

Fall 2018

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Grand Valley State University

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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

**Students thrive in new Finkelstein Hall labs** P. 4

**Laker Effect: Students bring water filters to Haiti** P. 10

**Three alumni lead transportation revolution** P. 34

# GVM

GRAND VALLEY MAGAZINE

FALL  
2018

**Exploring Grand Rapids through alumni-owned businesses** P. 15





# GVM

## GRAND VALLEY MAGAZINE

**VOL. 18**  
**ISSUE 2**  
**FALL**  
**2018**

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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  
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**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**  
Stephen Smith, '14, is pictured  
in an art gallery he owns with  
his wife. Read about Smith  
and other alumni who own  
businesses in the heart of  
downtown Grand Rapids on  
page 15. (Amanda Pitts)



## 20 CAMPUS NEWS

Briefs | 20

Off the Path | 26

Arts | 28

Q&A | 30

Research | 32

Athletics | 33

Sustainability | 34

## 35 ALUMNI NEWS

Feature | 35

Events | 37

Profile | 38

Giving | 40

Laker Landings | 42



A photograph of a river with green algae and reeds. The water is dark green and reflects the surrounding foliage. There are several clumps of reeds and other aquatic plants in the water. The background is a dense line of green trees and bushes.

# FEATURES

4

## Finkelstein Hall

*health students thrive  
in specifically designed  
laboratories*

10

## Wandering seeds

*students, faculty spread  
Laker Effect in Haiti  
through service projects*

15

## Greetings from Grand Rapids

30

Q&A

## Rick Rediske

*The Rogue River in Rockford is pictured, yards away from the contaminated former tannery location of Wolverine Worldwide. AWRI researcher Rick Rediske is an expert on PFAS, the class of chemicals that have contaminated water sources across the state, learn more on page 30. (Bernadine Carey-Tucker)*





Two-story  
therapeutic  
recreation lab

Communication  
Sciences Disorders  
Adult Laboratory

Suspended  
swing for  
occupational  
therapy

Audiology  
listening lab with  
new technologies

Newest  
sonography  
equipment

Instrumentation  
to diagnose  
balance problems

# Health students thrive with unique technology in Finkelstein Hall

STORY BY DOTTIE BARNES



Elena Brownell was shaking a bit as she carefully walked along the suspended ropes course high above the floor of the two-story therapeutic recreation lab in Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall. The senior, majoring in therapeutic recreation, was learning what it is like to rely on others to safely get to the other side.

“This exercise is used in the area of behavioral health, like for those battling substance abuse,” Brownell explained. “It builds trust and team skills, and demonstrates how to overcome challenges.”

Brownell said conquering the ropes course will help her better relate to future clients. “I can meet them where they are; I know that heart-pounding adrenaline rush they are feeling. I will know how to help them in a scary situation,” she said.

The ropes course is just one of the unique pieces of equipment inside Finkelstein Hall, which opened one block north of Grand Valley’s Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (CHS) on the Medical Mile in Grand Rapids.

## ENHANCED LABS, INTERACTIVE LEARNING

The five-story, 84,000-square-foot health building is located one block north of Grand Valley’s Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (CHS) on the Medical Mile in Grand Rapids.

In response to a growing number of health-related programs and students, Finkelstein Hall expanded Grand Valley’s Health Campus, providing 16 teaching labs for occupational therapy, therapeutic recreation, speech-language pathology, sonography, public health, and allied health programs — all programs that require



*Elena Brownell, a senior majoring in therapeutic recreation, carefully walks across the ropes course in the new therapeutic recreation lab, while placement coordinator Sarah Bradley looks on. (Amanda Pitts)*

intensive, interactive learning spaces.

The communication sciences and disorders program, which includes speech-language pathology and audiology, has experienced tremendous growth.

Classes for the program occupy the entire third floor of Finkelstein Hall with several labs, including a child lab suite, a vestibular lab (for inner ear and balance), a listening lab, an adult lab and a sound suite, to name a few.

Students are learning on a new neuroscan system, a 64-channel recording system for brain mapping and scanning brain activity of patients listening to human speech rather than beeps or tone bursts.

“This is used for estimating hearing sensitivity,” said Dan Halling, chair of the department. “Very few places in the country have started to use complex stimuli like actual speech. Different areas of the brain light up to speech, and that’s what we are interested in, how people process speech.”

## Two-story Therapeutic Recreation Laboratory

*The gym features removable volleyball and tennis nets and a basketball hoop, which will allow students to experience a variety of wheelchair and adaptive sports.*

*Students will learn to use a variety of recreational and leisure activities to rehabilitate patients with disabilities, injuries and chronic conditions.*



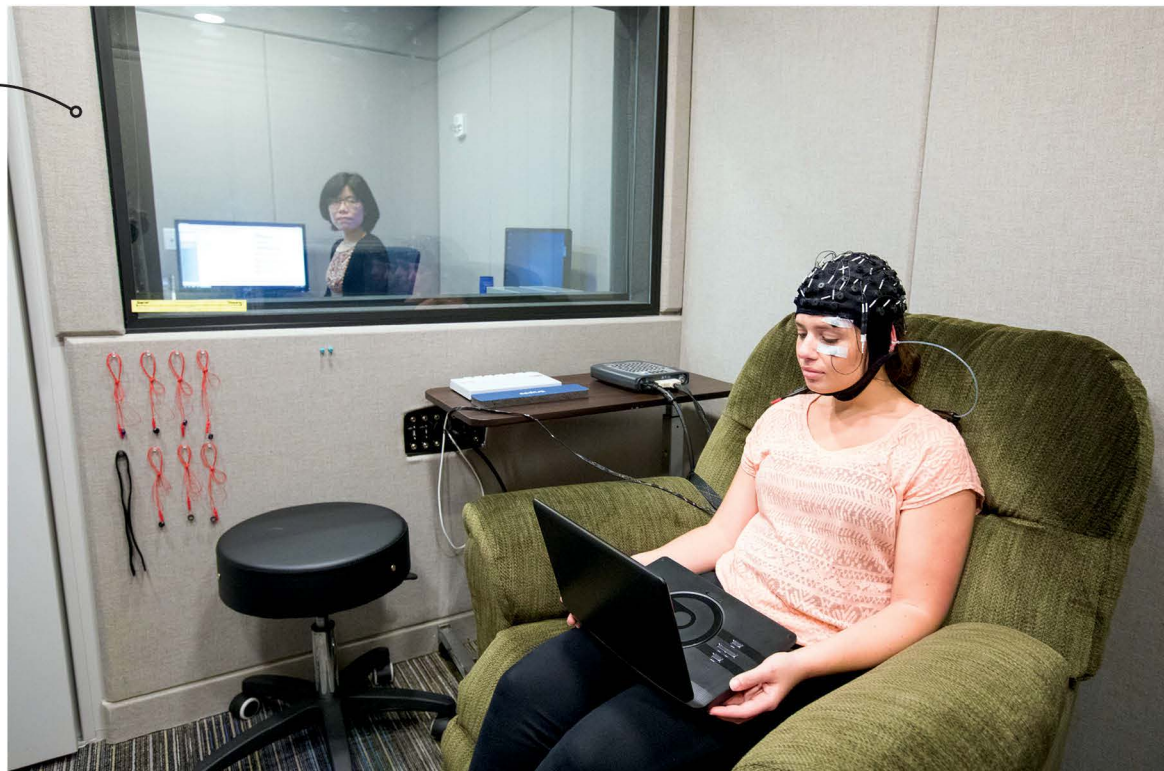


## Communication Sciences and Disorders Evoked Potential Suite

*Designed for simulating different acoustic environments common to individuals with hearing impairment.*

*Faculty and students use the lab for hearing aid and assistive listening device selection adjustment and patient counseling.*

*Features KEMAR (Knowles Electronics Manikin for Acoustic Research), which is a head and torso simulator that allows for simulated measurements of hearing aids.*





## Therapeutic Modalities Lab

*Can be utilized as a traditional classroom as well as an interactive space for hands-on practice of assessment and intervention skills.*

*Reinforced hooks in the ceiling allow for the use of suspended swings and bolsters that are used in many pediatric practice settings.*

The program also features a virtual computerized dynamic posturography system used for patients suffering from dizziness or balance issues — it is the only system of its kind available in Michigan.

“We actually surround patients with a virtual image and then we can manipulate that image in response to their movement,” Halling explained. “We can control the visual environment as well as the platform they stand on. This allows us to tease out the possible issue, whether it’s vision, muscle feedback, inner ear, etc.”

Finkelstein Hall is providing expanded space for students studying diagnostic medical sonography (DMS) or cardiovascular sonography, with the newest ultrasound machines from multiple vendors.

“We have equipment from all the major vendors across the world, so we are able to mirror a clinical environment for students while also exposing them to a variety of machines, making them more marketable and adaptable,” said Jennifer VanderPoel, program director for vascular sonography.

**(top)** Occupational therapy students work with standardized patients in the therapeutic modalities lab. (Amanda Pitts)

**(bottom)** Assistant professor Lee Jung An tests a student with the new Neuroscan, a 64-channel system that collects data about how the brain processes what patients hear. This instrument is the most advanced and capable system in Michigan. (Bernadine Carey-Tucker)



VanderPoel said there are also high-definition monitors on each side of the lab for collaborative learning. “Instead of huddling around a small screen of the ultrasound, it’s projected on the monitors so students being scanned and others in the lab can see what’s happening,” she explained. “Instructors can quickly assess student progress.”

Dr. Tatyana Beaves, MD and DMS program director, said students are also able to learn on a self-guided simulated system to practice more invasive ultrasound procedures. “This system mirrors resistance of human tissue and provides students with feedback while they are scanning,” said Beaves. “It also includes a library of cases from around the world so students can evaluate normal and abnormal pathologies.”

## GROWING PROGRAMS, MEETING DEMAND

Grand Valley offers the most comprehensive array of health sciences programs in Michigan with 20+ programs in nursing and health professions. More than 5,000 students are currently enrolled in health-related courses.

Roy Olsson, dean of the College of Health Professions, said the new space for each program inside Finkelstein Hall is substantially larger, allowing faculty members to teach their students differently.

**↑** Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall opened in May, providing 16 teaching labs for programs that require intensive, interactive learning spaces.

“Faculty members can have more students in the lab at one time and teach more efficiently,” said Olsson. “The teaching labs can be used as both a traditional classroom and an interactive space for hands-on practice.”

For example, in the therapeutic modalities lab, occupational therapy students can receive instruction at one end of the lab and walk to the other end to work with standardized patients (people trained to portray patients with various conditions). The lab features various equipment, including suspended swings used in pediatric practice settings.

“The standardized patients teach us a great deal,” said Ella Savalox, a senior majoring in occupational therapy. “They are great at imitating situations we may encounter. Field work educators say Grand Valley occupational therapy students have good critical thinking skills because of all the hands-on work we get.”

Olsson said Finkelstein Hall was designed with growth in mind. “We calculated the space needed for programs that will be expanding in the future and we have the equipment for those programs. So, when we’re ready to open them in the next two-to-three years, we’ll be able to do that,” he said.





