

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

2017-2018
Annual Report



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Programs, Institutes, and Centers 2017-2018

- Area and Global Studies
 - African and African American Studies
 - Chinese Studies
 - East Asian Studies
 - Global Studies and Social Impact
 - Latin American and Latino/a Studies
 - Latino/a Studies Certificate
 - Middle East Studies
- Barbara and Stuart Padnos International Center
- Center for Adult and Continuing Studies
- Community Reading Project
- Digital Studies
- Environmental Studies
- Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors
- Frederik Meijer Honors College
- Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships
- General Education
- Global Institute for Big History
- Human Rights
- Intercultural Teaching and Learning
- Integrative Learning and Advising
- Intercultural Training Certificate
- Kutsche Office of Local History
- Lake Michigan Writing Project
- LGBTQ Studies
- Liberal Education and Professional Skills Certificate
- Liberal Studies
- Office of Sustainability Practices
- Religious Studies
- Semester in Detroit
- Supplemental Writing Skills
- Sustainable Agriculture Project
- Sustainable Food Systems Certificate
- The Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Initiative and
Endowed Professorship of Civil Discourse
- University Studies
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



GVSU students participate in the Civil Discourse Symposium.

Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles

Mission

Cultivating engaged global citizens through innovative interdisciplinary programs and diverse community partnerships.

Vision

The Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies will be a regional and national model for creative inquiry, integrative programming, inclusive practices, and student empowerment.

Guiding Principles

We value

- a collegial and collaborative student-centered environment where we support each other and work together, both within the college and across campus, in an open and transparent manner;
- cultural diversity and diversity of voices as a foundational principle in our curriculum, programming, and practices;
- community engagement through educational initiatives and experiential learning;
- interdisciplinary research and teaching that challenges and expands perspectives;
- risk taking and innovation that encourages alternative approaches to scholarship, teaching, and learning; and
- social, environmental, and financial sustainability in all that we do.



A Message from Dean Anne L. Hiskes



Dean Anne L. Hiskes, Ph.D.

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to peruse the 2017-2018 Brooks College Annual Report. Once again, the College is living up to its mission as a center of interdisciplinary innovation with a focus on providing students with high-impact learning opportunities that prepare them to meet challenges of the 21st century. If I had to choose one word to characterize the 2017-18 academic year in Brooks College, it would be *achievement*.

In 2017-2018 we achieved four significant strategic objectives laid out in the College's 2016-21 Strategic Plan. In support of our mission to cultivate engaged global citizens through diverse community partnerships, we opened the Brooks College Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development and hired a full-time director to support faculty in integrating community engagement into the curriculum. The director also serves as a resource for educating faculty and students on best practices for community engagement. With the support of Haworth, Inc. and Interphase, we created the Innovation Lab to provide a stimulating environment for project-based teaching and learning. The launch of the rapidly growing and popular Digital Studies minor brought us nearer to our goal of establishing seven new innovative interdisciplinary programs between 2016 and 2020, a goal that we will achieve during 2018-2019. We also strengthened connections with alumni through our first annual Distinguished Alumni Panel and our second alumni community service event.

The year 2017-18 has also been an incredible year for faculty and student achievements. Six Brooks College faculty received university awards for excellence in teaching, advising, or scholarship, along with a coveted Niemeyer Award. Other faculty received national awards or grants. Still others received a Faculty Engagement Award from the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center or internal grants from the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence or the Padnos International Center. Given that the College only has forty-one faculty for whom Brooks College is their primary college, this level of achievement is truly remarkable.

Brooks College student achievements are equally impressive. Four Frederik Meijer Honors College students were named Innovation Fellows at Stanford University. Another 28 students received prestigious national awards such as a Gilman Scholarship, Boren Scholarship, or Fulbright Fellowship. These students came from a range of Brooks College programs, including East Asian Studies, Digital Studies, Environmental Studies, the Honors College, the Human Rights Program, Latin American and Latino/a Studies, Liberal Studies, Middle East Studies, Religious Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. This is in addition to external recognition achieved by several Writing Center Student Consultants. The Brooks College annual report is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the joint achievements of the entire Brooks College community. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne L. Hiskes". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anne L. Hiskes, Dean
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

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INTERDISCIPLINARY INNOVATION



Interdisciplinary Innovation

Brooks College Celebrates Launch of Innovation Lab

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies officially dedicated its Innovation Lab in April 2018. The lab, located in Lake Ontario Hall, is a space designed to foster creativity for classes, student groups and student organizations.

Anne Hiskes, dean of Brooks College, said the idea behind this dedicated space came from listening to students talk about how they learn best. “Students learn best by doing,” Hiskes said. “Programs in engineering have had maker spaces and programs in art and design their workshop studios. Our Innovation Lab is designed to support project-based learning in humanistic, social scientific interdisciplinary programs.”

Furniture manufacturer Haworth and Interphase Interiors generously supported creation of the lab and held focus groups with students and faculty members before renovations began. Hiskes said the lab provides flexible spaces that maximize writing surfaces and areas and charging stations are placed throughout the space.

“This is our faculty, staff, and community partners’ commitment to providing the best educational experience for our students.”

-Provost Maria Cimitile

Provost Maria Cimitile said the lab is an example of Grand Valley’s commitment to students. “This is our faculty, staff, donors, and community partners’ commitment to providing the best educational experience possible for our students,” Cimitile said. Tom Manikoski, from Haworth, and Jim and Donna Brooks were among the attendees at the dedication.



Jim Brooks, Dean Anne Hiskes, Provost Maria Cimitile and Donna Brooks attend the launch celebration of the Innovation Lab.



Tom Manikoski, from Haworth, gives remarks at the dedication of the Innovation Lab.

Strong Start for Digital Studies Minor

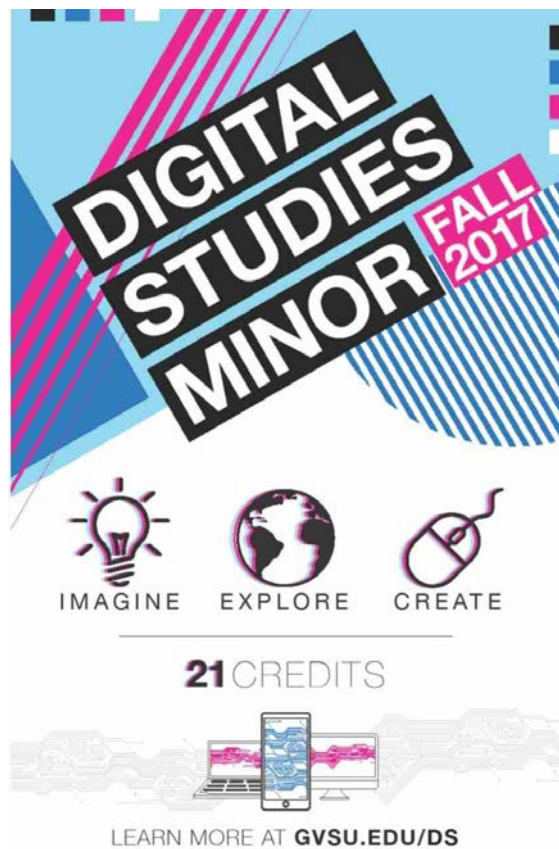
In Fall 2017, Brooks College launched a new minor in Digital Studies. Just a few weeks short of its first anniversary, the program counts close to 40 students. From Advertising & Public Relations to Liberal Studies or Writing, the minor has become an attractive complement to many majors.

Director Laurence José described the program's strong start as a testament to its innovative, flexible and interdisciplinary curriculum. "Besides its timeliness," she said, "the minor is really student-centered. It gives students options to choose which part of the digital world they wish to focus on, given their discipline and professional aspirations."

The curriculum, which is bookended by two core courses, Digital Identities and Communities & Digital Data and Design, and a capstone, allows students to choose from a wide variety of courses organized in two different modules. With an emphasis on digital culture and tools, the curriculum keeps theory and practice closely connected so that students develop critical perspectives while also gaining new literacies for working with technology.

Reflecting on the first iteration of DS 350, Social Media and Culture, Kimberly McKee, assistant professor of liberal studies, said: "Students strengthened their abilities to connect trending social media hashtags with broader concepts and issues related to social justice and equality." McKee emphasized how the course helped students gain "new knowledges related to how social media influences political and social movements and subcultures as a result of critically interrogating the use of social media by public intellectuals and politicians."

