

FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2016

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The university's new public relations campaign is titled "The Laker Effect," which calls attention to the "collective impact of the Grand Valley State University community on individual students, West Michigan, our state, and beyond" (<http://www.gvsu.edu/lakereffect/>). The Meijer Honors College demonstrates this "Laker Effect" in bold relief. As you will see in the following pages—as well as in our most recent graduate profile booklet—our students exemplify the "Laker Effect" in extraordinary ways. Their impact impresses me more and more each year. Students contribute in a wide array of fields and to many different communities; they study in almost every corner of the world; they lead very substantial organizations; they start effective initiatives and develop new products; they present their research and initiatives at prestigious conferences; their work is published and accessed globally; and, of course, they go on to some of the best graduate schools in the country and are hired at top firms. It is no exaggeration to say that Honors students and alumni are a powerful force for global good.

Of course, it "takes a village" to prepare students to make this kind of impact. We owe the Admissions office a debt of gratitude for recruiting such strong students and pointing them our way. Andy Beachnau and the Housing Office have been vital partners in creating a genuine living/learning community. We have a small administrative and advising staff in Honors, but they work miracles in coordinating Honors operations and supporting the students. Our faculty are world-class scholars who shape public discourse by their writing and presentations. But they are also tremendously student-centered, and make it their mission to mentor students in knowledge and skills. This then multiplies their impact exponentially, as students live out their education locally and globally. And we are very grateful to Anne Hiskes, Dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Provost Gayle Davis, and President Thomas Haas, and the myriad other faculty, administrators, and support staff for their unstinting support. President Haas, in fact, demonstrated his commitment to Honors in an article published in the Fall/Winter 2015 issue of the *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council* (vol. 15, No. 2, pp. 45-49) entitled "Relevance, Rigor, and Return on Investment: How Honors Enhances Education." A digital copy of that article can be accessed online at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nchcjournal/460/>. Most of all, I have to give credit to the students who take ownership of their own education and are the ones who are proliferating the "Laker Effect" by their exceptional scholarship and amazing leadership.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report and see for yourself the "Laker Effect" in action through the Meijer Honors College.

Sincerely,



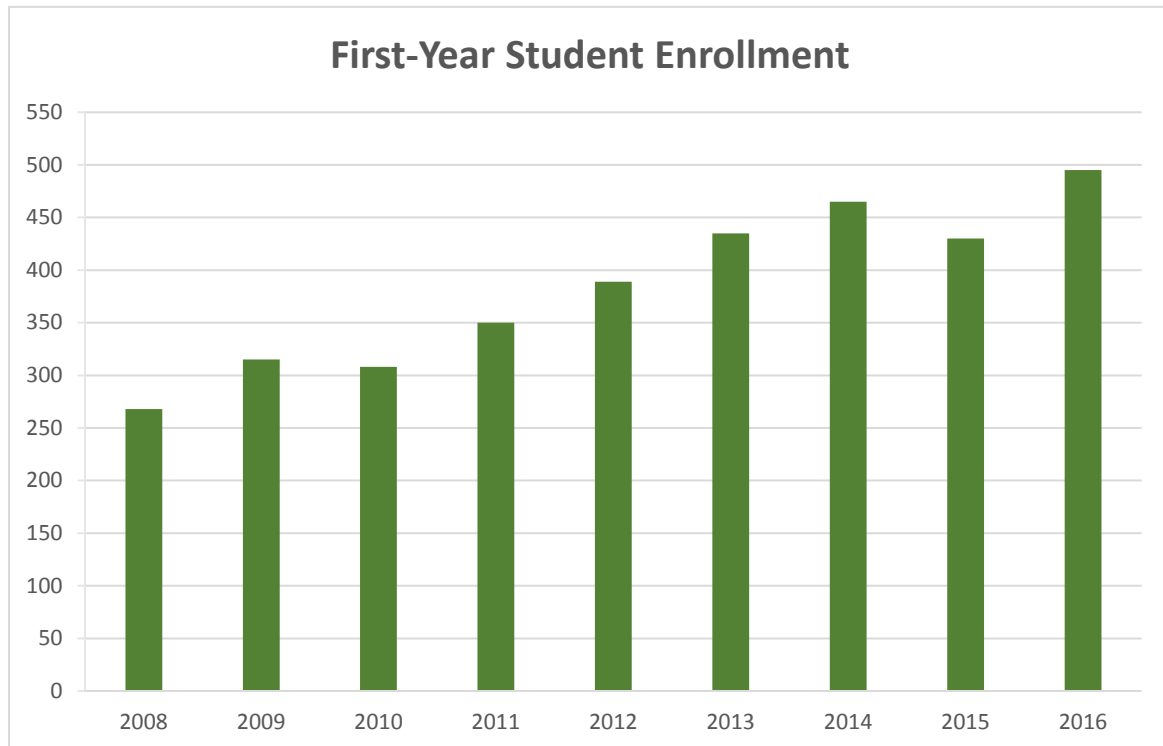
Jeff Chamberlain, Director



FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS

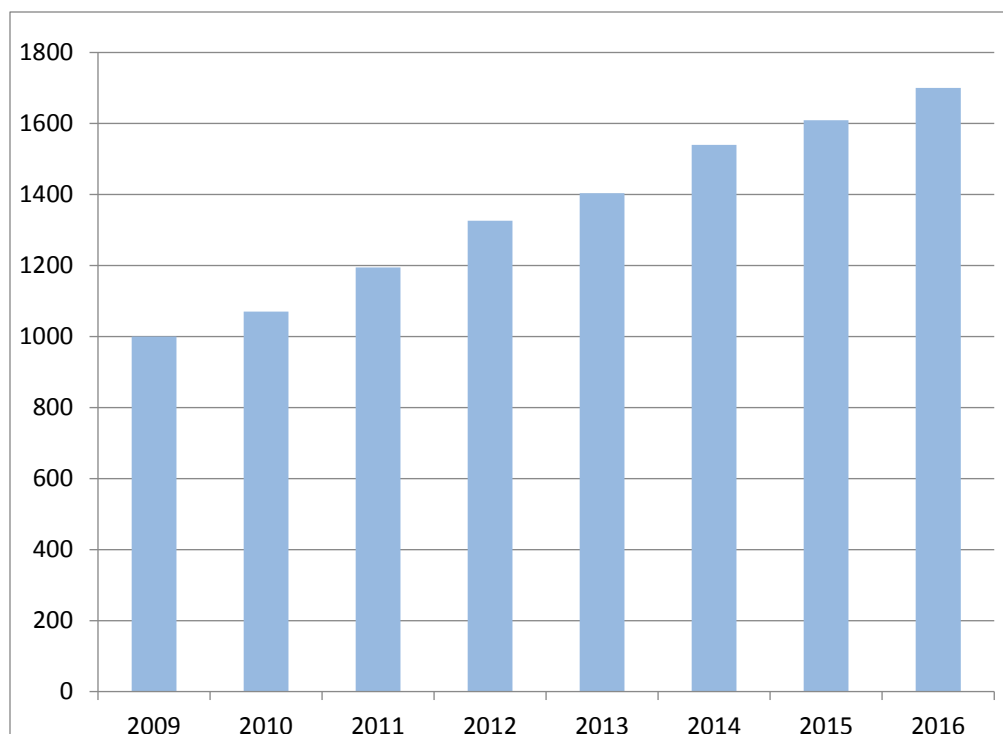
Enrollment and Retention. The Meijer Honors College continues to grow.

Honors first-year student enrollment: The first-year class for Fall of 2016 hit a new record. Though we received slightly fewer applications than for Fall of 2014, more applicants chose to attend Grand Valley, so the yield was significantly higher. In 2014, we had 462 first-year students; in 2016, we came very close to 500.



The average ACT of incoming freshmen is 29 and the average high school GPA is 3.93, which compares favorably with figures from previous years. 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 87.6% graduated after six years (with 84% completing in five years).

Honors total enrollment: Honors programs usually comprise somewhere between five and nine percent of the total undergraduate population. The Meijer Honors College was on the low side of that for many years—only six years ago honors students comprised five percent of GVSU’s population. Honors caught up quickly, though—with more first-year students than ever and with high retention rates, we have nearly 1700 students and have topped eight percent. This means that we are at our optimal enrollment, and will plan to continue at roughly the same proportion of students.



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 (according to data from the 2014 entering year) is 81.4%, whereas Honors is 94.8%. 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).

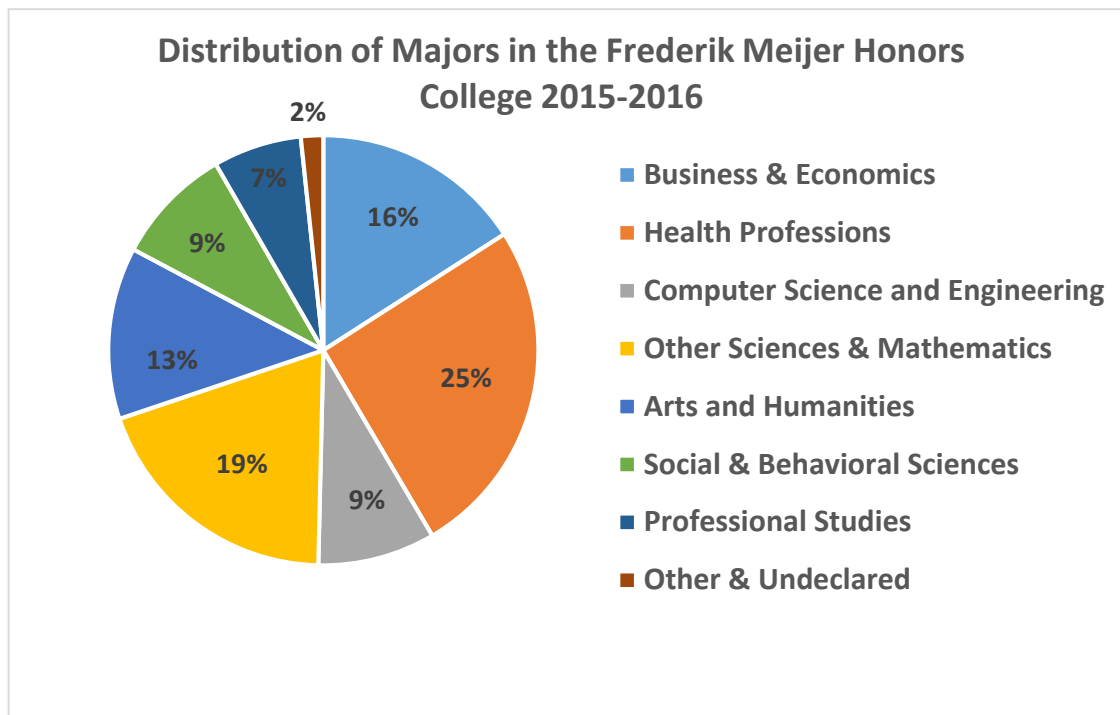
Cohort	GVSU 4-year graduation rate	Honors 4-year rate	GVSU 5-year graduation rate	Honors 5-year rate	GVSU 6-year graduation rate	Honors 6-year rate
2011	35.70%	62.60%				
2010	34.10%	59.70%	60.20%	87.30%		
2009	36.70%	65.40%	57.70%	84.10%	66.60%	87.60%
2008	31.30%	51.90%	58.20%	73.50%	63.80%	79.50%
2007	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%

What is also remarkable is the graduation rate of first generation students in Honors. Honors graduates 80% of its first generation students—most of them within four years—whereas the university in generation graduates 61.8%.

Graduation Rates for 2009 FTIACS in FMHC, by First Generation Status

	N	4-yr grad rate	5-yr grad rate	6-yr grad rate
First Generation	70	61.4%	75.7%	80.0%
Not First Generation	245	66.9%	86.9%	89.8%
Total	315	65.7%	84.4%	87.6%

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



It's interesting to note that the percentage of Health Professions majors has gone down a bit (from 28%), though Math and Sciences rose from 11%. Computer Science and Engineering majors also dropped a few points—from 12% to 9%. The number of Business and Economics majors has risen (from 11.5%), and Humanities is actually a point higher as well. 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 that over 40% of honors students 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: ANCHOR (the Honors Community Council), 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 Dance Club, Dance Troup, Skating Club, Campus Crusade, Campus Ministry, Intervarsity, Catholic Campus Ministry, LGBT Network of West Michigan, 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, Band, and the list goes on. 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 very thought-provoking speakers this past year.

Fall 2015 Lecture. On Tuesday, October 13, 2015, **Nancy Hickey**, former CFO of Steelcase presented. Ms. Hickey began her career as a high school English teacher and retired from Steelcase in June of 2014 where she was the Chief Administrative Officer. Throughout her 28 years at Steelcase, she held positions in sales leadership and as CAO was responsible for a wide variety of global corporate functions including corporate communications, corporate and community relations, talent management, information technology, sustainability, real estate and facilities. In addition, Nancy managed the global business centers in Kuala Lumpur, Monterrey and Cluj. She is a member of the board of directors for Fifth Third Bank, Meijer Inc., West



Michigan Center for Arts and Technology (WMCAT) and Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Linda Chamberlain, the Meijer Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, interviewed her.