Dan Halling, chair of the communication sciences and disorders program, demonstrates the use of the virtual Computerized Dynamic Posturography (CDP) system with a student. CDP is effective for assessing and treating patients experiencing dizziness or balance issues. This virtual system is the only one of its kind in the state of Michigan. (Bernadine Carey-Tucker)

### Communication Sciences and Disorders Vestibular Lab

*Sophisticated instrumentation is used for the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from balance problems.*

### Sonography and Cardiovascular Sciences Suite

*Eight sonography machines, an increase of six stations.*

*Ultrasound machines and physiological testing are performed on people through student hands-on practice.*

*Allows for growth in the cardiovascular sciences in terms of technology, equipment and course offerings.*



Students in the sonography laboratory perform a variety of sonography imaging. The images are simultaneously displayed on high-definition monitors to allow for a more collaborative learning environment. (Mitch Ranger)



## HEALTH CAMPUS ANCHORS EAST END OF MEDICAL MILE

Grand Valley celebrated the continued expansion of its Health Campus October 23 with a groundbreaking ceremony for a third health building — the Daniel and Pamela DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health.

The five-story building is under construction right next to Grand Valley’s Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Medical Mile in downtown Grand Rapids.

When completed in May 2021, it will include 15 classrooms and 14 interactive laboratories designed for collaborative work and equipped with state-of-the-industry simulation and technology.

Provost Maria Cimitile said the new health building will be the flagship of the Health Campus, allowing for interaction between students from all nursing and health professions programs.

“The DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health will change the essence of the Health Campus,” said Cimitile. “There will not be another university teaching health sciences that will have the space and programs to offer true interprofessional education. Students will want to come here to access all that we have.”



*Pictured is a rendering of the Daniel and Pamela DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health.*

## GVSU, GRAND RAPIDS COLLABORATE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

A project to bring new affordable housing to a Grand Rapids neighborhood is one step closer to reality. At a Board of Trustees meeting in July, trustees authorized the university to lease property on its Health Campus in Grand Rapids to a developer who intends to build affordable housing compatible with the Belknap Lookout neighborhood.

Patricia Waring, director of Community Relations at Grand Valley, and others from the university worked with representatives from the City of Grand Rapids

and from the Neighbors of Belknap Lookout (NOBL) to create a Memorandum of Understanding after the university purchased land to expand its Health Campus north of Michigan Street. The MOU required the committee to prepare a request for proposal and choose a developer.

The board’s action authorizes Grand Valley to lease .85 acres to Three CPK, which is a joint venture of Third Coast Development and PK Housing, for development of the affordable housing project, which is a provision of the MOU. Housing will

be built on the south side of Trowbridge, between Lafayette and Prospect, in the Belknap area of the city of Grand Rapids.

The project will have a housing mix of 70 percent affordable and 30 percent market rate. CPK will submit an application for low-income housing tax credits and if successful, the project could be completed as early as fall 2019. The university will not use tuition revenue or any of its funds for the construction of the project, operating expenses or any future repairs or renovations.





STORY BY MATTHEW MAKOWSKI / PHOTOS COURTESY OF PETER WAMPLER

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**Students, faculty  
spread Laker Effect  
in Haiti through  
service projects**

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# *Wandering* **SEEDS**





*pye bwa ki wo di wè lwen, gren pwomennen di li wè pase l'*

**This Haitian proverb, which roughly translates to “The tall tree sees far, but the wandering seed sees more,” served as the theme for a service-learning study abroad trip taken by a group of Lakers to Haiti this summer.**

Peter Wampler, professor of geology and faculty-in-residence in the Frederik Meijer Honors College, and Kelly McDonell, honors academic and enrichment advisor, led the four-week expedition for 11 students from varying academic programs.

Wampler has been taking students to Haiti since 2008 to conduct research and facilitate service projects. He explained that the “wandering seed” proverb captures the essence of why he originally began these trips: to help change the negative narratives that are commonly connected to the health, environmental issues and security of Haiti.

“My hope is that students will be able to see the Haitian people, not a Haitian project,” said Wampler. “I think in most people’s minds, Haiti is a project that you’ve got to fix, and there are certainly things wrong that could be better, but there’s a lot of good things there, like strong people with amazing ethics about how they treat their family and even how they take care of their environment.”

## *Clean water for all*

As an undergraduate student, Wampler had a professor with a particular passion for helping the people of Haiti flourish in their own environment — a cause that Wampler adopted himself.

“He was working in Haiti to help people learn how to access their natural resources, and I always admired him for that,” said Wampler. “After visiting Haiti myself, I fell in love with the people and the country as a whole. Then I saw the country’s huge need for water and people who could examine that problem.”

Providing the Haitian people with clean, drinkable water has always been a focal point of Wampler’s research and his students’ service projects in Haiti. During this summer’s expedition, students distributed 150 water filter systems to local residents.

Each filter has the potential to provide a family of up to five people with clean water for 20-30 years if the filters



are properly cared for. Educating recipients on maintenance was a part of the project. Students also tested water samples for bacteria at a local hospital.

Hayley Schram, a 2017 Grand Valley graduate who participated in the 2016 trip to Haiti, helped evaluate hand-dug wells and test water samples in the village of Borel for two weeks.

“From this project, I learned that hand-dug wells are not suitable for most household purposes, including drinking, washing, bathing or laundry,” said Schram, who majored in geology.

Schram presented her research at the annual conferences of the Geological Society of America and American Institute of Professional Geologists, as well as the GVSU Global Health Showcase. The project won first place at both GSA and AIPG.

She said her work in Haiti inspired her to pursue a master’s degree in environmental science and engineering through which she can continue studying water and sanitation in low-income countries.

## *Service beyond water*

Wampler plans one collective service project per trip for students, and encourages them to plan and facilitate individual projects, research or activities that are aligned with their majors.

This summer, Lukila Witthoeft, a sophomore majoring in behavioral neuroscience, taught 180 children an art lesson inspired by Haitian metal artwork. For the

*The Grand Valley contingent distributed 150 water filter systems, which can provide households of up to five people with clean water for 20-30 years.*







*Tyler Martin helps students build and launch water rockets in Haiti.*

lesson, the children wrapped aluminum foil around a piece of cardboard and were asked to sketch whatever their creativity inspired using a small wooden stick. Witthoeft said this proved more challenging than expected for the children.

“The kids taught me a lot because they struggled with creativity and looked to me for explanations on what to design,” explained Witthoeft, from Charlevoix. “The kids have little opportunity to express their creativity due to limited class time and funding for art materials; however, some kids took the idea and ran with it by creating flowers, planes and trucks. Each kid was proud of what they made and I learned to take pride in what I achieved.”

Kayleigh Thomas, a junior majoring in exercise science, said the fine motor skills activities she organized for students ages 4-6 at two different sites helped her better appreciate the academic resources available in the U.S.

“I think that far too often we take simple things such as colored pencils and paper for granted when the children we interacted with shared one pencil between groups while practicing their writing,” said Thomas, from Rochester Hills.

Kelly Schultz, a mechanical engineering major, and Tyler Martin, a product design and manufacturing engineering major, led a bottle rocket workshop for about 100 local children. During the activity, plastic bottles were partly filled with water and launched into the air using a bicycle pump, improvised hose fittings and PVC pipe.

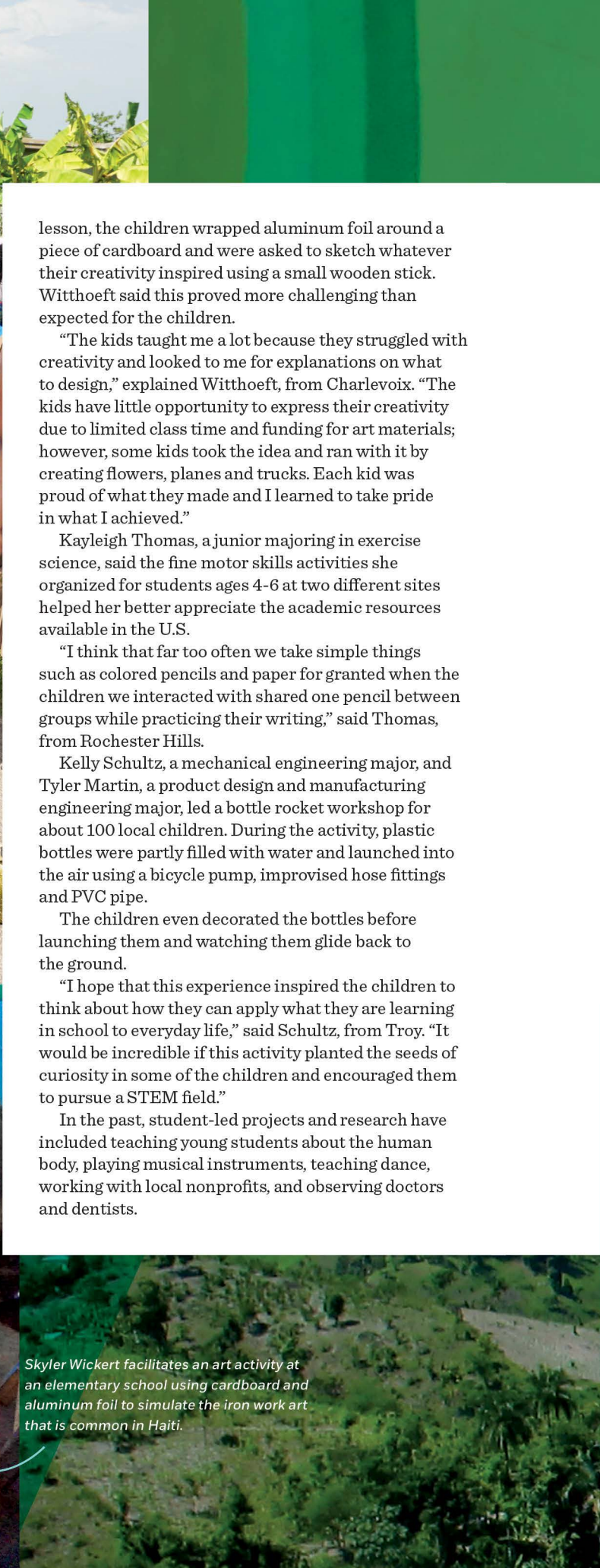
The children even decorated the bottles before launching them and watching them glide back to the ground.

“I hope that this experience inspired the children to think about how they can apply what they are learning in school to everyday life,” said Schultz, from Troy. “It would be incredible if this activity planted the seeds of curiosity in some of the children and encouraged them to pursue a STEM field.”

In the past, student-led projects and research have included teaching young students about the human body, playing musical instruments, teaching dance, working with local nonprofits, and observing doctors and dentists.



*Skyler Wickert facilitates an art activity at an elementary school using cardboard and aluminum foil to simulate the iron work art that is common in Haiti.*





## Haiti sandwich

These trips are designed in a format that Wampler has coined “Haiti sandwich,” with service projects and research taking place in-between cultural immersion and tourism experiences.

The top of the sandwich for this summer’s trip was the first week spent in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area. During that week, students learned about the history and culture of Haiti while staying in what most would consider comfortable lodging with air conditioning and unlimited hot water.

For the following two weeks, the group members moved to a more rural area where they worked with staff at a local hospital and library, and stayed in lodging that Wampler said provided a more authentic Haitian experience.

“We were in a house where they had water for only three hours a day and they had to bucket flush the toilets. Plus, there was no air conditioning,” he said. “The middle of the sandwich is intentionally made more difficult for the students to get them out of their comfort zones and into the shoes of a Haitian.”

During the first part of the trip, the group’s favorite excursion was visiting Citadelle Laferrière, a fortress located on the top of the mountain Bonnet a L’Eveque in Milot. The massive stone structure was built from 1805-1820 in the aftermath of the slave revolution and declaration of its independence from France. It is the largest fortress in the Americas.