At a time when questions surrounding the use of social media, big data, or artificial intelligence pervade the public and professional spheres, the new minor creates spaces for students to become informed and responsible digital citizens.



Poster designed by GVSU student Andrew Juodawlakis.

"Besides its timeliness, the minor is really student-centered. It gives students options to choose which part of the digital world they wish to focus on, given their discipline and professional aspirations."

-Laurence José

The Buzz on Campus

In September, members of the GVSU Beekeepers harvested more than 360 pounds of honey from Grand Valley's two apiaries located on the Holland campus at the Sustainable Agricultural Project. Students sell honey for \$8 per bottle, but their interest in honeybees goes beyond selling products. They are researching the health of honeybees and creating apps that benefit other hobby beekeepers.

Anne Marie Fauvel, senior affiliate professor of liberal studies, developed a four-phase research project that studied the health of hives in 19 Michigan counties. The beekeepers were trained to collect pollen and submit hive data via an app developed by two students and computing professor Jonathan Engelsma. After data

were collected, Fauvel connected with Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), a national organization supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland that researches the mortality of honeybees. Fauvel said the app will eventually be used by beekeepers and researchers nationally in collaboration with BIP efforts.

Fauvel, who also served as president of the Holland Area Beekeepers Association, leads students through the honey harvest each fall. Raw honey differs from some commercial honey. For example, honey that is pasteurized has been heated to remove impurities and complex proteins. Fauvel said pasteurization also rids honey of its natural medicinal properties.



GVSU student beekeepers harvest honey from Sustainable Agriculture Project apiaries.



Students share their projects at Coffee Fest 2018.

Considering Coffee (and a lot more)

The room was abuzz with excited students talking about coffee. Was this a club for coffee aficionados? No, it was Coffee Fest 2018, the culminating event for a special topics course in interdisciplinary studies called “Caffeine Culture: The Cultivation and Consumption of Coffee,” taught by Dr. Christine Rener, chemistry professor and director of the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center.

The students in this course began their virtual journey on a coffee farm, moved across the globe with the processed coffee beans, learned about technologies for roasting and brewing coffee, and concluded by considering the physiological consequences of coffee consumption. Coffee Fest 2018 was open to the entire GVSU community and included student presentations on the both health benefits and health risks associated with consuming coffee in general, as well as the health advantages of specific types of coffee and preparation methods. There were also presentations on the history of coffee, the culture of coffee houses, coffee advertising and, of course, free samples of coffee.



Yan Liang, associate professor of area and global studies, gives a presentation about her sabbatical project.

Brooks Faculty Share Scholarship

Five faculty members from Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies gave presentations on recent sabbaticals during two showcases in February.

- **Craig Benjamin**, professor of history in the Honors College: his book, *Empires of Ancient Eurasia: The First Silk Roads Era, 100 BCE-250 CE*
- **Ayana Weekley**, associate professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies: “A Critical Analysis of Black Women in Playboy, Cosmopolitan, and Essence, 1970-72”
- **Wendy Burns-Ardolino**, professor of liberal studies: “Still Crushing It: A Cross-Regional Ethnography of Women Triathletes Forty and Beyond”
- **Yan Liang**, associate professor of area and global studies: project explores function that food has played in three works of Chinese martial arts fiction
- **Melanie Shell-Weiss**, associate professor of liberal studies: “A Place for all Things: Creating Native American Community in the Urban Midwest”

Living, Leading, and Learning

Grand Valley students Julia Ervin and Michael Garzelloni are two of the students who participated in Semester in Detroit during the Fall 2017 semester. The program immerses a cohort of students in the city for a living-learning experience including classes and an internship with a local community organization. Ervin and Garzelloni said they joined the program to advance their understanding of the people of Detroit.

Ervin is a liberal studies major who was inspired to spend a semester in Detroit after participating in a mission trip within the city. Her goal was to help and encourage people who live within lower income communities. "This program gives me a mindset of what people go through every day and allows me to really dig into the narrative of Detroit," Ervin said.

Garzelloni is a sociology major with a business minor, who is focused on social conditions as well as the investments that are being made to revitalize the city. He was raised in West Michigan and decided to spend a semester in Detroit to experience the other side of the state. He focused on social issues like tax closure and water access in homes.

"Detroit has a reputation, but there is a lot more to it than that," Garzelloni said. "If students want to break out of the college bubble, they should consider this program." For more information about Semester in Detroit, visit gvsu.edu/sid.



Students from the Semester in Detroit program pose for a photo on the front porch of their house.

Students Organize First Peer-Led Sex Education Resource Fair

On December 6, students from LIB 326: Sexuality, Justice, and Advocacy organized and hosted Get Sex(Ed), Grand Valley's first peer-led sexual health and advocacy event.

Students from the class set up multiple tables to present on various topics, including "kinks" and "fetishes," benefits of sexting, contraception usage, sexual pleasure, health benefits of sex and more. Each of the presentations aimed to educate or clarify some misunderstanding related to sexuality.

Jae Basiliere, assistant professor of women, gender and sexuality studies, attended the event as a "sexpert" and expressed excitement about the students' work. "It's a great way to raise awareness and allow people to consider what the gaps in their knowledge might be," Basiliere said. "Because it is student-run, it is very relaxing and non-threatening."

The semester course was written and taught by Marilyn Preston, assistant professor of liberal studies, who emphasized the effectiveness of relaying information through peer advocacy. "The idea is that, on a personal level, students are able to talk to their friends or their roommates about sexuality in a healthy way so they're spreading awareness," Preston said. Preston believes this approach to discussing sex and sexuality helps combat rape culture.

Representatives from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, Planned Parenthood and the Grand Rapids Red Project were present to answer students' questions. The Ottawa County Department of Public Health also offered free STI testing.

ENGAGED
GLOBAL
CITIZENS



Engaged Global Citizens

GVSU Wins Sustainable Campus Award

Grand Valley was named a top performer by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), achieving high-ranking spots in the categories of overall top performer and waste minimization.

Grand Valley is included in AASHE's 2017 Sustainable Campus Index, a publication that highlights the performance of colleges and universities in 17 impact areas. Nationally, Grand Valley ranks fourth for waste minimization and seventh overall for master's level universities.

"Sustainability is one of Grand Valley's core values and it requires teamwork and participation from everyone," said Norman Christopher, director of the Office of Sustainability Practices. "Leadership and excellence from

"Leadership and excellence from faculty, staff and students continue to take us to new and higher levels on our collective sustainability journey."

-Norman Christopher

faculty, staff and students continue to take us to new and higher levels on our collective sustainability journey." The rankings were measured from data that came from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). The assessment gauges the progress of colleges and universities toward sustainability in

all sectors, including education and research, operations, planning and administration. It included more

than 900 questions, and this is the fourth time Grand Valley has participated in the program.

Grand Valley was the first Michigan university to receive gold status in 2013 and has maintained its gold status ever since. This year, the university's score increased from 66.05 to 70.80. Yumi Jakobcic, campus sustainability coordinator, credits the improved score to incremental



GVSU students enjoy the Arboretum on the Allendale Campus.

increases across the board. “We continue to offer more classes containing sustainability-related content and the number of professors engaged in sustainability-related research has increased,” Jakobcic said. “Our biggest improvement was in the waste category due to the university’s Surplus Store, and our score for buildings increased as well.”

Lakers Go Global

Grand Valley will soon begin offering scholarships to 100 incoming students to help fund their study abroad experiences.

The “Lakers Go Abroad!” scholarship program will begin with the class of 2019. It is a unique collaboration between Grand Valley’s Padnos International Center and Admissions Office aimed at attracting students who might select a college based on its study abroad opportunities. Qualified first-year students will receive \$2,000 to use within four years of their start at Grand Valley.

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

Jodi Chycinski, director of Admissions, said the goal of “Lakers Go Abroad!” is to make study abroad accessible to a larger number of students. “There will certainly be students with travel experience who will be attracted to this opportunity, but our hope is that other students who may not think they can afford to study abroad will see it as an option,” Chycinski said.

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

Holi Festival Colors Outside the Lines

Participants in the Holi Festival at Grand Valley threw colored powder on each other near the Cook Carillon Tower. Abhishek Ghosh, assistant professor of liberal studies and religious studies, said the festival had been initially planned for April, but organizers deemed it too cold at that time. It was the second Holi Festival at Grand Valley.

