GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

2017 Annual Health Report
Transforming Health Care
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter from the Vice Provost for Health</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Campus Expansion in Grand Rapids</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select Health-related Programs at Grand Valley State University</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing Education</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Leadership, Development, and Achievement</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preceptors</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Partnerships and Service Learning</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Grants</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Highlights</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Publications, Presentations, Awards, and Faculty Achievements</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Information: Health and Health-related Programs</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences
LETTER FROM THE VICE PROVOST OF HEALTH

I am excited to share the fourth edition of Grand Valley State University’s Annual Health Report with you. This year’s publication explores how the university’s health-related programs, in keeping with Grand Valley’s mission of educating students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies, are impacting our communities and transforming health care. These initiatives are extensive and involve a diverse array of programs and projects across the university.

You will find that Grand Valley faculty continue to design and implement innovative teaching methods to enhance students’ learning experiences and foster an environment of active scholarship. Complementing robust classroom and laboratory activities, Grand Valley’s state-of-the-art University Interprofessional Simulation Center provides invaluable opportunities for students to learn and refine their skills in a safe environment.

Bridging education with clinical practice, Grand Valley appreciates its strong community partnerships. We also recognize the valuable contributions made by the dedicated health care professionals who serve as preceptors and provide experiential learning opportunities for students allowing them to step into their professional roles with confidence.

Grand Valley continues to be the leading provider of health professionals in the region, offering 77 health-related programs including six minors and five certificate programs. In all, over 9,300 Grand Valley students study in health-related disciplines. In order to support increasing demand in the health care workforce, the university contributes to the community’s health care talent pipeline by adding health programs. For example, a graduate level audiology program was approved this year and will admit students beginning fall of 2018.

To accommodate Grand Valley’s continued and projected growth, our Health Campus is expanding. In November of 2016, Grand Valley broke ground for the new 84,000 square foot Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall, with a planned completion date of May, 2018. Undergoing design is an additional 160,000 square foot building that is expected to be occupied in May of 2021.

The exemplars of Grand Valley’s faculty, staff, and students highlighted in this publication demonstrate the university’s long tradition of community engagement, which brings together students, faculty, alumni, health professionals, administrators, and government and business leaders to develop partnerships, programs, and initiatives that impact the overall well-being of our communities.

Thank you for supporting Grand Valley’s health programs and for your interest in our work. Please contact me or others listed in this publication if you have questions or recommendations about future collaborations.

Respectfully,

Jean Nagelkerk, Ph.D., F.N.P., F.N.A.P.
Vice Provost for Health
Grand Valley State University
GRAND VALLEY EXPANDS HEALTH CAMPUS IN GRAND RAPIDS

To meet the demands of a growing student body and health care industry, Grand Valley broke ground on Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall in 2016 and in July 2017 approved an additional health building project with construction scheduled to begin next year.

On November 22, 2016, officials from Grand Valley, the City of Grand Rapids, and Neighbors of Belknap Lookout broke ground on Finkelstein Hall, named for the area business leader. The new five-story, 84,000-square-foot facility is under construction at the corner of Lafayette and Hastings streets, one block north of Grand Valley’s Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (CHS).

CHS, located on Michigan Street on the Medical Mile in downtown Grand Rapids, has been overcapacity for the last four years.

“The demand has exceeded our capacity to accommodate students and programs,” said Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health. “As a result, we are unable to accept all of the qualified applicants for our health sciences programs.”

Grand Valley is the leading provider of health care professionals in West Michigan. Nagelkerk said more laboratory, classroom, and collaborative work spaces are needed to continue to attract highly talented students, faculty, and caregivers to the region.

Finkelstein Hall will include four classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, a computer lab, and 90 faculty and staff offices, and parking spaces. It will also have student study spaces and student organization space.
The budget for Finkelstein Hall, $37.5 million for the building project and $9 million for the parking project, is being funded by donor support, university-issued bonds, and campus development funds. The fundraising campaign continues and construction is expected to be completed in May 2018.

On July 14, 2017, the university’s Board of Trustees approved construction for the additional health building project. This new building will be located next to Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Medical Mile.

The new $70-million building project will create additional spaces for the health professions and nursing programs. The project received authorization from the Michigan Legislature. The state approved a capital outlay request of $29 million for the five-story, 160,000-square-foot building. The rest of the funds will come from private donors and university bonds.

Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2018, with the opening set for May 2021.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of the Kirkhof College of Nursing, said the health campus expansion will allow the university to continue to prepare students to be the professionals of tomorrow. “We are focusing on person-centered care, understanding the use of information systems, the use of best evidence to bring about the best outcomes, and using a team-based approach,” said McCurren.

Nursing and health professions students have a pass rate on their specialty examinations that far exceeds national benchmarks, with 90-100 percent passing on their first attempt.

Roy Olsson, dean of the College of Health Professions, said the university will be able to continue to offer a wide range of programs. “We want to offer cutting-edge programs that are new on the horizon and be able to offer those types of services to our students and the community,” he said.

The expansion of Grand Valley’s health campus moves forward with the addition of two new building projects.
SELECT HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Grand Valley’s health-related programs are comprehensive, in high demand, and attract the best and brightest students. Rigorous courses with advanced learning opportunities prepare the next generation of health science professionals. This section highlights a few of the opportunities that help round out the most extensive array of academic health programs in the state.
Athletic Training (AT) Program

Grand Valley has one of the largest and most successful baccalaureate degree athletic training programs in the country, boasting a 99-100 percent pass rate over the last six years on the national certification exam administered by Board of Certification Inc. The athletic training program was established in 1978 and is part of the Department of Movement Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Athletic trainers are highly qualified, multiskilled, health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, and therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions.

After meeting prerequisite requirements, students must apply to be admitted to the program. Once admitted, students go through a rigorous didactic and clinical education program. The educational program involves classroom instruction along with experiential learning opportunities in the community, which may include work with people in secondary schools, colleges and universities, clinics, and hospitals. Students also have been able to obtain clinical experience in professional sports and the emerging settings of performing arts, military, and occupational health.
Grand Valley’s athletic training program boasts a 99-100 percent pass rate over the last six years on the national certification exam.

In accordance with national mandates, Grand Valley’s athletic training program is in transition from a Bachelor of Science degree program to a master’s degree program. A professional master’s in athletic training is in alignment with the university’s core value of integrating liberal learning with professional development. In the baccalaureate degree program, students are exposed to a broad-based learning environment, taking courses with students from multiple disciplines. The master’s degree will allow faculty to focus more heavily on integrated learning, including many Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) High Impact Practices, such as collaborative assignments and projects, research opportunities, and a diverse learning environment.

Alumna Courtney Meyer Vandewege speaks highly of the program saying, “I am so thankful for the unparalleled excellence of the AT program and staff. I was prepared right out of school to step into a position that I still love almost 13 years later!”

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the profession of athletic training is expected to grow by 21 percent by 2024.

For additional information, please visit gvsu.edu/athletictraining or contact Dr. Shari Bartz-Smith at (616) 331-3044.
Master of Public Health - Epidemiology Emphasis

Many ask: “What does an epidemiologist do?” Epidemiologists investigate the causes of disease and other public health problems and develop interventions to prevent problems from spreading or from happening again. They report their findings to public policy officials and to the general public. Epidemiologists can be found working in health departments, universities, hospitals, and laboratories. Jobs can be found all over the world, and the field of epidemiology is expected to grow by six percent over the next 10 years.

Grand Valley’s Master of Public Health program with an emphasis on epidemiology is relatively young at five years old. Training future leaders in epidemiology is achieved through core courses in chronic disease, genetics, infectious disease, and statistical modeling. Electives are offered in related fields including cancer, environmental and occupational health, aging, and psychology. Students complete a project-based practicum where they are able to apply and develop their epidemiological knowledge and skills.

“With recent public health crises like the water crisis in Flint, the need for epidemiologists is growing not only in our state, but nationally,” states Jeffrey Wing, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of epidemiology in the Department of Public Health. “Students in our program gain the confidence and skills needed to work in the area of epidemiology that they are interested in most. The practicum and culminating master’s project are two applied experiences that best prepare our graduates to be successful public health professionals with expertise in this area.”

For more information, please visit the Master of Public Health program website at gvsu.edu/grad/mph/ or contact Dr. Ranelle Brew at brewr@gvsu.edu.

Physical Therapy Adds an Advanced Cardiopulmonary PT Course

The Doctorate of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) program introduced a new elective course during the winter, 2017 semester. Dr. Michael Shoemaker, PT, D.P.T., Ph.D., GCS taught the Advanced Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy course along with five adjunct faculty members who provided hands-on, hospital-based experiences with patients in acute care settings in the Grand Rapids area.

Shoemaker’s team focuses on the physical therapy management of patients receiving complex, hospital-based, medical and/or surgical interventions. The students learned, via hands-on training, to manage patients with advanced heart or lung disease and who require mechanical ventilation, ventricular assistive devices, extracorporeal life support, and/or heart and lung transplantation.

Physical therapy students learn through simulations, as well as hospital-based experiences.

The field of epidemiology is expected to grow by six percent over the next 10 years.
Social work employment in medical and health-related positions is projected to increase by 19 percent over the next 10 years.

Students received on-site instruction from experienced physical therapists who practice at Spectrum Health and Metro Health hospitals. The balance of classroom and hospital-based training in this course provided students with very desirable entry-level skills.

Adjunct professors participating in the course were Maria Alfonso, Jessica McLeod, Vanessa Reynolds-Umstead, Lena Riemersma, and Ashley VanDam, who supervised quality experiences at their institutions.

This new course complements the D.P.T. program’s existing repertoire of electives including advanced training courses in sports physical therapy, manual therapy, neurologic physical therapy, and pediatric physical therapy. The opportunities and training provided by these courses help inform students regarding career pathway decisions. In addition, the instruction provided in these courses considerably enhances students’ readiness for clinical practice at the outset of their careers.

Master of Social Work

Grand Valley’s Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program, within the College of Community and Public Services, prepares students for career opportunities in a variety of fields of practice including child welfare, family practice, schools, health care, mental health and substance abuse services, and many other arenas. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015), employment opportunities in all social work areas will increase by 12 percent overall in the next 10 years, with a projected increase of 19 percent in medical and health-related social work positions.

Social workers in health-related systems may be found in skilled nursing facilities and short term rehabilitation programs, hospice, hospitals, cancer and dialysis centers, outpatient clinics, and physician and specialty offices. They work within interprofessional teams to provide integrated health care designed to address the needs of the whole person, with the goal of enhanced care, improved wellness and health outcomes, and cost-effective service delivery methods.

Psychosocial Assessment and Terminal Illness
- EOL Decision Making/Planning
- Caregiving Needs
- Understanding of Terminal Status
- Physical Environment/Preferences
- Psychological Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Social Functioning
- Family Functioning
- Wills, Living Wills, and Advanced Directives
- Legal Resources
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- Terminal Illnesses
- Cancer and Palliative Care
- Demographic Trends in End of Life

Grand Valley’s Master of Social Work program combines classroom training and field education placements to prepare students. Pictured is faculty member, Sally Pelon, Ph.D.
Grand Valley’s advanced generalist Master of Social Work curriculum provides an excellent educational opportunity to develop competency for practice in health-related positions. The advanced generalist practice model equips students with abilities to solve problems in today’s complex, and even chaotic, environments and to compete for resources in a fast-changing, social environment (Dran, 2014). This area of specialized practice includes a commitment to social justice, empowerment, and cultural competency.

As part of their advanced generalist education, students take coursework aimed at all levels of social work practice. In addition, students interested in health-related employment can select electives such as Social Work Practice in Health Care; Grief, Loss, and Death; and Aging in Contemporary Society. Finally, a variety of field education placements allow students to be socialized to health-related work environments in interprofessional teams.

“The Advanced Generalist Practice Model combined with the unique opportunities our students have to take specific health-related courses and complete health care-related internships are so important in equipping a new generation of health care social work clinicians,” says Sally Pelon, assistant professor in the School of Social Work. For more information on the M.S.W. program, please contact the M.S.W. Director Dr. Cray Mulder at muldecra@gvsu.edu.

Bachelor’s of Science in Occupational Safety and Health Management

The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Management curriculum is designed to fulfill the undergraduate educational requirements of those wishing to enter the workforce as occupational safety and health professionals. Students pursuing a career in this field will study occupational safety and health theories and methods that are important in the workplace, including how to anticipate and recognize hazardous conditions, evaluate risk and quantify hazards to employees, and control the conditions that lead to occupational injuries and illnesses. OSH professionals promote a healthy and safe workplace while finding solutions to prevent harm to workers, the general public, and the environment. The demand for competent, fully qualified safety professionals to assume positions within industry, government, and community agencies is increasing.

Students Courtney Daveling and Ryan Wise practice confined space entry and rescue.
The EMBA develops leaders for a fast-paced, growing, and changing health care environment.

The OSH management program faculty has developed close relationships with local industries and regulatory agencies to provide students knowledge and skill through experiential learning. Employers come to GVSU to seek OSH interns and full-time safety professionals. Due to the excellent reputation of this program and highly qualified OSH graduates, the employment rate of Grand Valley’s OSH graduates remains nearly 100 percent.

