degree. Her interest in hospice care stemmed from a family experience. “My dad died from cancer and watching his hospice nurse made me want to pursue it,” Gettel said.

Gettel’s project continues the work of her two predecessors, focusing on expanding services to oncology patients,

another illness (like heart disease) known for delayed referrals to hospice care. She said early referrals often are cost-saving measures.

“When you look at a specific timeline of a patient, without referrals, they often end up in the ICU, emergency department or dying without hospice care,” she said.

Team members who established a community-based palliative care project for Spectrum Health are pictured: from left, Dianne Conrad, Lisa Vanderwel, Katelyn Gettel, Dr. Simin Beg, Rachel Cardoso and Angela Kinch. Not pictured is Tanya Rowerdink.

Beg said it’s not unusual for physicians to be hesitant to send their patients to a palliative care specialist. “Doctors are resistant to it. Medicine is about curing and fixing patients, it’s what we’re trained to do; this type of medical care is counterintuitive to how we were trained,” she said.

The expansion project created by Beg and three DNP students is making headway, she added. “The cardiologists are now seeing the benefits, we’ve earned their trust. They know that having palliative care is better for the patient. We can impact our community and have long-lasting benefits because of this partnership,” Beg said.

Lake to table

Ensuring sustainable fisheries through research

STORY BY NATE HOEKSTRA

ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH VANDER HEIDE

Barney Boyer used to only care about how a fish tasted on a plate, then he began to study them.

Boyer, a graduate student at Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI), is studying the invasive mud snail, a pest with the potential to have a significant impact on several fisheries in the Great Lakes.

Even before he decided to study aquatic biology, fish played a big role in his original career choice. After high school and a three-year stint in the Air Force, Boyer followed a dream he shared with his brother to become a chef in his hometown of Chicago.

He went to culinary school, and worked his way up through the Chicago restaurant scene, ultimately ending up as a chef at Spiaggia, a Michelin-starred Italian restaurant. On several occasions, Boyer cooked for President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle — he enjoyed the scallops — including the night after he won the 2008 election.

At the same time, a new trend in food was growing. Consumers started caring about the source of what was on their plate. The farm-to-table movement was born, and just eating a delicious dish wasn't enough for some consumers, Boyer said. So he started researching where his food was coming from.

"I got into environmental science because everyone was interested in where food came from, where it was raised, what the agricultural process was, how far it traveled, all of that," Boyer said. "I started looking into these things because I had to have an answer to give customers when they asked about the dish on their plate."

He researched everything from proteins to vegetables. He talked to farmers and dug into the local food system. He wasn't sure he liked what he found.

"I started to really wrap my mind around the impacts that we were having in the food industry," Boyer said. "I think that was when I really got interested

in understanding what being a responsible consumer is."

Boyer took a hiatus from working in high-end kitchens, and began taking classes at a community college; he used G.I. Bill funding to earn a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Illinois.

He joined the Veterans Conservation Corps, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington state, where he studied Pacific Northwest salmon — some of the same fish that live in the Great Lakes commercial fishery.

Boyer said he conducted biomonitoring of salmon in the Snohomish River estuary along with other waterways and understood the importance of a healthy ecosystem to sustaining a viable population of fish.

"I wanted to be able to understand sourcing sustainable food sources, especially fish," Boyer said. "Fish is really the last wild animal protein source that people still eat — basically everything else is farmed now, and it caught my interest."

Boyer reached out to Mark Luttenton, associate dean of the Graduate School and an associate research scientist at AWRI, and asked about potential graduate student positions.

Boyer earned a graduate student slot and is hoping to use his research on the mud snail to help impact fisheries, which are multi-billion dollar aspects of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

"The mud snails proliferate really fast and take up large areas of the substrate on the river bottoms, and they consume a lot of algae and the like, which doesn't leave much room for other small invertebrates. That affects the food web," Boyer said. "How that affects cold water streams also impacts rivers, which are habitats for the salmon."

The mud snails he is studying are a formidable, if tiny, foe. Domestic mud snails are generally no larger than 8 millimeters, or the size of a small marble. But a single snail can produce 40 million snails in a year because they can clone themselves. Boyer said transferring snails is as easy as having one stuck to your boot and moving it to another watershed.