“It was a beautiful and amazing part of Haitian history that really represents the spirit and power of Haiti during their fight for independence,”



Romel Jean Pierre, the Haitian tour guide who led the Grand Valley group, is pictured on the Allendale Campus in September looking at an exhibit of photos and artifacts collected during the study abroad trip. ‘Wandering Seeds’ will be on display on the Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, through December 14. (Valerie Wojciechowski)

## Students for Haiti

*Whether students travel to Haiti with Wampler on a study abroad service-learning trip or not, they can make an impact in Haiti from campus.*

The Students for Haiti student organization exists to raise awareness about Haiti and Haitian culture, and create a space where students can share their ideas and experiences about how to help the people of Haiti.

The group also plans events to raise funds for the Empowering

Haiti through Education Fund. The relatively new and endowed scholarship will help students in Haiti have the opportunity to pursue a higher education.

Wampler said once the fund reaches its target goal, one student from Haiti will be able to attend school at Grand Valley on a full scholarship.



**Empowering Haiti through Education Fund** [gvsu.edu/haiti](http://gvsu.edu/haiti)

For more information about Students for Haiti, search “GVSU Students for Haiti” on Facebook.





said Megan DeKeyser, who is majoring in allied health sciences.

Another favorite adventure was to Basin Bleu, a waterfall that spills into a pool of crystal clear blue water that is tucked away on the outskirts of a small town near Jacmel.

## Shifting perspectives

Reflecting on the trip, students said they share Wampler's passion for changing the narrative around Haiti.

"Haiti taught me that there is so much more to people, places and situations than meets the eye," said Thomas. "Even though Haiti is seen as a struggling nation, her people have a pride and dedication toward working to better the country for future generations, which was inspiring to witness."

The trip taught Witthoeft the importance of building communities through love.

"Everyone looks out for one another and communities are self-regulated," said Witthoeft. "No one is left alone. The Haitians love each other and I know the rest of the world could use this kind of love."

Skyler Wickert said the trip to Haiti helped changed her perspective on her career path. Now, the sophomore behavioral neuroscience and nonprofit administration major will work toward becoming a human rights lawyer.

"I want to defend Haitians and other people who aren't receiving basic human rights," explained Wickert, from Gaylord. "This study abroad trip made me realize my genuinely deep passion for people, and I want to live

*"My hope is that the students will be able to see the Haitian people, not a Haitian project."*

PETER WAMPLER, PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY AND FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE IN THE FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE

my life serving others, ensuring they have an opportunity for a great life."

More so than the epiphany Wickert experienced about her career path, she said her biggest takeaway was a deeper appreciation for the education she's receiving at Grand Valley.

"I can't explain the number of times we talked with Haitians who would love to continue their education, but are not able due to a lack of funds," she said. "I've been provided a newfound love for attending classes and learning about anything and everything. As cliché as it sounds, this trip was life-changing."

➤ For more information about studying abroad in Haiti, visit [gvsu.edu/haitistudyabroad](https://gvsu.edu/haitistudyabroad).





*Greetings from*

# GRAND RAPIDS



STORY BY LEAH TWILLEY / PHOTOS BY AMANDA PITTS

*There's no question about all there is to see,  
do and experience in Grand Rapids.*

Tourists and residents alike explore the city for its diverse scenes and activities, from art and food to history and music. It's a city full of creativity and growth, where new businesses can thrive. The River City has become a destination, a place where visitors would buy a postcard to mail, touting their travels.

It's not just Grand Rapidians who are enjoying the city's growth. Others have taken notice. *Business Insider* named Grand Rapids as the No. 1 place Millennials flock to in the U.S. to get a job, buy a home and start a life; *Forbes* named Grand Rapids as having the fastest-growing economy in the U.S.; and Matador Network named Grand Rapids one of the best college towns in America, among many other recognitions.

Grand Rapids is not only home to Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids and Health campuses, but it boasts many alumni-owned small businesses that offer a (sometimes sweet) glimpse into the city's culture.





# Love's

HAND CRAFTED. REAL. GOOD.  
**ICE CREAM**  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

SCOOPS

SHOPIED HONEY  
ICE CREAM

- SWEDENHIL
- TORSTED CRUMMIT
- PISTACHIO
- GÖTTIKE + BRANNE BIS
- ALMOND TREE CRACK

© - CONTAINS GLUTEN

ADD ON

• WAFFLE CONE

• CHOCOLATE CHIP  
COOKIE

• PEANUT BUTTER  
COOKIE

• FUDGY BROWN  
SNICKERDOODL



Chris McKellar, '02  
LOVE'S ICE CREAM  
Bachelor's degree  
in business

## Hand-crafted ice cream

What is Chris McKellar's favorite ice cream flavor? That's an easy one.

"Campfire S'mores because it reminds me of summers up north at the cottage," he said.

That, and because it's one of the most labor-intensive flavors he and his team make at Love's Ice Cream, located in the Grand Rapids Downtown Market. A small batch of the marshmallow-meringue, graham-cracker-base and fudge-infused flavor is made twice a year for Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

McKellar is founder of the ice cream company. The Grand Rapids native earned a bachelor's degree in business and marketing from Grand Valley in 2002. He and his 15-employee crew pride themselves on making hand-crafted ice cream and confections from scratch using minimally processed, organic and Michigan-sourced ingredients.

"Grand Valley was a good stepping stone from high school and into the business world," he said. "I'm the black sheep of my family; my parents and siblings all went to Western. I chose Grand Valley because it was affordable and the downtown campus was so new at that time."

Shortly before opening Love's, McKellar returned to school to learn culinary arts at Grand Rapids Community College. The Downtown Market was under development at the time and he learned that the organization's leasing committee was searching for an ice cream maker.

"I happened to be making ice cream at home all the time, so I thought, 'Maybe that's the next step. Everyone loves ice cream and there's no one in Grand Rapids doing that right now,'" he said.

That was five years ago. Since then, the shop has expanded to a larger space in the market and has begun selling pints of ice cream at specialty grocery stores throughout the state.

McKellar said he gets inspiration for new flavors and ideas from his travels, emerging food trends and ingredients from cultures abroad.

Oh, and if you see a 1961 retro van outfitted as an ice cream truck around town, that's Chris and his team, taking the shop on the road to food truck events and catering gigs.



## Creative, collaborative art gallery

Creativity and collaboration are at the core of Muse GR, an interactive art gallery located off Leonard Street on Grand Rapids' West Side.

Stephen Smith and his wife, Taylor Smith, opened the colorful, open space in May after an extensive five-month renovation. Muse GR is open to the public to visit, display artwork and host workshops. Many of the pieces on display were created by Grand Rapids-based artists, with a few pieces by Detroit artists.

The idea for the business began when the couple took a nontraditional route to buy a house; they wanted to find a space that would help offset the cost of a traditional mortgage. Stephen said the concept for Muse GR came from their creative interests; Stephen is a photographer and Taylor has a background in writing and video editing.

"We knew we wanted to do something business-related, like a live-work type of space," said Stephen. "We also

wanted our space to be interactive. We recently hosted an artist who displayed her clothing line and people could try on the pieces — it was live art."

Education is a major part of Muse GR as well as Stephen's job at Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Academy, where he provides academic and social support for students. At Muse GR, he hosts photography workshops, and in September, the pair hosted several youth workshops as an ArtPrize education partner and venue.

Stephen earned a master's degree in educational leadership in 2014. He said he was able to take much of what he learned in class and apply it to his job the next day.

"I had great professors, especially Dr. (Liz) Margulus because she did more than teach," he said. "She guided me through some critical decisions I had to make on the job."

Stephen Smith, '14  
MUSE GR  
Master's degree in  
educational leadership





## Stirring opportunities for people with disabilities

The idea for a unique bakery came to Zoe Bruyn when she was serving as a leader with the Young Life Capernaum Ministries, an organization for young adults with disabilities.

“I noticed these individuals would struggle to find employment after aging out of school at 26,” said Bruyn, who graduated from Grand Valley in 2017 with bachelor’s degrees in management and marketing.

She began researching employment statistics and found that nearly 70 percent of individuals with intellectual and development disabilities are unemployed. “However, when you employ them, they are some of the most loyal and dedicated employees,” she said.

Bruyn’s team at Stir It Up bakery includes six employees: two Grand Valley students who are managers, a student from Huntington University who’s completing her occupational therapy residency with the team, and three individuals with disabilities.

“Jesse, Kyle and Kim are involved in every step of the process, from prepping dough to baking to decorating to packaging, as well as interacting with our customers at various events,” she said.

The Rockford native rents a commercial kitchen space at Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Grand Rapids. The team sells its seven core cookie flavors — monster, sugar, orange blossom, raspberry shortbread, snickerdoodle, dark chocolate cranberry almond and double chocolate chip — online and at pop-up shops around town. In August, they began selling their products at the Bridge St. Market on the city’s West Side.

Since her first year at Grand Valley, Bruyn was involved with Grand Valley’s Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) in the Seidman College of Business. She participated in multiple business pitch competitions and won prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

Bruyn hopes to raise enough money to open a bakery in Grand Rapid’s Creston neighborhood, an area she called up-and-coming.

“The most rewarding part about owning a small business is when our team sees our success and gets excited about their jobs,” she said.

**GVM+**

See these featured businesses and hear from the alumni owners in a video posted online at [gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).







Zoe Bruyn, '17  
STIR IT UP  
Bachelor's degrees  
in management  
and marketing

*The alumni featured  
in this story are just a few  
of many alumni who  
own businesses in Grand  
Rapids and beyond.*

**LONG ROAD DISTILLERY**  
Jon O'Connor, '04, and  
Kyle Vanstrien, '12

**MALAMIAH JUICE BAR**  
Jermale Eddie, '03

**BREWERY VIVANT**  
Jason, '95, and  
Kris, '06, Spaulding

**REFUTEA**  
Autumn Modena, '15

**BEER CITY BARRE STUDIO**  
Cori Williams, '10

**GREAT LAKES PUB CRUISER**  
Laurie Ryan, '85

**CRESTON BREWERY**  
Cailin Kelly, '07

**LIFE ADDICTS STUDIO**  
Whitney Lavette, '09



**Do you own a business?**

Share your story with the  
Grand Valley Alumni  
Association by submitting  
a career update at  
[gvsu.edu/lakerlandings](http://gvsu.edu/lakerlandings).

You'll receive the new  
Alumni-Owned Business decal  
and digital graphic.





# CAMPUS NEWS

## P. 26

This healthy meal of ancho turkey tacos and sweet potato chips was prepared by Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity. Bernal recreated the dish he made for a cooking contest, with help from a graduate student who served as sous chef. They prepared this recipe at Sur La Table, a

Grand Rapids store that sells kitchenware and offers cooking classes. Visit [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com) for information about the store and class schedule. Read more about Bernal's hobby on page 26.

*PREPARED BY CHEF  
BERNAL / PHOTO BY  
AMANDA PITTS*





## GRAND VALLEY MOURNS DEATH OF RICH DEVOS

The Grand Valley community joined people around the world in mourning the death of Richard M. DeVos, one of the university's greatest leaders. DeVos died September 6 at age 92.

DeVos, along with his late wife, Helen, forever changed West Michigan and Grand Valley through their generous philanthropy and vision. DeVos' support for the university was unwavering from its founding in the 1960s, when Rich visited classrooms and shared his experiences with students, to the end of his life when his support for GVSU remained strong.

