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Grand Valley State University

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Winter commencement changes to two ceremonies

Winter semester commencement ceremonies, scheduled for April 28 at the Van Andel Arena, will be split into two ceremonies.

Bob Stoll, director of Student Life said the change was made to better accommodate the growing number of graduates.

The first ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and include graduates from the College of Community and Public Service, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, College of Health Professions, Kirkhof College of Nursing and Seidman College of Business.

The afternoon ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. and include graduates from the College of Education, College of Interdisciplinary Studies and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Stoll said that the April commencement has become too large and the ceremony too long. In an effort to keep the ceremony personal and student-focused, he said the new format will result in a number of benefits to students, including:

- Increasing the number of guest tickets from six to 10;
- Increasing the number of guests from 9,500 attending one ceremony to 19,000 attending two;
- Ceremonies will be shortened from more than three hours down to two hours;
- More students may choose to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Across Campus

Writing Center schedules retreats

Two five-day writing retreats for faculty and staff members who are working on dissertations, books, articles or grant applications are planned.

The Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors will host retreats on April 30 to May 4 and August 6-10 in Lake Ontario Hall. Registration is limited to 15 participants for each retreat.

Ellen Schendel, associate professor of writing and director of the center, said first priority will go to faculty members who are completing their dissertations.

Participants should plan on spending seven hours daily on writing or writing-related activities. Meals, snacks and writing-related materials, including laptop computers and a laser printer, will be provided. There is no fee to participate. More information and a registration form are available online at www.gvsu.edu/wc.

Students earn full scholarships to Polish university

At Jagiellonian University in Poland, Grand Valley students Ryan Locke and Christian Goedel are learning one of the world’s most difficult languages with people from Germany, Hungary, Italy, Iran and other countries.

Both students earned full scholarships from the Polish Ministry of Education and the Kosciuszko Foundation of New York City to study for the 2006-07 academic year in Krakow, Poland. The foundation is a Polish-American organization that strives to enhance relations between the two countries. Of the six scholarships it awarded last year, two went to GVSU students.

"I applied because I wanted the experience of..." continues on page 2.
Across Campus

continued from page 1

studying abroad again, and living abroad, which is much different from just traveling," Locke said. “So far, it has just been incredible; I am learning so much, meeting so many people from different countries and traveling.”

The scholarship pays for their education and living expenses, plus provides a monthly stipend.

Goedel, who has a double major in marketing and international business, said he took Polish language classes at GVSU and wanted to learn more about the country’s culture. “I wanted to gain a firm grasp and understanding of Polish, which is by far one of the most difficult subjects I have ever studied,” said Goedel, from Sebewaing.

Locke and Goedel live together with another American in one of the dorms at Jagiellonian University, which is Poland’s oldest university and the alma mater of Pope John Paul II.

Champion wrestlers

President Thomas J. Haas stands with Grand Valley's club wrestling team to congratulate them on their win at the finals at the Cliff Keen National Dual Meet, held at the University of Northern Iowa in January. The team won the 2006 National Collegiate Wrestling Association championship and will travel to Texas March 8 for this year's tournament.

GVUSU representatives named to alliance board

A Grand Valley University Foundation board member and GVSU executive officer were named to the West Michigan Strategic Alliance.

Jim Brooks, CEO of Alpha Genesis and a former chairman of the alliance, was named founding chairman of the Alliance. Pat Oldt, vice president for Planning and Equity, was named secretary.

The Alliance was launched in 2000 to be a catalyst for regional collaboration among businesses, institutions and governmental units of the greater Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Holland areas. Additional information on the Alliance is available at www.wm-alliance.org.

AWRI offers several scholarships

The Annis Water Resources Institute is accepting applications for summer interns and one for the fall semester.

Applications for the D.J. Angus-Scientech Educational Foundation Internship are due by March 16. A gift from the foundation allows AWRI to offer up to four summer internships. Recipients will be expected to work 40 hours per week for 14 weeks; a stipend of up to $5,000 will be provided.

The recipient of the Allen Hunting Internship will also work during the summer semester. Applications for that internship are due March 16.

The Bill and Diana Wipperfurth Student Research Scholarship seeks applicants for the fall semester. The deadline to apply is March 23.

Criteria and more information about all scholarships can be found online at www.gvsu.edu/awri. For more information, call x13749.

Darlene Zwart student services coordinator

If you blink you just might miss her! Darlene Zwart’s fast-paced job as a student services coordinator for the College of Health Professions keeps her constantly on the go.

“There’s never a dull day,” Zwart said. “There’s so much variety. I’m in Allendale. I’m downtown. I’m on the phone. I’m on e-mail. I’m at a high school career fair!”

Zwart advises and recruits students for Grand Valley’s College of Health Professions. She had worked for the College of Education in both a grant-funded position and graduate assistantship. She said that experience set a solid foundation for the “hustle and bustle” of CHP.

“The biggest challenge is keeping up with all of the student inquiries,” Zwart said.

