

Abdul Ciise

Abdul Ciise is a motivational speaker who is currently pursuing a Masters in Higher Education with the goal of building curriculum that helps students heal through their childhood trauma and become the person they've always wanted to be. Above all though, Abdul is a human being who is trying his best.

Anthony Raona

Anthony is pursuing a Master of Science in Biology degree here at Grand Valley State University. He completed his bachelor's degree at GVSU and after spending many years in west Michigan, he is very grateful for all of the individuals, communities, and opportunities that nurtured valuable growth in school and various other life adventures.

Brooke Dudick

Brooke Dudick is a Master of Public Health Candidate with an emphasis in Epidemiology at GVSU with an anticipated graduation in April 2024. She earned her bachelor's degree in behavioral science from Western Michigan University. Her research interests include environmental epidemiology and the impact on women's health. She hopes to continue her studies as a PhD candidate studying Epidemiology this coming fall.

Co Nguyen

Co is in the combined degree program, pursuing both her bachelor and master's degrees in mechanical engineering. She has a lot of experience in the medical device industry, specifically in product design development and 3D additive manufacturing (3D printing). In her free time Co likes to travel with her friends, try new foods, and play video games.

Grace Forlines

Grace Forlines is a dedicated and compassionate advocate for inclusivity and accessibility, currently pursuing her Master of Public Health at Grand Valley State University. While holding a bachelor's degree in clinical Exercise Science, she has developed a passion for promoting engagement in physical activity. Grace proudly serves as the Physical Activity Section Program Vice Chair through the American Public Health Association, showing her dedication to advancing inclusive health practices. In her previous roles as a personal trainer and group exercise instructor at the campus rec center, she developed a strong interest in researching and implementing inclusive

fitness programming for students with disabilities. Grace combines her academic knowledge and practical experiences to advocate for “exercise for everyBODY”.

Jacob Pung

Born and raised in Michigan. I have attended GVSU since 2019 and I am currently pursuing my undergrad and master’s in electrical engineering through the Combined Master’s Program. I am presently employed as Visiting Faculty, working as a lab instructor for the School of Engineering’s introductory microcontrollers class.

Jowei Yek

Jowei Yek, an international student from Malaysia, is currently pursuing a dual master’s degree in Business Administration and Social Innovation. With a keen interest in harmonizing the fields of business and nonprofits, Jowei demonstrated his expertise by crafting actionable business strategies for organizations like the Fulton Street Market. Presently, he is dedicated to exploring innovative approaches that empower businesses to create lasting, meaningful impacts within the Grand Rapids community.

Kate Lucas

Kate is a current graduate student at GVSU, pursuing a master’s degree in biology with a focus in Aquatic Science. Originally from St. Louis, she completed her undergraduate degree at Iowa State University where she double majored in Biology and Environmental Studies. Her passion for water led her to work in Dr. Al Steinman’s lab at the Annis Water Resources Institute, where she now helps research aquatic ecosystems around the state.

Keely Dunham

Keely Dunham is a master’s candidate working with Dr. Charlyn Partridge on molecular ecology at Annis Water Resources Institute. After earning her bachelor’s in biology at Miami University, she completed a year of service as an AmeriCorps member in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Keely works at the Ottawa Conservation District as a Program Consultant and has held several different positions working on and managing a multitude of invasive species management projects since 2019. She lives in Muskegon and enjoys working on home improvement projects with her husband and hiking in dunes.

Mary Claire Meimers

Mary Claire Meimers is a registered nurse with experience in the inpatient and community setting. She has forged a career centered around bolstering the well-being of others. Mary Claire will graduate with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Health Systems Leadership this April. Her scholarly project involves equipping public health professionals with the tools needed to foster conversations about safe gun storage with local residents.

Mason Kolanowski

Mason Kolanowski is a second-year graduate student in the Master of Health Science in Biomedical Sciences Program. Mason also completed his Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences at Grand Valley State University in December 2022 and has been a member of Dr. Eric Ramsson's lab since the winter of 2020. He has worked on various projects using fast-scan cyclic voltammetry to investigate the physiology of dopamine neurotransmission within the basal ganglia. Currently, his thesis research focuses on investigating the effects of melatonin on acetylcholine-induced dopamine release within the striatum. When he is not in the lab doing research, he enjoys reading a good book, drinking a good cup of coffee, or doing improv comedy with his friends.

