

# FORUM

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017

**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

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## Grand Valley names new dean of University Libraries

Provost Gayle R. Davis has announced the appointment of Annie Bélanger as dean of University Libraries.

Bélanger is currently serving as associate university librarian, information resources and academic excellence in the library at University of Waterloo, located in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. In this role, she provides strategic leadership for the collections from development through retention, oversees the strategic focus on student engagement and developing research skills, and serves as a sponsor with activities ranging from student wellness support, accessibility and copyright.

Bélanger, who earned a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Western Ontario, replaces Lee Van Orsdel, who served as dean of University Libraries for 11 years and retired in December.

"Grand Valley and University Libraries

breathe student focus — a quality that is very important to me in a higher education setting. Dean Van Orsdel has led a tremendous transformation and developed a very innovative, strong and vibrant team," said Bélanger. "I seek to honor the culture that has been created and collaboratively lead the next evolution for University Libraries by building on its strong campus integration."

Bélanger will bring with her to Grand Valley a diverse professional background, having worked in a variety of roles in most types of libraries



Annie Bélanger

ranging from corporate and governmental to academic.

"Dean Bélanger impressed all of us with her preparedness and enthusiasm for the Grand Valley deanship," said Davis.

"She has integrated her rich experiential background into an approach to libraries and leadership that meshes seamlessly with Grand Valley's needs at this time. She will enrich our campus community for years to come."

Bélanger will begin her role at Grand Valley on June 5.

Van Orsdel played a crucial role in the conception, design and construction of the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons, which has been widely recognized as a model for 21st century library design.

## Across Campus

### Undergraduate research program gets national boost

Grand Valley's undergraduate research reputation was boosted nationally after the university was one of 11 selected to administer the Beckman Scholars Program.

Funded by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, the program will award two Grand Valley undergraduates \$21,500 grants each to conduct a 15-month long research project. A total of five students will be selected as Beckman Scholars through the duration of the three-year program.

Sok Kean Khoo, associate professor of cell and molecular biology, and Susan Mendoza, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, will direct the program. They collaborated to write the Beckman application, and successfully navigated a field of 180 applicants and 28 finalists.

Robert Smart, vice provost for Research Administration, said the Beckman Scholars Program accelerates the university's pledge to engage talented students through mentored undergraduate research.

"Being one of only a small handful of institutions selected this year, reflects very favorably on the caliber of life-science research



Sok Kean Khoo



Susan Mendoza

at Grand Valley, the quality of our faculty and undergraduate students and our university's growing commitment to support collaborative faculty-student research," Smart said.

Grand Valley was the only institution in the "master's large" category to earn the Beckman Scholars Program in the 2016 application cycle. Khoo called it an honor, as the program is one of the nation's most notable awards designed to encourage and support research activities by undergraduate students.

Students majoring in chemistry, biology, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, or biomedical sciences, and have a strong research interest, and a GPA of 3.7 or higher can apply to the program. The selected scholars will be mentored by an interdisciplinary committee of

faculty members, and will have the opportunity to travel to conferences and meet visiting scholars on campus.

"The exposure to diverse narratives of success is critical for students who are pursuing graduate and professional school," Mendoza said. "Engaging with leaders of industry, nationally renowned academics, as well as campus speakers on the life sciences helps students see a path for themselves."

The application deadline for students is February 22; selected scholars will be announced in March. Details are available online, [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours).

Research through the program will be conducted under the guidance of 12 Beckman faculty mentors: Bopi Biddanda and Kevin Strychar, Annis Water Resources Institute; Shannon Biros, David Leonard, Richard Lord, Rachel Powers and Brad Wallar, chemistry; Dawn Hart and Sok Kean Khoo, cell and molecular biology; Jennifer Moore and Amy Russell, biology; and Cynthia Thompson, biomedical sciences.

### Flu vaccines still available

Members of the campus community can still get flu vaccine shots at the GVSU Family Health Center, 72 Sheldon Blvd. SE.

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# Across Campus

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There is no charge for students, faculty and staff members, their dependents and retirees to get the vaccine.

More than 1,150 flu vaccines were given to students, faculty and staff members last year at campus clinics by KCON faculty members and students.

For more information, call the GVSU Family Health Center at (616) 988-8774 or visit [www.gvsu.edu/fhc](http://www.gvsu.edu/fhc).