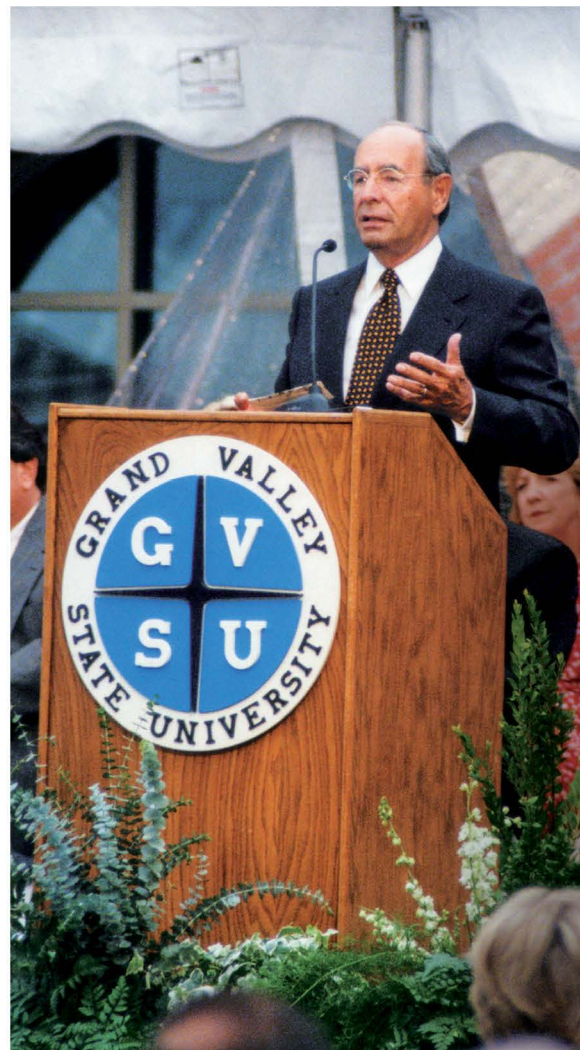
"There are no words to describe how much Rich DeVos will be missed by Marcia and me personally, our university, and the entire West Michigan community," said President Thomas J. Haas. "The university would not be what it is today without his and Helen's leadership and generosity. His legacy lives on in the lives of the thousands of students he has touched."

DeVos' dedication to Grand Valley grew over the decades. He served on what was then called the Board of Control for Grand Valley in the 1970s, providing critical leadership and personal resources. He joined the Grand Valley University Foundation Board in 1982 and became its third president. DeVos served as president for 24 years, becoming chairman emeritus in 2016.

In the 1990s, DeVos created the Land Barons Club at Grand Valley. This small and informal group of philanthropists played an instrumental role securing land and funding for the Grand Design 2000 Campaign, which expanded Grand Valley's downtown campus. He served as an honorary chair of the campaign, and the university recognized his service with the naming of the Richard M. DeVos Center.

In 2000, DeVos' leadership and encouragement helped to raise the initial match needed to launch construction of the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

Both Rich and Helen served as honorary co-chairs of the Shaping Our Future campaign, which expanded scholarships for students, improved and expanded facilities, strengthened key programs, and provided support to faculty. The DeVoses also made the lead gift to help build the L. William Seidman Center to house the Seidman College of Business and expand the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.



Rich DeVos speaks at the opening of Grand Valley's Richard M. DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus in 2000. DeVos died in September at age 92.



## Football center expansion named for Hosford

Grand Valley's Homecoming activities October 6 also included a ceremony that announced a building expansion and naming of the Lakers' football center in memory of Jamie Hosford, '77.

Hosford, who died in 2014, earned 12 varsity letters and All-American honors in football and wrestling. He was inducted into the GVSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987 and the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

The Jamie Hosford Football Center will be completed in two parts, a donor-funded

expansion and long overdue remodel of the two-story structure. Plans include an expanded locker room, multiple team meeting areas that will double as coaches' offices, and an athletic training and rehabilitation room designed to ensure the health and safety of student athletes.

Keri Becker, director of athletics, said facilities are critical when it comes to recruiting talented men and women. "This renovation and expansion will help us attract the best student athletes and provide them with the optimal conditions for excellence and success," she said.

To learn more or support the Hosford Football Center, visit [gvsu.edu/giving/footballcenter](https://gvsu.edu/giving/footballcenter).





## NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT NATIONAL PARKS

The student members of Grand Valley’s award-winning New Music Ensemble traveled 5,000 miles over the course of 17 days in the summer to perform at some of America’s most famous national parks.

The ensemble commissioned five composers to write original compositions inspired by Voyageurs, Glacier, North Cascades, Olympic, and Mount Rainier national parks for the tour, which took place June 26-July 12. The compositions were funded through the National Endowment for the Arts and performed in the parks through interactive and educational performances.

“Through this tour, students were given a taste of the life of a professional musician — long hours traveling, performing in different venues each day, learning how to take care of themselves and learning how to continue to perform at a high level even when conditions aren’t perfect,” said Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director.

*The New Music Ensemble performs at Olympic National Park in Washington, one of five stops on their tour. (John Jansen)*

“I am hoping that our concerts enhanced the audience’s overall park experience by illustrating to them how incredible landscapes can inspire composers.”

Dana Van Dyke, a junior majoring in piano performance, said she experienced surreal moments in every park the ensemble visited, but her favorite moment was after the group’s second performance at Olympic National Park.

“We were beginning to pack up when one of the visitors at the park beckoned us to come watch the whales spouting along the shoreline. We all ran to watch in awe; it was a beautiful moment,” recalled Van Dyke.

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. Visit [newmusicensemble.org](http://newmusicensemble.org) to learn more.



## LUBBERS CALLS STUDENT SERVICES CENTER ‘ELLIS ISLAND’

President Thomas J. Haas told a crowd of about 400 people that President Emeritus Arend D. “Don” Lubbers is a “consummate friend-raiser” who created extraordinary opportunities for Grand Valley.

Haas made the remark during a dedication ceremony August 24 for the Arend and Nancy Lubbers Student Services Center on the Allendale Campus.

The Student Services Building was named in honor of Don Lubbers and his wife, Nancy Lubbers. Don served as Grand Valley’s president for more than three decades, 1969-2001. →

↑  
Don and Nancy Lubbers are pictured during a ceremony August 24, dedicating the Student Services Center in their honor. (Amanda Pitts)





## UNIVERSITY EARNS TOP RANKINGS

Three national publications — *Forbes*, *Money* and *U.S. News & World Report* — included Grand Valley within their college ranking lists.

Grand Valley was named one of “America’s Top Colleges for 2018” by *Forbes*, included on a new list of the “Best Colleges in America” by *Money*, and ranked first among Michigan’s public universities and third overall in “Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest” by *U.S. News and World Report*.

*Forbes’* rankings focused on the direct benefits schools provide their graduates.

On the *Money* list, Grand Valley came in fourth among ranked public universities, behind the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Michigan Tech.

*U.S. News* also ranked Grand Valley among Midwest universities for “Best Value” (14th), “Most Innovative” (9th), and “Best Colleges for Veterans” (19th).

Haas said it was a time to celebrate the couple’s legacy of service, leadership and philanthropic support, and the renovation and addition to the building.

“Don and Nancy served this university for 32 years as a dynamic team, and they continue to impact students and the future of this university through their wise counsel, their actions and their personal support,” Haas said.

Haas thanked the couple for creating the Don and Nancy Lubbers Opportunity Scholarship, which helps attract students with high academic achievement from working families who do not qualify for other government aid. The scholarship

aims to widen the pathway to graduation without burdensome debt.

The building houses the Registrar’s Office, Career Center, University Counseling Center, Student Academic Success Center, Admissions, Financial Aid, and Dean of Students office. Renovations included adding the “Laker Experience Suite,” a 112-seat room with a large video wall and space to share information about housing, tuition, areas of study and more. There are also two small conference rooms where counselors can meet with families.

Nancy said when they came to Grand Valley, admissions was job No. 1 and students are still job No. 1. “When we came



## GRAND VALLEY EXPANDS POLICE PRESENCE AT GRAND RAPIDS CAMPUSES

Grand Valley has added sworn law enforcement officials to its Grand Rapids campuses to serve with security staff already in place.

Grand Valley Police Chief Brandon DeHaan said as the footprint of the university has grown in Grand Rapids so has the need for additional staff members.

“The addition of sworn officers downtown will help us to continue to provide a safe and secure environment at our Grand Rapids campuses and for the Grand Valley community,” DeHaan said.

Officials from Grand Valley and the City of Grand Rapids signed an agreement August 28 that allows the university to utilize the Grand Rapids Police Department Communication Center during an emergency. The agreement is similar to the one Grand Valley has with Ottawa County Dispatch for emergencies in Allendale.

Capt. Kourosh Khatir, assistant director of Public Safety, and officer JP West will work in Grand Rapids and a third officer will join the staff in December, DeHaan said.

here there were about 2,000 students and our biggest concern was how we would grow enrollment,” she said. “We had to establish a culture and a set of values that would attract the right students and then it just snowballed from there. I’m pleased to see those values continue today and that we helped build this university into the type of place it is, where people truly care about each other.”

Don called the Student Services Center Grand Valley’s Ellis Island. “When they come to visit, students will catch a vision of their new life in a new world that will open to them at Grand Valley,” he said. “They are all part of the American dream.”

## SURPLUS STORE OPENS IN NEW LOCATION

The GVSU Surplus Store opened in late August at its new location in Standale.

The store, 429 Standale Plaza NW in Walker, is near the corner of Kinney Avenue and Lake Michigan Drive and connected to a Sprint store. It is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Rebecca Ramos, assistant manager, said the store sells used university equipment to the general public by providing quality items at affordable prices.

## ENROLLMENT SHOWS INCREASE IN FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS, DIVERSITY

Grand Valley welcomed one of its largest first-year classes in its history.

The university has enrolled more than 4,000 first-year students for the seventh year in a row; this is one of the highest freshman enrollments in Michigan, which is seeing a decline in the number of high school graduates.

Total enrollment at the university is 24,677, with a first-year class of 4,369, which is an increase of more than 4 percent (4.4) over last year. There is a 6 percent increase in the number of new students of color (678 to 719), and the total percentage of racial and ethnic minority students is up slightly at 17.4 percent compared to 17.3 percent last year. The number of new students, undergraduate and graduate, coming from out of state is up 9.5 percent (610 compared to 557).

“We continue to attract top students who will succeed and graduate,” said President Thomas J. Haas.

“Students are seeing what a great value a Grand Valley degree is, both in terms of affordability and the options they have after graduation. They come and they stay with their programs because of faculty and staff members who are dedicated to student success.”

**FIRST-YEAR CLASS OF 4,369**  
**TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF 24,677**



Students from Grand Valley and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences are pictured visiting the Alps during an exchange program between the two institutions. (courtesy photo)

## STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM AGREEMENTS AT TWO MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Grand Valley graduates who want to pursue medical careers will benefit from agreements signed with Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSU COM) and Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed).

The agreement with MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine reserves up to five positions for GVSU students per year. Under a preferred relationship with WMed, students receive an early look during the medical school's admission process and can apply during their junior year.

President Thomas J. Haas said both these agreements help fulfill the talent pipeline. "These partnerships provide a wonderful opportunity for Grand Valley students, and enable us to work as partners in the effort to produce more of the state's best doctors," Haas said.

John Westfall earned a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley in biomedical sciences in 2014 and is now a second-year medical student at MSU COM. Westfall, who

also played football for the Lakers, took a page from his playbook while giving advice to current GVSU students who are interested in applying to medical school.

"Take advantage of the opportunities you are given and make sure to be collaborative and be a good team member," he said.

Westfall said he was turned down the first time he applied to MSU COM. "But they gave me feedback, which is a rarity among medical schools," he said. Westfall said he turned the feedback into action and was accepted on a second attempt.

