



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

**Friday, October 14, 2016
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Alumni House and Visitor Center**

Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Program

The Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Program provides an opportunity for units 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 ten of the units within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and welcome them back to campus.



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

Recognition of Honorees.....Donovan Anderson
Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2016 Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Honorees

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

Alumni Relations

Biomedical Sciences Department

Cell and Molecular Biology Department

Classic Fare Catering

School of Communications

Conference & Event Planning Services

Geography and Sustainable Planning Department

Mathematics Department

Modern Languages and Literatures Department

Physics Department

Psychology Department

Sociology Department

University Communications

Writing Department

Ebony Parker-
Featherstone

B.S. in Health Science (2002)*
M.D. in Family Medicine (2006)

Jillian Foerster

B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology (2009)*
Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics (2013)

Chad Ghastin

B.S. in Advertising and Public Relations (1998)*
M.S. in Integrated Marketing (2006)

Amanda Moore

B.S. in Geography (2012)*

Samuel Otten

B.S. in Mathematics (2006)*
Ph.D. in Mathematics Education (2012)

Anne Marie Carson

B.A. in French and International Relations
(2009)*
J.D. (2015)

Paula "Paige" Kelley

B.S. in Physics and Mathematics (2009)*
Ph.D. in Applied Physics (2015)

Ryan Shorey

B.S. in Psychology (2008)*
Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (2014)

Littisha Bates

B.S. in Sociology (2004)*
Ph.D. in Sociology (2009)

Michael Salisbury

B.S. in Writing and Communications (2006)*
M.F.A. in Writing (2012)

** Denotes degree obtained from Grand Valley State University*

Ebony Parker-Featherstone

*B.S. in Health Science (2002)**

M.D. in Family Medicine (2006)

Ebony Parker-Featherstone is a 2002 graduate of Grand Valley State University where she earned *cum laude* honors. She went on to earn her medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 2006, and she completed her residency training with the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Michigan Health System in 2009. Ebony completed a women's health fellowship with the University of Michigan, Department of Obstetrics in 2010. Her research interests are in adolescent health and family planning, and she has published multiple research papers in this area. Ebony is the current medical director at Briarwood Family Medicine, where she provides the full spectrum of family medicine including prenatal and obstetric care. She also has joint appointments with the Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan as a clinical assistant professor. She now lives in Ann Arbor with her husband, Freddie Featherstone (GVSU class of 2001), and their two children Aiden and Addisyn.

Jillian Foerster

*B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology (2009)**

Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics (2013)

Jillian Foerster received her B.S. in 2009 from Grand Valley in Cell and Molecular Biology. She continued her education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned her Ph.D. in 2013 in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics by studying the genetic structure and agronomic importance of vegetative phase change in maize. Jillian is currently a research scientist at DuPont Pioneer in Des Moines, Iowa within the Plant Breeding, Product Development, and Breeding Technologies departments. In this role she helps develop and optimize field and molecular breeding strategies for soybean product development. In 2015, her team won the Best Innovation award, and in 2016, she received the Productivity of the Year award.

diverse community of learners which rests upon academic freedom, integrity, collaboration, and collegiality.

- Excellence in a broad range of scholarly and creative activities and research supported by appropriate resources.
- Consistent and effective unit, college, university, professional, and community service.
- An environment that promotes student development in professional careers, as citizens in a democratic society, and as members of the global community.

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, diverse, and inclusive 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 and inclusive 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?

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences values:

- 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.
- Intellectual inquiry and discourse fostered by an engaged and

Chad Ghastin

*B.S. in Advertising and Public Relations (1998)**

M.S. in Integrative Marketing (2006)

Chad Ghastin graduated *cum laude* from GVSU in 1998 with a degree in Advertising and Public Relations. At GVSU, he earned numerous awards, including the Seykora Award, and was president of the American Advertising Federation Chapter. He is currently an independent marketing and advertising consultant in New York City focused on digital media. Previously, he was a Digital Product Developer for the *New York Times*. He earned a Master's degree in Integrative Marketing from New York University in 2006 and serves as an adjunct professor at New York University. He has more than 15 years' experience in customer relationship management and digital advertising at Weight Watchers, Blockbuster, Condé Nast, Sirius Radio, Ford, Nickelodeon and other major companies. Chad has also worked for two major ad agencies: J Walter Thompson and Donor.

