

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Mantella introduces strategy for GVSU's future

President Philomena V. Mantella identified an engagement strategy designed to set the course for the future of Grand Valley.

Mantella outlined the Reach Higher Together plan during the November 1 Board of Trustees meeting held at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Health Campus in downtown Grand Rapids.

Mantella reported hundreds of people took part in "Grand Huddles" held across campus since September to share their ideas for the future. She said more than 1,200 comments were received from an online survey and another 1,000 comments came from notes and text comments. The Huddles are currently scheduled through the beginning of 2020.

"It has been incredibly gratifying to see the engagement of our campus community and the willingness to work together in new ways to create our Grand Future," Mantella said.

The Reach Higher Together imperatives Mantella shared with the board are:

- Expand high-impact learning opportunities;



Photos by Valerie Wojciechowski

President Philomena V. Mantella makes remarks at the Board of Trustees meeting November 1.

- Increase the ability to meet the needs of diverse learners;
- Provide quality, flexibility and efficient ways to serve students throughout their lifetime;
- Experiment and create new partnerships and funding avenues that shape the best educational experience for a diverse group of learners;
- Build upon Grand Valley's history and reputation for offering a high-touch approach



From left to right are Shorouq Almallah, Alisha Davis, Aaron Lowen and Felix Ngassa.

with high-tech opportunities to widen access to programs and faculty.

Mantella invited faculty and staff members to give updates on activities currently underway.

Jonathan Engelsma, professor of computer and information systems, said five new micro-credentials in computer-related fields are being

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Sixth climate survey will open on November 14

Grand Valley's sixth campus climate survey will be conducted November 14-24 and organizers hope for a participation rate of 100 percent.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said more participation from students, faculty and staff members plays an important role in creating a welcoming and inclusive campus for everyone.

"This survey presents a snapshot of what it's like to live, learn and work at Grand Valley," Bernal said. "Results from the survey help support the goal of providing an environment that attracts, retains and supports a diverse community."

The past five climate surveys have resulted in tangible, positive changes for Grand Valley. These changes include adding lighting around campus, increasing the numbers of international students and faculty members, and establishing the position of a student ombuds.

Takeelia Garrett was named the university's first student ombuds in 2015. In that position,



Garrett helps students resolve conflicts and makes referrals to campus services when necessary. During the 2018-2019 academic year, Garrett worked directly with 196 students.

The campus climate survey will take participants about 10-15 minutes to complete. Students, faculty and staff members will receive an email with a link to the online, anonymous survey on November 14.

People who complete the survey can choose to be entered into a drawing for awards of \$1,000-2,000 to use for professional development. More information is online at gvsu.edu/mygvsu.

More than 40 percent of the campus community responded to the 2015 survey. Results showed that 87 percent of all respondents were "comfortable" or "very comfortable" with the overall campus climate.

Facilities Services offers energy savings tips

A 20-year collaborative effort to control and reduce energy costs at the university has led to \$2.5 million in energy savings annually for the university.

One factor in the initiative was a change in heating and cooling settings in university facilities — a minimum of 68 degrees in the winter and a maximum of 76 degrees in the summer, a practice consistent with other universities.

"With everyone's help we can continue to be successful in conserving valuable resources and redirecting students and employees to programs supporting the educational mission of the university," said Tim Thimmesch, associate vice president for Facilities Services.

Thimmesch said the use of space heaters is discouraged because they pose many issues including safety hazards in areas that are at accepted standard temperature levels.

He said one alternative is Cozy Toes, a carpeted

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floor heating mat that uses 1/12 the power of a conventional space heater. He added that redundant appliances placed outside of designated break areas are also discouraged.

Facilities Services staff will respond to hot/cold calls to ensure systems are running properly. Contact Facilities Services at x13000.

Members of affinity groups find fellowship, make impact on campus

Members of Grand Valley's nine faculty and staff affinity groups have found fellowship, connections to their cultural heritage and have made positive impacts on students through mentorship.