A long-term goal is to understand the impact of the snails and then down the line, how to work to solve the problem.

"This is my passion now. When I was younger, cooking was," Boyer said. "The more I learned about the impact of sustainability on food production, I felt like I had to jump in."



Boyer is also keeping his culinary chops in order. He is teaching cooking classes about sustainable Great Lakes region seafood, including walleye, whitefish and perch, at Cichetti Culinary Studio and Kitchen in Muskegon.



The mud snail isn't just bad for fish because of the damage they do to the food web — fish often eat the snails, which are able to pass through the fish alive. Boyer said this greatly reduces the fitness of the fish.



FAVORITE BOOK

Outlander series

FAVORITE MUSICAL

Sound of Music

FAVORITE ENTERTAINER

Neil Diamond

FAVORITE FOOD

*GVSU's Classic
Fare Catering's
gluten-free mac
and cheese*

**INSTRUMENTS
PLAYED IN BAND**

*clarinet, baritone
sax, bassoon*

***A few of my
favorite things ...***

FAVORITE QUOTE

*"You don't have to
understand the desert:
all you have to do is
contemplate a simple
grain of sand, and you
will see in it all the
marvels of creation."*

PAULO COELHO

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

*"Rejoice in the
Lord always, again
I say Rejoice."*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

**FAVORITE SPOT
ON CAMPUS**

Carillon towers

HOBBIES

*a variety of crafts,
games and sports
through the years.
Next hobby: learn
woodworking.*



Getting to know all about you ...

STORY BY DOTTIE BARNES / PHOTO BY AMANDA PITTS

Marcia (Knapp) Haas has served as first lady of Grand Valley for more than 11 years. She said she felt an immediate connection with students and the university when her husband, President Thomas J. Haas, was given the nickname T-Haas by students shortly after they arrived on campus.

She is most proud of their three children (Eric, Greg and Sarah), and four granddaughters (another granddaughter is on the way).

Marcia was born in Iowa, grew up in Union City, Michigan, and is a graduate of Albion College. She serves on the Grand Rapids Symphony Board of Directors, Clark Retirement Community Board of Trustees, and the Kent County Parks Foundation Board of Directors. She is also an active member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, an international women's organization.

You are known for your warm personality, being down-to-earth and being quick to smile. What were you like as a child?

Oh, I was very playful and animated. I was not shy — almost to the extreme. I was a bit of a tomboy. I liked to do things that my brothers liked to do. I loved growing up in Union City, it's a beautiful piece of American pie and a nice place to raise a family. In high school, I worked on the yearbook and loved being in band, choir and drama. Those experiences helped launch me.

Growing up, I always wanted to be a teacher. It was and is a very honored and revered profession. I had a wonderful experience teaching and helping young children learn to read. As a teacher, I have experienced all levels of learning, from kindergarten to calculus, and how the continuum of education is so important.

In a campus presentation, you mentioned the positive impact your grandmothers had on your life. How so?

I respected them and enjoyed being with them in different ways. They each contributed to who I am today.

Grammy, my mom's mom, taught me how to sew. I have fond memories of sitting on her lap, spending time at their farm in Iowa, doing the chores and riding horses.

People gravitated toward my dad's mother. I loved hearing about Grandmother's travels to Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska. She started a scholarship that would involve international programs for women to go to universities in the U.S. through P.E.O., and started two chapters in Alaska.

You must be proud to have all three of your children following in their father's footsteps and serving their country.

It's hard to put into words. Each of our children had different reasons and different models of how they wanted to serve their country. Eric told me when he was 12 he was going to be an astronaut and he was in their training program. He is currently a fighter pilot in the Air Force. Greg, who is in the Coast Guard, loves being the peacekeeping-type servant. And, Sarah, who served as a nuclear engineer in the Navy, wanted to use her engineering expertise.

I am very, very proud of them. I know what they have sacrificed. I cherished my role of taking care of our home and children while Tom was in the Coast Guard. His career took us to many parts of the country and enriched our lives through friendships and experiences.