Amanda Moore

*B.S. in Geography (2012)**

Amanda Moore graduated from Grand Valley in 2012 with a B.S. in Geography and Planning and a minor in Spanish. At Grand Valley she proudly served as President of the Geography Club, performed in the production of *Antona Garcia* at the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival in El Paso, organized community cleanup service projects, and completed numerous internships. After graduation, Amanda was awarded a full-time internship with the City of Grand Rapid's Development Center. She was offered fulltime employment working with the Community Engagement Division of the Planning Department in September of 2014 where she was responsible for development and implementation of the Community Engagement Plan for the four million dollar road construction projects performed each year. She also managed implementation of a digital solution for City Boards and Commissions and worked on communication improvements for Code Compliance notifications. In March, 2016 Amanda was promoted to the Clerk's Office. In her current role, she facilitates the board and commission application process, election worker recruitment, training and coordination, and department process improvements. As an advocate for continuous and equitable improvement, Amanda supports diversity

and inclusion through initiatives such as the formation of a Spanish Language User/Advocacy Group, elimination or reduction of barriers to civic participation and service delivery, and promotion of city workers' cultural competency. Amanda continues to volunteer in her community sewing costumes for the Civic Theater, advocating to break down the stigma surrounding mental illness, and promoting Pine Rest's community health services as a board member of PR Connect.

Samuel Otten

*B.S. in Mathematics (2006)**

Ph.D. in Mathematics Education (2012)

Samuel Otten graduated from GVSU in 2006 with a B.S. in Mathematics and Minor in Psychology. In addition to completing the requirements for secondary teaching certification in mathematics, Samuel completed undergraduate research projects in pure mathematics, which eventually led to three publications in refereed journals. He received numerous honors, including the 2006 Outstanding Graduate Award in Mathematics.

Sam went on to earn his M.S. in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Michigan State University, where his dissertation focused on the connections between curricula and student learning theory in the middle school algebra classroom. Sam accepted a tenure-track position of Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education at the University of Missouri. There, he has authored and/or co-authored over 30 research articles in his field, given over 25 presentations at the national and international levels, and secured funding through several research grants. He teaches a variety of courses, supervises future teachers, and has been nominated for both the Excellence in Advising and Undergraduate Instructor of the Year Awards.

Anne Marie Carson

*B.A. in French and International Relations (2009)**

J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center (2014)

Anne Marie Carson is a 2009 GVSU graduate, with a double major in French and International Relations and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. After graduating from GVSU, Anne Marie spent a year in

racial/ethnic groups, her work also looks at specific ethnic groups as opposed to broad pan-ethnic categories. She is also examining within-group differences across socioeconomic strata as well as within-socioeconomic strata differences across racial/ethnic groups. Littisha Bates is a faculty affiliate of the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati.

Michael Salisbury

*B.S. in Writing and Communications (2006)**

M.F.A. in Writing (2012)

Mike Salisbury is a literary agent for Yates & Yates. Based in Orange County, CA, Yates & Yates represents leading communicators to publishers like Penguin Random House, Hachette, HarperCollins, and many more. Some of his recent projects include *New York Times* best seller *DO OVER: Rescue Monday, Reinvent Your Work, and Never Get Stuck* by Jon Acuff and *For the Love: Fighting for Grace in a World of Impossible Standards* by Jen Hatmaker, which debuted #2 on the *New York Times* best sellers list.