The groups are Asian Faculty and Staff Association, Black FSA, International Faculty and Friends, Interfaith Friendship Groups, Latino/a FSA, LGBT FSA, Native American Advisory Council, Positive Black Women and Women's Commission.

While some groups, like the Positive Black Women and Women's Commission, have a long history on campus, all affinity groups were moved under the Division of Inclusion and Equity, with support from Human Resources, in 2015.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said the missions of the affinity groups align with the university's mission. "We're honored to support those who serve Grand Valley through affinity groups and advance our commitment to inclusiveness and community," Bernal said. "Their work helps us to build institutional capacity to strengthen our mission



Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski

Co-chairs of affinity groups and Inclusion and Equity staff members are pictured, from left to right: Kip Smalligan, Naoki Kanaboshi, V'Lecea Hunter, Jenna Vainner, Tara Bivens, Jackie Adams, Jamillya Hardley, Adriana Almanza, Takeelia Garrett, Elizabeth Doyle and Jesse Bernal.

by creating welcoming environments where all can safely and proudly be their authentic selves."

Julia VanderMolen, associate professor of public health, has been involved with the Asian FSA for two years and is mentoring five students who are health care majors.

"I cannot begin to state how much of a joy it is to watch them grow as professionals," VanderMolen said. "They are all passionate about making a difference in the field of health care and want to bring to light the importance of their Asian culture into their perspective areas of study."

Jenna Vainner, library specialist, University Libraries dean's office, is co-chair of the Women's Commission. Vainner said moving the commission under the umbrella of Inclusion and Equity means access to more resources such as regular meetings among all affinity group leaders.

"It has allowed us to create more connections with our fellow affinity groups, given us the opportunity to support their programming, and has given us a space to talk about issues related to inclusion and equity with leadership from Inclusion and Equity," Vainner said.

More information about affinity groups is online at gvsu.edu/inclusion.

GVSU named a Green College for 10th year

For the tenth year in a row, Grand Valley has been named one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges by The Princeton Review.

The university is included in the 2019 edition of "The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges."

The guide profiles higher education institutions in the U.S. that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability based on academic offerings and career preparation for students, as well as campus practices, initiatives and activities.

GVNow recap:

Grand River Greenway segment opens on campus

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held October 23 on the Allendale Campus to celebrate the opening of Grand Valley's segment of the Grand River Greenway.

The Grand River Greenway includes 9,000

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



GVFACES

Anthony Williams, Emily First, Dean of Students Office

The Dean of Students Office has added two new staff members to oversee student conduct: Anthony T. Williams Jr., director of student conduct, and Emily First, student support manager.

Williams and First said having a designated place for students to turn to for policy violations and other conflicts will have a positive impact in the way the issues are resolved.

Williams is originally from Illinois and worked at Illinois State University, Washington State University in St. Louis, and the University of Michigan; all of his roles centered around inclusivity and restorative justice for the community.

He said he built his career on the idea of restorative practices and believes the success he has seen at other institutions can be reached at Grand Valley. Restorative practices is a social science that looks at the way people live together and are in a community together.

"Through restorative practices students have the opportunity to have some ownership and have a say in what happens," Williams said. "Even though they will be held accountable, most students leave our offices feeling like they had some say and they understand why they were held accountable."

First's responsibilities focus on assisting students who may need additional resources following a policy violation. She starts by

asking holistic questions about finances, academics and their living situations.

Prior to working at Grand Valley, First worked at Baylor University in Texas for four years in the housing department, then two years in the case management department while earning a master's degree in educational psychology.

"I just think students don't always know who to ask, and can be afraid to ask for help," First said. "We're prideful as people and we want to be able to figure it out ourselves. My roles are letting students know that it's normal to go through these things in college and there are great resources here, then following up to make sure they get the support they need."

Williams and First hope students will make a point to visit the Dean of Students Office proactively.

