

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY | 2014-2015

FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE

# ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2014



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A dean of an honors college at another institution recently commented to me that it is hard for an honors director to have a completely bad day. There may be difficult matters on any day: a crammed schedule, many fires to put out, administrative hoops to jump through, frustrating issues that just don't seem to want to get fixed. But sooner or later you will meet with a student, and within a minute or two your whole day will brighten. You will hear enthusiasm about a fabulous class or instructor, excitement about a recently-completed study abroad, passion for a research agenda, delight about better-than-expected job offers, or exhilaration about admission to a top graduate school.

The success of our students is truly amazing., and many of these will be detailed in this report. The profiles of our graduating seniors (published separately) makes for uplifting reading. To single out just one of our recent graduates: Ross Argir, a double major in History and Religious Studies, is headed on scholarship to Cornell Law School next year. He wrote a testimonial for University Public Honors about how the Honors College benefited him and it is striking:

"I chose to attend Grand Valley State University because of its Honors College. This was perhaps the best decision of my academic career. As an undergraduate in the Honors College, I have been able to connect with faculty in a way almost unheard of, and these connections have benefited my education tremendously. Due to the small class sizes and unique learning opportunities found in Honors (such as a class that simulates a counter-terrorism organization), I have been able to develop a meaningful academic relationship with *every* instructor I have had. These relationships and learning opportunities have shaped my education, as well as my career path; I am now pursuing a law degree as a way to enter the counter-terrorism sector. As I applied to graduate school, I had two powerful letters of recommendation to supplement my application, written by Honors faculty. Many of the schools where I have been accepted have commented on how personal and powerful the letters were. In addition to these letters, many admissions representatives mentioned that my status as an Honors student was highly regarded. Honors not only provided me with an outstanding undergraduate education, it also helped open the door to many graduate educational possibilities."

Ross is just one of the students who make us so proud and make my job so fulfilling. As Ross made clear above, the faculty and staff of Honors work hard to create a supportive community which engenders deep learning, creativity, and accomplishment. But the students rise to the occasion and do truly remarkable things. We are delighted to celebrate their successes with them.

Sincerely,



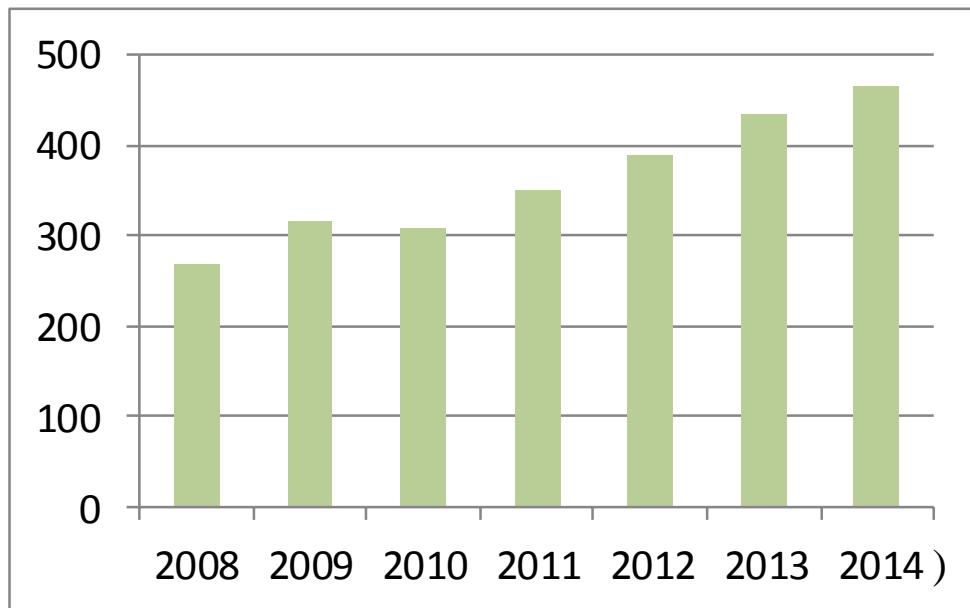
Jeff Chamberlain, Director '



## FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS

⇒ **Enrollment and Retention.** The Meijer Honors College continues to grow dramatically.,.

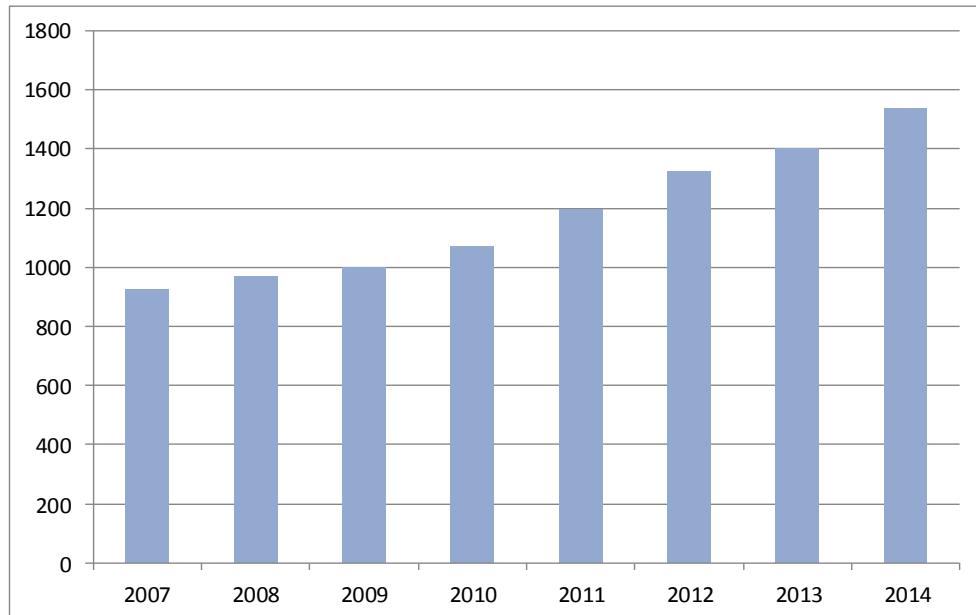
⇒ **Honors freshmen enrollment:** For Fall 2014 we have nearly 8% more matriculants than last year. Below is a chart that shows the growth of freshmen accepted and enrolled into the Meijer Honors College.



It is noteworthy that nearly half of the incoming class of freshmen have ACT scores of 30 or higher. The average ACT of entering freshmen is 29.40 and the average high school GPA is 3.91.

We surveyed our first-year students this year and found out some interesting things. First of all, nearly 80% chose Grand Valley as their first choice. Second, 72% said that the Meijer Honors College was a very important factor in their choosing to attend GVSU (26% said they definitely would not have come had it not been for Honors). Third, it is clearly true that Honors students had many excellent choices—most had been accepted at University of Michigan, Michigan State University, or both. Students were also accepted at institutions like Northwestern, Boston College, University of Minnesota, Loyola University (Chicago), Oberlin, Ohio State, Case Western, Texas A&M, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, Knox College, Franklin and Marshall College, Skidmore College, etc. They came to Honors at Grand Valley for three main reasons: the unique curriculum and exceptional faculty, the friendly and nurturing environment, and the outstanding facilities.

⇒ **Honors total enrollment:** Growth in the freshman class has markedly boosted enrollment in Honors overall, but so has improved retention. Not only are we enrolling more students, but we are retaining more too. Whereas a few years ago it was not uncommon for 20% of the freshmen to fall below a 3.2 GPA (the cutoff for remaining in good standing in Honors) after their first semester; this year the figure was cut to under 15%.