Growing up in London, Ontario, Zwart said she planned to be a physical education teacher or coach until she realized she didn’t have a competitive edge. In 1980, she moved to the United States to attend Calvin College and after six years as a therapeutic recreation specialist, spent 10 years as an international student recruiter for her alma mater.

Now a true Laker, Zwart works at Grand Valley and recently finished a master’s degree in Adult and Higher Education here.

“I’d hate to sound cliché, but Grand Valley is truly a great community,” she said. “There’s great teamwork here.”

Zwart said Grand Valley’s SMART Center advising staff has provided her with excellent support and that close-knit relationship is just one example of the university’s teamwork.

“I appreciate working with the students,” Zwart said. “It’s a privilege to be another link in their lives.”

Her job mostly requires her giving advice to students but she said it has taught her to value the needs of every person.

“Everybody comes in with a unique story or experience,” she said. “My job is to help them develop and plan their future.”

In the winter Zwart hopes for snow because she loves to cross country ski. In the summer, she loves to bicycle. She is also a big movie buff and recommends her current favorite, “Little Miss Sunshine.”

FORUM

Volume 31, Number 29

The GVSU Forum is published by the News and Information Services Office. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, forum@gvsu.edu. Telephone: 616-331-2221. Fax: 616-331-2220.

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

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Other publications by the News and Information Services Office include:
GVNOW
To see video features and daily campus news, visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

GRAND VALLEY

Grand Valley Magazine is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its Web site at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Grand Valley State University is an affirmative action/education opportunity institution.

GVFaces

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What's Ahead

Quartet celebrates its 10th anniversary

The Perugino String Quartet will celebrate its 10th anniversary as quartet-in-residence at Grand Valley with a pair of Artist-Faculty Series concerts in two locations.

On Sunday, March 11, a Downtown Showcase performance of Verdi's String Quartet is scheduled for 3 p.m. at Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center.

On Monday, March 12, the quartet will also perform at 8 p.m. in the Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall in the Performing Arts Center.

Members are Eric Tanner and Diane McElfish, violins; Barbara Corbato, viola; and Stacey Bosman Tanner, cello. Cellist Pablo Mahave-Veglia will join as guest artist.

Both concerts are free and open to the public. For more information contact x13484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/music.

Women's Center to host annual tea party

A proper tea party includes refreshments and lively discussion. Faculty and staff members can continue this tradition and celebrate March as Women's History Month at the Women's Center Tea Party, scheduled for March 13.

Entertainment will be provided by Lois Smith Owens, director of recruitment and admissions for the School of Social Work. She and others will perform part of her play, “We Keep Coming,” which explores the lives of African American women who were suffragists.

The tea will begin at 3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 204. RSVP by calling the Women’s Center at x12748 or sending an e-mail to womenctr@gvsu.edu. Co-sponsors are the Women and Gender Studies Program and Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Father of African film featured on campus

A discussion about Senegal’s most admired filmmaker, Ousmane Sembène, and screenings of his films are planned for the next Remembering the Crossings event at Grand Valley.

Samba Gadjigo, professor of Francophone Studies at Mount Holyoke College, will lead discussions each night during a film festival at the Cook-DeWitt Center. Gadjigo is the author of the first authorized biography of Sembène.

The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m.: “Man is Culture” presented by Gadjigo, who explores Sembène’s cultural production and his questioning of history, including slavery.
- Thursday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.: Screening of “Black Girl” (1966) and the documentary “The Making of Moolaade” (2004) followed by discussion.
- Friday, March 16, 7 p.m.: Screening of “Moolaade” and discussion.

Sembène was born in 1923 in southern Senegal and spent many years as a manual laborer. In 1947, he migrated to Marseilles, France, until Senegal was granted its political independence in 1960. During his time in France, Sembène attended seminars and workshops on Marxism and joined the French communist party in 1950. He worked at educating and liberating other African workers on the fringe of French society.

Since returning to Senegal in 1960, Sembène has been devoted to Africans that are disenfranchised and marginalized by their own society through both literary and film creations.

Sembène’s first feature film, “La noire de,” known in English as “Black Girl,” was made in 1966, and is credited as the beginning of African cinema. The story of exile and despair features a Senegalese maid taken to the French Riviera by her French employers. Outside of Africa, she feels dehumanized.

“Moolaade” focuses on the still common African practice of female circumcision. A strong-willed woman, who has managed to shield her own daughter from mutilation, provides moolaade, or sanctuary, to four young girls seeking her help.

Remembering the Crossings events are continuing throughout West Michigan to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. For more information call Steeve Buckridge at x18550 or visit www.gvsu.edu/abolition.

India’s newspaper industry examined in documentary

Two faculty members from Grand Valley have produced a documentary film that examines how India’s newspaper industry has supported a deeply entrenched tradition of public debate that is considered the foundation of its democracy.

The documentary was produced by Vandana Pednekar-Magal and Alan Bell, both associate professors of communications. Bell and Pednekar-Magal, who worked as a journalist in India during the 1980s, traveled to many cities in India during their sabbatical leaves to complete the film.

