



Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter



Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame Grows by Four

The Moraine Valley Foundation inducted its newest members into the Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame on March 5. This year's inductees are [Suha Abunijmeh](#), '06; [Kristen Amato](#), '08; [Brian Kelly](#), '97; and [Jason Knade](#), '08.

The 2024 Distinguished Alumnus Award winner was [Jason Knade](#), a successful filmmaker who has worked on hundreds of films, music videos,

commercials and documentaries. He is the creative director of Behold and a self-employed director and cinematographer.

Knade has filmed famous people and dignitaries, including the Pope, a sitting president, actors, athletes, congressmen and business leaders. He has created content for Nike, Canon, The Joffrey Ballet, Amtrak, Zelle and countless others. He has received two Emmys, won multiple film festival awards and was twice named the Best Filmmaker in Chicago by "The Chicago Reader."

He also served as an adjunct instructor at Moraine Valley, where he incorporated his real-world experience into his courses.

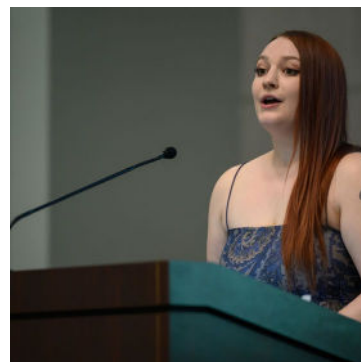
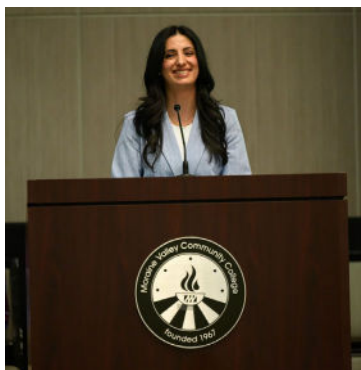
As this year's Distinguished Alumnus Award winner, Knade will be the college's nominee for the Illinois Community College Trustees Association statewide contest.

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Photos below (left to right top): Distinguished Alumni inductee, Jason Knade, is congratulated by President Pamela J. Haney (left) and Dr. Margaret Lehner, Foundation Board secretary, (right); former Hall of Fame Inductees with the class of 2024 inductees: (left to right) Dr. Walter Fronczek-HOF '23, Kristen Amato-HOF '24, Jason Knade-HOF '24, Brian Kelly-HOF '24, Suha Abunijmeh-HOF '24, Margie Owens-Klotz-HOF '23 and Elaine Echols-HOF '14. Inductee, Brian Kelly, as guest lecturer in a Communications class on the Moraine Valley campus.

(Left to right bottom) Inductee, Suha Abunijmeh, giving her acceptance speech; Kristen Amato surrounded by her family and friends at the Induction Ceremony; and Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship recipient Victoria Ichniowski offers appreciation for her award.



**Join us for the
Gateways Gala:
Celebrating 30 Years of
the Fine and Performing
Arts Center!**

Get ready for an extraordinary evening at the [Gateways Gala](#), on April 18, 2024, from 6 to 9 p.m., hosted by the Moraine Valley Foundation. You're invited to an unforgettable evening celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Fine and Performing Arts Center (FPAC) under the theme "Takes Center Stage."

Your support is crucial! Whether you attend, sponsor, buy raffle tickets or donate, every contribution makes a difference. This milestone event allows us to honor the FPAC's legacy and its profound impact on our community's arts and culture scene.

[Reserve your tickets](#) to attend or [purchase raffle tickets](#) even if you cannot be there for the event. Join us in making a real difference in our community!

Please contact [Kristy McGreal](#) at (708) 974-5335 for questions regarding the event.

GALA INFORMATION

Moraine Valley Foundation's Gala will raise funds to bring the arts to children

Proceeds from this year's Gateways Gala will go toward the college's Fine and Performing Arts Center initiative to bring music and theater to local elementary schools. Two of next season's professional performers will travel to local elementary schools to share their talents with school children and inspire future artists.



The gala will include live entertainment, interactive art displays, a live auction, games and raffles with prizes, including exclusive travel and sought-after event experiences. Attendees will enjoy food prepared by Country House and an open bar. To purchase tickets and learn more, visit morainevalley.edu/gala.

"The Fine and Performing Arts Center is celebrating its 30th anniversary, and we are proud the Foundation has been able to support its programming over the years," said Kristy McGreal, executive director of the Foundation. "We are excited this year's gala will raise money to allow professional performers to bring their talents to area schools so young children who might not have the opportunity to attend shows at a professional theater can experience the magic of live music and theater."

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Moraine Valley celebrates Community College Month

Moraine Valley Community College is joining April's #CCMonth, a month-long grassroots education and stigma-busting campaign coordinated by the Association of Community College Trustees. The primary goals of #CCMonth are to improve awareness of the economic, academic and equity advantages of attending community colleges, and to dispel longtime stigmas wrongly associated with public two-year colleges.

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Moraine Valley to host Spring Open House

See how easy it is to get started at Moraine Valley Community College at the spring Open House on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will be held in Building M on the college's main campus at 9000 W. College Parkway in Palos Hills.

Prospective students and their families will hear a brief presentation about the college; learn about the admission, financial aid and transfer processes; and discover how to earn college credit while still in high school. Presentations will be given in English and Spanish.

"The Open House is a great springboard for students looking to continue their education after high school, come back to finish a degree or start a new career. The resources available at the Open House provide prospective students with everything they need to make Moraine Valley their first choice for college," said Andy Sarata, director of Admissions and Recruitment.

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Newsletter readers win tickets to FPAC shows

Congratulations MV Matters readers, Ken Massey and Jill Tobin! Ken and Jill each won two free tickets to attend a show at the Moraine Valley Fine and Performing Arts Center.

You can win tickets, too. Just [click here](#) to enter for your chance to win two free tickets to future Fine and Performing Arts Center shows! Winners will be announced in the April issue of MV Matters.

MORAINЕ VALUES

GREAT EMPLOYEES



“I enjoy Moraine Valley’s diverse population of students and staff. It broadens your world view and builds a greater appreciation for different people and cultures.”

*Donald Allen, program assistant
in the Student Success Center*

If YOU value

- > Fulfilling work helping students pursue their dreams
- > Diverse, welcoming work environment
- > Excellent benefits and pension *(for full-time and many part-time positions)*
- > Outstanding professional development opportunities
- > Exceptional workspaces on a beautiful campus

CHOOSE a career at Moraine Valley Community College!



Read the Moraine Valley student newspaper

To catch up on the latest news and events for our current Moraine Valley students, be sure to read the Glacier. This is the student publication that recently won several national awards for being an outstanding student publication.

[READ THE GLACIER](#)



REMEMBER WHEN? It is hard to imagine that this photo is of the Dorothy Menker Theater stage during the Fine and Performing Arts Center's construction in 1995-96. Since then, hundreds have entertained and enthralled on this stage, from student recitals to professional performers. This year's Foundation [Gateways Gala](#) is Thursday, April 18, raising funds for the Fine and Performing Arts Center's 30th anniversary.



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