

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## Keynote speakers during MLK week urge involvement

Keynote speakers during Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week charged campus audiences with getting involved in their communities and being active for social change.

Sybrina Fulton, Trayvon Martin's mother, spoke to more than 2,000 people in the Fieldhouse on January 19. Marc Lamont Hill, professor at Morehouse College, author and commentator, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd January 21 in the Kirkhof Center.

Trayvon Martin was 17 years old in 2012 when he was shot to death in Florida. Fulton has since dedicated her life to transforming family tragedy into social change. She and Trayvon's father, Tracy Martin, established the Trayvon Martin Foundation to raise awareness of how violent crime impacts families of victims, and to advocate for those families.

Fulton said before Trayvon died, her family lived a regular life in Florida.

"My son wanted the same things your children want," Fulton said. "He had his flaws and made mistakes, but he was no criminal."



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Sybrina Fulton addresses a crowd in the Fieldhouse on January 19. Fulton is the mother of Trayvon Martin, who died in 2012 after he was shot.

Fulton recognized that some audience members might feel far removed from gun violence.

"It might be easy to say that this is not my family or my community, but this is what is



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Marc Lamont Hill speaks to an audience in the Kirkhof Center on January 21. Hill urged students to speak up and be involved in their communities.

happening in your country, and you need to participate," she said. "A lot of these situations are not right. So many things are occurring that

*continues on page 4*

## Across Campus

### Hauenstein Fellowship presented to Cohen

The Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship medal was presented to former Secretary of



Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

From left are Board of Trustees member John Kennedy, William Cohen, President Thomas J. Haas and Gleaves Whitney. Cohen received the Hauenstein Fellowship medal January 19.

Defense William Cohen on January 19 by Grand Valley President Thomas Haas, Hauenstein Center director Gleaves Whitney, and Board of Trustees Vice Chair John Kennedy.

Cohen was given the award following a presentation by Cohen to the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

The fellowship is one of the university's most prestigious awards, and is periodically awarded to a distinguished public servant whose achievements are consistent with the ethical leadership and public service of Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein, the namesake of the university's center for presidential studies.

The award has previously been given to Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and President Gerald R. Ford, posthumously. Hauenstein served under General Dwight D. Eisenhower in an intelligence role in WWII and was one of the first Americans into liberated Paris.

During his presentation, Cohen focused on the role of the United States in an increasingly interconnected and regularly unstable global political environment. He said that instead of a clash of societies that many experts used to expect between the global East and the global West, more clashes in current times are coming from within civilizations, specifically the Middle East.

Cohen said that an example is the success of certain Middle Eastern states succeeding in the global economy, including Qatar, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates while citing the instability of Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan.

Cohen also addressed the changing role of the United States as a world power, and changing perceptions of the United States as a reliable partner to foreign states.

"When I was in the Pentagon, we acted very much as the reluctant sheriff; we had our boots up on our desk and weren't going looking for trouble," Cohen said. "Then 9/11 happened. Then, we were the Texas Terminator, going out and getting the people responsible. It was a shift in the perception of the American people. But it was challenging to learn the lesson that

*continues on page 2*

# Across Campus

continued from page 1

you can't take democracy and transplant it to a foreign country without regard for their culture, their environment and making sure that they have a system in place to allow that system of government to work."

Cohen also said that the trust foreign nations have in the United States is waning, largely in part due to the failure of our own government to reach consensus agreements on many hot-button American political issues.

## Students recognized at State of City address

A group of students was recognized by Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell during his 2015 State of the City address for their ideas on how to attract and retain talent. The event was held January 17 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.



Students who presented 10 recommendations about how to retain talent in Grand Rapids are pictured at the State of the City address January 17 at DeVos Place.

The students spent the fall 2014 semester researching popular cities across the country and hearing from area neighborhood and community groups. They presented 10 recommendations to the city commission in December.

Heartwell thanked the students for their work and asked Hannah Fernando to address the attendees on their behalf. The mayor said he plans to implement three of the 10 recommendations, including the development of a smartphone app that will include information about city restaurants, stores, attractions, transportation and more. Grand Valley students will help develop the app.

The mayor said he will also form a Millennial Advisory Board, made up

of representatives from area colleges and universities and from young professional organizations. Heartwell said his initiative, the Mayor's 50, which offers work experience to area teens and young adults, will be expanded to the Mayor's 100, to offer students more internship opportunities with local businesses.

## Nominations for AP awards sought

The deadline to nominate a staff member for an AP Award is March 13.

There are six categories: Achievement Award (two letters of support required), Commitment to Diversity Award, Commitment to Students Award, Innovation Award, Outstanding Team Project Award and Service to Community Award.

Any student, faculty or staff member may nominate an eligible AP staff member for any of the above awards. Applications and criteria are listed online at [www.gvsu.edu/ap/awards/](http://www.gvsu.edu/ap/awards/).

## GVPD finalist to receive security products

The Grand Valley Police Department has been announced as a finalist in STANLEY Security's "Together for Safer Schools" grant program.