Your passion for the arts runs deep, even doing community theater in several states. What draws you to the arts?

The arts enrich our lives in so many ways. While in community theater I was in "South Pacific," "Wizard of Oz," (I was the good witch), "Meet Me in St. Louis," and "Bye Bye Birdie." I loved it because you can be anybody on stage and you can take that role and develop it. I also loved being together with people of all ages.

Liza Mannelli once said she could learn anything in five minutes, and I thought, I can do the same thing. If you watch and observe, you can learn anything.

You were very moved during your remarks at the opening of the Haas Center for Performing Arts in August.

I was. It's humbling to be able to have an impact that will matter to others in a way that you never dreamed possible. We have been richly blessed beyond what we deserve. We are so happy that we could give back.

Everyone who has a dream in their heart or an idea, say it. Get it out there. Help make it happen. It could be the grand idea of the day.

How do you describe your role as first lady?

I love every aspect of the role. I love getting to know students and parents. I love working alongside faculty and learning from their talents. I have been blessed to travel to every continent except Antarctica. And, I consider it a privilege to host people at our home.

My very favorite part is hosting the resident assistants at our home in the fall, and feeling that freshness of a new academic year. It's an exciting time. Everyone is happy to be back together. They all want selfies with Tom. These students are such a united group; they bring the optimism of a new year.

What are you and the president like at home?

We sit down and watch reruns of "This is Us" and "Downton Abbey." We garden, take care of our grandchildren and take time for Laker, our dog. Our home is a piece of Grand Valley history and we are stewards of this home. We love to share it with the community.

Did you ever dream this would be the path your life would take?

Yes, I did dream it. I've more than surpassed it. I feel very fortunate. It's not about attaining something, it's about being part of a greater community, letting God's light shine through us.

I've been blessed to have many mentors along the way — my grandparents, a history teacher who gave me courage. When I was 19 and competing in the Miss Michigan pageant, a woman put her arms on my shoulders and said to me, "Remember this moment. Don't be afraid. This should be something you look back on as being a first step out into the real world. If you can do this, you are all set."

Where art thou, Bard to Go?

Traveling student theater company brings Shakespeare's works to schools around the world STORY BY MATTHEW MAKOWSKI

Following a performance at a school in the Bahamas by Grand Valley's traveling Shakespeare company Bard to Go, a young student walked up to the six members of the cast and said, "You guys inspired me to want to read more Shakespeare." The student then proceeded to hug every member of the ensemble.

Ariana Martineau, a senior majoring in history and education, and a current cast member, said that special moment reflected what Bard to Go strives to accomplish by traveling to schools around the globe.

"The point of our show is to educate and excite people about Shakespeare and help them realize how much fun his works can be," said Martineau.

Bard to Go traveled to the Bahamas in October to perform at the annual Shakespeare in Paradise Festival in Nassau, and at several local grade schools. It was the only international group invited to perform at the festival this year.

During the festival, students performed their 50-minute 2017 Shakespeare Festival show, "The Wonder of Will: This Is Your Afterlife!" The play asks what would happen if Shakespeare were brought back to life, and then goes on an adventure through his most famous plays. It included scenes from "Hamlet," "Richard III," "The Comedy of Errors," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Romeo and Juliet," "Macbeth" and "The Merchant of Venice."

CULTURAL CURRENCY

Karen Libman, professor of theater and Bard to Go founder, said performing in the Bahamas exposed her students to audience members who are more responsive and vocal than those in the U.S.

"Bahamian audiences cheer and laugh, and they're really much more viscerally involved than American students who are told to stay in their seats and not make any noise," said Libman. "It's an actor's dream to get this kind of response, so it was wonderful for our students to experience that."

"Talk backs" follow every performance, giving audience members the opportunity to ask students questions ranging from the logistics of memorizing lines to their favorite Shakespeare plays.

Libman said they are an intrinsic part of every Bard to Go show.

"In the U.S., talk backs act as a recruiting and outreach tool, but when we do international programs, they are much more like a cultural diplomacy through the arts," she explained.

"Shakespeare is really cultural currency, and in any country where English is taught or learned, Shakespeare is a part of that education."