"Now I believe that both these great institutions have provided me with a path to success," he said.

Grand Valley graduate John Westfall, now a second-year medical student, speaks during a news conference highlighting an agreement between GVSU and the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. (Amanda Pitts)



## EXCHANGE PROGRAM BRINGS SWISS, GRAND VALLEY STUDENTS TOGETHER

During a trip to Grand Valley in July, Martin Vraspir, a student from Switzerland, was impressed with the university's size and campus life.

The industrial engineering student was one of 21 students who participated in a four-week exchange program. For two weeks in July, nine students from Grand Valley's School of Computing and Information Systems (CIS) studied at Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW); then 12 students from ZHAW came to Grand Valley for two weeks.

"The campus size and infrastructure are amazing," Vraspir said. "The campus life is like nothing I've experienced in Switzerland."

Each year the study abroad program focuses on a trending area of computing; this year, students studied coding, big data and data mining. Paul

Leidig, director of CIS, said students complete an entire course on each campus that normally would take 15 weeks.

When they weren't in class, the students could be found exploring each country's history and culture.

Madeleine Stuart, a junior majoring in information systems at Grand Valley, said a hike in the Alps was a favorite experience. "We took a chairlift up the mountain to get to where the hike started and the scenery was breathtaking. Everyone was so friendly," she said.

In Michigan, students explored Grand Rapids, hiked the Sleeping Bear Dunes and took trips to Mackinac Island and Chicago.

## GVM+

Students collaborate in the classroom and explore Switzerland in a video posted online at [gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).





# Celebrate LIKE A LAKER



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# Family influence found in recipe created by vice president

STORY BY MICHELE COFFILL /  
PHOTOS BY AMANDA PITTS

**It wasn't a traditional classroom, but Jesse Bernal was definitely teaching.**

Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, taught Gabriela (Gaby) Dittrich, a graduate student, knife skills and the art of homemade tortillas during a cooking demonstration at Sur La Table, a retail store in Grand Rapids that sells kitchenware products and offers cooking classes.

Bernal made his recipe for ancho turkey tacos, a recipe that won him the People's Choice award in June at a healthy cooking contest sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and held at the Kroc Center in Grand Rapids. He donated the \$500 prize to Grand Valley's Inclusion and Equity Endowed Scholarship.

He said the fat content in traditional Mexican food sometimes makes it difficult to create healthy dishes, adding his 83-year-old grandmother would be unhappy knowing he used coconut oil instead of lard in the tortillas. Bernal created the recipe for the contest by combining two recipes and drawing from his years as a hobbyist chef and baker.

*Jesse Bernal and graduate student Gaby Dittrich prepare a meal at Sur la Table.*



See the steps to this recipe in a video posted online at [gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](https://gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).



"I was raised by a hard-working, single mother, so my brothers and I often contributed to the household by preparing meals for our extended family," he said. Bernal grew up in south Texas with many family members who were Mexican immigrants.

He takes their influence into the kitchen and said he hasn't had formal training other than occasionally watching cooking shows on television. "Cooking is a stress reliever, and when there's time to do it, it's really fun," he said.

While living in California and working for Santa Clara University, Bernal auditioned — on a dare — for a TV reality cooking show. To his surprise, he was invited to advance to further rounds but the timing conflicted with the job offer from Grand Valley. "At that time, you had to give the show a nine-month commitment and you couldn't work during that time. It wasn't really for home chefs," he said.

Bernal learned how to make Korean foods like bibimbap, galbi pizza and bulgogi while living with a family during his first year as an undergraduate student at Westmont College in Santa Barbara. He continues to enjoy making Korean dishes although said it usually means going to more than one store to find specific ingredients.

The tortillas Bernal and Dittrich made started with ingredients similar to those that go into his homemade pasta: flour, salt, water and, in this case, coconut oil. The dough, once flattened, browned quickly in cast iron skillets; tortillas were kept in a warmer with paper towels.

Bernal started his recipe the previous day by soaking dried black beans overnight in water. He sometimes makes this dish with shredded turkey, after roasting a turkey breast in a crockpot for two or three hours, but said ground turkey is a quick substitute.

Before browning the turkey, Bernal showed Dittrich how to efficiently chop the onion and bell peppers that would flavor the meat along with Mexican spices and ancho chili paste. "Rolling your knife back and forth on the cutting board, rather than picking it up, helps keep your fingers safe," he said. He also taught Dittrich how to smash a garlic bulb with the back of a knife and peel it quickly (a Bernal tip: adding a

pinch of salt to garlic cloves makes them easier to peel).

A side dish of sweet potato chips roasted in the oven for 20 minutes while the chef and sous chef prepared vegetables and browned turkey. The inch-thick potato chips were then topped with cheese and the pickled vegetable mix of diced radish, jalapeño peppers and green onions tossed with lime juice. Bernal topped the potato slices with mozzarella, which he said is similar to a creamy Mexican cheese like queso Oaxaca.

The tacos were assembled by first adding a layer of crema to a tortilla. Bernal mixed Greek yogurt, lime and cilantro together to provide a lighter alternative to sour cream.

Dittrich said she learned a lot from the cooking lesson. "It reminds me of cooking with my relatives, who were also immigrants from Mexico," she said. A native of Holland, she earned a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley in advertising and public relations and is pursuing a master's of education degree in college student affairs leadership.

Bernal said he usually doesn't have time during the week to prepare large meals from scratch but he and his partner enjoy cooking from the meal delivery service that periodically arrives at their door. "I feel like we are learning a lot by preparing those meals," he said.



#### MEXICAN REFRIED BLACK BEANS

## ANCHO TURKEY TACOS with MEXICAN REFRIED BLACK BEANS



### ANCHO TURKEY

Heat olive oil in medium-high pan. Sauté chopped onion, chopped bell pepper, and diced garlic for 2-3 minutes. Season turkey with salt, pepper, and Mexican spice blend. Add turkey and cook 4-5 minutes. Add ancho chili paste, and water, if needed. Cook 4-5 minutes until done.



### PICKLED MIX

Dice radish, seeded jalapeño, and green onion (white bottoms). Add lime and let sit for at least 10 minutes.



### TORTILLAS

(Or buy your favorite) In a large bowl, combine flour and salt. Stir in water and oil. Turn onto a floured surface; knead 10-12 times, adding a little flour or water if needed to achieve a smooth dough. Let rest for 10 minutes. Divide dough into eight portions. On a lightly floured surface, roll each portion into a 7-inch circle. In a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray, cook tortillas over medium heat for 1 minute on each side or until lightly browned. Keep warm.



### CILANTRO-LIME CREMA

Mix plain Greek yogurt, lime and cilantro. Add salt and pepper to taste.



### SWEET POTATOES

Slice sweet potatoes to 1-1/2 inch. Oil sheet pan. Bake at 450 degrees for 20-25 minutes on single layer. Add salt and pepper to taste. Top with Mexican cheese and pickled mix when ready to serve.

### ASSEMBLE TACOS

Plate warm tortilla; add layer of cilantro-lime crema; add ancho turkey; add shredded cabbage; add lime to taste; add salsa (your choice).

Soak the beans in a pot of water overnight. Drain. Heat the olive oil in the pot over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, jalapeño and cumin and cook, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes. Add oregano and beans, then add enough water to cover (about 9 cups). Increase the heat to medium high and bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium low, partially cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the beans are just tender, about 3 hours. Add 2 teaspoons salt and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the liquid is mostly absorbed, about 45 minutes. Season with salt. Let sit 15 minutes before serving; top with queso fresco and cilantro, if desired.



# Artprize everlasting

*Former entries from international art competition have permanent home at Grand Valley*

STORY BY MATTHEW MAKOWSKI

**More than 16,000 pieces of art reside in Grand Valley's permanent collection, many of which have found a home at the university after competing in ArtPrize, the largest open international art competition.**

Now a biennial event as of 2018, the Grand Rapids-based competition draws more than 500,000 visitors to West Michigan in the fall to enjoy works by more than 1,000 artists from around the world.

Since ArtPrize began in 2009, art has been exhibited in museums, public parks, restaurants, theaters, hotels, the Grand River and many other locations, including the campuses of Grand Valley.

The university has served as an official venue each year the 19-day event has taken place, and now showcases only a single entry exclusively at the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Grand Valley has also been a focal point of ArtPrize's annual kickoff celebration at Rosa Parks Circle. During this event, President Thomas J. Haas conducts the Laker Marching Band while the GVSU Dance Company and Louie the Laker fire up the crowd.

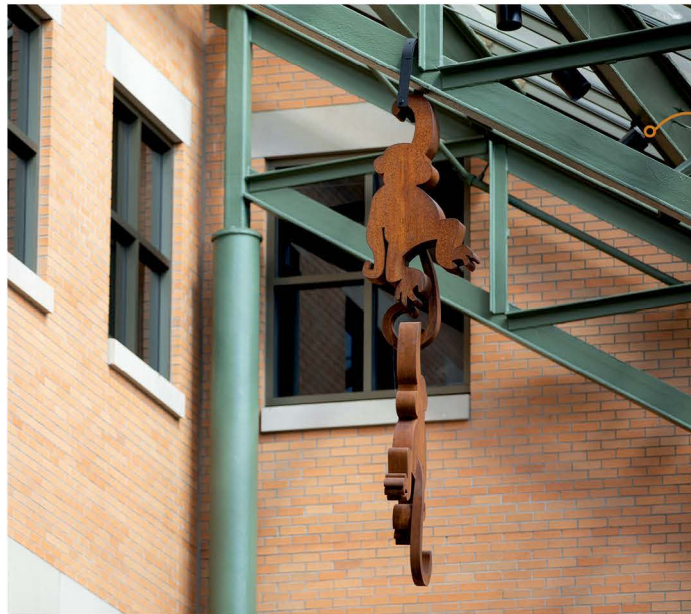
ArtPrize celebrated its milestone 10th anniversary this fall, and while the event's time in Grand Rapids is limited each year, the presence of ArtPrize can be felt at Grand Valley year-round.

More than 50 former ArtPrize entries are housed in the university's permanent art collection. Whether donated or purchased, Grand Valley's Art Gallery staff follows a specific criteria when selecting artwork to add to the university's collection.

"We make sure the new acquisition is something that we think adds learning value to Grand Valley and it must be in line with our interdisciplinary approach and in support of the

university's learning goals," said Nathan Kemler, assistant director of Galleries and Collections. "We also ensure that the piece is something that can be safely kept and responsibly maintained according to best practices in the field of collections care for museums."

On the following pages, learn more about 10 former ArtPrize entries that reside at Grand Valley.



