

# FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

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## Two keynote speakers will discuss King's legacy

A member of the exonerated Central Park Five and a faculty member who directed and produced a documentary about the Flint water crisis will be keynote speakers during a week of events on campus that commemorate the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Yusef Salaam will give a presentation January 20 in the Fieldhouse, one event planned during King Commemoration Week.

Yusef Salaam will participate in a silent march on campus then give a presentation in the Fieldhouse Arena at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 20. Salaam was 15 when he and four other teenagers were wrongly accused and convicted of raping a woman in New York City's Central Park.

The sentences for the Central Park Five were overturned in 2002 after DNA testing and a confession from a convicted murderer. Salaam had spent nearly seven years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

Two documentaries, including 2019's "When They See Us" by Ava DuVernay, detailed the case, convictions and life after prison for Salaam and the others. He now spends his time as an activist and lecturer, discussing the failings of the criminal justice system and human rights.

Salaam's presentation is approved for LIB 100/201 courses.

Classes on the national King holiday will be canceled to allow more students, faculty and staff members to participate in events. Other January 20 events include a panel discussion, upcycling session and a free campus lunch. Visit [gvsu.edu/mlk](http://gvsu.edu/mlk) for details.

• Cedric Taylor, associate professor of sociology at Central Michigan University, will give a presentation, "A Dream Still Deferred:

Environmental (In)Justice and the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." on Wednesday, January 22, at 4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. This presentation is approved for LIB 100/201 courses.



Cedric Taylor will give a workshop and keynote presentation January 22 in the Kirkhof Center.

Taylor is the writer, director and producer of "Nor Any Drop to Drink: The Flint Water Crisis." The 2018 documentary has been screened nationally and internationally. Born in Jamaica, Taylor is a public sociologist who employs film, visual media and storytelling to engage the wider community in conversations around racism and social justice.

*continues on page 4*

## ACROSS CAMPUS

### Researchers: opioid, drug overdose deaths up

Seidman College of Business researchers have found that while the number of opioid prescriptions written by providers in the state has declined, the number of deaths by drug overdose has increased.

The findings were detailed January 10 during



Photo by Autumn Johnson

Sebastian Linde gives remarks at the 2019 Health Care Economic Forecast.

the 11th annual Health Check report, which analyzes health data and trends for Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan (KOMA) counties and compares data to statewide and national figures. The report highlighted the West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast, sponsored by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health.

Sebastian Linde, assistant professor of economics, was the Health Check's lead author. Linde and other researchers studied the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed per 100 people in the Detroit and KOMA regions from 2006-2017. After a peak of more than 1 prescription per capita (per year) in Detroit in 2012, the region has seen a decline in the prescription rate to 0.76 per capita in 2017, he said.

For the KOMA region, Linde said the prescription rate reached a high of 1.5 per capita (per year) in 2013, then declined to 0.64 prescriptions in 2017.

Researchers found overdose death rates (from all drugs) increased to 34 per 100,000 people

in Detroit in 2017, and remained steady at 18 deaths per 100,000 people in KOMA.

Linde said health consequences associated with drug use and overdose must remain a critical focus of intervention and future policy initiatives.

Data focusing on suicides showed KOMA rates decreased from 15.4 per 100,000 people in 2014 to 13 per 100,000 in 2017. The Detroit region also recorded about 13 deaths per 100,000 people in 2017.

Other health risks are noted below:

- Cigarette smokers: (KOMA) 16 percent and (Detroit) 19 percent, 2017; both numbers are down from 2016 rates
- E-cigarette users: (Kent County) 5.6 percent, (Wayne County) 3.8 percent, 2017
- Overweight: One-third the population in both KOMA and Detroit regions, 2017
- Obese: One-third the population in both KOMA and Detroit regions, 2017

*continues on page 2*

# ACROSS CAMPUS

continued from page 1

The entire report is available online at [gvsu.edu/vphealth](http://gvsu.edu/vphealth). Data was provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, and Priority Health.

