

FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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Researcher advances Parkinson's disease study

A cell and molecular biology faculty member has advanced her Parkinson's disease study and hopes to affect treatment of the disease.

Sok Kean Khoo, distinguished associate professor of molecular genomics, said she and her students are studying a group of small molecules (microRNAs) as biomarkers for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases and investigating if the samples can distinguish the progression of the neurodegenerative disease.

Khoo said her latest findings show that the expression level of these microRNAs in blood changes according to disease development. "These microRNAs can distinguish slow and fast progressors at an early disease stage," she said.

Khoo was among nine researchers invited by the Michael J. Fox Foundation to give poster presentations in early November at the Parkinson's Disease Therapeutics Conference in New York City.

She has received multiple grants from MJFF to study the biomarkers as monitors for disease progression. For her initial MJFF-funded project, Khoo collaborated with Mercy Health Saint Mary's Hauenstein Neuroscience Center and researchers at the University of Colorado Denver. She continues to work with Hauenstein Neuroscience Center clinicians and has

partnered with researchers at Columbia University, University of Rochester, Van Andel Institute, Umeå University, and Michigan State University.

"I hope to bring these laboratory findings into the clinical world by developing a blood test to accurately detect and track Parkinson's disease, as well as to classify patients into different subtypes, such as fast and slow progressors, to improve management and treatment," she said.

There is no definitive blood test for Parkinson's disease, Khoo said.

About 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease each year. Khoo said, generally, the brain cells that produce dopamine, a neurotransmitter that is essential for movement, cognition and emotion, are gradually lost in a patient with Parkinson's disease.

"Without effective treatments, patients have to face the reality of decreasing mobility and

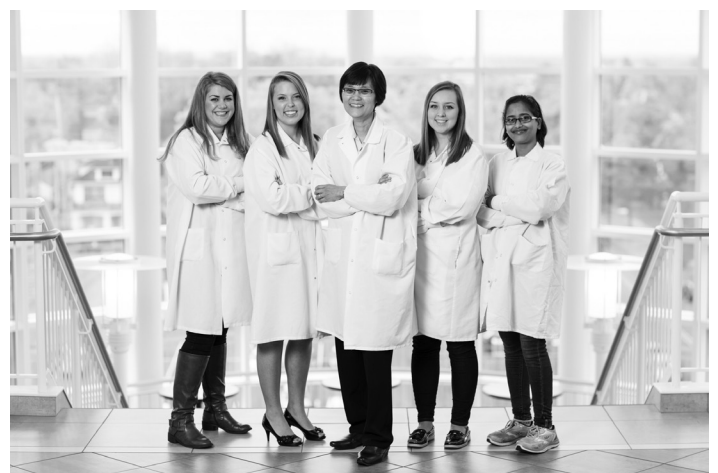


Photo by Amanda Pitts

Sok Kean Khoo, center, is pictured with research students, from left, Brooke Armistead, Emma Hahs, Sarah Brown and Sapana Shinde. They are studying biomarkers for Parkinson's diseases.

quality of life over time," she said. "Because symptoms and the progression rate differ from person to person, monitoring the disease progression is a challenge."

Across Campus

#GivingTuesday donations will help students

The campus community can help Laker students on #GivingTuesday by donating to the Student Support Fund.

#GivingTuesday is a national campaign dedicated to giving back. Set for December 1, it follows two big shopping days: Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Carolyn Clayton, director of annual giving, said more than \$13,000 was raised last year during #GivingTuesday; the goal for this year is \$20,000. The Student Support Fund is distributed to students who have emergency needs.

"We are very excited to leverage the collective power of giving and have Lakers everywhere unite to bring in dollars to this fund," Clayton said.

More information is online at www.gvsu.edu/giving/givingtuesday; follow #lakersgiveback on social media.

University will celebrate its first Darwin Day

Grand Valley will celebrate its first Darwin Day February 11-12 with two days of events, including a keynote presentation, art exhibit, fun events, faculty and student presentations.

Students and faculty members from all disciplines are invited to submit abstracts for presentations or for the art exhibit. The deadline to submit an abstract is January 15; details are online at www.gvsu.edu/darwinday/.

Cara Ocobock, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, broached the idea to host a campus-wide event celebrating Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution last spring.

"I'm an anthropologist so evolution is constantly in my studies," Ocobock said. "Internationally, Darwin Day events have been held for years, and I thought, 'Why not here, too?'"