The B.S. degree in OSH is recognized by the Institute for Safety and Health Management. This recognition permits graduates to receive the Associate Safety and Health Management (ASHM) designation. It further allows those with the ASHM designation to sit for Safety and Health Manager certification three years ahead of individuals graduating from other academic programs.

For more information on the B.S. in occupational safety and health management, visit gvsu.edu/osh/.

Executive Master’s of Business Administration (EMBA)

Grand Valley’s Seidman College of Business and Spectrum Health have now graduated two classes of EMBA cohorts and are engaged with the third. This health care-centric EMBA contributes to health care professional education and delivery in West Michigan by developing the leaders for a fast-paced, growing, and changing health care environment.

The EMBA program not only balances proven business practices with direct applications to health care administration but also equally emphasizes the professional development and softer skills managers need to be truly effective leaders. As Seidman’s Dean Diana R. Lawson states, “The partnership between Spectrum Health and GVSU’s Seidman College of Business reinforces the importance of collaboration between

Students Leslie Jurecko and Alejandro Quiroga participated as part of a recent EMBA cohort at Spectrum Health.
higher education and the community to ensure the sustainability of the talent pool for the continued growth and prosperity of the region. The success of the EMBA with Spectrum has inspired new ways to think about talent development in West Michigan."

Dan Smith, director of Spectrum Health University, is very keen on the importance of the process. “Health care is undergoing tremendous change — presenting Spectrum Health with myriad opportunities and challenges. We looked to GVSU’s Seidman College of Business to develop an executive M.B.A. program to prepare our future leaders to meet these challenges. The program, and more importantly the results, have been outstanding. Our students in the EMBA program are driving new solutions and new ways of serving our communities. The partnership with GVSU is providing immediate return on investment and we look forward to a long-term relationship with the college.”

Given the success of the customized health care EMBA for Spectrum Health, the Seidman College of Business launched a second executive EMBA (open-enrollment) format in January 2017 and will start a new cohort each year. The new format builds on the same “Know” (business acumen), “Do”, (direct application), and “Be” (professional development) learning ethos but is focused on the needs of a broader regional and globally active business environment. The program is heavily corporate-supported but not limited to corporate-sponsored students. Enrollment mirrors the business environment of West Michigan with representation from a balanced mix of industries from public, private, manufacturing, services, and utilities including more than 30 percent enrollment from health care.

These new programs and collaborations continue to affirm the partnerships between the Seidman College of Business, other GVSU schools, local businesses, and community leaders to better serve the growing needs of West Michigan.
Grand Valley State University Student Enrollment in Specific Health and Health-related Programs

These numbers highlight the diversity and variety of health-related programs at Grand Valley State University for Fall 2017. They demonstrate the potential positive effect of future Grand Valley alumni on the health care industry in Michigan, across the country, and around the world.

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aging and Adult Life (Minor)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences (Bacc.) — American Sign Lang Interpret</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences (Bacc.) — General Allied Health Sciences</td>
<td>134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences (Bacc.) — Health Prof Degree Completion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences (Bacc.) — Histotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences (Bacc.) — Prephysical Therapy Services</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences (Bacc.) — Prephysician Assist Studies</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences (Bacc.) — Respiratory Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences (Bacc.) — Speech-Language Pathology</td>
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<td>Applied Behavior Analysis (PBCER)</td>
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<td>Athletic Training (Bacc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral Neuroscience (Bacc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry (Bacc.)</td>
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<td>Biology (Bacc.) — Genetics and Cell/Molecular Bio</td>
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<td>Biology (Bacc.) — Predental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology (Bacc.) — Premedical</td>
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<td>Biomedical Engineering (Minor)</td>
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<td>Biomedical Informatics (PBCER)</td>
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<td>Biomedical Sciences (Bacc.)</td>
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<td>Biomedical Sciences (Bacc.) — Microbiology</td>
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<td>Biomedical Sciences (Bacc.) — Nutrition Sciences</td>
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<td>Biomedical Sciences (M.H.S.)</td>
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<td>Biostatistics (M.S.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business General (M.B.A.) — Health Sector Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cell and Molecular Biology (Bacc.) — Genetics &amp; Cell/Molecular Bio</td>
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<td>Chemistry (Bacc.) — Biochemistry and Biotechnology</td>
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<td>Clinical Dietetics (M.S.)</td>
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<td>Clinical Research Trials Mgt (PBCER)</td>
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<td>Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Bacc.) — Breast Ultrasound</td>
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<td>Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Bacc.) — Echocardiography and Vascular</td>
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<td>Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Bacc.) — General</td>
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<td>Engineering (M.S.E.) — Biomedical Engineering</td>
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<td>Exercise Science (Bacc.)</td>
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<td>Exercise Science (Bacc.) — Clinical Exercise Science</td>
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<td>Exercise Science (Bacc.) — Health Fitness Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner (PMCER)</td>
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GVSU offers 77 health-related programs.
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<tr>
<td>Health Communication (Bacc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Information Management (Bacc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare Information Systems (Minor)</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical &amp; Bioinformatics (M.S.)</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Dosimetry (M.S.)</td>
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<td>Medical Laboratory Science (Bacc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing (Bacc.)</td>
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<td>Nursing (D.N.P.)</td>
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<td>Nursing (D.N.P) — Adult/Older Adult Clinical</td>
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<td>Nursing (D.N.P) — Child/Adolescent Clinical</td>
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<td>Nursing (D.N.P) — Health Systems Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing (D.N.P) — Nursing Admin and Health Care</td>
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<td>Nursing (M.S.N.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing (M.S.N) — Advanced Generalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Safety/Health Mgt (Bacc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy (M.S.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palliative and Hospice Care (PBCER)</td>
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<td>Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.S.)</td>
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<td>*Preprofessional Preparation (Bacc.)</td>
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<td>Psychology (Bacc.)</td>
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<td>Public Administration (M.P.A.) — Health Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public and Nonprofit Admin (Bacc.) — Community Health</td>
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<td>Radiation Therapy (Bacc.)</td>
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<td>Radiologic and Imaging Sciences (Bacc.)</td>
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<td>School Health Education (Minor)</td>
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<td>Social Work (M.S.W)</td>
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<td>Speech-Language Pathology (M.S.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapeutic Recreation (Bacc.)</td>
<td>148</td>
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</table>

**Unduplicated Count** ................................................................. 9,394

*Grand Valley tracks and advises undergraduate students who intend to apply to graduate programs in health fields, regardless of whether those students pursue a health-related undergraduate major. Although these students do not necessarily earn a health-related credential from Grand Valley, they are guided to coursework and activities that will optimally prepare them for admission to their destination programs. This program is not counted as a traditional program.

**In 2016, the Annual Health Report began using enrollment counts from the fall semester only. Previous years’ reports used full academic year counts. Numbers will not be directly comparable to prior year counts.
The overall commitment to teaching by Grand Valley’s first-rate faculty shines in the health profession programs, where there is a premium on experiential learning. Curricula-integrated simulation experience and collaboration with community resources help ensure Grand Valley health sciences graduates are the most highly trained in the region.
Enhanced Opportunities for Grand Valley Students’ Admission to Medical School

Qualified Grand Valley students will have enhanced opportunities for admission to Wayne State University School of Medicine after an agreement was signed in February by leaders of the two institutions. The Early Assurance Program was introduced by leaders from Grand Valley and Wayne State’s School of Medicine at the GVSU Detroit Center during the February 2017 Grand Valley Board of Trustees meeting.

The agreement reserves up to five medical school spots for qualified Grand Valley students. Recruitment began in the spring for students who would be admitted to medical school in 2018. Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost...
Research indicates approximately 50 percent of human trafficking survivors interacted with a health care provider while enslaved.

Richard S. Baker, M.D., vice dean for medical education and professor of ophthalmology at Wayne State, said the program also acts as a recruitment initiative that supports groups underrepresented in medicine, including students from underserved high schools or those who are first-generation college students. “Our partnership with Grand Valley is an important step toward our commitment to recruiting the best and brightest students from throughout the State of Michigan whose career goals align with our mission as a nationally recognized top-tier medical school known for urban clinical excellence,” Baker said.

An added benefit of the program, Nagelkerk added, is that students will not have to submit multiple applications to medical schools. “This gives them an opportunity to save money on application fees, and concentrate on broadening their skill set while engaging in high-impact learning experiences,” she said.

Social Justice at KCON: Fighting Human Trafficking

Since April 2011, students in the Kirkhof College of Nursing’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program have been taking part in a real-world clinical simulation where the patient is a probable victim of human trafficking. The simulation is part of a class taught by faculty member Joy Washburn, Ed.D., R.N., WHNP-BC, as part of her mission to raise awareness about human trafficking throughout the health care arena. Approximately 200 students each year have participated in this clinical simulation prior to graduation.
“I believe that human trafficking is a public health issue in Michigan and nationally,” Washburn explains. “A public health approach encourages us to look at the big picture, where the contributing factors to human trafficking, such as poverty, social rejection, and lack of familial support, can be analyzed to develop policies that recognize the interconnection between violence and inequities.”

“A public health approach has been fortuitous in promoting seatbelt use to reduce deaths in car accidents,” Washburn continues, “as well as reducing the morbidity and mortality of childhood illnesses via vaccination programs. So I believe a public health approach is likely to have an effect on societal knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors and be an important means to create programs and approaches to eradicate human trafficking.”

The American Nurses Association Code of Ethics strongly supports social justice and this kind of patient advocacy as integral aspects of professional nursing practice. “Research with survivors of human trafficking in the U.S.A. indicates that approximately 50 percent of them interacted with health care providers at least once during the time they were enslaved,” Washburn states. “However the vast majority of health care providers failed to recognize the signs of human trafficking in these patients. Thus, they weren’t identified as victims and no assistance was offered to them by the health care community. This is a travesty and my work is designed to raise awareness of human trafficking within the ranks of all health care providers so that victims can be identified, ways and means of escape can be presented, and they can become survivors instead of victims.”

Washburn concludes, “I hope that this work, in some way, contributes to the eradication of human trafficking via RNs who recognize and respond to these victims and gather pieces of evidence that can be used by the justice system and other state, national, and international organizations to end trafficking.”

**Early Childhood Intervention Program for High-risk Toddlers**

The research that early intervention dramatically brightens the future for children with developmental delays is unequivocal. Psychology Professor Amy Matthews, Ph.D., B.C.B.A., expanded a longstanding partnership with Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD) to offer intensive learning opportunities to toddlers identified with developmental delays.

The new school psychology and applied behavior analysis (ABA) graduate certificate program in the Psychology Department created an opportunity for faculty to work with graduate assistants and advanced undergraduates to implement this program, called Expanding Learning Opportunities (ELO). Grand Valley students gain direct experience working to improve communication and social skills for toddlers with delays in those developments.

The ELO program is located at the Maplewood Early Childhood Center in Holland in space shared with the OAISD-Holland infant team. The room is set up with motor spaces, toys, and extra small tables and chairs to meet the needs and interests of young children. Simple schedules and visual supports fill the room to teach the children to navigate the activities with the support of the GVSU students.

The OAISD infant team identifies children who need targeted instruction. Parents agree to transport the children to the program twice a week for 75-minute sessions. GVSU project faculty and students orient the families and children to the ELO program and conduct initial assessments. The program focuses on communication skills, social responsiveness, imitation, and functional play, and is taught based on the science of ABA. Progress on individual goals is measured daily and reviewed weekly to make program...
adjustments. Each child’s goals are addressed in individual, small group, and play activities.

The ELO goals are coordinated with each child’s Individualized Family Service Plan established by the infant team, and progress is shared regularly with the OAISD infant team and parents. The focus of both the ELO program and the Ottawa infant program is increased engagement and communication at home, and preparation for entry into preschool.

Clearly, both the toddlers and the GVSU students gained a lot from the experience, and there were teary farewells at the final teaching session. Notably, children who did not look or wave just months ago were able to smile and wave during the goodbye. The program will restart in the fall.
Dietetics and Nursing Simulations

Telehealth is a tool that utilizes advanced technologies to link patients/clients with their providers over the Internet, thereby increasing the accessibility of health care. In two different standardized patient (SP) experiences, Grand Valley students practice the skills needed to be effective and safe care providers through telehealth methodologies.

In the Grand Valley Simulation Center, clinical dietetics students were introduced to the concept of telehealth and given the opportunity to interview and assess clients through online video services. Standardized patients and students were seated with laptop computers at different locations of the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences building. Just as in real life, a virtual appointment was made for the clinician to “call” the patient to conduct the interview/counseling appointment.

Clinical dietetics faculty member Libby MacQuillan, Ph.D., M.A., R.D., commented that “Telehealth is a cutting-edge area of practice for registered dietitians that presents unique advantages to the practice of nutrition counseling. The ability to allow graduate students to operate their own telehealth counseling sessions with standard patients provided them with an advantage over students not able to access this learning opportunity.”

