

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## Speakers for commencement ceremonies named

More than 3,000 students will participate in commencement ceremonies April 27 and 28 at Van Andel Arena in downtown Grand Rapids.

The ceremonies will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 27, and at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 28. Raymond Bennett, a Grand Valley alumnus

and chief global officer for Marriott International Inc., is the speaker for the Friday ceremony.

The morning speaker on Saturday is U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, who has represented Michigan in the U.S. Senate since 2014,

and the afternoon speaker is Teresa Weatherall Neal, superintendent for Grand Rapids Public Schools.



Raymond Bennett

The April 27 ceremony will include the following colleges: Seidman College of Business, College of Community and Public Service and Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. The morning ceremony on April 28 will include: College of Health Professions,

science programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Kirkhof College of Nursing. The afternoon ceremony on April 28 will include: College of Education, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and liberal arts programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Bennett graduated from Grand Valley in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Before joining Marriott in 2011, he worked for Pepsi Bottling Group for more than 11 years in various managerial roles. He serves on the national board of directors of KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council, an organization composed of African American CEOs and senior executives.

Peters was selected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008. He currently serves on four committees, including the Senate



Gary Peters

Armed Services, and Homeland Security and Government Affairs committees.

For more than 20 years, Peters worked as an investment advisor. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy Reserve and rose to the rank of lieutenant commander.

Neal is a product of GRPS and has worked for the district since the 1970s; she was named superintendent in 2012. She comes from a large family with deep roots in Grand Rapids. She earned an associate's degree from Grand Rapids Community College, a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley and a master's degree in educational leadership from Western Michigan University.



Teresa Weatherall Neal

The Alumni Association will present its

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## ACROSS CAMPUS

### Chemistry professor earns top educator honors

Deborah Herrington, professor and interim chair of chemistry, has been named one of the top educators in the State of Michigan by the Michigan Association of State Universities.

Herrington was one of three educators who received the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award during a ceremony on April 20 in Lansing.

Herrington is the co-founder and current director of Target Inquiry, a program that contributes toward improving the professional development of middle and high school science teachers while helping them create student-centered and inquiry-based classroom environments. Classroom materials developed by Target Inquiry have been downloaded by teachers in more than 40 countries.

She also leads the Retaining and Inspiring Students in Science and Engineering program,

which financially assists academically talented, low-income undergraduate students seeking an education in science or engineering. RISE will create a set of progressively increasing four-year scholarships for at least 50 Grand Valley students who may not otherwise be able to afford a college education.

The program came to fruition after Herrington and her team received a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program in December.

Throughout her tenure at Grand Valley, Herrington has been the recipient of multiple awards, including the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award in 2014, which is the highest faculty honor at Grand Valley.



Deborah Herrington

### Last issue of semester

This issue marks the last *Forum* for the academic year.

Keep updated on campus news by subscribing to GVNow, news website, at [gvsu.edu/gvnow/](http://gvsu.edu/gvnow/) email-index.htm.

### Couple increases scholarships to working families

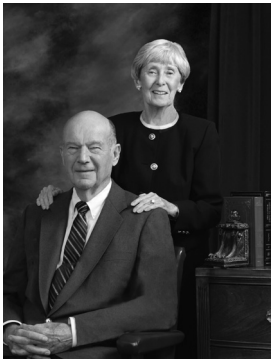
Hundreds of students at Grand Valley will get a financial boost thanks to the generosity of a Detroit area couple and their foundation.

Bob and Ellen Thompson are increasing their investment in student success by expanding the Thompson Working Family Scholarship Program. This program is aimed at helping students who come from families who, despite

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# ACROSS CAMPUS

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Bob and Ellen Thompson

working hard, cannot fund a child's college education.

They began the Thompson Working Family Scholarship Program (TWFS) at Grand Valley in 2011 with 15 students receiving \$3,000 each year of their four-year program. More students were added each year. In 2017, an accelerated phase of the program began. The Thompsons requested Grand Valley increase the number of students getting the scholarship, and they added other colleges to the list as well.

Grand Valley is now selecting 100 incoming first-year students and 25 Michigan community college transfer students to receive \$5,000 each year for four years, and the number of student recipients will continue to grow.

"Bob and Ellen's passion for students and their commitment to giving is simply remarkable," said President Thomas J. Haas.

"Students from hard-working families around the state will more easily see a Grand Valley degree in their future because of this \$5,000-a-year award."