From the start, Grand Valley's Darwin Day was intentionally interdisciplinary in nature. Ocobock said Darwin's theory of evolution

touches everyday life in many ways, through language, art and health, for example. Ocobock cited annual flu vaccines and said the reason people need a new vaccine each year is because the flu strains change and evolve.

The keynote speaker will be Wenda Trevathan, professor emerita of anthropology at New Mexico State University.

Sponsors of Darwin Day are many student organizations and campus departments, including Biomedical Sciences, Movement Science, Psychology, Geology, Physics, Art and Design, and University Libraries, among others.

Report: Kent County charitable giving decreases

People who donate to charitable causes in Kent County are more generous than individual donors in the rest of the state, according to a new estimated report from the Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

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Across Campus

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The report shows total charitable giving in the county decreased slightly in 2013, compared to total giving in 2012.

The 2013 data, the latest tracking year, is included in the Kent County Charitable Giving Estimate Report. The report shows that while just 6 percent of Michigan households are in Kent County, individual donors in the county contributed 9 percent of Michigan's total estimated giving.

The report also shows that donors of all types in Kent County gave \$907.88 million in 2013, a moderate decrease of about \$39 million, or 4.1 percent, from the total in 2012. Despite the slight drop off from 2012-2013, the overall four-year giving pattern is trending upward, and shows why it is important to track giving data over time, researchers said.

"There are many factors that can cause giving to go up or down in any community in any given year, causes that don't necessarily mean individuals, foundations or corporations were any more or less generous that year. So these estimated numbers for 2013 are best interpreted as part of an overall gradual increase in Kent County giving over the past few years," said Kyle Caldwell, executive director at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

Of the \$907.88 million total, the majority (66.7 percent) came from individual donors, but foundations also gave a significant portion (23.1 percent). Foundations in Kent County contributed a much higher percentage of total giving than foundations nationwide (14.6 percent).

From 2012 to 2013 individual giving decreased from \$614.07 million to \$605.79 million (-1.3 percent); foundation giving decreased from \$244.78 million to \$209.60 million (-14.3 percent); corporate giving increased from \$51.05 million to \$52.37 million (+2.6 percent); and bequest giving increased from \$37.35 million to \$40.12 million (+7.4 percent)

The percentage of total estimated charitable giving coming from foundations in Kent County is much greater than the percentage from foundations across the U.S. (23.1 percent vs. 14.6 percent) and the percentage coming from individuals is slightly lower in Kent County than in the U.S. overall (66.7 percent vs. 71.8 percent).

Researchers also said this does not necessarily mean individuals in Kent County give less than individuals in other communities. Rather, these differences in percentage from the national estimates are likely caused by the relatively higher level of foundation giving in Kent County compared to other parts of the country.

What's Ahead

Event observes World AIDS Day

The LGBT Resource Center will host a presentation on World AIDS Day on Tuesday, December 1.

Eric Paul Leue, a member of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, will give a presentation, "How to End a Plague," at 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

Free and confidential HIV testing will take place from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, rooms 1247 and 1249. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/lgbtrc.

Goodwill CEO to discuss design thinking in nonprofits

The president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids will visit Grand Valley to discuss the benefits of utilizing the design thinking process to grow effective non-profit organizations.

Kathy Crosby will present "Design Thinking in a Nonprofit Organization, a Culture Challenge" on Tuesday, December 1, from 6-7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, a reception will begin at 5.

"Design thinking is a creative process that serves any situation where there is a need," said John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director. "Through her leadership, Kathy Crosby has utilized design thinking to build a culture of service at Goodwill. We're fortunate to be able to explore with her how that's happened and the obstacles and benefits of design thinking in a non-profit world."

In addition to acting as Goodwill's president and CEO, Crosby is the chair of the Economic Club of Grand Rapids' Board of Directors, vice chair for the Better Business Bureau of Western Michigan's Board of Directors. She also serves on the CEO Leadership Council of Talent 2025.

For more information and to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking/nonprofit.



Kathy Crosby

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Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web at www.gvsu.edu/forum.

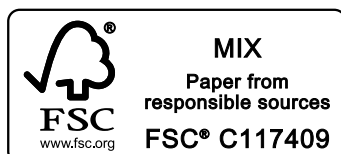
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Other publications by University Communications include:

Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVNNow, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

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



Service awards to be presented at holiday event

Grand Valley's Service Award and Holiday Gathering is set for Thursday, December 3.

The event will run from 3-5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, with the awards ceremony beginning at 3:30 p.m. Most campus offices may close at 3 p.m.