Warm and engaging, Ms. Hickey talked about how to develop a rich, fulfilling career. She talked about the value that a solid liberal education, in that it helps people develop critical and creative thinking skills, as well as ability to learn in different ways. She emphasized three points on how to get ahead in one's career: work hard (take initiative and do as well as you possibly can); be curious (learn about all facets of the company or organization; take an interest in other people

and their roles); and be willing to risk (stretch yourself, accept challenging opportunities, and take on jobs you're not entirely comfortable with). She also spoke of the importance of understanding issues in a global context: students should learn deeply and should study abroad if possible. Ms. Hickey made a deep impression on all attendees with her wisdom and example of leadership.

Winter 2016 Lecture. Our lecturer in the Winter semester was Ryan McManus, founder of Accenture's Digital Business Strategy practice. Mr. McManus previously served as the Accenture Strategy COO and a



leader in the firm's Corporate Strategy, M&A and International Expansion practices. He has worked with clients across industries since 1995. Mr. McManus is a member of the Aspen Institute Society of Fellows Vanguard Chapter Advisory Board and the Aspen Institute's Socrates Steering Committee. He has worked in over 40 countries, earned his MBA at The University of Chicago Booth School of Business and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Valedictorian of the University of Iowa. In his lecture,

Mr. McManus emphasized how fast the “digital revolution” has changed our world. We know that technology has evolved rapidly, but in the last two or three years the scale of that change has been revolutionary and things will never be the same. This means that we all need to understand the digital world—even computer coding—to fully participate in the world today. Mr. McManus coupled this emphasis on the digital with liberal education and global understanding. So, to be educated for the world today and the future, one should be broadly trained, should understand different cultures, and should grasp digital processes. He used a Venn diagram to show how all three areas were critical, and the more we have of each of them, the better equipped we are to interact with—and change—the world around us. Students, faculty, and community members all took away the message that Liberal Education is vital in today's world, but it cannot be divorced from emergent technology. Many of us who have been teaching for years were heartened by the message of the importance of Liberal Education and challenged to keep up with—or learn—the technology that is changing our world.





HONORS ORIENTATION AND WELCOME DAYS

The Honors College works diligently to foster community among its students, staff, and faculty. For this reason, we invite incoming first-year students to stay overnight in the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center the night before they attend the university's Orientation program. It is a time that is very valuable, because students not only feel welcomed by faculty and staff, they learn more about the Honors program and meet upper class mentors, many of whom come from long distances to greet and befriend the new students. Many incoming students start bonding with each other at this one event. The Mentor Council plans the events after the formal information session—favorites include a night tour of the Allendale Campus and playing “Body, Body.”

Another part of the process of welcoming incoming first-year students is Honors Welcome Days. Students move in to Honors living centers at the earliest opportunity, and mentors, faculty, and staff are there to welcome and help them. Then the Mentor Council and the Honors staff puts on a two-day program that is welcoming, informational, and fun. There are sessions on study abroad, undergraduate research, and opportunities to apply for nationally competitive fellowships. There is also a photo scavenger hunt competition, along with other fun activities. Incoming students are asked to write their aspirations on paper clouds, which are posted outside the Honors Office (and returned to them at the Honors Senior Recognition Ceremony when they graduate). The event culminates with a group photo of all the new students and mentors. The picture on the left is of students gathering in the Niemeyer Multipurpose Room. The photos on the following page are of 1) “big dream clouds” displayed outside the Honors Office, 2) Director Chamberlain’s selfie with hundreds of his new best friends, 3) a group on a photo scavenger hunt, and 4) the group photo.





Fellowships Annual Report



Discover. Dream. Destiny.

www.gvsu.edu/fellowships

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. Fellowships staff (a director and an academic year graduate assistant) provide nationally prestigious scholarship and fellowship advising services to students and alumni from all GVSU campuses, colleges and schools. During Spring 2016 the office returned to Niemeyer Learning and Living Center, Room 142. Also this Spring, GA Marina Okopnaia completed her degree in CSAL and accepted a position as Assistant Director of the Office of International Student Services at Indiana University-South Bend. Lauren Presutti, M.Ed., will join the Fellowships Office staff in August.

Fun Facts

- ♦ GVSU students and alumni have been offered nearly \$1,500,000 dollars in inter/nationally competitive funding since 2009.
- ♦ Over 50 GVSU students and alumni received inter/nationally competitive scholarships, fellowships and awards during AY 2015/16
- ♦ Nearly 200 GVSU students and alumni applied for inter/nationally competitive awards with the support of Office of Fellowships staff
- ♦ Over 500 in-person Fellowships advising appointments took place this Academic Year, in addition to over 200 virtual appointments (including phone, text, Skype, Facetime and Gchat sessions).
- ♦ In Spring 2016, we added the PureChat widget and texting device, which facilitates virtual office hours and real time responses to student queries submitted via the Fellowships Office homepage.
- ♦ Appointment Manager advising scheduling (and database/appointment management system) will launch for Fall Semester 2016.

Top Reasons for Appointment Requests

- 1: Study Abroad Funding
- 2: Gilman Scholarship
- 3: Graduate School & Postgraduate Opportunities Funding
- 4: Language Study/Exchange Opportunities
(Boren, Critical Language, DAAD, Fulbright, etc.)
- 5: General Fellowship Advising/Searches

AY 2015-16 Award Outcomes

Dayne Martinez,* *Biochemistry/Neuroscience*, received an *Honorable Mention* from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Foundation.

Jessica Ansara and **Leah Beaulac*** have both been awarded United Nations World Health Organization Internships in Jordan for Winter/Spring 2017.

Nathan Axdorff, CSAL '16, will commission in the Peace Corps as an English instructor to Ecuador in January 2017.

Travis Brubaker,* *International Business/German*, received awards from JYM Alumni/LMU & Cultural Vistas/Carl Duisberg Stiftung to support his study and internship in trans-Atlantic relations in Munich, Germany during AY 2016/17. He also received a GVSU Padnos Scholarship.

Blythe Carvajal, International Business/East Asian Studies/Japanese, is the first GVSU student to receive the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) Bridging Scholarship to support her study at ICU in Mitaka, Japan during AY 2016/17. Blythe also received Japan's JASSO Scholarship (¥800,000) for AY 2016/17.

Kristen Childs,* is GVSU's first recipient of the DAAD's (German Academic Exchange Service) Summer Study Scholarship, which she declined in order to accept the DAAD RISE (Research Internship in Science and Engineering) Fellowship.

During Summer 2016, Kristen is using GIS to explore land-use change and socio-ecological transformation processes at Friedrich-Alexander- Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany.

Ryan Grabijas '16, Hospitality and Tourism Management/German/Business and **Seth Price '14*, anthropology**, received EPIK (English Program in Korea) Teaching Fellowships. **Ryan** also received a Cultural Vistas/Carl Duisberg Stiftung Fellowship to support a summer internship in Munich, Germany.

Lindsey Dopheide, * Religious Studies/Psychology, received a Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Scholarship to support her study abroad programs in Ghana and the United Kingdom.

Britlynn Hastings, * '16, International Relations/East Asian Studies accepted a placement as a JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme) Fellow in Minoh, Osaka Prefecture, Japan. She was named an alternate for the Princeton in Asia Fellowship Program in Japan.

* -denotes member of the Frederik Meijer Honors College

Boren National Security Education Program (NSEP) Scholarship (\$20,000): New GVSU Record

Yaneli Perez, *Psychology/Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice*, received an Erasmus Plus Scholarship from the European Union to support her study at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey during Winter/Spring/ Summer 2016.

Liana Periard '16* and **Ariana Martineau*** were among 6 students chosen globally to participate in the Holocaust Educational Foundation's 2016 East European Summer Seminar.

Amber Sackett, *French/Arabic/Middle East Studies* is GVSU's first Institute for International Education Generation Study Abroad/ French Embassy received Benjamin Franklin Scholar. This Generation Study Abroad award supported her study in Pau, France during Spring/Summer 2016. **Amber, Jennifer Han**, *French/Applied Linguistics* and **Hollin Heyward**, *French*, (University of Montreal-Quebec in Fall 2016), also received *Alliance Francais* Awards for study of the French language.

Christy Bechtel, * *International Relations/Middle East Studies/German*, received a National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship for AY 2016-17 year to study Arabic at the University of Amman, Jordan.

Kristen Childs,* *Geography/International Relations*, received a National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship for AY 2016-17 year to begin a master's program in Global Information Systems and Geodesy at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She also received a Barbara H. Padnos Study Abroad Scholarship to support this study program.

Dallas Davis,* *Interdisciplinary Studies/German*, received a National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship for AY 2016-17 year. Dallas also received an Erasmus Plus Scholarship from the European Union to support his study of intensive

Romanian, national security and international relations at Babes Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania.

Evan Irvine, *International Relations/East Asian Studies/ Japanese Studies*, received a Freeman-ASIA Scholarship from IIE to support study at Kwansei Gakuin University in Japan during Fall 2016. Evan also received a Murray Scholarship from PIC at GVSU.

Alison Kaboos, *International Business/East Asian Studies/Japanese Studies*, received a Freeman-ASIA Scholarship from IIE to support study at ICU in Japan during AY 2016/17. The first international student approved to spend a full calendar year at ICU, Alison was also awarded the Japan ICU Foundation Scholarship, valued at (¥960,000) to support study from July 2016-August 2017.

Fulbright IIE Student Scholarship Program

David Gonzalez, '16, *Spanish/International Relations*, will instruct university-level English in **Brazil** beginning in February 2017.

During Fall Semester 2016, David will serve as Fellow in the North American Language and Culture Assistant Programme of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.

Megan Rodawold,* '16, *Writing/Political Science/ International Relations*, will teach English at two technical universities in Trutnov, **Czech Republic**.

Spencer Santa Coloma, '14, *Anthropology*, who has served in Peace Corps in Kyrgyzstan, will teach English in Turkey.

Rebecca Vu, '15 was named a Fulbright Semi-Finalist to Greece. She is also a semi-finalist for the National Health Service Corps Scholarship to attend PA School in Fall 2017.

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Recipients

Fall & Academic Year 2015/16: \$12500

Emelie Milnikel, *Communications/PR*, Ghana

Amina Mohamed, *Education*, Spain

Daniel Wenzel, *Biomedical Science*, Cyprus

Alternates

DeMante Baldwin, Japan

Megan Smith, South Africa

Spring 2016, \$9500

Khader Jabbar, *International Relations/Middle East Studies/Human Rights*, Jordan

Alison Pettibone, *Communications*, Ireland

Early Summer 2016: \$9500

Roy Herpin, * *Education/Mathematics*, Tanzania

Elayne Vaughn, *Communications/Afro-American Studies*, Ghana

Summer 2016: \$32500

Shukri Bana, *Women & Gender Studies*, South Africa

Vanesha Blackburn, *Women & Gender Studies*, Ghana

Jasmine Bruce, *Fine Arts*, China

Julia Dang, * *Education/English*, Ghana

Deandrea Hollowell, *Women's Studies/Sociology*, South Africa

Sultan Hubbard, *Psychology/Afro-American Studies*, Ghana

Emily Konen, * *Therapeutic Recreation*, Ireland.

Emily also received GVSU's Murray Scholarship.

Holly Miller, *Chinese Studies*, China

Nhu Nguyen, * *Biomedical Science/Chemistry*, Ghana

Jaedah Pickens, *Psychology/Afro-American Studies/Sociology*, Ghana

Amber Sackett, *French/Middle East Studies/Arabic*, France/Morocco. Amber also received the Alliance Francais & Benjamin Franklin Awards for French language study.

Fall 2016/ Academic Year 2016/17: \$28500

Chloe LaLonde, *Allied Health Science/Nutrition/German*, Germany.

Chloe also received German governmental/DAAD support for her study in the JYM Program at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany during AY 2016/17. As a Cultural Vistas/Carl Duisberg Stiftung Fellow, she will complete an internship in nutrition science during Spring/Summer 2017.

Jennifer Polasek, *Political Science*, Poland.

Jennifer also received an Erasmus Plus Fellowship from the European Union to support her study at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland.

Sunnie Wiswell, *Biomedical Science/ Chemistry/German*, Germany. Sunnie also received an LMU DAAD award, JYM Alumni Scholarship and GVSU Padnos Scholarship to support her study in JYM at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität.

She has also been named a Cultural Vistas/ Carl Duisberg Foundation Fellow, which will provide additional support for an internship in human rights and public health during Spring/Summer 2017.

Cameron Saghaiepour, * *IR/Middle East Studies*, Tajikistan. Cameron is GVSU's first recipient of the Critical Language Enhancement Award in addition to receiving the maximum Gilman award amount.

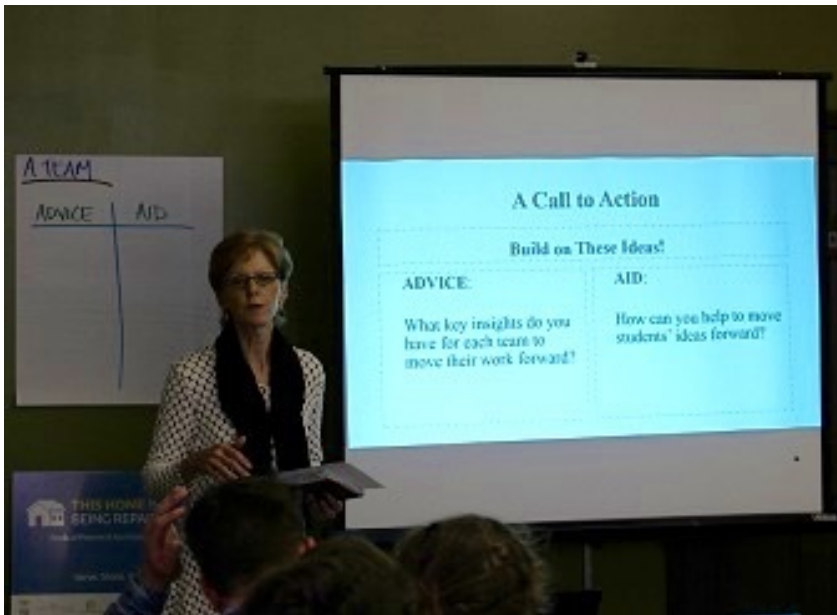
GVSU is Michigan's top producer of Gilman Scholars in 2016, as well as a top producer of Gilman Scholars nationally.

