

FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2015

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A few months ago we completed and submitted a self-study for the Meijer Honors College. It details our progress between 2010 and 2015. It is gratifying to see how much we accomplished. Below is a list from the Executive Summary of achievements over that span of time.

The Frederik Meijer Honors College:

- Has grown dramatically—nearly 50% growth of students since 2010
- Has added significant services and opportunities for students
- Has diversified its curriculum with unique interdisciplinary freshman sequences and other courses
- Has become a unit and is working towards effective governance
- Has added outstanding faculty
- Is effectively fulfilling its mission and vision
- Has raised its profile locally, regionally, and nationally
- Has largely fulfilled its 2010-15 strategic plan, and in many ways, has advanced well beyond targets
- Is demonstrating through assessment the effectiveness of its program
- Is fulfilling the majority of “basic characteristics” of Honors programs and colleges
- Has had a dramatic effect with its Meijer Office of Fellowships (by increasing the number of Fulbright, Gilman, and other scholars, and helping students obtain fellowships worth \$1 million over five years)
- Has implemented new initiatives and adopted the ones that are most effective (e.g., the Ghana service-learning program) and ended the ones that were not (e.g., the “Scholars’ Institute”)

Furthermore, we are clearly making progress on our goals for student outcomes. Students are becoming much more effective communicators, capable self-authors (critical thinkers and researchers), conscientious global citizens, and true lifelong learners. A brief look through the student accomplishments below or our annual senior profile booklet is strong confirmation of that.

We cannot, of course, rest on our laurels, and there are a few areas where we particularly need to do better. Honors needs to have a more diverse student body, we need more staff to serve students effectively, and we could use more resources (scholarships, funds to support study abroad and service-learning, etc.) to help students achieve their goals. Nevertheless, we are delighted that our strong efforts over the past five years have contributed so much to the success of our students. Now we begin planning for our next ten years. The last five years have been great—the next ten we expect to be phenomenal.

Sincerely,



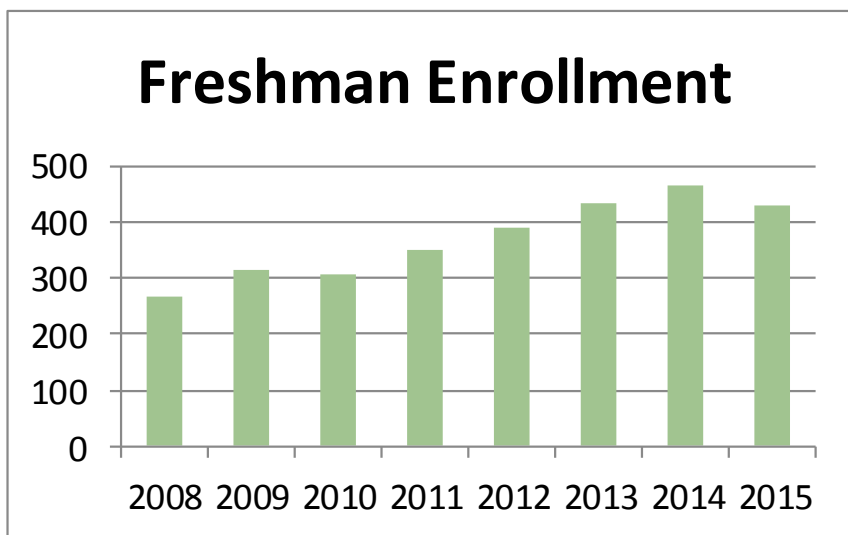
Jeff Chamberlain, Director



FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS

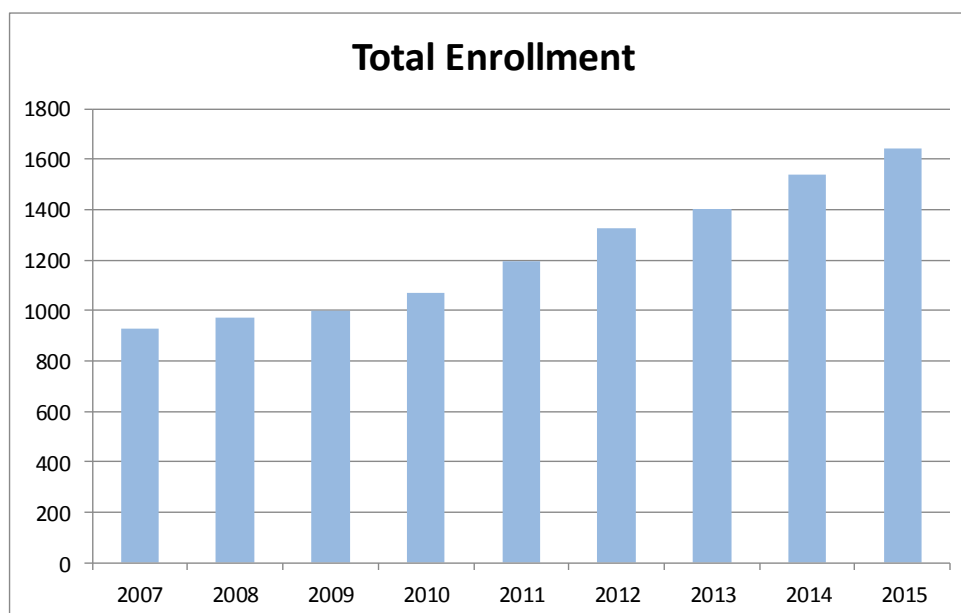
⇒ **Enrollment and Retention.** The Meijer Honors College continues to grow dramatically,.

Honors freshmen enrollment: The freshman class for fall of 2015 is slightly lower than that of 2014 (430 vs. 460). Much of the reduction is attributable to the fact that Grand Valley raised the threshold for participating in the Awards of Distinction Scholarship Competition from a composite score of 29 on the ACT to 30. Our freshman class this coming year will have nearly 40 fewer students who have a 29 ACT. In all other categories we are at par or above enrollment from last year, and overall we are still significantly above 2013. Since retention continues to improve, our overall numbers are slightly up. .



The average ACT of incoming freshmen is 29.46, virtually the same as last year's average (despite having fewer students with a 29 ACT this year), and the average high school GPA is 3.93, which is up slightly from last year's average GPA of 3.91. Honors students have many excellent choices for college, and the vast majority of them come to Grand Valley as their first choice. They came to Honors at Grand Valley for three main reasons: the program (with its unique curriculum and exceptional faculty), the friendly and nurturing environment, and the outstanding facilities. Honors has an outstanding graduation rate, as well: for the 2008 cohort, the 6-year graduation rate was 80%. In the 2009 cohort over 84% graduated after five years.

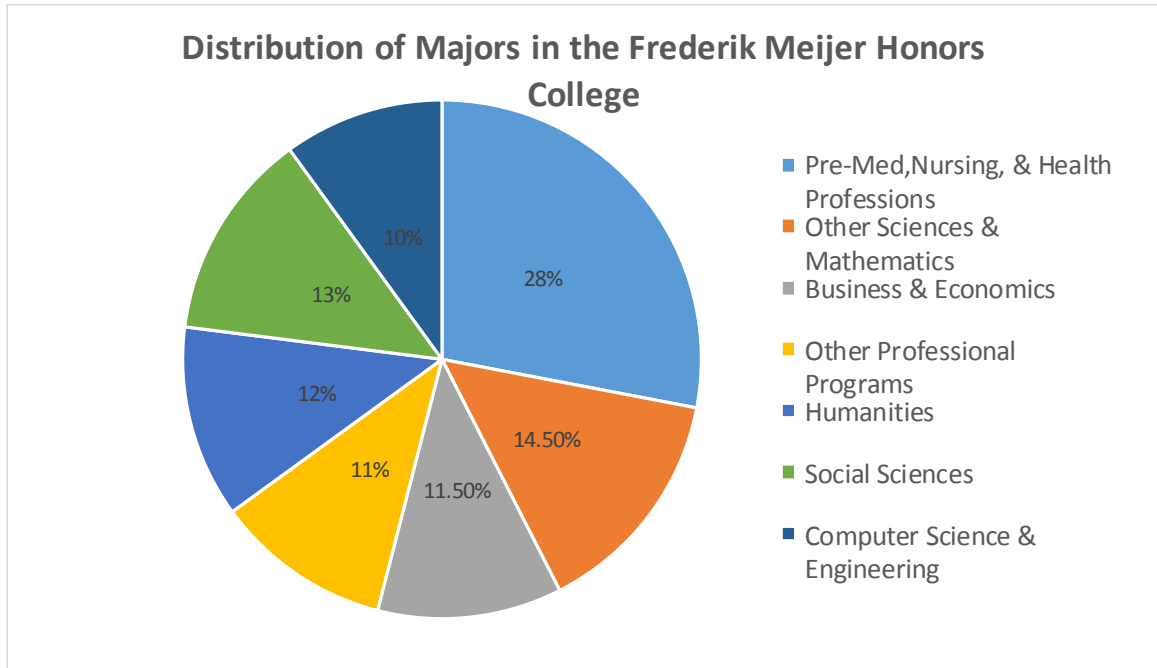
- ⇒ **Honors total enrollment:** Despite the dip in freshman numbers, Honors continues to grow, primarily because of improved retention. Whereas a few years ago it was not uncommon for 20% of the freshmen to fall below a 3.2 GPA (the cutoff for remaining in good standing in Honors) after their first semester; it has been dropping due to concerted attention to the issue, and this past year the figure was cut to under 8%.