45-year award recipients:

Robert Beasecker, University Libraries
Sheldon Kopperl, Biomedical Sciences and Liberal Studies
Sue Douma, Student Services Dean's Office

40-year award recipients:

Gregg Dimkoff, Finance
Roger Ellis, School of Communications

35-year award recipients:

Bill Fisher, Information Technology
Rita Grant, School of Accounting
Jon Jellema, Provost's Office
Bob Lambert, WGUVU
Mary Brittain, Records and Registration
Jim Sanford, Management
Timothy Strickler, Biomedical Sciences
Jeff Woollett, CLAS Dean's Office

30-year award recipients:

Lee Copenhaver, Music and Dance
Mary deYoung, Sociology
Dave Edwards, Facilities Services
Margaret Friar, Mathematics (retired)
Linda Goossen, College of Health Professions Dean's Office
Larry Kotman, Computing and Information Systems
Ginger Lange, Career Center
Alireza Mohammadzadeh, School of Engineering
Jerrod Nickels, Bookstore
Hollie Rago, Accounting Office
Terry Sack, Meadows Golf Club
Bonnie Ulmer-Degraves, Admissions
Scott Vanderberg, School of Communications
Linda Yuhas, Human Resources
Michael Yuhas, School of Accounting

25-year award recipients:

Barbara Baker, Physical Therapy
Janet Brashler, Anthropology
Anne Caillaud, Modern Languages and Literatures

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What's Ahead

Exercise science expo will feature networking opportunities

Students interested in careers in exercise science will have the opportunity to network with area professionals during the Exercise Science Career and Internship Expo on Friday, December 4.

The event will take place from noon-2 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Companies expected to attend include David D. Hunting YMCA, Spectrum Health Cardiac Rehab, KoKo FitClub, Helen DeVos Health Weight Center, Metro Health Hospital, MVP Athletic Club, Salvation Army KROC Center and more. Grand Valley's Career Center, Campus Recreation and Health and Wellness Department departments will also be present.

The Department of Movement Science sponsors the expo. For more information, contact Heather Peddie at x13397 or peddieh@gvsu.edu.

Students, guest artists unite for dance concert

The GVSU Dance Company will team with world-renowned guest artists to present innovative performances of new choreography during the group's annual fall dance concert.

The performances will take place December 5, at 7 p.m., and December 6, at 2 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre. Both performances are free and open to the public.

During the recitals, students will perform 10 different dances choreographed by faculty and guest artists.

"The dances stylistically range from classical ballet and jazz to contemporary modern dance," said Carrie Morris, director. "We will also be performing a short excerpt from 'The Nutcracker' this year, so this will be an opportunity to get in the holiday spirit."

Guest artists for this year's performances include: Amy Rose, former soloist with American Ballet Theatre and Pacific Northwest Ballet; Joshua Manculich, former dancer with Thodos Dance Chicago and winner of the 2015 Princess Grace Award in Choreography; and Mina Estrada, educator with Manship Theatre in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Photo by David Chrenko

The fall GVSU Dance Company concert is set for December 5-6 in the Performing Arts Center.

Marching band to perform entire halftime show lineup

From Jimi Hendrix and Taylor Swift, to patriotic classics and "The Sound of Music," the Laker Marching Band will perform highlights from its 2015 football halftime show lineup during its annual Bandorama concert.

"Bandorama" will take place Sunday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Kelly Family Sports Center. It is free and open to the public.

"Bandorama allows the students to focus on the music without worrying about marching," said John Martin, director of Athletic Bands at Grand Valley. "It is a time for their parents, family, friends and the community to attend a performance that recaps the entire season in one hour and 15 minutes."

European holiday music concludes Fall Arts Celebration

Grand Valley's 13th annual Fall Arts Celebration concludes with Europe's most beloved holiday music performed by students, faculty members and soloists.

"Stille Nacht: A Celebration of Holiday Music from Europe" will take place Monday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE in Grand Rapids.

The evening will begin with Johan Sebastian Bach's "Magnificat," which has been etched in the history books as one of the holiday season's most enduring musical classics. The voices of the University Arts Chorale will bring Bach's cantata to modern audiences to enjoy. "Magnificat" was composed after Bach took a new position of employment at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany, specifically for a performance at Christmas Vespers in 1723.

Spanning the centuries with holiday favorites such as "Il est né, le divin Enfant," "In dulci júbilo," "Stille Nacht," and Adolphe Adam's "Cantique de Noël," the performance will conclude with the iconic sounds of the GVSU Men's Chorus singing melodies of Europe's most cherished holiday music.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts.