For AY 2016/17 GVSU will also be designated a top producer of Boren/NSEP Scholars.

GVSU students and alumni have been awarded over \$400,000 in competitive fellowships, scholarships and awards received during Academic Year 2015/16.

THE FREDERIK MEIJER CHAIR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION

In July 2015, Linda Chamberlain, Ph.D. became the second Frederik Meijer Honors College Endowed Chair for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Dr. Chamberlain's corporate, not-for-profit, start-up, academic and civic work experiences provide a unique point-of-view from which she is proactively developing opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship for Honors students. Her goal is to have all of our Honors Students have a recognized "innovation" experience while at GVSU. To date, her efforts have been focused on developing curriculum, extra-curricular innovation engagements, student internships, and advising on Honors Senior Projects. She has also been evolving her own scholarship primarily to increase her potential to create interesting and engaging international opportunities in innovation for our Honors students.



Leading the innovation strategy is Linda's Honors Junior Seminar: Design Thinking to Meet Real World Needs, developed in collaboration with Liberal Studies. The curriculum- which we believe to be the only true interdisciplinary design thinking general education course in the nation- integrates elements of best practice in high-impact learning and design thinking methods with education in collaborative skills. Over 15 weeks, the students, working in teams, are challenged to "dig in" deeply to systemic societal issues, and provide innovative solutions. In parallel, the students are individually challenged to innovate for a personal challenge. Over the two semesters the course has been

offered, the students have innovated solutions for the GVSU Student Food Pantry, and a local non-profit

focused on reintegration of homeless individuals into their neighborhoods. Descriptions of the course outcomes are best showcased in the class Innovation Portfolios which are posted to GVSU ScholarWorks.

In Collaboration with GVSU's Technology Commercialization Office (TCO) and the University of Michigan, Linda launched the Customer Discovery Program (CDP). The CDP

process is a method of working from the market, i.e. with the customers, back to the innovation. The intention is to use the CDP process to vet technology, product and service innovations of faculty, students and staff, enabling the TCO to better prioritize university resources. Eight Honors students were recruited to participate as entrepreneurial leaders on the CDP teams, conducting the demanding process over the five weeks. Two honors students evolved their participation into Senior Honors Projects, developing new hypothesis to test in the market. Another GVSU team advanced to a national program, receiving \$50,000 in grant funding. The GVSU teams were so impressive that Linda was invited by the University of Michigan to submit a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to be recognized as a "Site" for Customer Discovery best practices (\$500,000 over 5 years). The proposal includes engagement with all GVSU Colleges in CDP practices, as well as the design of a new course in innovative, interdisciplinary practices that will be integrated into curriculum in both the Seidman College of Business and the College of Engineering. Of course, Honors students are front and center as team leaders!



Linda is a strong community advocate for Honors students, proactively reaching out to industry and entrepreneurial organizations to create internships that 1) are paying, and 2) focus on leadership in innovation. Since July of 2015, over a dozen Honors students have worked on innovation projects with a range of regional businesses, from start-ups to large corporations.

Based on her innovation experience and expertise, Linda has been selected as a Visiting Professor at the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) in Lyon, France (<http://www.ens-lyon.fr/>). Her scholarship will focus on the design and development of pedagogy for design thinking as research. A demonstration of an application of the pedagogy is to be realized through project work between the ENS and Musée des Confluences (Musée des Confluences). Through this opportunity, Linda is also looking forward to creating other exciting opportunities for collaboration between Honors College faculty and students and discipline interests at the ENS.

Helping Honors to maintain strong and informed connections throughout GVSU, Linda has been involved on in several task force activities including graduate studies and development of the Masters in Social Innovation. She has also jumped right in to support Honors efforts to build curriculum, fundraise, and develop a new model for long-term engagement with and for Honors Alumni.

FEATURED STUDENTS

CURRENT STUDENTS

Annie Livingston. Annie Livingston, an English major, had a banner second year in Honors. She is a model for engaged learning, taking advantage of a wide variety of opportunities (and spreading “the Laker Effect”). In November she presented her original poetry at the National Collegiate Honors Council annual conference in Chicago (pictured on right). In May she participated in the NCHC Partners in the Park at the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. As Annie put it, “the PITP trip provided an amazing way for us to connect and explore together, regardless of lack of previous common experiences. We hiked every day during the week and stayed in the Kilauea Military Camp dorms, except for an overnight



backpacking expedition which consisted of hiking eight miles over volcanic rock and back. The level of involvement and engagement with the National Parks was incredible. I had only visited a few State Parks before and I had certainly never used all of the resources that were offered in terms of informal education. Interacting with so many rangers, hike leaders, wildlife specialists, and other educators changed how I look at learning. It also made me consider how I want to be able to give back to a community, both in the

sense of a human community and a biological one. I would not have been able to absorb this knowledge or expand this part of myself and my learning without the PITP program and without the funding assistance I received from the GVSU Honors program.”

In June Annie attended the Bear River Writing Conference, a writing-intensive program hosted by the University of Michigan. In Annie’s words, “we formally participated in workshop for three hours a day for three days from nine to noon. In the afternoons, there were multiple craft talks, readings, and other workshops, as well as time to write and continue on pieces for the following day. I had never been in one room with so many writers before, and the wealth of knowledge, support, and talent was both inspirational and intimidating. The Conference allowed me to produce some of my

best work and it also taught me the value in setting aside small chunks of time to write *every single day*. Furthermore, I was placed in a setting where both highly successful writers and novices alike were more peers than they were players in a hierarchy. At the end of the day, we were all just trying to create. I relished the challenge of Bear River and was ecstatic to learn from fellow poets, fiction writers, and authors of every discipline. I intend to bring the skills I further cultivated at Bear River back with me to GVSU.”

Not content with these growth opportunities, Annie followed them up by participating in the Arête Project near Burnsville, North Carolina. The program has high ideals: its mission is “the cultivation of wisdom, the living of a good life in thought and action, and selfless devotion to world and humanity” (see <http://areteproject.org/about/> for more information. Annie is learned in the classroom, worked on a farm, and developed leadership and governance skills.

Sierra Bulson. Sierra just completed her third year at GVSU. She is majoring in International Relations and has minors both in Criminal Justice and International Relations. In the Fall semester she studied in Prague, The Czech Republic, learning about modern world history and politics from a Czech perspective. She also drank in the culture, worked on speaking Czech, and learned about the art and architecture of Prague. In the Spring she applied for and received two prestigious scholarships (the Paul B. Henry Congressional Internship Fellowship as well as the McManus Washington Internship Scholarship through Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honors Society) to do an internship with Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05). The photo is of Sierra with Congressman Kildee. In the Fall semester Sierra will work at GVSU’s Johnson Center for Philanthropy as a Kathy A. Agard Fellow in Community Philanthropy.



Kali Smolen. Kali is a senior Cell and Molecular Biology major. She spent this past summer in Hanover, New Hampshire participating in the Dartmouth MD/PhD Undergraduate Summer Fellowship. Toward the end of her program she noted that “This experience has been absolutely incredible. I am researching the roles of two protein phosphatases that are commonly deregulated in cancer. I’m learning a lot, which is the real accomplishment. Additionally, my project has made headway in the past couple of days, which is very exciting. I am also shadowing an oncologist; this experience has really made the transience of life very apparent. Lastly, by the end of this summer, I will have climbed the tallest mountains in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont!”



Erica Fischer. Erica Fischer, a Biology major with both Chemistry and History minors, had a unique experience: she interned at the Grand Rapids Public Museum working with collections of insects. As she noted, “No one really knew what was there, so a lot of what I was doing was uncharted territory as far as the specimens go. I’ve spent the summer so far organizing them

according to their current biological classification, identifying those without a name, and moving them to a new, more accessible place in storage. For the rest of the time between now and when classes start back up, I will be working on updating the museum's records/database with more information about and pictures of as many specimens as possible.”

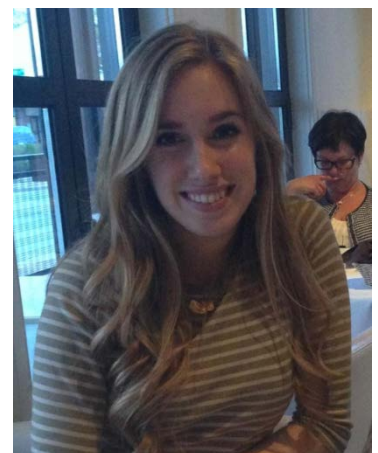
Jordan Vanderham. Jordan is going into his fourth year at Grand Valley and is a Product Design and Manufacturing major in the Padnos College of Engineering and Computer Science. While he was in high school Jordan developed a simple method of building solar panels. He got to know Paul Lane, Professor of Marketing, who was his Boy Scout troop leader, and Prof. Lane encouraged him to come to Grand Valley and participate in Honors. In his first year, Jordan took the Honors Social Product Innovation sequence with Prof. Lane (and others). That sequence helped Jordan think about opportunity and marketing, and connected him to the College Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO). Jordan went with Prof. Lane to Nicaragua the summer after his first year to help facilitate Social Product Innovation workshops there with the Applied Global Innovation Initiative. On that trip he had the opportunity to teach a workshop on making solar panels, and he made connections



with faculty and students from the Kendall College of Art and Design, who also participated on the trip. Jordan recently came up with the idea of a thermal mask to make breathing in frigid weather less problematic and more comfortable (see photo on left, courtesy of *GV Now*). In collaboration the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Seidman College of Business, and colleagues in the CEO club and KCAD, Jordan developed Orindi Ventures and pitched the product idea at the GreenLight Business Model Competition

in March. He and his colleagues won \$25,000 from that competition to develop the product. Orindi Ventures has a website: <http://orindiventures.com/>.

Darby Reynaert. Darby is going into her fourth year at GVSU and in Honors. She is a Hospitality Tourism Management major with a minor in Business. Her story is one of academic accomplishment, career discovery, and extra-curricular engagement. Darby has an exceptional academic record and, like many honors students, she has taken advantage of many opportunities in order to “find herself.” As she wrote, “These past three years of my college experience have been transformative. To begin, I kicked off my learning my freshman year with the honors sequence American Civilization taught by Professor Webster and Professor Tripp. I was totally blown away by the intensity of this class! Both professors really challenged my way of thinking, opening my eyes to a whole new reality. I imagine I will have a similar experience with Professor [Linda] Chamberlain and Professor



Lake's Honors Design Thinking course, I can't wait to find out what our project will be! As for my exploration outside of the classroom, I joined the German club, ballroom dance club, and the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi (the photo on the left was of her induction to the fraternity, with her big, Jana). Through DSP I explored different facets of business and found my passion in hospitality. I switched my major from Marketing to Hospitality and Tourism Management and have since completed two hospitality internships at the JW Marriott within their housekeeping department. After finishing my second internship I was hired as a floor supervisor which is what I do currently. I also interviewed for a spot in the new course "JW Marriott Hospitality Experience" taught by Mr. Remes, Assistant General Manager of the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids and will be taking this class this fall. I plan on graduating in April and continuing my learning with a third internship in my field."



Leah Beaulac. Leah is a Biology major who, in her first year, took the Honors Islamic Middle East Foundational Interdisciplinary Sequence (now known as The Middle East Beyond the Headlines) became fascinated with the history and culture of the region, and decided to minor in Middle Eastern Studies as well as Arabic. Honors Professor Coeli Fitzpatrick was instrumental both in inculcating these interests and in supporting her in her desire to study abroad and get funding to do so. In 2015 Leah applied for and received both a GVSU Padnos International Scholarship and a nationally competitive, prestigious NSEP (National Security Education Program) Boren Scholarship to study in Amman, Jordan, where she spent the 2015-16 academic year. In her words: "I studied at an intensive Arabic language institute, Qasid. I also was a long-term volunteer at Mabarrat Um Al Hussein, a boys orphanage and community center. As a volunteer, I played learning games with the boys, assisted them with their homework, and chaperoned special events. Additionally, I taught English to local professional women striving to advance their careers." The picture on the right is from her volunteer experience. As you can see in the photo below, Leah also had time to travel around and explore the country.



An academic year in Jordan was not enough for Leah. She watched first-hand as the refugee crisis from Syria grew, and felt compelled to help if she could. In May 2016, she applied for an internship with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and received placement in the Inter-Agency Coordination unit. For 65 years, UNHCR has been "protecting the rights and well-being of refugees all over the world." Its staff "works to ensure that everybody has the right to seek



asylum and find safe refuge, having fled violence, persecution, war or disaster at home...A total of 719,618 people of concern are registered with UNHCR in Jordan, including 646,329 Syrians, 55,162 Iraqis, and 9,127 others including 4,071 Yemenis, 3,055 Sudanese and 777 Somalis.” Currently, the UNCHR provides support to the following Jordan Refugee Response sectors: Basic Needs, Health, Protection, Shelter, Livelihoods, Child Protection, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

Again, in Leah’s words: “I will begin my internship August 31, 2016, under the supervision of the Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer. My responsibilities will include:

1. providing support to the Inter-Sector Working Group which includes attending sector meetings at Amman and field levels;
2. Collecting and compiling data on 3W (who is doing what, where), analyzing and presenting information on the sector activities;
3. Working with the Information Management Unit, updating and maintaining the UNHCR Jordan Information sharing portal (data.unhcr.org); and
4. Supporting the supervisor in organizing presentations, events, workshops and training.