The program provides the opportunity to enhance safety and security by awarding winning schools a grant to receive STANLEY Security installed products and services.

Running through February 13, students, faculty and staff members are encouraged to vote for Grand Valley each day by visiting [www.stanleysaferschools.com](http://www.stanleysaferschools.com) and search for [gvsuedu](http://gvsuedu), or by texting [gvsuedu](http://gvsuedu) to 334455 or by tweeting using both hashtags [#stanleysecurity](https://twitter.com/hashtag/stanleysecurity) and [#gvsuedu](https://twitter.com/hashtag/gvsuedu).

The top two colleges or universities with the most votes in each of three size categories will be selected as grant winners. The college or university with the most votes will receive \$200,000 in security products and services; the runner-up will receive \$75,000 in security products and services.

Products and services provided to grant winners include security services and seminars for school officials on security threat assessment, video surveillance systems, fire systems, intrusion systems, mechanical and electro-mechanical door hardware, mass notification systems and other security technologies.

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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. Fax: 616-331-2250. 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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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](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.

## GVFaces

### Annie Benefiel, Assistant Archivist

Annie Benefiel returned to her roots in the Midwest when she came to Grand Valley in October to begin work as assistant archivist in Special Collections and University Archives.

Benefiel, who had been working at the University of Florida, heard of the job opportunity and friends who attended Grand Valley encouraged her to apply.

"So far, I have really enjoyed working at Grand Valley," Benefiel said. "The library community has been very friendly and welcoming."

She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Ball State University in 2003, and a master's degree in library and information science from Simmons College in 2011.

Benefiel said she came into the profession serendipitously, by working archives in college. She is currently working on projects in Grand Valley's digital collections.

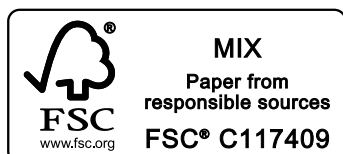
She oversees collection management. The collections include university publications, photos, and issues of the *Lanthorn*, as well as regional history collections, Civil War documents, and a collection related to the history of printing.

"I like working with collections because there is always something new to learn," Benefiel said. "There is always a new person or a small new piece of history to learn about."

In her free time, she enjoys playing board games and reading.



Annie Benefiel



# What's Ahead

## Talk Back Tuesday series continues

Women and the civil rights movement will be discussed at the next Talk Back Tuesday event January 27.

Sponsored by the Women's Center, the event will take place from noon-1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 1201; it is open to the campus community and RSVPs are not required.

The event will discuss the exclusion of individuals who are left out of history and how that is impacting the U.S. today.

The Talk Back Tuesday series is hosted monthly and focuses on current topics and events. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/women\\_cen](http://www.gvsu.edu/women_cen).

## Retiring professor to share artistic process

A retiring art and design professor will discuss his artistic process in conjunction with an exhibit of his work commemorating his time at Grand Valley.

"An Artist's Process: Ed Wong-Ligda on Creating His Work" will take place Wednesday, January 28, from 4-5 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Art Gallery.

Wong-Ligda's professional painting career dates back to the early 1970s; he came to Grand Valley in 1996 when he was hired to develop and coordinate the Art and Design Department's illustration emphasis. Two years later he became the coordinator and primary instructor of Illustration.

Wong-Ligda's presentation complements his current exhibit, "Veracity, Distortion, Reduction: Visual Explorations by Ed Wong-Ligda," which is on display in the Art Gallery through March 20.

For more information about the exhibit or Wong-Ligda's presentation, visit [www.gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://www.gvsu.edu/artgallery).

## Events will celebrate Asian American heritage

A variety of events are planned to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage at Grand Valley.

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and many other campus organizations, events will take place January 29-March 21. All events are free and open to the public.

The celebration will kick off with the Asian New Year Festival on Thursday, January 29, from 6-9 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. The festival will showcase the traditional Asian New Year celebration and will feature Asian cuisine and performances by Asian ethnic groups, including a dragon dance and Chinese martial arts.

Other events include:

- **A Recognition of Fred T. Korematsu: January 30, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.** As a Japanese American, activist Fred T. Korematsu was incarcerated during World War II. In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton. The program will

begin with a documentary video on Korematsu's life and legacy, followed by brief remarks from a panel of speakers.

- **The Celebrated "China Doll": Troubling Asian Adoption on Television: February 11, 2-3 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270.** "Modern Family" and "Sex and the City" TV programs will be analyzed by assistant professor Kimberly McKee. She will lead a discussion on how adoptees' representation is linked to Orientalism and the fetishization.

- **Why Vote?: February 12, 1-2 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2263.** This interactive workshop will explore issues of immigrations, jobs, economy, health care and education and what they have to do with the election.

- **Building Transformative Responses to Violence: February 24, 6-8 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.** Community educator and organizer Mia Mingus will discuss the concept and framework of transformative justice and how to respond to violence without causing more harm or violence. This is an Intersections event.

- **R.I.C.E. Conference: Realizing and Addressing Issues in Our Culture and Education: March 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center.** Registration is required for this event. Contact Davis Tran at [david.tran517@gmail.com](mailto:david.tran517@gmail.com) to RSVP.