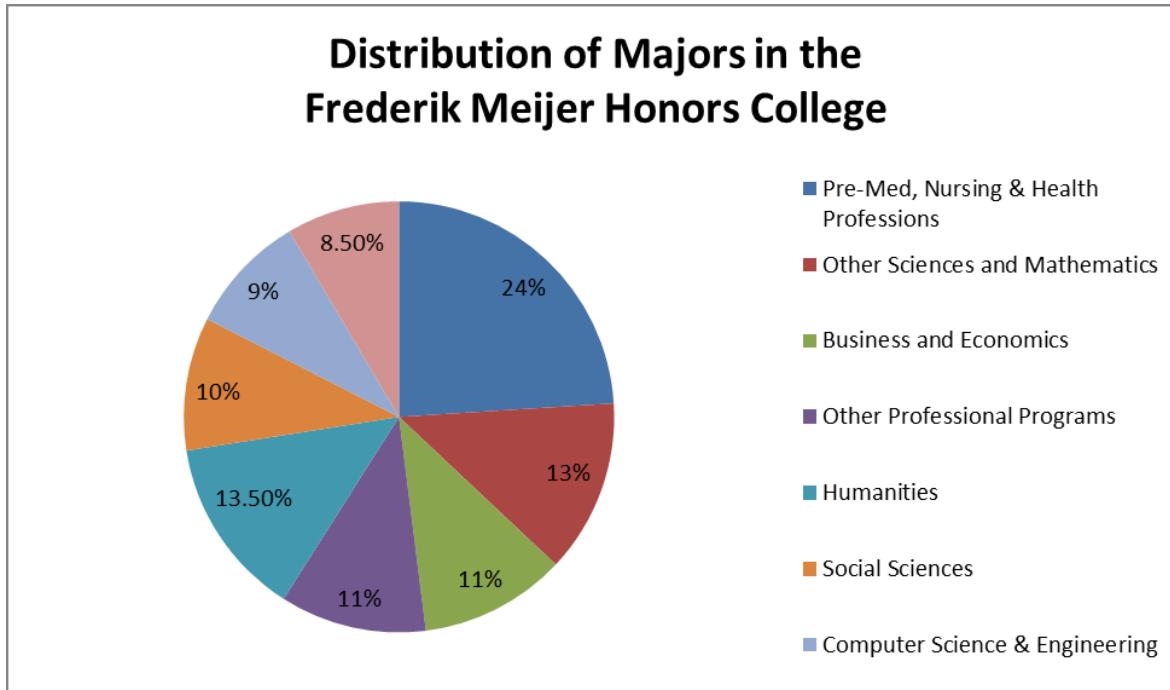


☒ **Retention and Graduation Rates of Honors Students at Grand Valley.** Grand Valley retains and graduates Honors students at a significantly higher rate than undergraduates overall. In terms of retention, the university's freshman to sophomore retention rate is 80%, whereas Honors is 92%. Even if a student does not stay in Honors for her/his entire undergraduate career, if s/he starts in Honors, the odds are good that s/he will stay at Grand Valley and graduate in good time. While you compare the graduation rates below, keep in mind that many Honors students major in disciplines which have demanding curricula that often extend a program beyond four years, and most study have two or more areas of concentration (majors and minors).

Co-hort	GVSU 4-year graduation rate	Honors 4-year rate	GVSU 5-year graduation rate	Honors 5-year rate	GVSU 6-year graduation rate	Honors 6-year rate
2009	36.70%	65.40%				
2008	31.30%	51.90%	58.20%	73.50%		
2007	33.00%	54.30%	62.90%	83.90%	69.50%	86.80%
2006	31.40%	59.00%	57.60%	79.30%	65.70%	83.70%
2005	29.70%	54.20%	55.90%	78.30%	63.30%	81.60%
2004	26.30%	45.50%	53.80%	73.50%	61.10%	76.50%

☒ **Honors Living Centers.** Honors now has three dedicated living centers: Niemeyer Learning and Living Center, Hills Honors Living Center, and Pickard Honors Living Center, the latter two on north campus. All told, nearly 380 freshmen are living in Honors housing.

Meijer Honors College students have **diverse educational goals**. The following chart shows the breakdown of student majors.



Programs in which 10% or more of the majors are Honors students (the average is 5%) include Biomedical Science, Biopsychology, Business Economics, Business, Cell & Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Classics, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, International Business, International Relations, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Pre-Medical Technology, Statistics, Theatre, and Writing. It should be noted, as well, that 50% carry a minor and 26% carry a double major, and not a few students have both a double major and a minor. Nearly 10% of Honors students have a foreign language for a minor.

Honors students are engaged in wide array of activities and are leaders around campus and in the community. The following represents just a few of the organizations and activities in which Honors students participate: Student Senate, Honors Community Council, Cooke Leadership Academy, Resident Housing Association, Sign Language Club, Lacrosse Club, Rowing Club, Humane Society, Amnesty International, Civil War Club, Marching Band, Pre-Med Club, Math and Statistics Club, Biology Club, French Club, Pre-PT Club, Pre-PA Club, Yoga Club, Unicycling Club, Swing Dancing Club, Dance Troup, Skating Club, Campus Crusade, Campus Ministry, Intervarsity, Intramural sports, American Institute of Graphic Arts, Water Ski Club, Synchronized Swimming Team, fraternities and sororities, Alternative Spring Breaks, Mission Trips, Rock Climbing Club, Fencing Club, Teachers of Tomorrow, A Cappella groups, GVSU Opera, Theatre, Orchestra, and Band, Writing Consultants, Tutors, etc. This year our seniors reported that 52% of them were officers of organization, and nearly 25% were leaders of more than one organization. Many were founders of a service organization or club. 27% were mentors or tutors, and nearly 15% were R.A.s

## THE FREDERIK MEIJER LECTURE SERIES

Twice annually the Frederik Meijer Honors College hosts a lecture endowed by the Meijer Foundation. The lectures focus on the importance of cross-disciplinary and liberal arts learning to a successful career. Lecturers focus on issues of leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship from the perspective of students, faculty, and participants in business throughout the region.

The Meijer Lecture Series had outstanding speakers this past year.

On Monday, November 17, 2013, we held "An Evening With Brian Walker." Mr. Walker is CEO of Herman Miller, and he spoke about the challenges of leadership in fast-paced industry. He emphasized that we should think of our careers as Christmas trees rather than ladders because they will not always seem like a direct climb to the top—there will be many different jobs that one takes on in a lifetime. That also means having as many skills as possible. Herman Miller employs people with many different backgrounds because they company needs interdisciplinary teams in developing and marketing products.



Bill Holsinger-Robinson, the Meijer Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, interviews CEO of Herman Miller, Brian Walker (on the left).

## THE FREDERIK MEIJER LECTURE SERIES

On Monday, February 24, 2014, we held "An Evening With Mary Coucher." Ms. Coucher is a regional Vice President for IBM. In particular, she handles much of IBM's Intellectual Property business including Patent and Technology Licensing Engineering, Geography Business Development and Financial Operations. In this role, Mary's scope includes technical support of IBM's \$1B income licensing business, and complex deal negotiation across the globe with a wide variety of clients and IBM's research labs. Bill Holsinger-Robinson, the Meijer Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, interviewed Mary. In the course of the evening, attendees learned valuable details about how to prepare for such a career as Ms. Coucher's. In essence, one should prepare for all eventualities, which means getting a broad education as well as training in specific fields or expertise. She made a strong pitch, too, that we should all read, read, read—read anything and everything, because you never know how your knowledge will help in your dealings with people.





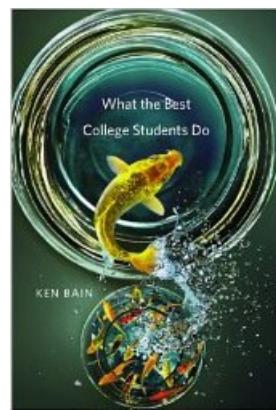
## HONORS WELCOME DAYS

For years the Honors College has welcomed incoming freshmen with programming before the Fall semester begins which is designed to get them connected and informed about Honors and university life. This past year, our mentors helped us improve this programming significantly. First of all, they came up with a new name, "Honors Welcome Days" (for which Honors student and Graphic Design Major, Nick Ciliak, designed the logo pictured above), then they worked closely and effectively in small groups and individually with incoming students. It is a combination of fun and orientation.



Honors Freshman Class 2013 '

This year, Honors Welcome Days included a discussion of Ken Bain's recent book, *What the Best College Students Do*. We had a panel made up of students and faculty who discussed the book and its implications (see photo), and were amazed that we had so many attendees. Ken Bain himself visited campus in September and talked about the implications of the book with students. Bain was so impressed with our students, that he asked several of them to consult on a new edition of the book.



Above: Honors freshman pack the Pere Marquette Room for the panel discussion on *What the Best College Students Do* at Honors Welcome Days.

Below: Ken Bain speaks to students early in the Fall semester.