Chloe Chavers, a senior majoring in theater and a first-time cast member, said she enjoys introducing people around the world to the accessibility of Shakespeare and his works.

"Shakespeare's work completely changed the world of theater, and I find value in being able to share them with audiences who may or may not have been exposed to Shakespeare previously," said Chavers, from Grand Rapids.

Diving into local cultures is a primary reason why Libman said she enjoys taking students abroad. For

example, Bard to Go students participated in an International Day in Nassau, which exposed them to the different cultures of people who live in the Bahamas. Students also experienced other performances and events at the festival and interacted with industry professionals.

'TO UNPATHED WATERS, UNDREAMED SHORES'

Traveling and performing internationally is typically a biannual experience for Bard to Go students. The troupe's first trip was in 2004 to Jamaica. Since then, Bard to Go has performed in Italy, China, Canada and the Czech Republic.

In May, Bard to Go students added a Dominican Republic stamp to their passports. They performed a 45-minute version of "Macbeth" five times at three different schools in Santo Domingo.

"We are sharing our American take on Shakespeare with students and audiences in other countries as a way of being cultural diplomats and as a way of introducing ourselves through the universal language of theater," said Libman. "That's certainly something that is important for our students as they go into a future of working and living in a global society."

Bard to Go also performs for hundreds of students at various secondary schools throughout Michigan every fall during the annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, Michigan's oldest and largest festival of its kind. Since 2013, the troupe has performed as an official entry in Grand Rapids' ArtPrize, the world's largest open international art competition.

WHERE THEY'VE PERFORMED



JAMAICA
2005



ITALY
2009 & 2014



CHINA
2008



CANADA
2010



BAHAMAS
2011 & 2017



CZECH REPUBLIC
2014



DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC
2017



MULTIPLE SCHOOLS
ACROSS MICHIGAN
2001-PRESENT



BARD BEGINNINGS

Bard to Go began in 2001 as a way to expose Shakespeare to students at schools that couldn't afford bus transportation to Grand Valley to watch the Shakespeare Festival's main stage production.

In order to accommodate class periods, Bard to Go's performances were condensed to 50 minutes with only six actors, a concept known as "Short Shakespeare." Hence, Libman said each year's show, which is written by Grand Valley faculty, provides a Shakespearean sampler platter.

"We want to whet the appetite of the students in the audience and not be the end-all-be-all," she explained. "We're not trying to teach them everything about each play because we leave that to their teachers, but we want to get them excited about Shakespeare."

Along with the show itself, the cast and director of Bard to Go changes each academic year, with auditions held in the spring. Auditions are open to all students, regardless of major.

Parker Ykimoff, a senior majoring in theater, said Bard to Go is not only a valuable experience because of the relationships formed within the group, but also because students get to create new relationships with audiences through their performances.

"The point of our show is to educate and excite people about Shakespeare and help them realize how much fun his works can be."

ARIANA MARTINEAU
(TOP ROW, SECOND FROM RIGHT)
2017-18 BARD TO GO
CAST MEMBER

"We foster international relationships on a personal level by showing many children of all backgrounds this universal theater form in an easily understood way, giving them a springboard to get more involved later in life," he said.

Libman said she notices that Shakespeare's work is a "foreign language" to U.S. students, and that Bard to Go's ultimate goal is to change that narrative.

"Young students are not used to hearing Shakespeare, and a lot of times when you ask them about Shakespeare, they say they hate reading it, but then they see it live and they are transformed," she said.

Timeless teapots

Vice president collects vintage teapots

STORY BY LEAH TWILLEY / PHOTOS BY BERNADINE CAREY-TUCKER



It all started with two little red teapots that were short and stout.

Lynn (Chick) Blue, vice president for Enrollment Development, is a teapot hobbyist whose vibrant collection includes dozens of vintage pieces that are displayed on floor-to-ceiling shelves in the dining room of her home. Her collection has been 30 years in the making.

Blue's interest in teapots began at age 12 when her aunt gave her a red teapot set.

"I stayed with her for a few weeks in the summer in Saline, and one day when she was cleaning, she found the little red set and gave it to me," Blue said. "I treasured them because they were so cute. She told me about this company called Hall China that made good-bone china and I became intrigued."