## How to help students prepare for registration

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to connect with students and discuss registering for the spring/summer semester and into the next academic year.

Classes for the spring/summer semester will be viewable in Banner on February 14, and on March 1 for the fall and winter semesters. Registration for all classes will begin on March 16.

- Encourage students to check myPath to understand what classes are needed for a timely graduation.
- Encourage students to see their advisors with questions about their path to graduation.
- Details about flexible summer classes are online at [gvsu.edu/summer](http://gvsu.edu/summer).

## Classics, all learners win content accessibility challenge

A challenge to improve the accessibility of content on Blackboard Ally not only produced a winning department but also a win for understanding inclusivity for all learners.

The Classics Department won the challenge that was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and eLearning and Emerging

Technologies in the Information Technology Department. Faculty members worked within Blackboard Ally to improve the access and managing of files for students.

Some factors for enhancing accessibility include downloads with improved use with assistive technology, files that can be opened on mobile devices or other e-book readers, electronic braille, audio capabilities and a BeeLine Reader for easier and faster on-screen reading.

The department increased its collective Ally score by 14.7 percent, which had an impact on nearly 500 students, according to contest organizers. For winning, the department received a \$1,000 student scholarship in its name.

Melissa Morison, department chair, said the small group of faculty members was able to quickly coalesce around the goal of improving student support.

“We’re so grateful for this opportunity that is the right thing to do, and being able to do even more to help our students is meaningful,” Morison said.

Classics faculty members said to improve accessibility, they focused on updating a large volume of files as well as increasing linking through the library rather than using their own scans.

The improvements are important for those with registered disabilities and bolsters institutional awareness for inclusivity, said Eric Kunnen, associate director of the eLearning and Emerging Technologies Information Technology Department.

He also noted that the improvements will have a wider benefit for all students by enhancing

the opportunities for a digital educational experience.



Courtesy photo

Students from Union High School and two Grand Valley classes meet in the Mary Idema Pew Library. They collaborated on author readings during the fall semester, culminating with an exhibition.

## Two classes, Union High School collaborate for semester

Students from two Grand Valley classes teamed with students from a class at Union High School in Grand Rapids to read and discuss three authors during the fall semester.

Dauvan Mulally, senior affiliate professor of writing, and Justin Pettibone, affiliate faculty of integrative studies, teach a paired course in the first-year learning community program. They collaborated with Nathan Teft’s high school English class. Teft has worked with Gayle Schaub, liaison librarian, for several years on research instruction.

Mulally said groups were formed among the three classes and students used Google Classroom and Flipgrid for video discussions. She added that video discussions about the

continues on page 3

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Other University Communications publications:

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

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

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



## GVFACES

### Grace Pushman, Career Center

Career advisor Grace Pushman from the Career Center usually works with students in her office, but this past summer she had the opportunity to work with students abroad.

Through the European Union Studies Association and the Padnos International Center, Pushman traveled to Europe to see the experiences of Grand Valley study abroad students first-hand. She visited EUSA sites in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Pushman said her biggest regret while attending college at Grand Valley was not taking the opportunity to study abroad.

“I think in the university setting, if you are interested in traveling abroad and learning about other cultures, this is one of the best ways to do it because you have that support,” Pushman said. “It’s a way to push yourself, but push yourself with a safety net.”

Pushman said she believes having internships while studying abroad adds something special.

“Whether you get an internship or are taking classes abroad, I think both say so much about

who you are, and they are experiences that we definitely want to encourage here in the Career Center,” Pushman said.

She encouraged students to visit the Career Center, even before seeking out an internship.

“A big thing in life is doing what scares us to help us grow. It’s important to step out of comfort zones,” Pushman said.

In addition to advising, she also helps plan Career Center events, like the biannual Suit-Up event, a partnership with JCPenney to provide students with affordable business clothing.



Grace Pushman

# WHAT'S AHEAD

## Study Abroad Fair planned

The Padnos International Center will host a Study Abroad Fair Tuesday, January 14, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Henry Hall.

