

Spring 2014

# Grand Valley Magazine, vol. 13, no. 4 Spring 2014

Grand Valley State University

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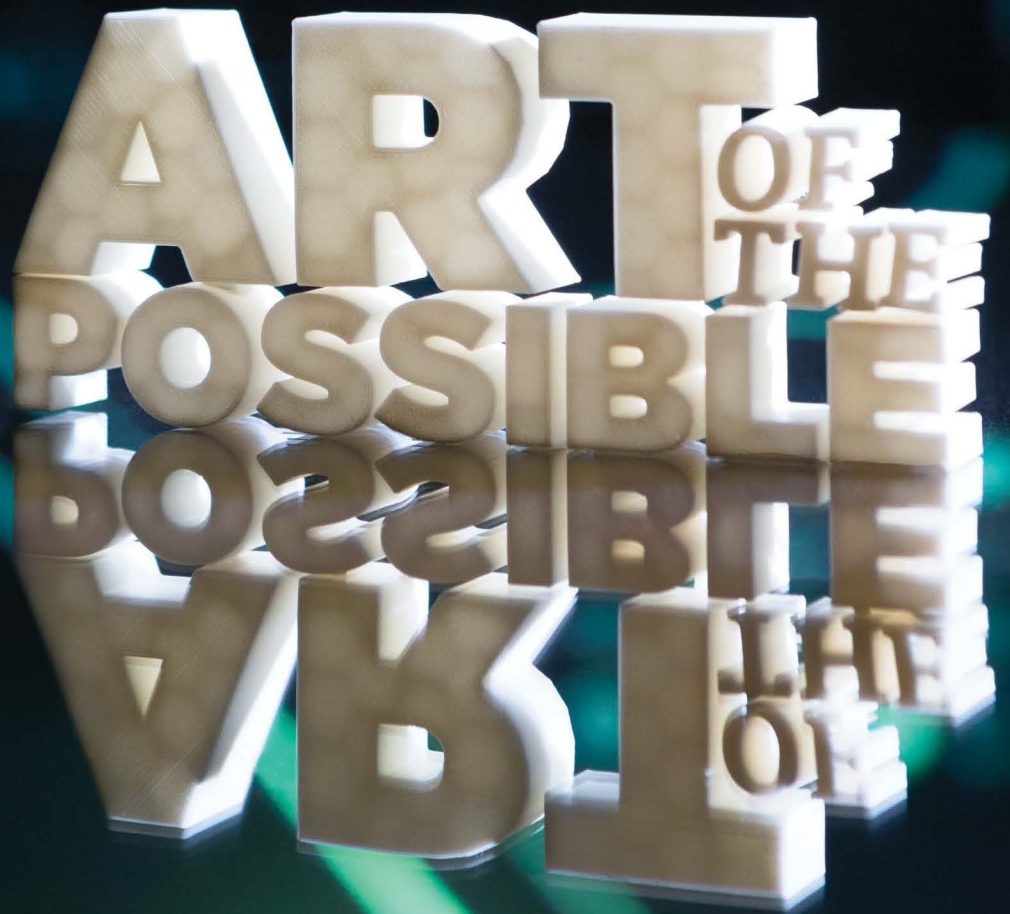
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SPRING 2014

# GRAND VALLEY

MAGAZINE





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Grand Valley Magazine

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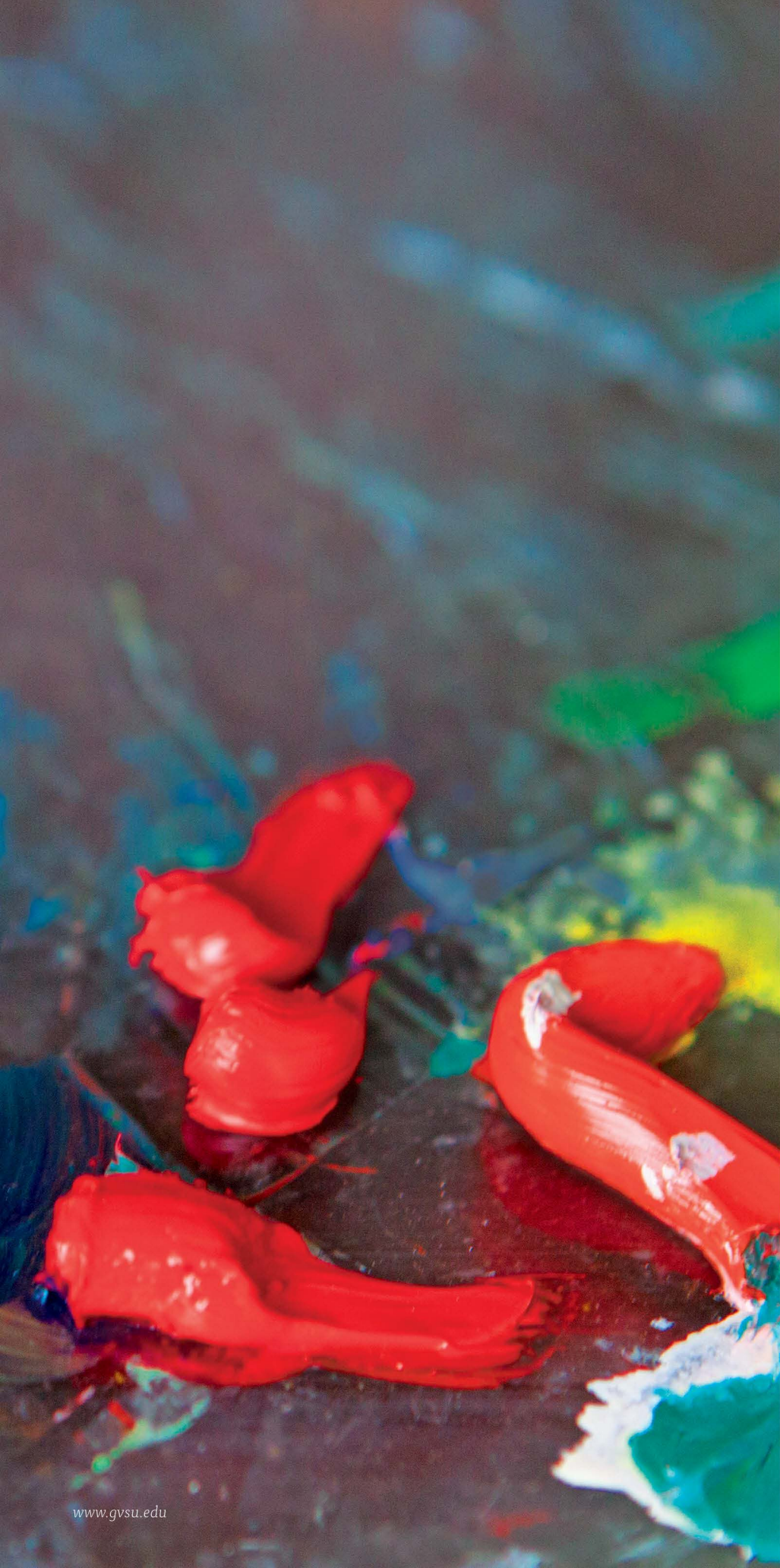
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## GRAND VALLEY MAGAZINE

See the entire magazine online at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).



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

**On the cover:**  
'Art of the possible' made with the 3-D printer and photographed at the Technology Showcase. *photo by Amanda Pitts*

**On these pages:**  
Jill Eggers' studio is pictured. The art and design faculty member volunteers her time to teach an art class for kids without a permanent home. Read more on page 32. *photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker*



Printed on FSC®-certified paper manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biogas). The cover includes a minimum of 10% postconsumer recovered fiber.



# New chair debuts thanks to faculty research

While attendees at a Senate subcommittee meeting were tuned in to the testimony given by President Thomas J. Haas and other university presidents, a few people concentrated on the furniture in the room.

A brand-new chair built by a West Michigan firm made its debut February 27 in Loosemore Auditorium at the Michigan Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee meeting, thanks in part to research by a Grand Valley faculty member.

Barb Hoogenboom, associate professor of physical therapy, met izzy+ CEO Chuck Saylor when he needed therapy for a back injury in 2007. She said he was interested in “excellent sitting” and wondered how an office chair could influence that.

Hoogenboom and several graduate assistants used the biomechanics lab and researched chair comfort and support, and enlisted opinions from many people in the College of Health Professions. “We have additional long-term research studies planned now that the development of the chair has progressed and it’s been released,” she said.

One of the chair’s differences is in back support. Instead of lumbar support, the Wabi chair focuses on the seat pan to build a better seating position.

Saylor said: “I really value the university’s support and partnership. This is a tremendous asset to area businesses.”



Hoogenboom offered advice for office workers who sit for long periods of time. “Limit time spent sitting, or break up work tasks to allow for movement,” she said. “When sitting, maintain excellent posture in a workplace designed for optimal posture and work.”

Chairs from a West Michigan firm were designed with research help from a physical therapy professor. The Wabi chairs debuted at the DeVos Center during a state Senate hearing. photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

## Facebook likes land university in top 10



The university’s official Facebook page has been named as one of the “Most Engaging College Facebook Pages of 2013” by Varsity Outreach.

Grand Valley is included in a top 10 list of universities with a fanbase of 20,000-74,999 that have been most successful at consistently engaging fans. See the list at [gvsu.edu/s/zQ](http://gvsu.edu/s/zQ).

Varsity Outreach, a business that helps colleges

and graduate schools build communities for students within Facebook, analyzed every Facebook post on more than 700 college and university pages in the U.S. and Canada. The amount of likes, comments and shares for more than 300,000 posts in 2013 were analyzed and given an engagement score.

Since January 2012, organic growth of the Grand Valley page has increased by nearly 75 percent.

## CAMPUS CHATTER



This was a grand plan. Love you both. #gvsu #burrymurray

Posted by Lauren Van Singel, (@laurenvansingel) on Dec. 14, 2013.





# New degree program targets working adults

The launch of a new degree program for working adults shows that Grand Valley is meeting the needs of nontraditional students in an innovative way.

The Center for Adult and Continuing Studies has started recruiting students for a cohort in the Liberal Studies Leadership Program, a 19-month accelerated degree program.

Simone Jonaitis, executive director of the CACS, said the program will meet the needs of working adults and their employers.

“People with strong theoretical knowledge and practical experience in leadership are needed in today’s workforce,” Jonaitis said. “This program will focus on helping students develop the skills needed to advance in jobs or pursue new careers.”

The program will start in Grand Rapids in the Fall 2014 semester. Qualified students will take one five-week class at a time. Students who will best qualify will have earned about 72 credits, are at least 24 years old with two or more years of work experience, and are highly motivated.

A new accelerated degree program will begin in the fall, targeting working adults who want to complete a liberal studies degree in less than two years.

Judy Whipps, professor of liberal studies and philosophy, helped develop the program’s course content. She said the program will give adult learners practical skills and engage them in the “reflective practice that is at the core of liberal education.” Whipps added that leadership studies fulfills those two goals.

“The leadership program provides an opportunity for students to enhance current skills and build new capacities; it also is flexible enough to apply to many different fields of work,” she said.

The CACS piloted a similar liberal studies degree program with an emphasis on leadership at the Muskegon Center three years ago. Whipps said that pilot program enabled faculty and staff members to determine which courses best suited the needs of adult learners. Details about the program are online at [www.gvsu.edu/lead19](http://www.gvsu.edu/lead19).

“People with strong theoretical knowledge and practical experience in leadership are needed in today’s workforce.”

