



**Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence
Recognition Luncheon**

**Friday, October 10, 2014
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Alumni House and Visitor Center**

Welcome

Frederick J. Antczak
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Luncheon

Recognition of Honorees

Shaily Menon
Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Program

The Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Program provides a venue for departments to invite outstanding alumni back to campus to share their post-graduation experiences with the GVSU community. Through the program, our distinguished alumni have the opportunity to share their insights about what constitutes a strong academic preparation for students. We are pleased this afternoon to recognize distinguished alumni from eleven of the departments within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and welcome them back to campus.

2014 Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Honorees

Paul Collins	B.F.A. in Theatre Design & Production (1996) M.S. in Communications (2008)* M.F.A. in Lighting & Scenic Design (2011)
David Diekema	B.S. in Cell & Molecular Biology (2007)* M.S. in Forensic Science (emphasis in DNA analysis) (2009)
Stephen Gardner	B.S. in Physics (2009)* M.S. in Medical Physics (2011)
Thomas Gunnels	B.A. in Writing (2012)*
Jennifer Haberling	B.S. in Psychology (1991) B.A. in English (emphasis in Secondary Education) (1994)* M.A. in Humanities (2005)
Dr. Jeffery Kieliszewski	B.S. in Psychology (1991)* M.A. in Clinical Psychology (1993) Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology (1998)
Aubrey McMahan	B.A. in International Relations (2012)*
Katherine Pillsbury	B.A. in Writing & Spanish (2012)*
Brandelyn Pitcher	B.S. in Mathematics & Statistics (2008)* M.S. in Biostatistics (2010)*
Amanda (Peterson) Plunkett	B.S. in Mathematics (1999)* M.S. in Applied Mathematics (2001) M.S. in Statistics (2011)
Dr. James Rook	B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1999)* M.P.H. in International Health (2001) D.O. in Osteopathic Medicine (2006)
Steven Stepek	B.S. in Geography (2002)* M.P.A. in Public Administration (2006)*

Paul Collins

B.F.A. in Theatre Design & Production (1996)

*M.S. in Communications (2008)**

M.F.A. Lighting & Scenic Design (2011)

Paul Collins is currently Assistant Professor for the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina teaching courses in theatrical design and production, especially lighting design. As resident lighting designer for the Department of Theatre and Dance, Paul designs the lighting for two to three productions each academic year. Paul is also active in professional and academic theatres outside of the College. Recent professional lighting designs include *Hair* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Barn Theatre in Augusta MI, *August, Osage County* at the Warehouse Theatre in Greenville SC, and *Hamlet* with the Annapolis Shakespeare Company. Upcoming projects include *The Bacchae* at the College of Charleston and *West Side Story* at Charleston Southern University.

Paul spent eight years as staff Technical Director for the Grand Valley State University School of Communications during which time he participated in the creation and execution of countless plays, musicals, operas and musical events. He occasionally did design work for GVSU, including the scenic design for *Little Women* and the lighting design for *Nickel and Dimed, or How (Not) to Get By in America*. Paul supervised the construction of dozens of productions including *Into the Woods, The Merchant of Venice, Mother Courage and her Children, Big Love* and many others.

Paul received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, a Master of Science in Communications at Grand Valley State University, and a Master of Fine Arts in Lighting Design at the University of Iowa.

David Diekema

*B.S. in Cell & Molecular Biology (2007)**

M.S. in Forensic Science (emphasis in DNA analysis) (2009)

Dave Diekema was born and raised in Holland, Michigan and graduated from GVSU in 2007 with a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology. then obtained his M.S. in Forensic Science at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2009. Following graduation, Dave was hired by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) and deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan with the Expeditionary Forensic Laboratory to perform DNA testing in order to assist in war-related efforts for criminal prosecutions. returning to Atlanta, GA, he began work as a Forensic Biologist with USACIL, performing serology testing and DNA analysis for criminal investigations involving military personnel. also testifies as an expert witness in court martial hearings world-wide and provides training, funded by the National Institute of Justice, for advanced DNA mixture interpretation strategies to federal, state, and private laboratories.

For his service in Afghanistan, Dave was awarded a Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism and the Department of the Army Achievement medal for Civilian Service.