When she was about 30 years old and working at Grand Valley as registrar in the Office of Records and Registration, she began her collection by making her first teapot purchase.

"I had a few extra nickels to

spend on something that wasn't a necessity, so I went looking for a little teapot and found a morning teapot," she said. "Over the years, I added to them and began a collection."

Blue's fascination with teapots stems from her interest in ceramics and pottery, which she studied during high school and college. Her collection includes a variety of shapes, sizes and colors made by Hall China, a company that was established in East Liverpool, Ohio. It is now Homer Laughlin & Hall China Company.

"I like the work of ceramics, so I was very taken with how well these teapots were done and for how long the company has been in existence and has stayed viable by making residential and commercial dishes," she said.

The company was founded by Robert Hall in 1903, following the dissolution of the two-year-old East Liverpool Potteries Company. When Hall died, his son took over and studied the Ming Dynasty's glazing methods in order to create china that didn't crack and craze. Some of the teapots in Blue's collection are more than 80 years old but still look new. "You can tell by looking at the glaze; it's still fine and nice," she said.

Many of Blue's teapots were made between 1920-1940; she finds them in antique stores and estate sales across Michigan. Each teapot has a back stamp on the bottom, which identifies its authenticity and age.

"Whenever I'm in an antique store or shop, I look for them. You can spot Hall China

instantly because the china is so distinctly different," said Blue, noting that her husband, Herb, has a sharp eye for spotting them.

The most valuable teapot in her collection was found in plain sight at an antique store, among other ceramic pieces. The teapot, called Illinois, is worth more than \$300. It is light maroon with gold spirals along the top — a rare design.

"We stumbled upon this piece one day and we knew it was Hall just by looking at it," Blue said. "We looked it up in the collector's encyclopedia book when we got home and realized we got a find."

Her favorite teapot is the shape of President Ronald Reagan's head. The design was commissioned to be made in 1980 as a gift for representatives at the Republican National Convention, and not many were made. It sits on a shelf in her dining room, among her colorful collection of timeless teapots.



The back stamp of each Hall China piece identifies its age and authenticity.



OLDEST TEAPOT
Circa 1920s

NEWEST TEAPOT
Circa 1960s-1970s

BONE CHINA
a type of soft-paste
porcelain that is
composed of
bone ash.

**MORNING
TEAPOT SET**
a cream container,
sugar container
and 1- or 2-cup
teapot for tea
in the morning

ALUMNI NEWS

40

Lakers came home October 28 to participate in Homecoming. The snowy weather couldn't keep alumni away!



Creating new pathways

Gerard Kwiatkowski, '08

INTERVIEWED BY AMY BROSS, '00

Gerard Kwiatkowski graduated in 2008 and is now teaching and impacting students in Houston, Texas. Kwiatkowski established a Pathway Scholarship, designed to help fill the gap between savings and financial aid for middle-income students. Nearly 30 percent of all Grand Valley students and their families qualify for Pathway Scholarships.

Talk about your current job; what's a typical day like?

I am the mathematics instructional specialist at Galena Park High School in Houston, Texas. I lead the Math Department by coaching teachers and providing student interventions.

What do you miss most about West Michigan now that you are living in Texas?

I do miss the fall during the strong heat of the Houston summer and I also miss shopping at Meijer.



FIND YOUR WAY TO GIVE BACK

We strive to provide access to our university for more students and to do so more affordably because, for students, college is the home of possibility. Our top priority is to provide access for every qualified student who wants to attend Grand Valley and keeping that education affordable.

Nothing we do for Grand Valley will matter if students cannot afford to attend.

Goal 1: Double the number of scholarship recipients.

For more information, contact:

Briette Bryant, '08
(616) 331-6529
bryanbri@gvsu.edu

Kevin Yeomans, '15
(616) 331-6527
yeomans1@gvsu.edu

Why did you decide to study teaching at Grand Valley?

I decided I wanted to be a math teacher in middle school. When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to tutor and mentor two Spanish-speaking migrant siblings. I enjoyed Spanish, and thought it would be great if I became a math teacher with a working knowledge of the language to help educate students like those siblings.