The Thompsons sold their company, Thompson-McCully, Michigan's largest asphalt paving company, after 40 years in business. They both believe education changes lives. At the heart of their support for this program is Bob and Ellen's respect for the workers employed in their asphalt and concrete businesses.

"I see how long and hard some people work, and the dreams they have for their children," said Ellen Thompson. "We've been fortunate and want to help the students realize those dreams. I receive notes from those who have received Thompson scholarships, and they tell me they also want to give back some day."

Results are important to the Thompsons. Since working with Grand Valley, they've seen the impressive graduation rates of students and the dedication of faculty and staff to student success. The cohorts of students moving through the TWFS program must reach an 80 percent, six-year graduation rate, and Grand Valley must provide financial and practical support.

## TRIO students attend statewide event



Students from four Grand Valley TRIO programs attended the Michigan Student Leadership Conference March 2-4. Hosted by Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel (MI-CAPP), the Rise Up Conference was held in Battle Creek and celebrated the value of TRIO programs on college campuses.

## GVNow Recap:

### Campus community shares attributes they want in next president

Members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee heard from students, faculty, staff members and alumni during listening sessions held April 12 and 13 on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses.

John C. Kennedy, chair of the Grand Valley Board of Trustees, said a broad set of leadership criteria has been posted for the position, but input from the campus community will help narrow down the attributes desired in the next president of Grand Valley.

Tom Fitch, from the search firm Storbeck, Pimentel and Associates, asked participants to frame their thoughts by thinking of these questions: Why

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## FORUM

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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

### Nicole Webb, Art Gallery

Nicole Webb, collections manager for Grand Valley's art gallery, has returned to the university for both her love of art and passion for interacting with students.

Webb graduated from Grand Valley in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in both art history and anthropology. She earned a master's degree in historical administration at Eastern Illinois State University and began working as the curator of collections at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula for seven years before returning to campus this year.

"I always knew I wanted to come home," said Webb, "and in many ways Grand Valley was always home."

Webb's responsibilities include a variety of tasks, all pertaining to managing more than 16,000 pieces of art in the university collection. These pieces range from paintings, sculptures, and other artwork; they also vary in creator as the collection includes pieces by students and professionals.

"In many ways my job is to care for those 16,000 things," she said. "No day is ever the same. I

like to call what I do 'art emergencies.' Anytime a pipe bursts or something is hit with a backpack, it's my job to problem solve and resolve the issue."

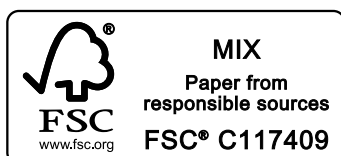
Her favorite piece is one that she has admired since she was student. It's an untitled drawing of a man by Mark Ripley, located on the second floor of the Glenn A. Niemeyer Living Center.

Webb's next goal is to bring in more student help to the art gallery in the form of jobs or internships.

"It's been a great experience to see what has changed in 10 years," said Webb. "If you would have asked me what my career goals were four months ago, this would have been it, so I'm just happy to be back."



Nicole Webb



## WHAT'S AHEAD

### COE Convocation celebrates educators

Students and faculty members in the College of Education will be honored at a convocation ceremony Friday, April 27, at Forest Hills Public Schools Fine Arts Center in Grand Rapids.

The ceremony will run from 7-9 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m.

More than 200 graduates are expected to participate; the ceremony will also include a hooding ceremony for students completing their master's degree requirements.

During the ceremony, Brandi-Lyn Mendham will receive the Outstanding Alumni Leader Award. Mendham is director of curriculum and technology at Zeeland Public Schools. She earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Grand Valley in 1999 and 2003, respectively. She earned a doctorate in 2014 from Eastern Michigan University.

Mendham has more than 17 years of administrative and teaching experience, including instructing elementary and post-secondary education students, securing grants to support P-12 student learning and growth, and facilitating professional development.

The College of Education Convocation is a precursor to Grand Valley's commencement ceremonies. For more information visit [gvsu.edu/coe](http://gvsu.edu/coe).

### High school students invited to visit CHS program

High school sophomores and juniors in Kent County who are interested in health care careers are invited to visit the Health Science Early College Academy.

The academy, a long-standing partnership between Grand Valley and the Kent ISD Career Tech Center, offers free college credits to Kent County high school students who attend classes at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

Students can visit the biomedical technology classroom in CHS through May 1 to see if the program might be a good fit. Instructor Russ Wallsteadt said interested students can shadow

current students and learn more about the program.