- ☑ **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 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%	57.70%	84.10%		
2008	31.30%	51.90%	58.20%	73.50%	63.80%	79.50%
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%

- ☑ 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. Those who are on the health professions track grew substantially this last year—from 24 to 28%. It should be noted, as well, that over 40% have at least one minor and nearly 30% are double majoring; furthermore, a few students have both a double major and a minor. Nearly 16% of Honors students have a foreign language for a minor (the most common being Spanish, followed by French, German, and Arabic).

- ☑ 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, ANCHOR (the Honors Community Council), Cook Leadership Academy, Resident Housing Association, Sign Language Club, Lacrosse Club, Rowing Club, Cycling Club, Humane Society, Amnesty International, Marching Band, Pre-Med Club, M.D./Ph.D. Club, Math and Statistics Club, Biology Club, French Club, Pre-PT Club, Pre-PA Club, Yoga Club, Swing Dancing Club, Dance Troup, Skating Club, Campus Crusade, Campus Ministry, Intervarsity, Catholic Campus Ministry, LGBT Network of West Michigan, Intramural sports, American Institute of Graphic Arts, Water Ski Club, Swim Club, Synchronized Swimming Team, fraternities and sororities, Alternative Spring Breaks, Mission Trips, Rock Climbing Club, Fencing Club, Teachers of Tomorrow, Student Advocates of International Literacy, Hunger and Homelessness Club, Senior Citizens Club, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, A Cappella groups, GVSU Opera, Theatre, Orchestra, and Band, Writing Consultants, Tutors, etc. This year our seniors reported that 58% of them were officers of organization, and nearly 22% were leaders of more than one organization. Many were founders of a service organization or club, and 24% were mentors or tutors.

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 superb speakers this past year.

On Tuesday, September 23, 2014, **Norman R. Augustine**, former CEO of Lockheed Martin spoke on “Leading Change.” Mr. Augustine certainly has the credentials from which to speak. He spent ten years in government (and was undersecretary of the Army for three of them), spent 30 years in industry, has been on the Board of Directors of such prominent companies as Black & Decker and Proctor & Gamble, taught at Princeton and is on the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland. His service to the armed services and government has been so significant that he has five times received the Defense Department’s Distinguished Civil Service Award, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff gave him their Distinguished Public Service Award. In his lecture “Leading Change,” he gave profound lessons regarding change. We must be prepared for change—if we are ever standing still, we will be headed for failure. We must be aware of the context and be willing to take prudent and creative risks. His example of Lockheed Martin during the time he was at the helm was extraordinary: he took a defense industry and diversified it so that it grew dramatically at the same time that deep cuts were being made to the government’s defense budget.



THE FREDERIK MEIJER LECTURE SERIES

Our lecturer in the Winter semester was Patrick Doyle, CEO of Domino's. After stints as manager at a couple of corporations such as Gerber, he joined Dominos as Senior Vice President of Marketing in 1997. He became President of Domestic Operations in 2007, and was then appointed President and CEO in 2010, Mr. Doyle was recognized in 2011 by CNBC as the Best CEO of the Year because of his leadership in reinvigorating the company's 50-year-old brand. Domino's three-year stock performance from 2011-2014 was up over 287% on both its U.S. and international track record – leading the restaurant industry. Most recently, of course, Mr. Doyle has presided over yet another makeover, changing the brand from Domino's Pizza to Domino's, with a much-diversified menu. Mr. Doyle is a strong proponent and advocate for education. As co-chair of the higher education subcommittee of the Business Leaders for Michigan, he was instrumental in promoting the Michigan "Turnaround Plan," which proposed significant changes and growth in public funding for higher education. The plan, which advocated performance metrics as tools for apportioning monies, took a while to gain traction, but last year the state finally increased its funding based on these metrics by nearly \$22 million. Since Grand Valley ranked high on the performance metrics, it benefited tremendously from Mr. Doyle's advocacy.

Radio personality Shelley Irwin (WGVU's "Morning Show") interviewed Mr. Doyle, who regaled the audience with stories from his experience and lessons learned as a leader. He spoke of the importance of treating people—both employees and customers—well, and talked about the need be genuine, approachable, and be willing to change when necessary. He said that the highest rated commercial for Domino's was the one in which they acknowledged poor quality, and advertised changes in the food recipe. Revenues soared. This event was one of the most meaningful and entertaining Meijer lectures yet.





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. They were diligent in bringing our new students into the life of Honors and the university, and made it fun. The pictures below are from the field games held last year.



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."

Welcome New Director Dr. Elizabeth Lambert



Dr. Elizabeth Lambert started as the new director of the Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships on June 15, 2015. She comes to Grand Valley from Indiana University where she served as a senior consultant, proposal trainer and adviser. She was responsible for developing curriculum and training students and staff in effective grant-writing, discipline-specific academic writing and proposal development. She also worked to promote fellowships, internship and study abroad opportunities while assisting underrepresented students apply for global initiatives and fellowship programs. Lambert has extensive experience with fellowships and awards, having helped more than 150 students obtain more than \$5 million in fellowships since 2012 and having completed over a dozen fellowships of her own.

"Elizabeth Lambert brings a wealth of experience both in personally applying for — and obtaining — prestigious fellowships, and in helping others to be successful in her advising work at the University of Indiana," said Jeff Chamberlain, director of the Meijer Honors College. "She is ready and eager to step right into the role of director, and we are excited to see how our students profit from working with her." Lambert succeeds Dr. Amanda Cuevas, who served as the Office's founding director for over five years.

Fun Facts

- ◆ GVSU students and alumni have been offered over \$1 million dollars in nationally competitive award monies since 2009.
- ◆ Over 20 GVSU students and alumni were offered nationally-competitive fellowships this AY 14-15; over 80 GVSU students and alumni applied for nationally competitive awards and received support from the fellowships office staff through the intricate application process.
- ◆ ~300 fellowships advising appointments were scheduled, including over 98 phone and over 38 Skype appointments.

Top Reasons Students Made an Appointment

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

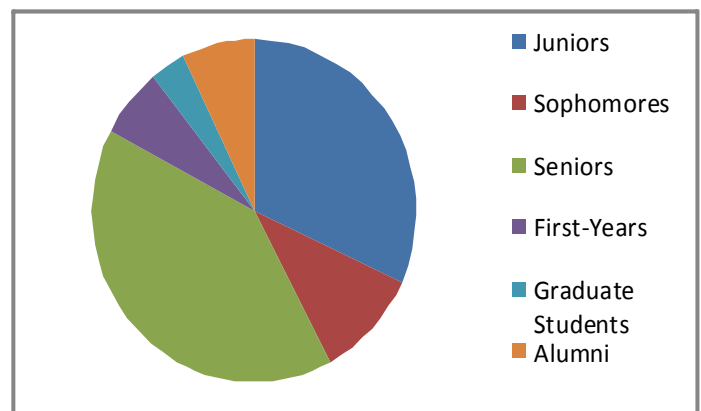
Who Sought Fellowship Advising in AY 14-

Most Common Majors:

- #1: Education
- #2: Political Science
- #3: English
- #4: Philosophy
- #5: Cell & Molecular Biology

Most Common Minors:

- #1: Spanish
- #2: Arabic
- #3: Philosophy
- #4: Middle East Studies
- #5: Elementary Certification



AY 14-15 Workshop Series

September 4, 10, & 11: Gilman Info Sessions for October National Deadline
September 17: Goldwater Info Session
September 19: Goldwater Info Session; *Dr. Frank Gilmore, President of the Foundation*
September 24: Truman Info Session
October 1 Boren Info Session



AY 2014-15 Award Outcomes

Meagan Roche*, *Anthropology*, Critical Language Scholarship Program, will study Arabic in Tangier, Morocco

Irada Choudhuri*, *Biomedical Sciences*, Critical Language Scholarship Program, will study Bengali in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Kyle Meppelink*, *International Relations*, Critical Language Scholarship Program, will study Arabic in Meknes, Morocco

David Leestma, *International Relations*, Critical Language Scholarship Program, will study at the Noor Manjan Training Institute (NMTI) in Ibri, Oman

Leah Beaulac*, *Biology*, NSEP Boren Scholarship, \$20,000, will study in Amman, Jordan.