I will also be responsible for a specific research project that will involve in-depth analysis.

My goal is to gain insight and experience working for one of the largest international NGOs, use my Arabic language skills in a professional environment, and contribute to addressing the biggest refugee crisis to date.”

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: THE FREDERIK MEIJER FIRST GENERATION HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce that all of the recipients of the Meijer First Generation Scholarship from Fall 2012—**Katie Kruk**, **Liana Periard**, and **Caitlin Rykse**—graduated with Honors this past April. To see the long list of accomplishments that each of them earned in four short years, see the Winter 2016 Honors Senior Profiles booklet.

Fall 2016. The **Frederik Meijer First Generation Honors College Student Scholarship** was awarded this year to **Brandon Chavez**. Brandon was born in El Salvador. His family moved to California when he was five years old. He wrote about the difficulty of adapting to a new language and a completely different culture, but he triumphed and learned how to interact very effectively in his adopted culture in the US as well as his inherited one. He comes to us from Kentwood, MI, where he completed high school as a top student. Brandon has high ideals: he plans to become a cardiologist and serve people from multicultural backgrounds. His family has kept much of the traditions of El Salvador, so Brandon will be able to interact effectively with people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. His Spanish will be very useful as well.

Fall 2015.

Annette Williams (right) said that she had a great first year in Honors: “I was fortunate enough to have been a part of a sequence (History of Science) that taught me a lot both in and out of the classroom and allowed me to make connections that led to a lot of open doors for me. I was given the opportunity to Study Abroad in Israel in May 2016 through an independent study with one of my professors from my sequence and am now looking into working with him (Professor Shel Kopperl) on a history of the biomedical sciences at Grand Valley. Another big part of my freshman year was Campus Ministry, though I don't know how much of that can go into the report. It was through CM that I went on the Israel trip, it is where I found community at GV, it led me to my current job as a camp counselor at SpringHill Day Camps, and it is where I plan to get more involved to reach out into the community and help wherever I can. That's basically what my freshman year in a nutshell. This next year will consist of leading a lifegroup and starting nursing school in the winter so I have a lot to look forward too!”



Mitchell Fredrick commented that: “My first year at grand valley exceeded all expectations I had. I managed to get involved in several intramural sports including indoor and outdoor soccer as well as basketball, where I made many good friends. In addition to these sports I also got very involved in Campus Ministry, where I got to go on a life changing mission trip to Orlando. There we helped serve the homeless population of the city as well as work with underprivileged kids. My honors college experience was also extraordinary. I took the Big History sequence where I worked on several research papers that ranged in topics from the origins of universe to Japanese history and culture. I learned a great deal from this class due to my excellent professor (Professor Benjamin) and classmates. I have gained a great deal of knowledge from honors but also a greater understanding of the way other people think as well as their opinions. As far as the future goes, I am planning on studying abroad in Italy next summer. I am also leading a life group through Campus Ministry and am taking a couple of honors classes as well as the classes I need to work towards completing my education major. The honors college at grand valley has been a wonderful experience thus far and I cannot wait to see where it takes me in coming years.”



Fall 2014.

Brody Cragg (Oakley, MI.) Brody had a very full year. As he explains, “I was the VP of the Student Environmental Coalition and will now serve as its president this year. I did an internship for adjunct Yared of the WGS assistant for her law in the NIRCA half marathon and American award for with Faurecia on a was a freshman the first week of semester in the semester in the



professor Christine and CJ dept. as a legal practice. I placed top 10 (running club) national’s received the All-club running. I worked small research position. I orientation leader during school. I achieved a 4.0 and NEARLY a 4.0 Winter (one darn class!) I

was a research assistant for the economics department. I was awarded the Economics Department Scholarship and the Sideman College of Business Study Abroad Scholarship. I interned for the Democrat Party of Kent County and did a lot of campaign volunteer work through said internship. I also am currently studying abroad in Costa Rica studying environmental studies, Spanish, and Latin American dance!”

This coming academic year Brody has big plans. He received a prestigious Logie Fellowship with the city of Grand Rapids, to work in a department (Brody hopes for Economic Development, since it is his area of greatest interest). He will also be doing an internship with The Sierra Club, tutoring for the Seidman College of Business Economics Department, and running a student organization. He was, further, accepted to a study program at Linnæus University in Sweden in the Winter semester.

Justine Cucchi (Clinton Township, MI.) wrote that “This year I was initiated into chapter of Eta Sigma Society, we organized a Ann Arbor, planned a and threw a Festival of also became the lab Lab, where I help physical archives. archaeological dig in unique look at North future, I hope to continue



Township, MI.) wrote that “This our Classics Department's Phi. Along with the Classics trip to the Kelsey Museum in potluck for the Ides of March, Dionysus party. Additionally, I assistant in the Classics Imaging organize the slides database and Recently, I completed my first Muskegon, which gave me a American archaeology. In the my work in the Classics

Department as well as do fieldwork in either Greece of Italy next summer. Honors has been instrumental in helping me receive all these opportunities and has put me on the fast track to graduating in four years with a double major. The picture I'm including is myself (on the left) at my initiation ceremony for Eta Sigma Phi with my Big Sister.”

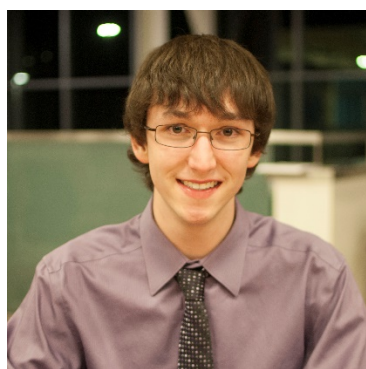
Makayla Sanchez (left) noted that: “My first year as a student at Grand Valley and as an Honors student was even better than what I had expected. As a part of my Honors class, we went beyond the classroom and out into the world to learn and share in new experiences. From hiking in the Ravines in the 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) gave the following update: “My sophomore year at Grand Valley was great. I served as the Vice President of Education for Alpha Omicron Pi and was a dancer and choreographer in Grand Valley Dance Troupe. I have learned so much from being in honors and have gotten to work with the most amazing professors on campus. I'm looking forward to my junior year, especially winter semester which I will be spending abroad in Rome!”



Fall 2013. The recipients from Fall 2013, **Roxana Dumitrache, Gloria LaCourse, Dayne Martinez, and Rachael Vrugink** are all flourishing.

According to **Gloria** (pictured on the right), “This year has been an irreplaceable journey for me. Not only have I had the opportunity to study abroad in London, but I also completed my second accounting internship at Plante Moran and am currently completing my third at Deloitte. I had the honor to write an extensive paper on international family owned businesses alongside the Director of the School of Accounting and it is soon to be published. I plan on graduating in April of 2017 and then attending the Ohio State University to get my Masters in Business Administration and move on to start my career in public accounting. Participating in the Honors College has made all of this possible, pushing me to be the best I can be and I am forever grateful.”

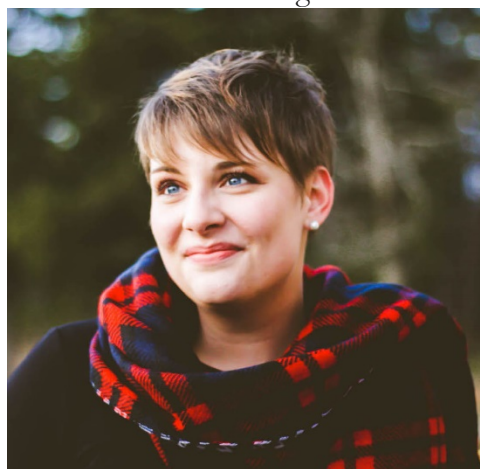


Dayne explained that “This upcoming year will be my fourth and final year at GV. I continued working in the lab of Dr. Merritt Taylor last year. Again, my project was based on investigating factors that contribute to the development of dopamine neurons. I am still an active member of the Pre-MD/PhD club. This will be my third year as a freshmen mentor for Honors. This summer I am participating in the SENS Summer Scholars Program. I am working at The Scripps Research Institute (in La Jolla, CA) in the lab of Dr. Jeanne Loring. The lab is working on developing a cell therapy for Parkinson's disease using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells). My project is to develop quality control assays that can be used to verify the safety of

cells to be used for cell therapy. Not much has changed regarding my future plans. I did change my major to Biochemistry. I intend on applying to MD/PhD programs with the goal of becoming a physician scientist. I am interested in how strategies from regenerative medicine can be applied to problems in neurology.”

Rachael wrote that “I am entering my senior year (woo-hoo!). I will be back at Grand Valley this fall to finish my Advertising and Public Relations Bachelors of Science degree.

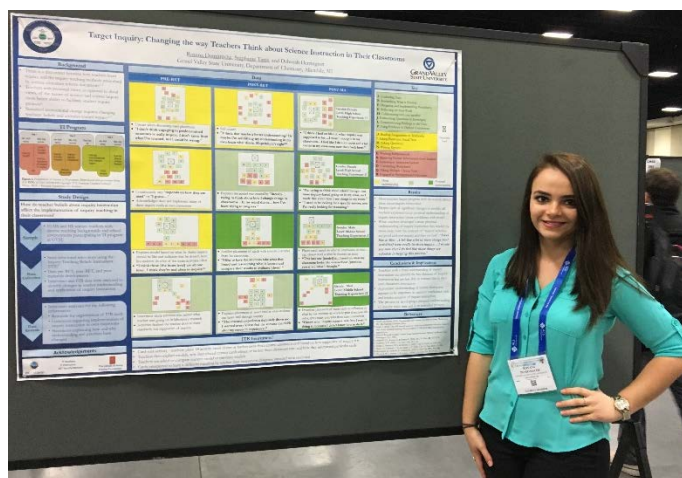
Beginning in May I started freelancing under the business name Happy Henrietta. Since launching, I've had the opportunity to work with two agencies, a film publicist, a start-up company, and a PR pro working on a national campaign. Some of the highlights of my summer with these clients have been creating campaigns, meeting a celebrity or two, project management experience, and broadening my copywriting portfolio. It's been a wild ride learning how to run my own business, managing my time, expenses, taxes, and workload. But honestly, I couldn't have asked for a better "summer job." It's almost as if all of the experiences from my GV career and internships have culminated to create these experiences. In the future, I hope to get a website up and running and invest in some branded materials for my little creative boutique.



I was elected as the Grand Valley Advertising Club's President again this year. My executive board and I have been busy planning our upcoming semesters. We're excited to be putting together a summit-like event that will introduce students to the variety of occupations available within our industry. My hope is that this event will become an annual part of the Advertising program that will bring together not only students from our university, but will be the starting point of a relationship with other local colleges with similar programs.

I will also be joining the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) this year. I am excited to represent Grand Valley during this two-semester long class as we put together a campaign for a national corporate client beginning in the fall.”

Roxana commented that “Throughout my junior year I was fortunate enough to continue the research I started the previous year on the Target Inquiry project. I got to analyze teaching patterns of science teachers and how they change while part of the TI program. That experience became most rewarding when we were able to present at the American Chemistry Society national convention in San Diego (see photo).



I also had the opportunity to serve as recruitment adviser for Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, and helped grow the chapter size by more than double during that year with dedicated and enthusiastic new members!

During my junior seminar, I learned about medical controversies from a number of different perspectives and that has been really interesting considering I will be going into the medical field. I want to eventually complete a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, but the junior seminar has directed me to look more into medical policies. Therefore, having now taken the PCAT, and scoring exceptionally well, I will be applying to some of the best ranked pharmacy schools in the nation with the hopes of achieving my career goal of impacting the pharmaceutical industry positively through proper patient care and ethical pharmaceutical practices!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: THE BROOKS PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Kathleen Szczesny was the first-year student selected for the Brooks Presidential Scholarship. She is from Allen Park, MI, and is a direct admit into the Nursing program. It's clear that Kathleen will be a credit to the Meijer Honors College, the Kirkhof College of Nursing, and, eventually, to her profession: she already has an impressive array of accomplishments and awards to her credit, and she gives of herself unstintingly in service. Her plaudits include: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (Inkster Chapter) Scholarship Recipient, Cabrini "Rick Mei" Sports Award, Mother Cabrini Christian Service Award, Cabrini "Encourager" Award of Appreciation, Cabrini Theology Key Award, Cabrini Top 10, Michigan Competitive Scholarship Award, Kiwanis Academic Excellence Award, Young Neighbors in Action 4 Year Commitment Award, Detroit Association of Phi Beta Kappa Commendation, Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital 2016 Medical Staff

Fund Scholarship Recipient, Presidential Award for Educational Excellence, and the Michigan Competitive Scholarship Award. Even with all of these accomplishments to her credit, she realizes that there is much more to come. She wrote that the Meijer Honors College is "a place where I could use the challenges and resources provided to fulfill my potential and my dreams. Living in a smaller town and going to such a small school has limited me in a sense that I have not been exposed to or offered certain opportunities. However, I know that the Honors College at Grand Valley can provide me with opportunities that I may have missed out on and allow me to grow and develop even more into the person I can and want to be."