The premier screening of the 50-minute documentary, “Divided by Language: India’s Newspapers,” is on March 16, at 6 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center. Pednekar-Magal and Bell will be available afterward to discuss the film with the audience. The event is free and open to the public.

Through interviews with prominent newspaper editors and cultural critics, and original footage shot in India, the documentary traces the trajectory of the nation’s English newspaper in relation to the arrival of global business in India. It also examines the English media’s role in contemporary India, the nation’s democracy, and explores links between language, politics and culture.

For more information contact Pednekar-Magal at x13337.

Across Campus

Shingles vaccine available at Family Health Center

The GVSU Family Health Center is offering the new vaccine for shingles for people 60 years and older.

Shingles is a painful skin rash caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. The cost of the vaccine is $171; health insurers may cover the cost.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call the Health Center at 988-8774. The center, operated by the Kirkhof College of Nursing, is at 72 Sheldon St. in Grand Rapids.

Monson claims nonfiction prize

The 2006 Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize has been awarded to Ander Monson for his essay collection Neck Deep and Other Predicaments. Monson, an assistant professor of writing, received a $12,000 advance; Graywolf published the book in February.

Monson’s work was chosen from more than 150 submissions.

Contest judge Robert Polito referred to Monson’s essays as, “Something like a schematic for our fiercest longings and most ecstatic inventions.”

Ander Monson

* * *
### Calendar of Events

**General Events**

**Art Gallery Hours:** Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Thurs. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Through March 21**


**Wed., March 7**

Noon: Allendale Toastmasters Club. 104 KC.  
Call x12204 for more information.

**Thurs., March 8**

7:30 a.m.: Grand Rapids Toastmasters Club.  
Room varies. Call 361-5227, ext. 31.

**Sun. March 11**

3 p.m.: The Perugino String Quartet. Loosemore Auditorium, DEV. Call x13484 for more information.

### Faculty and Staff Sketches

**In the News**

- **David Austin**, professor of mathematics, was interviewed by *Computerworld Magazine* for a story about Google’s PageRank algorithm.
- **Robert Hollister**, assistant professor of biology, was interviewed by the *Grand Rapids Press* and WXMI-TV Channel 17 for stories about his NSF grant to fund Arctic research.

**Sketches**

- **Elaine Collins**, dean of the College of Education, was elected to the State Board of Education for Professional Standards Commission for Teachers.
- **Gordon Alderink**, associate professor of physical therapy, gave a presentation on pitching biomechanics at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital.
- **Gerry Simmons**, associate professor of economics, wrote an article, “MEFTA a Benefit, If We Ever Get It,” published in the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*.
- **Steve Glass**, associate dean of COIS and professor of movement science, gave a series of lectures for Kent Intermediate Schools on exercise physiology and careers in exercise science.

**News and Information Services** won five Communicator Awards: the 2006 Convocation video received an award of distinction; General Education video won two awards of distinction; and the Around Grand Valley tour video won both an award of excellence and award of distinction.

**Patrick Fuliang Shan**, assistant professor of history, wrote an article, “What was the Sphere of Influence? A Study of Chinese Resistance to the Russian Empire in North Manchuria, 1900-1917,” published in the *Chinese Historical Review*.

**Diane Maodus-Pitzer**, affiliate faculty in liberal studies, has become a weekly moderator of “Soundings: An Ecnumenical Dialogue,” on WOOD-AM, Sunday mornings at 7 a.m.

**WGVU Productions** won a Communicator Award of Distinction for “Coast Guard Festival Highlights 2006.”

**Elaine Sterrett Isely**, research associate at the Amnis Water Resources Institute, gave a presentation, “Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services in West Michigan,” at the Implementing Prosperity Land Use Summit in East Lansing.

**Alan Steinman**, director of AWRI, and **Paul Isely**, associate professor of economics, were co-authors.


**Shelley Irwin**, host of the WGVU Morning Show, has won a fourth straight Gracie Allen Award from American Women in Radio and Television.


**Carl Ruetz**, assistant professor at the Annis Water Resources Institute, was elected president of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

**Kathryn Remelinger**, associate professor of English, received a grant from Michigan Tech University’s Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections to conduct research there.


**Paul Yu**, assistant professor of mathematics, gave a presentation, “Investigation of Student Thinking and Curriculum Design through Lesson Study,” at the annual Math in Action Conference held at Grand Valley.

**Matt Wynken**, associate professor of mathematics, gave two presentations of “An Introduction to the Digi-Block Learning System” at the annual Math in Action Conference held at Grand Valley.


**Shelly Smith**, assistant professor of mathematics, gave a presentation, “The Optimal Origami Box,” at the annual Math in Action Conference held at Grand Valley.

**Stephen Blair**, assistant professor of mathematics, gave a presentation, “An Introduction to Cognitively Guided Instruction for Whole Number Operations,” at the annual Math in Action Conference held at Grand Valley.