## MAGELA - S

**ArtPrize Year:** 2010

**Current Location:** Outside of DeVos Center near Steelcase Library, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

**Artist:** Cyril Lixenberg

**Medium:** Cor-ten Steel



## FADING WARRIORS (detail)

**ArtPrize Year:** 2011

**Current Location:** Mary Idema Pew Library, third floor open-computer lab, Allendale Campus

**Artist:** Kimberley Gill

**Medium:** Mixed Media

## METAL MONKEY MANIA

**ArtPrize Year:** 2011

**Current Location:** DeVos Center, Building C, first floor atrium (hanging from ceiling, naturally), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

**Artist:** Dale Rogers

**Medium:** Steel



## TEAPOT

**ArtPrize Year:** 2011

**Current Location:** Outside North Living Center C east entrance, Allendale Campus

**Artist:** Scott Garrard

**Medium:** Steel





**BE STILL AND KNOW IV**

**ArtPrize Year:** 2011  
**Current Location:** Outside Eberhard Center near Blue Pedestrian Bridge  
**Artist:** John Merigian  
**Medium:** Cor-ten Steel



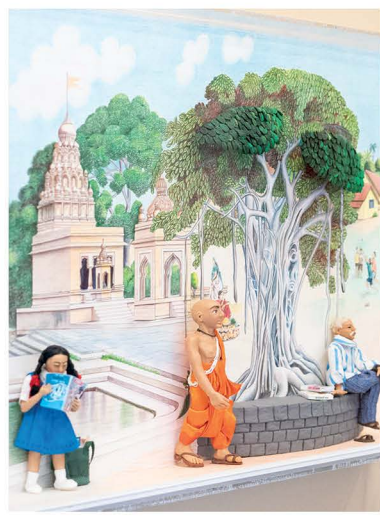
**THE 7 CHIEF CLANS OF THE ANISHINABE**

**ArtPrize Year:** 2011  
**Current Location:** Seidman Center, outside courtyard, Pew Grand Rapids Campus  
**Artist:** Jason Quigno  
**Medium:** Limestone



**THE RIVER OCEAN (detail)**

**ArtPrize Year:** 2010  
**Current Location:** DeVos Center, first floor outside Steelcase Library  
**Artist:** Luigi Marzo  
**Medium:** Acrylic on Canvas



**INDIAN VILLAGE NUMBER ONE-FOUR (detail of number one)**

**ArtPrize Year:** 2010  
**Current Location:** Seidman Center, first floor (four individual paintings)  
**Artist:** Medha Rode  
**Medium:** Mixed Media (clay and color pencil)

To explore all the ArtPrize pieces in Grand Valley's permanent collection, visit [gvsu.edu/artgallery/ArtPrizeArt](http://gvsu.edu/artgallery/ArtPrizeArt).



**ARE WE THERE YET... (detail)**

**ArtPrize Year:** 2011  
**Current Location:** Seidman Center, second floor outside Cluster Classrooms 2006, 2008 and Case Classroom 2010, Pew Grand Rapids Campus  
**Artist:** Ryan Maher  
**Medium:** Mixed Media



**LANE'S UNFINISHED CATHEDRAL**

**ArtPrize Year:** 2013  
**Current Location:** Mary Idema Pew Library atrium lobby  
**Artist:** Richard Clair Lane  
**Medium:** Poplar and Basswood



# Environmental chemist lends expertise to communities dealing with PFAS concerns

STORY BY NATE HOEKSTRA / PHOTO BY BERNADINE CAREY-TUCKER

***Across Michigan, media has been reporting on a group of chemicals called PFAS, which have contaminated several drinking water sources for numerous communities.***

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, or PFAS for short, is a class of chemical compounds that include more than 3,000 synthetic organic chemicals used since the 1940s that have multiple fluorine atoms, including the two that have been the most studied: Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). PFAS compounds have been used in a wide variety of waterproofing and firefighting products with household names, like Stainmaster, Scotchguard, Teflon, Gore-Tex and more.

Rick Rediske, an environmental chemist and researcher at Grand Valley's Annis Water Resources Institute, is an expert on PFAS and their characteristics. He has been working with a group called Concerned Citizens for Responsible Remediation to inform people about the potential dangers of the chemicals and the importance of fresh drinking water.

While there is no definitive link between PFAS ingestion and disease, there is a probable one, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recommended a lifetime exposure guideline of 70 parts per trillion.

***We've been hearing about pollution from PFAS in the Rockford area of northern Kent County, and now in Parchment in southwest Michigan and near Oscoda. Do you think we'll see other sites continue to pop up across the state?***

We're seeing it in Grand Rapids and Wyoming water systems, albeit at much lower levels, and that means it is in Lake Michigan. Whether this is a local effect from the Grand River or all Lake Michigan supplies are affected, we will need to wait for the rest of the public water supply monitoring to be completed.

***Where do these chemicals come from?***

It's different sources for different sites. Some, like the site near Rockford, is from waterproofing chemicals like Scotchgard. The Kent County airport site is from AFFF,

which is a firefighting foam. We don't know what's causing the Parchment site, there was a tire fire and a paper mill where it was used as a coating; up in Lapeer it's from electroplating, and in Pierson it is from a landfill. So there are many sources. The DEQ is testing wastewater treatment plants and drinking water supplies to determine where problem areas are in the state.

***With situations like the Flint water crisis, there's a known correlation between lead levels and illness. How does that apply in these situations?***

The problem with PFAS is that there is not a good correlation between blood levels and disease, so it's unlike lead. For PFAS, there are suspected probable links between exposure and certain types of cancer, autoimmune disease, high blood pressure, thyroid disease and cholesterol issues. But I do think the Flint situation has heightened awareness. All of a sudden, drinking water quality has become a critical issue that more people are thinking about. It also places emphasis on the protection of freshwater as a resource.

***Clean drinking water is something that a lot of us take for granted. How does something like PFAS become a public health and clean water concern?***

There are protection programs for public water supplies and residential wells, and PFAS kind of snuck through the cracks because those programs didn't catch it. We need to look at what we consider surface water and groundwater supplies for human use and then monitor. I don't think levels are going to go up because we've banned the chemical, but it shows that

we don't have a PFAS-free source of water, even Lake Michigan.

We always were concerned about nitrate and bacteria, and every house with a well had these tested when the house sold. The test list for public water supplies and monitoring frequency were based on the population served. We thought we had brownfield and historic contamination site characterized, but PFAS is different because it's mobile in the groundwater and not routinely monitored. It's water soluble, so it spreads a lot farther than benzene, gasoline or other pollutants that have limited solubility. Another problem with PFAS is that it's extremely stable, it lasts a long time in the environment.

***Are you conducting research or sharing expertise?***

Sharing expertise, mostly. I started working with the citizens' group when they first raised concerns about PFAS. There was a general concern, and a few years ago, I looked up the chemicals that were at the tannery and one of their signature products, Hush Puppies, and a red flag went up as the process was based on Scotchgard.

***Are there ways to fix this contaminated water?***

In Plainfield Township, they had a contaminated well and they've stopped using it and put in carbon filtration. When you look at the impacted homes in the Rockford area, Wolverine Worldwide has put in whole-house carbon filtration systems if contamination is detected and it is part of certain disposal areas. So there are ways to help it.

***How has this situation affected people's lives?***

Some blood testing has been done. There's a child near one of the sites who has blood levels of PFAS that are the equivalent to DuPont employees who worked with the chemicals. He's almost 2 years old. There's another resident with levels higher than the 3M workers, and all she did was live there and drink the water. Her husband died of cancer. Is there a link? We don't know. But it's devastating. And while it's not a human-positive carcinogen, it certainly has a probable link. This is in a group of chemicals that we think causes cancer.



**Should people trust what's coming out of their taps?**

We need to make some fundamental changes. First of all, we're designing chemicals that last forever, and that's not good. That's the reason why the flag was raised with PFAS in 2001, when they banned Scotchgard, because they were finding people who had it accumulating in their blood and there were health concerns. It breaks down in hundreds of years. It's going to be around a long time. The scary thing about this compound is that it's water soluble, which means it's easy for it to spread great distances.

Another problem is that humans retain PFAS more than rats or rabbits or other test organisms. If we test a rat for toxicity and feed it a certain dose, a human would have almost 100 times more from the same dose because it binds to our proteins, and our kidneys don't excrete it. A lot of drugs and antibiotics we take bind to proteins, so there may be competition between PFAS and certain pharmaceuticals in our body.

**Are there any other alternatives to these chemicals?**

I'm sure there are. Silicones are good for waterproofing, but not quite as effective. Scotchgard was a miracle product in terms of its practicality. Stainmaster carpet, Gore-Tex, these are all technologies that were significant innovations. We know now their impact to humans and the risks to health outweigh their performance.

**How will chemists in the future make innovative chemicals that aren't dangerous to human health?**

Programs like Grand Valley's Green Chemistry Certification are helping to teach chemists and scientists of the future that innovation is possible while protecting people and the environment. It's a delicate balance.

**Should this be a wake-up call that we need to be more vigilant than ever to ensure that our water resources stay viable for human use?**

Of course. The fact that we have abundant water in Michigan also means it can get contaminated easily. We're good at protecting against septic tanks and agriculture, but this is a new breed of compound and we have to make sure we don't have anything else like this. People had wells 200 feet deep that they thought were safe. Then one day they woke up and it wasn't safe, and they have been drinking the water for a long time.



*Rick Rediske stands near the Rogue River in Rockford, Michigan, just yards from the contaminated former tannery location of Wolverine Worldwide.*



# Ring, beep, chirp

*Student works with local hospital to address alarm fatigue*

STORY BY LEAH TWILLEY

***Step into any hospital unit and you'll likely hear a symphony of alarms that are coming from loud speakers, patient bedsides and from devices around the necks of nurses.***

Alarms can be life-saving, but they also present a common problem experienced by health care professionals around the world: alarm fatigue. It's a safety concern caused by a sensory overload of an excessive number of alarms. It often results in desensitization and missed alarms.

Jake Stephens, an engineering graduate student, conducted local research with staff members at Holland Hospital, a health care network that serves residents of West Michigan. The network recently formed the Alarm Fatigue Committee and reached out to Grand Valley's School of Engineering to see if a student could help combat the issue. Stephens joined the committee in May.

Kara Heck, manager of nursing quality and performance improvement, said she and others at the hospital noticed the partnerships the engineering school has with other hospitals and thought it would be a good opportunity to see if a student could help.

"We just implemented a new cardiac monitoring system and found that there were thousands of alarms on one unit in one month so we knew we had an opportunity, which is not unique to only our hospital," Heck said.



Stephens, from Lowell, found, on average, 85-95 percent of alarms at the hospital are considered false and don't require intervention.

"Think of it as if you addressed 29 calls in an hour," Stephens said. "Each one is a false alarm, so are you going to respond to the 30th one the same way as you did the first one? Nurses around the world are being pulled away from patients or other serious issues to respond to an alarm that is often false."

Stephens first focused on cardiac monitors that are tracked by devices worn, like a pager, by nurses in the hospital's Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit. His study expanded to the birth center, spine and orthopedic, and post-surgical units.

"All departments have their own subculture, challenges and needs," he said, adding that the common denominator is too many alarms.

Nurses were experiencing both a high number of alarms and patient calls, so Stephens began observing hourly rounds in the hospital units.

He supported a workflow change of nurses checking on patients at the top of the hour and letting them

know they'll be back in another hour, which, in turn, could decrease the volume of patient calls.

Heck said the original plan was to see if Stephens could create a new device to reduce alarms; however, the project revealed workflow opportunities that would have a more sustainable impact.

"Through Jake's observations and research, we realized that we need to take a look at our culture and environment and not add another device or technology to fix the problem, which has been supported in our literature review," she said.

This study didn't require Stephens to build a new device or develop a prototype — tasks he was quite familiar with as an undergraduate student in the product design and manufacturing engineering (PDM) program. He said this project allowed him to further his non-technical skills like communication, critical thinking and leadership.

"The PDM program is great at looking at the whole picture. I was able to develop technical skills as an undergrad, but being a well-rounded professional is crucial and Grand Valley really prepared me," he said.

Stephens, who will graduate in August 2019 with a master's degree in engineering, is enrolled in the combined bachelor's and master's engineering degree program. He completed an internship at Parasol Medical in Chicago, a startup company that specializes in medical device design and development.

"There's so much innovation and change in the medical design industry," he said. "You can see how your work is directly impacting someone's life. It's my passion."

