

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## Graduates will hear from Tabron, Heartwell

About 3,000 students will participate in commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 30, at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

The ceremonies will take place at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, is the morning speaker, and George Heartwell, former mayor of Grand Rapids, is the afternoon speaker.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will include the following colleges: Seidman College of Business, College of Community and Public Service, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, College of Health Profession and Kirkhof College of Nursing. The 3 p.m. ceremony will include the following colleges: College of Education, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Tabron joined WKKF, one of the largest private foundations in the U.S., in 1987 as controller. She has been an active leader in the foundation's racial equality, diversity and inclusion work. She is involved on local, state

and national boards, including the Detroit Workforce Development Board and Mississippi Center for Education Innovation.

Heartwell served as mayor of Grand Rapids for 12 years. During his tenure, Grand Rapids was recognized as the nation's most sustainable mid-sized city by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He is a recognized expert on sustainability and climate protection and is an ordained minister. In February, Heartwell took on a new role as community sustainable coordinator for Grand Valley's Office of Sustainability Practices.

The Alumni Association will present its Distinguished Alumni Award to Nkechye Ekeh Ekeh, '92 and '93, an associate professor of education and director of the early childhood education program at Aquinas College. The Outstanding Educator Award will be presented to Greg Wolffe, professor of computing and information systems.

Noreen Myers and Peter Renucci will receive honorary degrees. Myers, '72, is a lawyer specializing in employment law and the first



La June Montgomery Tabron and George Heartwell are the winter semester commencement speakers. Commencement is April 30 at Van Andel Arena.

alumna to be appointed to Grand Valley's Board of Trustees. Renucci is the owner of E&R Investments and is a director on the Grand Valley University Foundation. He and his wife, Pat, have funded scholarships and equipment to support student achievement.

## Trophy hall in Fieldhouse named for retiring AD

The extensive trophy cases in the Fieldhouse may be now named for Tim Selgo, but the retiring athletic director said it does so only because of the great successes of student athletes, coaches and administrators he has



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Tim Selgo addresses the audience at an event April 12 to name the Showcase of Champions in the Fieldhouse in his honor.

worked with for the past 20 years.

A naming ceremony was held April 12 in the Fieldhouse to name the Showcase of Champions for Selgo, who will retire at the end of the academic year. The hallway cases include 10 Learfield Sports/NACDA Directors' Cup trophies, 17 GLIAC Presidents' Cup trophies, in addition to hardware representing NCAA team and individual championships and league trophies, among others.

Selgo oriented the audience to the cases and acknowledged the five or six thousand student athletes, and hundreds of coaches and administrators he has worked with since joining Grand Valley in 1996. "It is because of the great work of all these people that this space has my name," he said.

President Thomas J. Haas said Selgo was not only responsible for hiring great coaches who

produced winning teams, but for elevating Grand Valley's reputation as among the best in NCAA Division II athletics.

"He is without a doubt the best promoter of a well-rounded athletic department," Haas said.

Haas said Selgo has focused his attention on ensuring Laker athletes perform well on the field and in the classroom. "He has helped develop the whole person and has created an environment for student success," Haas said.

Laker golfer Gabrielle Shipley, president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, also spoke and said she represented all 550 student athletes in 20 varsity sports.

"Mr. Selgo has made a positive impact on my college career," Shipley said. "He is a role model on how to be a great leader."

Selgo noted that in addition to Haas, former university President Mark Murray and President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers were in the audience.

"There's the old phrase of 'Surround yourself with successful people and you will

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# Across Campus

## CRP author discusses book, racism

Claudia Rankine, author of Grand Valley's Community Reading Project selection, discussed her book and her own encounters with daily racial aggressions during a presentation April 7 in the Kirkhof Center.

*Citizen: An American Lyric* is a compilation of well-crafted poetry, prose and images, which book critics have said brings the everyday frustrations of racism to the reader's attention.



Photo by Dianne Carroll Burdick

Claudia Rankine gives a presentation April 7 in the Kirkhof Center that concluded the university's Community Reading Project.

Rankine's poems feature childhood and adult encounters with racism, while her prose focuses on racism in the media, including racism that tennis player Serena Williams faced from others in the predominantly white sport.

During her lecture, Rankine recounted her own and other people's experiences of daily racial aggressions, and discussed the significance behind many of the images included in the book.

President Thomas J. Haas gave welcoming remarks and said that reading *Citizen* was an "opportunity for the Grand Valley community to learn about who we are, individually and collectively."

"It is a challenging read," Haas said. "It is a book that should make us uncomfortable in many regards. I'm thrilled that we are able to use this opportunity to stretch ourselves, the essence of liberal arts, and the essence of our mission as well."

Rankine also gave a presentation April 6 at the Herrick District Library in Holland. The CRP is sponsored by the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, University Libraries, Herrick District Library and the Grand Rapids

Community Foundation, in addition to many campus departments.

The CRP selection for next year is *The True American: Murder and Mercy in Texas* by Anand Giridharadas. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/read](http://www.gvsu.edu/read).