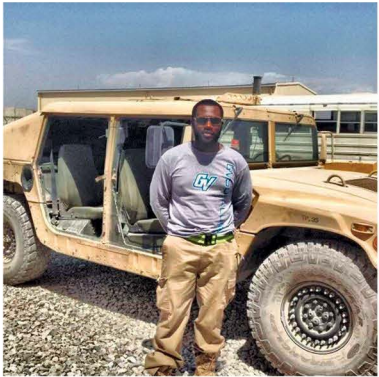
Simone Jonaitis, executive director of the CACS

## CAMPUS CHATTER

I love the ppl I’ve met & the experiences I’ve had. #GVSU I’m excited everyday that I’m only a junior. One more year of awesome.

Posted by Micah Brown, (@MicahMykia) on Feb. 4, 2014.

## REPRESENTING GRAND VALLEY



### Lakers bring a little Grand Valley with them on trips.

Do you represent GVSU when you travel? If so, send a photo of yourself sporting Laker gear to [gvmagazine@gvsu.edu](mailto:gvmagazine@gvsu.edu) and it may be seen in a future publication.

*Pictured are Cornelius Hicks, '09, who was stationed in Afghanistan as a contractor; and Nate Vandermeer, '08, in Selçuk, Turkey. In the background is Ayasuluk Castle.*



CAMPUS CHATTER

Presidents' Ball 2014 exceeded all expectations. I love my school #GVSU #LakerForALifetime #memories

Posted by Morgan Rae, (@morgierae05) on Feb. 8, 2014.



After four Grand years, I am now a college graduate :) #gvsu #laker4alifetime #graduation #happy #accomplished

Posted by Lindsey Kinney, (@miss\_lindsk) on April 26, 2014.



I'm (not) sorry that I tweet a lot about GVSU. It's my school and pride. <3 <3 <3 <3 @GVSU @LakerNationGV #proudtobealaker #BleedBlue

Posted by Alison Chapman, (@alisonachapman) on Feb. 3, 2014.



All about that Laker Pride even in Tennessee #lakerforalifetime #KNTN14 #cmsb14

Posted by Shelby Chambers, (@xshelbyjoy) on March 2, 2014.

## Leaders announce record endowment

Grand Valley leaders reported that the university's endowment surpassed \$100 million at the April 30 Board of Trustees meeting.

The majority of the fund is dedicated to scholarships and academic

programming. The university's 10-year return is in the top 10 percent of the 835 colleges and universities participating in the National Association of Colleges and Universities Business Officers Survey.

At the February 14 board meeting, trustees approved a modest increase in room and board beginning with the fall 2014 semester. Trustees voted to increase the rate 1.5 percent. The cost per semester in a traditional living center at Grand Valley will be \$2,750, an increase of \$10. Students can choose from a variety of meal plans. The cost for the 14-meal plan per semester will increase \$50 and cost \$1,350.

The fall 2013 occupancy rate was again at an all-time high with 5,997 students living on campus. Campus dining plans have also reached an all-time high with 7,761 students purchasing a meal plan.

**Karen Loth, vice president for University Development, discusses a record endowment during a Board of Trustees meeting. Board members also approved expansion plans for Kleiner Commons.**

photo by Amanda Pitts

- The board approved the purchase of 18 acres of vacant land off Lake Michigan Drive on the west side of Grand Rapids to serve as a commuter lot for students, faculty and staff members who ride The Rapid bus to campus. Bus ridership by the campus community exceeds 3 million rides per year, lowering fuel costs and the carbon footprint. The purchase of this land, which has immediate access to Lake Michigan Drive, will pick up the overflow parking. The university will pay \$1.249 million, excluding closing costs, and the money will come from the Campus Development Fund.
- The board approved site and floor plans for a \$7.5 million expansion for the Kleiner Commons dining facility. The project calls for an additional 18,000 square feet for food preparation areas, seating areas, food storage areas and a multi-purpose space for faculty and administrative support offices. Construction is scheduled to be completed in August.





# Students take top prize at collegiate innovation competition

A group of students won the Masco undergraduate prize at the Michigan Collegiate Innovation Prize in Ann Arbor in mid-February.

Team Fluition, comprised of three product design and manufacturing engineering students and two business students, developed a device that helps hospital patients move from sitting to standing. The students competed against 16 teams from Michigan institutions and won \$20,000 to commercialize their product.

The competition, hosted by the Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Michigan College of Engineering, is a six-month program that enables teams to go from an idea to venture launch. Team members were trained and paired with mentors to help them move their company forward and learn the skills needed to start a successful company.

Brittany Taylor, a business major, said the team plans to use the prize money for a consultation with a patent lawyer and to manufacture three devices to be placed at selected hospitals for testing purposes.

The project began in October in a product design class led by John Farris, professor of engineering. He connected the students with physical therapists at Spectrum Health who expressed a

need for a different sit-to-stand device.

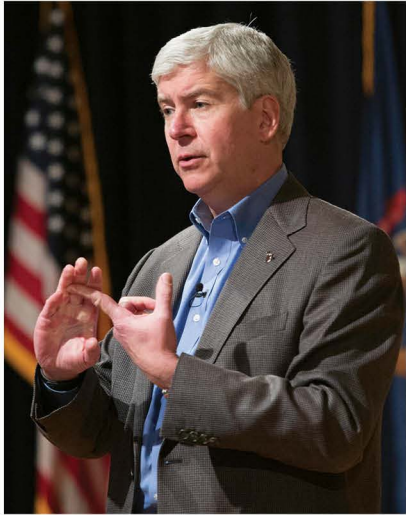
Leah Bauer, a product design and manufacturing engineering major, said the device was designed to be used in critical care centers to provide staff with an easy patient loading system and patients with proper standing motion.

“We believe our device will improve the comfort of the patients while decreasing their time in the hospital or care center,” said Bauer. “We designed it to be easy for medical staff to use, reduce the risk of injury associated with lifting patients, and decrease the number of staff needed to operate the device.”

The group includes Bauer, Taylor, Kathryn Christopher, a product design and manufacturing engineering major; Briauna Taylor, a business major; and Andrew VanDyke, a product design and manufacturing engineering major.



Team Fluition is pictured, from left, Andrew VanDyke, Brittany Taylor, Kathryn Christopher, Briauna Taylor and Leah Bauer.



Gov. Rick Snyder addresses participants at the Automotive Suppliers Symposium hosted by the Van Andel Global Trade Center.

photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

## Snyder attends auto suppliers symposium

Gov. Rick Snyder gave closing remarks at the 15th Automotive Suppliers Symposium hosted by the Van Andel Global Trade Center and held March 6 at the DeVos Center.

Snyder said Michigan remains the center of the auto industry with more than 60 of the country’s top auto suppliers and 375 research and development centers located in the state.

“My job is to create a successful environment so our automotive industry can continue to be globally competitive,” said Snyder. “The Michigan business tax is dead and that was the dumbest tax in the U.S. We had too many regulations so we cut 1,500 of them that didn’t make sense.”

Snyder said a key to keeping young talent in the state is to better promote the benefits of high-tech auto industry jobs. “One of the most important things we can do is train more people for these skilled jobs. There are more jobs available than workers to fill them,” he said.



Visit [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine) to watch Gov. Rick Snyder’s remarks.

### CAMPUS CHATTER



From @GVSU:  
That’s the biggest #GVSU we’ve seen! RT @22\_benson: @jirinator92 with the great idea #LakerNation #PCB #GVSU

Posted by Cam Benson from Panama City, (@22\_benson) on March 7, 2014.





## Lonely president

What does a university president do when students are away on spring break? President Thomas J. Haas starred in a short video that received national media attention; watch it at [gvsu.edu/s/AD](http://gvsu.edu/s/AD).

## CAMPUS CHATTER

Graduation Day! I will miss being a GVSU student but I know I will always be a #Laker4aLifetime

Posted by Megan Philipp, (@meg11philipp) on April 26, 2014.

## Resource Center to be named for Ford

The LGBT Resource Center at Grand Valley will be named for Milton E. Ford, professor of liberal studies and founding director of the center. Ford died March 19 after a long battle with cancer. He was 72.



The LGBT Resource Center opened its doors in the Kirkhof Center in 2008. At the time, Ford said the office space represented important progress for the university to recognize a need for students to feel comfortable and for everyone to be treated equally.

"It is very fitting that the LGBT Resource Center be named in Milt's honor," said President Thomas J. Haas. "Milt was instrumental in creating a positive environment at Grand Valley where people know that inclusion and diversity are valued. Through diversity we become a university."

Ford joined Grand Valley's faculty in 1973. A compassionate teacher and lifelong researcher, Ford is remembered for leading efforts to integrate the LGBT community with university academics and its student life.



## Film by alumnus premieres aboard ISS

Alumnus David J. Ruck's new film, "I Want to Be an Astronaut," had an orbital premiere aboard the International Space Station, with an audience of astronauts from around the world.

Developed over the past two years, the 38-minute documentary tells the story of Blair Mason, a young man striving to become an astronaut at a time when space exploration has moved out of the spotlight. Ruck delves into the specifics of what it takes to be an astronaut and what is being done to keep such dreams within the realm of possibility.

Ruck sent the film's trailer to Space Station flight engineer Rick Mastracchio via Facebook. The astronaut was so intrigued, he asked if it was possible to view the entire film. Ruck worked with the Johnson Space Center to facilitate

an upload.

Ruck said he wanted to make a film that explored the human side of the space program and whether or not kids today still dream of being an astronaut.

By following Mason from his role as leader of his high school robotics team, to his entry into the U.S. Naval Academy, Ruck discovered a very thoughtful student with a full vision of space exploration, including the political, social and technological issues.

"This film also draws attention to the importance of the STEM education fields — science, technology, engineering and math," said Ruck, "as they relate to our nation's ability to remain on the cutting edge, and where we might be headed if we fail to inspire young people to

Astronaut John Glenn speaks with Blair Mason for a documentary by a Grand Valley graduate that premiered aboard the International Space Station. Inset: David J. Ruck.

pursue these fields."

A glimpse into current NASA efforts, amid a post-space-shuttle era, is provided through interviews with some of those who understand it best, including Charles Bolden, a NASA administrator and John Glenn, a Mercury 7 astronaut, first American to orbit the Earth, and retired U.S. senator.

Ruck received both bachelor's and master's degrees from Grand Valley's School of Communications in 2004 and 2007, respectively, and earned a master's of fine arts degree from American University, in Washington, D.C. He currently lives in Bethesda, Maryland, and is president of Rubangfilms, a small production company that focuses on subjects that involve science, exploration, history and space.

For more information about the film, visit [www.theastronautfilm.com/](http://www.theastronautfilm.com/).



# Center prepares Lakers for life beyond sports

by Michele Coffill

Just as Laker student-athletes are well prepared for competitions, the services and resources provided by the advising center prepare them well for the classroom.

But the Laker Academic Success Center, in the Fieldhouse, does more



Student-athletes Jamie Potts and Alexandria Dudley prepare for classes by participating in weekly study sessions with tutors from the Student Academic Success Center. Tutor Katelynn Krause is seated at right.

photo by Jeff Dykehouse

than provide Grand Valley's 550 student-athletes with advising services, it prepares them for leadership roles.

"I tell them, you may play sports here, but that's a small portion of what you're going to do with yourself after graduation," said Damon Arnold, director of student services for Laker academics.

Arnold said from the first time he meets with high school recruits through the time they graduate, he preaches one mantra, "Let's work smarter, not harder."

To accomplish that, Arnold and his staff members organize mandatory study tables, host service-learning opportunities and work closely with

coaches and faculty members to ensure student-athletes are successful academically.

In December, the center earned certification from the National Association for Academic Advisors in Athletics for its support of student-athletes. Grand Valley was the first NCAA Division II institution to achieve this certification. The university's Student Academic Success Center (SASC) also received certification from the College Reading and Learning Association's International Tutor Training Program.

Arnold said the university deserves the credit for the certification. "We received the certification because of the good things Grand Valley is doing as a whole. We wouldn't have received this without the resources here and the commitment of faculty members," he said.