## THE FREDERIK MEIJER OFFICE OF FELLOWSHIPS &

### Mission Statement

**"Advising and supporting students and alumni to achieve the extraordinary by matching their dreams to prestigious fellowship and scholarship awards and other opportunities."**

### A Brief History

The Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships was established in the Fall 2009 semester through a generous financial gift provided by the Meijer Foundation, and was renamed in January 2012. To better serve GVSU student scholars, the Fellowship Office moved in June 2013 and is now co-located with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship in 230 Mary Idema Pew Library Learning & Information Commons. Although we "share a front door," we report to separate units: fellowships reports to the Frederik Meijer Honors College Director and OURS reports to the Provost's Office. The fellowships office staff (a director and an academic year graduate assistant) provide nationally prestigious scholarship and fellowship advising services to GVSU students, both honors and non-honors, and alumni.

### Fun Facts

- ♦ GVSU students and alumni have been offered nearly \$1 million dollars in nationally competitive award monies since 2009.
- ♦ 40 GVSU students and alumni were offered nationally competitive fellowships this AY 13-14.
- ♦ 80 GVSU students and alumni applied for nationally competitive awards and received support from the fellowships office staff through the intricate application process.
- ♦ ~600 fellowships advising appointments were scheduled.

### Who Sought Fellowship Advising in AY 13-14?

#### Most Common Majors:

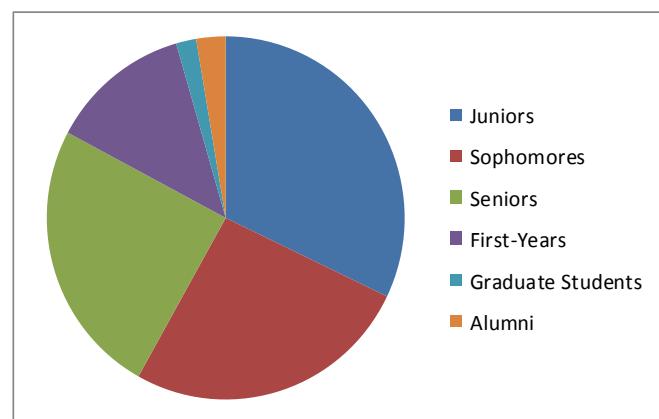
- #1: Psychology
- #2: Biomedical Science
- #3: International Relations
- #4: Public Administration
- #5: Liberal Studies

#### Most Common Minors:

- #1: Spanish
- #2: Sociology
- #3: German
- #4: International Relations
- #5: East Asian Studies

### Top Reasons Students Made an Appointment

- #1: General Fellowships Advising
- #2: Study Abroad Funding
- #3: Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
- #4: Graduate School Funding
- #5: U.S. Student Fulbright Scholarship



## AY 13-14 Workshop Series

September 4 & 11: Gilman Info Sessions for  
October National Deadline  
September 8: Gilman Writing Workshop  
September 18: Goldwater Info Session  
September 25: Boren Info Session  
October 2, 9, & 16: Fellowships 101 Info Sessions



## AY 2013-14 Award Outcomes

**Alexandra Bouza\***, *chemistry* received an *Honorable Mention* from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Foundation.

**Abigail DeHart\***, *Classics & philosophy* major was one of only 8 students from across the nation named a Josephine DeKarman Scholar. This \$14,000 prestigious scholarship will provide financial support during her graduating senior year.

**David Leestma**, *international relations* major was awarded a \$20,000 National Security Education Program Boren Scholarships for AY 14-15 year to study Arabic in Jordan. He declined and accepted the Barbara H. Padnos Study Abroad Scholarship to instead study in the West Bank.

**David Leestma**, *international relations* major and **Seth Price\***, '14, *anthropology* major/Honors College, received Critical Language Scholarships to study Arabic in Morocco during summer 2014.

**Rachel Schwalier**, *biology* major, '04, was awarded a P.E.O. Scholar award to support her Ph.D. studies at Leiden University and Naturalis Biodiversity Center in the Netherlands during the AYU 14-15.

## U.S. Student Fulbright Scholarship Recipients: A New Record

**Lydia Benkert**, '12, *theatre*, **Ghana**, will research and produce a play about modern-day child slavery.

**Anne Giocondini**, '14, *English-Secondary Teaching*, will teach English in Ukraine.

**Erin Lutenski**, '13, *German/Applied Linguistics*, will teach English in Germany.

**Hayley Pangle**, '13, *History/Anthropology*, will teach English in Azerbaijan.

**Kathryn Phelan**, '11, *International Relations/ Spanish*, will teach English in Brazil.

**Rylee Mieleki**, '12, *anthropology*, is currently teaching English in Brazil. (AY 13-14 applicant)

October 15: Funding Study Abroad Workshop with the Padnos International Center  
October 23: Udall Info Session  
October 30: Truman Info Session  
November 6: Gilman Info Session for March National Deadline  
November 19: Boren Info Session with Katie Davis from the National Security Education Program  
March 25, 26, & 27: U.S. Student Fulbright Program Info Sessions

## Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Recipients

**GVSU  
remains a top  
producer of  
Gilman  
Scholars  
in the  
nation.**

\*\*\*

**GVSU  
students  
received a  
total of  
\$80,500  
this AY.**

### Fall 2013 or AY 13-14

**Mario Amaya-Velazquez\***, *international relations*, Jordan

**Angela Cluley**, *social work*, Costa Rica

**Samantha Holman**, *mathematics*, Tanzania

**Katie LaRue**, *international relations*, Costa Rica

**Elizabeth Obetts**, *exercise science*, Dominican Republic

**Steven Plominski\***, *anthropology*, Jordan, McMillan

**Angela Smith**, *psychology*, China

**Cenique Yeldell**, *communications*, Costa Rica

**Emny DeLeon**, *accounting*, Dominican Republic

**Deqa Elmi**, *public administration*, Ghana

**Kaylin Klein**, *international relations*, Japan

**Bailey Tucker\***, *biochemistry*, Ghana

### Winter 2014

**Michael Dykstra\***, *physics*, Peru

**Anna Harris**, *biology*, Costa Rica

**Mary Hoekje\***, *Spanish*, Chile

### Summer 2014 &

**Sam Batdorff\***, *special education-elementary*, Ghana

**Alyssa Boike**, *mathematics-secondary education*, Tanzania

**Kait Bowman**, *photography*, Italy

**Anthony Clemons\***, *sociology & women and gender studies*, South Africa

**Amy Gardner**, *English language arts-elementary education*, Ghana

**Jessica Gibbs**, *public and nonprofit administration-public health*, South Africa

**Kendall Farkas**, *Classics and anthropology*, Italy

**Liz Glowacki**, *English language arts-elementary education*, Netherlands

**Jazmin McMullen**, *English language arts-elementary education*, Netherlands

**Amber Null**, *psychology*, Chile

**Morgan Olson**, *liberal studies*, Ghana

**Casey Overway\***, *psychology & women and gender studies*, South Africa

\*-denotes member of the Frederik Meijer Honors College

## THE FREDERIK MEIJER FIRST GENERATION HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

- Fall 2014.** Five Fredrik Meijer First Generation Honors College Student Scholarships were awarded this year.:

- Taylor Brown (right)** is from Grant, Michigan (though she grew up in the Seattle area). She was a yearbook editor, captain of her track and field team, and was a mentor in the Lead Out Program, in which she and some of her peers coached eighth graders on leadership skills. She traveled to Germany in summer 2013 in order to visit a friend who was a foreign exchange student. She loved it, so she is learning German and hopes to study abroad.



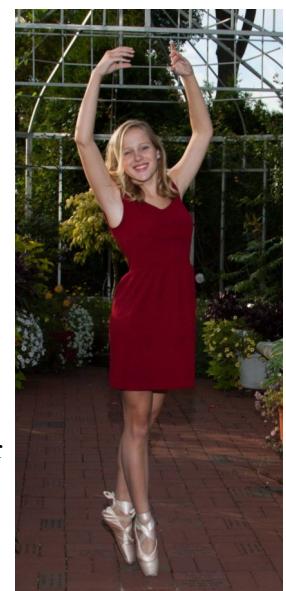
- Brody Cragg** (left) is from Oakley, MI. He was a strong leader in high school in Student Council, Key Club, Kiwanis, Art club, and theatre. He is a dedicated runner. He plans on pursuing a major in Honors Economics and a minor in LGBT Studies. After he completes his undergraduate degree is completed, he hopes to head out to the west coast to pursue a law degree at one of the UCs or Stanford. He is currently thinking about becoming an attorney for the ACLU or some



- Justine Cucchi** (right) is from Clinton Township, MI. She did extraordinarily well at Cardinal Mooney High School, despite the fact that she deliberately took courses outside of her comfort zone. Justine plans to double major in Anthropology and Classics, and would like to be a professor of Classical Archaeology in the future.