What kinds of activities were you a part of as a student?

One of the first organizations I joined was the Latino Student Union, and I quickly felt welcome and took a leadership role. Second semester of my freshman year I was elected to the Student Senate Educational Affairs Committee. I was also a resident assistant, a tutor, a peer facilitator for college algebra, and, during my junior year, I studied at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico.

What is your favorite Grand Valley memory?

As a member of Latino Student Union, I attended the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education and heard a keynote address by Jaime Escalante, who is the subject of the movie "Stand and Deliver." I worked with

the Latino Student Union, Student Senate, and the Mathematics Department to bring Mr. Escalante to Grand Valley for a guest lecture. It was a very inspiring event that shaped me to want to work in a low socioeconomic status school.

What was your biggest take away from your time at Grand Valley?

I learned how to be a successful teacher and how to be a positive leader. I was equipped to be successful on day one.

What inspired you to start your Pathway Scholarship?

While at Grand Valley I was presented with lots of valuable opportunities and wanted to be able to help other students have similar experiences. I saw the power of a good education and wanted to give back to Grand Valley to ensure that other students have access to all that the university has to offer with less stress from the costs of education.

What do you hope this scholarship will bring to students?

I hope that the scholarship helps alleviate some of the stress of paying for college. I also hope that the recipients are able to take advantage of



GERARD
KWIATKOWSKI, '08



"While at Grand Valley I was presented with lots of valuable opportunities and wanted to be able to help other students have similar experiences."

the scholarship to focus their energy on the academic and extracurricular activities that Grand Valley provides.

Why do you think it's important for people to give back to Grand Valley?

For me it was important to make this contribution to express how grateful I am for the education I received. I know that the cost of attending college is a barrier for many students and wanted to do my part to help lower that barrier.

How can Grand Valley continue to help other students succeed?

I hope that GVSU continues its student-centered focus and is able to continue to invest in providing students with real opportunities that will help them be successful leaders in their profession and communities.

We are Lakers for a Lifetime!

As Lakers for a Lifetime, we gather to catch up with old friends and make new ones, to serve our communities and current students, and to give back to Grand Valley. Events take place throughout the year and across the country.

Check for an event near you by visiting gvsu.edu/alumni/events.



CLAS Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence 10/27/17



President Haas visited the team of alumni who work at Quicken Loans 10/25/17

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH WEEK
March 24-31

STUDY ABROAD ALUMNI REUNION IN CHICAGO
March 29

GRADFEST
April 16-19

ST. JOSEPH ALUMNI RECEPTION
April 19

SAN FRANCISCO ALUMNI RECEPTION
April 23

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI/OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR LUNCHEON
April 27

COMMENCEMENT
April 27-28

WASHINGTON, D.C., ALUMNI RECEPTION
May 17

ENRICHMENT DINNER
June 5

IRWIN GOLF OUTING
June 7

+

For additional events and information, visit gvsu.edu/alumni/events.

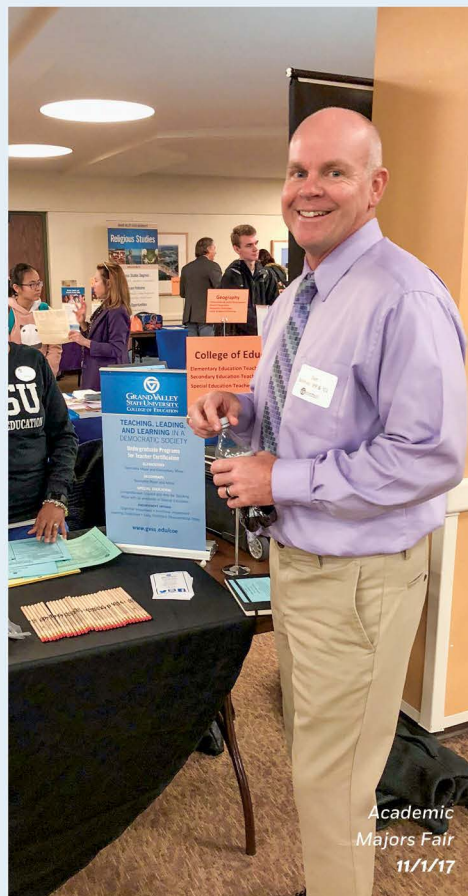
Events are subject to change.