The university's SASC serves as an umbrella for the Laker Academic Success Center. Michael Messner, director of SASC, said that type of reporting structure is somewhat unusual for Division I or Division II institutions.

"It works well at Grand Valley because we see participating in varsity athletics as part of our overall academic mission," Messner said.

Outside the classroom, the Laker Academic Success Center provides service-learning opportunities for student-athletes. Athletes Who Care is a partnership with Grand Valley's Charter Schools Office. Student-athletes volunteer their time weekly to mentor students at one of the middle schools that is authorized by Grand Valley.

For the hundreds of participating AWC-mentored students, each semester culminates with a campus tour, workshops with student-athletes and attendance at a Laker athletic event. The Charter Schools Office provides a grant to cover expenses.

Arnold also established a Faculty Mentorship Program that connects student-athletes with a faculty member in their major for regular meetings,

whether it's an office visit or informal chat over coffee.

A relatively new initiative helps student-athletes and other students build leadership skills. Tim Selgo, director of athletics, had an idea to host a leadership retreat for student-athletes and general students. To apply for the Laker Leadership Development Program, students are first nominated by a coach or faculty member. Thanks to generous donors, the students travel to an off-campus site for two days of leadership development.

These opportunities help prepare well-rounded and busy students, Arnold said. He added that research suggests that college students who are involved in athletics or other extra-curricular activities tend to be more successful than those who are not.

It builds on another of Arnold's mantras. "Ninety-nine percent of student-athletes will go pro in something else aside from sports," he said. "We help them get there."

## SMART LAKERS

12 TEAMS

earned a 3.0 or higher GPA in the winter 2013 semester.



Women's Cross Country named Division II Scholar Team of the Year, third time in last four years, by the U.S. Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association.



Men's and women's tennis teams carry the highest GPAs of Laker teams.



Kierra Washington, an athletic training major, said receiving a Pathway Scholarship would ease the burden of paying for her education.

photo by Amanda Pitts



## Scholarship would fill the gap for students

# CAUGHT IN MIDDLE

Kierra Washington is an athletic training major from Southfield who, like many other Grand Valley students, is paying for her education with a combination of loans and scholarships.

A new scholarship initiative was created to help Washington and others like her who are caught in the middle: students from working families with incomes higher than federal financial aid limits but who need help paying for their education. When fully funded, the Pathway Scholarships would fill the gap between savings and financial aid for families sending students to Grand Valley.

If she received a Pathway Scholarship, Washington said she would be able to take out fewer loans.

"It would mean I wouldn't have to stress about my education and where my money is coming from," she said. "Receiving another scholarship would help me further my education." She is among the recipients of the Thompson

Working Family Scholarship.

Michelle Rhodes, director of Financial Aid, said Pathway Scholarships spurred from a conversation with a hypothetical question. "I was asked, 'If we were to get a really large donation right now, where would you choose to use it?'" Rhodes said. "In other words, where did I see the most need?"

Immediately, Rhodes thought of students who are grouped in the middle class and from families who struggle to pay for a college education in addition to regular household bills. The gap between a Pathway-eligible household and Need-based household is illustrated in the graphic on page 11.

Washington hopes to eventually earn a doctorate in physical therapy. She said she pushes herself academically to make her mother proud. Washington was raised in a single-parent household and said her mother didn't get a chance to attend college until later in life.

"My grandparents, uncle and aunt

also helped raise me and, along with my mother, were very positive role models in my life," she said.

Washington added that the cost of an advanced degree worries her. "I just hope to continue to get more scholarships and will probably have to take out more loans," she said.

Rhodes said today's economy makes paying for college a struggle for many families.

She added that Washington's story is a familiar one. When students begin receiving tuition bills in July and August, the phones in the Financial Aid office begin ringing.

"We get a lot of calls in the summer," Rhodes said. "Students are wondering why their financial aid is not as much as they thought. They're wondering how they are going to pay the bill.

"The Pathway Scholarship could be the difference in making or breaking a student's plan to continue attending classes, or drop out to work."



NEED-BASED ELIGIBLE  
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

up to \$50,000

50% of education costs  
covered by  
*need-based aid*15% of education costs  
covered by *scholarships*  
and *other gift aid*35% of student/family  
contribution  
(including *loans*)PATHWAY ELIGIBLE  
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$50,000–\$80,000

0% of education costs  
covered by  
*need-based aid*15% of education costs  
covered by *scholarships*  
and *other gift aid*85% of student/family  
contribution  
(including *loans*)

There are several ways to support the Pathway Scholarship.

- **Endowed Pathway Scholarships:** An endowed Pathway Scholarship creates a permanent pathway to opportunity for students. Gifts will be invested in the university's endowment fund and the earnings used to award scholarships every year. Endowments are funded over five years.
- **Annual Pathway Scholarships:** Gifts will be put to use immediately.
- **Grand Valley Fund:** Gifts to this fund will provide support annually for the highest priorities of the university.

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/pathwayscholarships](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/pathwayscholarships).

## GIVING MATTERS

*Giving with class*

Generations of students will be the beneficiaries of two new scholarships established on behalf of Grand Valley's Pioneer Class (Class of '67) and the Class of '68.

Alumni united from both of these classes to start scholarships in the past year. The Pioneer Class Scholarship has been fully endowed, which means it will be available to students in perpetuity. The Class of '68 scholarship, started with a generous matching gift opportunity in December, is well on its way to becoming endowed. As the funds continue to grow, more students will receive larger scholarships. To support either of these scholarships or begin one to honor your class, visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/scholarships](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/scholarships).

*More opportunities for international business students*

More than 20 businesses from West Michigan gathered to show their support for the Seidman College of Business Study Abroad Scholarship. International experiences are critical both for students and local employers who are looking for fresh, young talent with a global perspective.

More than \$78,000 was raised by this group, demonstrating support for increasing multicultural, international experiences for Grand Valley students. To support this scholarship visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/give](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/give) and enter "SCB Study Abroad Scholarship." To learn more about how companies can get involved with Grand Valley, visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/corporate](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/corporate).

*Students support each other*

Grand Valley students demonstrated that they are Lakers for a Lifetime and gave a record amount of gifts this year as they supported the Student Legacy Scholarship.

Responding to a challenge from President Thomas J. Haas, many students increased their giving this year and helped take a Laker tradition to a new level. All gifts made to this fund are designated to help future Lakers. To learn more or support the Student Legacy Scholarship visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/thaaschallenge](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/thaaschallenge).

*Community leaders unite*

The Community Leadership Scholarship celebrated its 10th year with a gift match and encouragement by Community Leadership Committee members.

The scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated leadership in West Michigan and intend to contribute their skills to benefit West Michigan. More than \$70,000 was raised, including presidential match money, increasing the fund by 50 percent and expanding the number of students who will receive scholarships in the coming years. To give to the scholarship visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/give](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/give).





# PART OF THE POSSIBLE

## LEARNING, INSTRUCTION THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

by Nate Hoekstra | photos by Amanda Pitts

**E**ric Kunnen thinks the classroom of the future will be different. It may not be students attending classes virtually through a video conference on their iPads, and it may not involve complex three-dimensional projections of molecules into the middle of the classroom — but it could. He’s hoping to bridge the divide between cutting-edge technology and the modern-day classroom.

Kunnen is the new emerging technologies coordinator in the university’s Technology Showcase in the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons. He hopes to grow the brand-new facility and concept at Grand Valley into a leader in transforming education.

“We’re really in a golden age of where technology is going right now,” Kunnen said, “and we get to be on the cutting edge of what’s new and exciting, and think of ways we can use those technologies to help students learn and help faculty teach.”

### NEW CONCEPT

Kunnen, who spent the past 20 years as the director of distance learning and instructional technology at Grand Rapids Community College, readily admits that the university’s new Technology Showcase is a work in progress. The space and his position were new last fall when the library opened, and since then he’s been working tirelessly to secure new tools that may have applications in both teaching and learning. The showcase is a glass-walled room on the atrium level and currently contains the first batch of gadgets that Kunnen was able to get his hands on for evaluation.





Images are projected from inside the Technology Showcase to the floor to draw students inside.

The showcase is open for students, faculty and staff to explore, and current hours can be found online at [gvsu.edu/techshowcase](http://gvsu.edu/techshowcase). Currently, the showcase has a pair of Google Glass, acquired before the device goes on sale to the public through Google's Explorer program; a Leap motion controller, which uses a sensor to track movements of a user's hands to allow control of a computer without using a keyboard or mouse; a Double Robotics device, which is essentially a mobile stand for an iPad, allowing a user to virtually tour and video conference from a remote location; and a MakerBot Replicator 2, which is a printer that uses plastic resins to print objects designed on a computer in three dimensions.

"The plan is to continue to bring in technologies that are emerging, that are innovative," Kunnen said. "We've got a good start but in order for this to remain relevant it's important that we stay up to date on the latest technology that we can see having a real impact on students and the way that our faculty members are teaching them."

### A MEANS TO AN END

Kunnen isn't the only one with an eye on technology in the classroom. Christine Rener, director of the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, said that assisting faculty with professional development and teaching instruction sometimes means finding where new tools and technology can be used to advance student outcomes in the classroom. Kunnen and Rener are working together to find ways to help introduce helpful technology to faculty members.

"Technology today can really enhance learning and engagement, and while we recognize that every class is different, we're always willing to consider options that might lead to that breakthrough application," Rener said. "We're in a period of great advancement in terms of what we know and what we're learning about how the brain works and how to help students learn."

But Rener is cautious about technology to a certain extent. She knows it is a powerful tool when used properly, but she worries that too often new technology is implemented in ways that don't make sense, and don't end up providing the benefits that the instructor was looking for in the first place.

"We have to remember to come back

to the fundamental questions, including the biggest question of, 'What do you want to accomplish?' and using the new tools to help accomplish a specific end goal rather than implementing new technology just for technology's sake," Rener said.

Kunnen shares Rener's concerns about deploying new tools just to say they're being used. "My focus is on making sure that we're using the appropriate tools to help faculty members teach and learn more efficiently, and showing them how to best use technology to meet the goals of their classrooms," he said. "I want to help them preserve the legacy of excellent classroom instruction while helping them pioneer the future."



## FINDING APPLICATIONS

The key to successfully launching a new technology into a classroom setting, Kunnen said, is finding ways that it can be practically used in a manner that seems natural and makes sense. With the technology that's currently on display in the showcase, Kunnen is already thinking of ways to bring it to students.

He sees applications for the Leap motion controller for students with certain disabilities, who might have

*“The beauty of exploring the possibilities of technology in the classroom is that it’s really about the art of the possible.”*

— *Christine Rener, director of the  
Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center*



Google Glass can be used by instructors to film first-person perspective videos and share them with a class, giving a heads-up view to students.

an easier time gesturing in the air rather than the precise motor control required for a keyboard and mouse. He also thinks the Double Robot, which is essentially a Segway with an iPad on top, could be used for virtual tours of campus given in real-time, teleconferencing, or even as a temporary stand-in for students who are sick or cannot physically attend class.

The two major pieces in the showcase right now are the Google Glass and the MakerBot Replicator 2. Both are already seeing real-world application in classrooms, and are growing in popularity. The Google Glass is a wearable computer that sits on your face, much like a traditional pair of glasses. A tiny prism that sits in front of your right eye serves as a monitor, and a camera allows the device to take

pictures and video. The MakerBot is a printer that uses plastic resin to print objects from a computer-aided design file in three dimensions.

Kunnen said the Google Glass can be used by instructors to film first-person perspective videos and share them with a class, giving students a heads-up view that they wouldn't be able to get from a normal observation position. The videos could be used in nursing and athletic training courses to show specific techniques and skills being demonstrated, or in anatomy courses where dissections could be filmed to show close-ups of specific structures that would otherwise be hard to see.