Service award recipients

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Michael Cotter, Marketing
 Barbara Ellis, Biology
 Kathryn Frazine, Facilities Services
 Frank Griggs, Finance (retired)
 Kevin Howell, Facilities Services
 Jann-Huei Jinn, Statistics
 Ginny Klingenberg, Classics
 Gary Klingler, Mathematics
 Blair Miller, Chemistry
 Jaideep Motwani, Management
 Suzanne Norman,
 Student Academic Success Center
 Karen Ozga, Physical Therapy
 Kim Ranger, University Libraries
 Jody Reid, Accounting Office
 Ross Reynolds, Physics
 Valerie Rhodes-Sorrelle,
 Procurement Services
 Maureen Ryan, Kirkhof College of Nursing
 Alan Scott, Facilities Services
 James Smither, History
 Ivo Soljan, English
 Elizabeth Storey, College of Education
 Linda Stratton, Provost's Office
 Kim Suber, Accounting Office
 Susan Swartzlander, Honors College
 Yonglei Tao, Computing and
 Information Systems

Steve Tripp, History
 Janet Vail, Annis Water Resources Institute
 Karen VanTimmeren,
 Records and Registration (retired)
 Brian White, English

20-year award recipients:

Edward Aboufadel, Mathematics
 James Bachmeier,
 Finance and Administration
 Kathy Bausano, Facilities Services
 Teresa Beck, College of Health Professions
 Dean's Office
 C. Suzanne Bierlein, College of Education
 Dean's Office
 Christopher Boerma, Bookstore
 John Capodilupo, Biomedical Sciences
 Barbara Christl, WGUV
 Michael Clapp, Facilities Services
 John Constantelos, Political Science
 Connie Dang, Multicultural Affairs
 Brian DenUyl, Records and Registration
 Joe Godwin, School of Accounting
 Cynthia Grapczynski, Occupational Therapy
 Ruthanne Griffin, Human Resources
 Michael Grissom, Facilities Services
 Richard Harris, School of Accounting
 Jodee Hunt, Biology
 Paul Isely, Seidman College of Business
 Dean's Office and Economics

James Jakubowski, Facilities Services
 Richard Jelier, School of Public,
 Nonprofit and Health Administration
 Shawntain Jenkins, Center for Adult
 and Continuing Studies
 Mary Karpen, Chemistry
 Erika King, Political Science
 Marlene Kowalski-Braun, Inclusion and Equity
 and Student Services Dean's Office
 Robert Kozminski, University Libraries
 Cindy Laug, CLAS Dean's Office
 Diane Lipski, Facilities Services
 Dennis Malaret, Sociology
 Krista McFarland, Student Life
 Anne Merkle, University Libraries (retired)
 Sandra Miller, College of Education
 Kristine Mullendore,
 School of Criminal Justice
 Kathryn Remlinger, English
 Daniel Royer, Writing
 Carol Sanchez, Management
 Deanne Scanlon, Athletics
 Jerry Scripps,
 Computing and Information Systems
 Gerald Simons, Economics
 Christine Smith, Psychology
 Paul Stephenson, Statistics
 Timothy Thimmesch, Facilities Services
 John Weber, Geology

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FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

In the News

Mark Gleason, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, was interviewed by WOOD-AM for a story about the 40-year anniversary of the sinking of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*.

Sketches

Steinman gives congressional briefing

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave a coastal science congressional briefing in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.).

Steinman, an expert on freshwater science and the "Blue Economy" of the Great Lakes, gave a presentation, "Ecosystem Restoration in the Great Lakes Yields Significant Return on Investment," and presented with experts from Florida Atlantic



Alan Steinman

University, Rutgers University and the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.

The event, "Coastal Science Fueling Coastal Economies: Using Geoscience Research to Accelerate Innovation and the Coastal Economy," was sponsored by the National Association of Marine Laboratories.

Nursing faculty members **Sue Harrington**, **Susan Strouse** and **Nancy Schoofs** gave a presentation, "In the Same Boat: Student Perceptions on Collaborative Testing," at the Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning in Traverse City.

Evelyn Clingerman, executive director of the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation, gave a presentation, "Interprofessional Processes Accelerate Healthcare Integration," at the Collaborating Across Borders Conference in Roanoke, Virginia.