Students can browse global programs, meet with faculty directors, and learn about funding. Refreshments will be provided.

More information is online at [gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://gvsu.edu/studyabroad).

## Opera Theatre will perform 'Working: A Musical'

A rework of a 1970s Tony-nominated musical is on tap as the next performance for Grand Valley Opera Theatre.

"Working: A Musical" is slated for a February 7-16 run in the Haas Center for Performing Arts, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

The performance is based on the book by the same name by Pulitzer Prize-winning oral historian Studs Terkel. Through interviews, Terkel explored the relationships between our occupations and our humanity through workers who can be taken for granted.

This production is a 2012 rework of the 1978 musical. It features new songs from Lin-Manuel Miranda and updated professions but provides the same glimpse into America.

Shows will be at 7:30 p.m. on February 7, 8, 14 and 15 and at 2 p.m. on February 9 and 16.

For more information about tickets, visit [etix.com/ticket/v/15202](http://etix.com/ticket/v/15202).

# ACROSS CAMPUS

*continued from page 2*

readings led to questions from the high school students about college life.

The three classes met in person December 12 to view an exhibition of Grand Valley students' responses to the authors in the Mary Idema Pew Library.

## Reflection room opens on Health Campus

Another interfaith reflection room for students, faculty and staff members to practice their traditions has opened in Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

The space in CHS room 166 is not reservable and will be available when the building is open. It was made possible through a resolution passed by Grand Valley's Student Senate.

The first reflection room opened in 2015 in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. It is located in room 2243, is not reservable and available when the building is open.

In DeVos Center, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, room 309E has been designated a temporary space for personal meditation, prayer or reflection. The space is available for those purposes from noon-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For general questions or concerns about the reflection rooms, contact Campus Interfaith at [cir@gvsu.edu](mailto:cir@gvsu.edu).

## GVPD leads in training for the unexpected

More than 140 people, including 35 Grand Valley students and staff members, participated in a full-scale active assailant training exercise December 15 in Mackinac Hall.

Officers and security staff from the Grand Valley Police Department attended, along with members from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, central dispatch and State Police. Firefighters from nine area cities and townships participated, along with representatives from Life, AMR, and North Ottawa Community Hospital ambulance services.

The training exercise also included emergency managers from Kent and Ottawa counties, the city of Grand Rapids and the State of Michigan.

Brandon DeHaan, GVPD police chief, said the department continues to be a leader within the state in providing training for police officers and firefighters in response to active assailant/Rescue Task Force.

"We are one of the first organizations in the

state to provide education and training on an annual basis, along with a full-scale exercise for police and fire departments to work together during critical incidents," said DeHaan. "We collaborate and train with all of our off campus public safety partners to help provide a safe and secure environment for members of our community."

Observers came from the Grand Rapids Police and Fire departments, State Police, State of Michigan Emergency Management, Department of Homeland Security, Grand Rapids Community College, RiverTown Crossings Mall and Van Andel Arena.

## GVNext recap:



*Photo by Valerie Wojciechowski*

Provost Maria Cimitile gives remarks January 7 at an event celebrating the opening of the GVSU Battle Creek Outreach Center.

## Battle Creek center will help students, area succeed

Leaders from Grand Valley, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Battle Creek Public Schools celebrated January 7 the opening of the university's outreach center and a collaborative effort to increase regional access to educational support resources.

The GVSU Battle Creek Regional Outreach Center is an initiative stemming from a five-year, \$15.5 million grant from WKKF to Grand Valley. Staff at the center, 8 Michigan Ave. W, can assist area students and residents with college and career exploration, and provide help with federal aid forms and college applications.

President Philomena V. Mantella said the university's presence in Battle Creek extends beyond its physical office space.

"I would encourage people to not think about the university's impact as they might have in the past, in terms of acreage," Mantella said.

"In today's digital age, our impact is greater than the outreach center. Think about Grand Valley as a small but mighty partner to help build this community."