Dave is an outdoors enthusiast, particularly backpacking. He led a backpacking trip in the Grand Tetons this summer. He also enjoys volleyball and lifting weights in his free time.

Stephen Gardner

*B.S. in Physics (2009)**

M.S. in Medical Physics (2011)

During his time at Grand Valley, Stephen Gardner was a recipient of the GVSU Presidential Scholarship and Arend D. Lubbers Honors College Scholarship. He was a member of the Honors College and maintained standing on the Dean's List throughout his undergraduate career. In addition, he was a member of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, the national SPS honors society. After graduation from Grand Valley, Stephen attended graduate school at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, earning a M.S. degree in Therapeutic Medical Physics in 2011. After his time in Nashville, he accepted a position in the Medical Physics Residency Program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. Stephen completed the residency program in the summer of 2013, and is now employed as a Senior Associate Medical Physicist at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, MI. Though his appointment at HFHS is primarily clinical, Stephen also performs research; currently, his main interests are related to the integration and evaluation of advanced imaging techniques in radiotherapy. In addition, Stephen has taken on a mentorship role in the Medical Physics Residency Program at Henry Ford Health System. Stephen grew up in Bay City, MI, and has since settled down with his family in Rochester Hills, MI. He met his wife, Heather, at GVSU in 2006 in Niemeyer Hall, the Honors residence hall at that time. Stephen and Heather were married in August of 2010, and now have two young daughters: Caleigh, 3, and Peighton, 1. During their time at home, they enjoy spending time outside, watching movies, and playing with their dog, Lucy.

Thomas Gunnels & Katherine Pillsbury

B.A. in Writing (2012) & B.A. in Writing & Spanish (2012)**

Graduates of the class of 2012, Tom Gunnels and Kate Pillsbury met through the writing department at Grand Valley and formed the 5-piece musical act The Crane Wives, while still attending the university. With music influenced by a variety of genres, The Crane Wives assign their music first and foremost to the category of folk, because of their innate affinity for story-telling through song and a loyal fervor for lyric-writing.

Two albums and almost four years later, the band is solidly engrained in the West Michigan music scene. The Crane Wives have received a number of local music awards from WYCE's "Jammies", including "Listener Choice Album" for each of their releases, as well as 2012's "Song of the Year" for their song, "Safe Ship, Harbored." In 2012, their song "Easier" won an ArtPrize Musical Artist award, for the category of folk/country music. The Crane Wives were also selected as one of Paste Magazine's "12 Michigan Acts You Should Listen to Now."

The Crane Wives perform extensively, and in 2014 they played the highly-esteemed Ann Arbor Folk Festival alongside well known acts such as Iron & Wine, Ingrid Michaelson, Patty Griffin and Jeff Daniels. Currently, they are working on their third album and focusing on broadening their exposure on a national level, by touring and writing songs for well-established industry players, such as MLive Media Group and ABC Family. You can look for them on Facebook, Twitter, and all your other social media platforms, where you will find them utilizing their writing degrees to the fullest extent that 140 characters allows.

Jennifer Haberling

B.S. in Psychology (1991)

*B.A. in English (emphasis in Secondary Education) (1994)**

M.A. in Humanities (2005)

In addition to a degree from Grand Valley State University, Jennifer Haberling holds both a bachelor's and a master's from Central Michigan University. Upon graduating from GVSU, Jen taught high school English in the Cadillac public schools for four years; she was then hired to teach English at Hudsonville High School, where she taught for seven years, at which point she transferred to Hudsonville's Baldwin Street Middle School, where she currently teaches. She has served as English department chair at Baldwin Street since 2006. Jen has enjoyed working with Grand Valley undergrads in her own high school and middle school classrooms, frequently serving as a mentor/cooperating teacher for students just entering the profession; in addition, she has taught several methods courses for future teachers on an adjunct basis and has given a number of guest lectures in other courses. She has also shared her expertise by publishing in highly reputable, national journals (e.g., *The English Journal* and *The Journal of Language and Literacy Education*) and in excellent, widely-read state-level journals like *The Language Arts Journal of Michigan*. Her writing also appears in a *Teacher Tales* edition of the well-known *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. In addition, she has presented her teaching ideas at national, regional, state-level, and local conferences. Her excellence as a teacher has been widely recognized, perhaps most notably when she was named Teacher of the Year for the State of Michigan in 2008.