- Makayla Sanchez** (left) attended Manistee Catholic Central High School, and was involved in several Honors societies, including the High School Inaugural Presidential Scholars (in which she got to travel to Washington D.C. for the second inauguration of President Obama). At this time, she is thinking of working in higher education in the area of student life.



- Tara Wallen** (right) is a graduate of Trenton High School in Trenton, Michigan. Her life passions include dance, travel, and the French language. She plans to major in Hospitality and Tourism Management, and dreams to one day work at Walt Disney World. She loves the arts and would much rather see a local play than a blockbuster movie. She spent three weeks in France but has a strong desire to do more international travel.

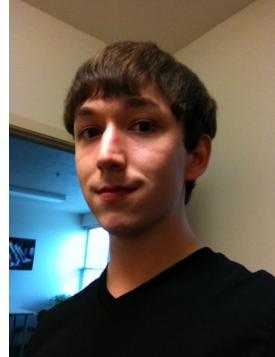
**Fall 2013.** The recipients from Fall 2013, **Roxana Dumitrache, Gloria LaCourse, Dayne Martinez, and Rachael Vruggink** are all flourishing. **Roxana** wrote that "My first year at GVSU and as part of the Honors College has been extraordinary. The honors professors not only taught us the subject, but really motivated us to be curious, get involved, and use our knowledge. For that reason, I was able to get a job in my field, at a pharmacy, because I was motivated to use my knowledge and search for available opportunities. Besides having a job in my field, I was also part of PALS student mentors, and pre-pharmacy club. My plans for the future are still to become a pharmacist and take that extra step to becoming a positive influence on healthcare worldwide. Because I received the General Chemistry Award my freshman year and was an honoree of Phi Kappa Phi, I am even more motivated and certain that I will be able to achieve my goals." **Gloria** commented that "This past year I've grown so much as a person from the faculty in the Honors College. My professor, Craig Benjamin, really brought out the best in me and all of the students in our class. From him, we became a family of some sort and I personally matured greatly, did a lot of deep thinking, and really changed my perspective on the world. Outside of the curriculum, I received a summer internship at the accounting firm Plante Moran and am currently working there, hopefully to later get another full time internship during tax season. I then hope to get offered a full-time job at Plante Moran to start my career as an auditor!" **Dayne** explained that "I am majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology with a minor in Chemistry. I am a member of the MD/PhD club. This summer I have been performing research with Dr. Merritt Taylor's lab where I have been working with neural stem cells. I will be working as an honors mentor, and I intend on applying to be a biology/chemistry tutor this fall. After my undergraduate years I intend on applying to an MD/PhD program. Currently my interests are neuroscience and stem cell biology. My honors sequence, Classical World, not only helped me develop my analytical and communication skills, but it also introduced me to fascinating topics that my math/science intensive course schedule would not normally allow me to explore (I especially enjoyed learning about classical philosophers). **Rachael** wrote that "I'm currently a major in Advertising and Public Relations with a minor in Non-Profit Administration. I would love to have a career that feels fulfilling and that in some way can give back to my community. I am involved in PRRSA and Ad Club. Being in Honors and having a freshman sequence class also gave me a group of peers who I could always feel comfortable around. For incoming students who are considering honors, I would encourage them to do it! In more ways than one, freshman year wasn't what I had expected it to be. I didn't expect to love Grand Valley as much as I do, and I didn't expect to make such deep connections with other students."



Roxana Dumitrache



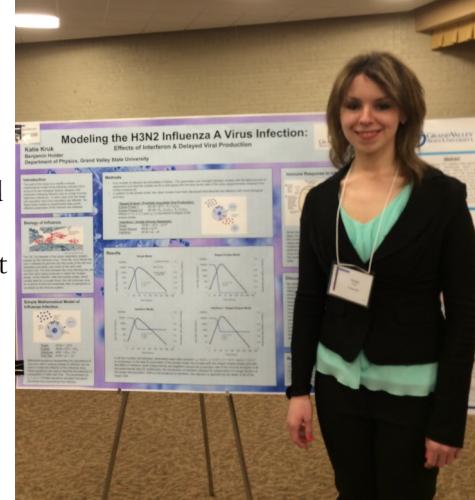
Gloria LaCourse '



Dayne Martinez '

Fall 2012. **Katie Kruk**, **Liana Periard**, and **Caitlin Rykse**, are doing amazing things:

- **Katie** (right) has a double major in Pre-Med Tech and Physics, and minors both in Chemistry and Mathematics. Katie commented: "During this past year, I was involved in both Pre-Medicine Club and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and I was also Co-Treasurer of the Physics Club. I worked at the Science Success Center as a tutor in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, and I did research with Dr. Benjamin Holder in the Physics Department on the Dynamics of the Influenza Virus (that I presented at Student Scholars Day in April 2014). Through all of this, I managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA. I am planning on pursuing Medical School after my undergraduate career at Grand Valley State is complete, though I am doing research this summer (summer of 2014) in Biophysics (on DNA looping in Genetic Regulation) at the University of Michigan to help me decide if an MD/PhD would be a career path that I would like to follow."



- **Liana** is majoring in Liberal Studies and minoring in International Relations and Management. She wrote that "Through the wonderful opportunities I've had throughout my sophomore year, it is clear that the Frederik Meijer Honors College at Grand Valley State University has set me up for success. I spent the year taking challenging courses in a variety of subjects and serving as a Human Resources Intern in the Student Employment Services office at Grand Rapids Community College. This summer I am getting my first experience in a corporate business environment as a Human Capital Planning and Employee Relations Intern at the Amway World Headquarters in Ada. I look forward to building upon my professional and academic experience this upcoming fall semester when I study abroad in Nicosia, Cyprus, which will be partially funded by the \$5,000 Mark and Elizabeth Murray Scholarship for Study Abroad awarded by the Padnos International Center. I can't wait to see what lies ahead during the final years of my undergraduate degree!"
- **Caitlin** is an English Education major with a Psychology minor and aspires to be a school counselor. Caitlin wrote: "This past year, I began working as a Peer Research Consultant in the highly innovative and unique Knowledge Market at GV. This job has provided me with highly specific training in all things research, as well as the topics of peer pedagogy and sustaining a sense of self-efficacy in students. I also had the opportunity to present and share information about our Knowledge Market and its services at the Mid-East Honors Association. Furthermore, for the first month of summer "break", I was studying and teaching abroad in the Netherlands. I was placed in United World Colleges – Maastricht and simultaneously taught while taking classes on learning how to teach English as a second language and teaching language arts. This was an incredibly invaluable experience. The daily challenges I faced and overcame transformed my philosophies on education as well as taught me innumerable lessons about myself and what it means to be a great teacher. In the future I intend to be a revolutionary in the field of education and counseling."



**Fall 2011.** The recipients from 2011, **Jacob Bart** and **Amanda Borieo**, are doing very well. **Jacob** is progressing in his English and Film & Video double major. He noted that “I’ve had the pleasure of really delving into coursework for each of those two majors over the course of the last year, but perhaps the most rewarding project I completed was in my Honors Human Body in Motion class. Two other group members and myself designed, submitted, tested, and reported a scientific study on the relationship between music and heart rate. It was challenging to participate in something so far afield from my usual course of study and gratifying to know I could do well with it. Currently, I am researching internship opportunities with a focus on available positions near my Chicagoland home.” **Amanda** writes: “Since I began school at GVSU, I have grown into an individual that I may be proud of. GVSU, and especially the Honors College, has taught me to take advantage of every opportunity given and to take pride in all that I do. Grand Valley offers much hands on academic experiences. As an exercise science student I have been given the opportunity to conduct my own research project with the use of the equipment Grand Valley owns. This hands on learning has allowed me to gain confidence in myself and the knowledge that I possess. With this knowledge that I have gained, I plan on pursuing the biggest dream I have ever had, to continue onto grad school, earn my DPT, and go on to make difference in my field.”

