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Grand Valley State University

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# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by University Communications



## Speakers set for 2016 MLK Commemoration Week

Grand Valley's 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week will feature a prominent journalist and author, and the social activist behind #BlackLivesMatter.

Touré is well-known for his social commentary. He is a former NBC contributor and MSNBC regular as co-host of "The Cycle." A contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* and other publications, he is the author of several books, including *Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness? What It Means to Be Black Now*.

Patrisse Cullors is a Los Angeles-based social activist who, with two other people, started the movement #BlackLivesMatter in 2013, taking their inspiration from the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. She works as the truth and reinvestment campaign director for the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.

Commemoration week activities will run January 18-23. Touré is the keynote speaker

on Monday, January 18, in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus; Cullors will give a presentation on January 20 at the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus, which will be simulcast to an audience in the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

It will mark the fourth year that classes have been canceled on the King holiday, allowing more students, faculty and staff members to participate in events.

New in 2016, a Teach-In will be held during the commemoration week, on January 21. Grand Valley has hosted Teach-Ins for the past two years in the spring. Organizers said holding the Teach-In during commemoration week activities will deepen and advance social justice work that has been inspired by King.



Touré, left, and Patrisse Cullors are the keynote speakers for Grand Valley's 2016 MLK Commemoration Week.

Touré will also speak on January 18 at the 30th annual Grand Rapids Community College program and on January 19 at Davenport University.

For more on the speakers or Grand Valley's MLK commemoration week events, visit [www.gvsu.edu/mlk](http://www.gvsu.edu/mlk).

## Across Campus

### AWRI director: water defines Michigan

When it comes to fresh water, no other location on the planet has the geographic advantages or resources that Michigan has, said Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute.



Photo by Bri Luginbill

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, gives an address at the October 15 Secchia Breakfast Lecture at the Seidman Center.

Steinman was the featured speaker on October 15 for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture held at the Seidman Center.

In his speech, "Michigan's Blue Economy: Why Water Matters," Steinman provided a historical perspective of water's role in Michigan's development and said the Blue Economy is critical to the future of the state.

Steinman said there are more than 350 emerging water-related companies in Michigan.

"Water is needed to fuel our economy," Steinman said. "We can accelerate Michigan's Blue Economy by forging public/private partnerships, bringing businesspeople and researchers together to solve and discuss water and new technology issues."

He said compacts can be created to challenge communities to share ideas for water-focused economic development opportunities. He also suggested creating a prize to reward the best innovative water development strategies and ideas.

Steinman said research and investment in the Blue Economy

is increasing, citing examples like the Grand Rapids Whitewater Project and research projects at AWRI. He also said millions of dollars have been invested in the prevention and control of invasive species like Asian Carp and zebra mussels.

### Knowledge Market offers new Data Inquiry Lab for students

A new resource to help students develop practical data gathering and analysis skills is now available in the Mary Idema Pew Library's Knowledge Market.

The Data Inquiry Lab offers workshops, in-classroom demonstrations, one-on-one consultations and many online resources to students. During the academic year, students can schedule appointments or drop-in at the DIL to meet with faculty associates or student consultants about projects and questions.

"Students live in a sea of data and learning to make sense of it all is an essential liberal arts skill," said Whitt Kilburn, associate professor

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# Across Campus

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of political science. "Our approach in the DIL is to provide encouragement, advice and tools for students to ultimately complete the work on their own."

The DIL is a partnership between University Libraries, Political Science Department, Statistics Department, Office of the Provost and Pew Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.

For more information, contact Kilburn at x18831, Gerald Shoultz at x18689 or visit [www.gvsu.edu/datainquirylab](http://www.gvsu.edu/datainquirylab).



Gerald Shoultz, associate professor of statistics, works with a student in the Data Inquiry Lab.

## New DSR director named

Shontaye Witcher has been named interim director of Disability Support Resources.

Witcher replaces Kathleen VanderVeen, who was named assistant vice president for Inclusion and Equity.

Witcher joined the DSR staff in 2009 as assistant director and was promoted to associate director in 2011. Since then, the office has expanded its number of staff members to meet the needs of an increasing student population.