Kelsey Winchell*, *Chemistry*, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, Honorable Mention

Rachel Schwallier, '04, *Biology*, P.E.O. Scholar Award, completing Ph.D. at the University of Leiden, where she studies the medical benefits of carnivorous plants, \$15,000

U.S. Student Fulbright Scholarship Recipients:

Irma Ramirez, '15, *Sociology*, was offered an English Teaching Assistantship to Guatemala

Seth Price*, '15, *Anthropology*, will research in Jordan—TBD

Thomas Walters*, *Group Social Studies-Secondary Education*, 2015 UK Fulbright Summer Institute at Durham University

**Grand Valley ranked as top producer
for Fulbright recipients this year**

October 6: Boren Info session; *Craig Fredrickson, IIE Program Officer*

October 7: Undergraduate Research Fair

October 9: Study Abroad Fair

January 20 & 27: Gilman Walk-in Advising Sessions for March National Deadline

February 03 & 10: Gilman Walk-in Advising Sessions for March National Deadline

March 23, 24 & 26: U.S. Student Fulbright Program Info Sessions

Ashley Flees, *Liberal Studies*, US-Brazil Connect Program

David Gonzalez, *Spanish*, US-Brazil Connect Program

Jason Escareno, *Master of Public Administration*, International City Management Association Fellowship, San Mateo, CA

Mary Hoejke*, Teach for America (TFA) 2015-16

Abigail DeHart*, *Classics/Philosophy*, selected as GVSU Campus finalist/national nominee, Phi Kappa Phi

Abigail DeHart*, *Classics/Philosophy*, Josephine de Karman Fellowship Trust, \$14,000

Jepkoech "JJ" Kottutt*, *Biomedical Sciences*, Humanity in Action Fellowship, named a finalist

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Recipients

Fall 2014 or AY 14-15

Kassandra Stresman*, *Spanish*, Ecuador, \$2,500

Elena Szost*, *Economics/International Relations*, Japan, \$5,000

Winter 2015

Rosemary Dutfeld-Willis, *French*, France, \$4,500

Summer 2015

Lindsey Dopheide*, *Psychology*, Ghana, \$4,000

Brenda Garcia, *Legal Studies*, Argentina, \$3,000

Brody Cragg*, *Economics*, Norway, \$3,000

Mason Villanueva, *Allied Health Sciences*, Ghana, \$2,500

Kamarie Evink, *Education*, Netherlands, \$2,500

Erika Bakeman, *Biology*, France, \$2,500

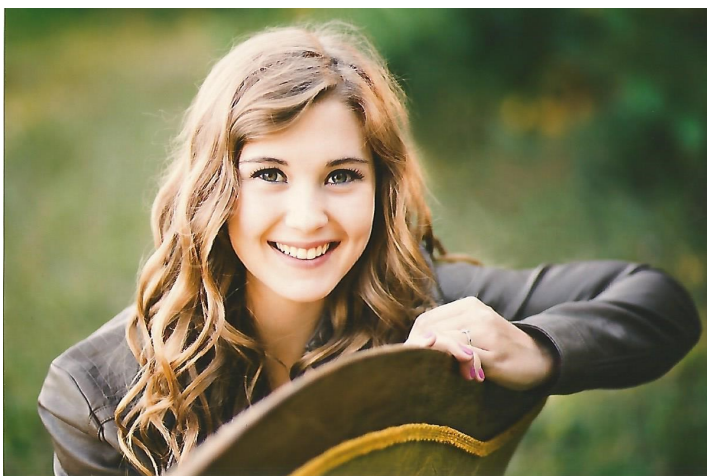
Christian Knighten, *Psychology*, Ghana, \$2,500

Victoria Hart, *History*, Ghana, \$2,500

**-denotes member of the Frederik Meijer Honors College*

THE FREDERIK MEIJER FIRST GENERATION HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

- ☑ **Fall 2015.** Two **Fredrik Meijer First Generation Honors College Student Scholarships** were awarded this year:
- ☑ **Annette Williams (below)** is from Lapeer, Michigan. She was a member of the OMNI council (a leadership council that works with administrators and community leaders), a youth leader at her church, a member of Peer Resistance (a group that performed skits on the dangers of drugs and alcohol), Pep Club Captain of JV volleyball and basketball, and a peer mentor for high school freshmen. She plans to become a nurse.



- ☑ **Mitchell Fredrick (right)** is from Gregory, Michigan. He was a strong leader at Fowlerville High School, serving as Treasurer then Vice President of his chapter of National Honor Society, and participating actively in Student Government. He was also very involved in service through his church and school. He loves history and literature, and has learned—much better than most high schoolers—the relevance of these disciplines and how to connect them to everyday life.



☑ **Fall 2014.**

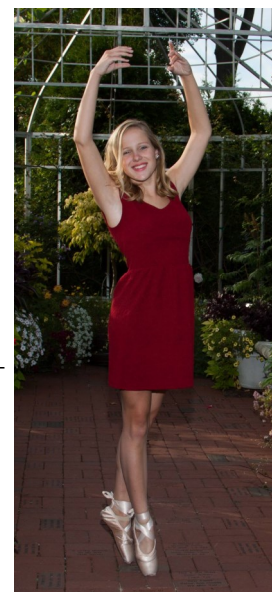
- ☑ **Brody Cragg** (Oakley, MI.) has accomplished a great deal. He is an Economics major with LGBT and Environmental Studies minors. He studied abroad in Norway over the summer, with financial support from a prestigious Gilman award. He is Vice President of the Student Environmental Coalition, writes the *The Black Sheep*, and is on the running team. He will be a Transitions leader in August. He went to North Carolina in March on an Alternative Spring Break. He says that his Honors Foundational Interdisciplinary Sequence, “Theory and Practice of Rights,” was quite a challenge, but that it helped him develop critical skills and was extremely relevant to his aspirations *noted* that to become a lawyer. He would like to find a way to use all of his education (major, minors, and General Education) in his law practice or in policy making in the public sector.

- ☑ **Justine Cucchi** (Clinton Township, MI.) wrote that “This past year I got involved with both the Classics Society and the Comic Book Club. Additionally, I became a prospective member of the fraternity Eta Sigma Phi. I received an award for excellence in Elementary Latin and was a freshman honoree in Phi Kappa Phi. I love being in Honors, and will be a mentor this year for incoming freshmen. I plan on pursuing a career in classical archaeology, and my Honors sequence Classical World has helped me tremendously in working towards that goal.

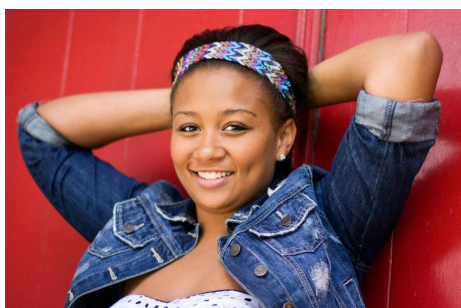


- ☑ **Makayla Sanchez** (left) noted that: “My first year as a student at Grand Valley and as an Honors student was even better than what I had expected. As a part of my Honors class, we went beyond the classroom and out into the world to learn and share in new experiences. From hiking in the Ravines in the middle of winter, to going to ArtPrize, to exploring museums in downtown Chicago, my fellow classmates and I were given a new perspective on what we were learning and how it could be applied in the real world. Being able to stay with the same class the whole year as opposed to only a semester also allowed me to make friendships that I will now carry with me through the rest of my college journey here at Grand Valley.”

- ☑ **Tara Wallen** (right) created Green Guardian, an online initiative to promote a more eco-friendly lifestyle in the tourism industry, in Social Product Innovation, her Honors Foundational Interdisciplinary Sequence, and presented her work at Grand Valley’s Environmental Showcase. She joined the Greek organization Alpha Omicron Pi, and completed several hours of community service with organizations such as the Arthritis Foundation and Indian Trails Camp. She became a member of the Grand Valley Dance Troupe and, though that group raised over \$4,000 for Kid’s Food Basket Grand Rapids and Muskegon. She interned in the summer at Cedar Point in Ohio.



- ☑ **Fall 2013.** The recipients from Fall 2013, **Roxana Dumitrache, Gloria LaCourse, Dayne Martinez, and Rachael Vrugink** are all flourishing. **Gloria** was offered a second winter internship with Plante Moran, an accounting firm downtown Grand Rapids. She also started working on a project with the Director of the School of Accounting on Family Business and Philanthropy. They hope and expect to receive a fellowship to travel to Brazil and present their research. **Dayne** explained that “I am majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology with a minor in Chemistry. I intend on applying to MD/PhD programs with the goal of becoming a physician scientist. I am particularly interested in how strategies from regenerative medicine can be applied to problems in neurology. In the Winter semester, I performed research in Dr. Merritt Taylor's lab. The project I am working on is about the mechanisms behind dopamine neuron development. I was also active in the Pre-MD/PhD Club as well as the Cognitive Neuroscience Club. Earlier in the summer I had the opportunity to work at the memory care center of a nursing home near my hometown. I worked on a project to set up a music therapy program designed to improve the quality of life for residents with dementia. Over the summer, I participated in a ten-week, intensive research program (the UM-SMART program) at the University of Michigan . I worked on two projects. The first project was about developing a novel method for analyzing specific groups of neural circuits related to behavior. The second project was aimed at designing constructs that can be "knocked-in" to embryonic stem cells or induced pluripotent stem cells to track their development down different neuronal lineages. I am an honors freshman mentor for a second year. Being in Honors has provided me with a supportive community and has given me the opportunity to explore areas of study that my major coursework leaves out. I thoroughly enjoyed my freshmen sequence, Classical World. It was one of the more difficult classes I have taken, but it was also among the most rewarding. I am glad that Honors has given me the opportunity to challenge myself. **Rachael** wrote that “I'll be the GVSU Ad Club President for the Fall semester. We have been working on programming and everything all summer, so it's been very busy getting ready for next semester! We're excited to be strengthening our relationship with area professionals with the help of our parent chapter, the American Advertising Federation of West Michigan (AdFed). Last semester, I completed an advertising internship with the AdFed. I'm am still closely connected with them. I sit in on the board meetings and discussions to represent the GVSU Ad Club and its members. Currently I'm a marketing intern for the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. We are merged with Mason Street Warehouse, a professional Equity theatre company. Our team is doing all of the marketing, PR, and social media campaigning for the art center's summer programming and the theatre's summer show line up. For the fall semester, I am actively pursuing internship opportunities. The Honors College has really given me a great perspective and overall understanding of how important the *want* to learn can be. Some people don't understand the importance of putting yourself out there. My internships, for example, have been a great way for me to dive into an environment where there is constant stimulation, fast paced situations, and an consistent flow of new information. My desire to take advantage of such opportunities is really something that the Honors College has inspired in me. **Roxana** did not submit a report.



