

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## 2018 MLK keynote speakers announced

Two women who started national movements against acts of oppression will visit campus as keynote speakers during Grand Valley's 2018 commemoration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

April Reign, creator of the viral hashtag #OscarsSoWhite, is slated as the speaker on Monday, January 15; and Bree Newsome, who climbed a flagpole in South Carolina in 2015 to remove a Confederate flag, is the Wednesday, January 17, speaker.

Reign is an attorney and writer who lives in Washington, D.C. In 2015, she sent a tweet critical of the 88th Academy Awards ceremony and lack of people of color nominated in major acting and directing categories. Her #OscarsSoWhite tweet went viral and was a catalyst for a social media movement and caused the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to change its membership policies and voting rules.

Reign now has a social media following of more than 100,000, and is listed among the top 15 accounts on #BlackTwitter by the *National*

*Journal*. She regularly appears at academic institutions, entertainment networks and studios to speak about diversity and inclusion. As part of a collaborative effort among Grand Valley, Grand Rapids Community College and Davenport University, Reign will also give presentations at GRCC, Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids and Davenport's campus during her two-day stay in West Michigan.

Newsome is a filmmaker and artist who was in the national spotlight in 2015 when she climbed a flagpole in Columbia, South Carolina – the state's capital – to lower its Confederate flag. Her action came shortly after the mass shooting of nine African American parishioners at a church in Charleston, South Carolina. She was arrested along with another activist and soon #FreeBree was a Twitter trend and \$100,000 was raised for her \$3,000 jail fine.

Her actions stirred the political pot in many communities. The Confederate flag was permanently removed from the statehouse by



April Reign



Bree Newsome

then-Gov. Nikki Haley and discussion moved across the country considering flags and monuments.

Newsome lives in North Carolina and works as an artist and community organizer. She earned the 2016 NAACP Image Award and was named to the *Ebony* 100, recognizing her commitment to civil rights.

Grand Valley's 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week will run from January 15-20; visit [gvsu.edu/mlk](http://gvsu.edu/mlk) for updates.

## ACROSS CAMPUS

### Khatir promoted to captain at downtown campus

Kouros Khatir, a 20-year veteran police officer, has been promoted to captain and assistant director of the Department of Public Safety Services. Khatir will continue to work at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Khatir has been working as security manager at Grand Valley for the past two years. Before coming to Grand Valley, Khatir retired from the Phoenix Police Department after 20 years of service.



Kouros Khatir

Brandon DeHaan, acting director of the Department of Public Safety Services and chief of police, said adding sworn law enforcement officers to the Pew Grand Rapids Campus is part of an overall plan to move the department forward. Pew Campus Security had previously been separated from the Department of Public Safety.

"We are currently hiring and training additional law enforcement officers to serve at the downtown campus come fall 2018," said DeHaan. "Khatir's leadership will continue to help in reunifying the department under one umbrella and will help us better serve the Grand Valley community."

### Haas signs new agreement with University of Sunshine Coast

President Thomas J. Haas and Greg Hill, vice chancellor of the University of Sunshine Coast (USC) in Australia, signed a new five-year agreement to extend the partnership between the two universities.

The signing took place November 15 at USC, located in Sippy Downs, near Queensland's capital of Brisbane.

More than 85 students have studied abroad at USC since it began in 2005, and several faculty exchanges have taken place.

USC has a student body of about 12,000 students who come from more than 50 different



Greg Hill, vice chancellor of the University of Sunshine Coast, and President Thomas J. Haas signed an agreement to extend the partnership between the two universities.

countries. The university campus is built on a nature reserve and has a number of research centers including the Centre for Animal Health Innovation, Forest Industry Research Centre, Sustainability Research Centre, and Tropical Forests and People Research Centre, to name a few.

# ACROSS CAMPUS

## First-generation students celebrated



About 100 first-generation students, along with 65 faculty and staff members, attended the First Annual First Generation College Celebration November 8 in the Kirkhof Center. First-generation students were honored for their achievements at Grand Valley. The breakfast event was sponsored by the Student Academic Success Center, Division of Inclusion and Equity, Enrollment Development, Dean of Students Office, TRiO SSS, TRiO STEM and TRiO TPSS.