## Researchers find increase in coronary artery disease expenses in West Michigan



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Kevin Callison speaks during the Health Check Forecast January 13 at the Eberhard Center; Leslie Muller is at right.

Business, presented the eighth annual Health Check report during the West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast January 13 at the Eberhard Center. The report details health-related trends and issues in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area of Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties.

Callison said from 2014 to 2015, per-capita expenditures for CAD increased by 22 percent in West Michigan, compared to less than 20 percent in the metro Detroit area. He added that of all the chronic medical conditions reported in the Health Check, CAD is the only condition

Grand Valley researchers said there has been a significant increase in per-capita expenditures for coronary artery disease in West Michigan over the past few years.

Economics faculty members Kevin Callison and Leslie Muller, from the Seidman College of

in which West Michigan surpasses Detroit. The average expense for a privately insured person diagnosed with CAD in West Michigan is \$25,895, compared to \$23,474 for the same diagnosis in Detroit.

He said possible explanations for the increase include differences in patient health, intensity of treatment, and prices for health care services.

For the second consecutive year, researchers surveyed West Michigan residents about health insurance coverage. Muller said the uninsured rate dropped from 9 percent in 2015 to 5 percent in the 2016 survey. She added that 40 percent of people who became insured last year did so through employer coverage, and 21 percent enrolled in Medicaid. In last year's survey, 25 percent of the previously uninsured obtained coverage through an employer, which is much less than this year.

Muller said there are two possible reasons for the increase. "The individual could have obtained employment that offered insurance, or the company he/she works for could have started to offer a plan," she said. "The West Michigan unemployment rate fell by approximately 1 percentage point during that period, and there is also evidence that firms had increased their health insurance offerings."

She added that access to care continues to improve, especially for Medicaid enrollees, with 90 percent seeing either no change or improved access to care.

## Grand Valley receives grant to help prevent sexual assault

Grand Valley received a grant from the State of Michigan to support sexual assault prevention programs.

The Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program, led by First Lady Sue Snyder, aims to change the overall culture of sexual assault among college-age students. Grand Valley was awarded \$33,454.

Jessica Jennrich, director of the Women's Center, said the grant will go toward developing a peer bystander training program to teach students about consent and how to engage in bystander intervention behavior. Peer educators will be trained by a model from the national program, Bringing in the Bystander.

"Research indicates that peer education is one of the most effective ways to deliver messages," Jennrich said. "While Grand Valley does discuss

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The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, c/o [forum@gvsu.edu](mailto:forum@gvsu.edu). Telephone: 616-331-2221. Web: [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://www.gvsu.edu/forum).

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*, published quarterly; visit its website at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, *GVNow*, 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.



## King Commemoration week speakers inspire audiences

Keynote speakers during Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week urged campus audiences to have difficult conversations, learn from people who come from different backgrounds and be community leaders.

Kevin Powell kicked off the week's events with an address January 16 in the Fieldhouse.

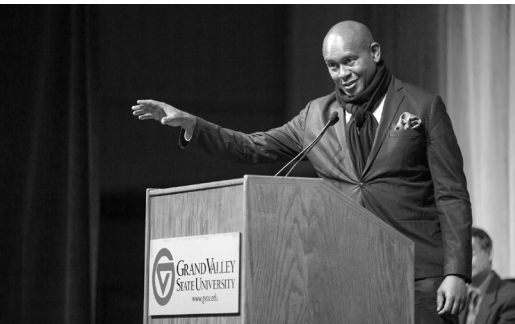
Powell said the signs posted along the route of the silent march reminded him of how young King was, and how much responsibility he held. "I believe as a student of Dr. King's that he would say the leadership you're looking for is right in the mirror," he said.

He urged audience members to study history, read King's speeches and works, and learn from people who come from different backgrounds and cultures. Doing so, he said, would be steps to creating inclusive and diverse communities.

Noted civil rights scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw took a campus audience beyond the borders of race during the a presentation January 18 in the Kirkhof Center. Crenshaw is a professor of law at University of California Los Angeles and Columbia University. She coined two terms — critical race theory and intersectionality — that have proved foundational in many areas of study and organizational inclusion efforts.