**Fall 2010.** We are very proud of our inaugural Meijer First Generation Scholarship recipient, **Katrina Maynes**, who completed her degree in four years and graduated in April. As a history major, she distinguished herself in Honors and at Grand Valley—she was an officer of the *Grand Valley Journal of History* and published in it, President of Grand Valley chapter of the history honors society Phi Alpha Theta, lead research consultant in the Mary Idema Pew Learning and Information Commons, and a member of the prestigious Phi Kappa Phi honors society. She worked closely with several outstanding history and Honors faculty members, and presented in numerous conferences, both on and off campus. Katrina was accepted to graduate history programs at Oxford, Cambridge, and St. Andrews (in Scotland), and decided to attend Cambridge. Katrina was selected as the chapter fellow of Phi Kappa Phi, which made her a candidate for a national fellowship award for graduate school. Mark Murray featured her at the Grand Valley Foundation Enrichment Dinner.



Katrina Maynes at the Louvre during her study abroad experience in France '

## IMPACTING COMMUNITIES HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD

**Mentor Council.** For the 2013-14 year, a few returning Honors freshmen mentors formed a Mentor Council to run the mentor program more effectively and keep mentors accountable. They did a fabulous job—it was very clear that mentors were much more consistent in their work with the freshmen, than they had been previously. The Mentor Council set standards, trained mentors, developed programming, and made sure that mentors were fulfilling their roles. Anna Urban was the student who came up with the idea and pulled the council together (her contribution will be detailed below in the student awards section), but Meghan Jordon, Erin Erickson, and Sarah Thornton took the helm of the Council and coordinated activities for Honors Welcome Days 2013. They also presented their innovation at Indiana University/Purdue University—Indianapolis's National Mentoring Symposium in November. Many students from around the country presented at this conference, but Meghan, Erin, and Sarah were the only students at the conference who presented about *ta student initiated and led initiative*.

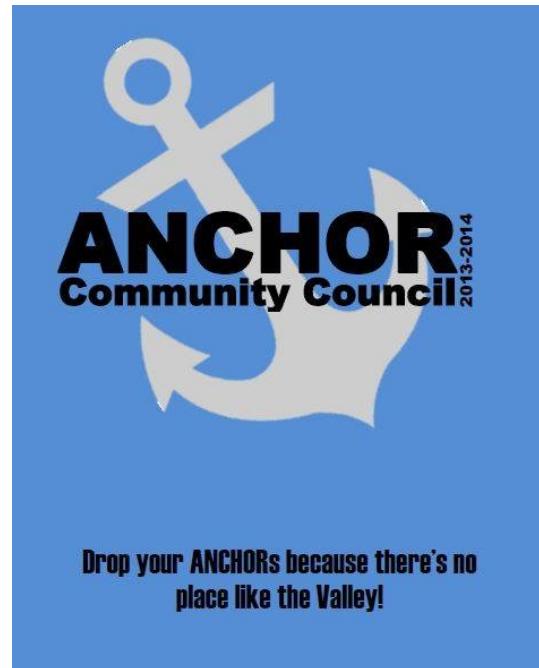


From left: Erin Erickson, Sarah Thornton, and Meghan Jordon at the IUPUI National Mentoring Symposium.

**ANCHOR**, the Honors Community Council, coordinated programming in the Meijer Honors College in social, service, and academic areas. The council operates with an executive board of officers, and last year had over 100 involved in the whole organization. Below are a sampling of the initiatives and events that Honors students put on this past year:

- Pop(sicle) Social '
- Fundraising for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (bake sales, penny wars, collection jar, candy grams, pie an R.A., etc.) '
- Annual Talent Show '
- Volunteered at Kid's Food Basket
- Homecoming Team Lip-sync '
- Halloween Party '
- Relay for Life Team (with Murray and VanSteeland teams) '
- Clothing Drive '

- Trivia Night
- Spelling Bee
- Mr. ANCHOR Pageant
- Participated and Presented at the Mid-East Honors Association Annual Meeting
- Hot Chocolate night with Professors
- Open Mic Night
- Volunteered at Comprenew, Grand Rapids
- Volunteered at YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter
- Assisted in planning and coordination of Dickinson Day, when Elementary School students visited GVSU to get a vision for their own future in college
- Photo Booth with Santa (a.k.a. Dr. J)—fundraiser for Challenging Heights
- Carnival to raise money to sponsor a child at Challenging Heights
- Raised over \$1000 overall, and sponsored a child at Challenging Heights (see Ghana program below for more information)



**Drop your ANCHORs because there's no place like the Valley!**



Members of the ANCHOR Executive Board at the "Mr. ANCHOR Pageant"



ANCHOR helped plan and facilitate the visit of Dickinson Elementary School to campus '



- ☒ **Mid-East Honors Association Conference, April 4-6, 2014.** The Meijer Honors College hosted the Mid-East Honors Association conference in Grand Rapids in the spring. Jeff Chamberlain is president of the regional honors association, Janaan Decker is secretary/treasurer, and two Meijer Honors College students—Jonathan Cook and Scott St. Louis—are members of the board. Together with the logistical support of Sarah Tibbe, a student worker in the Honors College Office, they made all of the arrangements, solicited proposals for presentations, and ran all of the activities. Twenty-five Meijer Honors College students and five Grand Valley faculty presented at the conference, and students from ANCHOR facilitated sessions. Sarah Aman, a senior Grand Valley Honors and Graphic Design student, won the logo competition. There were nearly 200 attendees from 20 universities in five different states (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and West Virginia).



Jonathan Cook at his poster presentation



Entertainment by Midwest Skies, started by Honors alumnus, Ryan Ykimoff



The Laker Quartet performed.



Jeff Chamberlain presents prizes for poster presentations

# Bring the Green

GR Jumps into Spring!

Join us for a fun day of activities to say goodbye to winter, and hello to spring!

**Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Heartside Park, Grand Rapids**

**Noon – 6PM**

**Visit us at [www.bringthegreengr.com](http://www.bringthegreengr.com)**

Event	Time
Fitness Activities	
Yoga	All Day
Zumba	12:30 - 1:30 PM, and 3 - 4 PM
Turbokick	1:30 - 2:30 PM, and 5 - 6 PM
Insanity	4 - 5 PM
Games and Activities	
Sidewalk chalk	All Day
Capture the Flag	1 - 2:30 PM (registration starts at noon)*
Scavenger Hunt	3 - 4 PM (registration starts at 2PM)*
Ultimate Frisbee	3:30 - 5 PM (registration starts at 2:30PM)
Pre and Post Event Activities	
Park cleanup and setup	10 - 12 AM
Park cleanup and teardown	6 - 8 PM

\*Events subject to change, please check website for most recent schedule

*Kids' activities hosted by:*  
Helen DeVos Children's Hospital  
Grand Valley's Quidditch Team

Food and refreshments available at Pigs Eatin' Ribs, as well as other vendors.



"Bring the Green" team.

**Study and Service Abroad.** Approximately 40% of Honors seniors reported studying abroad at some point during their college career (as reported in their graduate profiles). What is particularly interesting is that **more** students traveled to developing countries than those who went to developed countries. Graduates reported traveling to the following countries: The Philippines, China, Peru, South Africa, Costa Rica, Israel, South Korea, France, Hungary, Poland, India, Thailand, Nicaragua, Jordan, Spain, Italy, Ghana, and Germany. Blogs from some of our students can be found on the Honors study abroad web page: <http://gvsu.edu/honor/study-abroad-options-59.htm>. For years, Honors has promoted study abroad by having students, faculty, and staff put “pins” on places they have been on the large world map in the lobby of the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center. Now, the map has gone virtual. We installed a large touchscreen in the place of the map, and people can access the system from any computer or smart device. To see where our constituents are traveling (and enter your own), go to <http://www.gvsu.edu/honor/map-pins.htm>.



For years, this wall map inspired students to study abroad—it has now been replaced by a virtual map. '

**Nicaragua Service-Learning Trip.** Prof. Paul Lane, who has led innovation workshops (through his organization, Applied Global Innovation Initiative) in Nicaraguan for 16 years, now invites Honors students to join him in May to help with the initiative. Prof. Lane works in partnership with several key Nicaraguan universities, and collaborates with Kendal College of Art and Design, Izzy Plus, and other organizations and individuals. Four Honors students went with him in 2013, and seven participated this past May. The students were fully involved in the initiative, and helped facilitate the five-day workshop (pictured at right) with 170 students.



Jordan Vanderham, who just finished his first year in Honors, offered a workshop on building solar panels (Jordan is standing on the right in the picture below).