The SP program also supported a simulation in which four patient exam rooms were transformed into affordable housing units, so nursing students could gain experience as community health nurses visiting clients in their homes. With standardized patients, students were able to practice physical assessment techniques in a home setting as compared to a more traditional health care location. Numerous client safety issues, such as trip hazards, heating pads, expired medication, and inadequate food storage were visible to assist students in understanding what patient safety environmental assessments need to be performed.

Nursing student Alexis Datema discusses lifestyle management during a simulation with standard patient Jerry Winters.
The program was founded as a way to attract young minds interested in a health-related future and offer prospective students experience in science and biomedical engineering.

Susan Strouse, Ph.D., R.N., notes that students are not familiar with seeing patients in the home setting without all the medical equipment found in more traditional settings. “Students have to think on their feet and apply the knowledge they have learned to a new situation. It is valuable for the students to be able to do this in a safe, simulated, environment.”

These two simulations demonstrate the commitment of the Grand Valley Simulation Center and faculty to continue providing safe and challenging learning environments in which students acquire the skills needed to provide health care in a variety of settings.

Health Science Early College Academy

Grand Valley State University in partnership with a local school district, Kent ISD, created opportunities for high school juniors and seniors to attend classes at Grand Valley’s Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences for the last nine years as part of the Health Science Early College Academy (HSECA). More than 400 students have studied at the Grand Valley site over the years and fall of 2017 has drawn more than 50 applications from new students.

The program was founded as a way to attract young minds interested in a health-related future and offers prospective students experience in science and biomedical engineering as they consider various career paths. The high school students study with Grand Valley students as they work with professors in labs.

All College of Health Sciences departments offer a Mentoring Matters Program allowing students to sit in on up to 20 different degree offerings over the year. Students can earn up to seven, tuition-free college credits by participating in class offerings. Introduction to Health Care (ASH 110) takes the students on a year-long journey into health specialties career opportunities. Introduction to Biotechnology and Society (CMB 150) exposes students to the future of cutting-edge cellular cures for health risks.

The 2016-2017 year was one of the most exciting. The students faced today’s and tomorrow’s most frightening genetic and infectious diseases. The fall Capstone project,

Matthew Shupe works on the presentation for his award-winning project aimed at helping children with Cerebral Palsy.
Physical Therapy Professor Michael Shoemaker consults with a local clinician.

“Infected the World,” was an exercise in which the future is simulated. Students think outside of the box while studying cell and molecular causes of diseases, containment of global diseases, and careers in health care.

One student group tackled the development of a cerebral palsy seat adapter (assisted by Grand Valley engineering), a project which took top place in regional competitions at the Health Occupations Students of America conference. They also took first place in a local competition and placed eighth in state competition. Other student projects focused on depression in teens, obesity, epilepsy, muscle wasting in paralysis, spinal injuries and scoliosis, nerve regeneration, heart disease, and diabetes.

According to program coordinator Russell Wallsteadt, “It has been rewarding to see this mix of young minds from 20 different schools tackle real-life problems with the help of the resources of Grand Valley and Kent ISD. This program of unique, young-minded perspectives and fascinations with science, engineering, and health careers is a wonderful example of transforming health care through interprofessional education.”

Toward Collaborative Practice: A Model for Interprofessional Education

March 22, 2017, marked the third consecutive year that the Grand Valley State University Department of Physical Therapy (PT) participated in a large inter-institutional, interprofessional collaborative effort with the Grand Valley Kirkof College of Nursing, Ferris State University College of Pharmacy, and the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Michael Shoemaker, PT, D.P.T, Ph.D, who represents Grand Valley State University in this shared effort, notes that PT students greatly value the opportunity to learn with, about, and from health professional students from other disciplines and other institutions during this 3.5-hour, high-fidelity simulation event. Nearly 240 students work together in small groups to evaluate and care for a simulated patient admitted to the hospital for a fall and other complications related to an infection. The case scenario and progression of the simulation is carefully crafted to require the unique skills of each profession and to help
students develop specific interprofessional competencies. A significant amount of time is allotted for prebriefing and debriefing to ensure students are prepared for the scenario and meet the interprofessional learning objectives for the event.

The goal is to train future health professionals to a higher standard of interprofessional care that will ultimately result in better patient health outcomes. This annual simulation event is also a great example of interprofessional teaching and scholarship for the faculty team that developed and led this event as evidenced by its recent publication: Bambini, D., Emery, M., de Voest, M., Meny, L., & Shoemaker, M. J. (2016) Replicable interprofessional outcomes from high volume, inter-institutional, interprofessional simulation: Outcomes of two student cohorts. Pharmacy. 4(4), 34, doi:10.3390/pharmacy4040034

Scaffolding Teaching Methods Enhances OST Educational Experience

Over the past five years, the Grand Valley State University Standardized Patient (SP) Program has grown more than 100 percent to provide thousands of educational contact hours with standardized patients for students across the health sciences. The standardized patient methodology involves the use of individuals trained to portray the roles of patients, family members, and others to allow students to practice physical exam and communication skills. This increased use of SPs at Grand Valley is due to increases in enrollment, student feedback, and recognition of the value of using the SP methodology to support clinical skill development in emerging health care professionals.
patient methodology includes formative and summative learning activities designed to be discipline-specific or interprofessional.

Carla Floyd-Slabaugh, Dr.O.T., OTR/L, recognized that increased collaboration with the Grand Valley Simulation Center could enhance the students' experience and achievement of course objectives. Floyd-Slabaugh is the primary educator for OST 552, a core course taken by all occupational science and therapy (OST) students. In this course, students are taught interviewing skills as well as foundational clinical skills such as measuring joint range of motion and muscle strength.

In 2015, SPs were used only twice during the course. A course redesign in 2016 added two additional SP exercises to the course format for a total of four exercises. Students are taught in a classroom setting about each of the skills and are then provided with opportunities to demonstrate each new skill with a standardized patient. The course concludes with a culminating assessment where SPs portray patients with upper extremity conditions. Students are required to assess their assigned “patient” and demonstrate all the skills taught throughout the semester within the allotted timeframe, as well as documenting their clinical findings. This scaffolding of educational experiences supports and enhances students’ acquisition and proficiency of core occupational therapy skills.

The recent changes in Floyd-Slabaugh's course are only one example of how OST students benefit from Simulation Center support. Advanced OST students participate in an interprofessional SP event along with physical therapy students to plan care for a simulated patient with severe burns.

According to Floyd-Slabaugh, “It’s easy to rest on our past successes but the OST department will continue to identify the best reflective educational practices to meet the needs of future OST practitioners. The support of Grand Valley’s Simulation Center ensures we will have the means necessary to incorporate our ideas.”
Rigorous scholarship is a hallmark of Grand Valley’s health sciences. Students entering the programs have high academic credentials, while the pass rate for graduating students who take their board exams for the first time is consistently above the national average. Success also depends on students stretching themselves under faculty guidance, learning to lead, and solving problems in a way that makes a difference — and gets noticed.
Teaching Through Technology

Three years ago, Dr. Martha Sommers, a physician in Malawi, Africa, asked GVSU faculty for assistance to design a solar-powered medical device. She is the only doctor for a population of 100,000 and was experiencing frequent losses of electrical power, leading to a high mortality rate on the operating table. Sommers was in search of a device that would provide powerful lighting and suction to assist her surgical needs.

Faculty and two student groups from Grand Valley worked toward solutions for the Malawi hospital. Sommers’ cousin, Professor Star Swift, M.L.I.R., J.D., of Grand Valley’s Seidman College of Business, reached out to Padnos College of Engineering faculty member Heidi Jiao, Ph.D., who agreed that students in her master’s degree class could help address these pressing needs.

Under the supervision of Jiao, the engineering students designed and built a device with assistance from Sommers and her sister.
Engineering graduate students Patrick McCarthy and Sofia Fanourakis traveled to Malawi to install a Solar Suction Surgery System.

Veronica Sommers Depagnier, an engineer and a regular assistant to the doctor. After their return to Malawi, Sommers and Depagnier met with Swift, Jiao, and the engineering class through video chat to complete the final design. The device was called the “Solar Suction Surgery System,” or S4. A church group, based in California, was able to deliver the device to Malawi.

Since then, engineering students have redesigned the device to include a longer battery life, a suction system within each unit, and two lighting systems. The first light allows the surgeon to see directly into a wound or open cavity of a patient. The second light illuminates the surgical suite in its entirety.

A second student group called Teaching Through Technology (t3), also under the direction of Swift and Jiao, has focused on providing technical support for the hospital. During the summer of 2016, three graduate students delivered the new systems to Malawi and installed them in the hospital and two remote clinics. Sofia Fanourakis, Patrick McCarthy, and Justin Melick are all members of t3, and two are also engineering students.

The t3 group has created a website identified as solarRescue (gvsu.edu/solarescue/). The site allows groups and individuals from all over the world to see the Padnos College of Engineering’s S4 designs and to provide a place for others with solar designs to make them available for free as open-source documents.

**Growth of the PIPES Student Organization**

The MIPERC organization, PIPES (Promoting Interprofessional Education for Students), presents health care students opportunities to participate in interprofessional events throughout the academic year. Creating an opportunity for students of differing health disciplines to learn with and from one another, PIPES offers a wide range of different events. Annually, PIPES and the MIPERC Simulation Advisory Committee host two interprofessional simulations, in addition to a panel of speakers, health activities, and a variety of presentations. Topics over the past year included breast cancer survivorship, health disparities, presenting a patient, music therapy, substance/opioid abuse, and mental health.
The highlight event of the year, “Whose Patient Is It Anyway,” was focused on professional roles as part of a larger health team. Students from varying disciplines portrayed their roles in patient care for other health disciplines to see. Students worked together as a team to plan the best care for the patient. Such events help students understand how each health discipline works uniquely and collaboratively to care for patients. Seventy students participated in this exercise.

Another highlight event of the year focused on the topic of “Disparities in Health” and was led by a group of GVSU occupational therapy students and an MSU medical student. During the event, students worked through four different case studies in interprofessional groups. Katelynn Krause, one of the presenters and an occupational therapy student, stated that the experience presenting at PIPES increased her confidence and ability to take on leadership roles in multidisciplinary settings. Another presenter and GVSU occupational therapy student, Stephanie Moon, stated that PIPES has given her an opportunity to work with students from multiple professions to problem solve and think critically beyond what is available in the classroom.

Over the past year, attendance for PIPES events has steadily increased, with each event attracting an average of 50 students from GVSU, Ferris State University College of Pharmacy, and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. All area undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in health and health-related fields are welcome to participate in PIPES.

For the 2017-2018 academic year, PIPES will have its first team of student officers who will organize events and work with the MiPERC Simulation Advisory Committee to lead the organization. This is an exciting time for growth in the PIPES program as health care transforms and the importance of collaborating with interprofessional health care providers becomes increasingly important.
Physician Assistant Student Organization

The Richard Paul Clodfelder (RPC) Student Society is an organization run by students of the Grand Valley physician assistant studies (PAS) program. The purpose of RPC is to promote academic achievement and clinical excellence and to promote the physician assistant as a member of the health care delivery team. The student members realize that, through formal organization, they can benefit themselves, their program, and their community. The organization’s outreach has members on both of Grand Valley’s Grand Rapids and Traverse City campuses. The group meets monthly, but involvement expands beyond organization meetings. While students recognize that community service, teamwork, and self-sustainability all reflect well on a student individually, their higher goals are focused on how they may be able to demonstrate a commitment to the community outside of the classroom. With the demands of school, the RPC Society provides organized opportunities to be involved in fundraising and volunteer events, attend planned social outings, travel to national and state-level physician assistant conferences, and to focus on some of the other important aspects of being a GVSU PAS student.

The Heels to Heal 5K, an annual event hosted by the RPC Society to raise money for Oasis of Hope (a local, nonprofit, charitable health clinic) was a huge success in 2016. The RPC Society raised more than $2,000 for the clinic! Additionally, in 2016, the RPC Student Society hosted the Third Annual Swings for Stephanie Charity Golf outing, at Gracewil Country Club. This event was started by classmates of Stephanie Urbanawiz, a PAS Class of 2015 student who lost her battle with breast cancer in February 2015. Money raised through this event supports the Stephanie Urbanawiz Physician Assistant Endowed Scholarship fund. The 2016 event was extra special because the money raised completed the amount needed for the scholarship endowment!

In 2016, the RPC Society members also volunteered hundreds of hours at other community events and organizations, including the Humane Society, Programa Puente, donating to two blood drives, Dégage Ministries, Kids’ Food Basket, Hope Lodge of the American Cancer Society, and the Ronald McDonald House. The members of the RPC Society student organization also plan and host two other fundraising activities to support a local health clinic and a student scholarship fund.

Students from the Richard Paul Clodfelder (RPC) Student Society participate in the Heels to Heal 5K to help raise money for Oasis of Hope.
The RPC Student Society members are excellent examples of what community engagement and service learning can do to enhance the educational experience in the GVSU PAS program!