Crenshaw spoke about the catalyst for critical race theory, which came from a conflict between Harvard Law School administrators and students of color who pressured Harvard to hire faculty of color. Generally, critical race theory considers the intersection of power, race and law in its framework.

"Critical race theory came out of these difficult conversations," she said. Crenshaw said the protests of the 1960s that centered on access to lunch counters had shifted in the



Kevin Powell and Kimberlé Crenshaw were keynote speakers during Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week.

1980s to institutions like Harvard.

A Common Ground event on January 17 sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies drew 300 people to the Eberhard Center.

Nikole Hannah-Jones, from the *New York Times Magazine*, and Jason Riley, from the *Wall Street Journal*, debated views on a number of topics that intersect with race, including educational policies and legacies from the civil rights movement. Their discussion was moderated by Kyle Caldwell, from the Johnson Center for Philanthropy.



# What's Ahead

## Study abroad event focuses on students of color

Students of color will share their study abroad experiences during an event sponsored by the Padnos International Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs and Laker Familia.

“Being Black and Brown Abroad” is set for Tuesday, January 24, from noon-1 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library.

Staff from PIC will discuss scholarship and funding opportunities, and students will share their experiences. This event is LIB 100/201 approved and refreshments will be available. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/pic/](http://www.gvsu.edu/pic/).

## Big Data Initiative sets informational meeting

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center will host “Data and the Digital World at GVSU” on Tuesday, January 24, to highlight the power of teaching, scholarship and data through a variety of disciplines.

The event will run from 4-6 p.m. in Zumberge Hall, room 3000. Wine and refreshments will be served; RSVP for the event online at [www.gvsu.edu/ftlc](http://www.gvsu.edu/ftlc).

Maria Cimitile, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, leads the Big Data Initiative at Grand Valley. She said the large influx of data and the new ways to collect and manage it will impact all students regardless of their careers.

“Everyone needs to be involved in this conversation,” Cimitile said. “The influx of big data will affect staff, faculty, and students in every discipline. We need to collaborate to find the best way to work with it and inquire about it.”

Faculty members are encouraged to attend whether they are engaging in data-intensive work or have basic interest in the digital world.

The Big Data Initiative is planning workshops throughout the winter semester, as well as an intensive summer workshop.

## Arts at Noon begins winter concert series

The 39th season of the Arts at Noon concert series continues Wednesday, January 25, when members of the Grand Rapids Symphony return to the Allendale Campus.

Henry Duitman, series coordinator and GVSU Symphony Orchestra director, said the concert is the most eagerly-anticipated performance of the semester.

During the concert, the symphony will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “Overture to Il re pastore,” Joseph Martin Kraus’ “Symphony in C minor,” and Antonio Rosetti’s “Symphony in G minor.”

The full concert series schedule is below.

- February 1: Almava Trio
- February 22: Hildegard Singers
- March 15: loadbang
- March 22: Jim Cooper Quartet
- March 29: A Menagerie of Keyboards with Gregory Crowell
- April 5: Percussion Group 1501

All of the Arts at Noon concerts take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public. For more information



Almava Trio is among the performers scheduled for Arts at Noon in the winter semester.

about the Arts at Noon concert series, visit [www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon](http://www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon).

## Economist to unveil local findings

Economics expert Paul Isely will release results of his annual survey of the regional economy during the 2017 Colliers Annual West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast.

The event will be held Thursday, January 26, at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids; continental breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and the program begins at 8:15 a.m.

Isely’s survey for the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December. A survey was mailed to CEOs and business leaders from 966 organizations based on a representative sample.

Isely, Seidman College of Business associate dean and professor of economics, will talk about employment, sales, export growth and consumer confidence. The event is co-sponsored by Colliers International.

The event is free and open to the public; seating is limited and registration is required at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0m4>.

## Celebrations of Asian American culture planned

Grand Valley will host the annual Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Celebration from January through March.

The events, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and designed by the AAPI Heritage Celebration Committee, will highlight the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and address various forms of oppression in a cultural context.

Connie Dang, chair of the AAPI Heritage Celebration Committee, said the celebration focuses on embracing the unique voices and experiences that are part of America’s narrative.

“As national demographics have changed, institutions of higher education experienced an increase of students from different racial ethnic communities,” Dang said. “AAPI Heritage Month celebrates the rich cultures and traditions of one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse groups in America.”