Max Kelly

My name is Max Kelly and I am a 5th year engineering student at GVSU. I graduated from St. Joseph High School in 2019, then began my pursuit of my engineering degree at GVSU in the fall of 2019. At first I was dedicated to finishing my undergrad in the four year plan but when reaching the end of my four years I was playing with the idea of a masters degree. I found myself in the combined degree program, I am now working towards finishing my undergrad in mechanical engineering and my masters in biomedical engineering. I plan to finish my program and pursue work in either academia or industry either in biomedical engineering or something else that catches my eye.

Obed Boateng

Obed is passionate about using cross disciplinary approaches to understand phenomena in higher education practice. His interests are wide-ranging and cross-disciplinary - he enjoys learning about science, nature, and art. However, Obed tend to leverage his interests to understand the nature of college students and their experience in a way that reveal insights into the nature of our existence and engagement on the college campus. In his free time, Obed enjoy listening to music, exercising, and exploring other areas of interest.

Rheyra Bui

A Grand Rapids native, with Vietnamese and African-American roots, Rheyra Bui delves into the vibrant tapestry of identity and culture through the lens of communication. Rheyra received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing-Sales and Supply Chain Management from GVSU in 2021. At 23, Rheyra is pursuing a Master of Science in Communications, while honing her skills as a Digital Communications Associate at Home Repair Services of Kent County fueling her passion for building connections and amplifying diverse voices.

Taylor Deschaine-Hurd

Taylor Deschaine-Hurd is a second-year communications graduate student, as well as the President of the Graduate Communications Association (GCOM). Her research is primarily focused on issues of social justice and equity. Taylor received her BA in communications from Grand Valley and hopes to continue her education at the doctoral level.

Ty Rizer

With the completion of this project, Ty Rizer is on track to earn his M.Ed. in Educational Technology this April. He is a full-time staff member at the KCON Simulation Center, where he works as a Simulation Emerging Technologies Developer, evaluating, creating, and integrating emerging hardware and software into existing operations. Previously, Ty worked in private industry and held administrative and graduate student roles within both IT and the College of Education, creating learning tools ranging from virtual/augmented reality applications to animated cartoons.

Victoria Harrison

My name is Victoria Harrison, and I am a graduate teaching assistant at Grand Valley State University. I am an accomplished nurse with over four years of neonatal and pediatric nursing experience, and two years of academic nursing experience and mentorship. I am self-motivated and enjoy using my skills and sharing my extensive knowledge of nursing practices to help mold and motivate future nurses. I graduated from Saginaw Valley State University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. I am currently completing my Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at Grand Valley State University and anticipate graduating in April 2024. I earned academic honors while obtaining my BSN degree and anticipate earning further recognition and honors with my DNP degree. I am also a member of The Honor Society

of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International and am the Vice President of the Graduate Student Organization at Kirkhof College of Nursing. In my free time, I enjoy taking long walks, doing outdoor activities, gardening, playing with my two dogs, and traveling with my husband.

Zhen Lu

Zhen Lu, a second year Master's student in Applied Computer Science at Grand Valley State University (GVSU). Originally from China, I earned my bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering at GVSU. My current focus in the master's program lies in software development and data analysis using machine learning algorithms. As a Graduate Assistant at the cell and molecular biology lab at GVSU, I play a crucial role in preprocessing raw data, analyzing lab results, and generating reports for faculty's further analysis. My academic background has honed my skills in coding, problem-solving, and hands-on application. Beyond my studies, I am actively involved in the Western Chinese Association, serving as a board member. I collaborate with fellow board members to plan and execute cultural events and help during the events, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive experience for the community. I am passionate about leveraging technology to address real-world challenges, and I'm always eager to collaborate and contribute to the dynamic academic and cultural community at GVSU.