DSR served more than 700 students last year. Witcher said the increase is due to more outreach to students, visibility and students' willingness to seek services.

"The increasing numbers of students registered in our office are being diagnosed with a disability at an earlier age and are more comfortable disclosing their disability once they enter college," she said.



Shontaye Witcher

The DSR's Campus Links program is an example of meeting the needs of students with autism spectrum disorder. Established four years ago with a pilot group of 10, the mentor program has expanded to students who live on- or off-campus with a mentor. Campus Links was the first program of its kind in Michigan to offer students an on-campus housing option. The program added a second level of services to students who may want more independence with mentor support.

Prior to coming to Grand Valley, Witcher served as a school social worker for Muskegon Public Schools and an infant mental health specialist for the Mercy Health Life Counseling Hackley Campus in Muskegon.

## Nominations sought for new internationalization award

Nominations are being accepted for the inaugural Internationalization Award.

The award will honor a faculty member (tenured, tenure-track, or affiliate) for significant service, teaching, program development, international projects and other contributions to the internationalization of the university.

Examples might include developing or leading a study abroad program, building or improving international partnerships, or promoting awareness of internationalization on campus.

Nominations may be submitted by students, faculty or staff members. Award criteria and more about the nomination process are posted online at [www.gvsu.edu/pic](http://www.gvsu.edu/pic), click on "Faculty and Staff."

## Cards provide university quick facts

The 2015 Talking Points cards are included in this issue of *Forum*.

The cards provide quick facts about Grand Valley and updated statistics. More information is online, [www.gvsu.edu/aboutgvsu](http://www.gvsu.edu/aboutgvsu), including an infographic of quick facts. Departments can request more cards by calling University Communications at x12221.

Another online resource for faculty and staff members is [www.gvsu.edu/identity](http://www.gvsu.edu/identity); this website, maintained by Institutional Marketing, lists university marketing messages, logo standards, copy style guide, and a list of national awards and recognitions that Grand Valley has received.

## FORUM Volume 40, Number 8

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

### Betsy Wenk, Community Police Officer

Community Police Officer Betsy Wenk understands the importance of staying connected with on-campus students. Her job requires her to monitor many facets of the campus community and to serve as a resource to students.

"If there's an incident in housing, from a roommate issue to a crime that occurred, we do the follow-up and then build those community relations with the people in housing," she said.

Wenk also presents many of Grand Valley Police Department programs, including the popular "Shots with Cops."

"Shots with Cops is a program where we talk about the laws surrounding alcohol, such as MIPs and drunken driving," Wenk said. "It's an awareness and prevention program, with some fun activities for students."

Wenk works closely with the Women's Center. The center will often contact her if a student needs to file a police report or is in need of other legal assistance.

"It's a two-way street as we sometimes refer students to the Women's Center. We have a great working relationship," she said.

Women looking to learn self-defense may also find themselves in a class taught by Wenk. She is a co-instructor for Rape Aggression Defense, a three-hour program that teaches women the fundamentals of prevention and self-defense.

Her desire to protect the community is one

reason why Wenk chose a career in law enforcement that began 25 years ago at the Kentwood Police Department.

"Women weren't as well represented at the time I started, and I had a family member who was the chief of the police department in my hometown" she said. "It's always been an interest of mine to help people."

After serving as a police officer in Kentwood for 17 years, Wenk started at Grand Valley in 2008.

She is taking classes at Grand Valley in leadership management as part of a liberal studies cohort program for nontraditional students.

"It was a personal goal, but also it will help with my work and my leadership," she said.

As both a student and police officer, Wenk knows the extent of the support that's available for students.

"The resources available on campus for a student are pretty remarkable," she said. "While a city police department has to spread its resources across a large area, Grand Valley's police force is concentrated. This makes it easier for students to get the assistance they need, and for officers to get more involved."



Betsy Wenk

# What's Ahead

## Workshops focus on compensation

Two upcoming workshops are planned to highlight Grand Valley's compensation philosophy, including how market data is used to benchmark positions and the annual merit increase program.