## GVNow Recap:

### GVSU named top performer by national sustainability association

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

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

### Alumna named Teacher of the Year for excellence in art education

Tricia Erickson was recently honored for her excellence in teaching during her 13-year career as an art educator. She was named the 2017 Teacher of the Year during the Michigan Art Education Association's annual Fall Conference in November.

Erickson graduated from Grand Valley in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in art education and French. She recently completed her 10th year of teaching at Northview High School, and said her love for art has been present ever since she was a shy child because she used it to connect with others.

### Grand Valley honors veterans

Grand Valley celebrated students, faculty and staff members who are veterans or active military members during the Veterans Day Breakfast November 10. The

seventh annual event was hosted by President Thomas J. Haas, a retired captain in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Haas thanked all veterans who served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines, as well as ROTC students.

There are currently 677 student veterans and dependents attending Grand Valley, including 402 veterans using G.I. Bill benefits.



(Photo by Andris Visockis)

Professional skydivers made a special entrance to Grand Valley's football game November 11 at Lubbers Stadium. In honor of Veterans Day, the skydivers soared into the stadium with American flags. They landed midfield to deliver the football before the start of the game.

For complete stories, visit [gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://gvsu.edu/gvnow).

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## FORUM

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Other University Communications publications:

Grand Valley Magazine, published quarterly; visit [gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

GVNow, web publication; visit [gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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

## GVFACES

### Kelsey Penland, community relations director for Athletics

Kelsey Penland, community relations director for Athletics, is not only in charge of hiring Grand Valley's mascot, but she is passionate about making a difference in the sports community.

Penland, a native of Grand Rapids, landed an internship with the West Michigan Sports Commission during her senior year at Grand Valley; she graduated in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in physical education with an emphasis in sports management.

Penland then worked for the Grand Rapids Griffins for a few seasons before returning to Grand Valley to work for Athletics.

Some of Penland's responsibilities include ticketing for sports events, ordering uniforms and other gear for Grand Valley teams and participating in community outreach with Louie the Laker.

"Getting out into the community is an awesome way to build our brand so people know about Grand Valley and can become fans or students down the line," Penland said. "I think Louie creates that connectivity, especially for kids. He puts a face to the name of Grand Valley."

Penland is also in charge of selecting students to be Louie and said this is an opportunity for them to play a greater part in creating university pride.

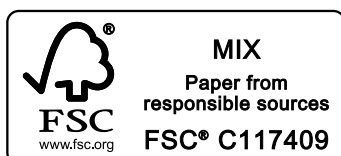
"Anything that I can do to help improve someone's game day experience is the most rewarding thing for me," she said. "We are always trying to increase school spirit and Laker pride as a whole and Louie help with that."

Through the Make a Wish Foundation, Louie and Penland made a home visit to a child whose father was a Laker.

"The boy wasn't very responsive at first, but when Louie went over to his bed, he had a big smile on his face," Penland said. "Those things are really touching and heartwarming to be a part of."



Kelsey Penland



# WHAT'S AHEAD

## ISIS survivor to give lecture on campus

Area and Global Studies will host an ISIS survivor and human rights activist who will discuss trafficking and the Yazidi genocide.

Nadia Murad Basee Taha, United Nations goodwill ambassador, will give a free, public lecture on Monday, November 20, from 5-7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. The event is approved for LIB 100/201 courses.

She will be joined by Haider Elias, president of Yazda, a global organization established to support the Yazidi minority in the aftermath of the genocide campaign committed by ISIS against Yazidis in August 2014.

Murad was captured by ISIS in 2014 in northern Iraq. More than 10 members of her family have been killed or captured by ISIS militants. She spoke in 2015 before the U.N. Security Council about the attack and was later nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016.

Sebastian Maisel, associate professor of Middle East Studies, said he hopes the campus community learns more about the genocide and ways to support victims of trauma.

The event is co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Human Rights, Global Studies and Social Impact, and Liberal Studies. For more information, contact Area and Global Studies at x18110.