***"Nurses around the world are being pulled away from patients or other serious issues to respond to an alarm that is often false."***

JAKE STEPHENS



## LAKER BASKETBALL PLAYERS RECOGNIZED AT HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

You may recognize the names of WNBA greats Sheryl Swoopes and Lisa Leslie. Swoopes was the first person signed by the league in 1996, and Leslie retired in 2009 as the league's all-time leading scorer (6,263 points).

Before the WNBA, people like Ann Meyers and Nancy Lieberman paved the way for current players by signing with the Women's Basketball League, a professional league that started with eight teams and lasted three seasons from 1978-1981.

Add the names of two Lakers to the list of WBL alumnae; Barb Hansen and Kim Hansen were among the 100 former WBL players who were recognized in June at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame ceremony in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Although not related, the Hansens played together at Grand Valley for coaches Joan Board and Pat Baker from 1976-1979. Both were inducted into the Laker Hall of Fame; Kim set 21 basketball records while at Grand Valley and Barb was the first recipient of a GLIAC Player of the Week award after once scoring 24 points against Western Michigan.

After graduating, they were both drafted by the San Francisco Pioneers. Kim recalled being surprised after learning that news. "It was my senior year and Joan Board told me I was drafted, and I said, 'Drafted by who?' I wasn't aware there was a women's league," she said.

Barb and Kim joined the WBL in its second season. "I was coming out of college

and still playing basketball and getting paid for it; it was great," Barb said.

Barb played one season and Kim stayed for a second season, when the league began to fold as players weren't being paid and fan attendance dropped.

Yet it was the legacy of the WBL trailblazers that was affirmed in

Knoxville. Barb said all WBL players who were present at the Hall of Fame ceremony were asked to stand on the stage with the current class of inductees.

"I wasn't sure how they would get 109 of us on one stage but they read the name of each person who was there. We really appreciated it," she said.

### INDUCTEES

*From left are Barb Hansen, Tina Thompson and Kim Hansen at the 2018 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame ceremony. Thompson was named one of the top 15 all-time WNBA players.*



## LAWLER NAMED HEAD LACROSSE COACH

Mackenzie Lawler brings experience across all levels of lacrosse to her new role as head coach.

Lawler was named the program's second head coach in July, taking over for Alicia Groveston, who led the Lakers to six GLIAC titles in seven seasons.

She had been first assistant coach at Central Michigan University for four years, and helped launch its varsity program. Lawler also founded Michigan Elite, a premiere youth lacrosse program with established teams in Grand Rapids and Lansing. She serves as administrator and head coach for seven teams, an advantage when recruiting, Lawler said.

West Michigan is ripe with young lacrosse talent, Lawler said. "The Detroit area was the hotbed for lacrosse, but over the last few years, schools like East



**MACKENZIE LAWLER**

Grand Rapids and Rockford have dominated. It's terrific to see that level of play so close to campus and it helps with the talent pool we look to recruit," she said.

The Lakers need to fill the roles of 12 graduating seniors from the 2018 season. Lawler said it makes for an exciting year.

"It's a time for me to prove myself to the returning players, and for the players who might not have had a big role last year because of the big senior class to step up," she said.

Lawler was a three-year starter for Robert Morris University's lacrosse team, after helping lead Okemos High School's team to two consecutive state titles.



# Moving matters

## *Alumni break down future of transportation*

STORY BY NATE HOEKSTRA

***Transportation — how we get from one place to another — is changing at a rapid pace. From a largely vehicle-based system comes new efforts to diversify transportation that are gaining more traction in urban and rural areas across the country.***

Several Grand Valley alumni are helping lead this revolution, working to change how people move as they work, play, shop and relax.

According to transportation planners like Carolyn Ulstad, '11, knowing what alternative transportation methods people would use is critical to ensuring the long-term success of any plan that attempts to reduce traffic and parking congestion.

Ulstad is a program assistant for the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) and helps plan the future of transportation in the Holland area.

For example, she said MACC is working with the local bus service to develop plans to expand an already growing network of non-motorized pathways and access points for cyclists and pedestrians. MACC leaders are also promoting carpool programs and, generally, trying to make moving around the area efficient.

"We have a long-range plan that focuses on all modes of transportation, and the real goal is to find out through surveys and data collection what it is that people want, and how that lines up with trends that we see coming through in the industry," Ulstad said.

Other transportation professionals agree that the public is pushing for more versatile means of getting around local

communities and to other points in Michigan. Jim Bruckbauer, '07, is the deputy director of the Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities and said the demand for new modes of transit and transportation is growing.

"You can see through polling data that's been collected over the years that we're ready for new ways to get around the state," Bruckbauer said. "People tell us they want to see better mass transit, better passenger rail, and more options to get around once they get across the state to a different city."

Bruckbauer is working on transportation policy, specifically focusing on passenger rail. He said there is significant opportunity to invest in that particular mode of transportation because the infrastructure already exists.

"We're specifically focusing on bringing passenger rail from Ann Arbor to Traverse City, and also using the Traverse City region as a model for other communities in terms of adding mobility options like car-share, ride-share and bike-share as options for how to get around once you arrive in a city," Bruckbauer said.

Both Bruckbauer and Ulstad are focused on sustainability, both environmental and economic. They said working to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and vehicle emissions is a significant factor, and having improved transit options is a positive in terms of

economic growth.

"A big part of this is talent attraction. Business leaders are supporting transit because they see it as a way to attract the next generation of talent that wants to

live and thrive in Michigan without having to depend on a car to get around," Bruckbauer said.

One way for next-generation talent to get around is using ride-share apps like Uber or Lyft, which are becoming increasingly available even in small metropolitan areas like Holland.

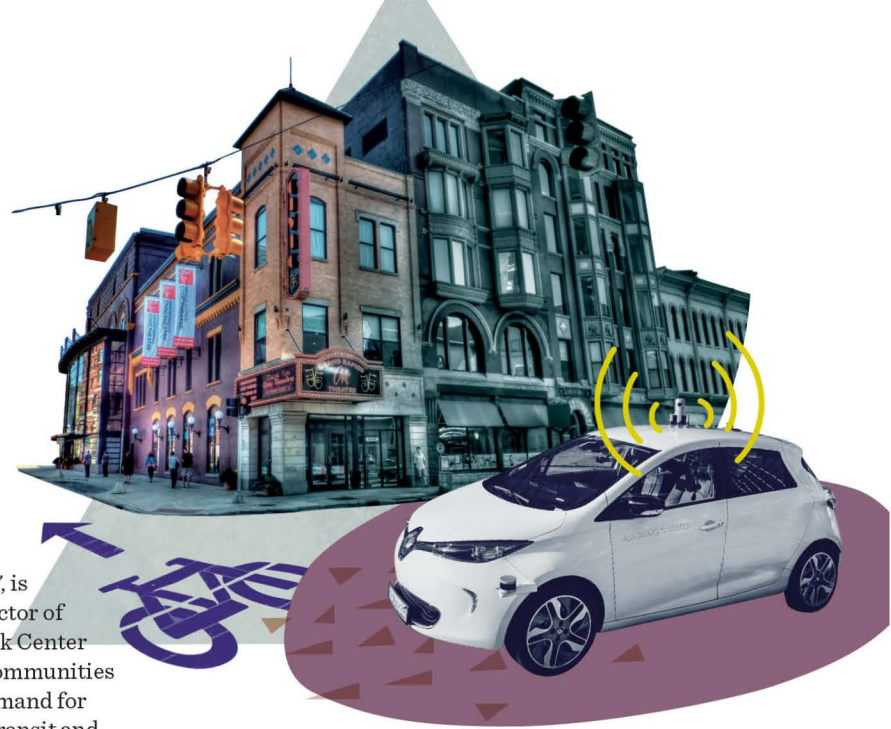
Peter Sauer, '09, is a product manager at Lyft and said the company is fundamentally changing the way people think about car ownership and transportation.

"We're working toward a future where car ownership is optional, where cities are designed for people instead of cars, where traffic disappears, and where people come together instead of being isolated as one person per car," Sauer said.

The future of how we move from place to place will likely look very different. Sauer said Lyft is working toward a network of shared, autonomous, electric vehicles that will play a central role in creating wholesale changes to major cities and physical environments.

Bruckbauer said the changes he expects in the future will be driven by cultural changes and how people want to use their time.

"People want less and less to spend a lot of time driving. They want to be on their devices, or spending time working, or being social," he said. "If you don't have to drive, it lets you do so many more things. That perception change, particularly among young people, is driving this evolution."





# ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI FEATURE

## Welcome Home!

Grand Valley welcomed the newest Lakers to their home away from home on August 20, when 125 alumni volunteers came out to the Allendale Campus to help students settle into their new living spaces. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped students start their Laker journey! ➔

PHOTOS BY KYLE BULTMAN





**125**

individual alumni  
volunteered, including  
20 volunteers who  
worked the morning  
and afternoon shifts

**290**

cumulative alumni  
volunteer hours



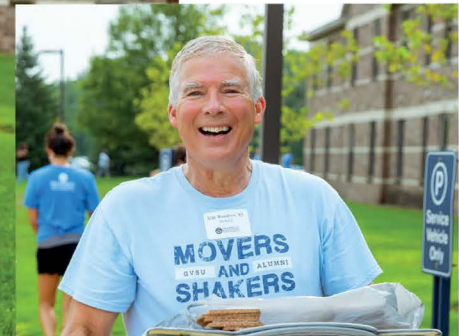
**3**

members of  
the Pioneer Class of  
1967 volunteered

Helped move in

**1,720**

students into  
five living centers







Laker Connections:  
Friends & Founders 8/15/18



Alumni Day at The Meadows  
Golf Course 7/14/18



White Sox Game With the Metro  
Chicago Alumni Club 6/27/18



GVSU Night at Comerica Park  
7/31/18

## UPCOMING EVENTS

GIVING TUESDAY  
*November 27*

GRADFEST  
*November 28-29*

HOLIDAY BRUNCH WITH  
SANTA AND LOUIE  
*December 1*

DETROIT RED WINGS  
GVSU NIGHT  
*February 24*

COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH WEEK  
*March 23-30*

For additional events  
and information,  
visit [gvsu.edu/  
alumni/events](http://gvsu.edu/alumni/events).

Events are  
subject to change.

### ALUMNI EVENTS

*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.*



Happy Hour With the Metro  
Detroit Alumni Club 6/20/18



College of Education Alumni Social  
at Hearts for the Arts 6/13/18



*“I learned a lot about leadership and balance when I was helping found Phi Mu at Grand Valley. And some of my closest friends to this day are because of Phi Mu.”*

AUTUMN GOULET, '10





# Seeing the future

## *Autumn Goulet, '10*

STORY BY SUSAN M.K. HOWARD, '10 AND '15 / PHOTO BY AMANDA PITTS

### ***As a process development chemist for Gentex Corporation in Zeeland, Autumn Goulet, '10, conducts product research and development.***

"I spend time on new product generation, so researching what Gentex can produce five to 10 years out," said Goulet. "I also problem-solve when current production is struggling, perform lab work, and meet with potential suppliers. We are a leading-edge, high technology company and that keeps my work interesting."

Goulet enjoys the variety of her job responsibilities, including the process of making and improving products.

"It's incredibly rewarding to see tangible improvements to something you're working on," said Goulet.