Dr. Jeffery Kieliszewski

*B.S. in Psychology (1991)**

M.A. in Clinical Psychology (1993)

Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology (1998)

Dr. Jeffery Kieliszewski is a licensed psychologist and practicing forensic psychologist with Human Resource Associates in Grand Rapids. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Grand Valley State University, a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology from Roosevelt University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Iowa. Dr. Kieliszewski served his doctoral internship with the Federal Bureau of Prisons Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky where he completed training rotations in forensic evaluation, neuropsychology, and substance abuse treatment. Prior to moving into private practice, he worked as a psychologist with the Michigan Department of Forensic Mental Health Services, the Michigan Department of Corrections, and the Iowa Department of Corrections. Dr. Kieliszewski's current practice primarily includes forensic evaluation work, providing expert testimony in court, and working as a consultant and trainer to law enforcement, attorneys, judges, private corporations, and social service agencies. He has also been qualified as an expert witness and testified in numerous state and federal courts. Dr. Kieliszewski has also worked in popular media, consulting on television programs and with film production companies as well as appearing on the Discovery Channel, the Science Channel, and the National Geographic Channel.

Aubrey McMahan

*B.A. in International Relations (2012)**

An alumna of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, Aubrey McMahan graduated from Grand Valley in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in International Relations and minors in Middle Eastern Studies and German Language and Literature. Shortly after graduating, she was the recipient of the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Oman. In 2012, she was one of five students across the world to receive a full Ibn Battuta Merit Scholarship for Peace and Diplomacy, a scholarship which funds tuition and housing for a four-week intensive Arabic immersion program in Morocco. In addition, she received a Lebanon Summer Fellowship—a cultural and educational exchange experience for American university students—and was a Truman Scholarship finalist. In 2010, Ms. McMahan served as an intern on Canada's Parliament Hill before interning at the U.S. Embassy in Austria as an economic/political analyst; her long-term goals include working at the Department of State with a concentration in Middle East relations. She presently works for the U.S. Department of the Interior, serving as the internal communications specialist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia, and will be teaching evening Arabic classes for beginners at the Reston Community Center starting this winter.

Brandelyn Pitcher

*B.S. in Mathematics & Statistics (2008)**

*M.S. in Biostatistics (2010)**

Brandelyn Pitcher was working on a B.S. in Mathematics when she also became interested in Statistics. She finished her degree in Mathematics with a goal of becoming a secondary education mathematics teacher. After being a substitute teacher for a year, Brandelyn returned to GVSU in 2007 to take additional statistics courses and enter the Biostatistics PSM Program. She earned a MS in Biostatistics in 2010. During her final year in the Biostatistics PSM Program, Brandelyn interned in the Research Department at Spectrum Health Hospital where she first learned about clinical trials and cancer research. In October 2010, she joined the Alliance Statistics and Data Center at Duke University in Durham, NC as a Biostatistician II. She provide statistical support for Alliance Breast, Lymphoma, Cancer in the Elderly and Translational Science Committees working on a variety of Phase I, II and III clinical trials in addition to retroactive corollary studies. Brandelyn's work is reflected in an extensive publication portfolio including several manuscripts and abstracts. She also reviews manuscripts for the international journal PLOS ONE.

In addition to her career as a biostatistician, Brandelyn is a wife and mom of two young children. In her spare time, she is always enjoying time with her family or playing softball.

Amanda (Peterson) Plunkett

*B.S. in Mathematics (1999)**

M.S. in Applied Mathematics (2001)

M.S. in Statistics (2011)

Amanda Plunkett currently leads a team of mathematicians and computer scientists at the U.S. Department of Defense. She started her career in the Applied Mathematics Development Program, a three year rotational program doing "tours" in different divisions including one in England. Prior to joining the Department of Defense, Amanda worked for an Operations

Research company in Arlington, Virginia assisting military planners with decision making. Amanda graduated from GVSU in 1999 with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Information Systems. She went on to receive a Master's in Applied Mathematics from Western Michigan University. Recently she completed a Master's in Statistics and is working on her Ph.D. in Statistics at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Amanda lives in Maryland with her husband, Kevin, and dog, Bella.