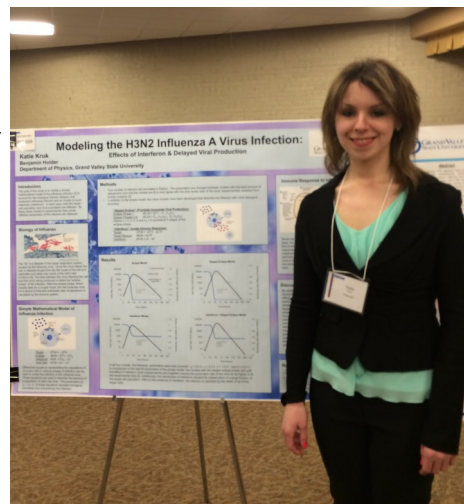
Gloria LaCourse



Dayne Martinez

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

Katie (right) is a Physics major with a minor in Mathematics who has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA. Her update is as follows: In November 2014, I presented the research I performed at the University of Michigan over the summer of 2014 at Argonne National Laboratory; the research involved studying the mechanism by which nucleosomes are formed. Throughout the 2014 - 2015 school year, I was the treasurer of 3 clubs - Physics Club, Pre-MD/PhD Club, and the Women in STEM Fields Club, and I tutored Physics, Chemistry, and Biology at the Science Success Center, a walk-in tutoring center. This summer (2015), I am working at the Mayo Clinic helping to develop a program that will analyze the System Phantom to ultimately help analyze MRI scans of the brain." She plans to either do an M.D. in Neurology or an M.D./Ph.D. Either way, she would like to get a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering.



Liana is majoring in Liberal Studies and minoring in International Relations and Management. She wrote that her "junior year has been my favorite year of college thus far! I began by spending my fall semester abroad in Nicosia, Cyprus (pictured at left) where I made friends from all over the world and even learned to speak a bit of Greek. Over the course of the semester, I traveled to seven different countries: Greece, England, France, Italy, Turkey, Hungary, and Romania. When I returned to Grand Valley for the winter semester, I started my third Human Resources internship at MarshBerry, where I focused on recruiting. At MarshBerry, I noticed that the intern program could be improved, so I created a plan for a revamped program, which has since been implemented. I'm currently in the Franklin, TN serving as a Talent Management intern at Nissan North America and looking forward to having a great senior year!"

Caitlin is an English Education major with a Psychology minor and aspires to be a school counselor. Caitlin wrote: "This past year I spent a lot of time volunteering in an English high school classroom to gain more experience in my desired field. I also applied and was accepted for the position of Lead Research Consultant for this previous year and for the upcoming. This is a great leadership opportunity where I am able to continuously hone my skills as an effective researcher and peer tutor. Through this position, I was also able to facilitate an hour-long round table discussion session at the East Central Writers Association Conference with two of my coworkers centered on the ethics of efficiency concerning Grand Valley's Knowledge Market. However, my fourth and final year as an undergrad at GV is perhaps my most exciting. For starters, I am currently finishing up my proposal for my Honors Senior Project on a multimodal, technology based unit plan on poetry. I was accepted to Grand Valley's College of Education, so for the first eight weeks of the fall semester, I will be Teacher Assistant this fall in an eighth grade English Language Arts classroom at Eagle Crest Charter Academy. For the last six weeks of fall, I will be teacher assisting in Ourense, Spain. I return to the states for my winter semester and am awaiting news for my Student Teaching placement. This upcoming year is full of many exciting times and I am looking forward to entering my final year as a senior in the Honors College at GVSU!"



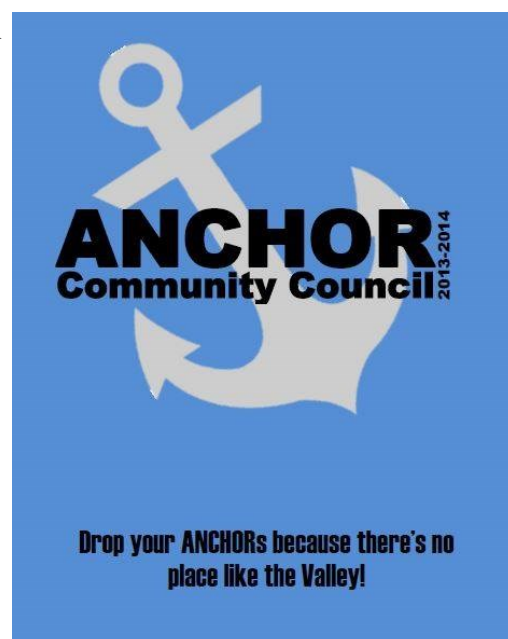
IMPACTING COMMUNITIES HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD

- ☑ **Mentor Council.** In 2013, a few veteran student mentors (who work with incoming first-year students) formed a Mentor Council. The initiative was impressive because it was student-initiated and because it improved the mentor program dramatically. The Council set standards, trained mentors, developed programming, and made sure that mentors were fulfilling their roles. What is just as impressive is that the Mentor Council has become self-sustaining—they developed procedures for succession. Erin Erickson and Sarah Thornton (left and center in the photo below) co-chaired the Council for the work of the mentors in working with the incoming students for Fall 2014; then the Mentor Council elected Erin Koren to chair the group for the mentors who work Fall 2015.



- ☑ **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 dozens of students involved in the whole organization. Below are a sampling of the initiatives and events that Honors students put on this past year:

- Homecoming events (placed 2nd in Housing, 10th overall)
- Treats for Troops
- Dickenson Elementary Event (brought students from the school to introduce them to life of a college student)
- Murder Mystery Dinner (over 50 people attended, not counting volunteers)
- Volunteered at CompRenew
- Trash for Cash (raised \$600 for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital)
- Minute-to-Win-It competition
- Twister Tournament
- LaughFest service event (March 4th and 5th)



- Helen DeVos Hospital blanket-making service event (pictured at right)
- Pie Day (partnered with the RAs)
- Contra Dance (pictured below)
- The Showcase (Art Show)
- Open Mic Night



☑ **Events and Activities Sponsored by the Honors College.** The Meijer Honors College sponsors many events and activities that create wonderful co- and extra-curricular opportunities for honors students. Following is a list of some of the most significant ones from the 2014-15 academic year.

- ◆ Cultural experience trips for students in Foundational Interdisciplinary Sequences:
 - ◆ The Focus on East Asia and Big History sequences went to Chicago to visit to The Art Institute, The Museum of Science and Industry, Chinatown, etc.
 - ◆ The Latin American Civilization, History of Science, European Civilization, Classical World, and Alliance and Conflict sequences went to the Detroit Institute of Art
 - ◆ The Islamic Middle East sequence went to Dearborn to the Arab-American Museum and a mosque
 - ◆ The European Civilization sequence went to the Grand Rapids Symphony and made pasta at The Local Epicurean

- ◆ Sponsorship of students attending conferences:
 - ◆ Prof. Paul Lane took four students from the Social Product Innovation sequence to the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization conference in Orlando, FL
 - ◆ Prof. David Eick took four students to present at the Southeastern Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies annual meeting in Knoxville, TN
 - ◆ Prof. Star Swift took Cameron Rowland to present at the Sport and Society Conference in Toronto
 - ◆ Honors took 13 students to present at the Mid-East Honors Association annual conference in Kent, Ohio (see below for more information)
- ◆ Sponsorship of on-campus events:
 - ◆ Growing Food, Sustaining Culture series
 - ◆ Community Read author talk—Sheri Fink, *Five Days at Memorial*
 - ◆ Mathematics Mosaic Lecture
 - ◆ Hack Your Campus (student pitch contest for improving campus)
 - ◆ Nigerian Ambassador John K. Shinkaiye for lectures and discussions focusing on the Boko Haram threat and the question of regional integration
 - ◆ Global Cities Conference 2015