Physical Therapy Clinical Experiences in Italy

Since 2014, Grand Valley physical therapy students have had an opportunity to complete their final clinical experience in Italy. This opportunity has been made available through Eduglobal Associates, a nonprofit health education management company that was founded in 2006 and is based in Pennsylvania. According to the company’s website, “Eduglobal Associates is dedicated to providing excellent international clinical education experiences and to assisting health care programs and students to commit to culturally competent approaches to patient care.” Eduglobal Associates currently offers clinical placements in three different Italian health care facilities.

Physical therapy students who take advantage of this opportunity are paired with a clinical instructor who has an Italian physical therapy license, has worked in a clinical setting for at least three years, and has achieved proficiency in spoken English. In addition to working with patients at their assigned health care facility, the students participate in language lessons and are able to travel to other parts of Italy on the weekends.

In 2016, four physical therapy students (Jacqueline Broders, Paige Mauer, Laura Kate Morse, and Christopher Wise) spent nine weeks at Istituto Prosperius Tiberino in Umbertide, Umbria, Italy. Istituto Prosperius Tiberino is a rehabilitation hospital and outpatient clinic that provides health care services to patients who have a wide range of neurologic and orthopedic conditions. After completing her Italian-based clinical experience, Laura Kate Morse stated, “Going to Italy and being able to be immersed in a new culture was one of the greatest decisions I have ever made. It really broadened my horizons as a health care practitioner to learn and practice in another country. The people in Italy were fantastic!” Christopher Wise added, “This was a trip and experience of a lifetime! It stretched me to grow professionally, interculturally, and individually. I honestly would not be practicing or working where I am today if it was not for this experience.”
Public Health Goes to the Nation’s Capital

Eight graduate students and two faculty members from the Master of Public Health graduate program spent their spring break in Washington, D.C., meeting with national health organizations and participating in a collaborative service learning project with George Washington University’s ISCOPES program. Graduate Program Director and Chair Ranelle Brew and Assistant Professor Karen Niemchick led the six-day trip, which allowed students to network and learn more about public health efforts occurring in our nation’s capital.

Students toured the National Institutes of Health and Capitol Hill and met with members of the Society of Public Health Education, the National Council for Behavioral Health, the American Public Health Association, and the National Rural Health Association. In partnership with George Washington University, students hosted a health fair at Emery House, a work-bed program that assists men in sustaining employment and moving into permanent housing. The Graduate Student Association provided a portion of the funding for this educational experience.

Professor Derek McCormick stands with Lauren Madsen, Avery Moore, and Eric Bell, who won three of the five scholarships awarded at the Michigan Safety Conference in 2017.
Grand Valley OSH Students Win Prestigious Professional Scholarships

Three students in the Grand Valley State University occupational safety and health (OSH) management program earned scholarships through the Michigan Safety Conference in 2017. Lauren Madsen, Avery Moore, and Eric Bell each earned a scholarship for their academic performance and engagement with the health and safety program. Students are required to have a minimum 3.0 overall GPA to apply for the scholarships, which also require a written essay. The conference awards five scholarships annually to students based upon academic performance, leadership attributes, and plans to work in the field of health and safety. There were several applicants across the State of Michigan for these scholarships, so it is an honor to have multiple Grand Valley students selected.

In addition to being excellent students, Moore and Bell serve on the student chapter board of the American Society of Safety Engineers as vice president and secretary. These students are outstanding representatives of the university and the OSH management program. The OSH department is extremely proud of the students' accomplishments and looks forward to seeing their continued success in the future.

Physical Therapy Department Student Honors and Awards

At the 2016 American Physical Therapy Association NEXT Conference, Crystal Lamb (Class of 2016) was awarded the Minority Scholarship Award and the Outstanding Core Ambassador Award. The Minority Scholarship Award recognizes physical therapy students for their professional character and academic excellence. The Outstanding Core Ambassador Award recognizes physical therapy students who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Other 2016 physical therapy student awards included the following recipients:

- David Daniels Scholarship
  - Justin Lyons and Doug Sjoerdsma, ’17
- Graduate Dean’s Citation for Academic Excellence in the Major
  - Melanie Koops, ’16
- Graduate Dean’s Citation for Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU
  - Emilee VanHoven, ’16
- Graduate Dean’s Citation for Excellence in Service to the Community or Profession
  - Chris Wise, ’16
- Graduate Dean’s Citation for Outstanding Final Project
  - Abigail Clark, Melanie Koops, and Lauren Smith, ’16
- Graduate Dean’s Citation for Outstanding Publication
  - Lauren Smith, ’16
- Graduate Dean’s Citation for Promoting Diversity and Inclusion at GVSU
  - Crystal Lamb, ’16
- Grand Valley Niemeyer Award
  - Crystal Lamb, ’16
- Michigan Physical Therapy Association Outstanding Student Award
  - Laura Goedhart, ’16
- Michigan Physical Therapy Association Team Rehabilitation Scholarship
  - Laura Goedhart, ’16
- Phi Kappa Phi Induction
  - Kara Romstadt and Emilee VanHoven, ’16
- Physical Therapy Departmental Honors Award
  - Micah Huegel, ’16
Exposure to real-world health care settings is critical to rounding out student education in Grand Valley’s health-related programs. Students receive that crucial experience through professional preceptors, who provide clinical expertise for students while monitoring their overall educational process. Preceptors in turn benefit from staying at the forefront of ever-changing health care information to enhance their clinical teaching while gaining personal satisfaction from guiding the next generation of health professionals.
Preceptor Perks Program

All of Grand Valley’s health-related programs offer internships or experiential learning opportunities within the curriculum, either as a requirement for graduation or as a supplemental opportunity for course credit. During the 2016-2017 academic year, 93 percent of Grand Valley’s health-related student internships occurred in Michigan, six percent were out-of-state, and one percent were international. Internships provide an additional opportunity for students to enhance knowledge by connecting theory to practice, strengthening clinical competence, and building personal confidence. Student success is largely dependent on the preceptor’s ability to lead by example, provide constructive feedback, and maintain an atmosphere that allows, encourages, and facilitates critical thinking. In recognition of the time, commitment, and expert knowledge and skills that preceptors give to our students, Grand Valley has established the Preceptor Perks program.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, 93 percent of Grand Valley’s health-related student internships occurred in Michigan, six percent were out-of-state, and one percent were international.
The perks include a gratis university title, Grand Valley library privileges, Fieldhouse access, free continuing education, and Grand Valley employee community discounts. The gratis university title was approved by the university in 2014. To date, a gratis title has been awarded to 2,731 clinical preceptors. In the past year, the university also approved gratis university titles for preceptors who work with students in research-focused internships.

In addition to the Preceptor Perks program, Grand Valley has incorporated a clinical affiliation model that recognizes the health care organizations hosting Grand Valley students. One initiative of the model is co-marketing campaigns in which photos are taken of students and preceptors working together for marketing use by participating organizations.

To learn more about Preceptor Perks, visit gvus.edu/vphealth or contact Tracy Cooper at coopertr@gvsu.edu.

Communications Sciences and Disorders

Speech-language pathology (SLP) graduate students in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department participate in clinical, community-based internship placements with clinical practice preceptors.

Beth La Framboise, M.A., CCC-SLP and CBIS, has 20 years of experience in the field of SLP. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Michigan State University in communication arts and sciences and her Master of Arts degree from Western Michigan University in audiology and speech sciences. With this education history, La Framboise has worked in many health care settings including in-patient, out-patient, homecare, acute rehabilitation, and skilled nursing facilities. In 2016, La Framboise received the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MIPERC) preceptor award. Currently, La Framboise contracts her services at Therapy Solutions, a unique private practice, which offers neurological rehabilitation services in Petoskey. She also is employed at Boyne Rehabilitation Center through Munson in Boyne City. Through these organizations students obtain diverse outpatient experiences along with interactions among varying populations and therapy disciplines. She previously contracted her services at the Abby D Center.

When asked about the goals she has for her students, La Framboise stated, “to help build their confidence in every aspect of the clinical routine: from greeting the patient and family in the waiting room, to walking them out.” La Framboise wants “to diminish any of their insecurities as much as I am able to in their time with me.”

La Framboise’s students offered compliments and expressed sincere gratitude for her preceptor skills. “She possesses natural teaching skills and encourages organization, timeliness, initiation, professionalism, use of empirical knowledge. Just as important, she demonstrates compassion when assisting students.” The president of the Abby D Center stated, “Her unselfish commitment to patient care, family education, company operations, student learning, and provision of hands-on opportunity has earned her recognition in our facility as an invaluable interprofessional team member and role model of exceptional clinical qualities.”
Occupational Safety and Health Preceptor

David Cox is an avid supporter of the Grand Valley State University’s occupational safety and health management (OSH) program. Cox is the safety manager for the Grand Valley State University Facilities Services and has been in his role for 18 years. During his tenure, he has regularly sought opportunities to work with interns with varying levels of experience.

Cox’s willingness to work around student schedules allows for part-time internships. Generally, one to three students work part-time with Cox during the fall and winter semesters, and one student interns full-time during the summer.

During the internship, the students receive excellent process-driven coaching on projects and get opportunities to develop soft skills through working with the many different vendors that support the GVSU Facilities Services. His experience in the field and passion for educating students working in his department are assets to the OSHM program.

OSH Program Director and Assistant Professor David Huizen says, “In addition to supporting the internship program, David [Cox] actively seeks opportunities to give students real-world application principles as a guest speaker in the classroom. The OSHM department is grateful for his contributions to the program and looks forward to continuing to work with his department in the years to come.”
Physical Therapy Preceptor

Eric Boss received a bachelor’s degree in physical therapy from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2000 and a master’s degree in business administration from Keller Graduate School in 2004. He has supplemented his college degrees by participating in several continuing education courses; and in 2013, he became certified in mechanical diagnosis and therapy through the McKenzie Institute. He is currently employed as the clinic director for the downtown Grand Rapids location of Advent Physical Therapy. He also has served as an adjunct instructor for the Advanced Clinical Decision-Making course and as a lead instructor for the Professional Topics IV course offered by the Grand Valley State University Department of Physical Therapy.

Throughout his professional career, 13 physical therapy students (10 of whom were from GVSU) have benefited from Boss’ role as a clinical instructor. He also has served as the center coordinator of clinical education (CCCE) for Advent Physical Therapy over the past three years. In his role as CCCE, he provides full-time clinical experiences and part-time musculoskeletal observations at each of the 13 Advent physical therapy locations in the greater Grand Rapids area. Boss’ philosophy about the importance of clinical education may be summed up as follows: “The instructors at GVSU do a remarkable job of preparing students with the tools they need to be exceptional therapists. As clinical educators, we have the opportunity to help students work with those tools, connecting them to the stories of real people. In the end, it’s really the patient that teaches the student. Clinical instructors just highlight the lessons that are there to learn.”
Physician Assistant Studies Program Preceptor of the Year Awards

Each year faculty members with the physician assistant studies (PAS) program vote to determine the recipient of the Preceptor of the Year award, and the name that came to the top in 2016 was Dr. Alane Laws-Barker, who practices women's health at the Sparrow Midwest OB/Gyn clinic in Lansing. “We work hard here,” says Laws-Barker about herself and the dedicated staff.

According to PAS faculty member Charlene Dubois, M.P.A., R.D., “Dr. Laws-Barker has been precepting with the PAS program at Grand Valley for four years, and as faculty, we love working with her. The students feel the same way, commenting that Dr. Laws-Barker is an excellent teacher and keeps the students involved.” Students stated that she makes her patients feel comfortable and that they learn a lot just from listening to the doctor's conversations with her patients. The faculty and students know that medicine is not just about the science, it’s about the art of practicing.

The Class of 2016 chose Ryan Miller, PA-C., as the recipient of the student-selected Preceptor of the Year and honored him at their PAS program graduation. Miller, a Grand Valley PAS alumnus, has precepted students in both family medicine and behavioral health. Known for his in-depth knowledge and commitment to student learning, Ryan is giving back to the program by providing great opportunities for students to learn and grow on their rotations. The students give him high praise, rating him as an “excellent” preceptor.
Alberda’s goal is to address and recognize the need for sexual health.

Public Health Preceptor

For the past four years, the Master’s in Public Health (M.P.H.) program has provided a number of students with practicum placements that have integrated application of their curriculum and allowed students to demonstrate professional competency in public health settings. Practicum credits are earned by obtaining 200 hours of supervised training.

Heather Alberda is a first-year preceptor for the M.P.H. program and a recipient of the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MiPERC) preceptor award. She received her Bachelor’s of Arts in criminal justice from Grand Valley State University and received her certificate in sexuality education from the University of Michigan. Alberda currently works as a certified sexuality educator at the Ottawa County Department of Public Health.
Her role includes providing educational presentations on a variety of sexual health topics in a variety of settings including schools, drug rehabilitation facilities, and parent groups. In the community, Alberda’s goal is to address and recognize the need for sexual health. Alberda accomplishes this by working with schools to ensure medically accurate and age-appropriate sexual health curricula are being offered and working with the sexual health clinic to ensure community knowledge and access to services. She also coordinates the Wear One condom availability campaign in both Ottawa and Allegan counties, which was initiated due to the rise of chlamydia in young adults.