More information on student conduct can be found online at gvsu.edu/conduct.



Photo by Kendra Stanley-Mills

Anthony Williams Jr. and Emily First are new staff members in the Dean of Students Office.

WHAT'S AHEAD

President Mantella to give keynote at TRIO event

Three of Grand Valley's TRIO programs are hosting an event that will celebrate the achievements of first-generation students.

"First-Generation College Day" is Friday, November 8, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. The campus community is invited to watch performances by student organizations such as the Royal Dancers, KPOP and Irish Dancers.

President Philomena V. Mantella, a first-generation college student, will give the keynote remarks.

Nykaa Gaines, director of the TRIO STEM-Health Sciences program, said the idea behind this first-time event is to honor the accomplishments of first-generation students and raise awareness of the three scholarships dedicated to assist them. For the fall semester, 35 percent of Grand Valley students are the first in their families to attend college.

The event is sponsored by TRIO STEM-Health Sciences, TRIO Student Support Services Classic and TRIO Teacher Preparation SSS. More information about the programs and the November 8 event is online at gvsu.edu/trio.

Community forum focuses on Alzheimer's disease

Panelists at an upcoming Your Health Series forum will discuss the links between Alzheimer's disease research and care interventions and the impact of the disease on communities.

"Exploring the Latest in Alzheimer's and Dementia Care" is set for Monday, November 11, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Representatives from area health care organizations will be available from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to share resources.

Sponsors of the annual Your Health Series are Grand Valley, Spectrum Health and Michigan



TRIO students and faculty members who participated in a study abroad trip to Chile in May are pictured.

State University College of Human Medicine.

Panelists are Rebecca Davis, associate dean of research and scholarship for the Kirkhof College of Nursing; Mary McPhail-Ciufo, section chief for neurology and clinical neuropsychology for Spectrum Health; and Nicholas Kanaan, professor of translational neuroscience, MSU CHM.

Statistics will host career day

The Department of Statistics will host a career day Friday, November 15, from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center.

Karen Kafadar, professor of statistics at the University of Virginia and president of the American Statistical Association, will give a keynote address. Breakout sessions and information tables about careers in biostatistics, pharmaceuticals and actuarial science are planned.

Register or learn more about the event online at gvsu.edu/stat.

Performances will explore women battling glass ceiling

A play set in the 1990s with themes about the challenges of women in the workplace that soundly resonate in today's world is the next performance by the theater program.

"What We're Up Against" is a dark comedy from acclaimed playwright Theresa Rebeck that shows audiences the systemized challenges faced by women in that era, particularly in male-dominated professions, said Karen Libman, professor of theater and director of the performance.

"It's not about the sexual harassment in the news a lot right now, which is more overt," Libman said. "This is about the kind of generalized obstacles that people who have not generally been included in the workplace find when they get into an environment they haven't been in."

The show runs from November 15-24 at the Haas Center for Performing Arts, Keller Black Box Theatre. For more information visit gvsu.edu/mtd/theatre-season-41.htm.

Set in an architecture firm, the conversational, lively play explores issues such as women struggling to find a voice, dealing with diverging gender standards on acceptable communication styles and misgivings as women at the fictional firm find different paths navigating the environment, Libman said.

The play resonates with all age groups and Libman said has been especially enlightening for the five actors who have heard from those who were part of underrepresented groups during that era.



The fifth annual Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Symposium is November 19 at the Eberhard Center; a previous symposium is pictured.

Symposium focus will be building skills needed for civil conversations

The fifth annual Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Symposium will focus on building the skills needed for civil conversations.

"Civil Discourse Café: Complicated Conversations" will be November 19, 6-8 p.m., at the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St., on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at gvsu.edu/civildiscourse.

Elizabeth Arnold is an associate professor of anthropology and holds the Padnos/Sarosik endowed professorship for civil discourse. Arnold said guest speakers will share stories about civil discourse around environmental issues like water equity and climate change.