All events are free and open to the public. For a full list of activities, visit [gvsu.edu/oma](http://gvsu.edu/oma).

**Asian New Year Festival: January 28, 6 p.m.:** “Every year, this event brings in close to five hundred people because it offers a social and cultural gathering for the community to sample Asian food and to enjoy the traditional dragon performance, a variety of ethnic dances and entertainment,” Dang said.

**The Racial Realities of Asian Americans in Higher Education: February 8, 4 p.m.:** Samuel D. Museus, associate professor of higher education and student affairs at Indiana University, will explore the various ways in which Asian

Americans are racialized in contemporary U.S. higher education and society, and the impact that these racial realities have on their higher education experience.

**“Arrival” Screening: February 9, 4 p.m.:** In collaboration with the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center, a special screening of the short film “Arrival” by director and animator Alex Myung. The film, which is based on Myung’s past relationships, portrays a LGBTQ couple. After the screening, Myung will host a Q&A session.

A complete list of events and sponsors can be found at [www.gvsu.edu/oma](http://www.gvsu.edu/oma).

## Weekend for kids set for January 27-28

Sibs and Kids Weekend, a Grand Valley tradition, invites young family members of students, faculty and staff to enjoy a weekend full of activities January 27 and 28.

The weekend will feature events including fort building, laser tag, a dance party and the Valley Exotic Zoo. Most events take place in the Kirkhof Center or Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. For a full list of events visit [www.gvsu.edu/sibsnkids](http://www.gvsu.edu/sibsnkids). Registration is required for guests and is available online until January 26 or on-site during the weekend.

The event is part of the Laker Traditions program and is sponsored by the Office of Student Life.

## GVSU to host TEDx idea-sharing event

As a way to inspire and connect the Grand Valley community, TEDxGVSU is organizing an independent TEDx idea-sharing event.

TEDxGVSU 2017, “The Blueprints between X and Why,” will take place February 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.

The conference will feature interdisciplinary speakers and performers who will share experiences, current projects and future ideas that promote critical inquiry, innovation and dialogue. The theme focuses on building a personal blueprint for life and developing a brand and path.

“TEDx events are an amazing tool to bring top thinkers and innovators together in one place,” said Jaclyn Ermoyan, TEDxGVSU event co-curator and Grand Valley student. “Organizing this event is a way we can display the high caliber of thought and ingenuity that comes from our community.”

An application and approval process is required to attend. This method will ensure attendees come from dynamic backgrounds and are willing to take what they experience at the conference and apply it to their community. After approval, selected applicants will purchase a \$15 ticket, which includes admission and a TEDxGVSU gift bag. The conference is open to 100 people. Apply at [www.tedxgvsu.com](http://www.tedxgvsu.com).

Student DeMario Bell, TEDxGVSU event co-curator, said the conference will provide a space to discuss, create and explore ideas. “We believe this event is the perfect fit to achieve that goal and we hope to see it progress and grow for years to come,” he said.

The conference is sponsored by many campus offices, including the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Charter Schools Office and University Communications.

For more information, visit [www.tedxgvsu.com](http://www.tedxgvsu.com) or email [tedxgvsu@gmail.com](mailto:tedxgvsu@gmail.com).

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

Economics faculty members **Kevin Callison** and **Leslie Muller** were interviewed by multiple media outlets for stories about the 2017 Health Check Forecast.

## Sketches

**Martin Burg**, professor of biomedical sciences, gave a presentation with a graduate student, “Identification of Deletions in the Hdc Gene of *Drosophila Melanogaster* Generated through Transposon-excision Mutagenesis,” at the Society for Neuroscience Conference in San Diego, California.

**Valerie Peterson**, professor of communications, gave a presentation, “Rhetorics of Consent: Encouraging Dialogue on the College Campus,” at the National Communication Association Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Patrick Fuliang Shan**, professor of history, wrote an article, “Demolition or Preservation? China’s Dilemma in Urban Heritage Protection,” in *Urbanization and Party Survival: People vs. Party*.

**Russell Rhoads**, associate professor of anthropology, was a co-author of an article, “Balancing Development and Community

## HLC reviews regional centers

The Higher Learning Commission reviewed the university’s regional centers and found that the sites are student-centered and support Grand Valley’s mission of serving communities.