About 150 people attended, including many first-year students, Ghosh said. “It was a good event to make campus more welcoming,” he said. The program, approved for LIB 100/201 courses, includes discussing the origins of Holi, sharing potluck food and throwing colors. Ghosh said Holi is a centuries-old festival that has origins in India but quickly spread throughout other Pan-Asian countries. “Much like yoga, it’s a gift from Hinduism to the world that has been adapted by other religions and cultures,” he said.

One participant said throwing colors and making physical contact with strangers was a good way to build community. Another said the festival was similar to watching fireworks, “but in this case, you became the fireworks.”



Students covered in colored powder at the Holi Festival.

Community Reading Project Author Visits Campus

Deciding to get married seems to be a personal decision. Rebecca Traister, author of *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation* argues that U.S. history has documented that personal decision is a political one.

“Marriage or singlehood is the most intimate of decisions. Yet wages, unions, paid leave and subsidized childcare,

these big forces of change in our history all have, in part, been determined by the personal choice of marriage,” she

said. Traister, a journalist, started writing the book in 2009, the year the proportion of American women who married dropped below 50 percent, and the median age of first marriages had risen to 27.

“We all had dishes, sex lives, and homes. This made me think about the institution of marriage and the question of dependency.”

-Rebecca Traister

Traister said she didn’t marry until age 35 and said she was puzzled that her family seemed to mark that time as her entry into adulthood. “I was single, successful and living in New York, surrounded by a group of friends,” she said. “We all had dishes, sex lives and homes. This made me think about the institution of marriage and the question of dependency.” She took audience members through a history lesson that began with the patriarchal structure of the New England colonies, and reminded them it wasn’t until 1974 with passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity

Act that women could get credit in their own names.

Traister cited the industrial age in the late 19th century as a period when

women were employed in large numbers and found a collective voice. “More kids were in schools, so the need for teachers grew. Nursing became a desirable profession for women and more factories opened, which meant child



Author Rebecca Traister signs books and interacts with students



Rebecca Traister gives a presentation in the Kirkhof Center about her book, *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation*.

labor and labor from young women, largely immigrants and women of color," she said.

Women working in unsafe conditions in textile and other factories created early labor unions and calls for better working conditions, Traister said. "So these mostly unmarried women were all focused toward social reform movements," she said. "All this activism culminates in the 20th century with the passage of the 19th amendment, permitting women to vote."

Traister added the women's rights movement of the 1960s and '70s ushered in birth control and reproductive choice, which she said, "opened up new possibilities for many besides marriage."

All the Single Ladies was named a Notable Book of 2016 by the New York Times and Best Books selection by the Boston Globe. Traister is a writer at large for New York Magazine and contributing editor for Elle.

Human Rights Movie Series Entertaining and Thought Provoking

The human rights program is flourishing after its first two years, with more than 60 students enrolled as minors and 13 graduates last year. One of the keys to its success has been the popular "Human Rights Movie Nights" series.

Once a month in early evening students gather with professor and human rights director Richard Hiskes to eat pizza and watch a movie that is both entertaining and thought-provoking from a human rights perspective. These are not documentaries but big-budget Hollywood or foreign films from recent years. The idea is to be both entertained and perhaps see what seems to be a love story, an adventure film, a historical or biographical movie, or even science fiction through a new lens of human rights.

According to Hiskes, "I like to select films that students would like to see for entertainment, for example, *Ex Machina*, *Blood Diamond*, *Witness*, *McFarland, USA*, or next year *Thelma and Louise* and *Inglorious Basterds*, and have students view the films with new eyes as stories with human rights issues at their center. Often I open our post-film discussion with the question, 'Why is this a human rights story?' I want them to see human rights in everyday life and in ordinary stories, as depicted on the screen, and in their own lives."

Attendance has been exceptional, with as many as 120 students attending *Ex Machina*, and an average of 40-50 each night. All the films are LIB 100 and 200 approved.



Students pose at the Tropic of Capricorn.



Students walk along the red sand dunes of Sossusvlei, Namibia.

Area and Global Studies Professor Leads Study Abroad in Namibia

Steeve Buckridge, director of area and global studies and professor of history, introduced a new study abroad program to Namibia. Buckridge, who has lived and taught in several African countries, was always captivated by the beauty of Namibia and wanted to share this “gem” with his students, while expanding Grand Valley’s partnerships and institutional collaborations in Africa.

The inaugural six-week program took place in Spring 2018, and consisted of eight students and two faculty members. The group was based at the University of Namibia (UNAM) in the capital of Windhoek.

During the program, students took courses in African History and Eco-Tourism with local faculty and interacted with local UNAM students. Students studied the connection between history, cultures and the environment and how our world is shaped by these attributes. Students also learned about global forces impacting our world such as climate

“Namibia is an attractive destination to study due to its wide variety of landscapes and ecosystems, ranging from woodlands and African savanna to true deserts with some of the world’s tallest sand dunes.

-Steeve Buckridge

change, the importance of water resource management and wild life conservation. Students spent several days engaged in service learning as volunteers in a local orphanage where they organized games and spent quality time with the children under the guidance of UNAM social workers. After three weeks of lectures, tours of the capital and its national museums, participating in campus activities and exploring indigenous restaurants, the group departed Windhoek for a two-week camping tour across Namibia with a certified guide and conservation specialist.

One highlight of the program was viewing and learning about wildlife management in Etosha National Park with its spectacular herds of elephants, giraffes, zebras and lions.

Another highlight was a visit to explore the dazzling red sand dunes of Sossusvlei. From there the group returned to the capital to complete journals and assignments, and prepare for the trip home.

In partnership with the Padnos International Center, this faculty-led trip will explore Namibia for a second time in May 2019.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Community Connection

New Office Supports Community Engagement

The Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development officially launched in 2017-2018 to serve as an overseer of current Brooks College programs and a main point of contact for community partners.

The main goal of the office is to link liberal education with professional skills to prepare students for civic, professional and personal lives. College leaders said this is accomplished by supporting and advancing community-engaged teaching, learning and research as well as interdisciplinary initiatives.

“One of the best ways to connect liberal education in the classroom with real-world skills is through community-engaged projects,” said dean Anne Hiskes, who helped develop the office. “The office was created as a way to facilitate and support faculty and students in this field.”

Responsibilities of the office include cultivating community relationships, supporting community-based teaching, overseeing the Innovation Lab, and coordinating credit-bearing opportunities for students, including the partnership with the University of Michigan’s Semester in Detroit program, LEPS certification program and University Study career courses and internships.

“I believe that it’s important to help students gain experiences that intentionally connect their classroom learning to real-world experiences,” said Kristin Moretto, director. “My hope is we will increase the opportunities for students to gain experience in the real world that is connected to their academic learning and future goals.”

Moretto is well-equipped to lead the office with many community engagement experiences. She had served as director of experiential learning in the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida, and assistant director for service-learning at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She also directed the Michigan State University Student Food Bank and worked in the MSU Office of Faculty and Organizational Development. The department is planning new community engagement programming, and a current collaboration to start a Semester in Grand Rapids program is underway.



Kristin Moretto, Director of the Brooks College Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development

“My hope is we will increase the opportunities for students to gain experience in the real world that is connected to their academic learning and future goals.”

— Kristin Moretto

History Roundtable Focuses on Community

With a focus on West Michigan, speakers at the ninth annual Local History Roundtable highlighted a once famous vacation resort for African Americans and how Holland claims its Dutch heritage.

Hosted by the Kutsche Office of Local History, "Returning to Our Roots: Explorations of Western Michigan's Diverse Communities," was held March 29 in the Russel H. Kirkhof Center. Ronald Stephens, professor of interdisciplinary studies at Purdue University, introduced the audience to Idlewild during his keynote address. In the early 1900s, the Lake County community was a thriving resort for middle class and wealthy African Americans. Stephens said developing relationships with other vacationers at Idlewild helped African Americans establish businesses, health care and law offices in their communities.

"Despite the Jim Crow laws of the times, they were able to come together in this unique space through their mobility and change communities," said Stephens, who taught

sociology at Grand Valley and served as coordinator for African/African American Studies from 2003-2005. Stephens is the author of a book about Idlewild as well as co-curator of a traveling photo exhibit on the town, now housed at Michigan State University.

Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English, and a student gave a presentation about how Holland has been reimagined as a Dutch city through language use in signs, souvenirs and menus. Remlinger was the recipient of the Kutsche Office's Community Collaboration Grant and completed an ethnography project on how people create a sense of place and local identity through language. Andrea Riley-Mukavetz, assistant professor of liberal studies, also gave a presentation, "Stories for the Next Generation: An Indigenous Approach to Oral History."