Linda Yuhas, director of compensation and employment services, will present "Compensation 101" on Tuesday, October 20, from 3-4 p.m. at the Lake Michigan Center, room 225, in Muskegon; and October 28 from 11 a.m.-noon in Zumberge Hall, room 1090.

Register for either workshop online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout).

## Award-winning chemist, educator to speak at Ott Lecture

An award-winning chemist and educator, recognized for her research regarding what happens when solids, liquids and gases combine, will be the featured speaker at the fall Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry.

Geraldine Richmond is the presidential chair and professor of chemistry at University of Oregon. She is also the founder and chair of COACH, a grass-roots organization assisting in the advancement of women scientists in both the U.S. and developing countries.

Richmond's public lecture, "Surf, Sink or Swim: Understanding How Environmentally Important Molecules Behave at Water Surfaces," will take place Tuesday, October 20, at 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. She will also give a chemistry seminar for students October 21. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/chem](http://www.gvsu.edu/chem).

Richmond has also served on many science boards and advisory panels, including the U.S. State Department as the 2015-2016 Science Envoy for the Mekong River countries, and the National Science Board as a Presidential Appointee. She is president of American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry was created and endowed by a gift from Arnold C. and Marion Ott.

## Fireside Chats begin

The Women's Center Fireside Chats will begin Wednesday, October 21, at noon in the Kirkhof Center, room 1201.

Alli Montae, assistant director of the Women's Center, will give a presentation about her experience with storytelling. "To Be Free: Storytelling as Liberation" will detail how storytelling can empower and liberate marginalized communities. Participants will be able to share their own stories as well.

Other Fireside Chats are set for November and February. The programs are free and participants do not need to RSVP. For more information, contact Jessica Jennrich at [jennricj@gvsu.edu](mailto:jennricj@gvsu.edu).

## Documentary focuses on women in baseball

When thinking about professional baseball in Michigan, team names like the Detroit Tigers or West Michigan Whitecaps may sound more familiar than the Grand Rapids Chicks or Muskegon Lassies. That's because the latter are names of women's baseball teams who competed in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League during World War II.

A new documentary, which has been

developed over the past 10 years by Grand Valley students, alumni and faculty and staff members, aims to educate audiences about the AAGPBL and its impact on women in sports.

"A Team of Their Own: The First Professional Baseball League for Women" was produced by the GVSU Veterans History Project and includes interviews with more than 40 women who played in the AAGPBL.

"Many of these women were very young when they entered the league, and here they were at the age of 15 or 16 doing something that was virtually unheard of for grown women to do," said James Smither, co-producer and GVSU Veterans History Project director.

The documentary will travel across the U.S. to screen in most of the cities where AAGPBL teams played. There will be three screenings in West Michigan, including Wednesday, October 21, at 7 p.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. It will be screened in Muskegon on October 29 and at the Grand Rapids Public Museum on November 10.

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



Artist J. Brett Grill stands in front of the statue of Bill Seidman he created. Founders Day will be celebrated October 22.

## Founders Day will include time capsule ceremony

The Grand Valley community will celebrate the founding of the university during a day of events and activities.

The third annual Founders Day will celebrate the 282 people who came together to start the vision and foundation for Grand Valley.

The celebration will take place on Thursday, October 22, when cupcakes will be handed out from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Allendale Campus and Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

At noon, four living centers will be celebrated during a reopening ceremony at the courtyard in between Ott and Weed living centers. The living centers are named after some of the university's founders: Ella Koeze Weed, Icie Macy Hoobler, Arnold C. Ott and Paul A. Johnson.

During the ceremony, President Thomas J. Haas will give remarks and introduce a time capsule that will be opened on Grand Valley's 100th birthday in 2060.

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

## Career Fair to host 200 employers

More than 200 employers are registered to attend Grand Valley's Fall Career Fair on Thursday, October 22, from 1-5 p.m.

The fair will be at DeVos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids; it is free and open to the public, college students and alumni seeking professional employment or internship opportunities. For a list of registered employers, visit [www.gvsu.edu/careerfairs](http://www.gvsu.edu/careerfairs).