Before joining Yates & Yates, Mike began his career at Zondervan as an intern for ZonderKidz. His internship led to a position on the trade book marketing team, where he developed and implemented marketing plans for books like *Cold Tangerines*, *Sacred Marriage*, and *New York Times* best seller *One Thousand Gifts*. In 2011, he accepted a position with David C. Cook in Colorado Springs, CO, and spent three and a half years marketing books, including best-selling books from author Francis Chan. Mike received his degree from Grand Valley State University in 2006 as a double major in Professional Writing and Communications.

Along with representing authors, Mike has had his fiction appear in *Black Warrior Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Midwestern Gothic*, among others. In 2012, Grand Valley's Summer Film Project made his short story, *Horizontal Accidents*, into a film. Mike is a graduate of the MFA program at Pacific University. He lives with his wife and daughter along Michigan's West Coast.

Ryan Shorey

*B.S. in Psychology (2008)**

Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (2014)

Ryan C. Shorey is an Assistant Professor of Psychology (Clinical) at Ohio University. He received his B.S. in Psychology from Grand Valley in 2008 and his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2014. He completed his pre-doctoral internship at the Charleston Consortium (Medical University of South Carolina/ Ralph H. Johnson VAMC). Ryan's research program examines intimate partner violence, particularly violence between dating college couples. He focuses heavily on evaluating and testing theoretical models of dating violence in an effort to gain a clearer understanding of how to develop prevention and intervention programs aimed at reducing these harmful behaviors. Ryan's current line of research includes (1) examining longitudinal predictors of intimate partner violence, (2) assessing genetic and phenotypic moderators of the temporal association between alcohol and intimate partner violence perpetration, and (3) developing intervention and prevention programs for intimate partner violence and sexual assault, including interventions designed to reduce substance use and increase adaptive emotion regulation. Ryan's research has been supported by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the American Psychological Foundation.

Littisha Bates

*B.S. in Sociology (2004)**

*Ph.D. in Sociology (2009)**

Littisha Bates received her Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from Arizona State University and her B.A. in Sociology from Grand Valley State University. At Arizona State University she was trained as a Quantitative Family Demographer in CePoD (Center for Population Dynamics). Her research interests include: education, family, demography and social stratification.

Littisha's current research examines racial/ethnic differences in educational outcomes. In particular, her current projects focus on moving beyond the status quo white/black comparison to include a number of racial/ethnic groups. In addition to considering a number of

Alençon, France teaching pre-school through fifth grade English and studying for the LSAT. Upon returning from France, Anne Marie attended Georgetown University Law Center, where she participated in the Global Law Scholar program, served as an editor for the *International Law Journal*, represented a client through the Innocence Project, and interned in Labor and Employment Law in Paris, France. Anne Marie currently works as a Corporate Associate in the Grand Rapids office of Barnes & Thornburg, LLP. Before joining Barnes & Thornburg, LLP Anne Marie worked as an International Project Finance Associate in the Washington, DC office of Norton Rose Fulbright.

Paula "Paige" Kelley

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

Ph.D. in Applied Physics (2015)

Paige Kelley earned dual B.S. degrees in Physics and Mathematics from Grand Valley State University in 2009. During her time at GVSU, Paige gained a wealth of undergraduate research experience on topics ranging from semiconductor physics to surface science that inspired her to pursue a research career. Paige attended GVSU on a Presidential Scholarship and received the 2009 Glenn A. Niemeyer and Physics Department senior awards. Following a year of service in the AmeriCorps VISTA anti-poverty program, she accepted a Presidential Doctoral Fellowship at the University of South Florida and conducted her Ph.D. research on strongly correlated low-dimensional magnetic oxide systems.

She currently holds a joint postdoctoral research position at the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, participating in a Moore Foundation EPIQS initiative to study emergent phenomena in novel quantum materials. Paige has co-authored over 20 scientific journal articles and collaborated with scientists around the world, including time spent as a guest researcher at the NIST Center for Neutron Research and the Institute of Physics in Kosice, Slovakia. Her current research interests include the study of frustrated and non-centrosymmetric magnetism through a combination of novel single crystal growth and neutron scattering techniques.