Jo Elyn Clarey, second from left, is the Kutsche Office of Local History's Gordon Olson Award recipient, recognizing her work with the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. With Clarey are, from left, Gordon Olson, Peg Padnos, Robert McArdle and Moana Kutsche.

Fourth Annual Symposium Focuses on Celebrating Diversity

The fourth annual Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Symposium addressed the opportunities and challenges that immigrants and refugees bring to a community.

The November 2 event at the L.V. Eberhard Center was organized by Jack Mangala, the Padnos/Sarosik Endowed Professorship of Civil Discourse. This year's symposium topic coincided with his course, "Immigration: Think Global, Act Local."

Panelists were Mladjo Ivanovic, visiting professor of philosophy at Grand Valley State University, whose research focuses on the forceful displacement and migration of people; Steffanie Rosalez, program director for the Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities, Cook Arts Center, who works with children from immigrant families; and Kristine Van Noord, program manager for Bethany Christian Services' Refugee Adult & Family Programs.

Panelists discussed the ideology behind working within a humanities field. Ivanovic mentioned the issue of the Western world's justification of objectifying refugees. "It's very dangerous to see these people as those without agency, these are people with aspirations," he said. Rosalez said she has worked to avoid the selfish notion that helping people is something that will help her feel better about her work. "I don't feel like my job is to help people, I feel like it's to get to know them and let them get to know me," she said.



Jack Mangala, professor of civil discourse, introduces the fourth annual symposium.



Panelists Steffanie Rosalez, Kristine Van Noord, and Mladjo Ivanovic offer their perspective at the 2017 symposium. Professor Jack Mangala and Alan Headbloom act as moderators.



Shelley Padnos (right) and Carol Sarosik (center) congratulate the Endowed Professor of Civil Discourse Elizabeth Arnold.

New Endowed Professor of Civil Discourse Named

As the next Padnos/Sarosik Professor Endowed Professor of Civil Discourse, Elizabeth Arnold will teach the subject from her discipline of anthropology.

Arnold, associate professor of anthropology, will create and lead a civil discourse class in the Fall 2018 semester and plan a public symposium.

Arnold said she will focus her class around climate change and its human impacts on the environment. She said as an environmental anthropologist, the course will reflect her teaching pedagogy. "It ties to civil discourse as people discuss climate change, sustainability and other related issues, and consider sources of information," Arnold said. "Anthropology has much to contribute to environmental and sustainability discourse," she said. "An increased

awareness of cultural variation as well as an increased appreciation of different cultures can inform us and encourage solutions to environmental concerns."

Anne Hiskes, dean of Brooks College, said the urgency around climate change provides a compelling vision for engaging students. "The timeliness of the topic, combined with Grand Valley's strong reputation and expertise around the environment and sustainability, speak to the long-term potential impact of the new Civil Discourse course and the associated public civil discourse symposium," Hiskes said.

The endowed professorship was a gift to Grand Valley established in 2013 from longtime supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik. More information about civil discourse is posted online at gvsu.edu/civildiscourse.

Teachers are Students During Writing Camps

During the 2017 summer, writing educators led creative and argumentative style writing camps for youth, but first had to attend their own educational program through Michigan's National Writing Program.

K-16 writing instructors from Grand Valley, Grand Rapids Community College and local high schools attended a three-week program at the Grand Rapids Pew Campus to study the teaching of writing. An advanced institute was also held at the Frederik Meijer Honors College on the Allendale Campus. The overnight program was offered to secondary teachers and focused on teaching argumentative writing based on outside sources.

Lindsay Ellis, director of Writing Across the Curriculum and director the Lake Michigan Writing Project, said the goal of the programs is to offer teachers more information about teaching writing to their students and to prepare them to teach K-12 summer writing camps. At those camps, teachers choose a writing theme for the week's duration, such as science fiction or point of view.

Ellis said the program is focused on teaching within teacher education, as well as giving writing educators opportunities to collaborate among themselves.

She said the summer camps are a tool for teachers to offer prompts to students that they may not have the time for during the school year. Ellis is also passionate about student learning during these camps.

"Students learn that writing is fun," she said. "There is a focus on writing as self-expression and the joy of creating something. We want students to be able to experience that without it having to be graded. My own daughter, who is 8, participated in one of the camps this year so it was fun to get to experience it as a parent as well as a director."

All of the summer writing camps end with a showcase of students reading to an audience of their parents. The camps are divided by grade level and they are taught by both writing teachers and interns.



Lindsay Ellis works with teachers during the Summer Institute.

"Students learn that writing is fun. There is a focus on writing as self-expression and the joy of creating something. We want students to be able to experience that without it having to be graded."

-Lindsay Ellis

Homecoming Event Draws Students, Alumni

The first annual Brooks College Distinguished Alumni Panel and Reception was held on October 26. Four Brooks College alumni, selected by their programs or departments, returned to campus to encourage and advise current students, affirm the positive impact of Brooks College faculty, staff, and programs on their lives and describe the relevance of their interdisciplinary education to their chosen professions. The four alumni selected were Adriana Almanza, Ross Argir, Mark Wilson, and Kirsten Zeiter.

Adriana Almanza, '10 (Latin American studies and international relations), has worked at the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, taught ESL courses to migrant farm workers and participated in the Americorps program. After

earning a master's degree in education at GVSU, Almanza is back at Grand Valley as assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Ross Argir, '14 (religious studies and history), had just received his J.D. degree from Cornell University Law School when he returned as a distinguished alumnus. At the time, he was looking forward to beginning a position as the staff attorney for the Pine Tree Legal Services' field office in Machias, Maine. A primary focus of his position will be enforcing the civil rights of residents of the Passamaquoddy Indian Reservation.

Mark Wilson, '14 (liberal studies), is a councilman on the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Tribal Council. Wilson chairs the Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources and Environmental Committee and serves on the board of trustees for the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust. In 2014, he was named by the Traverse City Business News as one of the most influential persons under the age of

40 in the area. He also holds a master's of Public Administration degree.

Kirsten Zeiter, '11 (women, gender, and sexuality studies and political science), served in the Peace Corps in Morocco after graduating from GVSU, later earning a MA from Tuft University's distinguished Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy where she also organized the School's first annual conference on Gender and International Affairs. She is now a program officer for Gender, Monitoring, and Evaluation in the Gender, Women, and Democracy team at the National Democratic Institute.

Jen Jameslyn, director of the Office of Integrative Learning and Advising, facilitated a 60-minute discussion with the panelists, including a question and answer time with the audience. The event was held at the Alumni House and also included a resource fair and time for networking.



Alumni panlists from left to right: Adriana Alamana, Mark Wilson, Kirsten Zeiter and Ross Argir.

Kutsche Office Earns NEH Grant for Oral History Project in Saugatuck

The Kutsche Office of Local History received a \$12,000 Common Heritage grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support a project documenting the history of summers in the Saugatuck-Douglas area in the mid-20th century.

Kimberly McKee, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said the project is a collaboration with the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center. The project, “Stories of Summer,” involves capturing oral histories and digitizing photographs, newspaper articles and other materials from the era.

McKee said while the area’s logging, agriculture and maritime industries are well-documented, there is a marked absence of the LGBT experience within the two communities.

Working with the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, Kutsche Office staff members conducted two history harvests at the center’s Old School House in Douglas on June 2 and July 21. Staff members from Grand Valley’s University Libraries will preserve the materials for archival purposes. Eventually, copies of oral histories and collected materials will be kept at the History Center, and on an online database.



Photo courtesy of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center.

Since it was established in 2008, the Kutsche Office of Local History has conducted multiple oral history collections of diverse populations. These oral histories include voices from Hispanic and Asian Pacific families in Holland, Native Americans in West Michigan, and families who have lived and worked in Oceana County.

Partnership with Boggs Center Continues to Benefit Students Across the University

“Learning from Detroit: Education and Revitalization” is a general education class cross-listed in Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and the College of Education. Students have the opportunity to study at the James and Grace Lee Boggs Center in Detroit for two days.

Lisa Perhamus, associate professor of education, is a fellow at the center and said students in the class gain so much from their brief visit to Detroit. “Each year differs as to what we do,” said Perhamus. “This year we talked about police brutality and how it affects people of Detroit. But the whole idea is that we go to Detroit to learn from these people. We’re not going there to help.”

She said the Boggs Center helps Grand Valley students understand issues facing the city and its schools and how neighbors use civil discourse in the decision-making process. The course fits well into the Brooks College curriculum, she said.