Along with serving the community, Alberda also is active within the field of public health. She serves as a sexual health ambassador for the American Sexual Health Association and the secretary of the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health. She also is a member of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists and the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine.

Alberda is recognized for her “deep-seated” passion and ability to prepare students for their future careers in public health. Under Alberda’s guidance, students participate in lesson development, presentations, and community partnerships. Although being a preceptor may have conflicted with previous commitments, she loved being able to share the knowledge that she gained over the last 15 years. “[I was] honored by the thought that an emerging young professional sought me out as a mentor.” Through her positivity and encouragement, she was able to guide and positively impact students to become future health professionals. Her nominator stated, “I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this award.”
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE LEARNING

Strong partnerships with health care organizations not only benefit Grand Valley programs but also provide an important resource for the region. Internships, co-ops, and other service learning opportunities give students invaluable field experience that also provides additional service for those in the community in need of health-related treatment and information.
The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy program held spring and fall presentations at Grand Valley’s Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences building on Grand Rapids Medical Mile. Colloquy programs serve as opportunities for health care professionals, educators, students, and community colleagues to discuss serious challenges in today’s health care environment.

The colloquy celebrated its 12th year in 2017, continuing its tradition of bringing outstanding national experts to Grand Rapids. Speakers often provide audiences with explanations of the science behind ongoing or emerging issues followed by discussions of the ethical considerations that physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals face in their practices.

The fall 2016 colloquy, *The Medicalization of Society*, focused on how medical exploration
The colloquy celebrated its 12th year in 2017, continuing its tradition of bringing outstanding national experts to Grand Rapids.

DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy presentations bring opportunity for serious ethical discussion among health care professionals and community.

of the brain — especially in psychiatry — changes the ability to regulate individual behavior. Also discussed was the role of the Diagnostic Medical and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) in diagnosing disorders and the necessity of competent clinical judgment for proper diagnosis. Speakers included Jerome Wakefield, Ph.D., professor of social work and conceptual foundations of psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine, and Michael First, M.D., professor of clinical psychiatry and research at New York State Psychiatric Institute in New York.

The Ethics of Physician Assisted Death in the spring 2017 forum drew a record audience. The compelling discussion focused on the need for physicians to balance their responsibilities of treating the patient through use of medical science, while at the same time caring compassionately for the patient. In a break from tradition, the speakers used a case study to set the foundation for the discussion. Presenters were Robert M. Arnold, M.D., and Timothy E. Quill, M.D.

Dr. Arnold is professor of medicine; chief, Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics; director, Institute for Doctor-Patient Communication at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (UPMC). Arnold is also medical director, Palliative and Supportive Institute at UPMC.

Dr. Quill is professor in palliative care and professor of medicine, Palliative Care Division in the Department of Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine.

The colloquy planning committee meets several times a year and is comprised of a select group of physicians, educational administrators, and ethicists from area organizations who are highly committed to addressing the health care ethical dilemmas. Events are scheduled each fall and spring and are offered in both live event and webcast formats. Information on future events and videos from past colloquy presentations are available at www.gvsu.edu/colloquy/.
Community Forums Draw Diverse Audiences

The second annual Health Forum series of West Michigan series drew record numbers of attendees during the 2016-2017 academic year. More than 1,000 individuals participated in one or more of the Health Forum’s eight presentations. The series is hosted and organized by the Office of the Vice Provost for Health at Grand Valley State University. Sponsorship from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan allows forums to be free and open to the public. Other partners include the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center; Michigan State University College of Human Medicine; and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement.

The forum audience is typically comprised of health care practitioners and administrators, university faculty and students, government officials, and lay community members. The 2016-2017 forum series included these topics:

- Virtual Health and Emerging Technologies
- Municipal Infrastructure and Health
- The State of Opioid Abuse in West Michigan
- Understanding the Zika Virus
- Social Determinants of Health
- Human Trafficking

The forums occur the first Friday, October through May, and are carefully planned to provide a diverse group of experts to address varying national, state, and regional perspectives. At each forum, opportunities for community questions and comments are provided after panelists’ presentations.

Katie Branch, M.S.N., R.N., director of simulation for Grand Valley and one of the forum planners said, “As an educational institution Grand Valley is one part of the equation that leads to the development of a health community. These events foster community awareness, engagement, and partnerships that benefit the entire region.”

2017-2018 Health Forum of West Michigan Calendar of Events

2017

- October 6 – Health Care Talent Pipeline
- November 3 – Human Genetics
- December 1 – One Health

2018

- January 12 – West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast
- February 2 – Opioid Abuse
- March 2 – Health Care Reform
- April 6 – State of Mental Health
- May 4 – End of Life/Palliative Care

For more information on the health forum events, visit gvsu.edu/vphealth/.
Advancing Surgical Training Technologies

The applied Medical Device Institute (aMDI) is working with Encoris, a local West Michigan manufacturing company, to dramatically change the surgical training environment for spine surgeons and medical device companies worldwide. Surgical training has traditionally relied upon cadavers. However, surgical cadavers are in short supply. Cadaver availability is even less when surgical specialties require specific pathologies. Jim Tenbrink, vice president of Encoris, pointed out, “Surgical training, especially in developing new protocols, is extremely expensive. Consequently, alternatives to cadavers are in high demand.”

The aMDI, housed at Grand Valley State University, is an advanced engineering and development institute for the medical device industry specializing in intelligent devices and robotics. The aMDI blends the ideation, conceptual development, design, and early stage prototyping processes into one streamlined experience to launch innovative, safe, and validated medical device technologies to market for both partners and grant-funded applied research.

Encoris has developed and patented a novel prototypical solution that addresses the complexity of the human anatomy, the ranges of pathologies, and the ability to replace cadavers with portable, lifelike surgical training systems. The aMDI will develop the capabilities to mimic X-ray imagery, as well as the motions of the C-arm X-ray machines experienced in radiology by spine surgeons.

Developers start with a human anatomy mimic. Then they conceive, develop, and demonstrate a system to the radiology environment in surgery. As noted by the project principal investigators, Samhita...
Rhodes, Ph.D., associate professor of engineering, and John Farris, Ph.D., professor of engineering, “The human anatomy is heterogeneous, complex, anisotropic, highly nonlinear … it is a difficult problem.”

The collaboration offers tremendous value to Grand Valley students who work with the project. Executive Director Brent Nowak, Ph.D., highlighted the benefits of the academic-industry enterprise. “Talk about project-based immersion! Numerous undergrads across multiple disciplines will be engaged throughout this development. These students will be working with a world-leader in radio frequency engineering and microelectronics while solving real-world problems.” The aMDi is enhancing student learning experiences, engaging faculty in multidisciplinary health care research and development, and working with our community to bring novel medical devices and protocols to market.

GVSU Partners with Telemedicine Provider

Grand Valley State University has partnered with Answers Health on Demand (AHOD) of Grand Rapids to give physician assistant (PA) students opportunities to learn about telemedicine. Telemedicine allows health care providers to offer online diagnosis and treatment for patients who have issues such as child health concerns, fever, flu, ear pain, rashes, and prescription refills.

“Telemedicine is the future of health care, so we want our students to gain a general understanding of how it works and how it can be utilized,” said Martina Reinhold, Ph.D., assistant professor of physician assistant studies.

Reinhold and Theresa Bacon-Baguley, Ph.D., associate dean for research in the College of Health Professions, initiated the integration of telemedicine into the physician assistant curriculum. “We look ahead and determine the needs of the future in order to prepare our students for what lies ahead in health care,” said Bacon-Baguley. “We see the use of telemedicine growing.”

Students will participate in a rotation with AHOD providers to observe incoming telemedicine appointments, get an overview of billing and reimbursements, and learn about the legal aspects of telemedicine. “AHOD is a telemedicine collaborative comprised of independent providers throughout Michigan who are working together to improve access to affordable, convenient care, and we are excited to partner with Grand Valley to help educate the next generation of providers,” said Haley Kamp, program manager for AHOD.

Bacon-Baguley spearheaded the partnership with AHOD and said more in-depth exposure to telemedicine will soon be part of the curriculum for PA students. “I feel very fortunate to be part of an institution that values and supports programming that facilitates student success in a rapidly changing medical landscape.”

For more information, contact Theresa Bacon-Baguley at (616) 331-5700 or Karen Bigelow at (720) 237-7358.
Collaboration with Spectrum Health Supports Student Research

Research is needed to develop and support evidence-based practice. Busy clinicians working with a variety of clients have data but often lack the time to do research. Occupational therapy students need to complete research projects in conjunction with their programs, but often lack access to data. Uniting these two groups was the goal of the community partnership between Grand Valley State University’s Occupational Science and Therapy department, and Spectrum Health’s Rehabilitation Services department. A partnership developed under the initiation of Tim Phillips, M.S., P.T., D.P.T., M.T.C., from Spectrum Health and Jeanine Beasley, Ed.D., OTR., CHT., FAOTA, from Grand Valley. Agreements between the two institutions were signed and students submitted research proposals to review boards of both institutions. This partnership resulted in two research studies.

These studies included a retrospective analysis of conservative therapeutic interventions for patients with De Quervain’s tenosynovitis and lateral epicondylitis. Both studies were accepted and presented at the American Society of Hand Therapists 38th annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, as poster presentations. The abstracts for these posters were recently published in the Journal of Hand Therapy.


Research on effective interventions through outcome-based studies focused on clients with specific conditions is important. The partnership between GVSU and Spectrum Health represents the type of collaboration that will facilitate the development of beneficial knowledge for practitioners and patients.

Shaunna Kelder, Dr.O.T., OTRL, GVSU assistant professor, occupational science and therapy research coordinator; Tim Phillips, PT, D.P.T., MTC, Spectrum Health Rehabilitation Services Department; and Jeanine Beasley, Ed.D, OTR, CHT, FAOTA, GVSU occupational science and therapy professor, developed the community partnership for joint research projects with Spectrum Health Rehabilitation Services Department and GVSU Occupational Science and Therapy Department.
ArtPrize® Service Learning Experience: OTs Team with Older Adults

Each year approximately 40 students in the Occupational Science Therapy Older Adult Practice class (OST 651) and lab (OST 652) participate in the ArtPrize Learning Experience. The purpose is to provide occupational therapy students with an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding about older adults who live, work, and play in our communities. Students complete a comprehensive needs assessment about older adults, gather data on informal learning opportunities (such as learning about art/artists), evaluate the built environment or physical spaces, and identify barriers and supports. A plan for experiencing ArtPrize is developed and implemented through a collaborative learning experience with participants from Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging in Grand Haven, Michigan and the OT students. The older adults and students break into touring teams and take on ArtPrize via foot, a complementary “chariot” or wheelchair, or on a riding/bus tour. Older adults learn about the different team options (see above) in advance and collaborate with students by requesting their preferences for the day in terms of art/artists, and accommodations. Lunch includes a brown bag learning session at Grand Valley’s Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences; then the groups hit the road for an afternoon of learning.

Students escort participants from Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging on a walking tour of ArtPrize.
More than 100 students have received scribe training with more than 80 currently working in emergency departments in Grand Rapids and Zeeland.

Student benefits include gaining the unique set of skills needed to provide occupational therapy (OT) services to community-based older adults including developing a holistic understanding of their needs, applying OT concepts, creating a comprehensive plan, demonstrating competent problem solving, and demonstrating the ability to effectively evaluate the needs of elderly participants and the fit of the environment.

The OT program has engaged in this experience for the past six years with the number of participating older adults increasing from 15 to 75. Participants have stated the following: “I would have never attempted coming without the help of the students”; “you brought the arts alive through important learning discussions”, and “I felt so safe going all over Grand Rapids.” Students provide a written reflection on the experience and offer the following insights: “I could be friends with these people”; “I had no idea that people in their 90s could walk”; “I can’t believe how many fall hazards we identified”; and “I loved spending the day with my group and hearing their stories.”

GVSU Scribe Academy

The Office of the Vice Provost for Health and Emergency Care Specialists of Grand Rapids are celebrating two years of offering a free scribe training program to students searching for health care experiences.

Grand Valley is offering qualified students this no-cost educational program that prepares them to be paid scribes for work in emergency departments. Scribes are documentation specialists who work alongside providers and record patient care in electronic medical record systems in real time. Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health, said, “students interested in pursuing careers in a health profession program have the opportunity to gain experience in an emergency room documenting in an electronic health record and become familiar with medical terminology and clinical problems, diagnostic tests, and medications by completing the scribe program.”

Since the first scribe class held in May 2015, more than 100 students have received training with more than 80 currently working in emergency departments in Grand Rapids and Zeeland. Expansion is planned for emergency departments in Big Rapids, Greenville, and Reed City starting in Fall 2017. Placement of scribes in primary care, orthopedic, and urology medical offices is also underway.

The training program consists of three to four weeks of online and classroom instruction and 40 hours (five eight-hour shifts) of supervised working as a scribe helps students receive a valuable paid experience in a clinical setting.
practice in the clinical setting. Upon successful completion, students are offered employment through Emergency Care Specialists’ scribe division, Helix Scribe Solutions. Employment is contingent on the participant’s commitment to working for a minimum of 18 months and working an average of two shifts per week.