## Events week of Nov. 27

### Seidman event to focus on West Side transformation

Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations, will be among three speakers at the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture talking about the transformation of Grand Rapids' West Side.

"West Side Story" will focus on partnerships and collaboration, the social and economic impact of the area and changes in the neighborhood during the past 16 years.

The event will take place November 29 at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m.; the presentation runs from 8-9 a.m.

The other speakers are Mike VanGessel, president of Rockford Construction, and Ryan VerWys, president and CEO of Inner City Christian Federation.

To RSVP, visit [www.gvsu.edu/seidman](http://www.gvsu.edu/seidman).

## Animal and human health subject of Health Forum

Antibiotics, agriculture, food safety and other issues surrounding animal and human health will be discussed at the next Health Forum of West Michigan event.

"One Health: the Intersection of Animal and Human Health" is set for Friday, December 1, at 8 a.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. A light breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.

Health Forum of West Michigan monthly events are sponsored by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health; they are free and open to the public. RSVP online at [gvsu.edu/vphealth](http://gvsu.edu/vphealth).

Panelists are Shannon Briggs, toxicologist for the Department of Environmental Quality; Andrew Jameson, infectious diseases at Mercy Health Saint Mary's; Mary Grace Stobierski, state public health veterinarian; and Michael VanderKolk, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The moderator will be Mark Hall, Kent County Health Department medical director.

Event partners are the Office of the Vice Provost for Health, MSU College of Human Medicine, Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center, and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement. The series is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

### Lecture to focus on fake news detection

Fake news, how it's detected and the effects it has on society will be the focus of a guest lecture presented by Jiliang Tang, assistant professor of computing and engineering at Michigan State University.

Tang's presentation, "Fake News Detection on Social Media: A Data Mining Perspective," will take place December 1 at 1 p.m. in room BLL126, Mackinac Hall.

Tang currently directs the Data Science and Engineering Lab at Michigan State. Before joining the MSU, he was a research scientist for Yahoo! Research.

The lecture is presented by the School of Computing and Information Systems and the Office of the Provost's Big Data Initiative.

## Fall Arts Celebration to conclude with holiday celebration

On Christmas Eve in France, churches and cathedrals are lit with candles, church bells can be heard ringing throughout the air and Christmas carols are sung by thousands of people. After midnight mass, French families traditionally celebrate with a feast called "le réveillon" — a cherished household tradition celebrating family, with food and wine that can last up to six hours until the dawn of Christmas morning.

Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley will celebrate the holiday season with music of the French holiday with a large symphony orchestra performing selections including Renaissance composer Guillaume Du Fay's "Magnificat," Francis Poulenc's "Gloria," and France's most beloved holiday carols, including "Pat-a-pan, Il est né, le divin Enfant" and "Minuit, Chrétiens" (O Holy Night).

"Noël, Noël, Joyeux Noël: A Celebration of French Music for the Holiday Season" will take place December 4, at 7:30 p.m., at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids (24 Fountain Street NE).

The GVSU Symphony Orchestra will accompany a 90-member chorus, including Grand Valley's University Arts Chorale and high school choir students from East Grand Rapids and Hudsonville. The processional will spotlight eight Grand Valley dance majors who will be dancing in the aisles. The Grand Rapids Symphony Junior Youth Chorus will also be featured, and Ashley Neumann, '08, will return to perform as soprano soloist in Poulenc's "Gloria."

"Music is an integral part of this wonderful time of year as hearing the ageless melodies of the Christmas season often transports us back to when the excitement of Christmas morning was the best time of the year," said Danny Phipps, chair of the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department.

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## SKETCHES

### Dang attends leadership program in Japan

**Connie Dang**, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, participated in the Kakehashi Asian American Leadership program October 9-15. The program, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, was held to promote a global understanding of Japan's history, diverse culture and foreign policy in order to build future collaboration. Dang was among nine Asian American leaders selected to participate in the program, which included a weeklong trip to Japan to meet with government officials and business leaders.



Connie Dang, fourth from left.