Participant pre-registration is not required but students should bring their student ID. Follow along on social media at #GVcareerfair.

## CLAS alumni will share experiences with students

Alumni from 12 departments within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will share their post-graduation experiences with the Grand Valley community October 22-23.

Donovan Anderson, CLAS interim assistant dean for faculty and staff development, said this year's distinguished alumni will provide their insights about what constitutes strong academic preparation for students.

Speakers will be Nathan Bachelier, '97, National Marines Fisheries Service (NOAA); Jaime Curtis-Fisk, '04, Dow Chemical; Matthew Cooper, '02 and '09, Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation, Northland College; Ashley Dressel, '08, College of Saint Scholastica; M. Teague O'Mara, '01, Max Planck Institute of Ornithology; Andrew McCarthy, '00, COG Operating; Michelle LeMieux, '09, Botsford Hospital; Christine Amon, '09, mezzo-soprano; Paula Amenta, '95, Kendall College of Art and Design; and Kenneth (Kent) Games, '09, Indiana State University.

For event information about the lectures and programs, visit [www.gvsu.edu/clas](http://www.gvsu.edu/clas).

## Mindfulness events include 'triathlon,' speaker

Students, faculty and staff members will have the opportunity to learn more about the practice of mindfulness by participating in one of several sessions led by Donald McCown on Friday, October 23.

McCown is an assistant professor and director of the Center for Contemplative Studies at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. He was the director of the Mindfulness Institute at the Jefferson-Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine. Mindfulness is the act of bringing attention to the present moment without judgment, and a way to manage stress and improve one's quality of life.

The day will begin with a "Mindful Triathlon" at 7 a.m. at the Kelly Family Sports Center. Students, faculty and staff members can participate in a triathlon consisting of a 15-minute walk or run, a 15-minute yoga session and a 15-minute guided meditation session.

McCown's presentations are below. Register online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout).

- Wellness and "Witness:" Mindful Care for Self and Others, 9-10:30 a.m., Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. Continental breakfast will be served.

- Contemplative Classrooms: Empirical Evidence and Practical Applications: Geared for faculty, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. Lunch will be served.

- The Mindful Campus: Cultivating Awareness and Connection in a World of Distraction: 2-3:30 p.m., Seidman Center, room 1008A. Students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in a forum on mindfulness.

## Memorial event honors two faculty members

The Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center will host a reception that honors two people whose names will be added to Grand Valley's Memorial Garden wall.

The names of Milton E. Ford, professor of

*continues on page 4*

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Jason Franklin**, W.K. Kellogg Community Philanthropy chair at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, was interviewed for a story in the September issue of *Alliance Magazine*.

**Mark Schwartz**, associate professor of anthropology, appeared in an episode of the PBS series "Secrets of the Dead." The episode premiered October 13 and followed Schwartz and a team of historians, military engineers and archaeologists as they examined physical evidence to discover the truth behind the myth of the Trojan Horse. The episode can be viewed at [www.pbs.org/secrets](http://www.pbs.org/secrets).

## Sketches

**Paul Keenlance**, assistant professor of biology, earned a grant from the Detroit Zoological Society for a project, "American Marten Population Status and Ecology in the Huron Manistee National Forest."

**Richard Hiskes**, professor of political science, honors, gave a keynote address, "A Very Promising Species: Environmental Human Rights and the Future," at a conference, The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy, at the University of Dayton.

**Rick Rediske**, senior program manager and professor at the Annis Water Resources Institute, received a \$15,097 grant from Muskegon County Public Health for a project, "Great Lakes Beach Monitoring by QCPR."

**Patricia Clark**, chair of the Writing Department, wrote a poem, "Sword Fern," published in *About Place Journal*.

### Faculty member earns grants to aid older adults

A Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty member is helping vulnerable older adults stay in their homes through a statewide program, MiCAPABLE: Community Aging in Place, Advancing Better Living for Elders.

Sandra Spoelstra, associate dean for research and scholarship, and Sarah Szanton, from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, co-lead the MiCAPABLE program, designed to help adults who live below the poverty line remain at home rather than move into a nursing home.