Felix Ngassa, associate professor of chemistry, wrote an article "A Theoretical Study of Beta-Amino Acids Conformational Energies and Solvent Effect," published in the *Open Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English, wrote a review, "Down to a Gnat's Eyebrow: Digital Dictionary of American Regional English," published in *American Speech, A Quarterly Journal of the American Dialect Society*.

Leiras receives first-time researcher award

Claudia Leiras, associate professor of allied health sciences, received the American Society of Hand Therapists 2015 First Time Researcher Award for a "researcher's contribution to evidence that supports the profession."



Claudia Leiras

She also gave an instructional course, "10 Simple Steps to Analyzing Patient Outcomes," and presentations, "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome: A Retrospective Analysis of Conservative Treatments" and "Conservative Treatment of De Quervain's Tenosynovitis in Occupational Therapy: A Retrospective Outcome Study," at the 2015 American Society of Hand Therapists Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado; and a presentation, "Analyzing Clinical Data of Upper Extremity Disorders to Improve Patient Outcomes," at the 2015 PT/OT Directors Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Service award recipients

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Clark Wells, Mathematics
Pamela Wells, Mathematics
Mark Wittkoski, WGVU
Joanne Ziembo-Vogl,
School of Criminal Justice

10-year award recipients:

Mary Bair, College of Education
John Bancheri, Student Life
Nael Barakat, School of Engineering
Jean Barry, Kirkhof College of Nursing
Scott Benjamin,
Academic Computing Services
Scott Berlin, School of Social Work
Bryan Bickford, Institutional Marketing
Barbara Blankemeier,
Faculty Teaching and Learning Center
Brian Bowdle, Psychology
Debra Broene, Records and Registration
Judy Budnick,
Housing and Residence Life (retired)
Shawn Bultsma, College of Education
Lynn Carlton, Diagnostic Medical
Sonography (retired)
Martha Chase, Financial Aid
Norman Christopher,
Office of Sustainability Practices
Joshua Church,
Johnson Center for Philanthropy
Ernesto Cid,
Modern Languages and Literatures
Katie Clark, Academic Computing Services
Autumn DeRoo, Information Technology
Susan Dix, Financial Aid

Cherie Giles, Bookstore
Jennifer Glaab, Chemistry
Gabriele Gottlieb, History
Matthew Hart, Chemistry
Shannon Hatch, University Development
Charles Hogg, Philosophy
Elizabeth Junglas, Bookstore
Kellie Knight, Kirkhof College of Nursing
Brian Lakey, Psychology
Tina Lee, Center for Adult
and Continuing Studies
Sebastian Maisel,
Modern Languages and Literatures
Jeffrey Marcinkowski, Facilities Services
Karen Matchett, Chemistry
Raven McClinton, Facilities Services
Maureen McElroy, Financial Aid
Lisa Miller, Center for Adult
and Continuing Studies
Angela Munford, Records and Registration
Sylvia Mupepi, Kirkhof College of Nursing
Kevin Neitzert,
Modern Languages and Literatures
Terence Norris, Facilities Services
Laudo Ogura, Economics
Kelly Omara, Facilities Services
Dell Paielli, Cell and Molecular Biology
Jennifer Palm, Graduate Studies Office
Janice Pawloski, School of Engineering
Mitchell Place,
Modern Languages and Literatures
Jenna Poll, Financial Aid
Susan Raaymakers,
Physician Assistant Studies
Ben Rapin, Institutional Marketing

Nancy Richard, University Libraries
Cathie Richter, Accounting Office
Scott Rood, Hospitality and Tourism
Management
Mark Rousseau, Facilities Services
William Ryan, Music and Dance
Noreen Savage, Brooks College Dean's Office
Ashley Shannon, English
Gerald Shoultz, Statistics
Lisa Sisson,
Hospitality and Tourism Management
Sue Sloop, Human Resources
David Smith, Human Resources
Steven Smith, School of Social Work
Wei Sun, Economics
Robert Swieringa, School of Communications
Elaine Van Doren, Kirkhof College of Nursing
Lee Van Orsdel, University Libraries
David Van Sweden, Information Technology
Melodee VandenBosch,
Kirkhof College of Nursing
Tamara Vargo, Facilities Services
Marlena Vavrikova, Music and Dance
Heather Walker, Center for Adult
and Continuing Studies
Joy Washburn, Kirkhof College of Nursing
Paul Weaver, Department of Public Safety
Andrea Westdorp, Accounting Office
Olivia Williams, College of Education
Carol Wilson,
Modern Languages and Literatures
MarcQus Wright, Student Support Services