"Story telling can be an effective means of civil discourse because it helps establish both rapport and empathy," Arnold said. "Storytelling is the fundamental communication skill that we have learned is missing from climate change communication."

Speakers include Peter Sinclair, videographer who specializes in climate change and renewable energy issues, and Lin Bardwell, Grand Rapids Community Relations commissioner and project coordinator for GVSU's Division of Inclusion and Equity.

The event ties with Grand Valley's two-year initiative, Making Waves About Water, which creates opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, resources and activities surrounding the natural resource.

The Padnos/Sarosik endowed professorship is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and was a gift to Grand Valley from longtime supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik.

Learn more information about the symposium online at gvsu.edu/civildiscourse or by calling x18655.

Faculty members give updates on engagement strategies at Board of Trustees meeting

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developed and joint degree programs are being explored.

Aaron Lowen, professor of economics, Finance Department chair and director of the School of Accounting, facilitated five Grand Huddles. Lowen said discussion centered on the need to build a more diverse faculty and student body, connecting students to resources and mentors, and making curriculum relevant and flexible.

Felix Ngassa, professor of chemistry and chair of the University Academic Senate, said the expansion of the president's cabinet to include

faculty leaders is building trust, empowering faculty and bolstering shared governance at the university.

In other board action:

- The board approved the expansion and remodeling of the Simulation Center in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. The \$5.5 million renovation project will accommodate increased pressure on programs requiring simulation for skill development. The project will be completed in August 2021.

- The board approved a policy change for public comments to the board. Requests to address

the board can be made up to 48 hours before a meeting and can be submitted online or by contacting the secretary to the board.

- Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations, was voted permanent secretary to the Board of Trustees.

After the meeting, members of the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team took a hard-hat tour of the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health that is currently under construction next to CHS.

FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

IN THE NEWS

Carolyn Shapiro-Shapin, professor and assistant department chair of history, was interviewed by MLive for a story about a statue commissioned for the Grand Rapids Community Legends Project of three women who pioneered the whooping cough vaccine.

Barbara Hooper, associate professor of nursing, was interviewed by *Grand Rapids Faith* for a story about receiving the Outstanding Educator Award from the Alumni Association in 2018.

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave a presentation of a book he co-edited, *Internal Phosphorus Loading in Lakes: Causes, Case Studies, and Management*, at the First Forum on Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and Health, held in Beijing, China. The forum was organized by the Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research and the Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Alan Steinman gives a presentation in Beijing, China.

SKETCHES

University Libraries staff members **Ashley Rosener**, **Emily Frigo**, **Susan Ponischil**, **Annie Bélanger** and **Jackie Rander**, and **Elisa Salazar**, work life consultant, were authors of an article, “Leading from the Center: Reimagining Feedback Conversations at an Academic Library,” published in *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*.

Scarlet Galvan, collections strategist for University Libraries, wrote an article, “More Than Things,” published in *Serials Review Journal*.

Della Hughes-Carter, assistant professor of nursing, and a student gave a presentation, “Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association Innovative Work: On-Site Interdisciplinary Primary Care Clinics — Promoting Living-In-Place for Older Adults in Low-Income Housing,” at the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association annual conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Cynthia Beel-Bates, professor of nursing, gave presentations, “Student and Faculty Perceptions of Faculty IPE Facilitation skills in an IPE Course: How Do They Compare?” and “Unexpected Conclusions and New Understandings Emerge from Interprofessional Learning among Nursing, Pharmacy and Social Work Students,” at the Collaborating Across Borders VII Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Deborah Bambini, professor of nursing; **Lisa Pagnucco**, associate professor of physician assistant studies; and **Andrew Booth**, program director and assistant professor of PAS, gave a presentation, “Utilizing Technology to Develop a Sustainable Model for Collaboration Across Universities to Facilitate Interprofessional Education,” at the Collaborating Across Borders VII Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dani DeVasto, assistant professor of writing, was a co-author of an article, “Illuminating Our Audiences: Exploring What Engages and Confuses Them,” published in *Planetarian*.