Seattle Alumni Reception 11/8/17



Traverse City Beach Bums Game 9/3/17



Academic Majors Fair 11/1/17

Physician assistant finds career destination in National Guard

STORY BY MICHELE COFFILL

As an athletic trainer and physician assistant, Brittan Masters has been responsible for the health of high school student athletes, orthopedic patients, and more than 300 soldiers who were stationed with him in the United Arab Emirates.

Through these diverse stops in his career, Masters credits his Grand Valley education for helping him succeed.

“The faculty members who provided insight on the profession and guidance on a personal level helped me achieve my goals,” he said. “Their influence on me has made me the person and professional I am today.”

Masters earned two bachelor’s degrees, one in athletic training and another in health sciences, from Grand Valley in 2008 and 2009, respectively, and a master’s degree in physician assistant studies (PAS) from Grand Valley in 2011.

“I knew I wanted to pursue graduate education, but was unsure of a field. One of my professors encouraged me to research the PA profession,” said Masters, a native of Morenci in southeast Michigan. “I had never heard of it until that time but did the research and figured it would be perfect for me.”

Throughout most of his time in graduate school, Masters worked as an athletic trainer at Union High School in Grand Rapids until his PAS clinical rotations started. Before graduating in 2011, Masters was commissioned into the Michigan Army National Guard as a second lieutenant. He said he felt a calling to join because no one in his family had served since World War II and it was time to give back.

What he found was a career

destination. Masters was trained in Army medicine in Detroit during monthly drills and annual training sessions. After earning a master’s degree and passing the certification exam, he transferred to the 182nd Field Artillery Regiment in Detroit as its battalion PA. When not performing Guard duty, Masters was working as a PA for a busy orthopedic office in Auburn Hills.

In 2015, he was deployed to the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, where he was responsible for the health of 300 soldiers. He said his orthopedic training complemented military medicine as about two-thirds of the patients he evaluated had musculoskeletal complaints.

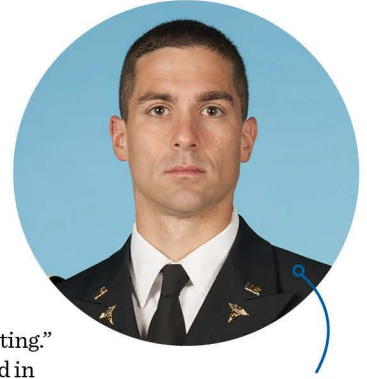
“As a PA working for a private practice, I had to be able to work in multiple hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, as well as our main

office,” he said. “As a military PA for an entire battalion, I had to learn the medical standards soldiers must meet to stay in the military.

“Army medicine is constantly changing, which makes it very exciting.”

His deployment ended in 2016 and Masters accepted a permanent job with the Michigan National Guard as a brigade PA. He is certified as an aeromedical PA after completing an Army flight surgeon course.

“It is truly rewarding to ensure the wellness of those troops who have signed on the line to commit a piece of their life to defending our country,” he said. “There is no better feeling than that.”



Brittan Masters '08, '09, '11, served in the United Arab Emirates and Jordan in 2015. Below, Masters stands on base where the Grand Valley flag was flown.



Homecoming 2017

Halloween Tricks • Laker Treats

The day was filled with numerous events, including the 5K run/walk and breakfast, bus ride from Detroit to Allendale, tailgate and beer garden, and ended with the football game against Northern Michigan.

Other gatherings that took place included the

Charles H. Irwin Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony, the annual Rowing Alumni Association Race, and the Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity gathering. Thank you to all who volunteered and participated!



Mark your calendars for the 2018 Homecoming celebration on October 6.



↑ LOUIE AND FRIENDS



TAILGATE EVENTS INCLUDED PUMPKIN PAINTING



LAKERS RODE THE BUS FROM DETROIT TO ALLENDALE



5K RUN/WALK & BREAKFAST



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALUMNI GAME



#GVhomecoming



Share your update!