The Honors students contributed in major ways. According to Prof. Lane, Honors students:

- Prepared well in advance of the trip by procuring supplies, designing projects, and consulting with project advisors
- Led special workshops
- Worked with officials at the Nicaraguan universities on other workshops
- Took leadership in coordinating and building two playgrounds, and solved problems that arose (see images next page)
- Managed many of the day-to-day logistics for the trip
- Participated avidly on all facets of the innovation initiative



Ross Ezinga, an Honors alumnus, held a separate water workshop in Matagalpa for Nicaraguan students and faculty (picture right: Ross, in back row on left, poses with workshop participants and the filters they built).

Jaclyn Ermoyan, who went after her first year in Honors, commented that: "Only by going on this trip did I learn the true meaning of Adventure. When studying abroad you learn the ability to adapt to new places, languages, and build relationships with students and professors alike from many different backgrounds. Seeing the joy that came from the playground building project that I was the project leader of, was evidence enough of the impact this trip makes in Nicaragua every year. Nicaragua is a beautiful country with an even more beautiful culture. Overall, my time with AGII helped me discover a passion for innovation and sustainability, and left me excited to expand my knowledge on business strategy and product design." Glenn Fitkin, another Honors student, wrote: "The entire AGII trip was an experience I will never forget. I was thrown into Nicaraguan culture and had to learn how to cope with such a dramatically different way of life. I was out of my comfort zone for the entire three weeks, but I loved it. I was able to interact with a very large number of Nicaraguan people and learn from them, as well as teach them about the culture I come from. The experience was nothing like what I ever could have expected, but it was also much more rewarding than I expected. I am motivated to do more work in Nicaragua in the future. It became incredibly apparent to me how just one person can make such a large difference in a country like Nicaragua; I hope to be able to have the same sort of effect throughout the rest of my life."



Nicaraguan children play on a "musical cart," which Honors students helped design and build. The cart was built from a felled tree, cut bamboo and steel pipes.



Assembling the pipes on the "musical cart."



Jaclyn Ermoyan with Nicaraguan children on the "musical cart."



Glenn Fitkin assists in the solar panel workshop.'

**The Meijer Honors College Ghana Initiative** continued for a sixth year. The main focus of the program is to help children who were rescued from enslavement in the fishing industry to recover from their ordeal and develop full, productive lives. In fact, the program is not just a summer event—students are so affected by their experience on the trip that the work never stops.

Challenging Heights, GVSU, is a student organization that was formed in 2012, and this last year accomplished a great deal. Participants held weekly meetings, held a number of events to raise money and awareness for Challenging Heights, hosted a Ghana Night, volunteered with Rays of Hope to send medical supplies to Ghana, and set up a satellite “Challenging Heights: American Academy” with a middle school in Colorado (where students raise money and awareness for CH).

In summer 2014, three staff and fifteen students traveled to Ghana for a seven-week program. It was a life-changing event for students. Following is a short list of initiatives and accomplishments, compiled by the faculty director, Dr. Azizur Molla:

- The HNR 281 class (NGOs in the Ghanaian Context) went to field trip to ABAN - an NGO rescuing and empowering women;
- We all met Mr. Kwasi Gyan-tutu a local Member of Parliament (MP) who invited GVSU to spend some time working with health, water and sanitation, and other developmental fields in 2015;
- We hosted a thank you dinner for professors/instructors and the International Program Office administrator & selected staff, University of Ghana (UG). All UG stakeholders were so pleased to our gesture of gratefulness. In their words that was the only event done ever by any study abroad team and it was so well organized. In the dinner the faculty director explained the program and roles the leadership team, he also highlighted how the transition works with the program. The students also shared their experience and satisfaction with the program. The student performed a song that they learned in Fante language class. The audience was so impressed;
- Worked in the village of Atekyedo cleaning water filters (installed on a previous trip) and considering how best to develop the cassava house.



Students thanking the Atekyedo village chief and elders '

- It was nice to work with Challenging Heights (CH) and Ghana Health (GH) in advance. As a result of the pre-departure work, both CH and GH have written program schedule to follow. Such schedule was done for the very first time and it included events like orientation, lectures, interactive session, field trip, presentation, day off (4th of July was given as holiday), etc. The schedule helped our students to gather more knowledge from orientation, field trip, lectures, interactive session, and finally from service work. CH started an Advocates program which is helpful but long, we recommended to make it shorter and suitable for GVSU. GH has to depend on many parties to finalize the schedule. There were six students who worked with GH but in more than five different sites. CH and GH has a written schedule, now they can improve it to organize them better which will ensure better opportunity for GVSU;
- Strengthened our relationship with an NGO - International Sustainability, Health, Education and Water (ISHEW), department of Chemistry, University of Education Winneba (UEW) and Atekyedu village. I helped ISHEW to set up the organizational structure, connect them with community resources like water experts;
- Created a working group including GVSU, UEW professors, ISHEW personnel, and the villagers. This group will start a community health survey and development intervention in Atekyedu village.
- We conducted a mini survey to assess water and health status of the villagers. There are 32 bio-sand filters in the village to provide safe drinking water. Our students along with ISHEW went to each and every households of the village to clean those filters.



Interviewing in Atekyedo '



Playing Soccer with kids from CH (they were good!)

- Visited a newly started primary/elementary school in the village. We supplied 110 writing pads and pens to the students and planners for the the teachers. The Village Chief and the teachers were so happy getting those gifts from or students.
- Our trip was smooth and ended with a dance show (video to be sent) in Grand Rapids airport. The performance represents how nicely our students blended with Ghanaian culture. The parents and relatives of the students were totally speechless with the Ghanaian dance performance by the Honors Study Abroad Students of 2014.

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In this section, it is important to keep in mind that only 7% of Grand Valley's undergraduates are Honors students.

- ⇒ Forty-three Honors freshmen were honored by the **Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society**—58% of all of those so honored—and 48 Honors upperclassmen—almost 40% of the total—were initiated into the Society. The chapter fellow, who was also nominated for a national award from the Society, was Katrina Maynes, an Honors student and the first Meijer First-Generation Scholarship recipient.
- ⇒ Seventeen Honors students were **Cook Leadership Academic Fellows** at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and Leadership. These are very competitive and prestigious. There were 40 undergraduates who were so honored, which means that Honors students received over 40% of the available fellowships.
- ⇒ Twenty-five Honors seniors were **recipients of departmental awards** at the annual Grand Valley State Awards Celebration on April 7<sup>th</sup>. This means that Honors students were given the highest academic award in 24 of the 79 departments that give the award—nearly a third. Students won awards in almost every college. This year Honors students won the top award in Art Education, Biopsychology, Classics, Communication Studies, Dance, Exercise Science, History, Integrated Science, International Relations, Journalism, Mathematics, Physics, Social Studies, Statistics, Writing, Accounting, Business Economics, Economics, Management, Public and Non-Profit Administration, Special Education, Computer Science, Religious Studies, and Women and Gender Studies. Further it should be noted that three Honors students won university-wide Leadership and Service awards. Danielle Meirow (who also won the award for Women and Gender Studies) was given the Kenneth Venderbush Leadership Award, and Douwe Driehuis and Meagan Roche won Thomas Seykora Awards.
- ⇒ Three of the six students elected to top office in **Student Senate** are Honors students.
- ⇒ At **Student Scholars Day** in April, 117 Honors students presented, and at least 13 presented multiple times. There was a total of 478 student presenters, which means that Honors students made up nearly 25% of all student participants.
- ⇒ Nearly 150 Honors students received the **“I am Grand Valley Award”** this year, and many of them were nominated multiple times. This represents over 15% of the total.



Several Honors student recipients of the “I am Grand Valley Award” with Director Chamberlain.