LaJune Montgomery Tabron, WKKF president and CEO, said the outreach center will aid in job creation, talent development and a "culture of vitality" in Battle Creek. The event was held at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation building and tours of the outreach center followed.

Tabron said since the grant announcement in May, Grand Valley faculty and staff members partnered with BCPS to offer professional development programs and mentorship to teachers, as well as beginning a teacher education pipeline program for classroom assistants. BCPS middle and high school students have attended Grand Valley summer camps focused on STEM and health care fields.

Provost Maria Cimitile said faculty and staff members from the College of Education and other university departments are dedicated to providing Battle Creek partners with a "high-touch experience" incorporating innovative programming and technology.

Information about the outreach center is online at [gvsu.edu/battlecreek](http://gvsu.edu/battlecreek).

## ROTC students now receiving course credit

Grand Valley students who participate in ROTC will now receive course credit for their time and commitment.

About 20 Grand Valley students currently train and participate with the Army ROTC program at Western Michigan University. While the WMU program will still be their base, Grand Valley students will now earn 18 credits, or up to eight criminal justice courses, toward graduation requirements.

Jillian Elmer and Julian Sanders are both juniors and active ROTC cadets. They took up the cause of receiving credit for their work with Lynn "Chick" Blue, vice president for Enrollment Development.

ROTC students from Grand Valley and other Grand Rapids-area colleges train at the WMU Grand Rapids Campus on East Beltline. Training includes physical fitness classes three days a week, one two-hour lab and one three-hour class, plus various squad meetings.

Sanders said the news that Grand Valley will offer credit may increase participation in ROTC. He is a political science major from Flint who has already signed a commitment with the Michigan Army National Guard.

*For more campus news, visit [gvsu.edu/gvnext](http://gvsu.edu/gvnext).*

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## IN THE NEWS

**Shorouq Almallah**, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and **Jean Nagelkerk**, vice provost for health, were named to the *Grand Rapids Business Journal's* "50 Most Influential Women" list, recognizing women who make a difference in the community.



Diane Conrad (at left) leads a class with Pamela Hussey, director of the Centre for eIntegrated Care at Dublin City University in Ireland.

### KCON collaborates with Dublin university

**Diane Conrad**, associate professor of nursing, and colleagues at Dublin City University collaborated on a global learning experience for Kirkhof College of Nursing doctor of nursing practice students and peers in Ireland.

The classes met via Zoom video conferencing in November. Conrad received a Fulbright Scholar award to spend the fall 2019 semester in Ireland. Her research project focused on assessing the country's regional health care delivery system and its status of advanced practice nursing roles.

## SKETCHES

**Cáel Keegan**, assistant professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies, has won the National Women's Studies Association's Trans/Gender-Variant Caucus Paper Award for "Getting Disciplined: What's Trans\* About Queer Studies Now?" The award recognizes the work of scholars working in the emergent field of Trans studies.

**Adriana Almanza**, assistant director for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, was elected chair of the Michigan Coalition for Undocumented Student Success.

**Eric Kunnen**, associate director of eLearning and Emerging Technologies, gave a presentation, "A Data-Informed Approach to Inclusive Learning: Scaling Accessibility," at the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

**Anthony Williams Jr.**, director of student conduct, gave a presentation, "Supervisory Relationships: Utilizing Restorative Practices to Set Expectations and to Facilitate Difficult Conversations," at the Michigan American College Personnel Association annual conference.

**Suzan Couzens**, affiliate faculty of nursing, was among the honorees who received awards from Senior Neighbors during its "16 over 60" gala, recognizing contributions from community members.

**Jen Hsu-Bishop**, director of the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center, earned the Dr. Sheltreese D. McCoy Award for Outstanding Practice in Social Justice from the Consortium of Higher Education of LGBT Resource Professionals.

**John Uglietta**, professor of philosophy, gave a presentation, "Talking about Affirmative Action," at the International Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum at Villanova University.