For students to be eligible to begin scribe training, they must have (at minimum) a sophomore credit standing and be enrolled in or interested in pursuing a health care career, or have recently obtained a college degree in a health- or science-related field. Students must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and a keyboard typing speed of at least 60 words per minute. Students are provided a study guide for taking the screening exams that include online typing and medical terminology tests.

With the advent of medical scribes, Emergency Care Specialists have reported improved provider and patient satisfaction. Barbara Wynn, M.D., of Emergency Care Specialists said, “Scribes have enabled me to have more focus for my patients, my team, and myself as well as more enthusiasm about going to work. I believe effective use of scribes could be critical in preventing physician/ provider burnout and should be encouraged throughout the health care system.”

Between three to four training sessions are held per year. For more information, contact Program Director Jeff Trytko, director of the scribe program, at trytkoj@gvsu.edu.

Engaged Department Initiative — Well House Grand Rapids

The goals of the Engaged Department Initiative (EDI) are increased faculty knowledge and skills in community-based teaching and research, expanded community-based learning opportunities for students, and enhanced community partnerships. Over the course of 18 months, Grand Valley’s Department of Public Health has been working toward integrating community-based learning as a strategy to achieve key academic goals for students and faculty, incorporating curricular scaffolding of community-based opportunities to enhance student learning and development within five courses throughout the public health graduate program, building collaborative approaches to community partnerships, and establishing a culture that supports and rewards community-based teaching and scholarship.

The department set a goal to achieve a sustainable partnership with Well House Grand Rapids. This partnership is in alignment with the goals of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program to offer students community-based learning throughout the curriculum. Students are offered a community experience in every course. Well House serves as one of many partnerships for students. Well House provides safe, affordable housing to the community’s homeless in Grand Rapids, recognizing that each individual has their own unique needs and challenges and that a “one size fits all” approach is often a barrier to housing.

MPH faculty Ranelle Brew, Katie Barnhart, and Karen Niemchick serve on the team leading the partnership. Public health team members collaborate with EDI members from two other pilot departments and are given additional support through collaborative multi-departmental meetings among a cohort of teams. By using a cohort model, the EDI creates a community of practice through which faculty can collaborate both across and within departments to brainstorm ideas and provide support. Guided by established benchmarks, the Initiative provides a level of accountability that propels teams forward in their work.

Members of the Grand Valley’s Public Health Engaged Department Committee meet at Well House with the Executive Director. From bottom left: Harneet Brar, Tami VandenBerg (WellHouse), Karen Niemchick, Ranelle Brew, Katie Barnhart, Harrison Sloan

2017 Annual Health Report: Transforming Health Care
RESEARCH AND GRANTS

Innovative research adds to the depth of Grand Valley’s health sciences programs. That effort is aided by a significant number of health-related research grants that allow faculty members to probe the vexing problems of today, while providing an opportunity for students to more deeply examine these issues and appreciate this type of scholarship.
Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Scholars Program for Undergraduate Student Research

Grand Valley was selected as one of 11 institutions to administer the national undergraduate research program funded by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation. The program is one of the nation’s most notable awards designed to stimulate, encourage, and support research activities by undergraduate students. In the first year, the program will award two Grand Valley undergraduates $21,500 grants each to conduct a 15-month long research project. A total of five students will be selected as Beckman Scholars through the duration of the three-year program.

Kimberly Bottenberg and Faith Ureel are the first students to participate in the Beckman Scholars Program at Grand Valley. Bottenberg is a biochemistry major. She will work with Cynthia Thompson, assistant professor of
Khoo and Mendoza collaborated to write the Beckman application and successfully navigated a field of 180 applicants and 28 finalists.

Kimberly Bottenberg, left, and Faith Ureel were the first Grand Valley students named as Beckman Scholars with each receiving a $21,500 grant to support their research.

biomedical sciences, as she determines the details of her research path. Ureel is a biology major. She will work with Amy Russell, associate professor of biology.

Sok Kean Khoo, associate professor of cell and molecular biology, and Susan Mendoza, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, will direct the program. They collaborated to write the Beckman application and successfully navigated a field of 180 applicants and 28 finalists. “The exposure to diverse narratives of success is critical for students who are pursuing graduate and professional school,” Mendoza said. “Engaging with leaders of industry, nationally renowned academics, as well as campus speakers on the life sciences helps students see a path for themselves.”

Grand Valley was the only institution in the “master’s large” category to receive Beckman Scholars Program funding in the 2016 application cycle. Khoo said it’s an honor for Grand Valley’s undergraduate research program.

Robert Smart, vice provost for research administration, said, “Being one of only a small handful of institutions selected this year reflects very favorably on the caliber of life-science research at Grand Valley, the quality of our faculty and undergraduate students, and our university’s growing commitment to support collaborative faculty-student research.”

Students majoring in chemistry, biology, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, or biomedical sciences, who have a strong research interest and a GPA of 3.7 or higher can apply to the program. The selected scholars will be mentored by an interdisciplinary committee of faculty members, and will have the opportunity to travel to conferences and meet visiting scholars on campus.
Antibiotic Resistance Research

ß-lactams, like penicillin, are the most widely prescribed class of antibiotics in use today. However, in response to their overuse and misuse, bacteria have become resistant to them. Of particular concern are bacteria resistant to many different types of antibiotics, in addition to ß-lactams; these resistant bacteria are known as “superbugs.” Many antibiotic-resistant bacteria produce an enzyme called ß-lactamase that destroys the defining feature of ß-lactam antibiotics, rendering them ineffective. As a result, antibiotic resistance has emerged as one of the leading public health crises of the 21st century.

GVSU Chemistry Professor Rachel Powers and her research team of undergraduate students work to discover novel ways to overcome bacterial resistance to antibiotics. Using an approach known as structure-based drug design, the three-dimensional atomic resolution structure of the target ß-lactamase enzyme is used as a template to design novel molecules to block the destructive activity of the ß-lactamase. These structures are determined using a technique known as X-ray crystallography. Her undergraduate student researchers are involved in this process, which requires them to become trained users at the Advanced Photon Source synchrotron at Argonne National Lab (Argonne, Illinois). The synchrotron facility provides high intensity X-ray beams for these experiments and is one of only five such facilities in the U.S. This research project in the Powers’ lab is currently funded by the National Institutes of Health (AREA R15 grant), and their most recent work focuses on optimizing two types of molecules that have the potential to become the first clinical inhibitors of a specific class of ß-lactamases.

Antibiotic resistance has emerged as one of the leading public health crises of the 21st century.
Gene Expression Analysis of Cerebral Palsy in Newborn Blood Spots

Grand Valley State University Distinguished Associate Professor of Molecular Genomics Sok Kean Khoo, Ph.D., from the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and her master’s degree students are investigating the gene expression in newborn blood spots to distinguish children with or without cerebral palsy. This is a collaborative research project with scientists from Michigan State University and Drexel University.

Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common cause of motor disability in children, affecting one in 500 children worldwide. CP is not a disease entity but a clinical term to describe a group of nonprogressive, heterogeneous disorders characterized by early-onset, lifelong motor impairments. CP patients also frequently suffer comorbidities such as visual, speech, cognitive, and learning disabilities.

The standard clinical diagnostic of CP is primarily based on subjective observation of delayed motor development or muscle reflexes at age ≥ 2. Thus, it would be valuable to have indicators of risk for CP at an earlier stage.

Previously, investigators identified differentially expressed genes from four hypothesized pathways — inflammatory, hypoxic, coagulative, and thyroidal — from archived newborn blood spots to distinguish infants who will later develop CP. Newborn blood spots are neonatal blood collected 24-48 hours after birth and placed on the standard Guthrie cards. Since these blood spots capture the at-birth gene expression of each individual, they can be used to study and better understand perinatal diseases. Currently, the research team is investigating the expression of several genes from the inflammatory pathway to early diagnose CP and to differentiate CP severity. Additionally, the gene expression in term and preterm CP samples will be compared to better understand CP pathways in these different risk groups.
Diabetes Research Grant

Combined grants of $125,000 allowed Grand Valley students and staff members to continue a project aimed at improving outcomes for adults with diabetes.

The university's Office of the Vice Provost for Health received the grants from the National Center for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice and Education Center of the University of Minnesota and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This project continued the promotion of the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center's (MiPERC) interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) care model. Research outcomes focus on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim of improving the patient experience of care, improving the health of populations, and reducing the per capita cost of health care.

Students and staff members from different professions collaborated to deliver care to patients Cherry Street Health Center, Michigan's largest federally qualified health center, from 2014 to spring 2017. The first-year student professions included medical, physician assistant, and pharmacy. In the second year, student professions were chosen by the preceptors to be part of the team, including medical assistant, nurse practitioner, and social work.

The MiPERC team trained Cherry Health staff members and the students, with students then working under the guidance of a preceptor to provide care to patients with diabetes mellitus. The first-year students conducted focused patient visits, shadowed staff nurses responding to patient phone calls, led patient group diabetic education sessions, participated in daily team huddles, presented student team case presentations, and conducted medication reconciliations. The second-year students had the choice to use guidelines developed by MiPERC as part of their rotation.

The team considered many areas of feedback when evaluating the study. Key assessments included staff and patient satisfaction, diabetes health outcomes, and clinical productivity variables. In addition, students completed evaluations at the end of their clinical rotation. Quarterly meetings with students, providers, and staff members were conducted to gather thoughts on how to improve efficiencies in the care process.

The measured clinical outcomes included changes from baseline body mass index, hemoglobin A1c and LDL cholesterol laboratory tests, as well as prevalence of eye, foot, and dental exams. Other measures included trends in the number of patient visits by providers and examination of patient and health care worker satisfaction.

Students, providers, and staff responded favorably to the care model, IPCP activities, and collaborative teamwork. Patient satisfaction remained high, while patient diabetes clinical indicators improved in some areas. The manuscript reporting the results from the first year of the project was approved for publication in the Journal of Professional Care.
Using GIS Mapping to Target PH Intervention

Assistant Professor of Clinical Dietetics Elizabeth MacQuillan, Ph.D., is taking a fresh approach to exploring maternal-child nutrition and health using spatial analysis techniques combined with birth records data. Goals of her research include study demonstrating the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyses of birth records to assess maternal health and public health resources, and to identify geographic areas of need. It has been demonstrated by previous research that socioeconomic and racial health disparities have a spatial component; these studies have identified area-level health risks linked to an accumulation of related factors that are common to residents of a region. The elements of area-based deprivation that are thought to contribute to poor perinatal outcomes include poor access to prenatal care, stress, racial isolation and discrimination, unemployment, less than high school education, poverty, and norms of poor health behaviors. Most recently, MacQuillan examined data from the 2013 Michigan birth records (107,743 births) using logistic regression models and mapping utilizing the kernel density estimation technique within the geographic mapping software ArcGIS v.10.3.1.

The rate of gestational diabetes (GDM) in Southwest Michigan was 7.5 percent. In addition to being higher than the state average of 5 percent, the rate in Southwest Michigan was also higher than any other region in Michigan. The largest contiguous hotspot of both high rate of GDM (14 percent) and high numbers of women with GDM was located in Kalamazoo County (see Figure 1). Logistic regression of maternal characteristics associated with GDM risk in Michigan findings indicated that Asian Indian women were at highest risk of gestational diabetes by race and that increasing rates of GDM occurred with inadequate or adequate-plus prenatal care adequacy. Another novel finding was that, across the State of Michigan, there was no difference in GDM risk by Medicaid status despite previous national studies shower higher risk among mothers with...
lower household income levels. Evidence from MacQuillan’s research supports existing maternal-infant health programs beginning to use gestational diabetes as an additional indicator of risk for targeting participants and the potential need for a Michigan program dedicated to serving women with GDM, regardless of their income level.

MacQuillan’s research examining low birth weight and preterm births in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, was published by the *Journal of Community Health* in November 2016, and her dissertation research on gestational diabetes rates in Michigan was accepted by the *Journal of Maternal and Child Health* for publication in May 2017.

Enhancing Health and Physical Activity in Older Adults: An Interprofessional Approach

The majority of health care expenditures are for chronic conditions. More than 75 percent of older adults have at least one chronic condition. Chris Dondzila, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Movement Science Department in collaboration with Elaine Van Doren, Ph.D., professor of nursing in the Kirchof College of Nursing, is examining the impact of an interprofessional approach to enhance physical activity and health in older adults. Physical activity and exercise have long been shown to improve health, yet the vast majority of older adults remain inactive.