## Geography inducts students into honor society

The local chapter, Lambda Omega, of the International Geographic Honors Society, Gamma Theta Upsilon, held an induction ceremony April 7 in Mackinac Hall.

Criteria for the honor society include service to the geographic community and a grade point average of at least 3.0.

Inductees are Kellen Dykstra, Kray Freestone, Jeffrey Gardner, Andrea Hendrick, Brittany Jacobs, Jameson Schryer and Spencer Wejrowski.



Photo by Rex Larsen

Pictured from left to right are geographic honors society members Jameson Schryer, Spencer Wejrowski, Jeffrey Gardner, Andrea Hendrick, Kellen Dykstra, Brittany Jacobs and Kray Freestone.

## Engineering will celebrate co-op program's 30 years

Grand Valley's School of Engineering is celebrating 30 years of developing engineering talent for Michigan and the region through its co-op program.

What started as a handful of students in 1986 has grown to nearly 300

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Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web at [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://www.gvsu.edu/forum).

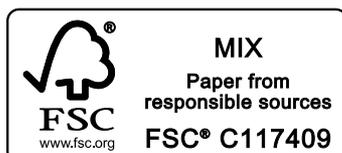
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*Grand Valley Magazine*, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVNNow, at [www.gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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



## GVFaces

### Gina M. Bovee, director of endowed, planned giving

Gina M. Bovee has joined the University Development team as director of Endowed and Planned Giving. Bovee will work closely with donors in the university's Gillett Society and will help grow the university's endowed funds.

Bovee is a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® with 18 years of experience developing, leading and achieving strategic fundraising goals. Most recently she worked for the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and her previous experience includes work for the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Bovee is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Inforum Professional Women's Alliance, and Western Michigan and

National Partnership for Philanthropic Planning.

"We are pleased that Gina has joined our team of fundraising professionals," said Jennifer Wardrop, associate vice president for University Development. "She brings a great deal of successful professional experience and understands the needs of our region very well."



Gina M. Bovee

### Event highlights athletic successes

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find success.' Today is an example of that. From student athletes to coaches and support staff, I surrounded myself with those successful people and it is on their backs that I stand before you today and that my name is allowed on this space," he said.

The Laker Pep Band played the Grand Valley fight song outside the Fieldhouse to start the ceremony.

# What's Ahead

## Brooks College to kick off new minor with event

The Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies will host an event that serves as a kick-off for the new human rights minor, which will begin in the fall semester.

Michael Goodhart from the University of Pittsburgh will give a presentation, "Human Rights as Political Tools," on Tuesday, April 19, at 4 p.m. in Niemeyer Hall, multipurpose room.

Goodhart is an associate professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh and holds secondary appointments in philosophy and women's studies. He wrote a book, *Democracy as Human Rights: Freedom and Equality in the Age of Globalization*, published in 2005.

Light refreshments will be served. The event is approved for LIB 100 and LIB 201 classes. More information about the human rights minor is online at [www.gvsu.edu/humanrights](http://www.gvsu.edu/humanrights).

## Graduate students will showcase innovative research

Cancer research, health policies at food pantries, and use of technology to improve employee wellness are just a few of the research topics graduate students will be showcasing at the sixth annual Graduate Showcase: Education for the Future.

More than 40 students will display their research and scholarly activities at the event set for Tuesday, April 19, at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. Poster presentations will be held from 3:30-5:15 p.m.; poster recognitions will take place from 5:15-6 p.m.

Research topics include:

- Social media's role in higher education
- Amphibian conservation
- History of Grand Rapids' Oak Hill Cemetery
- Gender stereotyping in children's toys
- Using technology to improve employee wellness
- Biological trends affecting Michigan
- Issues impacting students and faculty of color in higher education
- Using service dogs in social work
- Pancreatic cancer research

The event is sponsored by The Graduate School and the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. For more information on the Graduate Showcase visit [www.gvsu.edu/gradshowcase](http://www.gvsu.edu/gradshowcase).



Last year's Graduate Showcase is pictured; the annual event showcasing research is set for April 19 at the DeVos Center.

## AP awards luncheon set

The annual Administration Professional Luncheon and Awards Presentation is set for Thursday, April 21, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Awards will be presented in six categories: A/P Achievement, Commitment to Diversity, Commitment to Students, Innovation, Outstanding Team Project, and Service to Community. Medallions will be given to staff members with 25 years of service to the university.

Nominations are sought for people who would like to serve next year on the A/P Committee and subcommittees for awards, professional development, and salary and benefits. Self-submit or nominate another person online, visit [www.gvsu.edu/ballot](http://www.gvsu.edu/ballot); the deadline for nominations is May 6, voting will run May 13-20. For information about the AP committees, visit [www.gvsu.edu/ap](http://www.gvsu.edu/ap).

## Reception will celebrate Merkle

H. Bart Merkle, vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students, will be celebrated at a reception Friday, April 22, in Kirkhof Center.

The event will take place in the Pere Marquette Room from 1-4 p.m., with remarks by Provost Gayle R. Davis at 2 p.m. The campus community is invited; RSVPs are not needed.

Merkle joined Grand Valley in 1984 as dean of students. He will transition from his current role this summer and join the College of Education faculty to teach in the higher education graduate program.