The MakerBot three-dimensional printer also has many applications, including uses in engineering, design, art and sciences. The printer can

create prototypes of sculptures for an art course, create parts for tools or machinery, or even print models of molecules or proteins for chemistry and biology courses.

Rener sees potential in the 3-D printer. She used to teach biochemistry courses at a small college in Wisconsin, and would use physical models of protein structures to help teach her class, but the models had to be reserved far in advance from a lending library at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Today, a downloadable design file would allow educators to print their own model for hands-on use.

“The beauty of exploring the possibilities of technology in the classroom is that it’s really about the art of the possible,” Rener said. “There are many applications that we can add



to the classroom while still remembering that technology is an 'extra' that can help students achieve what's expected as a baseline of understanding for the course."

## MAKING TIME FOR FUN

While Kunnen's primary objective is putting educators and students together with new technology to help improve learning outcomes, it's worth noting that a big part of his role at the tech showcase is showing off the new "toys" to students who pass by.

He helps bring in students to explore the gadgets, and thinks of ways to highlight their features.

"I'm really drawn to the Google Glass," Spencer said. "I think it has great potential to really make an impact in classes someday when professors think of new ways to use it."

He also using the Leap motion controller to play a problem-solving game called "Cut The Rope" that's a favorite among students who demo the product.

said. "Improvements to technology we're already using are important as well."

Kunnen's long-term goal will be to bring in a wide variety of products and technologies that will increase awareness of how technology can be used in education by both students and faculty.

"Any team or group here on campus that touches technology in any way, we want to work with to see what we can bring in that they would be interested in," Kunnen said. "We don't want to just



Eric Kunnen, the emerging technologies coordinator for the Technology Showcase, is shown on the Double Robotics device, left; and student worker Kirk Spencer uses the Leap motion controller to track his movements.

The Leap motion controller can be used to play games, and demonstrations of the Double Robot through the library's atrium regularly draw curious glances from students sitting down to study.

"The tools and technology are here to help us develop their application in a learning environment but, in order to be used effectively, the students who will be doing the learning have to be comfortable with the technology as well," Kunnen said. "We've found the easiest way to help students get more confident with new tools is to show them off in a fun, engaging way. We want the students to have fun while they're learning about these technologies on the cutting-edge."

Kirk Spencer, a junior student-athlete and public relations major, is a student assistant at the technology showcase.

"It's not always about the classroom side of things," Spencer said. "You have to be able to have fun with it too."

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Kunnen is in the process of acquiring new technology to test, evaluate and generally explore, including a prototype of a special stereoscopic projector that uses special glasses, much like a 3-D movie, to virtually project images in three dimensions. But Kunnen also noted that not every new technology that will be showcased will be a new product that few people have heard of before. Some will be concepts involving online learning, classroom management, and other less flashy improvements.

"It doesn't make them any less practical or less important, not having that significant 'wow' factor," Kunnen

show technology, we want to infuse this technology, when it makes sense, into the classroom.

"We're on the cusp of doing some amazing things. I feel super excited for the future because this space can help us move the conversation about what technology means to how we live and how we learn forward."



Watch technology in action at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).



# ONE BOOK

## CARRIES DISCUSSIONS BEYOND CLASSROOM

by Michele Coffill | photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Think of it as an intimate book club with thousands of members.

Each year for nearly the past decade, the campus community has read, discussed and studied one book. Book club meetings conclude with a bonus when the author visits West Michigan for presentations. (Few club members dare miss that meeting.)

Grand Valley's Community Reading Project was established in 2005 to expand the common reading program used by Housing and Residence Life into a university-wide program. Having a common read is not unusual for a campus or community, and it is a charge that the book selection committee takes very seriously.

Brian Jbara, director of Integrative Learning and Advising, said the process of selecting a CRP book begins in the fall after soliciting suggestions from the campus community.

"We received 100-plus suggestions last year," Jbara said.

He and other committee members divide suggestions into themes, and are always mindful of the CRP's criteria when selecting a book. Standards include choosing a book with wide appeal, one that resonates with Grand Valley's mission and offers a moral or humanistic vision.

Jbara and others on the book selection committee are well aware that one title is not going to satisfy all the readers in the campus community.

"We know we've picked another memoir with this book," Jbara said, referring to *The Distance Between Us*. "Faculty members have said that non-fiction works tend to offer lessons and a deeper sense of learning." Suggestions for future books are welcome; send an email to [integrative@gvsu.edu](mailto:integrative@gvsu.edu).

Jbara added that it's a good thing when a book creates discussions or debates. This year's book was no exception as it touches on immigration, domestic violence and substance abuse.



Reyna Grande's memoir, *The Distance Between Us*, details her tumultuous childhood spent torn between two parents and two countries. Grande's Mexican parents leave their children behind to make the dangerous trek across the border in search of a better life. When Grande arrives in California at age 9, she adjusts to life as an undocumented immigrant and learns that life in America is far from perfect.

Published in 2012, *The Distance Between Us* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Grande received the American Book Award for her first novel, *Across a Hundred Mountains*. She also earned the El Premio Aztlán Literary Award and the Latino Book Award.

Her memoir was used in about 40 courses, and its reach extended

**“The book is interesting as it unfolds and Reyna questions where she belongs. ... Everyone has a different version of that story...”**

Maureen Wolverton,  
affiliate faculty of liberal studies

beyond the classroom. Several campus departments and many living centers held book discussion groups and, keeping with the CRP's mission, local programming was built around Grande's book in the Hispanic communities in Grand Rapids and Holland.

The Herrick District Library in Holland has been a long-standing CRP partner. Sara DeVries, public relations manager, said the collaboration affords the library a great opportunity to host a national author.

Grande's presentation in Holland drew about 100 people. Herrick's other collaborative programming included partnering with Holland social justice organizations that assist undocumented immigrants and hosting a panel discussion in which community members shared stories of leaving their countries behind.

Many West Michigan residents, including a large Spanish-speaking contingent, attended Grande's Grand Valley presentation. Past CRP



Reyna Grande discusses her memoir, 'The Distance Between Us,' in the Kirkhof Center during the Community Reading Project lecture. The audience asked questions and had books signed at the event.





authors also drew large crowds. Sir Ken Robinson, author of *The Element*, spoke in 2013 before a Fieldhouse audience that included many from the K-12 community. (Robinson's visit was a partnership with the Meijer Lecture Series.) Rebecca Skloot filled Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids when she visited in 2011 to discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

For faculty members who incorporate the CRP selection into their courses, the author visit enriches conversations that began in the classroom. Maureen Wolverton, affiliate faculty of liberal studies, used the book in two of her courses.

"The students loved the book and they were excited for her to come to campus so they could ask follow-up questions," said Wolverton, who also serves on the CRP book selection committee.

She added that the book fit well in her Liberal Studies "Life Journeys" courses. "The book is interesting as it unfolds and Reyna questions where she belongs. Is she Mexican, is she American?" Wolverton said. "Everyone has a different version of that story and it creates good, rich class discussions."

*The Distance Between Us* was also chosen as the "One Book/One Community" read for Monroe County in southeast Michigan. After her late March presentation at Grand Valley, Grande visited Monroe County Community College.

Grande said she tried writing this memoir while still a student at the University of California-Santa Cruz. "I was 21 and I found I hadn't given myself enough time to have the distance from my experience to be able to tackle it in a book," she said. "I was a beginning writer."

During the early stages of writing *Across a Hundred Mountains*, Grande received a fellowship from PEN Center USA to join Emerging Voices, a mentorship program for new writers. She has served as a judge with Emerging Voices to select new fellows.

Grande teaches at UCLA and is active in nonprofit organizations that work with undocumented youth. She was politically active when California voters passed the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which allows undocumented students who meet certain criteria to apply for college financial aid.

She enjoys visiting campuses and said she brings an important message for students.

"I want to inspire students to pursue their own dreams by showing them that while life puts a lot of obstacles in the way, you need to keep striving toward your dream," Grande said.

## NEXT CRP ANNOUNCED

Get a head start on the 2014-2015 CRP selection, *Five Days at Memorial* by Sheri Fink.



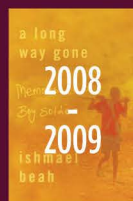
Fink, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, will visit campus in 2015 to discuss her book, an unforgettable story about the investigation of patient deaths at a New Orleans hospital ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

## SUGGEST A FUTURE BOOK!

Send an email to [integrative@gvsu.edu](mailto:integrative@gvsu.edu).



## PAST CRP SELECTIONS



### LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?

Check out the past Community Reading Project selections.

Visit [www.gvsu.edu/read](http://www.gvsu.edu/read) for details.

**2005-2006:** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

**2006-2007:** *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

**2007-2008:** *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls

**2008-2009:** *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah

**2009-2010:** *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson

**2010-2011:** *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

**2011-2012:** *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson

**2012-2013:** *The Element* by Sir Ken Robinson



# 1 million

# hours:

## Lakers anchor community through volunteering

by Leah Twilley

Once a week Grand Valley student Jessica Mac Vane meets with her pal, Jaden, a 10-year-old student at Harrison Park Elementary School in Grand Rapids. Sometimes they go bowling, sometimes they go to the park, and sometimes they just talk on the phone.

"I met Jaden when I was a freshman at Grand Valley and he was 7 years old. We just clicked," said Mac Vane, from Zeeland. "He's had a lot of ups and downs in his life. Last year he was put in foster care, so I liked being there as a stable figure in his life during that time."

Jaden and Mac Vane met through Pals Student Mentors, a student organization that seeks to positively influence the lives of at-risk youth in Grand Rapids. More than 160 Grand Valley students serve as mentors for children who attend Harrison, Sibley or Coit elementary schools.

Mac Vane said she came to Grand Valley wanting to help and found that outlet through Pals Student Mentors. "I think some people are afraid to get involved in community service because there's so much need everywhere, it can be overwhelming, but helping one very important person by being a positive role model is huge and makes a big impact," she said.

Mac Vane, president of Pals Student Mentors, is one of 11,753 Grand Valley students who collectively spent more than 1 million hours volunteering in their communities in 2013. Their service generated an estimated economic impact of nearly \$24 million, according to Independent Sector.

Jeff Mutch, coordinator for the Community Service Learning Center, said service learning, such as mentoring, is a high-impact practice that is shown to increase rates of persistence and retention, and deepens the amount of learning. "If students can incorporate knowledge learned in the classroom with a real community need, it can be a powerful teaching pedagogy," he said.

Close friends Jessica Mac Vane and Jaden met through Pals Student Mentors, a student organization that seeks to positively influence at-risk youth in Grand Rapids.

courtesy photo







Members of the Student Environmental Coalition spend many Saturday mornings volunteering at Blandford Nature Center in Walker.  
photo by Amanda Pitts

At the Kent School Services Network, Sergio Cira Reyes is the community school coordinator and has worked with Pals Student Mentors over

the years to match members with K-12 students. His goal is to increase student achievement and part of that, he said, is getting the community involved.

"We work with our students when they're in school, but our time with them is limited. Pals mentors reach them when they're outside of school and you can definitely see the impact one-on-one attention has on the students," Reyes said.

Grand Valley has a rich history of community service and service learning. Volunteer GVSU, founded in the early 1990s, served as the core group of about 25 student organizations that focused on service and advocacy. As the university grew, so did the number of organizations in Volunteer GVSU.

In 2006, the Community Service Learning Center, located in the Office of Student Life in the Kirkhof Center, was established as a space to centralize and track all student-related community service and service learning initiatives. Then in 2012, the Office for Community Engagement, located in the College of Community and Public Service, was established to bring alignment and direction to Grand Valley's community engagement.

"Our role in CSLC is to help students understand that community service is not only part of the university's mission, but that it's important to their personal and

professional development," Mutch said. "Engaging in a community is valuable for preparing for a career or exploring career opportunities."