Support from the John A. Hartford Foundation Change AGents Action Award, the Innovations in Care Award from the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation, and the State of Michigan totaled more than \$1.2 million in funding to implement MiCAPABLE in Flint, Detroit and Saginaw.

Spoelstra, who joined Grand Valley's faculty in August, said she is seeking funding to bring the program to West Michigan.

Program participants fall under the Michigan Medicaid MiChoice waiver program and receive services to meet their needs. MiCAPABLE extends services through an additional 12 weeks of home visits with an interprofessional team of nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, pharmacist and a maintenance expert to ready the home.

"Making large-scale practice change is challenging," Spoelstra said. "Accelerating this change through these grants is critical for the well-being of our nation's aging population."



Sandra Spoelstra

## What's Ahead

*continued from page 3*

English and liberal studies and founding director of the LGBT Resource Center, and Robert J. Toft, founding dean for College IV, will be added to the memorial wall. The campus community is invited to a celebration set for Friday, October 23, from 3-5 p.m. at the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Ford died in 2014, and Toft died in February. For details on the celebration, call the LGBT Resource Center at x12530.

### New events highlight Homecoming

Laker fans will find a host of activities available during Homecoming, set for Saturday, October 24.

With the theme "Once Upon a Laker," new Homecoming events include a bone marrow registry drive and premiere of a documentary about the

Laker baseball 2012 trip to Cuba.

Highlights are below, details are available online at [www.gvsu.edu/homecoming](http://www.gvsu.edu/homecoming).

- The Homecoming 5K Walk/Run will start at 10 a.m. at the Kelly Family Sports Center. Late registration will begin October 20 and participants can register before the race from 8-9:30 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the Laker cross country and track and field teams.

- WZZM-TV and Michigan Blood will host a donor registration drive from 9 a.m.-noon



at the outdoor basketball courts next to the Kelly Family Sports Center. Free parking will be available in lot G until noon.

- "A Lesson in Diplomacy: GVSU Baseball in Cuba" will premiere at 1:30 p.m. in Loutit Lecture Hall, room 101. The film tells the story of the team's trip to Cuba, including games against Cuban all-stars and the humanitarian mission planned with First Hand Aid. The film's co-producer, Gordon Alderink, will be available after the screening. Alderink is the team's former pitching coach and teaches in the Honors College.

Laker football will host Findlay University at 7 p.m.

### PSS will highlight student direction

Theater majors will bring a murder mystery to life on stage during "Café Murder," as well as a string of short plays, as part of this year's Performance Studio Series.

Performances of "Café Murder" and "All in the Timing: A Collection of One-Act Plays by David Ives" will take place Sunday, October 25, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Monday, October 26, and 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

Anthony Sanchez, writing and theater major, will be leading "Café Murder" in his first experience directing a Grand Valley production.

Three short productions, including "Sure Thing," "The Philadelphia" and "English Made Simple," will follow "Café Murder." The shorts will be directed by Kimberlee Griggs, senior theater and psychology major, who is also debuting in a directorial role at Grand Valley.

Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office or by calling (616) 331-2300.

### Health care resource allocation topic of colloquy

National experts will give a presentation on health care resource allocation at the DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy presented by Grand Valley.

"Ethics of Resource Allocation across the Lifespan" will take place Monday, October 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. The event is free and open to the public; register at [www.gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://www.gvsu.edu/colloquy).

Presenters are Frederick Zimmerman, professor of health policy and management at UCLA, and Mildred Solomon, president and chief executive officer for the Hastings Center. The event will be moderated by the Rev. Julius Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

Zimmerman is an economist with a background in institutional and behavioral economics. He published one of the earliest agent-based models in economics, which showed how the poor managed assets so conservatively that they ended up with low returns. Solomon is president of the Hastings Center, a world-renowned bioethics institute. She is also a professor at Harvard Medical School, and directs the school's Fellowship in Medical Ethics.

The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy was established in 2005 by Richard and Helen DeVos in response to a need for a forum where topics of medical and ethical significance could be discussed under guidance from experts. Grand Valley became the host of this biannual medical ethics speaker series in June 2015, thanks to a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.