“By understanding the value of civil discourse,” Perhamus said, “students know we’re not going into the communities we partner with as experts, but with a listening ear. Whatever agenda the community has set for itself, Brooks College — and the University — does a good job of respecting it and helping them as the public sees fit.”

In upcoming years, Perhamus said she is excited to see this particular partnership grow. “My dream would be to someday have a mini-Boggs Center on campus,” she said. “We could have monthly dialogues and interest students in social justice work. Learning about this work and having mentors in it is what interdisciplinary education is all about.”

ALUMNI AND STUDENT SUCCESSSES





Four Grand Valley students were selected to the University Innovation Fellows program at Stanford University.

GVSU Students Selected as Stanford University Innovation Fellows

Four Grand Valley students were selected to the University Innovation Fellows program at Stanford University, where they worked with students from other universities, faculty and administrators to create new learning opportunities.

All four of the students were part of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, including two students from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and two from the Seidman College of Business. The students were:

- **Meredith Filter**, comprehensive science and art for teaching major
- **Dean Geschiere**, finance and entrepreneurship major
- **Haley Jennings**, general management and entrepreneurship major
- **Madalyn Slubowski**, biology major

The students traveled with Paul Lane, professor of marketing, and Kathryn Christopher, visiting professor of engineering and current University Innovation Fellow, to Palo Alto, California, for a four-day meeting with hundreds of other fellows. The group spent time visiting Google, Microsoft and other innovative companies in the area.

The fellowship program encourages students to work with faculty and administration to create chances for students at their schools to engage with innovation, entrepreneurship, design thinking and creativity.

Brooks College Alumni Volunteer at Local Organization for 2nd Consecutive Year

On March 18, Brooks College alumni and friends of the College came together to volunteer at the Grand Rapids Kids' Food Basket as part of GVSU's Community Outreach Week. This was the second consecutive year the College partnered with the organization, which began from a connection from Brooks College alumna, Brandy Arnold, the previous youth and inclusion specialist.

Each weekday, nearly 7,500 sack suppers are funded, packed and delivered to local children at their schools by more than 250 volunteers at the Kid's Food Basket.



Brooks College alumni and friends of the college volunteer at the Kids' Food Basket.

Student Achievements

Daniel Arnold, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar of Summer 2018 to study abroad in Ukraine.

Shukri Bana, women and gender, and sexuality studies, was a recipient of the 2017-2018 Fulbright to study in South Africa.

Nicklas Bara, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar of Summer 2018 to study abroad in Madagascar.

Christy Bectel, German, Middle East studies minor, was a recipient of the 2017-2018 Fulbright to study in Germany.

Clara Bernal, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar of Summer 2018 to study abroad in Ghana.

AJ Carter, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar of Summer 2018 to study abroad in Ghana.

Sarah Cullip, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was recognized by the German-American Fulbright Commission and Pädagogischer Austauschdienst as a Fulbright mentor. Cullip was also offered a placement with United World College in the Netherlands.

Michael Dykstra, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, has been awarded a Research/Study US Student Program Fulbright to Botswana. He also received an International Clinical Research Fellowship from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Harvard Medical School and Sinclair Kennedy Fellowship from Harvard Graduate School to support mentored clinical research abroad. Michael will spend the 2018-19 academic year developing a point of care diagnostic for lymphoma.

Cullin Flynn, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, received the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Fellowship to study at Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen, Germany.

Shelly Greendyk, Middle East studies minor, was a Boren Scholar for the Fall 2017 to Jordan.

Ashley Godin, human rights minor, was a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar of Fall 2017 to study abroad in Morocco with the Critical Need Language Enhancement Award.

Sophia Hall, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was a Boren Scholar alternate for Spring 2019 to Israel.

Britlynn Hastings, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was the recipient of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) and Princeton in Asia Fellow (2016-2018) to study abroad in Osaka Prefecture, Japan. Hastings was also selected as an EPIK Program fellow to teach English in South Korea.

Bethany Mazurek, East Asian studies minor, received the Critical Language Scholarship for Summer 2018 to study Korean on the American Councils program in Busan.

Leigh Anne Menard, religious studies and Middle East studies, was a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar of Summer 2018 to study abroad in the UAE and Oman.

Thuy-Thuong Nguyen, human rights minor and environmental studies, was named GVSU's inaugural Doris Duke Conservation Scholar. The Duke Scholars program provides two years of fully funded summer research, a scholarship stipend to support tuition, structured graduate school preparation, professional development and mentoring.

Jenna Pewarchie, digital studies minor, designed the flier to promote the grand opening of the Innovation Lab on April 12, 2018.

Jaylene Sala, Latin American and Latino/a studies, was a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar of Summer 2018 to study abroad in Spain.

Stephanie Tanis, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, received a scholarship from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), the preeminent German funding body, to support graduate study. DAAD support, together with funding from Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel, will support her studies and research towards a two-year M.Sc. in Molecular Biology and Evolution program jointly administered by Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel and the Max-Planck-Institute (MPI) of Evolutionary Biology in Plön during 2017-2019.

Shannon Theis, Latin American and Latino/a studies, was a recipient of the 2017-2018 Fulbright to study in Spain.

Carla Villasana-Acosta, Latin American and Latino/a studies minor, was awarded the Breen Prize from the History Department for her paper, "The Opponent and the Accomplice: The Role of the Catholic Church in Chile and Argentina During the Dirty Wars."

Bailey Webb, Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar of Summer 2018 to study abroad in Ghana.

Skylar Wolfe, a double major of psychology and women, gender, and sexuality studies, received the Thomas M. Seykora Award for Outstanding Contribution. This award is given to seniors who have made significant and outstanding contributions to the campus community at Grand Valley. Wolfe also received an Outstanding Student Award from the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department.

Meijer Honors College Awards

The Frederik Meijer Honors College presented students with a number of senior project awards at the April 2018 Meijer Honors College awards ceremony:

- Outstanding Senior: **Micaela Cole**, "CTRL + ALT + Retreat: Comparing Europe and the United States on the Right to Privacy in the Digital Age"
- Outstanding Senior Project: **Amber Modena** "The Model Arab League Toolkit," and **Jenna Tefend**, "College Without Caffeine?"
- Outstanding Senior Thesis: **Courtney Ingles**, "Clinical Exercise Science," and **Estefany Paniagua-Pardo**, "New York Times and Wall Street Journal's Coverage of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): A Content Analysis."
- Outstanding Creative Achievement: **Samantha Nicole Koch** and **Ross Kunzi**, "Using Superconductivity and Electromagnetism for Physics Outreach and Education"
- Excellence in Collaborative Research: **Grace Peterson**, "Potential for DMP 543, A Potassium Channel Blocker, to Increase Acetylcholine Release and Provide Neuroprotective Effects for Retinal Ganglion Cells in Glaucoma."
- Outstanding Leadership and Service: **Annie Livingston**, "Do You Want to Know a Secret? An Essay, Manifesto, and Collection of Poems."
- Outstanding Civic Engagement Project: **Kylie Klunder** and **Emily Burgess**

Multiple writing consultants from the **Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors** presented at conferences throughout the academic year.

2017 Michigan Writing Centers Association, Oakland University, Rochester, MI (October 21)

- **Megan Bowers** - "Avoiding Ethnocentrism within the Writing Center"
- **Christine Kovacs, Maria McKee, Haley Jennings, Anna-Leigh Roberts** - "Rise of the Computerized Grading Systems: The Possibility and Consequences of a World Without Human Tutors"
- **Anna-Leigh Roberts, Danielle Zukowski** - "Learning Disabilities and the Writing Center"

2017 The National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing, Hofstra University (October 12-15)

- **Samuel Bloom** - "Navigating Disagreement: The Discussion on Contempt and the Importance of Active Listening"
- **Meredith Szerlag** - "Innovating the Written Word: Creating Online Writing Support Groups for Grand Valley State University Students"
- **Annabelle Miller** - "Sexism, Customer Service, and Trauma Dynamics in the Writing Center"

2018 East Central Writing Centers Association, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (March 23-25)

- **Lucas Escalada, Meghan Forest, and Meredith Szerlag**, "At Your Service! Customer Service and Writing Center Practice"
- **Sam Bloom**, "Navigating Disagreement - The Importance of Active Listening in Cases of Contempt"

The **Glenn A. Niemeyer Awards**, named for the first provost of Grand Valley, honor faculty and students who strive for excellence in all aspects of a well-rounded academic experience. Two Frederik Meijers Honors College students, **Morgan Oneka**, a mathematics and computer science double major, and **Rachel Travis**, a supply chain management and marketing double major, received this prestigious award for demonstrating excellence in both the classroom and extra-curricular activities.