Gentex's main product is an auto-dimming rearview mirror with additional features, including Homelink, eye scan identification, live video streaming from around the vehicle, and a camera monitoring system that eliminates blind spots. Goulet works on various key components of the rearview mirror, a product found in almost all luxury vehicles. Gentex is helping the automotive industry transition

from analog to digital displays, and its rearview mirror is a key component of the transition.

Goulet enjoys working with a wide range of people in her role, from fellow chemists to production line workers to supply representatives, yet said she is often the only woman working on a project or sitting in a conference room.

"The STEM field is certainly dominated by men," she said. "It gives me a little more motivation to prove that myself, and other women, are just as strong in this field as my male counterparts. I feel highly respected by my colleagues at Gentex and know I am continuously looked at as an asset to the STEM field. I'm proud to be a female in STEM."

At Grand Valley, Goulet gained leadership skills and experience by serving on Student Senate for four years, including terms as vice president for finance and two years as president.

"In addition to the solid education Grand Valley gave me, my time on Student Senate was immeasurably helpful in training me to tackle problems as a team," she said. "I had to work with people coming to the table with different ideas on how to reach our goals. It was great preparation for real-world work."

She also had a chemistry internship at the Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon. Goulet was a double

major and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and criminal justice.

Goulet continues to stay connected with Grand Valley as a chapter financial advisor for the sorority Phi Mu, a chapter she was a founding member of during her junior year.

"I learned a lot about leadership and balance when I was helping found Phi Mu at Grand Valley. And some of my closest friends to this day are because of Phi Mu. It only makes sense to stay connected to the sorority," said Goulet.

Another way Goulet gives back to Grand Valley is through her work as an Alumni Champion.

"I've been a part of the Alumni Champions program since its beginning. It's grown from 65 to 144 alumni in four years. It's been cool to see the program grow," she said.

Alumni Champions are committed to financially supporting the university themselves and sharing the excitement and momentum of Grand Valley with fellow alumni.

"I cherish my time at Grand Valley and want to see the university continue to flourish," she said. "I find lots of ways, big and small, to give back to my alma mater."

ALUMNI IN  
**10**

Visit the Alumni in 10 feature to read about other Grand Valley alumni at [gvsu.edu/alumni/10](http://gvsu.edu/alumni/10).



# Giving creates balance for alumna

*Leslie Riley, '88*

INTERVIEWED BY AMY BROSS, '00 / PHOTO BY AMANDA PITTS

*Leslie Riley is a teacher for Grand Rapids Public Schools and an Alumni Champion. Her family of active Lakers believes in giving back and supporting others. Riley said encouraging others to give back and connect to Grand Valley is a challenge she wanted to take.*

## **Tell us a little about yourself and your family.**

I met my husband, Steve Sanders, while I was pursuing my master's degree at Grand Valley. We were both living and working up north, and he was sweet enough to drive me down to Allendale for my night classes. We would have dinner with my parents here in Grand Rapids, then attend our classes.

We have two beautiful children, Dane and Victoria, who also chose Grand Valley. They could have gone anywhere; we wanted them to stay in state, and they both received scholarships throughout their four years, including the Grand Finish grant.

## **Describe your work for Grand Rapids Public Schools.**

Grand Rapids Public Schools hired me to teach in the gifted and talented program, then called Spectrum, which was one of my favorite jobs, challenging young students in a cross-curricular, teacher-created curriculum.

Currently, I am teaching in our Shared Time Program, where our teachers are "shared" with non-public schools to offer art, music, physical education, Spanish, and computer instruction to private school students in Kent County and neighboring school districts. I am teaching computer and technology skills at Shawmut Hills School. I also help with all

the testing requirements for our second language learners, and the state required tests. I really love working with our great staff and students at Shawmut. Every day brings something new and beautiful.

## **Why did you decide to attend Grand Valley?**

I first remember going to Grand Valley after the WLAV Raft Race, back in the 1970s. Jimmy Buffett was in concert with Cabbage Crick at the Grand Valley dome! We thought we were somewhere out in the cornfields, and I said to myself, "This would be a great place to go to college!" I decided to get my master's degree at Grand Valley because of its great reputation for educational programs.

## **Why did your children enroll at GVSU?**

We were so happy when both Dane and Victoria decided on Grand Valley. The campus in Allendale is clean and beautiful. The Grand Rapids campus was growing and accessible. Dane lived at home during college and Victoria saved her money while working during high school so that she could live in off-campus apartments and get that college experience (but still be close to home). Grand Valley's reputation as an outstanding liberal arts college was a positive factor as well.

Both Dane and Victoria had great professors who have given them direction, helped

them form independent ways of thinking, and welcomed them into their lives and back to campus after graduating. They now are new alumni.

## **What is your favorite Grand Valley memory?**

Steve and I purchased alumni memberships to the Recreation Center and started taking the children to the pool. Before the kids could swim on their own, they were in the pool every week with their floaties around their arms, swimming and jumping off the diving board. As they got older, we would walk around campus, and eventually they both started working out in the gym there. So, in essence, Dane and Victoria grew up at Grand Valley!

## **Why did you decide to become an Alumni Champion?**

We have been giving to Grand Valley in many forms: participating, donating, and volunteering.

Becoming an Alumni Champion, contacting fellow alumni, reaching out and asking others to reconnect their past to our future — that's a challenge that I want to pursue and make time for. Participating in the Laker Effect campaign and showing that the goals needed for the university to grow — opportunity, achievement and relevance — will impact our future here in Grand Rapids and beyond, that means a lot to me.

## **You do a lot of volunteering for Grand Valley. Why is that important to you?**

As a family, we want to work together for the benefit of others. One of our mantras is, "The more you give, the more you get," in an unselfish way, that is. We believe in good

karma, and that giving back in time, talents, and service to others will return to us in an unexpected but deserved form.

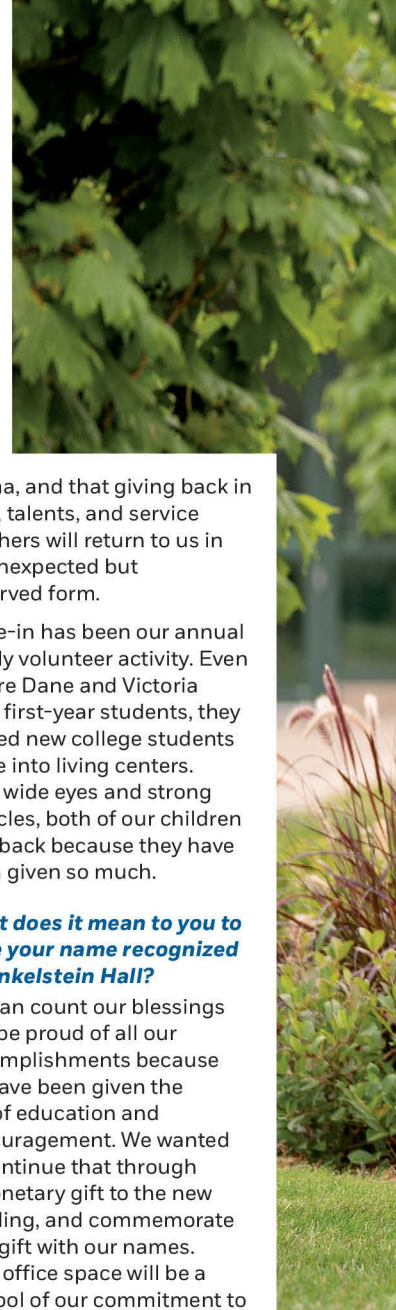
Move-in has been our annual family volunteer activity. Even before Dane and Victoria were first-year students, they helped new college students move into living centers. With wide eyes and strong muscles, both of our children give back because they have been given so much.

## **What does it mean to you to have your name recognized in Finkelstein Hall?**

We can count our blessings and be proud of all our accomplishments because we have been given the gift of education and encouragement. We wanted to continue that through a monetary gift to the new building, and commemorate that gift with our names. That office space will be a symbol of our commitment to education. Steve and I also have our names up on the wall of the Alumni House on the Allendale Campus.

## **What do you feel is important about Finkelstein Hall?**

We like to promote progress. Progress means moving forward and investing in the expansion of the downtown health campus. Both of our children will pursue careers that may involve health sciences in some way or another, and it may even bring them back to the same building where our donation made a difference.







## About Leslie Riley, '88

### WORK

Teacher, GRPS,  
Shawmut Hills  
School

### EDUCATION

Earned bachelor's  
degree from  
Western Michigan  
University, master's  
of education degree  
from Grand Valley

### FAMILY

Met husband Steve  
Sanders while  
attending Grand  
Valley; their two  
children (Dane and  
Victoria) are also  
Laker alumni

### FAVORITE QUOTE

I live with purpose  
and passion and  
seek to find joy  
with my eyes that I  
can feel in my soul.  
(adapted from  
Zen Sayings)

### Why do you feel it is important to give back to support Grand Valley?

Perpetuating the ideas of giving, philanthropy, and mindfulness all begin by example. We want to show our children that this is an honest and humble way to live. Supporting Grand Valley each year reflects the reciprocity in our lives. Through giving and receiving, we are part of the flow that creates balance and fullness, and helps us thrive throughout our lives.

### What would you say to others to encourage them to give back?

There are many different ways to give — not only monetarily, but through participation and engagement as well. If someone attended Grand Valley and has great memories to share, then get involved, connect, and show your value of lifelong learning. What opportunity can you open up for students? How can you help them achieve their goals and ensure the relevance in resources that we need today? Remember what it was like during your college years? Make it even better for future college graduates!



### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED OR TO BECOME AN ALUMNI CHAMPION, CONTACT:

Mary Lang McDade  
Annual Giving Officer  
(616) 331-5620  
mcdadem@gvsu.edu



# Share your update!

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



## BIRTH/ADOPTION

**Amanda (Harvey) Blanchette, '13**, and **Gregory Blanchette, '13**, have grown their family by two. Big sister, Reagan, was born in December 2016. Jalen was born in January 2018 and joined the family through adoption.



## WEDDING

**Lindsae (Gogulski) Badgerow, '07**, and **Ryan Badgerow, '00**, were married on the beach of sunny Key West, Florida, on June 10, 2018; they loved sharing their special day with family and friends.



## AWARD/RECOGNITION

**Ebony Parker-Featherstone, '02**, and husband, **Freddie Featherstone Jr., '01**, competed on "Family Feud" with their family, the Parkers. They played five games, which aired July 23-27 on CBS.



## IN MEMORIAM

**G. Michael Abraham**  
B.B.A., 1979, of Muskegon,  
on June 12, 2018

**Sarah C. Balkema**  
B.S., 1973, M.Ed., 1984, of  
Muskegon, on May 28, 2018

**Barbara J. Beasecker**  
M.Ed., 1979, of Muskegon,  
on May 30, 2018

**Clifford R. Cole**  
B.S., 1967, M.Ed., 1995, of Allendale,  
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B.S., 1971, of Holland,  
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**Ben J. Friberg**  
B.B.A., 1971, of North Richland Hills,  
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B.A., 1999, of Grand Rapids,  
on July 12, 2018

**Barbara A. Hawke**  
M.B.A., 1986, of Bay City,  
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**Lawrence J. Jonaus**  
M.B.A., 1979, of Spring Lake,  
on July 16, 2018

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B.S., 1974, of Caledonia,  
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**Elaine D. Milnes**  
B.B.A., 1993, of Grand Rapids,  
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B.S., 1974, of Grand Haven,  
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B.S., 1976, of Grand Rapids,  
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**Melisa A. Tomanek**  
B.S., 2005, of Milford,  
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**Lane S. White Jr.**  
B.S., 1988, of Norton Shores,  
on May 31, 2018



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