ALUMNI PROFILE: CHARLOTTE BUCKLEY

Charlotte Buckley entered Grand Valley and the Meijer Honors College in Fall 2009. She majored in Biomedical Sciences and graduated in April 2013. She credits her Honors experience—particularly the Ghana service-learning program—for preparing her well for her subsequent success as a student of Pharmacology. Her account follows:



“I chose to attend Grand Valley State University because I recognized right away that all of the components for a successful higher education were present. There were small class sizes, esteemed professors, brand new facilities and an excellent array of majors and courses. Grand Valley was checking all of my requirement boxes for a well-rounded education, but still, I could sense something was missing.

“When you go to university, you don’t want to just get an education – you also want the experience, the opportunity for personal and professional growth and a new perspective. These also all happen to be core elements of a strong resume, CV or talking points in an interview.

“Knowing that I wanted to build a strong foundation in these core elements, I chose to apply to the Honors Service learning trip to Ghana, and suddenly my college experience was accelerated to reach its full potential. The Ghana Service learning program instilled all of these strengths and more. With the guidance of Professor Joseph Verschaeve and Janaan Decker, I was motivated to step outside my comfort zone into hospitals and clinics in rural areas, inspired to connect with local people and health care workers, and to seek to understand and learn from the stories of former child slaves. I was able to build lasting relationships with the faculty and team members and I was empowered by new values and perspectives fostered in an environment of professionalism and culture.

“I am confident that my experience in Ghana was a substantial factor behind my admission to the University of Michigan, College of Pharmacy – a top 3 ranked program in the nation. Additionally, the service learning program fueled my passion for international exposure which inspired me to seek out research and exchange opportunities in Kenya and Japan.



“The Ghana service learning program was the initial motivator for me to pursue a career in serving others and ultimately, set me up for a successful application to the Air Force Health Professions Scholarship. I now have the promise of an exciting career as a U.S Air Force pharmacist, and I have the Honors College service learning program to thank for many of the successes I have experienced up to this day.”

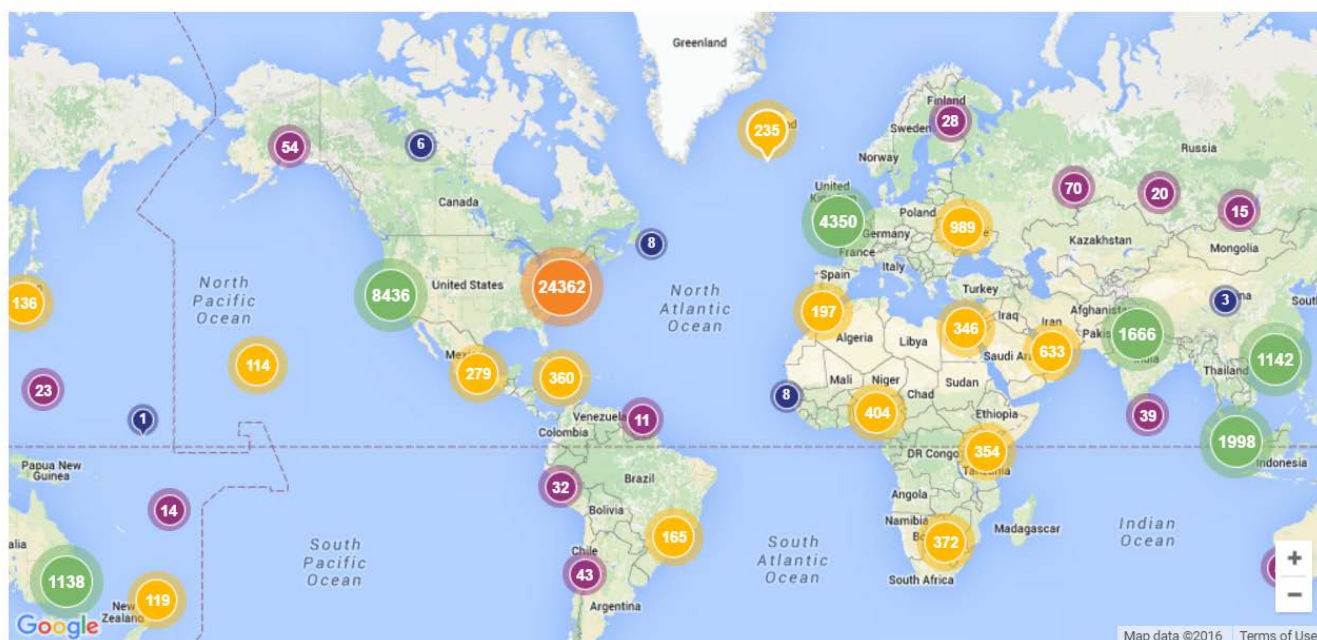
ALUMNI PROFILE: EMILY LARSON

Emily was a great contributor to Honors while she was at Grand Valley. She was not only a fabulous student, but she was a leader who gave back in service by doing such things as organizing and coordinating Welcome Days for incoming students. She graduated from GVSU with a degree in Psychology in 2012, and went on to do a master's degree in Applied Positive Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. After completing her degree, Emily worked with James O'Shaughnessy and Dr. Martin Seligman as well as a host of other top leaders in the field to start the International Positive Education Network (IPEN). The goal, as she put it, was “to bring positive education (character + academics) approach to schools all over the world -- we are essentially the organizing structure for researchers, practitioners, schools, teachers, etc. interested in practicing positive education.” Emily was appointed director of the network, and moved to London, where the headquarters of the organization were set up. As director, Emily coordinates the annual Festival of IPEN. You can learn more about IPEN at <http://www.ipositive-education.net/>. Emily credits her Honors College education with setting her up for success. She wrote that “Bring a part of a small and close-knit community at the Honors College was invaluable in building my ‘soft skills’ of leadership, communication, and self-efficacy. I walked away after graduation with the confidence and the skills to make an impact in the world.”



IMPACTING COMMUNITIES HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD

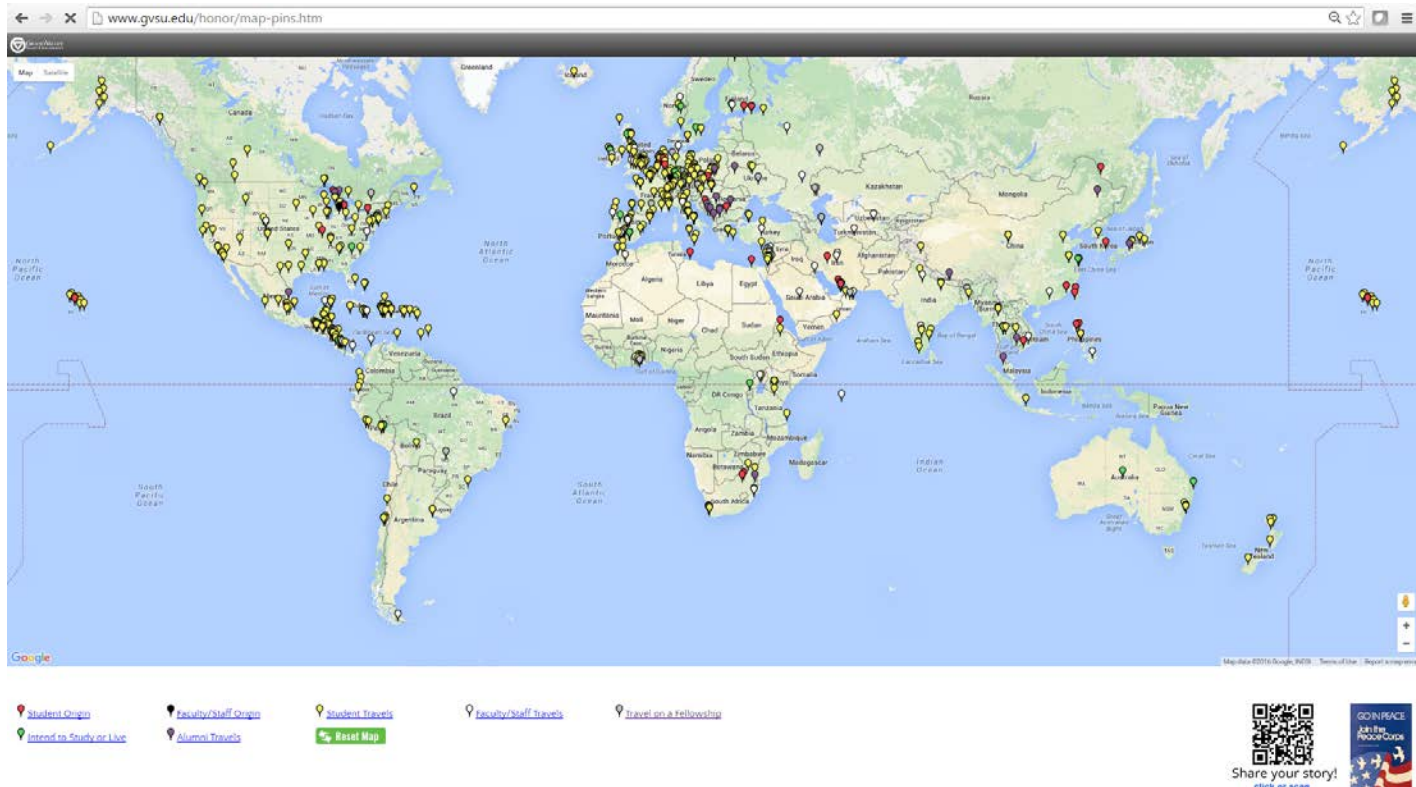
Honors Projects and their Influence Around the World. For several years now, Honors has encouraged students to enter their senior projects in ScholarWorks, an online repository created and maintained by the Mary Idema Pew Library and Information Commons. Little did we know the incredible impact that these projects would have once they were available online. We now have analytical tools to gauge that impact. The map below shows the distribution and frequency of people around the world accessing Honors senior projects. This is just a snapshot, of course, because the numbers change constantly as people continue to find and download the projects. At this point, well over 50,000 people have accessed Honors senior projects, and, as you can see on the map below, they have been downloaded in countries around the world—on every continent (except Antarctica!). The map shows graphically the “Laker Effect” of Honors students.



The analytical tools can even drill down to see whose project is accessed where. One student, for instance—Jenna Hagen—completed a project in 2010 entitled “Fifth Grade Year Long Social Studies Unit Plan” that has been accessed on ScholarWorks over 6000 times—in every state in the US and many countries. Clearly her work has been influencing the teaching of Social Studies around the Globe.

Honors Students Travel 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: Argentina, Australia, The Bahamas, Belize, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, France, Germany, Ghana (five), Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, and United Arab Emirates. Nicaragua was the number one destination among these seniors with seven traveling there; Ghana was number two with five students making the journey there. Some manage to travel multiple semesters and multiple countries. For example, Rachel Deppe went abroad almost every year, and traveled to Germany, Poland, The Netherlands, and Australia. And not a few received fellowships/scholarships to travel. Nearly a third of the students who went on the Honors Ghana service-learning program received Gilman fellowships. 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>.

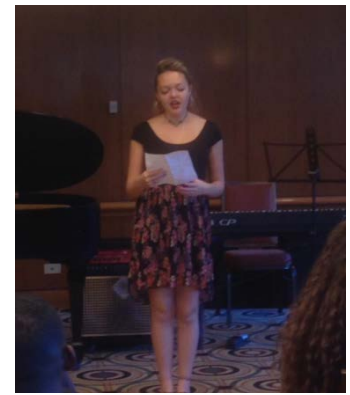


Honors students and the media. First-year students from the National Security who participated in the Foundational Interdisciplinary Sequence were co-authors of blogs with Prof. Kelly Clark that were published in the *Huffington Post*. Alison Hige and Alicia Gonzalez participated in the following: “Isis ≠ Islam” (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelly-james-clark/isis-does-not-equal-islam_b_9812624.html); Jacob Seckinger worked with Prof. Clark on “Donald the Dangerous” (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelly-james-clark/donald-the-dangerous_b_9716870.html), and Kilike Steyn co-authored “Je Suis Le Monde” (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelly-james-clark/je-suis-le-monde_b_9593502.html). The students in this sequence also worked on “Anti-Islamophobia—The Counter Narrative Project at GVSU.” You can find their videos on YouTube, such as this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsuPSWp-o7I>.

Student Presentations and Publications. Honors students present their work all over the country and even internationally.

Brainchild is the Literary and Arts magazine of the Mid-East Honors Association. Three Meijer Honors College students published articles in the magazine this year: Jackie Vega (two poems), Devin Prasatek, and Annie Livingston. You can see their contributions at <http://www.brainchildmagazine.org/2016/>.

National Collegiate Honors Council. This year we took seven students to the annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council in Chicago in November. Four of them were from ANCHOR (the Honors student council organization), who learned a lot from students, faculty, and administrators of other Honors programs. Three of the students presented, and they did the Meijer Honors College and Grand Valley very proud since they dominated the Poetry Masterclass. To the right is Ciara Pink and below is Kelsey May. More about Annie Livingston later.