The Nichols Sustainability Scholarship was created in 2006 to reward students who commit to making a difference when it comes to environmental, social, and fiscal responsibility. The 2018 recipients are **Leah Anderson, Michael Hinkle, Lyndsey Schab, and Holly Tumbarello**.

The **Dave Feenstra Scholarship's** purpose is to honor Feenstra's legacy by providing financial support for a "lead intern" at the Sustainable Agriculture Project who exemplifies Feenstra's natural leadership and mentorship skills. **Michael Hinkle**, a natural resources management major, was awarded the Dave Feenstra Scholarship for 2018.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATE



Faculty and Staff Update

Retirements



Sheldon Kopperl came to Grand Valley in 1970 and held a variety of roles over his 47 years of service to the institution. Upon his retirement in Fall 2017, Kopperl was jointly appointed in Biomedical Sciences and Liberal Studies. Always the epitome of an interdisciplinary scholar, he made professional contributions in chemistry, health, history of science, and

religious studies through peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations. Kopperl touched thousands of students during his career, from teaching courses and mentoring individual student projects to developing curriculum. His most notable curricular innovations were in the Frederik Meijer Honors College, where he developed the History of Science sequence, and in Liberal Studies department, where his work was instrumental in establishing and growing the Religious Studies program. Due to his remarkable and broad contributions, Kopperl was granted professor emeritus status in both Biomedical Sciences and Liberal Studies.



Stanley Krohmer began his teaching career at Grand Valley in 1996, and four years later became an Affiliate Professor of Liberal Studies. He remained in that role for 17 years, teaching across the Liberal Studies curriculum. An active artist and photographer, Krohmer's work was featured in numerous internal and external exhibitions throughout his years of

service. Upon Krohmer's retirement, the Liberal Studies faculty established a student award in his honor.

Faculty Awards and Honors



Ellen Adams, assistant professor of art history, Meijer Honors College, received the Pew Teaching Excellence Award. This award honors faculty members who demonstrate teaching excellence through multiple measures, such as: using a variety of pedagogical methods in their teaching and evaluation, having a significant impact on students,

and continually improving their teaching practice through thoughtful reflection on student learning. As an art historian, Adams teaches her students to first look deeply at art, and to then to locate their observations within the contexts of history and culture. She engages her students in both "Reacting to the Past" role-playing using primary sources and "Reacting to the Present" online discussions based on New York Times articles. One of her peers describes Ellen's student-centered approach to teaching as "setting the stage for life-long learning."



Azfar Hussain, associate professor of liberal studies, received the University Outstanding Teacher Award. This award honors one faculty member each year who exemplifies outstanding teaching by stimulating intellectual curiosity in students and demonstrating deep commitment to student learning while upholding high academic

standards. Hussain came to Grand Valley in 2009; he teaches courses across the Liberal Studies curriculum and supervised numerous independent studies. Prior to that, he had extensive teaching experience at various institutions in Bangladesh and the United States (including his alma mater, Washington State University). His student-centered, integrated approach to teaching is informed by his interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary scholarship, and his experience as a poet also shines through. In his own words: "Teaching - like love - transforms life.....teaching involves the joy of learning and living in such a way that both the student and the teacher transform themselves into life-long lovers of learning, as they also transform themselves into engaged and equipped human beings alive to the challenges of a changing globalized world."



Sheldon Kopperl, professor of biomedical sciences and liberal studies, received the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award. This award honors exceptionally well-rounded individuals who demonstrate excellence in all aspects of academic life. Faculty selected for the Niemeyer Award are recognized for their excellence in and devotion to teaching,

scholarship and service. Kopperl came to GVSU in 1970, after receiving a joint PhD in Chemistry and the History of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For 47 years, Kopperl has modeled and inspired the love of learning as teacher, mentor, and advisor for thousands of students in his classes and scores of students through independent projects. His scholarly work spans diverse and interdisciplinary areas, integrating his knowledge and interest in health care, chemistry, history of science, religion and art. He has shaped numerous academic programs, such as Honors and Religious Studies, and has served in an advisory capacity to myriad organizations such as the Kaufman Interfaith Institute and the student organization Hillel. His previous honors include CLAS Lifetime Service Award (2006) and the Student Senate's Last Lecture (in 2011).



Danielle Lake, assistant professor of liberal studies, received the John Saltmarsh Award for Emerging Leaders in Civic Engagement from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Lake was nominated for the award by Jessica Jennrich, director of the Gayle R. Davis Center for Women & Gender Equity, who said Lake has “an

uncanny skill to link civic projects to tangible outcomes for both students and the community.” Lake has designed and taught Community Based Learning courses on food security issues and wicked problems, and hosted learning communities on engagement for faculty members. Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College, said Lake has been a champion in helping students apply what they have learned in their liberal education classes to their work in the community, and creating awareness among colleagues

about the positive impact community-based teaching has on student learning. Lake also received the Outstanding Pecha Kucha Presentation award for “Catalyzing Deep, Pervasive, and Integrated Service-Learning/Community Engagement: Findings From Across Institutional Engaged Department Initiative” at the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement Conference.



Kimberly McKee, assistant professor of liberal studies and director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, received the CSCE Distinguished Early-Career Scholar Award. This award honors a faculty member who - within six years of beginning their scholarly activities - demonstrates mastery in their field & significant potential for continued success, and has

achieved national recognition for their achievements. McKee completed her PhD at the Ohio University in Women, Gender and Sexuality studies in 2013, and in the four intervening years, she has garnered a national reputation as a rising scholar in transnational adoption. Her work integrates and cuts across the interdisciplinary fields of Adoption Studies, Asian American Studies, and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and also engages Cultural Studies and American Studies. McKee has published numerous scholarly articles and book chapters, and her forthcoming book, *Disrupting Kinship: Transnational Politics of Korean Adoption in the United States*, is part of the Asian American Experience Series of the University of Illinois Press. McKee has also given numerous local and national radio interviews. She currently serves as the Director of the Kutsche Center for Local History.



Justin Pettibone, affiliate faculty of liberal studies, earned the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Council for Accelerated Programs at its conference in Denver in July. Pettibone teaches courses in the Accelerated Liberal Studies Leadership program, which allows participants with earned college credits to complete a bachelor's degree within 19 months.

Anne Hiskes, dean of Brooks College, said the innovative program helps create educational access for nontraditional learners. Faculty members involved in the program are also innovative, she said. "Students take one class every week, so it's a big commitment from faculty to teach effectively, while focusing on leadership development," Hiskes said. "It very fitting that Justin be recognized for his teaching; he is a selfless person and contributes to the core faculty as an affiliate."



Judy Whipps, professor of liberal studies, received the Outstanding Advising and Student Services Award. Whipps is known across the university for her advocacy for life-long liberal learning, and thousands of students have been impacted by her work. She was instrumental in the creation of the Liberal Studies Department, as well as the Liberal Studies programs in Traverse

City, Holland, and Muskegon. She has personally advised hundreds of students in a variety of career paths, and she worked with the Center for Adult and Continuing Education to create the Accelerated Leadership Program, resulting three years ago in more accessible and relevant pathways for adult learners to complete their degrees. She also devotes time and energy to a variety of university student service initiatives such as McNair Scholars and Awards of Distinction. Her previous honors include the Distinguished Community Engagement Initiative Award (2017) and the Barbara Jordan Award (2003).

Major Accomplishments and Publications

Craig Benjamin, professor of history in the Frederik Meijer Honors College, wrote the book *Empires of Ancient Eurasia: The First Silk Roads Era, 100 BCE - 250 CE*, published by Cambridge University Press, and the chapter, "The Yuezhi," in the book, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*, published by Oxford University Press. Benjamin also gave a presentation titled, "A Little Big History of E.E. Benjamin and the Great War," at the Globalistics Conference held at Moscow State University, Russia.

Jeremiah Cataldo, associate professor in the Frederik Meijer Honors College, wrote the book *A Social-Political History of Monotheism: From Judah to the Byzantines*, published by Routledge, and two chapters titled, "How Torah, Sedaqa, and Prejudice Mapped the Contours of Biblical Restoration," in the book, *Sedaqa and Torah in Postexilic Discourse*, published by Bloomsbury.