Matthew Crippen, visiting professor of philosophy, was the author or co-author of articles: “Pragmatism and the Valuative Mind,” published in *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*; “Pragmatic Evolutions of the Kantian a priori: From the Mental to the Bodily,” in *Pragmatist Kant*; “Echoes of Past and Present,” in *Tom Petty and Philosophy: We Need to Know*; “Debating Public Policy: Ethics, Politics and Economics of Wildlife Management in Southern Africa,” in *Bioethics of the Crazy Ape*; “Digital Fabrication and Its Meaning for Film,” in *Conceiving Virtuality: From Art to Technology*; and “Body Politics: Revolt and City Celebration,” in *Bodies in the Streets: Somaesthetics of City Life*.

Housing and Residence Life staff members **Zach Osborne** and **Tim Mulligan** earned Outstanding Graduate Practitioner-Michigan and Outstanding Entry-Level Practitioner-Michigan, respectively, at the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers annual conference.

Colleen Brice, associate professor of English, was co-chair of the 45th Conference of Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, which was hosted by Grand Valley.

Geology faculty members **Peter Riemersma** and **Peter Wampler** chaired a session, “Improving Scientific Literacy and Dispelling Misconceptions about Wicked Water Resource Problems,” and gave presentations at the annual Geological Society of America Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Riemersma’s presentation was “Exploring Misconceptions and Poor Conceptual Understanding of Groundwater, Including Media Coverage of Groundwater Issues,” and Wampler’s presentation was “Challenges and Cultural Complications of Teaching About Clean Water in Haiti.”

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acres of protected public land along the Grand River. The land will eventually be connected by the Idema Explorers Trail, spanning more than 36 miles from Grand Rapids to Grand Haven, linking communities and parks in between.

The Versluis GVSU Campus Segment of the Idema Explorers Trail is located near 42nd Avenue and Pierce Street. The 1-mile-long segment provides a crucial connection between Grand Ravines County Park and the Allendale Campus.

President Philomena V. Mantella said the Grand River Greenway project improves the quality of life for students.

“Part of what attracted me and many of our students to our great university is the beauty of our campuses, and the settings along the Grand River are a part of that incredible beauty,” Mantella said. “This trail system will eventually connect our campuses and be used by thousands of our students and student athletes for training, education and recreation.”

The idea for the Grand River Greenway started in 1987 with the goal of protecting thousands of acres of natural lands, developing new recreational opportunities and connecting communities.



Photo by Kendra Stanley-Mills

President Philomena V. Mantella, third from right, celebrates with Bea Idema and others at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Grand Valley’s segment of the Grand River Greenway.

For more information, visit miottawa.org/parks/grand-river-greenway.htm.

VAGTC celebrates 20 years of assisting businesses

The Van Andel Global Trade Center, in the Seidman College of Business, is celebrating 20 years of helping Michigan businesses succeed in the global marketplace.

Coordinating with local companies, topic experts and professional practitioners, VAGTC

provides educational opportunities to equip business professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to grow business on a global scale.

The center has provided services to a variety of industries and companies in 60 percent of Michigan’s 83 counties who are doing business in 195 different countries across the world.

Sonja Johnson, VAGTC executive director, said: “Finding the right path to lead to success can be daunting. Businesses receive support from international market research to determine where products and services have the best chance of being sold across the globe, to help in determining how a good should be classified for export or import.”

Johnson said students working for VAGTC gain valuable experience working on projects and problems businesses are trying to solve to better compete.

Highlights of accomplishments over 20 years:

- Trained 9,693 businesses across Michigan;
- Worked with 27,300 business professionals through consulting and on-site training;
- Engaged with 2,437 GVSU students, faculty and staff through its services.

For more campus news, visit gvsu.edu/gvnow.