## Registration open for annual golf outings

The 44th Annual Irwin Athletic Fund Golf Outing and Social is scheduled for June 2 at the Meadows.

Registration times are 6:30 a.m. and noon. Teams of four can choose a morning (7:30 a.m.) or afternoon (1:30 p.m.) tee time. Cost for faculty and staff members is \$100 for 18 holes.

Proceeds from the scramble benefit the Charles H. Irwin Athletic Fund. A continental breakfast will be served at 6:30 a.m., and lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. Guests can attend the luncheon only for \$25; a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30 p.m. Register online at [www.gvsu.edu/s/O6W](http://www.gvsu.edu/s/O6W); the deadline to register is May 20. Questions can be directed to Janine Warfield at x12330.

**CLAS on the Green** will take place June 15 at the Meadows.

The annual College of Liberal Arts and Sciences event invites faculty and staff members, alumni and friends of the university to golf as a simple way to support the endowment of the CLAS Student Scholarship Fund.

Driving range practice and registration begin at noon with a 1 p.m. shotgun start time. A cookout and celebration will follow the outing at 6 p.m. Cost per person is \$95. To register, visit [gvsu.edu/CLAS](http://gvsu.edu/CLAS).



Participants from the 2015 CLAS on the Green golf outing are pictured. This year's event is June 15; the annual Irwin Athletic Fund outing is June 2.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Roger Ellis**, professor of communications, was interviewed by WGVU-FM for a story about playwright Anton Chekhov in Russia.

**Frank Boring**, affiliate professor of communications, was interviewed by Michigan Radio for a story about the documentary "A Team of Their Own: The Story of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League."

**Brian Kingshott**, professor of criminal justice, was interviewed by WZZM-TV for a story about a mistaken identity arrest that resulted in a lawsuit against the Grand Rapids Police Department.

## Sketches

**Kathy Bailey**, professor of criminal justice, and students gave a presentation, "Mentoring At-Risk Youth: Incorporating D. W. Winnicott's Ideas About Good Enough Mothering and E. Trembley's Elaborations on Relational Theory," at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Denver, Colorado.

**Naoki Kanaboshi**, assistant professor of criminal justice, gave a presentation, "Parental Incarceration: A Children's Rights Analysis," at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Denver, Colorado.

**Marie Ullrich**, assistant professor of communications, has a narrative feature film, "The Alley Cat," available on Amazon, iTunes, YouTube, or cable providers. It is distributed via Gravititas Ventures.

**Raymond Higbea**, assistant professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, and **Alyssa Luboff**, assistant professor of philosophy, gave a presentation, "The (Un)Certainty of Care," at Western Michigan University's Bioethics Conference.

## MiRA Conference

The Department of Housing & Residence Life hosted resident assistants and supervisors from 17 different Michigan institutions for the Michigan RA (MiRA) conference at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus on April 9.

About 160 people attended and 30 program sessions were offered, centered on the themes of community building, citizenship, interculturalism and academic support.

Andy Beachnau, associate vice provost for Student Services, gave welcome remarks.

Carol "Griff" Griffin, director of general education and professor of biology, gave the keynote address.

Attendees participated in a philanthropy activity recycling t-shirts to produce more than 150 tote bags that will be used by the Community Food Club of Grand Rapids.



Housing and Residence Life staff members are pictured at the MiRA conference on April 9.

## Across Campus

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junior- and senior-level students this year. As the School of Engineering grew in enrollment, so did cooperative education, a program that requires students to complete a full year of paid intern work for an employer.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said about 83 percent of engineering alumni live and work in Michigan; 66 percent are in West Michigan. In May, a record-breaking cohort of 140 junior-level students will begin their co-ops.

"We're a teaching-oriented university, and the co-op program gets our students ready for life and careers, not just theory," Plotkowski said. "Most students are offered full-time jobs before they graduate, many times at companies where they completed their co-op."

While students often complete co-ops at companies located in West Michigan, many have worked for international companies located in countries like the U.K., Germany, Switzerland, Mexico and Austria.

The James R. Sebastian Endowed Chair in Engineering Cooperative Education was established in 2008 to help prepare undergraduates for their co-op experience.

The anniversary not only marks 30 years of student success, but it marks longtime partnerships with more than 250 local companies in West Michigan, including JR Automation Technologies. The company employees 58 Grand Valley graduates, many of whom started as students completing their co-ops.

"In 2001 we started with a few students and were not sure exactly how to best utilize them," said Kevin Bowe, director of engineering and co-op coordinator for JR Automation. "Within a couple months we didn't know how we accomplished things without them. We are constantly looking for the next JR employee when we are interviewing Grand Valley students."

The School of Engineering will celebrate its milestone with a reception August 4 at the Kennedy Hall of Engineering on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

## Teacher Academy instruction



Photo by Jess Weal

Keith Vree, associate director for undergraduate programs in the College of Education, talks with a group of high school students from the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District April 11 in the DeVos Center. The students are enrolled in the Teacher Academy and spent the day with College of Education faculty and staff members and students, learning about certifications, student teaching and college life.