This ongoing study is examining the potential role of exercise scientists in creating individualized exercise programs to improve older adults’ health. Nursing students in their community nursing experience are linked with patients through the Grand Rapids Housing Commission. The exercise science faculty members give each resident a health and physical functioning battery of tests, a Fitbit activity tracker, and a resistance band. Goals and workout programs are designed specifically for the individual for an eight-week timeframe. Outcome measures are resting heart rate, blood pressure, balance, walking speed, self-efficacy, social support, and quality of life. The findings will provide support for recommendations for health care exercise interventions.
Lack of Fresh Food Linked to Heart Disease

Jeffrey Wing, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor in the Department of Public Health, and collaborators from the University of Michigan investigated whether social and physical neighborhood characteristics are related to the progression of heart disease, specifically atherosclerosis, using a healthy adult population over a 12-year period. While there is some existing evidence that neighborhood deprivation is related to underlying atherosclerosis, these studies have not identified what aspects of these neighborhoods are responsible for the association. Investigators used coronary calcium as a marker for subclinical disease to identify possible future cardiovascular outcomes like myocardial infarctions or strokes without having to wait for those endpoints to actually occur.

According to Wing, they found that the lack of healthy food stores may help explain why more people living in deprived neighborhoods have heart disease. This study, along with the body of literature, highlights the importance that neighborhoods and environments can have on health. The thought is that greater access to healthier foods may have promoted healthier diets and thus, less coronary plaque formation. It is important to note that diet is not the only way to reduce heart disease risk. Cessation of smoking, being physically active, and engaging in other healthy behaviors are other strategies individuals can do to compensate for limited access to healthy food alternatives. This work was published in Circulation in
Interprofessional Rehabilitation Research Grant

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services awarded a $48,278 Health Innovations Grant to Grand Valley State University's Office of the Vice Provost for Health for a project titled Structuring Interprofessional Collaborative Teams in a Rehabilitation Practice Environment.

Advancing the mission and values of the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MiPERC) for interprofessional practice and education (iPCP), the MiPERC model has been implemented at Breton Rehabilitation of Holland Home. Grand Valley State University health programs have collaborated to place clinical dietetics, exercise science, occupational therapy, social work, and speech-language pathology students at Breton Rehabilitation for their clinical experiences. Future semesters will include physical therapy students.

A MiPERC team conducted interprofessional and collaborative practice (iPCP) training for more than 50 Breton Rehabilitation staff members. Traditional clinical placements pair each student with a staff preceptor to provide care to residents. The interprofessional placement is an extension of traditional clinical placements because it focuses training on acquiring both technical clinical skills and interprofessional collaborative practice skills. One example was the collaboration between a speech-language pathology student and a clinical dietetics student in a swallow screening to identify residents with dysphagia or other associated feeding challenges. A future project requested by Breton Rehabilitation therapy staff is collaboration with movement science faculty and students to assess muscle strength at therapy baseline and at the time of discharge. This project will focus on residents unable to physically perform or process instructions for more comprehensive therapy outcomes or to stand.

This study will evaluate the following impact components of iPCP at Breton Rehabilitation: staff and resident satisfaction and select rehabilitation outcomes, such as functional outcomes measures, length of stay, treatment minutes by staff and discharge destinations, and care level changes. Staff and student evaluation measures include scores on the Interprofessional Perception Scale and the Entry Level Interprofessional Questionnaire tools, program evaluations, and pre- and post-tests on iPCP training modules. Students also complete a reflective questionnaire at the end of their clinical rotations. Quarterly focus groups with students and staff members provide rich feedback to improve team efficiencies.
ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Bolstered by the education and training received at Grand Valley, alumni are making a difference in the health sciences. Their influence ranges from hands-on practice to education to policy creation to support, but what they all have in common is a desire to make a meaningful contribution to their organizations and beyond. What follows are a few inspiring stories of career paths based in commitment and service that have had an impact on health care.
Timothy J. Nelson, ’76, President, Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City, MI

Tim Nelson’s long tenure as the president of Northwestern Michigan College (NMC), combined with his commitment to community, has allowed him to understand the needs of the Traverse City area. A key area that is only increasing in importance is health care.

Nelson serves on the board of trustees for Munson Medical Center and on the finance committee for Munson Healthcare. From his educational leadership post, he has the vantage point of seeing firsthand the role health care education can play in collaboration with the community, including the offerings from Grand Valley in its partnership with NMC.

As an example, the public health master’s program offered by Grand Valley will help play an important role in ensuring a healthy population, Nelson said, both in terms of the work done by students in the program and, perhaps more importantly, their paths after graduation. “A very high percentage
"A very high percentage of students stay in the community or region and that carries through to working together," said Nelson, noting that in the special case of rural areas, organizations find recruiting efforts have a higher probability of success when a professional is from that vicinity.

He sees the link between schools such as his and the local health care system only strengthening as health needs and technology evolve. As educators understand those changing needs, new certifications for jobs that don't even exist today will fill that vacuum, he said. The challenge is providing those services without creating new infrastructures — a leveraging that is accomplished through educational collaborations with Grand Valley and other schools.

“How do you best use the assets and resources of the college? We have huge assets that are unused a good portion of the year. How can they be better deployed?” he said. “I think we have to make that transition.” That type of vision has been a hallmark of a career that had its roots as a mathematics major at Grand Valley. Nelson set out to pursue a career as a forestry engineer, then a lawyer, then a physician. But a chance vacancy as the director of the James M. Copeland Living Center in the 1970s offered his first foray into higher education before he even had earned his bachelor's degree.

After earning a master's degree at Michigan Technological University and then starting his own company, Nelson longed to get back into higher education. He took an administrative position at Olivet College. He worked his way up to a vice president post, where he served as acting president at times, having worked for five different presidents during his relatively short time there. That is one reason he is grateful for the longevity he has had at NMC as its president since 2001. He notes the average community college president tenure is estimated to be just under three years. “I don't know how you get anything done.”

He unquestionably has gotten plenty done in the Traverse City community, from his work on various boards to his innovations at NMC, which have received notice across the state. Evolving education partnerships, such as the one with Grand Valley, also figure into the future for his school. He is grateful for his connection to Grand Valley. In addition to obtaining his degree at GVSU, he and his wife, Nancy Johnson, were married at what is now the Russel H. Kirkhof Center — and he is proud of the atmosphere Grand Valley still has today. He was reminded of that environment when he visited classes after receiving an outstanding alumni award. “It still had that feeling in terms of a liberal arts type orientation and smaller classes with faculty who knew who you were,” he said. “That speaks testaments for an organization that has grown as much as [GVSU] has. GVSU is near and dear to my heart. It's a great university with wonderful leadership. I look forward to more collaboration.”

Patti VanDort, '87 and '02, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Holland Hospital, Holland, MI

Patti VanDort will tell you she is competitive and eager to embrace change in her career. Those traits no doubt have served her well as she ascended from a nursing staff position at Holland Hospital to senior vice president and chief nursing officer at the facility, which serves 150,000 people in the greater Holland area.

During those 30 years at the hospital, she has understandably seen dramatic shifts in the nature of health care. For one, today's patients often receive much of their care outside of an acute care setting through various community options. As an example, VanDort noted that previously nurses would care for cataract in-patients for several days; now that procedure is outpatient and takes minutes to complete. Patients today also tend to be informed consumers with specific expectations. Nurses who care for them navigate ever-changing technology and complete electronic records that are significantly more complex than the handwritten charts used earlier.
Patti VanDort, ’87, ’02

“The difference you make in an individual’s life could be as simple as bringing them a glass of water to something complex where you recognize something that saves their life.”

As she oversees all of these changes in nursing and health care at the 189-bed facility, VanDort keeps in mind a basic tenet that caused her to fall in love with nursing, “The difference you make in an individual’s life could be as simple as bringing them a glass of water to something complex where you recognize something that saves their life.”

She has held a number of leadership roles, from a patient care coordinator to a supervisor of the medical surgical unit to administration. While she misses the instant feedback of direct care, she also relishes the broad thinking and variety of problem solving she encounters. “I can be a mentor to the people making the operational decisions, making an influence toward the care delivered, just not directly,” she said.

Through her oncology experience and other assignments, she developed an affinity for teaching patients about their conditions and treatments. That spurred her to pursue nursing education when she first returned to Grand Valley for her master’s degree in nursing. She foresaw a career in instruction. But she also was moving into leadership positions at the hospital, and she came to realize how much she enjoyed that aspect of health care. She eventually decided instead to pursue a nursing administration emphasis and is grateful for the broad perspectives she was able to acquire, even taking some classes in the Master of Business Administration program to round out her education.

She learned the power of making a difference as a nurse in oncology, which was one of her most fulfilling roles. She also learned the power of the difference those patients made for her. Calling patients with cancer “among the strongest people I know,” she was inspired by how they approached their treatment and how, if they reached a place “where it became obvious that they were not going to experience cure, they made peace with that and became interested in quality of life.”

Jeanne Roode, ’95, Vice President, Clinical Improvement and Integration, Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, MI

Choose happiness, practice mindfulness, and give back. Jeanne Roode has connected those words into a philosophy that she is committed to live by both personally and professionally.

As a nurse who moved into hospital administration — currently serving as vice president for clinical improvement and integration at Spectrum Health — Roode takes a human-centered approach when evaluating the health care system. Her particular passion is setting up a culture where providers take a team-based approach to serving patients and their families, known as a clinical practice model. “I so believe in the concept of a healthy work environment, an interprofessional model of care, and valuing the patient's story as the center of care,” said Roode, who also has served as vice president, surgical services as well as director, emergency, trauma, and neuroscience services for Spectrum Health.

Roode’s beliefs not only make the patient experience better but also set up the circumstances for more successful recovery. Focusing on the patient as
“I so believe in the concept of a healthy work environment, an interprofessional model of care, and valuing the patient’s story as the center of care,” said Roode, who also has served as vice president, surgical services as well as director, emergency, trauma, and neuroscience services for Spectrum Health.

“[...] an individual with specific needs and dynamics, rather than simply someone with a condition that needs treatment, means professionals can design a personalized plan for the best outcome. That approach also includes setting up a cohesive plan among all providers, from nurses to therapists to dietitians, where team members with different discipline goals look at the collective picture. Patients and family members who experience that kind of cooperation, and a commitment to help them navigate the complex health care system, are less likely to feel frustration, she said.

“How many times do we ask patients the same question over and over again? And patients begin to wonder, ‘Are you talking to each other? Is this written somewhere? Is there a plan?’”

Her work on this patient-centered approach extends to her connection with Grand Valley, where she earned her master’s degree in nursing. She is effusive in her praise for how Grand Valley prepared her for her career, calling it “this wonderful gem right there in our backyard.”

The clinical experience was top-notch and flexible, she said. She is grateful for the thought leaders who, through stimulating dialogue, helped shape how she views nursing administration, making her think more systemically. She received individual attention for her goals, a personalized education experience that she said isn’t available everywhere.

And she also appreciates the strong Grand Valley-associated nursing leaders she has encountered, including Linda Bond of the Kirkhof College of Nursing, current Vice Provost for Health Jean Nagelkerk, and Bonnie Wesorick, the namesake for Grand Valley’s Center for Health Care Transformation. Roode serves as the chair of the center’s advisory board, which oversees the mission of finding the best human-centered practices for health care delivery. Wesorick is revered for her innovative approach to centering care on a patient’s particular story.

The Wesorick Center emphasizes good delivery not only for the patients but also the providers. Nurses often work in such stressful, even frantic, environments that they risk burnout, cynicism, or depression, Roode said. “I really think nurses and other health care professionals have to practice extreme self-care to avoid becoming jaded or experiencing compassion fatigue,” she said. “We take (the stress) home. A lot of things can’t be talked about, but there has to be a way to work through that.”

Six words describe the strategies for the next part of her life — choose happiness, practice mindfulness, give back — came to her through an understanding that happiness and mindfulness are both choices and that giving back is imperative, considering her ties to the community and also to Grand Valley. “I’ve had so many wonderful mentors in my nursing career and now it’s my turn,” she said.

Michelle Rabideau, ’93, President, Saint Mary’s Foundation, Grand Rapids, MI

Michelle Rabideau always knew she wanted a career in medicine and envisioned herself involved in direct care. But during a time of re-evaluation, Rabideau realized the better route in health care was in a supportive role where she could help people by utilizing her strategic thinking and business-minded skills.

She went on to use those skills to build not one but two health care development programs from scratch. The first effort was at Hospice of Michigan, and the second was at her current position as president of the Saint Mary’s Foundation, which last year awarded more than $1 million to programs and services for Mercy Health Saint Mary’s.

Rabideau has enjoyed the challenges and opportunities of launching development programs. She believes the formula for success comes down to meaningful interaction with people. “At the end of the day I have the innate sense that it all comes down to relationships,” she said. “When I look at philanthropy, those who...
are successful are those who truly really get the fundamentals of relationships — listening to others, knowing how to really engage people in the work that you’re doing.”

It was a relationship she forged at Grand Valley that helped propel her onto this successful career path. She originally was seeking an M.B.A. at Grand Valley when she realized the coursework wasn’t clicking with her. Her advisor Eleanor French, who oversaw the Master of Public Administration program at the time, suggested she take several classes in that program that could transfer if she wished. Those classes made her direction “instantly clear,” she said. She found a way to marry her passion for health care and serving the community with her business-minded focus and went on to earn a Master of Public Administration degree.