Questions can be directed to Wallsteadt at (616) 460-3247 or [russwallsteadt@kentisd.org](mailto:russwallsteadt@kentisd.org).

### Annual tech symposium will center on OER

The 17th annual Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium, with a focus this year on open educational resources, is set for Wednesday, May 2.

Held in the DeVos Center, Hager Auditorium, the event opens with ePoster sessions and "Technology Test Kitchen" presentations from 1-3:30 p.m.

Rosemary Cleveland, senior affiliate faculty of education, and Andrew Korich, associate professor of chemistry, will receive Pew Teaching with Technology Awards.

The awards presentation precedes the keynote address by Annie Bélanger, dean of University Libraries, at 2:05 p.m. Bélanger will discuss how University Libraries support the adoption and creation of OER and affordable course materials through advocacy, education, curation, and library publishing services.

View presentations, register and find more information online at [gvsu.edu/elearn/symposium](http://gvsu.edu/elearn/symposium). The symposium is sponsored by eLearning and Emerging Technologies, Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center and University Libraries.

### Meadows offers new junior golf program

The Meadows will host a new junior golf program beginning in June for children 13 and younger.

Steve Milewski, head golf professional, said the PGA Jr. League is similar to Little League baseball, as teams of eight-12 players will compete against other teams in the area.

Cost for the program is \$150 and includes green fees for competition dates, team jersey, practices and two private lessons.

For information, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/OHX> or contact Milewski at [milewsksk@gvsu.edu](mailto:milewsksk@gvsu.edu).

### Register for CLAS on the Green

Registration is now open for the CLAS on the Green golf outing fundraiser for the CLAS Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The annual event will take place on Wednesday, June 13, at The Meadows. The driving range and registration will begin at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The event will conclude with a cookout and celebration at 6 p.m.

The event is open to all faculty and staff members, alumni, students and the community.

To register a team or explore sponsorship opportunities, visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/clas/clas-on-the-green-382.htm>

### Call for submissions for Makers Faire

Students, faculty and staff members who are inventors, hobbyists, crafters and tech enthusiasts are invited to showcase their creations at the Grand Rapids Mini Makers Faire this summer.

The fifth annual event will take place August 18-19 at the Grand Rapids Public Museum and on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The Faire features makers who display a variety of projects, such as robotics, 3D printing, drone races, blacksmithing, glass blowing, baking, gardening and more. It also features local food and educational installations.

It is free to participate; there is a fee of \$100 if makers want to sell items. The deadline to apply is July 27.

Grand Valley joined the Faire as an organizing partner in June 2015. Last year, the event drew more than 6,000 people.

For more information, visit [grandrapids.makerfaire.com](http://grandrapids.makerfaire.com).

## ACROSS CAMPUS

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do you love Grand Valley? What makes Grand Valley unique? What are the top challenges and opportunities for the new president? What attributes should a candidate bring?

Fitch said after gathering comments, the nationwide search will launch in May with candidates being recruited through the summer and interviewed in the fall. Fitch said a successor should be named in December.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/presidentsearch](http://gvsu.edu/presidentsearch).

### Arnold earns AP Achievement Award

Damon Arnold, director for academic services for student athletes, received the Administrative Professional Achievement Award at the annual AP Luncheon April 10 in the Kirkhof Center.

Arnold oversees the Laker Academic Success Center; he was recognized for being a mentor to many student athletes and for establishing innovative programs within the center. The AP Achievement Award is the highest honor given to AP staff members, recognizing outstanding contributions to the university, profession and community.

Other award recipients are listed below.

- Commitment to Students Award: Emily Davis, living center director, Housing and Residence Life



*Photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker*

Damon Arnold, second from left, stands with President Thomas J. Haas, Trevin Alexander and Michael Messner.

- Innovation Award: Mary Jo Smith, lab instructional coordinator, Chemistry
- Service to Community Award: Timothy Eernisse, development and marketing manager, WGVSU Public Media
- Commitment to Diversity Award: Jamillya Hardley, living center director, Housing and Residence Life
- Outstanding Team Project Award: Laker Move-In Planning Team
- Outstanding Academic Advising and Student Services Award: Tom Fellows, senior academic advisor, CLAS Advising

The following people were recognized for 25 years of service: Karen Burchard, Cassonya Carter, Bob Holcomb, Simone Jonaitis, Sue Korzinek, Koleta Moore, Jean Nagelkerk, Betty Schaner, Don Underwood and Greg Wilson.