Part of that includes matching students with a nonprofit. "I joke that my work can sometimes be similar to Match.com," he said. "Students come to CSLC, and based on their interests and passions, we match them with an organization."

Over the past year, Mutch has worked to develop an official reporting system of all community service and service learning activities from students, faculty and staff members, and alumni. The Service Tracker, online at [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service), allows a user to add a community service activity, amount of hours, dates, and an opportunity to reflect on the experience. "Students can form a nice portfolio piece that showcases all the ways they were engaged in helping the community during their time at Grand Valley," he said.

Valerie Jones, assistant director of Student Life, leads Grand Valley's leadership and service initiatives. She said as more students and others from the campus community start to add their community service activities to the Service Tracker, the university will perform more in-depth analyses of community service. "We can start looking at how engagement in community activities are impacting student success at Grand Valley," she said. "We hope to see answers to questions like 'Are students persisting along their identified areas of study?' 'Are they graduating in an ideal timeline?' and 'How are these experiences related to their GPAs?'"

Mutch said some faculty members incorporate service learning in their classes because it's attractive to students

and they find it satisfying. So much so, that many students carry it on into adulthood.

"So many students end up volunteering because they think it'll look good on their resume, but many find that it really awakens something in them; they discover a passion they didn't know they had and all of a sudden, it becomes a priority in their life," said Mutch.

Bill Kinter, president of the Student Environmental Coalition, is passionate about sustainability. He has organized campuswide recycling and composting efforts and arranges regular visits to the 143-acre Blandford Nature Center in Walker, where SEC members help clear trails and keep the grounds clean.

"It doesn't feel like work when you are having fun doing it," said Kinter, a marketing and philosophy major from Grand Blanc. "It's satisfying to be out there contributing to something you believe in and support."

Jessie Schulte, land stewardship volunteer coordinator for Blandford Nature Center, said the center could not function without volunteers. "We're completely sustained by volunteers and donations, and a large percentage of our volunteers come from Grand Valley," she said. "It's been wonderful to work with them."

For Mac Vane and thousands of other Grand Valley students, giving back is important.

The result: more than 2,600 community groups in 2012-2013 were affected by the time and talents of Grand Valley students.

Mutch said: "Students are showing that they're Lakers for a Lifetime by giving back. Community service is a priority at Grand Valley. We don't just exist in the community, we're part of it. We have a responsibility to give back."



Visit [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine) to see student volunteers in action.

**2,684 community groups:** The number of organizations students served, according to Service Tracker.



# Community service by the numbers

DURING 2012-2013:

Community service is embedded in campus traditions: Community Outreach Week, which takes place in March; Make a Difference Day, which takes place in October; and the bi-annual Nonprofit Volunteer and Internship Fair.

\$23,966,395

Bill Kinter, president of the Student Environmental Coalition, helps clear trails and keep grounds clean at the Blandford Nature Center.

photo by Amanda Pitts



**\$23,966,395:** The economic impact of student volunteerism, according to Independent Sector.

**11,753 students** reported doing a form of community service either on their own, as a part of a student organization or as part of an Academic Service Learning class.

2,684  
groups

11,753  
students

**1,082,493:** The number of hours students reported volunteering in their communities.

**92 hours:** The average number of hours a student volunteers in a year or semester.

92  
hours

1,082,493  
hours

Source: CSLC





# 'POWER TRIO'

*turns ideas into companies*

Grand Valley  
students,  
faculty  
play key  
roles

by Dottie Barnes | photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

It's being called a unique and aggressive approach to turning innovative ideas into companies. A technology sharing program created by Spectrum Health Innovations (SHI), Grand Valley and GR Current is a rare collaboration in moving ideas from concept to prototype to market, and Grand Valley students are at the forefront of the research.

The three organizations created Spectrum-Community T2, an initiative aimed at increasing the success of biomedical commercialization opportunities in West Michigan.

"Each organization and the community as a whole will benefit from this unique collaboration," said J. Kevin McCurren, executive director of

the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Seidman College of Business. "We foresee the commercialization of ideas and, ultimately, the creation of new companies and job opportunities."

The idea started because of the need for SHI to get its new ideas for medical devices to market. "Each year, Spectrum Health practitioners conduct research to identify and resolve a host of medical issues, generating a wealth of ideas for advancing health care," said Brent Mulder, senior director of SHI. "We believe this partnership will streamline and strengthen the commercialization process of promising biomedical device ideas."





Eric VanMiddendorp, left, was selected to work on product design and development for Spectrum-Community T2. Nick Ullery, '03, is pictured researching a medical device.

The project has received a 14-month grant for more than \$71,000 from the Michigan Initiative for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, a consortium of the 15 Michigan public universities to provide gap funding and help launch start-up companies.

### *GVSU Innovation Team*

The project called for the creation of a Grand Valley student/faculty "Innovation Team," comprised of an engineering graduate student, an MBA student and an entrepreneur-in-residence. The team is working with SHI to find three to five projects to move toward commercialization.

Nick Ullery, 24, earned a bachelor's degree in management and finance from Grand Valley in 2003. He is currently enrolled in Grand Valley's full-time integrated MBA (FIMBA) program and was selected to handle market research and assessment and prototyping for the project.

"I've started doing basic research to determine whether a project is feasible," said Ullery. "I'm checking on patents and determining whether it makes sense to purchase a patent for a potential idea."

Ullery has been shadowing doctors and nurses at Spectrum, observing any day-to-day challenges they face. "I'm looking for ways to make their job easier and for ways to provide better outcomes for patients," he said.

Ullery said he is excited to be part of the project and feels prepared for the challenge. "I learned how to analyze companies as an undergraduate, and in the FIMBA program I learned how to create a company, conduct market research and determine restrictions," he said.

Eric VanMiddendorp, 22, is a graduate student in Grand Valley's engineering program, majoring in product design and manufacturing and minoring in biomedical engineering. He is responsible for product design and development.

"I have been observing doctors and nurses in different areas of the hospital with Nick, taking note of how we might solve certain problems," said VanMiddendorp. "I am looking at the feasibility of solving various problems and trying to generate solutions and concepts that can carry through to a prototype."

The Grand Rapids native is used to vetting and developing projects. As an undergraduate, he worked with a team of students to design a control system for a standing frame for those who can't sit or stand on their own. The device closely mimics the standing motion for maximum therapeutic benefit.

"The engineering professors at Grand Valley are very knowledgeable

"This is a fantastic opportunity for students and the health care community in West Michigan,"

*Ryan Jankovic, CEO at Enterprise Medical Products*

and extremely helpful. It's good to know I can lean on the expertise of my professors during this process," he said.

Ryan Jankovic, CEO at Enterprise Medical Products, will serve as the entrepreneur-in-residence and provide oversight to the process.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for students and the health care community in West Michigan," said Jankovic. "Some overlook the fact that Spectrum is a world-class



“The project will mean hands-on learning experiences for students, development opportunities for faculty members and advanced health care for the region.”

*J. Kevin McCurren,  
executive director, Center for Entrepreneurship and  
Innovation in the Seidman College of Business*

facility and Grand Valley has one of the best up-and-coming biomedical programs in the country. It's a win-win. Students will have access to some of the greatest minds in the health care profession while bringing a fresh, new perspective to the table. I'm excited to be a part of it.”

### *Power Trio*

Each of the three organizations brings something unique to the project.

Grand Valley is providing technical expertise through its faculty and students and access to a diverse knowledge base, including product design, prototyping and market assessment. SHI, a business venture within Spectrum Health, is providing opportunities and clinical knowledge and resources required to develop life-science products. GR Current, a business incubator for life sciences located in Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, is contributing resources to accelerate business growth.

“It's a real powerful combination; we are like a power trio,” said Jeff Royce, director of GR Current. “Spectrum-Community T2 is unique in design and there are a lot of eyes on this set up. We've already been contacted by other organizations wanting to implement something similar.”

Royce said GR Current will provide access to a large database of resources for entrepreneurs. “This includes introductions to potential partners and clients and support groups like legal, accounting, prototype and design. It's a database of successful entrepreneurs waiting

for the next opportunity — qualified people who can take it to the next step,” he said.

The partnership with SHI was a logical one for Grand Valley, said McCurren. Grand Valley and SHI have collaborated on numerous projects. As part of their senior projects for graduation, engineering students help Spectrum identify potential solutions to problems. Students designed a medical device to secure tubes for people using a left ventricle assist device and another to harvest blood from cranial surgeries.

“Spectrum-Community T2 is a system that creates value not only for each party involved, but for the community as well,” said McCurren. “The project will mean hands-on learning experiences for students, development opportunities for faculty members and advanced health care for the region.”

### *New companies and jobs*

Spectrum-Community T2 offers educational and economic opportunities, said McCurren. He said because the project is integrated with both an engineering and MBA program it will be a feeder system for commercialization talent involving 10 to 30 students. He said with each successful idea and opportunity, the investment in the program will be returned to the Michigan economy.

“Our goal is to create new companies and subsequent jobs for GR Current and West Michigan,” McCurren said.





# The beekeepers:

*students, faculty work to save a vanishing species* by Leah Twilley

One out of three bites of food, or one-third of our diet, is linked to the direct work of the honeybee.

Fruits, vegetables, nuts and other crops rely on bees to pollinate them for production of quality produce.

But honeybees, a species native to Europe, are mysteriously disappearing.

managed honeybee colonies by helping beekeepers keep colonies alive through surveys and data collection.

Fauvel said the number of honeybees that survive the winter decreases every year. "This is serious because the bees that survive are the ones that continue a colony or establish new ones in the spring," she said. "Last year, 36 percent were lost. Twenty years ago, it was only 8 percent."

A biologist who formally studied moose, Fauvel remembers the

**Computing graduate students Ehsan Valizadeh, David Qorashi and Sam Serpoosh designed and built the Web application.**

*photo by Amanda Pitts*

first time she interacted with honeybees.

"I visited some neighbors who started to raise honeybees," she said. "They opened up the cover to the hive, and there was an ah-ha moment; it was love at first sight."

That was six years ago. Since then, she has brought two hives to the Meijer Campus in Holland, where the student beekeeping club takes care of them, and hopes to install hives at the Sustainable Agriculture Project on the Allendale Campus this spring.

When Fauvel brought the hives to campus, she asked John Farris, professor of engineering, if he and his students could build a scale to be placed under the hives to track their weight, which indicates when the bees are producing honey — called the honey flow — and whether the colony is growing or shrinking. The data went to HoneyBeeNet, a NASA project that collects data to superpose satellite images of the greening of the Earth with weight increases of hives that correlates with the blooming season. The data is then compared with the blooming time of previous years.

Fauvel's research and passion for beekeeping brought her to several conferences, including one in Quebec where she met Dennis vanEngelsdorp, a leader of BIP and research scientist at the University of Maryland.

"HoneyBeeNet was in the process of merging with BIP, and was still collecting data from their scales by hand, so I thought, 'Let's use the computer system our students created for the hives in Holland and modernize the system,'" she said.

Fauvel enlisted the help of Engelsma and his computing graduate students to build a Web application where honeybee keepers around the country can register a hive, assign it to a scale and track daily cycles such as weight, humidity and temperature. The website was built in the Mobile Applications and Services Lab in Grand Valley's School of Computing and Information Systems. Engelsma and Fauvel received a \$22,140 grant from BIP in February.

"Our hope is that over time, the data collected on the new Web application will become a research tool for scientists to use to discover patterns that could shed some light on this significant problem," Fauvel said.

Their goal is for the Web application to become a nationwide effort. "Someday,

***"Someday, we hope any beekeeper can purchase scales and hook into this bigger network of scales."***

***Anne Marie Fauvel, affiliate professor of liberal studies***

we hope any beekeeper can purchase scales and hook into this bigger network of scales," she said.