Grand Valley set the foundation for her professional future a number of ways; one of the most crucial was her graduate assistantships. One of her experiences involved working for a nonprofit consulting consortium where she honed her passion for nonprofit management by learning about the variety of community organizations. Her graduate assistantship work also helped her forge a connection with a fellow student who was aware of Hospice of Michigan’s desire to create a development team, just as Rabideau was seeking a full-time job. It turns out her time with the organization was both a professional and personal mission.

Rabideau’s mother died of cancer at age 51, just as Rabideau was starting the M.B.A. program. It was a week later that she met with her advisor to explore a different direction, having learned from her mother’s death at a young age to embrace the philosophy “to truly live your life the way you want to live it and do things that are meaningful and fulfilling.” She called this epiphany one of the “greatest gifts” her mom gave her.

That personal experience with her mother’s untimely death helped give depth to her work at Hospice of Michigan. She saw herself working there for a long time, but then she was offered the opportunity at Saint Mary’s Foundation that she enjoys today, driven by the “rewarding” mission of helping others and having an impact on patients. She has held the position since 2001.

Health care philanthropy is a growing and dynamic field where stakeholders including businesses, individuals, and families see the impact and want to be part of it, she said. The future of such philanthropy will involve addressing evolving needs. “I think the greatest frontier for health care philanthropy is, ‘what does the next generation of health care look like and how does philanthropy play a role in it?’” Rabideau said. Philanthropic efforts have traditionally involved capital campaigns for infrastructure and programs, while “the future will be about supporting those programs that were built,” she concluded.

As she continues on this course that was crystallized while at Grand Valley, Rabideau is grateful for the talent she sees from GVSU through internships as well as staff members who took their first jobs out of college with the foundation and remain after a number of years. “I think that says something about the caliber of the students at Grand Valley,” she said.

**Michelle Rabideau ‘93**

“**It was a week later that she met with her advisor to explore a different direction, having learned from her mother’s death at a young age to embrace the philosophy “to truly live your life the way you want to live it and do things that are meaningful and fulfilling.” She called this epiphany one of the “greatest gifts” her mom gave her.**

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**Nkechy Ezeh, ’92, ’93, Associate Professor and Director of Early Childhood Education Program, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI**

The mission of early childhood education and development is clear and clean, according to local expert Dr. Nkechy Ezeh. “We can really help control the trajectory of a child right from the beginning,” Ezeh said. “Every child is born ready to learn. It’s just a matter of how we set up the environment.” But as always, the details can muddy the purest of goals. A myriad of factors such as family incomes below the poverty level, living in high crime areas, parents’ lack of reliable transportation just to
She teaches parents that play is the best vehicle to help children make sense of the world, and she encourages parents to teach their children by playing with them. “It’s sad when a mother says to me ‘How can I teach play with my child when I didn’t get a chance to play myself?’ It is hard for me to imagine growing up without play!”

name a few, can impede a baby’s brain development during a short time period when it is most receptive for positive input and growth. The lack of exposure to quality early learning environment can often become a missed opportunity that may impact a child’s future ability to succeed in school.

Ezeh, an associate professor at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids and the director of its Early Childhood Education program, sees firsthand how the social determinants of health are irreversibly intertwined with education and brain development. Quite simply, she said, “a child who is living in a challenging physical environment, that lacks economic stability, healthy food, and places to run around outside, is likely to be at greater risk for becoming a sick child and, therefore, one whose total development is compromised.” A child’s wellbeing cannot be compartmentalized and that is why when we talk about their development, we look at five different areas — physical, social/emotional, approaches to learning, thinking, and communication — as being equally important.

Wanting to counter the effects of socioeconomic distress on children has been a driving factor in Ezeh’s career. Shortly after she joined her husband Pius Ezeh (78) in Grand Rapids from Nigeria, she learned she was pregnant. While on a visit to a library, brochures on childhood development piqued her interest, if for no other reason than helping her with her own parenting. She initially planned to take a class or two in childhood development but ended up becoming intensely interested in the field because she quickly understood how development could accelerate in a supportive environment. “I thought, ‘why aren’t all of the vulnerable children getting this [environment]? How can I continue to push for vulnerable children to get this environment?’”

After earning an associate’s degree at Grand Rapids Community College, she transferred to Grand Valley State University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree as well as a master’s degree in early childhood education and teaching. Calling Grand Valley, the “best educational move I ever made in my life,” Ezeh credits her advisor, Education Professor Faite Mack, for inspiring and challenging her. Educators at Grand Valley immediately sent her into the field with children to apply classroom theories and saw her commitment to community involvement.

She has come to realize that early childhood education is about more than teaching children their ABC’s — it truly is about care of the whole child. Referencing again the challenging socioeconomic circumstances that many children face, through no fault of their own, Ezeh noted that infant mental health is a growing field because of the increasing understanding of how difficult environments affect the early development of the brain.

Ezeh offered a heartbreaking example of how generational poverty can thwart the most basic activities for development. She teaches parents that play is the best vehicle to help children make sense of the world, and she encourages parents to teach their children by playing with them. “It’s sad when a mother says to me ‘How can I teach play with my child when I didn’t get a chance to play myself?’ It is hard for me to imagine growing up without play!”

That is why she remains steadfast that the key for developing healthy future generations is to never stop striving for the best environments for children, beginning immediately after birth. “If we can get to them early enough, we can change some of the problems we have right now,” Ezeh said. “A lot of kids are going to special education because we missed a critical opportunity during their early years. Imagine if all the money spent on treatment was spent on prevention!”
Richard Kline, ’08, Senior Deputy Director, State of Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency

Whether it was helping senior citizens as an institutional provider or working to ensure their best experience in a community-based setting, Richard Kline’s health care career has focused on the aging population. Kline, currently the senior deputy director for the state’s Aging and Adult Services Agency, spent much of his career in the private sector, working as an administrator at retirement communities and nursing homes throughout the state.

It was during time in the private sector that Kline pursued his master’s degree in health administration at Grand Valley State University. The timing of that pursuit dovetailed nicely with his career growth at that time. He values the academic work he did with the program, which he said set him on a journey on how to work in areas where there are no clear answers. “I learned how to navigate the gray a little bit better,” Kline said. “The world is not always black and white. There are different agendas wherever you go. I learned how to work with the data and the research out there, trying to come up with the best answers based on the information you worked hard to put together.”

As a working professional and older learner, he appreciated the flexible schedule and small class sizes that paved the way for him to excel in his program. A key benefit of those smaller classes was the ability to learn from other professionals in different health care disciplines and to drill down into industry trends in a way that the day-to-day bustle of a job might not allow.

The challenge he enjoyed as an administrator at an institution was the variety of work involved in operations. Ensuring the best service for the people under his care also meant working closely with marketing, sales, census development, and other areas that made the workday full.

When he transitioned to his current position in the public sector, he found that his work days filled with a markedly different type of work. “Joining the state has been a new adventure,” Kline said. “There is a ton of learning. It’s a really steep learning curve, and I don’t know that it ever goes away. Nothing is routine; it’s very dynamic. Things are always changing, and it’s a very different way to work.”

There are notable contrasts between the two worlds, he said. Rather than the daily pressures that come with running an operation, his challenge now is understanding policy and how that affects those around the state who are working with the aging population. And whereas before he had to go out and find ways to bring dollars into his operation, his focus now is making sure he is efficient with the dollars appropriated to his agency.

The unexpected delight? That nearly every day he gets to meet someone with an impressive level of expertise. He is inspired by the caliber of people he works with and the collective commitment to serving people across the state — not just those working directly with the government but also the “boots-on-the-ground programs” in communities. “Everybody is doing the right things for the right reasons, and I am happy to be part of that.”

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The aging population is a growing, changing demographic that requires collaboration among many different groups to ensure the best services are provided. That commitment, overall, is what has driven him during his career. “It’s the variety of needs that are out there and finding ways to serve that demographic better and better. There’s never a shortage of challenges there and that’s always what I’m interested in.”
The wide-ranging achievement and influence of Grand Valley health professions faculty members are evident through the list of writings, presentations, and recognitions from the 2016-2017 academic year. This compilation underscores the quality and commitment of the faculty members in the health sciences and the pride they bring to the university.
Publications:
Peer-reviewed Journal Articles


Publications: Books, Chapters in Books


Presentations


Awdziejcyk, A., Sherman, R., Potteiger, J., & Otieno, S. (2016, June). Impact of standing up during sprint cycling on power output in female athletes. Presentation at the 64th Annual Meeting, American College of Sports Medicine, Boston, MA.


Bartz, S. (2016, July). Concussion education and heat illness education. Presentation at SHAPE Camp - Health Professions Camp for Middle/High School students, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI.

Bartz, S., & Campbell, A. (2016, September). An interprofessional approach to creating a well-rounded campus healthcare delivery system. Presentation at the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center, GVSU, MSU, FSU, CMU, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners, Grand Rapids, MI.


Beaudoin, C., Tiemersma, K.L., & Lewis, C. (2016, April). Evaluation of student and instructor interests and needs within physical activity course. Presentation at Society of Health and Physical Educators America, Minneapolis, MN.


Gyorkos, A., Dondzila, C., & Morris, K. (2016, November). Exercise is medicine on campus at GVSU. Presentation at the American College of Sports Medicine-Midwest Chapter, Fort Wayne, IN.


Hooogenboom, B. J. (2016, January). Return to sport criteria after ACL reconstruction. Platform Presentation at the Cleveland Clinic Orthopedic Update: The Lower Quarter Conference, Sarasota, FL.


Lown, D. (2016, April). School wellness policy and environment: Perceived engagement and barriers as identified by West Michigan families, principals, teachers and food service directors. Presentation at the Sabbatical showcase, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.


Miller, H., Perreault, A., Sowa, O., & Owen-DeSchryver, J. (2016, January). Being actually autistic. Presentation at Grand Valley State University’s Teach-In day, Allendale, MI.


Nagellkerk, J. (2016, August). Infusing interprofessional collaborative practice model into a federally qualified health center. Presentation at the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education’s Learning Together at the Nexus; National Center Summit on the Future of IPE. Minneapolis, MN.


Reed, J. C., & Sheffield, E. (2016, August). Variation in density of human cranial dura mater using computerized tomography. Presentation at the Student Summer Scholars Showcase, Office of Undergraduate Research, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI.


Rodriguez, R. (2016, June). Home grown solutions hands-on session on low cost unit dose medication packages and carb counting and basal bolus insulin. Presentation at the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning Conference, Grapevine, TX.


Awards and Honors

MIPERC Receives NAP Award

The Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MIPERC) accepted the National Academies of Practice 2017 Interdisciplinary Group Recognition Award. Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health at Grand Valley State University and the MIPERC Advisory Council Chair, accepted the award. Also in attendance were partners from Ferris State University, University of Michigan, and Creighton University, as well as Grand Valley. The award was based on a strong history of MIPERC, innovative products and resources, regional and national contributions, and exemplars of interprofessional research.

MIPERC was originally founded in 2007 by founding partners Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Education Partners, and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. MIPERC now consists of 24 institutions across six states and six champion work groups.

The National Academies of Practice 2017 Interdisciplinary Group Recognition Award acknowledges past and present accomplishments. Some of the local achievements include the launch of a hospital-wide safety transformation initiative, the implementation of a Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Education Project funded by the Department of Defense, an interprofessional collaboration practice (IPCP) weight loss program in two nurse-managed centers, and the integration of students from multiple disciplines at the largest federally qualified health center in Michigan. The award also recognizes the current projects of the MIPERC, which include an interprofessional collaborative practice, IPCP intervention at an inpatient rehabilitation center, and research examining the impact of medical scribes on emergency department efficiency.

Faculty Awards and Honors

Lisa Sisson, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, received the Excellence in Hunger and Environmental Nutrition Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Hunger and Environmental Nutrition practice group at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo in Boston, Massachusetts.

Brian Hatzel, associate professor of movement science, was recognized as the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers’ Association 2017 Outstanding Educator during the GLATA 49th Annual Meeting and Symposium in Wheeling, Illinois. The GLATA Outstanding Educator award recognizes members who have significantly contributed to the education of GLATA members through academic presentations, published manuscripts or editorials, educational program development, or other educational activities.

Mary Green received the Outstanding Case Report Poster award at the Michigan Physical Therapy Association’s Fall Conference.

Bonni Kinne received the Outstanding Professional Poster award at the Michigan Physical Therapy Association’s Fall Conference.

Jennifer VanderPoel, assistant professor of diagnostic and treatment sciences, received the Professional Achievement Award from the Society for Vascular Ultrasound.

Michael Shoemaker was appointed as an associate editor of the Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy Journal.
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Seidman College of Business

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Director of Executive Education Programs
Director of External Relations and Communications
Director of the School of Accounting (Interim)
Chair of Economics (Interim)
Chair of Finance (Interim)
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Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing

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Director of School of Computing and Information Systems
Director of School of Engineering
Chair of Biomedical Engineering Master’s Program
Chair of Computing and Information Systems Master’s Program
Chair of Medical and Bioinformatics Master’s Program
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Help is
ON THE WAY.

Lakers aren’t sitting still. They’re working hard to become the health professionals and nurses that will provide exceptional care for our families and our communities. And it is your support that makes this possible.

Thank you.
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