These Lakers are staying connected by using our Laker Landings website, gvsu.edu/lakerlandings, which has replaced the printed Alumni Updates section.



BIRTH/ADOPTION

Lacey Lemke, '13, and Derek Lemke, '14, welcomed daughter, Elliot Brooke, to their family in December 2016.



WEDDING

Autumn Whitney (Trombka) Goulet, '10, married Andrew Louis Goulet on September 16, 2017. They were surrounded by their family and friends at Studio D2D in Grand Rapids. They're looking forward to attending many more Laker events together!



CAREER UPDATE

Danielle Powell, '04, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Grand Valley and is now a match support specialist for Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region.



Stay in touch, network and get involved!

Visit gvsu.edu/alumni or follow us on our social media channels!



IN MEMORIAM

**Presence
Lupton Bissonette**

B.A., 2004, of East Lansing, on October 14, 2017

Gretchen F. Bouwsma

M.A., 1982, of Grand Rapids, on September 30, 2017

Roland A. Crittenden

B.S., 1986, M.P.A., 1991, of Atlanta, Georgia, on October 12, 2017

Adam J. Forbes

B.S., 2006, of Grand Rapids, on October 26, 2017

Susan M. Fries

B.S., 1990, of Ada, on November 20, 2017

Charles J. Gersch

B.E., 1995, of Grand Rapids, on November 16, 2017

Vickie L. Gilbert

M.P.A., 2000, of Kent City, on November 11, 2017

Lewis A. Goodin

B.B.A., 1975, of Grand Haven, on November 21, 2017

Rick R. Grossenbacher

B.A., 2000, of Belmont, on October 31, 2017

Nick A. Groszowski

B.B.A., 1980, of Muskegon, on November 22, 2017

Sarah D. Hall

B.S., 1997, of East Grand Rapids, on October 15, 2017

Melissa T. Harrington

B.S., 2002, of Grand Rapids, on August 27, 2017

Harvey G. Heyer

B.S., 1983, of Spring Lake, on October 20, 2017

**Drusilla W.
Hillman-Richard**

B.S., 1976, of Grand Rapids, on October 9, 2017

Kara L. Hines

B.A., 1996, M.Ed., 2000, of Spring Lake, on November 18, 2017

Jon C. Johnson

B.S., 1976, of Grand Rapids, on September 12, 2017

Margaret A. Kozal

M.Ed., 1982, of Muskegon, on October 11, 2017

Marjorie Lawton Haney

B.A., 1993, of Holland, on August 26, 2017

Charles J. LeMaire

B.B.A., 1975, of Spring Lake, on November 10, 2017

Ian R. MacDonald

B.S., 1976, of Bradenton, Florida, on May 13, 2017

Mary E. Maksymowski

B.A., 1971, of Grand Rapids, on October 28, 2017

Denis A. Sakoski

B.B.A., 1979, M.B.A., 1981, of Norman, Oklahoma, on September 1, 2017

David L. Schipper

B.S., 1979, of Lake Odessa, on August 21, 2017

Mark A. Sellers Jr.

B.S., 1980, of Alto, on October 21, 2017

John M. Stariha II

B.S., 2009, of Fremont, on November 18, 2017

Thomas R. Stoddard

B.S., 1979, M.S., 1994, of Caledonia, on November 9, 2017

James R. Wierenga

B.A.S., 1983, of Middleville, on November 3, 2017

THE POWER OF WHAT CAN BE

You see it every day.

West Michigan is at the center of the Laker Effect. Here, you'll find Lakers contributing their skills and drive to its considerable growth — as analysts and engineers, biochemists and health professionals, leaders of business and community. Every day your support for Grand Valley demonstrates the power of what can be.

LAKER EFFECT
gvsu.edu/Ourlakereffect

 **GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

University Communications
1 Campus Drive
Allendale MI 49401
110000-63004-665

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Electronic Return Requested



Presidents' Ball

Thousands of Lakers hit the dance floor February 2 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids for the Presidents' Ball.

Except for home football games, the annual dinner/dance is the campus event with the highest attendance. (Valerie Wojciechowski)



Please recycle me or pass me on