**Bopi Biddanda**, professor of water resources, chaired a session on STEM and gave a presentation, "Extreme Life," at the NASA Michigan Space Grant Consortium's fall conference in Ann Arbor.

**Colleen Brice**, associate professor of English, served as co-chair of the 45th annual conference of Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, which brought more than 300 participants to the Eberhard Center in the fall.

**Christopher Toth**, associate professor of writing, and **Hazel McClure**, liberal arts department head for Universities Libraries, gave a presentation, "Writing Internships Abroad: Assessing Students' Experiential Learning with South African NGOs," at the International Conference for the Association of Business Communication in Detroit.

**Amy Russell**, associate professor of biology, wrote an article, "Genetic Variation and Structure in the Endangered Mexican Long-nosed Bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*): Mitochondrial and Nuclear Perspectives," published in *From Field to Laboratory: A Memorial Volume in Honor of Robert J. Baker*.

**John Weber**, professor of geology, and students were authors of an article, "Fault Creep and Strain Partitioning in Trinidad-Tobago: Geodetic Measurements, Models, and Origin of Creep," published in *Tectonics*.

Biology professors **Michael P. Lombardo** and **Patrick A. Thorpe**, and **Sango Otieno**, associate professor of statistics, gave a presentation, "The Factors that Affect Egg Mass in Tree Swallows Vary Yearly," at a joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society in Cape May, New Jersey.

Writing faculty members **Kay Losey** and **Zsuzsanna Palmer** gave a presentation, "An Innovative Method for Assessing Collaborative Writing: What Google Docs Tells Us About the Shared Writing Process," at the Association for Business Communication Annual International Conference in Detroit.

**Melissa Tallman**, associate professor of biomedical sciences, was a co-author of an article, "Early Anthropoid Femora Reveal Divergent Adaptive Trajectories in Catarrhine Hind-limb Evolution," published in *Nature Communications*.

**Deana Weibel**, professor of anthropology and integrative learning, gave a presentation, "Inevitability, Adaptability, Destiny: Religious and Non-Religious Arguments for a Human Future in Outer Space," at the Tennessee Valley Interstellar Workshop in Wichita, Kansas.

**Daisy Fredricks**, assistant professor of education, wrote an article, "Valuing the Resources and Experiences of Refugee-background Learners: A Principled Approach to Teaching and Learning Academic Language," published in *Theory Into Practice*.

**Janel Pettes Guikema**, associate professor of French, earned the Georges J. Joyaux Post-Secondary Educator Award from the Michigan World Language Association at its annual conference in Lansing.

**Ranelle Brew**, associate professor and chair of public health, received the American Public Health Association's Sarah Mazelis award at the association's annual conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This award honors outstanding practice in health education.

**Kathleen Blumreich**, professor of English, gave a presentation, "Multicultural Literature in the Monocultural Classroom," at the Midwest Modern Language Association Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

**John Kilbourne**, professor of movement science, gave a presentation, "Early Sami Play & Games: Sustainability and Peace," at the National Museum of Sport in Stockholm, Sweden, and a presentation at the Elsa Laila Symposium at Umea University, Umea, Sweden.

**Al Steinman**, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, gave a presentation, "Restoring a Degraded Watershed Using a Public-Private Partnership Model," at the Annual Meeting of the North American Lake Management Society in Burlington, Vermont.

## Events during King Commemoration Week include day of service

*continued from page 1*

He will lead a workshop prior to the keynote presentation. "Film As Activism: Documentary Film Making With Your Smartphone" will detail for participants how to plan, film, edit and upload films to YouTube using mobile phones

and software like iMovie. The workshop will run from 3-4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

- The Community Service Learning Center will host MLK Jr. Day of Service and Solidarity on Saturday, January 25, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Students are encouraged to register for the service day online at [gvsu.edu/service](https://gvsu.edu/service). Participants will hear from a speaker then participate in service projects with area partners. Transportation to and from campus is included.