Engelsma said there's a silver lining to it all because beekeeping as a hobby has become wildly popular.

Fauvel said, "It's not the commercial beekeeper who has a thousand hives who's going to make a difference, but it's the thousand people who want to start one or two hives that will save our honeybees."



"Colonies are collapsing and dying, and scientists don't really know why, which is the scary part," said Jonathan Engelsma, associate professor of computing.

He said the one-half inch insect has had its fair share of problems over the centuries, and there are a lot of theories that try to explain why honeybees are now suddenly dying. Engelsma said he believes the problem is a combination of interrelated issues such as destroyed habitats, new pests and diseases, and low diversity of good nutrition.

Engelsma, a hobby beekeeper who manages 50 hives from his family's orchard in Walker, and Anne Marie Fauvel, affiliate professor of liberal studies, are collaborating with Bee Informed Partnership to build a tool that has the potential to connect honeybee keepers with researchers across the country. BIP is a national project that aims to decrease winter mortality of





photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

# Q&A

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## Renee Freeman

by Dottie Barnes

Local law enforcement veteran and alumna Renee Freeman was named police chief and director of Public Safety at Grand Valley in September. She served the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety for almost 27 years, working her way up from officer to lieutenant. She also spent 15 years as an adjunct instructor with the Police Academy at Grand Valley.



**GVM:** You have said you prefer to be in uniform, instead of plain clothes, when on campus. Why?

**Freeman:** It helps represent who I am, that I'm part of the police department. It's also an easy identifier for students, faculty and staff. It makes me feel like I am very much involved with our agency and campus community.

**GVM:** Do you like working at Grand Valley?

**Freeman:** It has been an incredible transition for me. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming and patient. It was hard to leave a comfort zone after 27 years. It's nice to be in an environment I am somewhat familiar with, having graduated from here and having worked as an adjunct faculty member at the Police Academy.

**GVM:** It must be different being around 24,000 young adults every day.

**Freeman:** I am very social by nature so I enjoy people from all walks of life. The student workers at the police department have helped me tremendously and I enjoy walking through campus and interacting with students any chance I get.

**GVM:** What challenges do you face policing a student population?

**Freeman:** I really prefer to see our presence on campus as opportunities rather than challenges. We have the unique experience of working with very educated, ambitious groups of people who are our future. Interacting with our community, building relationships and becoming rooted in the campus community is extremely important for us to be current and successful in our delivery of services.

**GVM:** Did you always want to be in law enforcement?

**Freeman:** Yes, it really seems like I always knew. There really was no defining moment. I simply went right from high school to college to the academy, and began my journey. It truly feels like a calling — I never looked back.

**GVM:** You are a role model for women who choose a law enforcement career. Are more women choosing jobs in this field?

**Freeman:** I started my career at a time when it wasn't popular for women, but I have never felt at a disadvantage because of my gender — never a barrier, nothing to stop me from being successful. There are so many more women in law enforcement today, serving in many capacities. The field has certainly evolved, like many other occupations that were traditionally filled by men.

**GVM:** Tell me about your family.

**Freeman:** I am married and I have four children. Three of my children are now adults and starting their own families, and I have a son at home who is 17.

**GVM:** What do you do for fun?

**Freeman:** I like to golf, work out, ride motorcycles; I love outdoor activities. I also like to cook. I could make and eat Mexican food every day. My favorite is enchiladas.

**GVM:** Would you say you live your job?

**Freeman:** Professionally and personally, I look at everything worst-case scenario — always. It's the perspective I naturally take, always wondering how to protect and keep everyone safe. I had age-appropriate conversations with my kids about safety, starting with looking both ways before you cross the street, to what would you do if someone offers you drugs? And quite frankly, everything in between. In my opinion, it's also very important to provide the reasoning behind instruction or a decision. It provides greater understanding and appreciation for what is being said.



about RENEE

- Certified fire officer
- Avid motorcyclist
- Certified medical first responder
- Four children, one grandson
- Outdoor enthusiast

Freeman's son pins her badge during the swearing-in ceremony.



OFF THE PATH

Merchant Marine Captain's Cap

LightSpeed Aviation Headset

Stubai Mountaineering Axe

Jumbo Glacier Glasses

Black Diamond Mountaineering Harness

Scuba Pro Buoyancy Control Device

Mountain Hardware Microfiber Insulated Shell

Aqualung Legend Regulator

Outdoor Research Gaitors

Garmin GPS

Atlas Snowshoes

Old Town Canoe Paddle

Mares Fins





# ROBERT ROBINS:

## an adventurous lifetime learner

by Mary Isca Pirkola

At age 11 Robert Robins climbed to the top of Mt. Whitney, the highest summit in the contiguous U.S. with an elevation of 14,505 feet. In his mid-teens, Robins ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, during the annual festival of San Fermi — for the first time. He returned about a dozen years later to do it again.

Robins credited his father with instilling in him a love of the outdoors and a sense of adventure.

“My father served for 33 years in the Navy and our family moved almost every year to posts in California, Florida, Texas and in Europe,” said Robins, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management. “While stationed in California, he was quite the mountaineer and shared that passion with me. As one of the many military fathers involved with my Boy Scout troop, we were provided access to many things other troops didn’t have, like the base survival course.”

By his late teens, Robins and his family had visited 21 countries before his father was reposted to bases stateside. It’s no wonder that a sense of wanderlust and search for the next big adventure has shaped Robins’ life.

“Staying focused on studies during my early college years was a huge challenge,” Robins said. “I dropped out and spent the next 30 years working in the hospitality industry, starting as a dishwasher and working my way up to executive chef and then general manager positions at

private clubs.” Along the way, he earned top-level certifications from the Club Managers Association of America and earned a bachelor’s degree in business management from Northwood University, graduating magna cum laude.

Despite his accomplishments, Robins often felt a nagging desire to do more. When he turned 40, Robins embarked on what he referred to as “a 10-year, mid-life crisis to tackle things unfinished, or not yet started.”

He earned a pilot’s license and became certified as a technical scuba diver and instructor. He worked to obtain a Master Mariner 100-ton captain’s license in the Merchant Marines and drove tall ships as a relief captain. He has made a dozen skydives, then determined his preference for parasailing because, “I drop pretty fast and found that I like more air time.”

While working on a master’s degree in park and recreation management at Central Michigan University, Robins decided to explore a career in academia. He had already enjoyed teaching CPR, wilderness first aid and oxygen provider classes for the American Red Cross, Divers Alert Network and Emergency First Responders. An introduction to Paul Stansbie, chair of Grand Valley’s Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, led to an adjunct position in 2008, and a full-time position after completing his degree.

“It was actually my hobbies that got me my first position here, teaching the Adventure Tourism class,” said Robins.

Robert Robins encourages his Adventure Tourism students to try new things, such as snowshoeing, pictured here at the Meadows.

photos by Amanda Pitts

“Once I was hired full time I began teaching classes in my career field of hospitality.”

The students in his courses benefit from his encouragement to try new things, as well as his vast experiences, which he continues to expand. At Grand Valley Robins earned a master’s degree in educational technology and is currently in the Educational Specialist in Leadership program. He intends to finish a doctorate in educational leadership at Eastern Michigan University.

“I’m interested in combining educational technology with experiential learning,” said Robins. “Students today are used to handling compact series of information very quickly and in multimedia formats, and I’m able to do that with flipped and hybrid online courses. The way students learn has changed, so the teaching methods must also.”

One thing that hasn’t changed is his thirst for adventure, and with Robins, one never knows what path he might take next. In his “spare time” he is taking photography courses and hopes to pair that with his interest in diving to do some underwater shooting this summer.

“It’s one of those things that may someday lead to something else,” said Robins. “Like being on a ship somewhere and teaching via satellite. That would be a fun experience.”



Watch a Behind The Lens video of this photoshoot at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).





# Changing gears:

*Students build electric motorcycle*

by Leah Twilley



A

fter successfully converting a standard-combustion 1999 Subaru Outback into a battery-powered vehicle last year, students in the Alternative Energy Club are turning their attention to another form of transportation.

“After we finished working on the Subaru, we thought it would be fun to apply what we learned on the car to a new project,” said Dugan Karnazes, a third-year electrical engineering student from Grand Rapids. In the fall of 2013, they decided it would be a motorcycle.

“With a car, you have a lot of space to work with, but with a motorcycle, you have less space to work with and all the plans must be defined, so it’s a good challenge,” he said.

Caitlyn Hurley, president of the Alternative Energy Club, said everything needed to be mapped out before the motorcycle was purchased. “We had to determine where to place the motor controller, the battery, and other parts and pieces,” she said.

Student members majoring in mechanical engineering took measurements and created blueprints, and students majoring in electrical engineering helped design the motorcycle’s dashboard, which will include a unique key card reader that will start the motorcycle when swiped. Included in the design plan is the ability for the motorcycle battery to be charged from a standard wall outlet. Karnazes said the bike will be highway legal, so it will go at least 55 mph and a predicted upward speed of 80 mph.

Near the end of the fall semester, the group completed a three-dimensional model. They purchased a 1982 Honda CB 750 from Craigslist with financial assistance from the School of Engineering and a grant from the Grand Valley Sustainability Reinvestment Fund.

Group members removed the engine and other parts, so all that was left was a frame. “We had to perform a stress analysis to make sure the frame could



Alternative Energy Club members meet on Thursday nights to work on their newest project, converting a 32-year-old motorcycle into one that operates on a battery.  
photos by Amanda Pitts

handle all forces that will be exerted,” said Hurley, from Clinton Township.

Karnazes said these types of projects give students the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom to a real-life project. “These projects also give entry-level engineering students access to experiences they wouldn’t normally see until they take the higher-level courses,” he said.

The group plans to make the instructions available to the public when the motorcycle transformation is complete. “The whole idea is that this is a community project,” Karnazes said. “The model we have is extremely popular, so if other people out there want to build their own, they can follow our guidelines.”

Hurley and Karnazes said the main focus of the Alternative Energy Club is

to get students exposed to things they might not experience otherwise. “We do a lot of fabricating in the machine shop and it’s only available to upper-level mechanical engineering students, but through this club, they can learn how to use new tools and concepts,” he said.

The group spends about two hours each week building the motorcycle in the Keller Engineering Labs building. In addition to the Subaru, the group has also designed and built a bicycle that can run on a battery.

Karnazes said when the group finishes existing plans for the motorcycle, it will serve as a platform for continuous improvement. “There are a lot of electric motorcycle races and competitions, so we’d also like to take it down to a track and play with it,” he said.





## Father of the Year

In June, West Michigan will learn why Chris Barbee was named Father of the Year by a Grand Rapids organization.

But why wait? His daughters, Maya and Janelle, could tell you that now. Maya, a sixth-grader, said she enjoys watching sports with her dad. Janelle, in fourth grade, said she enjoys going to restaurants with him.

Barbee, director of Alumni Relations, enjoys each minute he spends with his daughters. "We don't have to be doing anything special, I like the uninterrupted time when it's just us," he said.

Barbee and three other men will be honored by the Grand Rapids Father's Day Council at an awards ceremony, which honors fathers who successfully balance their personal and professional lives while making a positive community impact. The ceremony benefits the American Diabetes Association.

Barbee said he's used to being on the other side of presenting awards and said this honor was a bit overwhelming. Maya took a different approach. "It's cool," she said.

photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker  
by Michele Coffill



## The art of meaningful engagement

by Mary Isca Pirkola

Jill Eggers believes in the transformative power of art. She has seen it occur both during her own creative practice and while teaching art to others.

An associate professor of art and design, Eggers has taught primarily painting classes since coming to Grand Valley in 2000. Early in her career, Eggers worked as a substitute teacher while she took night classes at the Art Institute of Chicago in preparation for a graduate program at Yale University.