**Ed Aboufadel**, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, was awarded the distinction of Fellow through the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He will be presented with an official certificate in February at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

**Ellen Pool**, associate professor of music and director of University Arts Chorale, and Cantate Chamber Ensemble, received the Maynard Klein Award at the American Choral Directors Association Michigan Conference.

**Cynthia Thompson**, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, was the lead author of an article, "Thyroid Hormone Fluctuations Indicate a Thermoregulatory Function in both a Tropical and Seasonally Cold-habitat Primate," published in *American Journal of Primatology*.

**Joy Washburn**, associate professor of nursing, gave a presentation, "Core Competencies for Health Professional Training on Human Trafficking," at the American Public Health Association Conference in Atlanta.

**Al Steinman**, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave two presentations, "The Blue Economy (and Beyond)" for the 2017 Mississippi River Legislative Caucus in St. Louis, and "Great Lakes 101" for the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Protection Fund in Chicago.

**Joel Stillerman**, professor of sociology, gave a presentation, "Housing Pathways, Elective Belonging, and Family Ties in Middle Class Chileans' Housing Choices," at the Cornell University Latin American Studies Program Seminar Series.

**Valerie Peterson**, professor of communications, wrote an article, "Plato's Allegory of the Cave: Literacy and 'the Good,'" published in the *Review of Communication*.

**Karen Zivi**, associate professor of political science, gave a presentation, "Claiming the Right to Human Dignity: Menstruation, Activism, and Embodied Vulnerability," at the American Political Science Association; and was named chair of the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan.

**Carol Sanchez**, professor of management and director of international business programs, wrote a case study on the Seidman College of Business academic partnership with the Universidad del Bío-Bío in Chile for NAFSA's e-publication, *International Partnership Development Today: Insights and Best Practices from Case Studies*. She also gave a presentation, "Developing Global Competency Through Short-term Study Abroad Trips: A Focus on the Interface," at the Academy of Management Meetings in Atlanta.

### Facilities Planning recognized



Facilities Planning received the Sustainable Construction and Innovation Award at the 2017 West Michigan Design and Construction Expo October 26 in Hudsonville. The award recognizes construction that has proven economic, environmental and social benefits, and contributes to sustainable building practices.

## ACROSS CAMPUS

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### ScholarWorks reaches milestone of 4 million downloads

Researchers and students from around the world have accessed Grand Valley's collection of scholarly works more than 4 million times since the resource became available in 2008.

ScholarWorks@GVSU is an open-access repository maintained by University Libraries that showcases and maintains works by Grand Valley scholars. All Grand Valley faculty, staff and students have the ability to add their scholarly and creative works to the repository, which currently includes more than 9,000 documents.

"ScholarWorks@GVSU allows faculty, staff and students to share scholarly and creative work that would otherwise be behind a paywall or gathering dust in a filing cabinet, and it also is a way for GVSU to impact a global community of learners," said Matt Ruen, University Libraries scholarly communications outreach coordinator. "Our 4 million downloads come from almost every continent and country in the world — we're only missing Antarctica and the island nation of Nauru."

Ruen added that this milestone presents an opportunity to celebrate the global reach of Grand Valley's scholarship.

"It's not a single thesis or article that went viral for a month and was forgotten — this is thousands of items, downloaded hundreds of times,

each one helping someone answer a question, build new ideas or simply learn more about our world," he said. "It is evidence that there's a strong, consistent demand for the intellectual and artistic output of GVSU, and evidence that we're making a difference for people who may not have access to expensive subscription resources. It's our Laker Effect, and that matters more than any big round number we happen to reach."

The 4 million downloads milestone incidentally coincided with International Open Access Week, a global celebration of the benefits of open access to scholarship.

For more information, contact Ruen at x19182 or ruenm@gvsu.edu. ScholarWorks@GVSU can be accessed at scholarworks.gvsu.edu.

### Registrar's Corner

Watch this space for helpful tips to pass on to students.

- Winter 2018 registration is open; students are reminded to check in with advisors and check myPath for degree progress.
- Did you know? Grand Valley allows students to register for 15 credit hours at the same cost as 12 credits.
- The online academic calendar can be downloaded to phones and desktop computers, allowing faculty and staff members to see important student dates.