**Simone Jonaitis**, executive director of the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies, said HLC reviewers arbitrarily chose the Muskegon and Traverse City centers to assess by reviewing the facilities, marketing materials, student services and staffing support.

“They found the regional locations reflect the communities that they serve, and staff members continue to develop relationships with community partners by building

connections,” Jonaitis said.

The Traverse City Center serves a large, rural area and Jonaitis said adding two health professions programs (Master of Public Health, Allied Health Sciences) benefits that area by graduating health care workers who mostly stay in northern Michigan to work.

The Muskegon Center is located in the Stevenson Center within Muskegon Community College. Jonaitis said the university’s relationship with MCC benefits students who take community college courses then transfer to Grand Valley. HLC reviews institutions with three or more off-site locations every five years.

Livelihoods: A Framework for Land Acquisition and Resettlement in Uganda,” published in *Environmental Democracy Programme, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment*.

**Jody Vogelzang**, assistant professor of public health, received the Outstanding Abstract Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for her presentation, “Unaccompanied

Refugee Minor Life Skills: Navigating the U.S. Food Landscape,” at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Al Steinman**, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, was the keynote speaker and gave a presentation about the Blue Economy at the annual meeting of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators held in Washington, D.C.

## Across Campus

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consent and bystander intervention with students, it is delivered by external agencies or professional staff. We do not currently offer a peer education program.”

Victim Advocate Ashley Schulte, who is based in the Women’s Center, and campus partners will also work with educators and staff members from Allendale Public Schools to show how bystander and consent education can be used in the classroom.

Eighteen community colleges and universities in Michigan were awarded a total of \$506,191 in state grant funds. More than 29 applications were received.

“While response and reporting is vital to our efforts to eliminate sexual violence on college campuses, we must empower our students who are well-positioned to help lead the most effective prevention efforts,” said Jennrich.

Participating in CSAGP is just one effort to reduce the number of sexual assaults at Grand Valley. The university received a VAWA grant in 2010, which was renewed in 2013, to fund initiatives such as the theater education group ReACT! and student organization Champions for Change. Sexual violence and consent training is provided for new faculty and staff members, and Grand Valley also participates in the national campaign “It’s On Us.”

## Proposals sought for research at SAP

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship is accepting proposals from faculty members for projects related to the university’s Sustainable Agriculture Project.

Amy McFarland, assistant professor of environmental studies, said projects should reflect the SAP’s mission of triple bottom line (environmental, economic, social justice) sustainability associated with agriculture. McFarland cited project examples, such as research on sustainable food systems, public health or nutrition, and social and food justice.

Faculty members from all disciplines are encouraged to apply; up to \$6,000 will be awarded in supplies and materials. The deadline for submission is January 27.

Criteria for proposals are posted online, [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours), and include a 200-word abstract, letter of support, updated CV and a research/scholarship statement. Application packets can be sent to Susan Mendoza, director of undergraduate research and scholarship, via email at [mendozsu@gvsu.edu](mailto:mendozsu@gvsu.edu).

This fund is supported by the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.

## Winter gear drive supports refugees

Several campus groups are working together to collect winter gear for refugees who are settling in West Michigan.

The second Welcoming Our Neighbors Winter Gear Drive is collecting donations of snow shovels and adult-size hats, gloves and jackets. The items will be donated to Bethany Christian Services.

Items can be dropped off through February 10 in collection boxes located in the following locations on the Allendale Campus: **Kirkhof Center:** Community Service Learning Center (1110), Women’s Center (1201) or Office Multicultural Affairs (1240); **Student Services Building:** Deans of Students Office (202); **Zumberge Hall:** Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center (068) or Office of Inclusion and Equity (4035); **Wesley House/Sustainable Agriculture Project** (4530 Luce St.); **Lake Ontario Hall:** Area Studies Office (117); **Niemeyer Learning and Living Center**, front desk; **Holton Hooker Learning and Living Center**, front desk.

Ranya Hwail, president of the student organization Better Together, estimated that there are 700 refugees currently living in West Michigan. She said many are in need of basic items when they first arrive in the U.S.

The drive is sponsored by Student Senate, Division of Student Services, Division of Inclusion and Equity and Division of Enrollment Development.

For more information, contact the Community Service Learning Center at x12468.