Coeli Fitzpatrick, chair of the Frederik Meijer Honors College and professor of philosophy in honors, wrote an article, "Countering Islamophobia in the Classroom: Averroes as Antidote," which was published in *The Once and Future Classroom: Resources for Teaching the Middle Ages*.

Gamal Gasim, associate professor of area and global studies, wrote two articles, "Yemen: Is Saleh's alliance with the Houthis Breakable?" published in *AlJazeera*, and "The 40-Year-Old Assassination Mystery of Yemen's President Al-Hamdi," published in the *Huffington Post*.

Abhishek Ghosh, assistant professor of liberal studies, and religious studies, wrote an article, "Envision a Spiritual Lineage," published in the *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*.

Laurence José, director of digital studies and associate professor of writing, gave a presentation, "The Interface Between the Learned and the Lived: Changing Perspective to Unflatten Meanings," at the *Computers and Writing* conference in Fairfax, VA.

Cáel Keegan, assistant professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies and liberal studies, wrote a chapter, "Nothing to Hide: Selfies, Sex, and the Visibility Dilemma in Trans Male Online Cultures," for the book *Sex in the Digital Age*, published by Routledge.

Jack Mangala, professor of area and global studies, and political science, wrote a book, *Africa and its Global Diaspora: The Policy and Politics of Emigration*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer, was a co-author of an article, "Developing Culturally Competent Colleagues: How One University Trains for Success in Diverse Organizations," published in *Organization Development Journal*.

Brent Smith, assistant professor of liberal studies and religious studies, wrote a chapter, "Can't I Just Learn about Religion in my Church, Mosque, or Temple?" for a book, *Religion in Five Minutes*, published by Equinox Publishing.

Jane Toot, professor of physical therapy in the Frederik Meijer Honors, was appointed chair of governance for Emmanuel Hospice in Grand Rapids. Jane continues to serve as vice-chair of the board of trustees.

Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology and faculty-in-residence in the Frederik Meijer Honors College, was invited to Lansing to present to members of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services on radon risk mapping research.

Karen Zivi, associate professor of political science in the Frederik Meijer Honors College, gave a presentation, "Claiming the Right to Human Dignity: Menstruation, Activism, and Embodied Vulnerability," at the American Political Science Association. Zivi was named chair of the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan and an editor at *Contemporary Political Theory*, an international peer-reviewed journal of political theory and philosophy, published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Honors and Awards

Jae Basiliere, assistant professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies, won the Paul E. Buchanan Award for Excellence in Field Work, Interpretation, and Public Service from the Vernacular Architecture Forum.

Krista Benson, assistant professor of liberal studies and digital studies, received a scholarship from the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center to attend the 2018 Digital Humanities Summer Institute.

Stanley Krohmer, senior affiliate faculty of liberal studies, had two of his abstract oil paintings, "Easter, 1957," and "Red Admiral," selected for the 97th Regional Art Exhibition at the Muskegon Museum of Art.

Grand Rapids Latin American Film Festival (GRLAFF), which is co-sponsored by the **Latin American and Latino/a Studies Department**, received the Judge's Choice award for Outstanding Art Event at the local Grandy's Event Award Show.

Santos Ramos, assistant professor of liberal studies, received the Virginia Hamilton Essay Award at the Virginia Hamilton Conference for Multicultural Literature for Youth.

Lois Smith Owens, program coordinator for the intercultural training certificate, was awarded the Doris Rucks Trailblazer Award from the Positive Black Women, a campus organization that aims to provide support for women of color at GVSU through building relationships, professional development, and a collaborative effort toward community enrichment.

The **Office of Sustainability Practices** was recognized as "Certified Healthy" by the Grand Valley's Health and Wellness team. The department met criteria for creating a healthy office culture by participating in programs and using available resources.

Grants

Karen Gipson, interim associate dean of Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, received a Public Outreach Grant from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium.

Marina Kaneti, assistant professor of area and global studies, received the catalyst grant for "Re(b)ordering the World: Memories and Geopolitics of the New Silk Road" from the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. Kaneti also won a \$15,000 grant from the Ford Foundation/India China Institute.

Danielle Lake, assistant professor of liberal studies, and **Judy Whipps**, professor of liberal studies, received a grant from University Libraries and the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence for "Design Thinking Accelerated Leadership: Transforming Self, Transforming Community." Lake also received a Research and Writing grant from Michigan Campus Compact.

Leifa Mayers, assistant professor in women, gender, and sexuality studies, received the catalyst grant for "Experiences of First-Generation Undergraduate Students: Borrowing, Debt, and Risk," from the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, chair of liberal studies, and **Andrew Schlewitz**, professor of Latin American and Latino/a studies, with the support of other faculty members received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for "Growing Community: A Century of Migration in Oceana County."

New Faculty and Staff Members



Krista Benson joined the Liberal Studies department as an assistant professor. Prior to coming to GVSU, Benson's doctoral research at Ohio State University focused on the impact of involuntary child removal and transcultural adoption. Benson's teaching at GVSU has focused on diversity in the United States and LGBTQ identities, and they plan to expand to teaching additional courses with a diversity focus. Their prior teaching experience includes courses in women studies and queer theory.



Nicole Brower began a new role as office assistant in the Brooks College Dean's Office. In this capacity, Brower's primary responsibilities are to assist the associate dean, support the Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Initiative, plan college events, and supervise student employees in the Brooks College Dean's Office. She earned her bachelor's degree from GVSU in Liberal Studies in 2015 and previously served as the office coordinator for the Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development.



Aubrey Dull was hired as the office coordinator for the Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development. In this role, Dull supports the LEPS certificate and university studies courses, as well as emerging programs, such as the human rights and digital studies minors and the Semester in Detroit program. Dull earned her master's in social work from GVSU and previously worked as a graduate assistant in the Women's Center and a research coordinator in the Johnson Center. She also worked in the social work field for several years before returning to GVSU.



Coeli Fitzpatrick took on a new role as unit head of the Honors College, where she has been a faculty member since 2012. In this capacity, Fitzpatrick leads the Honors College faculty and is responsible for personnel, scheduling, and various other duties. Fitzpatrick came to GVSU in 2002; her original academic home was in the philosophy department, and she moved over to the Honors College 10 years later. She is a scholar of Islamic philosophy and contemporary global issues, and her teaching - both within the Honors College and in courses for the general GVSU student population - spans Middle Eastern studies, philosophy, and global studies.



Roger Gilles served as interim director of the Honors College. In this capacity, Gilles serves as the external face of the Honors College and coordinates the student experience. He collaborates with the unit head of Honors to establish a shared vision, revise curriculum, and plan Honors events, and he works with Admissions on recruiting and retention strategies. Gilles came to GVSU in 1992 and has much prior leadership experience, having previously served as unit head of the English and writing departments and chair of the university general education committee and faculty personnel policy committee. He has taught extensively in writing and in English.



Karen Gipson served as interim associate dean of Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. Gipson came to GVSU in 1999, and her past leadership experiences include unit head of the physics department, interim assistant dean for curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and chair of the executive committee of the university academic senate. She has taught courses in Liberal Studies and in Honors and developed several interdisciplinary courses, conducted interdisciplinary research with students, and performed extensive service work aimed at addressing social inequity and injustice.



Irina Grougan was hired as the office manager for the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies on the Traverse City campus. Grougan supports the faculty in programs offered in northern Michigan, including Liberal Studies, Allied Health Sciences, Educational Leadership, Social Work and more. Previously, Grougan managed the advising Center at Northwestern

Michigan College.



Ehren Kuzekov was hired as the Coordinator of Study Abroad and International Partnerships in the Padnos International Center. Born and raised in West Michigan, Kuzekov studied abroad in Australia as an undergraduate, and served in the Peace Corp in Kazakhstan, where she learned to speak Russian and met her husband. Kuzekov previously worked in Western Illinois

University's Office of Study Abroad and Outreach.



Laurence José served as inaugural director of the new digital studies minor. José is an associate professor in the writing department with expertise in international technical communication, rhetoric, literacy theory, linguistics and pragmatics. She came to GVSU in 2010, and her previous leadership experience includes serving as interim director of the first year writing program.

José teaches digital studies courses, as well as writing courses with a particular focus on professional and business writing and document design and production.



Marina Kaneti joined the Area and Global Studies program as an assistant professor of global studies and social impact. Prior to coming to GVSU, Kaneti conducted research in global politics and political theory with focus on migration, economic development, democracy social justice, with regional specializations in Asia and the European Union. Kaneti taught courses in global

studies and social impact during 2017-18 academic year, after which she left GVSU to accept a research position at the National University of Singapore.