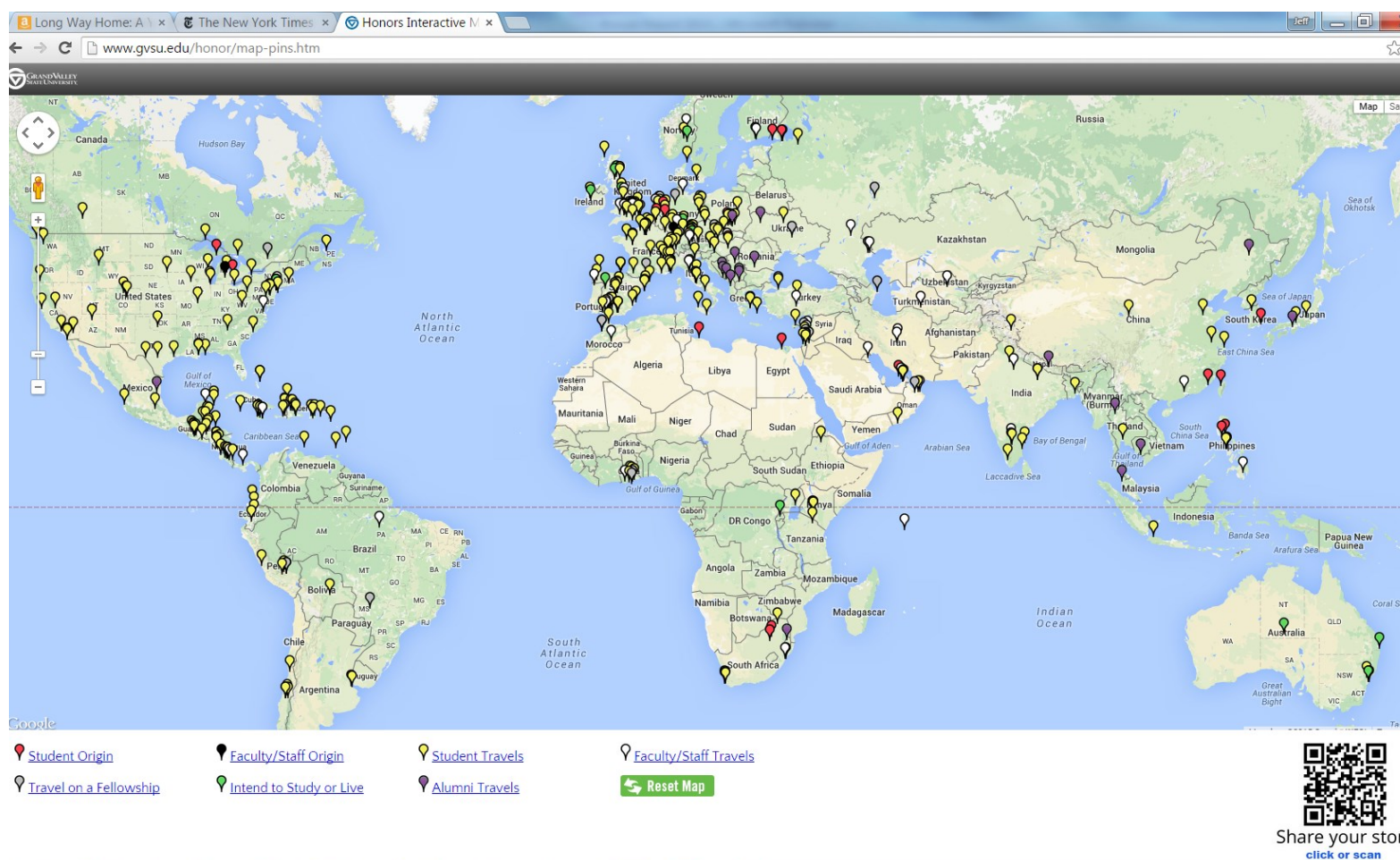
- ☑ **Mid-East Honors Association Conference, April 10-12, 2015.** The Meijer Honors College completed its three-year leadership of the Mid-East Honors Association with the organization of the annual conference held in Kent, Ohio. Janaan Decker did a superb job as secretary/treasurer, and two Meijer Honors College students—Jonathan Cook and Scott St. Louis—were members of the board. Together with the logistical support of Sarah Tibbe, a student worker in the Honors College Office, and the president-elect, Aaron Hanlin (Kent State), they made all of the arrangements, solicited proposals for presentations, and ran all of the activities. Fifteen Meijer Honors College students—eight of them freshmen (most pictured with Dir. Chamberlain below)—presented at the conference. There were over 200 attendees from 20 universities in five different states (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and West Virginia). In addition to organizing three conferences, Dr. Chamberlain and Ms. Decker were responsible for soliciting and choosing a permanent logo design, and leaving the Association much better off fiscally than they received it.



Pedagogical Innovation. Honors is known for pedagogical innovation. Whether it is the development of teaching using games (such as the Reacting to the Past methodology being used in many Honors freshman sequences, participation in the Model Arab League, service-learning at various sites, or the events developed by students under the coordination of our Meijer Endowed Chair, Honors students are asked to do a great deal of active learning. This past year Honors added yet another hallmark in pedagogy. Professor Star Swift used the Bluescape Technology for her Honors BUS 201 (Legal Environment for Business) class. In fact, Prof. Swift offered the first undergraduate course in the country using this technology. Bluescape, hosted at Haworth's Blue 35 facility in Grand Rapids, is visual collaborative technology using, in essence, an interactive “smart wall,” where images, documents, notes, etc. can be posted and manipulated for the ultimate collaborative experience. All of the information is also accessible on computers for interaction outside of the classroom. Prof. Swift’s willingness to adapt to new technology is a tremendous boon for her students—they get amazing collaborative experience and can become leaders themselves in using and adapting technology to their careers and lives.



☑ **Honors Covers the World.** Approximately 40% of Honors seniors reported studying abroad at some point during their college career (as indicated 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 Bahamas, Belize, Chile (two), Costa Rica (five), The Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ghana (five), Guatemala, India, Ireland, Italy (four), Jordan, Kenya (two), Morocco (two), The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua (two), Oman, Peru, Poland, South Africa (three), South Korea, Spain (four), and Tanzania. 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. Just over a year ago, we installed a large touchscreen in the place of the map, and people can access the system from any computer or smart device. Below is a snapshot of the map—though some places are more well-traveled than others, it is clear that GVSU Honors students and staff are covering the world. To see the map in real time, where you can click on a “pin” and see the traveler’s description as well as a link to a blog (in some cases), go to <http://www.gvsu.edu/honor/map-pins.htm>.



- ☑ **Nicaragua Service-Learning Trip.** Prof. Paul Lane, who has led innovation workshops (through his organization, Applied Global Innovation Initiative) in Nicaragua for 17 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, seven in 2014, and eleven this past May. In the space of three weeks, the students got to travel around the country and visit Managua and much smaller communities. These visits were both recreational and educational: students had the opportunity to see the natural beauty of Nicaragua (beaches, waterfalls, volcanoes, etc.), meet a variety of traditional craftsmen, and observe innovation at work in agriculture and applications of solar power. When they settle in at the small town of Esteli, they stay with residents in the community, giving them a greater understanding of the people and the culture of Nicaragua. Furthermore, the students were fully involved in the Applied Global Innovation Initiative, and presented at the week-long workshop as well as facilitated groups working on creative innovations. The impact that they had with the hundreds of students who participated in this event is hard to overstate.



Above: Alek Mizikar, a Marketing major, presents on planning for market entry.

Below: Shelby Owens, a Biology major with an Anthropology minor, explains the process of Ethnography and its importance in innovation



Left: students learn about coffee cupping—the process whereby the price is set to meet growers' needs as well as world demand.

- ☑ **Ghana Service-Learning Program.** The program continued for the 7th year. Here are some of the highlights:

⇒ **Strong Connections with Challenging Heights and James Kofi Annan.** **Grand Valley State University** awarded James Kofi Annan, the Founder and Director of Challenging Heights, and honorary doctorate at its December 2014 Commencement. In addition, Challenging Heights and the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies (the home of the Meijer Honors College) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which strengthens the partnership between GVSU and Challenging Heights.



James Kofi Annan accepting his degree

⇒ **Children's Rescue Race.** A couple of Honors Seniors—Stephany Zahl (who went on the Ghana Service-Learning Trip in 2014) and Lindsey Crawford organized a 5K run on campus to raise funds for Challenging Heights. They attracted nearly 200 participants and raised almost \$5000 for the organization. They plan to make it an annual event. See <https://www.classy.org/allendale/events/childrens-rescue-race-2015/e52353> for more information.



- ☑ **The 2015 Service-Learning Trip.** Prof. Peter Wampler (Geology) and Suzy Herman (Student Services) led 15 students to Ghana for 7 weeks in June and July 2015. As always, the trip was transformational for our students and beneficial for Ghanaians because of the assistance we were able to lend. Here are some of the highlights of that trip:

- Three weekend excursions to 1) Cape coast; 2) Yeji and Kumasi; and 3) the Akosombo Dam region (Shai Hills and Boti Falls).



- During the Yeji excursion (pictured on left) we rode the Challenging Heights rescue boat and participated in the distribution of hundreds of Tom's shoes to a village on Lake Volta called Accra Town (pictured below). Several Challenging Heights staff who had not been able to travel to Yeji were able to accompany us on the excursion.