*Across Campus continues on page 4*

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## IN THE NEWS

**Robert Talbert**, associate professor of mathematics, was interviewed by *Inside Higher Ed* for an article regarding the benefits of flipped learning.

### Outstanding facilities award

The GVSU Recreation Center won a NIRSA (National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association) Outstanding Sports Facilities Award, which recognizes excellence in newly constructed, renovated or expanded recreational sports facilities. In 2016, a \$20 million renovation and expansion project added 50,000 square feet to the Rec Center.



Staff members from Campus Recreation, Athletic and Recreation Facilities are pictured at the NIRSA Conference, after receiving the Outstanding Sports Facilities Award.

The new addition provides more space for cardio equipment, such as treadmills and elliptical trainers, and strength training equipment, such as free weights and weight machines.

### Campus mourns death of faculty member

The Grand Valley community is mourning the loss of **Carl Insalaco**, emeritus professor of psychology, who died March 31 at his home in California. During his 25-year career at the university, Insalaco served as chair of the Psychology Department.

## SKETCHES

**Felix Ngassa**, professor of chemistry and chair of the executive committee of University Academic Senate, attended the inaugural intra-university summit of senate leaderships of Michigan universities in Ann Arbor. Twelve universities were represented; the summit covered a range of issues including freedom of speech, campus safety, sexual misconduct and mandated reporting, and faculty governance trends.

**Rob Franciosi**, professor of English, received a Teaching Innovation Grant from the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center to present a workshop, "Holocaust Theater and the Quest for Empathy," at the Lessons and Legacies Conference on the Holocaust and, subsequently, at Grand Valley in November. The conference is sponsored by the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University and Washington University.

**Tim Penning**, professor of advertising and public relations, was named a member of the Arthur W. Page Society, a professional association for senior public relations and corporate communications executives who seek to improve and support their profession.

**Kyle Caldwell**, executive director of the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, was elected as a trustee to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

sHaPe Camp, sponsored by the **College of Health Professions and Regional Math and Science Center**, received a 2018 Hometown Health Hero award from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

**Maureen Ryan**, assistant professor of nursing, has earned a doctorate in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University. Her dissertation was, "Nurse and Physician Collaboration: The Influence of Interdisciplinary Training and Collaboration Experience on Self-Efficacy and Practice."

## ACROSS CAMPUS

### Four alumni named semifinalists for Fulbright ETA grants

Four Grand Valley alumni have been selected as semifinalists for the 2018-19 Fulbright U.S. Student Program to teach English overseas.

The application process is a highly competitive nationwide search for the best candidates to complete the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program.

The four alumni, with graduation year,

hometown, major and intended teaching destination, are listed below.

- Nick Ortiz, '17, Canton; international relations, Czech Republic
- Christy Bectel, '17, Hudsonville; international relations, Germany
- Cullin Flynn, '17, Fowlerville; Spanish, Mexico
- Shannon Theis, '18, Holland; computer science and arts for teaching/education, Spain

Grant recipients will be selected from the pool of semifinalists.

The program places grantees in schools overseas to supplement local English language instruction and to provide a native speaker presence in classrooms.

The Fulbright competition is open until August 31. New graduates and alumni who are interested in applying for the U.S. Student Fulbright Program should contact the Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships at [fellowships@gvsu.edu](mailto:fellowships@gvsu.edu).

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

### At commencement, KCON faculty member will receive Outstanding Educator Award

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Distinguished Alumni Award to Angie Crouch, '88, an Emmy-award winning journalist for KNBC-TV in Los Angeles. The Outstanding Educator Award will be presented to Barbara Hooper, assistant professor in the Kirkhof College of Nursing, who joined KCON in 2008 after 16 years of working in nursing and management in Detroit.

Robert Hooker, Judith Hooker (posthumously), Allen Hunting, and Donnalee Holton will receive honorary degrees. Robert Hooker is retired president and CEO of Mazda Great Lakes and current director of the Grand Valley University Foundation. Robert's wife, Judith, was a teacher, trustee for Grand Valley's Board of Trustees and director of the Grand Valley University Foundation. Hunting is among the founders of Grand Valley. He led Stow and

Davis Furniture Company for 30 years and was a director of the Grand Valley University Foundation. Holton is a former member of the university's Board of Trustees and an advocate for education, health care and the arts.

Ceremonies will be webcast live at [www.gvsu.edu/commencement](http://www.gvsu.edu/commencement).