Dr. James Rook

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1999)**

M.P.H. in International Health (2001)

D.O. in Osteopathic Medicine (2006)

After Jim Rook, or Jay as he prefers, earned his degree from GVSU, he eagerly departed to balmy southern California where he completed a Master of Public Health in International Health at Loma Linda University and then went on to earn his medical degree from Western University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine. The medical school granted him a one-year sabbatical, which he spent as interim program director for a local non-profit organization with faith-based ties. While there, he became, and continues to be, a board member for another local NPO called Gang Reduction Intervention Team (GRIT) that endeavors to help young at-risk men and women avoid gang affiliation and incarceration. In medical school and subsequently in his residency training, Jay actively collaborated in basic science and clinical research—an ongoing passion fostered originally at GVSU by John Capodilupo. Jay has been a primary and/or co-author on multiple peer-reviewed publications in the fields of pediatrics, hematology/oncology, neurology, emergency medicine and perioperative medicine/anesthesiology. He has also proudly served on the GVSU CLAS Alumni board since 2008. Jay practices Emergency Medicine at the Jerry L Pettis VA Hospital in southern California. He is married to a beautiful Rheumatologist whom he met in residency. Together they are raising his two children, Madison (14) and Owen (11). He aspires to be an author—with two books in various stages but he really longs to play soccer for a living and ride his mountain bike endlessly in Colorado and Utah.

Steven Stepek

*B.S. in Geography (2002)**

*M.P.A. in Public Administration (2006)**

Steve Stepek is currently the Senior Planner for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the greater Kalamazoo Area. Steve is responsible for the planning activities for KATS, which includes management of the transportation improvement program which identifies well over \$50 million dollars of investment; as well as implementation of the long range Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Steve also manages the MPO's non-motorized and air quality programs. Steve is a certified professional planner (AICP) and participates in statewide and national planning activities through the Michigan Transportation Planning Association, Michigan Association of Planning, and the American Planning Association. Steve was also recognized by the Michigan Transportation Planning Association as the 2013 Senior Planner of the Year. Steve has worked as an adjunct faculty member at Western Michigan University and also serves on the WMU Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities Advisory Committee. Steve holds a bachelors degree in Geography and Planning, as well as a Masters in Public Administration from Grand Valley State University.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences acknowledges the following areas for their participation in this event:

Alumni Relations

Biomedical Sciences Department

Cell and Molecular Biology Department

Classic Fare Catering

English Department

Geography & Planning Department

Mathematics Department

Modern Languages and Literatures Department

Physics Department

Psychology Department

School of Communications

Statistics Department

University Communications

Writing Department

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is a student-centered and diverse learning community that engages in critical inquiry, extending knowledge to enrich and enliven individual and public life. Created in July 2004, CLAS is the largest of GVSU's colleges and offers more than 50 bachelors degrees (and a growing number of advanced degrees) in the natural and mathematical sciences, humanities, the fine and performing arts, and the social sciences. GVSU undergraduates in all fields build the foundation for their major studies in general education courses offered by our College.

Mission

What is the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' reason for being?

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is a student-centered and diverse learning community that engages in critical inquiry extending knowledge to enrich and enliven individual and public life.

Vision

What is the desired future for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences?

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will set a standard of excellence in liberal education. We will prepare our students to be responsible citizens, productive professionals, and lifelong learners with global perspective. We will foster a diverse community of inquiry, discourse, discovery, expression and reflection.

Value Statements

What are the core values for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that guide our actions and priority-setting?

We value excellence in liberal education facilitated through active student-teacher engagement and academic achievement supported by appropriate class size and a high proportion of permanent faculty. We believe in the value of intellectual inquiry and discourse fostered by an engaged and diverse community of learners which rests upon academic freedom, integrity, collaboration, and collegiality.

Access to a quality education for a broad range of students.

Excellence in a broad range of scholarly and artistic activities supported by appropriate resources.

University and community service valued for its contribution and effectiveness.

Student development as citizens in a democratic society and as members of the global community of the 21st century.