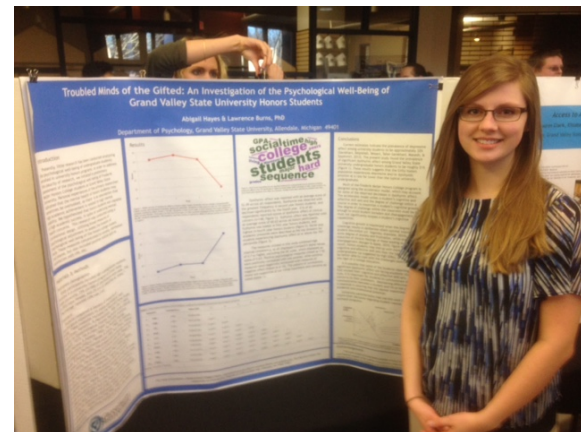


Mid-East Honors Association. We took six students to Richmond, Indiana, in April to present at the Mid-East Honors Association annual meeting (hosted by Indiana University East). Most made oral presentations of their own research, and a couple gave poster presentations. All represented the Meijer Honors College extremely well. What is particularly impressive is that four of the students were just completing their first year in college, but you would never have



known it from the presentations they gave. Abigail Hayes (right) gave a poster presentation of her groundbreaking Honors senior project, in which she surveyed both honors and non-honors students to determine their

emotional wellbeing in college. Her conclusions were unexpected and very significant: in general, honors students cope with stress in a much healthier way than non-honors students. Abigail is continuing her research, and expects to co-publish with her faculty mentor, Larry Burns, probably in *The Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*.



Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Professor David Eick took two students (Scott St. Louis and Zachary Gill) and one recent alumnus (Joseph Hogan) to present at SEASECS in Savannah in February. SEASECS is a professional conference, and Grand Valley students were the first undergraduates ever to present there. The three presented papers on The Radical Enlightenment and Revolutionary Ideas, and made a very good impression.

Mentor Council. Since 2013, veteran Honors student mentors have run the Honors mentoring program (designed to help incoming first-year students acclimate to life in college and in Honors) through a mentor council. They have been tremendously successful, and Erin Koren, chair of the mentor council this past year (on the right in the photo), submitted a successful proposal and led a group of students to present about their work at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis National Mentoring Symposium in November. Their session was very well received.



Honors Students Presenting Around the Country and the World. Honors students seldom manage to go through their college career without presenting research or practice in some forum (such as Student Scholars Day), but at least a third of them give significant presentations off campus, often in disciplinary and professional conferences. This year's graduating class is no exception. Students presented at conferences such as the Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego (Jake Bontekoe), the Michigan Speech Language Hearing Association Annual Conference (Kaleigh Cammenga), the North American Symposium on Bat Research in Monterrey, California (Jennifer Grousd), the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference in Denver (Christina Herrod), Mathfest in Washington D.C. and Seattle, Washington (Susanna Lange), the national meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver (Kayla Lockmiller), the East Central Writing Centers Association conference in Ohio and Indiana (Megan Rodawold), the annual Symposium of the Protein Society in San Diego, California (Josie Werner), etc. At least three students presented internationally this last year. Matt Wagenheim gave a paper at the Play Me a Story Symposium in Lancaster, England; Nikolaus Schroeder presented at the Conference on German Immigrant Music in the 18th and 19th Centuries in Florianapolis, Brazil; and Scott St. Louis who participated in the Right to Research General Assembly in Budapest, Hungary.

ANCHOR is the Honors Community Council. It coordinates 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 is a sampling of the initiatives and events that Honors students put on this past year:

- Homecoming events (2nd in housing, 11th overall)
- Volunteered at Comprenew (pictured at right)
- Mr. Anchor Pageant
- Tutoring in the Challenge Scholars program at GRPS
- Murder Mystery Dinner (pictured at right)
- Events in the Niemeyer Multipurpose Room every Tuesday night
- Christmas Party and Gift Exchange
- Partnered with RAs to host Open Mic Nights (pictured bottom)
- Scarlet Cord with Pamela Alderman (see next section for more information)
- Family Feud with National Honors Fraternity Phi Sigma Pi
- LinkedIn Training
- Setup a suggestions website for students to recommend ideas (tellohons.weebly.com)
- Game Night



Study Abroad Programs.

Haiti.

From faculty director, Dr. Peter Wampler:

“Traveling and working in Haiti is nonlinear and sometimes frustrating, however compelling learning opportunities await those who are able to successfully navigate its unique complexities. From May 14 to June



15 (see detailed itinerary attached) I led the first ever study abroad from GVSU to Haiti with seven undergraduates, a graduate student, and an assistant director. We engaged in “adventure-based” learning. Students came with a variety of majors and skills to engage in hands-on, experiential, learning about healthcare, environmental degradation, water resources, deforestation, agriculture, and safe water interventions.

The first week was spent in Haiti “boot camp”, where we spent the week learning, hiking, observing, and acclimatizing to the mountains of Haiti. Students were exposed to the urban setting of Port au Prince and

very remote villages high in the mountains above Port au Prince. During the last three weeks students experienced the diverse geography and culture of Haiti, traveling from the large capital city of Port-au-Prince to remote towns along the Artibonite River and in the Central Plateau of Haiti. Students engaged in service learning projects related to health, water resources, and education. They utilized their unique skills and experience to teach dance at a Haitian school, observe dental and health practices at a local hospital, teach nursing students about mental health, update data for a local hospital, and collect water samples for bacterial and DNA analysis.

The study abroad program allowed students from all disciplines to contribute their energy and ideas to explore real-world problems in Haiti in a collaborative environment.

Although Haiti is known for its complex social, environmental, economic, and cultural issues, the Haitian people show great resilience and optimism in the face of these challenges. The study abroad program provided an opportunity for students to work alongside Haitians, in the context of service learning projects, field trips, and group activities to explore Haiti’s complex issues. Below are some Highlights from the trip:

- 7 students, one graduate student, and one assistant director (total of 10 people)



engaged in hikes and field trips in diverse geographic locations throughout Haiti.

- Graduate student Denielle Riley, who assisted as a teaching assistant for the three of the trip, was successfully delivered to her project location in Hinche where she is working on her Master's in Public health project with Midwives for Haiti.
- Although the state department issued several travel warnings during our time in Haiti we generally felt safe during the entire trip and there was no direct contact with demonstrators or Haitians that were a threat to our safety.
- We did a lot of walking and hiking. My Fitbit recorded a total of over 500,000 steps and 2,352 flights of stairs. This is apparently equivalent to hiking over 240 miles and climbing a vertical elevation of 23,352 feet.
- Expenses for the trip exceeded the budget by approximately \$470. The budget shortfall was primarily a result of higher than expected costs for transportation, and a failure on my part to adjust the budget (originally prepared for 12 students) for the smaller number of students.
- As a group service project we installed three new In-situ filtration wells in two communities near our service site location. Students assisted in the installation and water quality monitoring of these well installations.
- Students participated in several different service learning opportunities: teaching dance to kids at a local school, presenting about mental health to nursing students, sampling water, entering data and organizing hospital documentation, showing a movie to kids at the local library.
- In Port-au-Prince we visited the national museum, Iron Market, historic hotels, the catholic cathedral destroyed in the January 2010 earthquake, and many other locations en-route.
- In Furcy we explored the geology along the road to Seguin, Kenscoff mountain, and orphanage in Kenscoff, and Wynn Farm above located above Kenscoff.
- We went on a day trip to a village called Petite Riviere with a rich colonial history. We toured a historic catholic church, historic fort, and walked through the town square. We returned via a ferry across the Artibonite River (Cover Photo).
- We travelled to Hinche, Haiti for an overnight excursion. On our way to Hinche we stopped at Peligre Dam which provides much of the power for Haiti. While in Hinche we stayed at the house of a non-governmental organization called Midwives for Haiti that is engaged in child nutrition, maternal care, and training for midwives and mothers.
- While in hinche we visited a waterfall that emerges from a cave call Bassin Zim. Students enjoyed learning about this historic locations used as a hideout during the Duvalier dictatorship.
- We helped with a non-governmental organization that provides after-school programs for kids. We spent time with them learning dance moves and doing activities to get them moving.”



Ghana. This is the sixth year the Ghana Service-Learning program has been in place. In June, Prof. Scott Stabler (History) and graduate assistant Jakia Fuller (on right in photo below) led 14 students to Ghana for seven weeks. As always, the trip was transformational for our students and beneficial for Ghanaians because of the support and assistance we were able to lend. As Prof. Stabler reported, the following were highlights of the trip:



- The students were fantastic beyond my expectations. The food was slow, people were late, the bus was lost, the rooms didn't have hot water, ants bit them, it was hot, etc. I heard virtually nothing from these 14 individuals.
- Jakia Fuller was extraordinary. She loves Ghana, and her positive attitude and youthfulness buoyed all on the trip.
- Manuel's Guest House staff and particularly Emmanuel were fantastic as always. He treated the students as he would his own children. He's an excellent cook and met the students' requests for food. We tried to mix Ghanaian food with more "western" foods.
- Service learning. Students had placements in several different locations:
 - The Ghana Health Service rotations worked very well. Francis served as a great contact. The students went to 4 placements (Municipal, Apam, Trauma and Zongo) that contrasted each other nicely. Students had moments of boredom, but saw many procedures and experiences they will not forget.
 - The Hovde House (the first stop of rehabilitation for children who have been released from slavery). Three students were able to stay here for three nights. They were stunned to see how traumatized children can be until rehabilitated. They actually had some newly rescued children enter when they were there.

- ISHEW (International Sustainability Health Education and Water) is an organically funded Non-Governmental Organization registered in Ghana as well as the United States. One student worked very effectively with ISHEW. With the help of other students, they covered a well and built hand washing stations and did water testing in two villages. Also, she and another student (with my assistant) spent three days in Tepa outside Kumasi where they tested the water filters and began digging a well with their own money.



- Challenging Heights is a key partner organization in Ghana for the Honors College. Challenging Heights is dedicated to educating children who have no opportunities, many of whom have been rescued from slavery in the fishing industry. GVSU students had the opportunity to work with some of these children by working in the library and other activities.
- In addition to the service sites for students, there were several excursions: 1) Adi Lake (2 nights). Students enjoyed the water fall on Saturday and the early Sunday trip to Shai Hills to feed baboons and climb the tall hill left the students with a memorable view of the African



savannah. 2) The excursion to Cape Coast was wonderful. Drumming and dance lessons and the night at Oasis was popular. 3) The trip to Elmina slave castle left many stunned. 4) The favorite was the trip to Coconut Grove resort in Elmina on Saturday. The students walked the beach, swam in the ocean, ate lunch and dinner, swam in the nice pool and even rode horses along the ocean. The canopy walk also was overwhelming and fun. We then had lunch at Hans Botel where most of them got to pet live crocodiles. 5) The final excursion to Kumasi, where we saw the Asante Cultural Centre and students shopped. We also visited the Monkey Sanctuary/Boabeng Fiema where the students all fed monkeys in the forest and climbed a ficus tree. During this trip we were able to buy Kente cloth where it was originally made and saw the largest crater-created lake in the world.

Nicaragua. Five honors students accompanied Prof. Paul Lane on a trip to Nicaragua to help facilitate product innovation workshops. They traveled around the country, getting an excellent overview of the culture and heritage, and were a vital part of the Applied Global Innovation Initiative workshop which Nicaragua's universities have invested heavily in with high hopes of jump-starting economic development. Sylvia Knight, for instance, worked with a group of Nicaraguan students and gave a presentation in Spanish to all 170 participants (bottom).



PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities Visit. The Meijer Honors College teamed up with a variety of offices, staff, and students (e.g., the Community Service Learning Office, Admissions, the Office of Inclusion and Equity, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Latino Student Union, Laker Familia, etc.) to host an overnight visit of Middle and High School students to Grand Valley to encourage them to consider attending college. Melissa Baker-Boosamra coordinated the events, and students stayed in the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center with Honors mentors and other Grand Valley students as their chaperones. Students from the Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities and Cook Library programs said that they had a wonderful visit, and commented that it was just the right mix of fun and information.



Pamela Alderman Exhibit and Talk, “The Scarlet Cord.” The Meijer Honors College co-sponsored a lecture and film screening of “The Scarlet Cord,” based on the social justice art of Pamela Alderman. Pamela depicts in painting the plight of women in sex trafficking, and her work has touched a chord with people when exhibited at ArtPrize, the Super Bowl, and now at GVSU (see <http://www.watercolorbypamela.com/scarletcord.htm>). Two honors students are now doing internships with Ms. Alderman because they were so moved by her work.

The Herman Miller Project. John Farris of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computer Science, Paul Lane of the Seidman College of Business and Honors, and John Moroney of Kendall College of Art and Design, collaborated with professionals at Herman Miller to have interdisciplinary teams of students work to research, develop, and pitch new products that could be developed and marketed. Each team consisted of an Engineering major, a Business major, a design student, and an honors student. Eight honors students participated and found it engaging, challenging, and incredibly useful. The photo on the right shows one group of students presenting at the Herman Miller Design Yard.



Prof. Star Swift and T3. Star Swift, Associate Professor of Management in the Seidman College of Business, works with a team of students from different majors and with diverse expertise. She invites honors students from her Honors BUS 201 (Legal Environment for Business) to participate in the Teaching Through Technology (t3) group, often over several years. This year the team is working to develop a Solar Surgery Suction System for use in the developing world. It will be piloted first in Malawi, and will also be tested in Ghana in conjunction with the Honors Ghana Service-Learning Program. For more detail on Prof. Swift and t3, see the write-up in *BizEd* magazine at <http://www.bizedmagazine.com/archives/2016/3/features/innovations-through-technology>. See also the group's website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/solarescue/>. The image below was part of a PowerPoint slide used by the students in pitching the product for financial support.