Having grown up in a calm, suburban environment, Eggers said she was unprepared for the reality of the inner-city school where she worked.

"I was the third teacher assigned to that classroom since school had started, and it was only October," said Eggers. "I was given a couple of packs of paper, a box of pencils and a budget of \$150 for the entire school year of seven art classes a day."

Eggers faced her challenges with a fierce determination to stay and try to make a difference. She drew from her meager salary to buy additional supplies and solicited donations from suburban school teachers and art supply stores. Most importantly, she connected with the students.

"I was losing students to street violence all the time. I tried to create a safe space, and basically taught them how to draw," said Eggers. "Out of that, some amazing things happened. It was calming for them. They thrived in a focused training experience with support and encouragement. And they found success at something — for the first time in their lives for many of them."

Their success gave Eggers a sense of meaningful engagement, but also created a huge quandary in her life. "I didn't know then how to reconcile the difference between my art making, which at the time seemed such an elitist luxury and privileged intellectual inquiry, with their real-life pain and suffering," said Eggers.

Recently, Eggers looked for ways to recapture that early experience of helping youth in need.

Over the past year, Eggers has developed and taught a volunteer art class at the D.A. Blodgett St. John's Home for Children in Grand Rapids. The class meets at KidsFirst, an emergency shelter for children 7-17 who were removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.

"I met with the home's performing arts director, Kathleen (Hanley) Bode, '12, and was motivated by her dedication to these children and her belief in the transformative power of the arts," said Eggers. Bode has developed a range of

### To volunteer:

Jill Eggers encourages anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the art program at St. John's Home for Children to contact her at [eggersj@gvsu.edu](mailto:eggersj@gvsu.edu).

To see more of Eggers' own artwork, visit [jilleggers.com](http://jilleggers.com).

arts programs at the shelter.

Eggers recruited volunteers, including Grand Valley students, to help with the Saturday art sessions.

"We encourage them to experiment with the materials and not worry about if it turns out good in an artistic sense. It's not for somebody else, it's for them," Eggers said. "I really enjoy this work because it is so different from what I do at Grand Valley, where I must evaluate and be critical and offer judgments on the work and progress of my students."

Volunteering at KidsFirst affords Eggers a chance for something more. "It also provides me with an opportunity for the type of connection I had with my kids in Chicago," she said, "this time in a very healing environment, so I've come full circle."

Jill Eggers, shown in her studio, developed an art program at St. John's Home for Children.

photo by  
Bernadine Carey-Tucker



## Four degrees of separation *Alumni with the most diplomas*

by Abigayle Sloan, '07

Michael Nicholson's 1960s vintage green Smith-Corona typewriter has been with him through countless projects, literature reviews and research papers. It helped him work his way to earning one bachelor's degree, one doctorate and 27 other advanced degrees.

Nicholson's first college graduation was from Detroit's William Tyndale College in 1963, and the most recent have been master's degrees from Grand Valley in general education (2005), public administration (2008), health administration (2009) and special education administration (2010).

The 73-year-old retiree was born to a Canadian father who never finished third grade and a mother who did not pursue education beyond her high school diploma. Yet Nicholson pursued his passion for education and currently holds the unofficial world record for earning the most college degrees. He chose Grand Valley because of its convenience, but discovered a deeper connection when he arrived at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

"The DeVos Center food court looks like a train station," he said. "I feel at home when I walk into that building."

Nicholson grew up traveling by steam train to and from Canada to visit family. He met his wife, Sharon, while pursuing his bachelor's degree in Detroit. The two have lived in Kalamazoo since 1980.

Four Laker commencement tassels are proudly hanging above a desk in his home office next to the dozens of others. He expects to add a fifth to the collection when he completes his final class in the master's of criminal justice program this fall.

"The more I went to school, the more I saw the professors had something I didn't have, so I wanted to get what they had," he said.

Nicholson took some early advice to heart: don't quit too soon. With a short-term goal of receiving 33 college degrees in all, he insisted that he will keep taking classes until he is no longer able to strike the ivory colored keys on his trusty typewriter.



MICHAEL NICHOLSON, '05 & '08 & '09 & '10

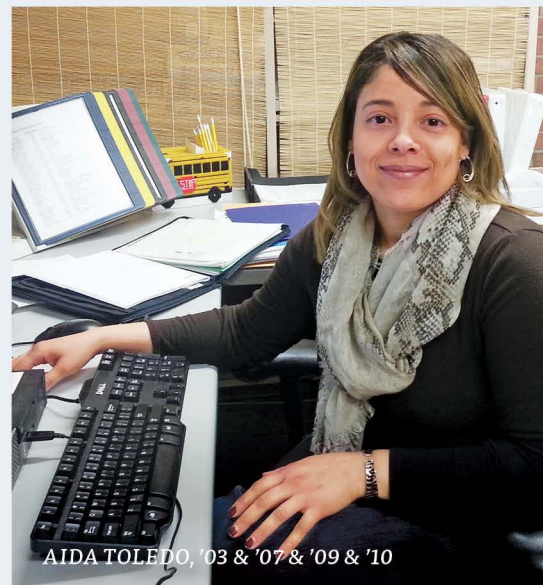
***"The more I went to school, the more I saw the professors had something I didn't have ... I wanted to get what they had."***

**Michael Nicholson**

### AIDA TOLEDO

Aida Toledo, 38, was the youngest of eight children born to Puerto Rican parents in Chicago. Her mother finished fourth grade and her dad graduated from middle school. Her family moved to West Michigan while she was young; Toledo grew up attending Grand Rapids Public Schools. She worked full time, supporting herself through her first degree from Grand Valley in criminal justice in 2003.

An advocate for structure and discipline, Toledo started working with teens entering juvenile detention in Kent County. She also spent time guiding youth between the ages of



AIDA TOLEDO, '03 & '07 & '09 & '10

11-17 at the former Project Rehab of Grand Rapids. There, she coordinated long- and short-term substance abuse programs for six years, in an effort to keep teens out of jail.





SHAHRYAR (SHAWN) OLIAI,  
'89 & '95 & '95 & '05

Toledo came to the realization that she wanted to affect change in adolescents before they entered the justice system. She continued her education at Grand Valley and received master's degrees in social work (2007) and education (2009), followed by an educational specialist degree in leadership (2010). She has worked in administration for GRPS since 2007, currently working as dean of students at Riverside Middle School, which serves

306 students. Her primary roles are coordinating discipline for students and administering teacher evaluations.

Toledo has plans to further her education with more degrees. "They have all had their place in assisting me to be where I am today," Toledo said. "I am now able to pursue a doctorate if I want and may be seeking yet another degree, this time in counseling."

The first and only in her family of 10 to graduate from a four-year university, Toledo emphasizes the importance of education to her students daily, hoping to steer them away from trouble and toward a promising future.

### SHAHRYAR (SHAWN) OLIAI

Shahryar (Shawn) Oliai left his family in Iran and came to the U.S. when he was 14 with a determination to get educated.

After some struggles to remain in college at another institution, Oliai arrived in West Michigan and discovered Grand Valley in 1986. At the age of 26 he enrolled as a nontraditional student and worked full time while taking classes.

He selected Grand Valley for its convenience and affordability, but he said he returned to seek second, third and fourth degrees because of the extraordinary instruction and faculty support.

"Whether I agreed with my professors or not, it was the healthy conversation and dialogue that made my time and commitment at GVSU meaningful," said Oliai.

A degree in finance (1989) helped him establish himself in the banking

To read more about the stories of Nicholson, Toledo and Oliai, visit [www.gvsu.edu/alumni](http://www.gvsu.edu/alumni).

industry, but his interest in health care led him toward degrees in biomedical sciences (1995), health sciences (1995) and eventually to a master's in public administration (2005).

Oliai is currently a senior consultant for Encore Health Resources, a health care technology consulting company based in Houston, Texas. He assists hospitals with optimization and evaluates the effectiveness of their electronic health records, aiming to ultimately improve the experience of patients.

Education is the cornerstone for Oliai and his wife Jacquelyn, who earned a master's degree in nursing in 1995 and a post-master's certificate in 2001. They have also instilled their love of knowledge in their two grown daughters.

"It brings you more independence. More options give you more tools to work with in life. Liberal arts are just as important as the technical part," he said.

With a continuous desire to learn, Oliai is in the process of earning a master's degree in medical informatics.

At the time of this writing, there were six alumni, each with four degrees from Grand Valley. The other alumni could not be reached for comment. To read more about Nicholson, Toledo and Oliai, go to [www.gvsu.edu/alumni](http://www.gvsu.edu/alumni).

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Call (800) 558-0541 | Email [alumni@gvsu.edu](mailto:alumni@gvsu.edu) | Visit [www.gvsu.edu/alumni](http://www.gvsu.edu/alumni) and click "Contact Us"





# Recent alumni events



Detroit alumni Ugly Sweater Party and holiday canned food drive, December 7.



Grand Rapids Ugly Sweater Party and Grand Rapids Griffins Game, December 13.



GVSU Hockey Alumni Game, February 8.



San Diego Alumni Reception, January 15.

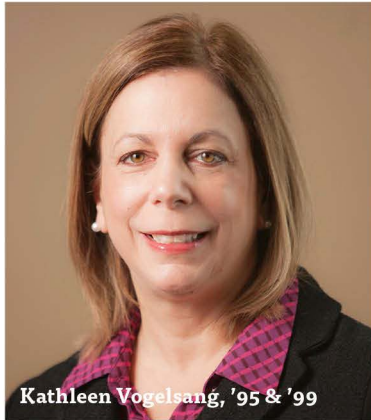


Chicago Ugly Sweater Party, Metropolitan Club, December 17.

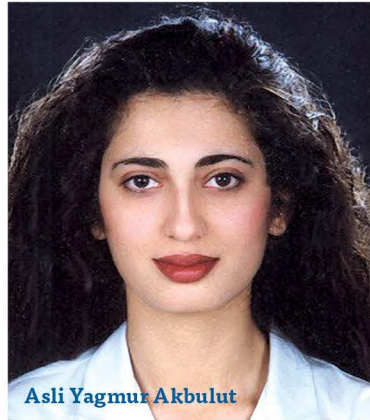


#GVTweetUp, and Alumni Panel, February 4.





Kathleen Vogelsang, '95 & '99



Asli Yagmur Akbulut

## Awards presented during commencement

Kathleen Vogelsang, '95 & '99, was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award at the university's commencement on April 26.

Vogelsang is a graduate of the Seidman College of Business and is employed as the chief financial officer at the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids.

Asli Yagmur Akbulut, associate professor of information systems in the Seidman College of Business Management Department, was nominated by her former students to receive the Outstanding Educator Award. Akbulut has been teaching at Grand Valley since 2003.



## Registration now open

GVSU Alumni Golf Outing is set for July 19 at the Meadows. Limited space available:

[www.gvsu.edu/alumni/golfouting](http://www.gvsu.edu/alumni/golfouting).



## Careers

### 1970s

Stephen L. Cochran, B.Phil., 1976, is director at the Groff Memorial Public Library.

Gregory A. Loomis, B.B.A., 1979, M.B.A., 1987, is president of Mercy Health Muskegon.

Mark Wietecha, B.S., 1979, is president and CEO at Children's Hospital Association.

### 1980s

Virginia M. Seyferth, B.A., 1983, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

Christine F. Willis, B.S., 1983, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

Jackie D. Hampton, B.S., 1986, retired from the Battle Creek Police Department after a 27-year career.

Beverly S. Wall, M.B.A., 1987, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

### 1990s

Michael S. Dolce, B.B.A., 1993, is vice president of advocacy at Regal Investment Advisors LLC.

Michelle A. Culver, B.S., 1994, is senior manager of corporate communications at IHS.

John M. DeYoung, B.A., 1994, is the Holland Police Department of Public Safety officer of the year.