- Two students (Skyler Thompson and Sam Bloom) participated in a new service learning site in collaboration with International Sustainability in Health and Water organization (ISHEW). The work we did was coordinated with Atta Kielson from ISHEW. All three are pictured on right.
- While in Winneba students participated in three service learning foci: 1) Ghana Health Service Effutu Municipality and Gamoa-West District (Apam) (8 students); 2) Challenging Heights (5 students); 3) International Sanitation Health Education and Water (ISHEW) (2 students).
- Two group-building service projects were completed at the Hovde House rescue shelter in Agona-Swedru. We completed: 1) a concrete stairway into the kitchen; and 2) a rain water catchment and storage system. These projects were coordinated with Challenging Heights staff and GVSU students helped with the work. The "slime crew" below.



- We collaborated with Dr. Justice Bawole to provide a one week course at the University of Ghana in Legon. This included two ½ day excursions to Aburi Botanical Garden and the ABAN NGO in Aburi, and an excursion to the Arts Market in Accra. All the students enjoyed this week of classes and returned to Accra to give final presentation on mock NGO's they created.
- Two students worked with Prof. Wampler and completed a 4-day exploratory trip to the Brong Ahofo region northwest of Kumasi to install 17 Biosand filters with ISHEW and evaluate water resources in remote villages. This work built on the success of the partnership of ISHEW and GVSU in Atkeyedo. Water filters were installed in Atkeyedo in the last couple of years and have been carefully maintained. It is no exaggeration to say that the quality of life has increased dramatically in that village—there are few, if any, waterborne illnesses there now, which means that people are healthier and children are able to focus on their education (as well as sports!).
- A test well was installed in collaboration with ISHEW to demonstrate a new technology for possible implementation in Ghana.
- A microbiological lab was setup for ISHEW.



STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In this section, it is important to keep in mind that less than 8% of Grand Valley's undergraduates are Honors students.

- ⇒ Forty-four Honors freshmen were honored by the **Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society**—40% of all of those so honored—and 75 Honors upperclassmen—almost 56% of the total—were initiated into the Society. The Honors student who was selected as chapter fellow, also won a national scholarship for graduate school. Abigail DeHart will be using the funds when she matriculates at the University of Cambridge.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Thirty-five Honors seniors were **recipients of departmental awards** at the annual Grand Valley State Awards Celebration on April 6th. This means that Honors students were given the highest academic award in 35 of the 83 departments that give the award—or 42%. Students won awards in almost every college. This year Honors students won the top award in Anthropology, Art History, Athletic Training, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Biopsychology, Broadcasting, Cell and Molecular Biology, Comprehensive Science and Arts for Teaching, English, Exercise Science, French, Geology, German, History, International Relations, Photography, Physics, Psychology, Social Studies, Sociology, Accounting, Business Economics, Economics, Legal Studies, Public and Non-Profit Administration, Secondary Education, Special Education, Occupational Safety and Health Management, Russian Studies, Women and Gender Studies., and Nursing. Further it should be noted that two Honors students won university-wide Leadership and Service awards. Andrew Plague, who was Student Senate President, was given the Kenneth Venderbush Leadership Award, and Anthony Clemons won a Thomas Seykora Award.
- ⇒ At **Student Scholars Day** in April, 127 Honors students presented, and at least 13 presented multiple times. There was a total of 530 student presenters, which means that Honors students made up nearly 24% of all student participants.
- ⇒ 205 Honors students received the **“I am Grand Valley Award”** this year (50 more than last year), and many of them were nominated multiple times. This represents over 20% of the total.



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

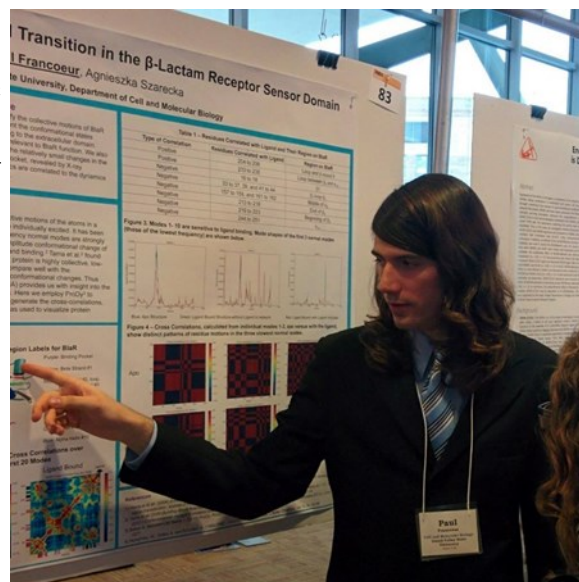
- ⇒ Nine of the 25 students (or 36%) chosen by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship to be **Summer Student Scholars** this past summer are Meijer Honors College students. In this prestigious program, the students work closely with a faculty member during the summer months on a research project and are given a stipend for their work. Many will present their work at major disciplinary conferences.
- ⇒ Honors students are responsible for a very large percentage of the peer tutoring and mentoring at Grand Valley.
 - Honors students comprised nearly 40% (24 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.
 - Eleven of the 18 **Peer Research Consultants**—61%—in the Knowledge Market in the Mary Idema Pew Learning and Information Commons this past year were Honors students.
 - Thirty-one Honors students served as Resident Assistants. There were a total of 107 RAs, so Honors students comprised nearly 29% of the total.
- ⇒ The graduating class of 2015 reported that fully 50% of them had been accepted to graduate school. Following are some of the universities they will be attending: GVSU; Harvard Medical School, Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine; University of Michigan's Medical School; The Ohio State University; Emory University; University of Cambridge (England); University of Southern California; Georgia Institute of Technology; University of New Mexico; University of Washington; Valparaiso University; Wayne State University; Eastern Illinois University; University of Pittsburgh; Western Michigan University; Case Western Reserve University; Middle Tennessee State University; Hochschule für Kunsttherapie in Nürtingen, Germany; McGill University; and the University of Guelph.



STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS—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. **Paul Francoeur** was the recipient for his project, “Conformational Dynamics of the BlaR Sensor Domain.” As his mentor, Agnieszka Szarecka wrote in her nomination of his work, “Paul has been working on modeling protein dynamics (motions) of a beta-lactam receptor protein (BlaR), which is instrumental in triggering the expression of beta-lactamase genes in some bacterial species, most notably in *S. aureus*. The protein assists *S. aureus* in detecting antibiotics and launching the production of antibiotic-hydrolyzing enzymes. Thus disabling the sensor protein can help us combat *S. aureus* infections. To this end, however, we need to fully understand the exact mechanism of the antibiotic sensing—down to the atomistic level. Protein dynamics is likely a decisive factor in this mechanism as we decided to employ several different computational techniques to study it. In his project, Paul has discovered several clues as to how the sensor’s binding site may transmit the signal to other protein segments along the transduction path. Some of his results were presented as a poster at the West Michigan Undergraduate Research Conference at the Van Andel Institute.”



Outstanding Senior Project: There were two recipients of this award this year, and they illustrate well how accomplished honors students are in widely differing fields.