Student Opportunity Center. The Meijer Honors College is teaming up with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship to provide honors students and active researchers with a database of opportunities for internships, REUs, conferences, etc. The Student Opportunity Center is a tremendous tool for students to expand their knowledge of opportunities. See <https://www.studentopportunitycenter.com/#/> for information on the database and how it will benefit students.

Other Sponsorships. Honors helped sponsor many campus events. Below is a partial list—the principal sponsor is noted in parentheses.

- The Day of the Dead Celebration—altar displayed in Niemeyer lobby (Latin American Studies)
- Growing Food, Sustaining Culture series
- Mathematics Student Colloquium, Eugenia Cheng, author of *Cakes, Custard, and Category Theory: Easy Recipes for Understanding Complex Maths* (Mathematics)
- Ken Derry, “Superheroes and Religion” (Religious Studies)
- “Homerathon Five” (Classics)
- Todd Robinson, author of *A City within a City: The Black Freedom Struggle in Grand Rapids, Michigan* (Kutsche Office of Local History)
- Community Read author talk—Claudia Rankine, *Citizen* (Brooks College Office of Advising and Integrative Studies)
- James W. Carey Memorial Lecture – 5th Annual, Prof. Helen Sterk, “The Pope, the Rabbi, Caitlyn Jenner, and the Confederate Flag: Stories at the Heart of Communication” (School of Communications)
- *Brainchild*—literary magazine of the Mid-East Honors Association
- Laura Johnston Kohl, Jonestown Survivor lecture (Anthropology)
- The Children’s Rescue Race (to raise money for Challenging Heights, the organization in Ghana that rescues children from slavery)
- Stoics Week (Classics)
- “Spotlight on Afro-Caribbean Dance” (Latin American Studies Department)
- “Coexistence in the Media: the Story of an Arab-Israeli News Anchor”—Lucy Aharish (Diane Rayor, Classics Department)



Honors Project and Presentation Support. Students often need supplies or money for travel to present their Honors senior projects. Many times disciplinary departments help out and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship has funds for travel, but oftentimes these other sources of funding are not enough. Honors, therefore, allocates some of its budget to help students with resources to complete their projects. This past year, Honors contributed over \$4500 to students for this reason, but it is still not enough. We hope to grow the money available for assisting students in this area in the near future.

Newspaper subscriptions. Many Honors faculty asked students to read online newspapers this past academic year, and Honors subsidized digital subscriptions for students. Nearly a third of our first-year students were reading the news regularly, and the *New York Times* representative was so impressed by the numbers, that he said it would go in a report to 8th Avenue in New York.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS—RECIPIENTS OF SENIOR AWARDS.

Dozens of graduating seniors were nominated for awards of distinction from the Meijer Honors College. The following were recipients of those awards:

Outstanding Senior Thesis. **Steven Warda** was the recipient for his project entitled “Using Pittsburgh as a Model for the Revival of Detroit—An Application of the City Growth and Industry Model.” As his mentor, Prof. Leslie Muller in Economics, put it: “Steven's thesis is an in-depth look into how the city of Detroit got to where it is today, and how it could begin to rebuild itself again. He focuses on tax revenue and human capital drain as two main reasons the city has hit bottom, and outlines ways that the city could capitalize on these two factors to rebuild itself. He compares Detroit to Pittsburgh, a city that is historically very similar, but has re-built itself as a center of science and knowledge. He argues that Detroit can begin its revival by following in Pittsburgh's footsteps.”

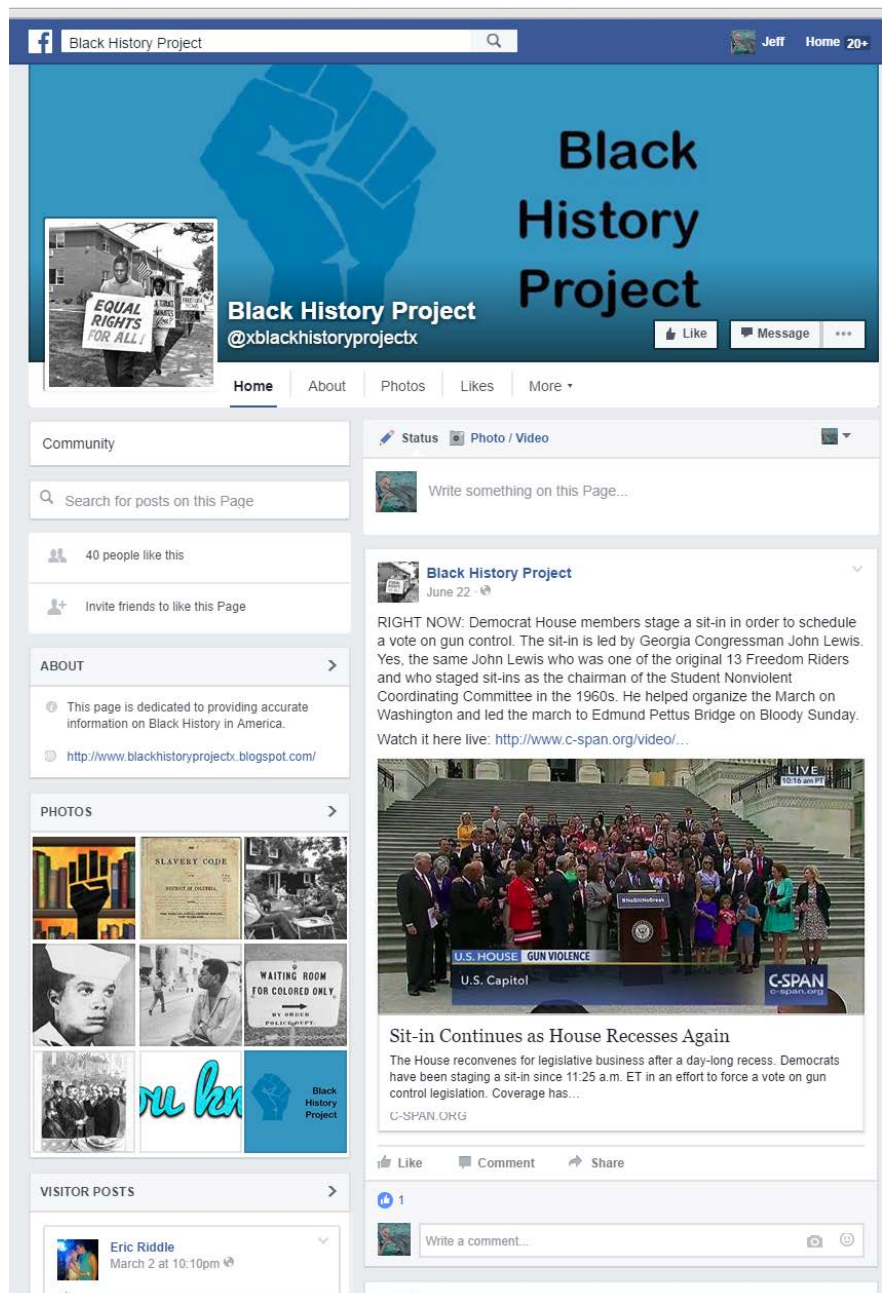
Outstanding Senior Project: There were two recipients of this award this year, and they illustrate well how accomplished honors students are in widely differing fields.

- **Irada Choudhuri.** Irada is an excellent example of how important a student's first-year Foundational Interdisciplinary Sequence can be. Irada is a Biomedical Sciences major, but she turned to her first-year sequence teacher (Prof. Coeli Fitzpatrick) to mentor her project because it was based on philosophy that she had learned in the Islamic Middle East sequence. Her project, “Clean Works Clients’ Experiences with Traditional and Non-Traditional Health Care Facilities” tested the theories of Edward Said and Michel Foucault. As Prof. Fitzpatrick put it, “In my class we had discussed how Said and Foucault's ideas can be widely applied, even outside of the contexts in which they were using them. In class, I used medicine as an example to show that in this field too there were “dominant” and “marginal” models at work, and that these models had relationships to the power structure, and are maintained by a series of networks of power (government, research organizations, cultural expectations). Irada was already working at Clean Works, and proposed studying how these models might apply when looking at the experiences Clean Works clients have had with more traditional health care settings. Using Foucault's theories about power, Irada hypothesized that Clean Works clients would have had negative experiences with traditional health care delivery systems (hospitals, primary care clinics and doctors' offices) because of the negative perception of habitual drug users, particularly those people who inject drugs (PWID).” Irada's project demonstrates the best kind of scholarship in several ways: first, she crossed boundaries of disciplines; second, she prepared very effectively, including submitting



a successful protocol to the Human Research Review Committee (IRB); and third, she discovered that the reality was more complex than the theories. Professor Fitzpatrick commented that this was the best Honors Senior Project she had ever seen.

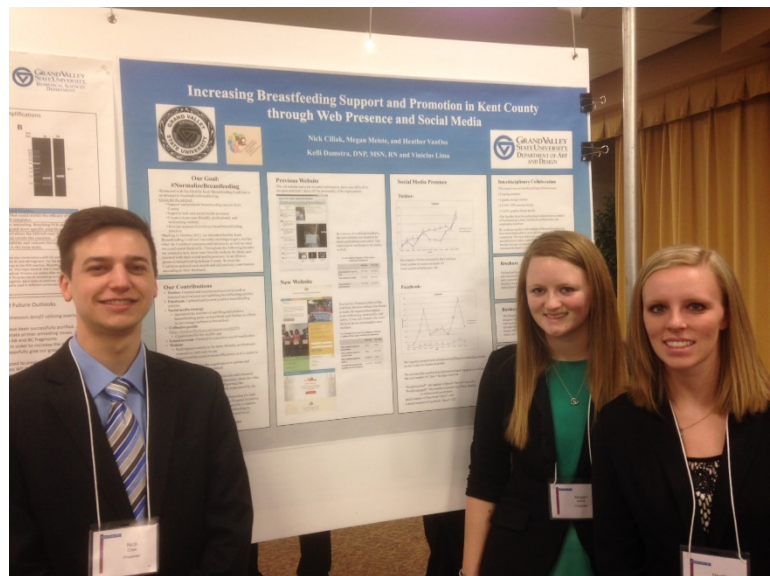
- **Abigail Hayes** was the second senior project award recipient. Her work is discussed above in the section “Impacting Communities Here and Around the World,” under the MEHA conference. Her mentor, Prof. Larry Burns in Psychology, wrote that: “Abigail’s passion for the topic, her work ethic, talent for mastering unfamiliar tasks and research procedures, combined with her keen intellectual insights have led from her initial “wild idea” to the culmination of a complex pair of related projects. I’m confident she’ll see the manuscript through to publication, but more importantly, Abigail embodies the values and deeply held aspirations for its graduates to which the Honors College ascribes. She is truly exceptional and her accomplishments are most certainly deserving of the recognition of this Honors College award.”
- **Outstanding Creative Project.** Pastor Rik Stevenson nominated his mentee Marisa Riddle for her work in creating a Facebook site called the Black History Project. As Marisa herself described the rationale and the project, “I sadly realized that many people my age get their information through the easily-accessible internet, especially social media. A lot of my peers share poorly-researched articles on their Facebook pages as a way of expressing their opinions. Their friends then see these articles and take them as fact without doing any investigating of their own, and this creates a dangerous chain. It scared me to see how many people could base political opinions off of infographics and blurbs that anyone could have written. It was this that



inspired my senior project. If social media is how my peers are getting their information nowadays, then I cannot prevent that. I must take advantage of it. I created a Facebook page called Black History Project. I wrote concise, well-researched posts on true African American history. If my peers were not going to seek this information out themselves, I could provide it for them by posting it on one of the most-used social media networks. I invited my Facebook friends to Like my page so they could see the posts, and I shared Black History Project's posts on my personal Facebook page to make sure as many people saw them as possible. I wanted to create an easy way for people to get information about African American history that was accurate and significant to today's world." The link to her Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/xblackhistoryprojectx>.

Outstanding Collaborative Research. Nick Ciliak, Megan Meiste and Heather VanOss teamed up under the supervision of Prof. Kelli Damstra from the Kirkhof College of Nursing, to improve communications from the Healthy Kent County Breastfeeding Coalition. As Ms. Damstra explained in her nomination of the project,

"Megan and Heather are honors nursing students and Nick is an honors student majoring in Graphic Design. They have done fabulous work with the Healthy Kent Breastfeeding Coalition and their senior project is so unique in the sense that these students have demonstrated the effectiveness of taking a multidisciplinary approach to target breastfeeding promotion and support in Kent County. This was achieved through their creation of a brand new website for the Healthy Kent Breastfeeding



Coalition along with many other important contributions through Twitter, Facebook, the Cofeective app, and the development of new brochures and business cards." The photo is from a poster presentation of their work at Student Scholars Day in April. To see the website they designed, go to <http://kentcountybreastfeeding.org/>.

Outstanding Service and Leadership. There were two recipients of this award this year.

- **Sarah Tibbe.** Sarah worked as an Honors office assistant for over three years. She was one of the most impressive assistants we have ever had. Moreover, she went way above and beyond the work she was expected to do. She anticipated what needed to be done—and often worked outside of office hours. Sarah showed her organizational expertise by organizing two Mid-East Honors Assn. conferences the Meijer Honors College was responsible for organizing. Just as an illustration, at registration at one of the conferences it became apparent that some of the nametags were wrong. Sarah was not satisfied with tags that were imperfect—she went home and redid them overnight. Sarah has also developed an alumni outreach plan for the Honors College. She developed a survey, tallied the results,

and created a multi-faceted program for reaching out to alumni. Her work has been invaluable for Honors and will have positive returns for many years to come. Sarah is second from the left in the photo on the following page.

