



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**FREDERIK MEIJER  
HONORS COLLEGE**

Graduate Profiles

Grand Valley State University

Class of Fall 2023



# Sydney Addington

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

### ***The Lasting Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic***

This project involved collecting data from students and individuals who were employed during the pandemic. A google form survey asked a wide range of questions to gather important information about the effects COVID-19 had on people's mental health. I analyzed the data and created a poster to relay the information.

## **Research**

I joined Dr. Kristin Renkema's lab in November 2022. In this lab, we utilized a mouse model to investigate microbial experience impacts on immune population dynamics and responses. I presented our findings locally at the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference (WMRUGS) and nationally at Autumn Immunology Conference (AIC).

## **Leadership Activities**

Co-President of Mu Epsilon Delta (a professional healthcare fraternity)  
Programming Leader for the Honors Student Council  
Executive Board for GV GrooVe!  
Volunteer at Grand Rapids Young Womens Christian Association (YWCA)

## **Activities and Awards**

Biomedical Sciences Department's Graduate of Distinction Award 2023

## **Internship/Practicum**

Advanced Cardiopulmonary ICU Nurse Technician at Corewell Health

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was being heavily involved in three different clubs on campus, volunteering in Grand Rapids, participating in research and working 24 hours a week all while remaining on the Dean's List every semester.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I am planning to take the MCAT in April/ May then applying to medical school in hopes to be matriculated into the class of 2029! Also, I plan to work full time as a nurse technician, volunteer and join Dr. David Geenens Mesenchymal Stem Cell research lab!



# Madison Armstrong

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

### *What Medical School Doesn't Teach You*

A comprehensive reading guide to help pre-medical and non-medical students read and discuss the most recommended books for medical students in the United States. Topics include grief and death, empathy, and medical ethics.

## Leadership Activities

Honors 201 Teaching Assistant

Honors College Freshman Mentor

## Activities and Awards

GV Award for Excellence

GV Presidential Scholarship

Pre-Physician Assistant Club

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Reinforcing my passion for medicine while learning another language to help a more diverse population.

## Plans after Graduation

Continuing my job as a Pediatric Medical Assistant while pursuing my master's degree in physician assistant studies.



# Georgia Barber

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## **Senior Project**

***Comparative Healthcare: Changing US Health Policy***

Comparative Healthcare: Changing US Health Policy is a podcast that compares different healthcare models to determine possible US healthcare changes that would promote equality and equity. Through various sources and interviews, US healthcare is defined, and solutions are developed.

## **Research**

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: An Autoimmune Disease?  
literature review

## **Activities and Awards**

Student Employee

Spanish Club Member

## **Study Abroad Experience**

I studied abroad in the summer of 2022 in Barranquilla, Colombia, and in the summer of 2023 in Sevilla, Spain.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been learning another language and using it for medical translation.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be participating in a medical translation internship and applying to graduate school for the 2025 fall semester.



# Kian Barnes

**Major:** *Biochemistry*

## Senior Project

*Bacilliredoxin BrxA plays a redox-sensitive regulatory role in the debacillithiolation pathway in Firmicutes.*

Pathogenic bacteria have a complex metabolic response to the oxidative stress that the human immune system causes. In this study, I looked at a key enzyme, BrxA, and demonstrated that it undergoes structural and functional changes as a way of regulating the oxidative stress response of Firmicute bacteria.

## Research

Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference 2022 and 2023.  
National Meeting of the American Chemical Society Fall 2023.  
Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Utah Summer 2023. GVSU Student Scholars Day 2023.

## Leadership Activities

Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Student Advisory Committee.

## Activities and Awards

Student mentor and teaching assistant in the honors college, Undergraduate Award for Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry Award, GVSU Presidential Scholarship

## Internship/Practicum

I was a member of the Cook lab for 2 years and completed an NSF-REU internship at the University of Utah.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Discovering my passion for research and all of the great experiences and friendships that have resulted from it.

## Plans after Graduation

Attending graduate school for a PhD in Biochemistry.



# Schuyler Betts

**Major:** *Information Technology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Oasis of Hope Technical Aid***

Revamped website by fixing broken links and pictures and also adding accessibility. Password manager was set up to help protect information.

## **Internship/Practicum**

Avasure Technical Support Internship

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Graduating.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Working in IT and hopefully learning much more.



# Sarah Bresnahan

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

*Unveiling the Shadows: Exploring the Alarming Trends in African American Maternal and Infant Health*

This project is a literature review that focuses on the increasing rates of infant and maternal mortality within African American communities in the US. It highlights the racial biases of the healthcare system, as well as strategies that organizations are working on to combat the issue.

## **Leadership Activities**

Music Director of GVSU's all female acapella group "Midnight Snack"

## **Activities and Awards**

Member of GVSU's Student Nurses Association

## **Internship/Practicum**

Completed my six-week leadership clinical at U of M Health West Hospital on their med surg./telemetry unit.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My biggest accomplishment at Grand Valley was finishing a competitive degree that I worked so hard for as well as forming many great connections and lifelong friendships with classmates and professors.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be working as an RN at Trinity Health Grand Rapids on their cardiac and renal transplant floor.