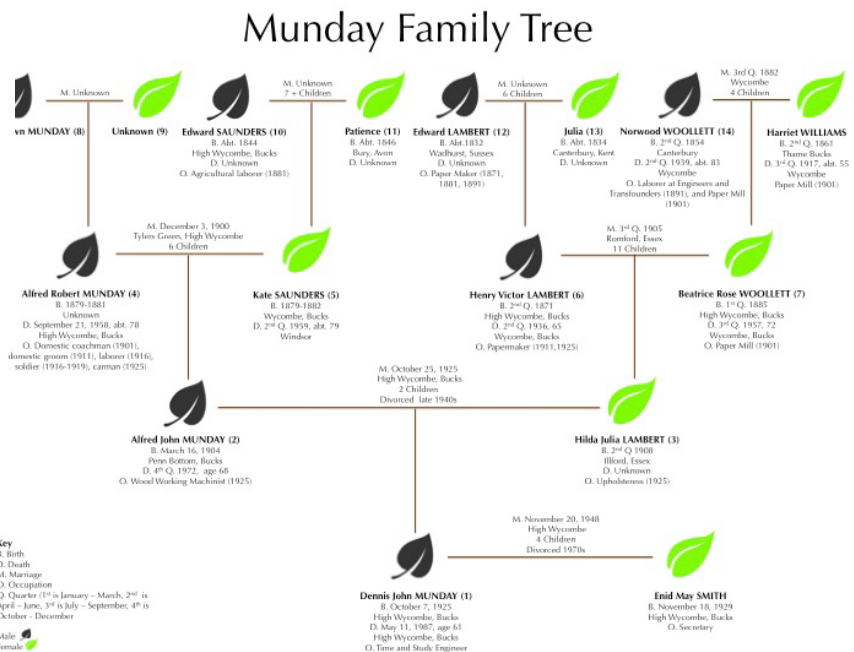
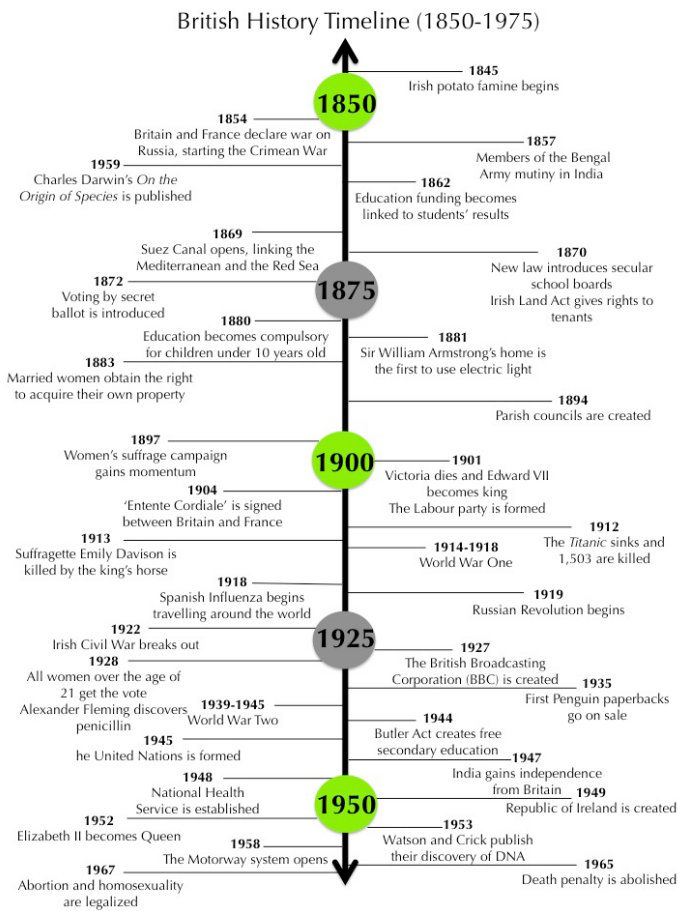
- **Alexzandra Johnson.** Alex’s faculty mentor, Stephanie Bender, described the project thusly: “She has completed an interactive guide to help recreational runners determine the cause of knee pain. This guide allows the user to pinpoint their area of pain on an image of the knee and by selecting a specific region; the user will be linked to not only a possible pathology and cause of that pain but also a variety of interventions that describe how to overcome it. Alex worked extremely hard on creating this project and put in many hours making sure the research, information, images and links are all correct with very little help from me. The idea for this guide was Alex’s and she had a vision of where she wanted to go from day one. She has not needed much guidance through the process and the outcome is a thoroughly complete guide to knee pain. In fact, I believe that this would benefit many athletes and I have encouraged Alex to consider making the guide available to the public through a webpage that she sets up in the future.

- The second Outstanding Senior Project Award went to **Megan Nowak**. As Megan's project advisor, Corinna McLeod, wrote, "Ms. Nowak's thesis is a well-written and thoughtful examination of the critical response to Tsitsi Dangarembga's seminal African text, *Nervous Conditions*. In the first part of her thesis, Ms. Nowak uses literary criticism, namely postcolonial studies and feminism, in order to examine the implications of gender in *Nervous Conditions*. One particularly strong part of Ms. Nowak's thesis investigates how critics have presented a character's bulimia as a manifestation of colonial resistance. Ms. Nowak expands the analysis of the metaphor of food and indoctrination across several characters in the novel. The second part of the thesis is a 15-unit lesson plan for a 12th grade English class. The lessons are rigorous. They are instructive and thought-provoking, and they also demonstrate Ms. Nowak's knowledge of the text and its contexts. She avoids the all-too-common pitfall of a generic vision of 'Africa' by instead focusing on the social and political issues particular to then-Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), while also providing important overviews of such important topics as colonialism. The end result is that students will encounter and understand the implications of macro-political frameworks such as colonization but avoid a continental generalization."

Outstanding Collaborative Research. There were two recipients for this award as well.

- **Adam Rosenberg** was captain of Prof. Star Swift's Team Web GVSU for his senior year. He guided fellow members of the team in regard to our Google Analytics and GrantsPro Advertising campaign for all of our technology tools. For more information on Team Web and its accomplishments, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhgJ6SuS124&feature=youtu.be>. He also was co-author of an article, "A Case Study: How to Restructure an Open Source Teaching Website to Improve Global and Digital Presence and Usage," published in *International Business Research* in 2015 (vol. 8, no. 3). As Prof. Swift noted, "I have never had a student work so hard on Team Web GVSU. This work ethic has resulted in many forms of technology that are used by the university and the world. Our arbitration web site receives over 10,000 hits per month. Google allows us \$40,000 per month in free advertising to help all of our projects see the light of day on a global basis. Adam has been the leader of this complex project and all the students involved with the project. Adam's leadership skills, his ability to see the big picture, his willingness to put in the long hours for almost no recognition are admirable. His devotion to service rather than self are unusual for a young man of his age. He is a true credit to the Honors Program and to the university."
- **Alyssa Kulesza**. Alyssa worked in Prof. Shannon Biros's Chemistry lab for four semesters. She did extraordinary work, and, as Prof. Biros points out, did five conference presentations (not including one at the Fall 2015 national conference of the American Chemical Society). Prof. Biros continues: "A portion of Alyssa's work has been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Acta Crystallographica*, describing the crystal structure of one of the ligands she prepared. A crystal structure can be thought of as 'taking a picture' of an organic compound, and it represents definitive proof of the compound's structure. Alyssa wrote a portion of this manuscript in collaboration with another student in my group. Through her work in my group she also identified the crystal structure of an additional organic compound, and we have recently submitted this structure for publication in the same journal. The third publication that Alyssa will be a part of is a manuscript that we will prepare this summer, in collaboration with three other students in my group, disseminating the luminescence results included in this senior thesis. We will submit this manuscript to a peer-reviewed inorganic chemistry journal—probably *Inorganic Chemistry* or *Inorganica Chimica Acta*."

Outstanding Creative Achievement: Alice Munday. Alice worked with two faculty on her senior project because it involved several disciplines and a creative approach. Her mentors wrote that her project, “Dennis John Munday: An Ascending Family History,” was impressive because of the unique “combination of careful scholarship and creativity that she has brought to her work. Her creative approach to this family history project was evident from the beginning of this process when she reached out to request that an expert in genealogy (Pat Bravender), and a British social and gender historian (Gretchen Galbraith), to collaborate in mentoring her. She knew from the outset that she wanted to construct a project that creatively blended traditional historical research methods and ways of writing with equally (if not more) strict genealogical ways of approaching analysis and presentation of primary sources. Her finished product successfully blended a family history with the broader economic, social, political and regional history that served as backdrop. It’s challenging enough to do either kind of project in such a short timeframe and so all the more impressive that she so successfully blended genealogical and historical writing in this project. This blended approach is reflected in her visual materials, which include a timeline of British history and a family tree.” These graphics are shown below.



Outstanding Leadership and Service Award. The recipient of this award this year was **Erin Erickson**. Erin provide exceptional leadership and service to the Honors College in chairing the Honors Mentor Council. She called Mentor Council meetings throughout the year, made sure that the council members were working closely and effectively with their assignment mentors, helped select new mentors, organized the training for new mentors, and coordinated the Welcome Days events.

Outstanding Senior Award. The highest award that Honors bestows is the Outstanding Senior Award. The recipient of this award is also recognized at the annual university awards convocation. Literally hundreds of students qualified for this award, and a dozen of the top students were asked to candidate for it. A faculty committee evaluated the materials of the candidates, and selected **Gail Berkompas** as this year's recipient. Gail graduated with a B.A. in English and Secondary Education, with minors in Applied Linguistics and Spanish Teaching. She started her college career very well by writing an award winning paper for the freshman paper competition, and presented that paper at the Grand Rapids Student Honors Conference. She became a Lead Peer Research Consultant in the Knowledge Market of the Mary Idema Pew Library and Information commons. She did an extraordinary amount of tutoring, and was an outstanding Honors College Freshman Mentor. She was also an officer and member r of the women's a cappella group, "Midnight Snack." Gail studied abroad for a full semester at the Universidad del Bio Bio in Chile, where she became fluent in Spanish. Her Honors senior project was "¡Vamos a Chile! A Web Guide for GVSU Students Studying Abroad in Chile," and her blog can be found at <http://gbadventureisoutthere.blogspot.com/>.



From left to right: Erin Erickson, Adam Rosenberg, Paul Francoeur, Alice Munday, Gail Berkompas, and Alyssa Kulesza.

FACULTY NEWS

⇒ **New Frederik Meijer Endowed Chair. Linda Chamberlain** was selected as the new Meijer Endowed Chair. The following was the announcement in *GV Now* (posted by Michele Coffil on March 23, 2015):

Linda Chamberlain was named the new Frederik Meijer Endowed Honors Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

She fills the position first held by Bill Holsinger-Robinson. Chamberlain is a familiar face at Grand Valley and in West Michigan's entrepreneurship circles.

Since 2012, Chamberlain has served as director of the Michigan Accelerator Fund and has been responsible for all aspects of the Grand Rapids-based partnership that contributes to Michigan's economy by investing in companies such as life sciences, advanced manufacturing and alternative energy.

At Grand Valley, Chamberlain works for the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence in the technology commercialization office. In that role, she co-developed a new course centered on design thinking, and provides services and resources for faculty research projects.

Chamberlain has served as executive director of Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. She also served as senior vice president for Global Forex Trading, and executive director of what is now GR Current, a business incubator.