- **Bradley Mueller.** Brad has contributed in truly exceptional ways. He was a very positive influence from his first semester. He served as an Honors RA several years and worked with Janaan Anderson, the Honors Student Services Coordinator, to develop programming to help other honors students. He was vital in this role in getting students from the Hills Living Center connected to the Honors program. He continued to work informally with honors students, and eventually did his senior project—again with Janaan—on why some honors students struggle early on. Brad is the first on the left in the photo below.

Frederik Meijer Honors College Outstanding Senior of the Year. This is the most prestigious award that the Honors College bestows. **Natalie Stagner** is this year's recipient. Natalie was an Allied Health Sciences major who had a nearly perfect 4.0, an incredible feat. She has been admitted to GVSU Doctoral program in Physical Therapy. She has received the "Lead Like a Laker" award and the "I am Grand Valley Award" three years in a row. She was an RA for three years in the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center—her wing had reputation of being one of the most welcoming and lively in the whole building. Natalie also was a teaching assistant in the Human Anatomy Lab, -worked as an advisor in Honors this past year, and had significant volunteer experience in places such as the Renucci Hospitality House, Cody's Ride and Alternatives in Motion, Habitat for Humanity, GVSU Sustainability initiative, and many others. In her candidacy essay, she wrote: "The Honors College community encourages support, not competition; we all shared our biggest dreams during our first week at GVSU by writing them down on a cloud, proudly placed on display in the window of the Honors Office. I learned to respect others' opinions and to take each opportunity to learn from other students in my courses. Because of the constant support and mutual learning promoted in the Honors College, I have become a better student and have realized that I will forever be a lifelong learner." Natalie is a tremendous role model for honors students. Natalie is third from the left in the photo below.



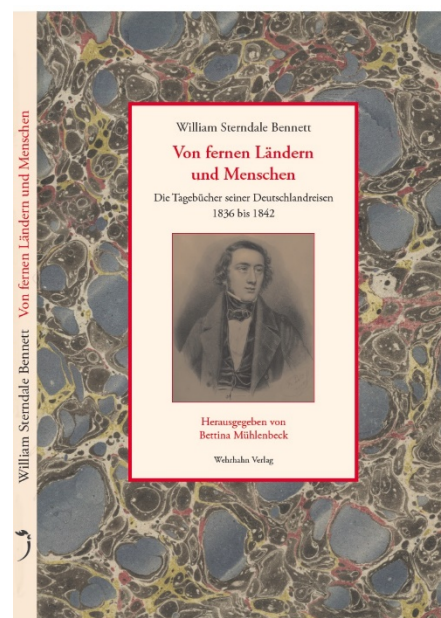
STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS—SUMMARY

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

- Eight out of the 39 students elected to **Student Senate** for the 2016-17 academic year are honors students (20.5%). Ella Fritzemeier, the new Student Senate President, is one of them.
- **Phi Kappa Phi** is one of the most prestigious Honors Societies in the country. In its recognition ceremony in late March, 51 first-year honors students were honored (57% of the total) and 33 upper-class honors students were inducted into the Society (38%).
- Thirty honors seniors were **recipients of departmental awards** at the annual Grand Valley State Awards Celebration on April 11th. This means that Honors students were given the highest academic award in 30 of the 84 departments that give the award—or 36%. Students won awards in almost every college. This year Honors students won the top award in Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Classics, English, French, Geology, Journalism, Mathematics, Physics, Social Studies, Studio Art, Writing, Business Economics, Economics, Entrepreneurship, General Business, General Management, Elementary Education, Computer Science, Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering, Medical Laboratory Science, Chinese Studies, Liberal Studies, Religious Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Nursing. Further it should be noted that two honors students—**Scott St. Louis** and **Danielle Tanner**—won university-wide **Thomas M. Seykora Award for Outstanding Contribution**, and two honors students—Andrew Plague and Scott St. Louis—won the most prestigious academic award that Grand Valley confers: **The Glenn A. Niemeyer Award**. Only two of those are bestowed a year.
- Nine out of 24 **Student Summer Scholars** in 2016 were honors students (37.5%). The program is very competitive and, therefore, prestigious.
- Eleven out of 20 **Peer Research Consultants** at the Mary Idema Pew Library and Information Commons were honors students (55%).
- At **Student Scholars Day** in April, 122 Honors students presented, and many presented multiple times. There was a total of 614 student presenters, which means that Honors students made up nearly 20% of all student participants.
- 135 Honors students received **“I am Grand Valley Award”** this year, and many of them were nominated multiple times. This represents nearly 20% of the total.
- 34 out of 117 **Resident Assistants** for the 2015-16 academic year—almost 30%—were honors students.
- 24 out of the 63 student **Writing Consultants** (38%) in the Meijer Center for Writing were Honors students.
- The **Cook Leadership Academy** is a very selective leadership program sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and Leadership. Honors students comprised over a third of the student Fellows this past year (20 out of 59).

FACULTY NEWS

- **Bettina Muehlenbeck.** Prof. Muehlenbeck had a very busy and productive first year at GVSU. She:
 - Prepared her book for the press and was involved in setting the type (see illustration).
 - Wrote a commissioned article for Cambridge University Press' *Nineteenth-Century Music Review*.
 - Received 5 independent nominations from individual students of three classes for the GVSU Celebrating Women Awards.
 - Mentored Honors student Gabriel Ellis extensively in his Music History studies and his planned pursuit of Graduate Degrees in Musicology.
 - Was nominated for and voted into the University Academic Senate for the 2016-17 academic year.



- **Kurt Ellenberger.** Professor Ellenberger continues his work as an arts and culture writer for *The Huffington Post* (see <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/frakathustra-578>) which continues to garner national and international attention. He was invited to present as a featured speaker at the Berklee College of Music and his work was also referenced in the Financial Times (London) this past year. He continues his creative work with his electronic ensemble “Annagram,” whose second recording is underway (see <http://www.annagrammusic.com>). For more on Prof. Ellenberger, see his website at <http://www.kurtellenberger.com>.
- **Jeremiah Cataldo.** Prof. Cataldo received tenure this year, as well as a promotion to Associate Professor. This is a mark of confidence from the university and is very well-deserved. Prof. Cataldo continues to impress with his productivity as a scholar—he received a contract from Routledge Press for his fourth book, which will be a sociopolitical history of Judeo-Christian monotheism up to the Byzantine era. Prof. Cataldo also continues to be the advisor for the *Grand Valley Journal of History*.
- **Amy Mc Farland.** Prof. McFarland wrote that “In the past year, I was appointed the Academic Coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP). The SAP is devoted to engaging students across the curriculum in food systems work [pictured at right is Ashley Baur, one of Prof. McFarland’s students, at work on the SAP]. This past summer, I have mentored students from various majors (Sociology, Liberal Studies, Natural Resource Management, and Linguistics) to develop project ideas and apply for and receive grant funding. This upcoming year, these students and I



will collect data, complete their projects, and present their findings. I engage all of my students in my classes with the SAP to help develop an understanding of the messy nature of food problems and the creative and mindful work needed for transformation.”

- **Jane Toot.** Prof. Toot worked with Tandem 365—a program to keep the elderly in their homes rather than subjecting them to re-hospitalization. This work is very relevant to two courses she teaches—a Live, Learn, Lead first-year seminar with the theme “Saging and Aging” and an Honors junior seminar on medical controversies. She involved many students in Tandem 365, and will involve even more as she incorporates her experiences into her teaching. Prof. Toot presented at a national conference on aging in Washington, D.C., in April on the ways that Tandem 365 is creating a model for care that emphasizes interdisciplinary and systems approaches. Her work on these new approaches to home care have been very well received. She and her colleagues will now focus on community involvement and caregiver issues, and they expect to present in Chicago in 2017 at the same conference.
- **Jonathan White.** The most significant contribution Prof. White made to his field (National Security) was the release of the 9th edition of *Terrorism and Homeland Security*. It was a massive updating of new terrorist movements in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia as well as tactical analysis of attacks in the West. It also contains, at the request of several colleagues around the country, an assessment of future directions. According to the editor, it is the best-selling textbook on the subject. In addition, Prof. White added:
 - “Last year I began work on a Big History approach to military history. I presented the first results of research at the International Big History Association Conference in Amsterdam in August. I’m working on an expansion of the project for Philadelphia in 2018.
 - I continued to serve as a board member on the Pakistan Society of Criminology and refereed selected articles for the Society’s journal.
 - I proposed a course on War and Technology for the Honors College.
 - I’ve been able to work with students beyond the classroom by helping them seek external fellowships, international educational opportunities, and select their graduate programs. Elizabeth Lambert, the Director of the Meijer Office of Fellowships, has been tremendously helpful to these students.
 - Finally, I continued in “community education,” accepting public speaking engagements for civic and private groups seeking to understand terrorism. These include groups like the Rotary, OLLIE, other colleges, and other organizations. Also included are media interviews by print and electronic journalists. I can’t remember if they included international interviews this past year, but there were a couple of national requests, a few requests from other local markets outside the Midwest, and several dozen requests from Michigan media.”
- **Ed Baum.** Prof. Baum noted that: “My primary research interest is in developing active learning methods to improve student performance in science. My research has involved exploring the impact of small studio classrooms on the instructors and students working in them and how this improves student performance. Recently, I began work on incorporating active learning procedures into large-enrollment classes in order to increase student’s conceptual understanding and problem solving skills. It is clear that the learning space does influence teacher and student attitude, and large spaces designed for lecturing stimulate behavior favoring

lecture. Active learning to be used in such environments must be designed and implemented to be compatible.”

- **Craig Benjamin** has enjoyed an interesting and productive professional year since August 2015. His most significant book publications during the period were:
 - *Cambridge History of the World Vol. 4: A World with States, Empires, and Networks, 1200 BCE-900 CE*, C. Benjamin, ed. Series editor: M. Weisner-Hanks, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
 - *Proceedings of the Symposium on the History of the Kushans on the Basis of Literary Evidence*,
 - *Seminaris Conference Center, Berlin, December 2013*, co-authored by all 43 participants including C. Benjamin, ed. Harry Falk, Mainz: Mainz Academy of Literature and Culture, forthcoming fall 2016
 - *Traditions and Encounters; A Global Perspective on the Past, 6th. Edtn*, by J. Bentley, H. Zeigler, H. Streets Salter and C. Benjamin (chief contributing author/editor to Chapters 1-21), New York: McGraw-Hill, 2015.

His most significant article and chapter publications were:

- ‘Collective Learning and the Silk Roads’, in L. Grinin and A. Korotayev, eds., *Evolution 2015: From Big Bang to Nanorobots*, Volgograd Russia: Uchitel, 2015, pp. 101-111 (editors and peer reviewed)
- ‘The Little Big History of Jericho’, Chap. 17 in B. Rodrigue, A. Koratyev, L. Grinin, eds., *Big History Anthology*, New Delhi: Primus Books, 2015, pp. 247-263 (peer reviewed).
- ‘The World from 1200 BCE to 900 CE’, chap. 1 in *Cambridge History of the World Vol. 4: A World with States, Empires, and Networks, 1200 BCE-900 CE*. C. Benjamin, ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015, pp. 1-28 (editor-in-chief reviewed).
- ‘The Mediterranean c. 1200 BCE – c. 900 CE’, chap. 12 (co-authored with Merry Weisner-Hanks) in *Cambridge History of the World Vol. 4: A World with States, Empires, and Networks, 1200 BCE-900 CE*. C. Benjamin, ed. Cambridge University Press, 2015, pp. 325-349 (editor-in-chief reviewed).

Craig gave the following presentations at conferences and other events:

- July 2016: ‘A Little Big History of E.E. Benjamin’; and ‘The Globalization of Big History’, both presented at the third **Biennial Conference of the International Big History Association**, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- July 2016: ‘Big History of the First Silk Roads Domesticates’; and ‘Soviet Central Asia and the Preservation of History in Central Asia’, both presented at the **World History Association Annual Conference**, Ghent, Belgium
- Oct 2015: ‘Educating for Global Engagement’; and ‘Big History and Liberal Education’. Plenary address at **Globalistics 2015, Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations**, Moscow State University, Russia.
- Sep 2015: ‘Jazz Musicians and the Civil Rights Movement’. Presented at the **Detroit Jazz Festival**, Detroit, Michigan
- Aug 24-27: ‘The Teacher-Student Relationship in the Digital Age’; ‘Teaching Big History’; and ‘Valedictory Remarks on the Colloquium’. Plenary addresses at the **Third**

International Colloquium – Teaching in the Digital Age, Sri Atmananda Memorial School, Malakkara, Kerala, India

Craig also made the following professional contributions:

- Inducted as an **Honorary International Faculty Member of the Department of Global Studies**, Moscow State University, Russia, October 2015
- President of the **World History Association** (2014/15)
- Treasurer of the **International Big History Association** (2011-present)
- Elected Vice President of the **International Big History Association** (July 2016-present)

FINAL NOTE:

It's hard to believe that this report is just a snapshot of the activities that went on in the Meijer Honors College this past year. When one starts to tally all of the events and accomplishments, it is truly amazing. Honors is in some ways a microcosm of the university, and as this report demonstrates, Lakers are truly having a global effect. The Frederik Meijer Honors College is grateful to have the endorsement and support of The Meijer Foundation. The endowment enables us to 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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