## Partnership Showcase highlights community engagement

The Partnership Showcase, highlighting community-based teaching and research initiatives, will be held Friday, January 30, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library. The showcase will feature poster presentations and provide a forum for exchanging ideas with community partners and Grand Valley faculty, staff and students.

The showcase is a part of the Community As Classroom series, hosted by the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, Community Service Learning Center, Division of Inclusion and Equity, Office for Community Engagement, Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, University Libraries and Women's Center.

## Superhero-themed weekend set for siblings and kids

Students, faculty and staff members are invited to bring their siblings or children to the annual Sibs N Kids Weekend at Grand Valley on January 30-31.

During the superhero-themed weekend, activities like laser tag, a superhero transformation room green screen, a puppet show, swing and hip-hop dance lessons, and rock climbing will be held on the Allendale Campus.

Register and see a complete list of activities and the schedule at [www.gvsu.edu/sibsnkids](http://www.gvsu.edu/sibsnkids). The registration fee is \$20 for the first guest and \$10 per each additional guest.

Join the conversation on social media by using #GVSibs15.



Participants from last year's G3 Camp are pictured. Registration is open for the 2015 camp.

## Registration open for annual G3 Camp

Ever wonder how a zombie's brain works, how light can create art or how to make kid friendly snacks? These are just a few of the activities grandparents and their grandkids can experience by registering for the 2015 Grandparents, Grandkids, Grand Valley (G3) Camp.

Hosted by the Regional Math and Science Center, G3 Camp offers a fun and engaging opportunity for children ages 8-12 and their grandparents to attend hands-on classes while experiencing college life by living on the Allendale Campus for three days.

"The camp provides a great opportunity for generations to connect in a fun and educational environment," said Margo Dill, Regional Math and Science Center program director. "The goal is to offer educational activities that will strengthen the family bond, give children a college life experience and create many positive memories for family members."

Activities for this year's G3 Camp include the following:

- Creating a zen-inspired garden
- Exploring how light inspires art
- Learning how sounds are created and how we hear them
- Designing and building "Trash Bots" that will be tested on an obstacle course
- Testing solar powered devices to learn how the sun impacts daily life
- Stopping the villainous "Pete the Polluter" and his army of "Energy Suckers" from destroying the eco-friendly features of the Mary Idema Pew Library through a series of puzzles and clues

During evening hours, campers can explore Grand Valley's campus and take advantage of activities in the Fieldhouse or Kirkhof Center where kids and their grandparents can swim, use the climbing wall, play basketball, bike, play pool or watch movies.

Registration is now open through April 30 and scholarships are available. For more information or to register, visit [www.gvsu.edu/g3](http://www.gvsu.edu/g3) or call the Regional Math and Science Center at x12267.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## Sketches

**John Stevenson**, associate dean of Graduate Studies, and **Christian Hinsch**, assistant professor of marketing, co-wrote an article, "Exploring the Influence of Clinical and Classroom Training on Advocacy for Safe Patient Handling Practices among Student Physical Therapists," published in the *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*.

**Roy Cole**, professor of geography and planning, wrote an article, "Assessing Student Learning Outcomes in Large, General Education, World Regional Geography Course," published in the *International Journal of Education and Social Sciences*.

**Amy Russell**, associate professor of biology, wrote an article, "Optimizing Conservation Strategies for Mexican Free-tailed Bats: a Population Viability and Ecosystem Services Approach," published in the journal *Biodiversity and Conservation*.

### Grants receive top Urban League award

George Grant, Jr., dean of the College of Community and Public Service, and Beverly Grant, interim executive director of the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, were selected by the Grand Rapids Urban League as the recipients of its highest honor, the 2015 Drum Major Award.

The award is in recognition of a speech made by Martin Luther King, Jr., who said: "Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."

George and Beverly have been married for 20 years and are both very active in the community, serving on board and committees.

King recognized the importance of the



At left, Urban League President/CEO Joseph Jones presents the Drum Award to Beverly and George Grant.

"drum major instinct" that drives people to lead, and that those who serve others and put justice before gain are the greatest leaders.

## Week's events included march, luncheon, lectures and social justice activities

stem from senseless gun violence. You cannot remain silent."

She urged students to get involved in nonprofit organizations and learn about the issues in their communities.

Hill told the Kirkhof Center audience that following the legacy of the civil rights leader is difficult today but can be accomplished.

"The legacy of King calls us to do something else, something more," Hill said. "The legacy of King is one of social change, but that is especially difficult today when there's a moment of silence."

He said one of King's best skills was listening, something lost in today's culture.

"We live in a culture where people don't listen. Everyone is talking and no one is listening," Hill said.

He is a founding board member of My5th, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating



More than 2,000 people attended Sybrina Fulton's presentation in the Fieldhouse. At right, participants in the silent march.

young people about their legal rights; Hill also works with the ACLU Drug Reform Project. He earned a doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

The week's events ended January 24, when



about 200 students participated in a Day of Service.