Jeffrey Chamberlain, director of the Meijer Honors College, said Chamberlain (no relation) brings a wealth of experience in business, design thinking and entrepreneurship to the endowed chair position.

"Linda has excellent connections with community partners, and will help students get involved with West Michigan businesses and organizations in important experiences that will make a real difference in the world," he said.

As Meijer endowed chair, Chamberlain said she looks forward to working closely with students on individual or class projects. She will co-teach a course, "Design Thinking to Meet Real World Needs," with a faculty member in Liberal Studies.

"I am honored and privileged to assume the endowed chair position at the Honors College and am looking forward to the opportunity to work with students in both innovation and entrepreneurship," she said.



FACULTY NEWS

- ⇒ **New Faculty Member: Bettina Muehlenbeck** joins Honors in Fall 2015. Prof. Muehlenbeck is a musicologist who completed her Ph.D. at the University of Bern in Switzerland in 2011. She comes to us from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, where she has been teaching music history and musicology for four years. Her major field is 19th century music, and she is preparing manuscripts on the works and correspondence of the composer, William Sterndale Bennett. She has performed and presented widely, both in the United States and Europe. Welcome, Professor Muehlenbeck!
- ⇒ **Craig Benjamin** enjoyed a busy and active year in 2014/15, as teacher, author and administrator. In terms of scholarship he signed book contracts with Cambridge University Press to author a book titled *The First Silk Roads Era*, and with Routledge to edit a book titled *The Routledge Handbook of Big History*. He also enjoyed the publication of five new articles or chapters in peer-reviewed journals and books, and the publication of the *Cambridge History of the World Vol. 4: A World with States, Empires, and Networks, 1200 BCE-900 CE*, which Craig edited and contributed two chapters to. Craig gave presentations at conferences and colloquiums in Denver, Jamestown NY, and Savannah; and he has been invited to give conference papers in Kerala in India, and Moscow, during summer/fall 2015. Craig has also been contracted to produce a new 36-lecture series for The Teaching Company, titled *The Big History of Civilization*, which will be filmed in June 2016. Craig also continued in his twin administrative roles as Treasurer of the International Big History Association (2011-present), and President of the World History Association (2014/15). Craig was doubly honored by Grand Valley State University in 2015 by being promoted to full professor, and being awarded the Glenn A. Niemeyer Outstanding Faculty Award, the highest academic honor bestowed by the university.
- ⇒ **Jeremiah Cataldo** developed a new course (Terror of Monotheism). He became chair of the Social-Sciences and Interpretation of Hebrew Scriptures section of the Annual Society of Biblical Literature Meeting. He was very active in scholarship, too: he wrote a draft for a forthcoming book, wrote two chapters for edited volumes, and published three more. He finished an encyclopedia entry for ABC Clio, completed two journal articles (one that will be submitted shortly), and published two book reviews. He gave two presentations to the West Michigan Thought Leaders association on religious fundamentalism, participated in the Colloquium on Science and Religion in Islam and Christianity (two events, one in Istanbul, Turkey; the other in Grand Rapids), gave a presentation at the International Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Vienna, Austria, and gave a sabbath presentation at a local synagogue (Temple Emanuel). He also served on multiple committees (most notably one that revised the tenure guidelines for Brooks College), and wrote countless reference letters!
- ⇒ **Kurt Ellenberger** was a plenary speaker at the International Association of Schools of Jazz in Lisbon, Portugal, where he presented his two-year Fulbright study on jazz styles and jazz pedagogy in the United States and Europe. It was very well-received and he has invitations to present this research in the US and in Europe. He also released a new CD, a collaborative project in a new genre that is available worldwide through iTunes, Amazon, and streaming on Spotify and other services. He continues his work as a blogger for Huffington Post, where he wrote an article on supposed music copyright infringement in Led Zeppelin's iconic song "Stairway To Heaven" which was reposted by the US Copyright Association. His blog was also quoted by noted British Jazz Scholar Stuart Nicholson in his latest book "Jazz and Culture in a Global Age." In addition, Ellenberger was honored to be asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the city of Mannheim, Germany as an artistic advisor.

- ⇒ **David Eick** mentored dozens of students and got them presenting in venues on and off campus. He organized a student panel at the **South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies** annual meeting (hosted by the University of Alabama) on “Undergraduate Research on 18th-Century France’s Ever Modern Encyclopédie,” and had three students participate on the panel (as Eick could not travel, the panel was chaired by CLAS Associate Dean Gretchen Galbraith.) This was the first time undergraduates had given papers at this conference. He had seven freshmen present at Student Scholars Day (four of which also presented at the Mid-East Honors Association annual meeting at Kent State University), and worked closely with upperclassmen Scott St. Louis, who gave a paper at the national American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference (Los Angeles, March, 2015) on “Big Data and the Search for Balanced Insight in the Digital Humanities: Macroscopic and Microscopic Reading of Citation Strategies in the Encyclopédie of Diderot (and Jaucourt), 1751-1772.” This paper was subsequently published in “Working Papers” of University of Chicago’s ARTFL Project. Furthermore Scott contributed three (peer-reviewed) entries to the University of Michigan’s Encyclopedia of Diderot and d’Alembert Collaborative Translation Project. In his ongoing pedagogical innovation work, Prof. Eick was invited to speak to the annual meeting of west Michigan French professors on Reacting to the Past pedagogy in the foreign-language classroom (at Aquinas College). A GVSU team ran a “micro-game” demonstrating the pedagogy, followed by Q & A., and he organized micro-game demonstrating Reacting to the Past pedagogy for faculty at the conference. CLAS Associate Dean Gretchen Galbraith led the demonstration, which was facilitated by GVSU students Caitlin Fitzgerald, Katie Torkelson and Scott St. Louis. Eick collaborated with GVSU Library and Special Collections to obtain original edition of Diderot’s Encyclopédie (1751-72) for use by my students. As his Honors senior project, Scott St. Louis will curate an exhibit at the library this year. Eick Continued to serve as French book review editor for Eighteenth Century Current Bibliography; as managing editor for New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century on the editorial board of Cahiers Interdisciplinaires de Recherche en Histoire, Lettres, Langues et Arts; on the Reacting to the Past Game Development Committee and the executive board of the Southeastern Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Furthermore, he had the rare (but well-deserved) honor of being recipient of the Student Award for Faculty Excellence (SAFE) from GVSU Student Senate at the President’s Ball, Feb. 2015
- ⇒ **Jane Toot** has been working assiduously on the Tandem 365 project. Tandem 365 is a partnership between Porter Hills, Clark, Holland Home, Sunset Manor (all senior living centers) and Life Ambulance. Priority Health is strongly supporting the initiative because it promises huge savings in healthcare because seniors are treated at home or their living centers. Jane will teach the training course once in August and September, then again in February and March. Her students started a club called “Students for Aging in Place” because Jane focused on the issues and needs last Fall in her “Live, Learn, Lead” class (she will be doing the same again this Fall, with twice as many students because she is offering two sections). The students will be trained volunteers in Tandem 365, and the living centers are eager to have their assistance. Jane believes that this is a new national model for senior healthcare delivery, and expects to present on the program at the annual conference of the American Society for Aging in Washington D.C. in March 2016.

- ⇒ **Jonathan White** directed a team during the Winter semester to write the report for the Law Enforcement Equipment Acquisition Working Group (LEEWG) in response to the president's executive order, wrote a revision of terrorism and homeland security (about 350-400 new pages), and gave a briefing for Michigan university and college security personnel on radicalization on college campuses.
- ⇒ In July of 2014, **Karen Zivi** was officially promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science. In September, her article, "Performing the Nation: Contesting Same-Sex Marriage Rights in the United States" was published in the *Journal of Human Rights* and she presented a paper on dignity and anger at the American Political Science Association meeting. In October, Professor Zivi attended a conference at the University of Chicago on the limits of human rights documents and in November, she was one of approximately fifty individuals from twenty-seven different countries chosen to attend a week-long seminar on sexual and reproductive health and rights litigation run by Harvard University's Global School of Socioeconomic rights. She incorporated insights and materials gained from these conferences into her courses and her work advising senior theses on related topics. In December, Professor Zivi's book was reviewed in *American Political Science Review* alongside some of the top names working on human rights theory today, and an article she wrote on dignity and rights is forthcoming in *Human Dignity and the Promise of Human Rights* edited by Richard Hiskes.

CONCLUSION

Lauren Kokx, one of the candidates for the Meijer Honors College Outstanding Senior Award, summarized her experience in Honors as follows:

"I can honestly say that I would not be the person I am today without the Frederik Meijer Honors College. I never would have met some of the amazing people that I have built lasting relationships with. I would not have the wide range of knowledge, nor the drive to search and understand what is going on around me. I would not have the same abilities to understand, contemplate, and accept others' opinions and engage in meaningful discussions with peers and authority figures. I would have wasted valuable time searching for information and asking for help. I would have missed out on volunteer, service, and fun opportunities around campus and in the community. I am grateful for everything the Honors College has done for me and would like to thank everyone who has had a hand in making it possible."

It is clear that Honors is a genuine 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 more detail on student achievements and 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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