Donald R. Dismuke, M.T.A., 1994, is partner in corporate and international tax at Dixon Hughes Goodman.

Andrew J. Giza, B.S., 1994, is senior risk control consultant at Willis North America.

Jennifer J. Maxson, B.S., 1994, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

Thomas A. Kabel, B.S., 1995, was named Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's Elite 40 Under 40.

Kathleen B. Vogelsang, B.B.A., 1995, M.B.A., 1999, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

Anne M. Porter, B.B.A., 1996, is partner at DeBoer, Baumann & Company PLC.



**Mandee Rick, B.B.A., 1997**, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

**Mary L. Tosch, B.S., 1997**, is student life manager at Waubensee Community College.

**Diana L. Marker, B.S., 1998**, is sales coordinator at Haviland Products Co.

**Lisa C. Young, B.S., 1998**, is marketing manager at CWD Real Estate Investment.

**Julie A. Bulson, B.N., 1999, M.P.A., 2007**, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

**Jennifer L. Feuerstein, M.Ed., 1999**, is associate state director at AARP.

**Rebecca K. Sellers, B.S., 1999, M.P.A., 2001**, is director of annual giving at Henry Ford Health System.

## 2000S

**Victor M. Cardenas, B.A., 2000**, is interim city manager for the City of Novi.

**Travis J. Alden, B.S., 2002**, is theater manager at the Historic Vogue Theatre of Manistee.

**Kevan Chapman, B.A., 2002**, is a senior consultant and director of public affairs at Wondergem Consulting Inc.

**Amanda Pilipovic, B.B.A., 2002**, is assistant corporate treasurer at Brightstar Corp.

**Jason R. Redmond, B.S., 2002**, is science department chair at Fallston High School.

**Nicole L. Wheeler, M.S.W., 2002**, is a social worker at All Children's Hospital.

**Benjamin P. Witt, B.S., 2002**, is associate dean of students at Humboldt State University.

**David J. Angeles, B.S., 2003**, is general manager at Allen Event Center Arena.

**Jennifer A. Jurgens, M.B.A., 2003**, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

**Kris M. Drake, B.S., 2004, M.H.A., 2007**, is director of operations and corporate compliance officer at Access Health Inc.

**Rachael L. Voorhees, B.S., 2004**, is director of network and business at the Molina Foundation.

**Dion N. Charity, B.S., 2005, M.Ed., 2009**, is associate football head coach at Northview High School.

**Rebecca L. Hoyt, B.S., 2005**, is client services associate at CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.

**Martin Slagter, III, B.A., 2005**, is a reporter at the Kokomo Tribune.

**Christine L. Brown, B.B.A., 2006**, is an adjunct faculty member at Macomb Community College.

**Bethany M. Alger, B.B.A., 2007**, is a business development officer at Fidelity Bank.

**Michael A. Brower, B.S., 2007**, was nominated for a Muskegon 40 Under 40 People's Choice distinction.

**Lauren D. Flanagan, M.Ed., 2007**, is admissions coordinator at Oakland University's William Beaumont School of Medicine.

**Leslie A. Perales Loges, B.S., 2007**, is communications manager at the Long & Foster Companies.

**Darquillius J. Johnson, B.S., 2007, M.Ed., 2009**, is coordinator of multicultural affairs at Eastern Michigan University.

**Karin C. Armbuster, B.A., 2008**, is a reporter at the Big Rapids Pioneer.

**Olubunmi A. Parks, B.S., 2008, M.P.A., 2013**, is the human resources generalist at Cascade Engineering.

**Brian T. Flanagan, M.P.A., 2009**, is managing director at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

**Holly S. Schippers, B.B.A., 2009**, is regional deputy controller at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Diana M. Willsie, B.A., 2009**, is a producer at WOOD-TV.

## 2010S

**Sean M. Blair, B.S., 2010**, is head coach of men's lacrosse at Colorado State University Pueblo.

**Danielle R. Cuperus, B.S., 2010, B.S., 2012**, is a plasma center technician at Biolife Plasma Center.

**Lauren B. Fitch, B.A., 2010**, is a reporter for the Kokomo Tribune.

**Chaste D. Heggenstaller, B.S., 2010, M.S.W., 2013**, is a behavioral health clinician at Easter Seals of Michigan.

**Morgan E. Lind, B.S., 2010**, is community relations specialist at ITT Technical Institute.

**Michael G. Thueme, B.S., 2010**, is a police specialist at the Fayetteville Police Department.

**Ryan H. Vaughn, M.S., 2010**, won the company award at Accelerate Michigan.

**Hugh P. Welsh III, B.S., 2010**, is a tight end coach at Miami of Ohio University.

**Olivia M. Wofford, B.B.A., 2010**, is a marketing specialist at Tata Technologies.

**Jenna L. Carrigan, B.A., 2011**, is capital campaign coordinator at MANNA Food Bank.

**Christine M. Horner, B.A., 2011**, is an assistant account executive at the Integer Group.

**Shayna H. Pham, B.A., 2011**, is an account manager at National Food Group.

**Kaitlin G. Sweet, B.A., 2011**, is a client relationship administrator at Reliabilityweb.com.

**Neil S. Vestrand, B.B.A., 2011**, is a staff associate at Grant Thornton LLP.

**Megan C. Zars, B.S., 2011**, is the development assistant and volunteer coordinator at D.A. Blodgett.

**Cory J. Jackson, B.S., 2012**, is senior community director at the YMCA of Western North Carolina.

**Valerie A. Pesonen, B.S., 2012**, is an associate at Lambert, Edwards & Associates.

**Erin N. Quetell, B.S., 2012**, is community forester and research analyst at the Greening of Detroit.

**Ellyse C. Birch, B.A., 2013**, is a technical service representative at Structural Concepts Corp.

**Amber J. Hop, B.N., 2013**, is a registered nurse at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

**Megan K. Susterich, B.S., 2013**, is an associate at Lambert, Edwards & Associates.

**Jenna M. Swartz, B.B.A., 2013**, is national account manager at the Wilde Group.

## Celebrations, Births, Weddings

### 2000S

**Tiffany A. (Bennett) Yatzek, B.S., 2001**, and husband Derrick, announce daughter Cora Ann Esther, born May 24, 2013. Cora is welcomed by brother Noah. The family resides in Adrian.



Lesley M. (Curtis) Steinberg, B.N., 2002, and Nathan D. Steinberg, B.S., 1999, announce son Harrison Joseph, born August 1, 2013. Harrison is welcomed by brother Spencer. The family resides in Caledonia.

Amanda L. (Van Dop) VanPopering, B.A., 2002, and husband John, announce son Henry Daniel, born October 26, 2013. Henry is welcomed by sisters Charlotte, Allison and Georgianna. The family resides in Grant.

Andrea B. (Freude) Westdorp, B.B.A., 2002, M.B.A., 2008, and Robert W. Westdorp, B.B.A., 2004, M.S.A., 2005, announce son Reed William, born January 23, 2014. The family resides in Jenison.

Arlena M. (Ross) Massenberg, B.B.A., 2004, and Joshua M. Massenberg, B.B.A., 2004, announce daughter Journii Rachele, born November 11, 2013. Journii is welcomed by brother Caleb. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Julie M. (Snyder) Peasel, B.A., 2004, and Timothy Peasel, B.S., 2011, announce daughter Emma Layne, born November 3, 2013. The family resides in Kalamazoo.

Andrea J. (Gardner) Hanson, B.B.A., 2005, and husband Ryan announce daughter Eliana, born December 12, 2013. The family resides in Kentwood.

April J. (Szatkowski) Adamkiewicz, B.S., 2006, and David Adamkiewicz on July 27, 2013.

Katie E. (Arnold) Englishmen, B.S., 2006, and husband Brian Englishmen announce daughter Averie Elizabeth, born June 30, 2013. The family resides in Byron Center.

Kourtney E. (Barlow) Finnerty, B.S., 2006, and Joseph F. Finnerty IV, B.B.A., 2005, announce son Cole Bradley, born April 10, 2013. Cole is welcomed by brother Desmond. The family resides in Jackson.

Jamie E. (Salmon) Gust, B.N. 2006, and husband Arthur announce son Nolan Michael, born January 13, 2014. Nolan is welcomed by brother Nathaniel. The family resides in Onsted.

Shannon M. (Junker) Moir, B.A., 2006, and Devin Moir on December 22, 2013.

Mackenzie E. (Mikulenias) Satkoski, B.B.A., 2006. M.S.A., 2007, and Mark R. Satkoski, B.B.A., 2005, M.B.A., 2012, announce daughter Maisie Elizabeth,

born November 13, 2013. The family resides in Dorr.

Lisa A. (DeYoung) Vennema, B.S., 2006, and husband Scott announce son Logan James, born December 12, 2013. The family resides in Muskegon.

Michelle L. (Lelli) VanDenBrand, B.S., 2006, and Brian T. VanDenBrand, B.S., 2006, announce Wesley John, born December 12, 2013. The family resides in Traverse City.

Steve R. Loges, B.B.A., 2007, and Leslie A. (Perales) Loges, B.S., 2007, on October 26, 2012.



Pictured is Jackson, submitted by Casey (Otradovec) Ball, '09 & '11.

Joseph A. Smith, B.S., 2007, and Bethany Smith announce daughter Adelynn Joy, born January 31, 2014. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

Kristine L. (Kozlowski) Soles, B.S., 2007, and husband Alexander announce daughter Madelynn Lee, born January 8, 2013. The family resides in Bloomington, Indiana.

Katie A. (Rice) Zahrt, B.A., 2007, and Kenneth Zahrt, B.A., 2007, announce son Benjamin Orion, born February 18, 2014. The family resides in Flint.

Susan (Hearne) Bellisario, B.S., 2008, and Thomas Bellisario on November 2, 2013.

Savanna L. (Rivest) Rayner, B.S., 2008, and Gabriel B. Rayner, B.S., 2009, announce son Bentlee William, born December 19, 2013. The family resides in Hudsonville.

Heather J. (Kaweck) Schamper, B.A., 2008, M.P.A., 2010, and Shane D. Schamper, B.A., 2006, M.P.A., 2011, announce daughter Wren Carolynn, born January 25, 2014. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

David L. Bemis, B.B.A., 2009, and Rebecca L. Bemis, B.S., 2009, on September 7, 2013.

Amber M. (Stevenson) Rant, B.B.A., 2009, and husband Scott announce son Noah Robert, born February 8, 2014. The family resides in New Baltimore.

## 2010S

Joshua K. Beebe, B.B.A., 2010, and Jessica C. (Rowland) Beebe, B.S., 2011, on October 19, 2013.

Matthew J. Weller, B.B.A., 2010, and Megan M. (Micallef) Weller, B.S., 2010, M.S.P.A.S., 2012, on November 30, 2013.

Robert L. Piccard, B.S.E., 2011, and Jessica A. (Blancke) Piccard, B.S., 2011, on May 21, 2011.

Claire E. (Marchesano) Pomerson, B.A., 2013, and Anthony Pomerson on June 1, 2013.

## In Memoriam

### 1970S

William J. Barrett, M.B.A., 1979, of Comstock Park on December 2, 2013.

### 1990S

Scott C. Nichols, B.S., 1997, of Smiths Creek on January 31, 2014.

### 2000S

Jerome A. Colwell, M.S.W., 2008, of Onondaga on January 12, 2014.

### 2010S

Lindsey R. Bly, B.S., 2011, of Jacksonville, Florida, on November 2013.



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# THANK YOU, COACH

After 24 seasons as head softball coach, Doug Woods retired in May. He leaves a legacy that includes 11 NCAA tournament appearances, five GLIAC championships and a record that makes him among the top 10 Division II coaches with the most wins. Woods began working at Grand Valley 38 years ago and served as head athletic trainer for 23 years.