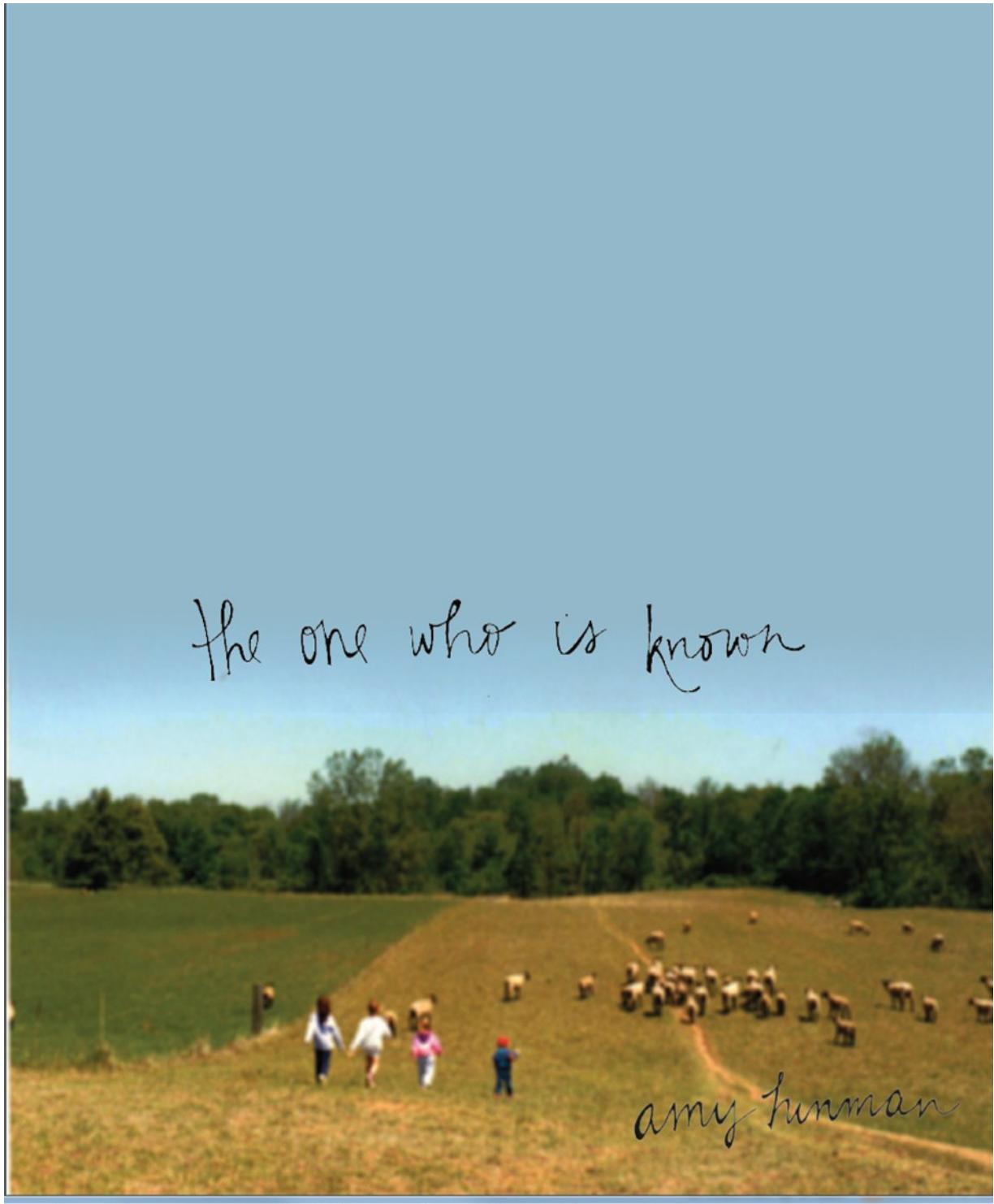
- ⇒ Four Meijer Honors College students were **published in *Brainchild, a Literary and Arts Magazine*** published for the Mid-East Honors Association by the Honors College of Kent State University.
- ⇒ Ten of the 30 students chosen by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship to be **Summer Student Scholars** this past summer are Meijer Honors College students. In this prestigious program, the students work closely with a faculty member during the summer months on a research project and are given a stipend for their work. Many will present their work at major disciplinary conferences (in addition ranging from Engineering to Chemistry to History and Music).
- ⇒ Honors students are responsible for a very large percentage of the peer tutoring and mentoring at Grand Valley.
  - Honors students comprised over 40% (26 out of 64) of the undergraduate **writing consultants at the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors** this last year. The Honors student consultants are majoring in fields as diverse as Accounting, Sciences, English, History, Marketing, and Math.
  - Fourteen of the 22 **Peer Research Consultants**—63%—in the Knowledge Market in the Mary Idema Pew Learning and Information Commons this past year were Honors students.
  - Ten out of the 26 Structured Learning Assistants—over 38%—were Honors students.
  - Eighteen out of the 54 student math and science tutors—33%—were Honors students.
  - Twenty-eight Honors students served as Resident Assistants. There were a total of 105 RAs, so Honors students comprised nearly 27% of the total.



⇒ Recipients of **Senior Awards**. Over 35 graduating seniors were nominated for awards of distinction from the Meijer Honors College. The following were recipients of those awards:

- **Outstanding Senior Thesis.** **Adelin Levin** was the recipient for her project, “The Impact of First-Person Consent Legislation on the Supply of Deceased Organ Donors” Adelin’s advisor, Kevin Callison, Assistant Professor of Economics, wrote the following about her project: “The effectiveness of various legislative efforts to increase the supply of organ donors has received relatively little empirical attention despite the growing demand for donated organs. In part, this lack of research is likely due to the extreme challenge associated with acquiring the data necessary to complete such an analysis. To her credit, Adelin spent many weeks contacting various organ procurement organizations and other government organizations in an effort to collect what may now be the most comprehensive dataset in existence on the timing and adoption of state-based first-person consent legislation. Adelin was then able to use this data to carry out a thorough analysis of the effect of the adoption of first-person consent legislation on the supply of organ donors at the state level. Her results suggest that states that adopted first-person consent legislation saw an increase in the supply of organ donors, relative to non-adopting states, on the order of 10% to 15%. These findings represent the first estimates of the efficacy of state-based first-person consent policies and therefore are likely to be of substantial interest to researchers and policy makers. Following some minor revisions and additions, Adelin plans to submit her study for publication to the *Journal of Health Economics*, the premier outlet for academic research with a health care focus (the Economics Department journal rankings categorize the *Journal of Health Economics* as an “elite” publication; the highest existing rank). Prior to advising Adelin, I would’ve thought journal submission from an honor’s thesis unlikely (and submission to a top-tier journal extremely unlikely), however her diligent work and dedication to the project resulted in a truly outstanding final product worthy of recognition.”
- **Outstanding Senior Project: Nathan Gerken**, a Physics major who will go on to graduate school at Florida State University, won this award for his work “The Spacing Distributions of Eigenvalues of various types of Random Matrices.” His advisor, Kingshuk Majumdar, commented that “Nathan spent the summer of 2013 reading the literature on RMT and from Fall 2013 he started writing numerical codes in octave (similar to MATLAB) to reproduce the different probability distributions. His numerical results are in excellent agreement with the existing analytical results. For the final part of his project he studied (on his own) the spectral eigenvalue statistics of tight-binding random matrix ensembles (TBRME). This TBRME model is appropriate to study electrons in disordered solids. For this model the probability distribution of the eigenvalue statistics do not fall into a particular class. The probability distributions depend on the physical parameters of the problem such as disorder potential, tunneling rates between neighboring sites etc. Nathan studied this model in detail. Given the complexity of the problem for an undergraduate physics major I am impressed by his progress on this project.”

- **Outstanding Creative Achievement:** there were two recipients in this category this year:
  - ⇒ **Adam Brennan** for his “Bridging the Gap: Understanding Vocal and Instrumental Practice through Literary and Musical Analysis (Case Study: Schubert’s *Winterreise*).” Adam’s advisor, Prof. Lisa Feurzeig, commented that “Adam’s project is an exploration of song literature from his perspective as a clarinet player. He chose to explore Schubert songs because he was drawn to the intense and profound relationship between poetry and music for which Schubert is particularly known. In the early stages of the project, he decided to choose his songs from the song cycle *Winterreise*. While Adam is not the only instrumentalist to play transcribed songs, it is notable that he designed this project with a particular focus on the poetry. His engagement with the texts includes close reading of their words and images and then moves on to the larger themes that arise from these particulars. He is a careful, sophisticated reader and has developed many insights through his attention to the texts.
  - **Amy Hinman** for her project “The One Who Is Known.” Prof. Oindrila Mukherjee, Amy’s advisor, wrote that “Amy’s project is unique in its vision and creative scope. In her Honors thesis, Amy seeks to explore her Polish American heritage and identity as the descendant of Polish immigrants, through her family history of food. Her project is part food memoir and part personal essay. Amy uses photographs, research, and creative non fiction, to weave together her memories of her childhood traditions, her Polish grandmother’s rituals, her family’s love for farming and food, and her own experience of West Michigan geography. The result is a lyrical, poignant memoir that discusses the history of Polish immigration in America, as well as a history of Polish cuisine. For the purpose of her research, Amy applied for a travel grant from the Honors College, that allowed her to visit the Polish neighborhood in Chicago. There, she visited the Polish museum as well as restaurants and delis, and spoke with Polish immigrants. Amy is a talented artist and writer. Her writing is lyrical and evocative. Her project blends research and creativity and is a visual delight. It deals with important issues of immigration, identity, and culture, that all students at Grand Valley State would benefit from engaging with. Amy plans to keep working on this project in the next few months, to make it ready for submission to select literary journals. I plan to display this project at the Writing department’s annual Awards Night function in April 2014.”