University Service Awards

The following faculty and staff were recognized by Grand Valley for hitting milestone years of service to the university:

25 YEARS

Roger Gilles

Frederik Meijer Honors College and Writing

Kelly Parker

Environmental Studies and Philosophy

10 YEARS

Lindsay Ellis

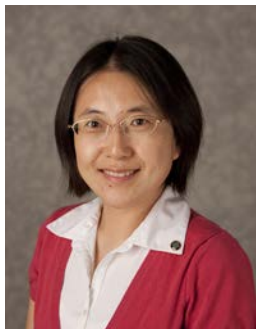
English, Lake Michigan Writing Project, and Supplemental Writing Skills

Elena Selezneva

Padnos International Center

Sue Spears

Lake Michigan Writing Project and Supplemental Writing Skills



Yan Liang served as coordinator of the East Asian studies program. Liang joined GVSU in 2009 with a joint appointment between modern languages and literatures, East Asian studies, and Chinese studies. She has taught courses in both Chinese language and Chinese culture, as well as courses in East Asian Studies and integrated courses in the Honors College. Her

current research focuses on the depiction of food in East Asian literature, and she is collaborating to develop a new course on East Asian Food Cultures.



Sebastian Maisel served as coordinator of Middle East studies program. Maisel joined GVSU in 2005 with a joint appointment between Modern Languages and Literatures and Middle East studies and has taught courses in Arabic and Middle East Studies. He is a prolific scholar, having conducted research throughout the Middle East including Oman, Saudi

Arabia, and Iraq. Maisel left GVSU at the end of the 2017-18 academic year to accept a position at his alma mater, Leipzig University in Germany.



Kristen Moretto joined GVSU in September 2017 as the inaugural director of the Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development within Brooks College. Moretto's prior leadership experience includes serving as the director of experiential learning at the University of South Florida and assistant director for service

learning at the University of South Carolina, subsequent to earning her Ph.D. in higher education from Michigan State University in 2011. Her teaching experience includes service-learning and leadership development courses.



Aldea Mulhem served as a visiting assistant professor in the Liberal Studies department for the 2017-18 academic year, where she taught courses in Religious Studies and Liberal Studies. Prior to coming to GVSU, Mulhem conducted research at the intersection of religious studies and food studies. Following her visiting appointment at GVSU, Mulhem accepted a permanent

position at California State University in Fresno.

Bjorn Peterson served as a visiting assistant professor in the Liberal Studies department during Fall 2017, where he taught Environmental Studies courses and Liberal Studies courses.



Andrea Riley-Mukavetz joined the Liberal Studies department as an assistant professor. Riley-Mukavetz has expertise in indigenous rhetorics and cultural rhetorics; prior to coming to GVSU, she taught writing and rhetoric at Bowling Green State University, where she chaired several thesis and dissertation committees. At GVSU, Riley-Mukavetz infuses the value of

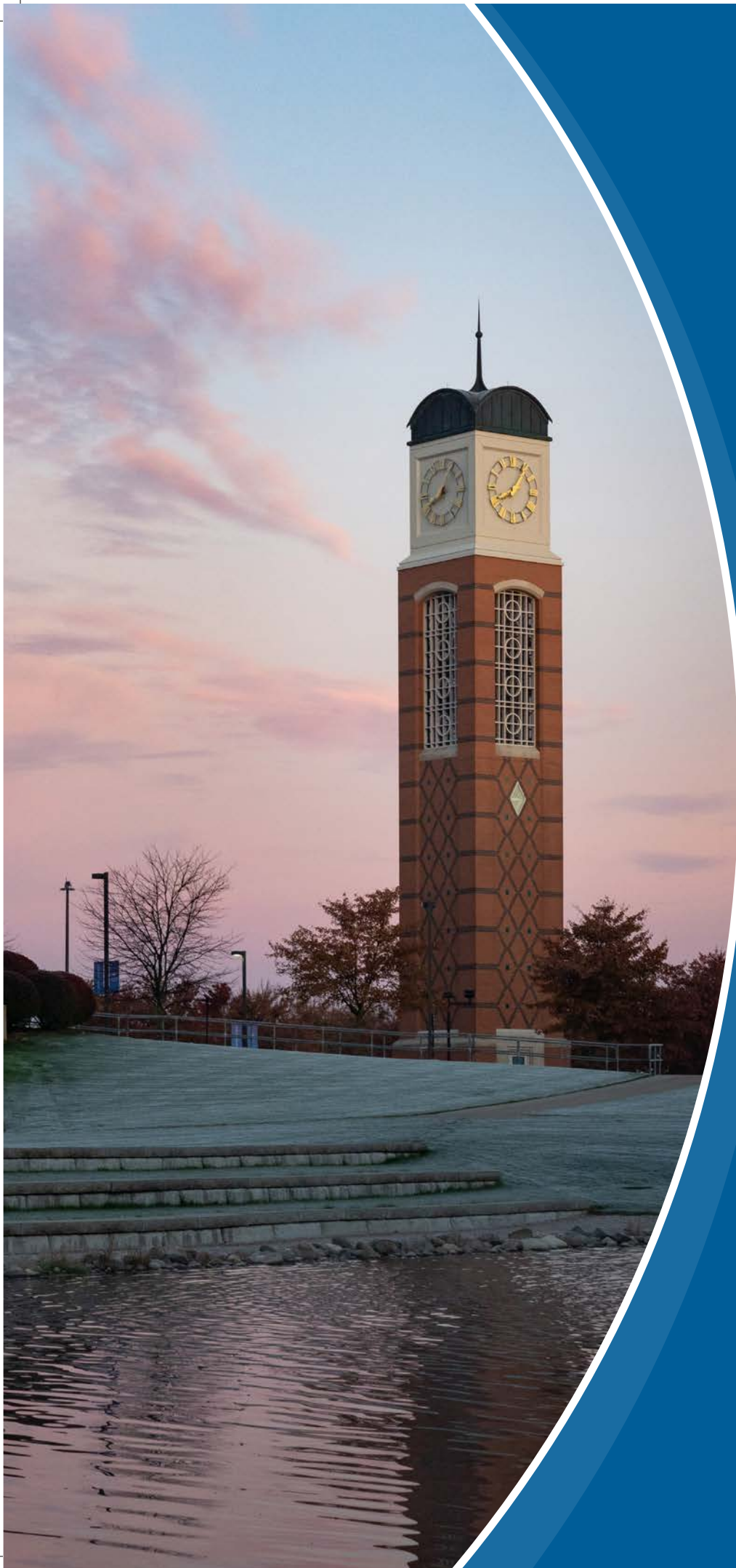
narrative into both her teaching and her scholarly activities. Her work has included feminist storytelling practices and collecting oral histories of women of the Lansing Odawa people.



Brent Smith took on a new role as director of the Religious Studies program within the Liberal Studies department. Smith joined the Liberal Studies department at GVSU in 2010, where his emphasis has been on teaching religious studies courses and championing the Religious Studies program through a variety of means. As an ordained minister, he brings a unique

perspective to the academic study of religious experience; his current focus is examining the interdisciplinary nature of religious studies' methodology as an area of academic inquiry.

LEADERSHIP 2017-2018



Leadership 2017-2018

Anne L. Hiskes, Dean

Karen Gipson, Interim Associate Dean

Noreen Savage, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Dean

Nicole Brower, Office Assistant, Office of the Dean

Craig Benjamin, Director, International Big History Association

Steeve Buckridge, Director, Area and Global Studies

Norman Christopher, Executive Director, Office of Sustainability Practices

Danielle DeMuth, Chair, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Lindsay Ellis, Director, Lake Michigan Writing Project and Director, Writing Across the Curriculum and Faculty Writing Support

Coeli Fitzpatrick, Chair of the Frederik Meijer Honors College

Roger Gilles, Director, Frederik Meijer Honors College

Carol Griffin, Director, General Education

Richard Hiskes, Director, Human Rights

Jennifer Jameslyn, Director, Office of Integrative Learning and Advising

Patrick Johnson, Director, Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors

Simone Jonaitis, Executive Director, Center for Adult and Continuing Studies

Laurence José, Digital Studies

Kimberly McKee, Director, Kutsche Office of Local History

Kristin Moretto, Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development

Kelly Parker, Director, Environmental Studies

Mark Schaub, University Chief International Officer and Director, Barbara and Stuart Padnos International Center

Melanie Shell-Weiss, Chair, Liberal Studies

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