Cover of Amy Hinman's Honors Senior Project,

for which she won the Creative Achievement Award

- **Excellence in Collaborative Research.** David Lo and Max Maodus-Pitzer for their joint work, "The Impact of Exchange Rate Variation on The Return Disparity for Dual-Listed Securities." Their advisor and co-investigator, Glenn Pettingill, Professor of , wrote that "The paper was presented at the Academy of Economics and Finance, February 2014. It has since been submitted for publication to the Academy of Economics and Finance Journal. David and Max presented the paper to the Finance Faculty Seminar at Grand Valley State University. The conference had a student section, but this presentation was made in the regular section. The presentation was excellent and received an ovation from the faculty participating in the session. David and Max did all of the data collection and almost all of the empirical work which was extensive. The data collection was done on Bloomberg terminals on which both David and Max are quite accomplished. They did an excellent job on the regression analysis which was done on several iterations.
- **Outstanding Leadership and Service Award.** Two students were recipients of this award this year: **Douwe Driehuis** and **Anna Urban**.
  - **Douwe Driehuis** planned and coordinated a conference at Grand Valley for the Association of International Student Organizations. The conference was a triumph and, as Prof. Michael Scantlebury, Douwe's advisor, wrote, "This project had a significant impact on attendees, the volunteers, the GVSU community as well as sponsors and through its contribution to a food program in West Africa. The project brought out the skills and provided practical experience of the event planning and management skills taught in the GVSU Hospitality and Tourism Management Program. Mr. Dreihuis recognized that this was not a project that could be done by one person, so he was able to develop a team of committed and creative individuals who collaborated in the success of the conference. This is commendable." Douwe also reflected on the experience and created a report that will be useful to others who coordinate conferences. His final document was entitled, "Planning, Predicaments and Perseverance: the Association of International Student Organizations (AISO) Success Story – Honors College Senior Project AISO Conference."
  - **Anna Urban** made a contribution to Honors that will continue for many years to come. She recognized the need to improve the freshman mentor program, and devised a way to make it significantly better. She created a mentor council, made up of veteran Honors mentors. Council members took their task seriously: they developed an effective training program for mentors and devised approaches to keep mentors accountable for their work with mentees. Anna's leadership was exceptional, and has made a profound difference to incoming students.

- **Outstanding Senior Award.** This is the Meijer Honors College's highest award and is given in conjunction with the "departmental award" given by the university to one senior in the Honors College. This year the list of eligible students stretched to 392! The top 12 graduating seniors on the list were asked to candidate by submitting their resume and writing an essay. **Joseph Hogan** was selected by a committee of Honors faculty as the recipient. Joe majored in English and Film with emphasis in Language and Literature and Cinema Studies. He was a Lead Writing Consultant in the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors, and was a Writing Fellow this past year. He was a regular columnist in the *Grand Valley Lanthorn*, and was founder and editor-in-chief of *Cinesthesia: The Grand Valley Journal of Cinema*. Joe was a Fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, and is now working for the Hauenstein Center. Joe also became a vocal advocate for the "Reacting to the Past" historical simulation pedagogy, which he learned from the faculty of the Honors sequence he took. He wrote eloquently about what he learned in his essay: "Professors Galbraith and Eick...instilled in me a passion for rhetoric and argumentation that now provides my life much direction. Their innovative pedagogy in my European Civilization course, particularly their use of the "Reacting to the Past" game, exhibited to me the capacity of the humanities to make us humane, empathetic, better able to enter the most meaningful debates of our time. Having made this realization clear to my professors, their expectation was that I would make my case for the transformative nature of the humanities out in the wide world. This expectation has become my vocation."



From left to right: Max Maodush-Pitzer, David Lo, Anna Urban, Douwe Driehuis, Nathan Gerken, Joseph Hogan, Adelin Levin, and Adam Brennan.

## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ⇒ **Craig Benjamin** enjoyed a busy year of teaching, professional activities, and service. He was honored by his colleagues in Honors and by the Dean of Brooks College for a U.S. Professor of the Year Award, administered by the Carnegie Foundation, and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Craig was co-author of the first ever big history textbook—*Big History: Between Nothing and Everything*, D. Christian, C. Stokes Brown, and C. Benjamin—which was published by McGraw-Hill in August 2013. He also had two peer-reviewed articles published, one on big history and the other on the Kushan monarch Kanishka the Great. He presented papers and participated in roundtables at the World History Association Conference (held in Minneapolis) and was an invited guest at the Symposium on the History of the Kushans (held in Berlin, Germany). Craig continued in his position as Treasurer of the International Big History Association; and in January 2014 he commenced a two-year term as President of the World History Association. The Teaching Company released a 48-lecture course written and recorded by Craig as part of their Great Courses Series—“The Foundations of Eastern Civilization.” Craig was also guest lecturer for on a Scientific American cruise, and was featured specialist in all 17 episodes of a new History Channel series, “Big History.” Craig also gave community lectures for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Aquinas College, the United Growth of Kent County Annual Dinner, and at local institutions in Australia and New Zealand.
- ⇒ **Jeremiah Cataldo** made significant strides in his research. He acquired a contract for his third book and submitted for publication multiple chapters and articles (all of which are under contract or already published). In addition, he participated in a conference addressing the possible compatibility between science and religion in Istanbul, Turkey. This intercultural conference brought together academics from Muslim and Christian cultures. He also presented at an international conference of the Society of Biblical Literature and the European Association of Biblical Studies in Vienna, Austria. His participation in both conferences was by invitation. An added benefit of both conferences was the relevance of both to his teaching; what he learned will be incorporated conspicuously into his courses beginning Fall 2014.
- ⇒ **David Eick**, Assistant Professor of French, has been teaching in Honors for several years, but he begins an appointment as Faculty-in-Residence in Honors in Fall 2014. David was invited to participate in the Aspen Institute’s Socrates Program, July 4-7, was named to the editorial board of the French periodical *Cahiers Interdisciplinaires de Recherche en Histoire, Lettres, Langues et Arts*, and was invited to give the junior plenary address, “Dictionary Wars in Old Regime France: The Energy of Antoine Furetiere” at the South Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Galveston, TX, February 15th. He published an article, “Basnage de Beauval’s ‘Reformation’ of the Dictionnaire universel,” in *Religion and the Age of Enlightenment* 4 (2013): 195-236, and presented on the Reacting to the Past historical gaming pedagogy at the National Collegiate Honors Council annual meeting in New Orleans in November 2013. David also regularly gets students involved in research and development of the Returning to the Past gaming pedagogy. Four of his students presented papers at the South-eastern Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of Tennessee, Feb. 27-March 1, 2014. This was the first time that undergraduate students gave presentations at this conference.
- ⇒ **Jane Toot** was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society in April 2014 (at which she gave the plenary lecture), led a comprehensive visit for the Higher Learning Commission, served on three boards (Porter Hills, Emmanuel Hospice, and the North Ottawa Care Center), and is developing her “Live, Learn, Lead” freshman seminar around the them of “aging and saging.”

## CONCLUSION

This report only scratches the surface of the wonderful things going on in the Meijer Honors College. It is clear that Honors is a community of learners and achievers—faculty, staff, and students all support and encourage each other. It is truly amazing the range of student accomplishments, and one can hardly fathom how these creative and accomplished students will impact the world in the future. For a glimpse of what is to come, see the profiles that we compiled of our graduating students.

The Frederik Meijer Honors College is grateful to have the endorsement and support of The Meijer Foundation. The sponsorship enables us to go from strength to strength and provide extraordinary opportunities for extraordinary students. We look forward to the continuation of our partnership in working to create the very best education possible for the future leaders of our society.

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