# Aubrey Buskard

**Major:** *Psychology*

**Minor:** *Studio Art*

## Senior Project

*Study abroad reflection.*

My senior project will be my reflection on studying abroad when I go next semester.

## Research

I was a researcher/presenter at the Family Futures Practicing Resilience Conference in 2023 on the topic of Strengthening Community Environments Through Relationship Building.

I also wrote a proposal for deep brain stimulation for the treatment of anorexia nervosa and gathered sources of information to inform the proposal.

## Leadership Activities

Teaching Assistant for Ellen Adams' Winter 2023 Live, Learn, Lead class.

## Activities and Awards

A part of the GVSU Symphony Orchestra from 2020-2022.

Dean's List

Magna cum Laude

GV Award for Excellence

## Study Abroad Experience

I will be spending my last semester (Winter 2024) in Bolzano, Italy.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I stepped out of my comfort zone and took three semesters of Italian Language and Culture, which helped solidify my desire to study abroad.

## Plans after Graduation

I currently plan to see what opportunities open up after graduation.





# Mikaela Crute

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

### *Neonatal Pain Management Practices During Circumcision*

Looked at policies and procedures across the state of Michigan against evidence-based practice on pain management of newborns.

## **Research**

Continuing research on my Senior Project, presented at Van Andel West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference.

## **Leadership Activities**

Volunteer Director of Student Nurses' Association

## **Activities and Awards**

Volunteer Recognition Award from Student Nurses' Association (volunteered greater than 50 hours).

## **Study Abroad Experience**

Pediatric and Maternal Fetal Health Nursing - Cape Coast, Ghana

## **Internship/Practicum**

Nurse Intern in Med-Surg Float Pool at Trinity Health Oakland

Nurse Intern in NICU at Trinity Health Oakland

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Discovering how to focus my passion for working with infants and making a difference in the Grand Rapids area through volunteer work.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Pass my boards and receive RN Licensure! Hopefully work in a NICU and then return to school to receive my doctorate to become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.

# John Dirkse

**Major:** *Computer Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

*EduSynth AI Population Student Survey Tool*

A software application that I developed with a team of 2 others that allows for user interaction with AI Personas of incoming college freshmen in order to gain insight into potential ideas for campus improvement.



## **Research**

I joined Dr. Kristin Renkema's lab in November 2022. In this lab, we utilized a mouse model to investigate microbial experience impacts on immune population dynamics and responses. I presented our findings locally at the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference (WMRUGS) and nationally at Autumn Immunology Conference (AIC).

## **Leadership Activities**

GVSU Formula SAE Driver and Driver Coach  
GVSU Men's Water Polo Club President

## **Activities and Awards**

Summa Cum Laude  
All-American Water Polo Goalie

## **Internship/Practicum**

Sophomore to Junior year Gentex Computer Science Internship  
Junior to Senior year Amway Computer Science Internship

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Getting into motorsports and making lifelong friends while growing my skills to be able to do whatever I am passionate about in the future has been my greatest accomplishment.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be staying in West Michigan to start my career at Amway to gain experience and make money before shifting my career toward motorsport to utilize my data analytics skills in making cars go faster.



# Charlotte Doran

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences & Political Science*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## Senior Project

***The Impact On Mortality Following Death of a Spouse: The Widowhood Effect***

My literature review explores the Widowhood Effect, which is a phenomenon where an individual dies shortly after their spouse. This has anecdotally been attributed to a "broken heart," but my research explores alternate causes, such as changes in social circles and support, socioeconomic status, health behaviors, and more.

## Research

"Examining the Dobbs Decision and the Right to Reproductive Freedom"

"Addressing Staff Shortages in Healthcare"

"Physical Activity and How It Can Reduce Stress and Anxiety"

"Exploring Civil Discourse: Radical Empathy"

"Race and the Death Penalty"

"Social Media and Body Image: How the Filtered World Affects Our Body Satisfaction"

"Why Nation Building in Afghanistan Failed"

## Leadership Activities

President of Grand Valley Law Society; Cook Leadership Academy Fellow; Teaching Assistant for Honors: Live, Learn, Lead; and Teaching Assistant for Anatomy and Physiology II.

## Activities and Awards

President and Member of Grand Valley Law Society

Member of Table Tennis Club

"I am Grand Valley" award.

## Internship/Practicum

Summer Administrative Assistant at Varnum LLP.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is becoming President of Grand Valley Law Society, where we hosted prestigious law schools and professionals as well as helped students prepare for law school and their careers.

## Plans after Graduation

Immediately following graduation, I will be working full time at Varnum LLP in Birmingham, Michigan, and attending University of Michigan Law School in Fall of 2024.



# Alexa Elkouri

**Major:** *Music & Education*

**Minor:** *Studio Art*

## **Senior Project**

***Educating Through Music: The Art of Composition and Collaboration***

This project aims to combine my love of composition and chamber music with my love of teaching. I composed a piece for flute trio that I coached two of my high school students on. It was a wonderful experience playing and recording together.

## **Internship/Practicum**

Teacher Assisting at Baldwin Street Middle School in Hudsonville.

Student Teaching at Bursley Elementary School in Jenison.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

One of my greatest accomplishments during my time at Grand Valley was getting to go on the Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble's National Park Tour the summer of 2022 and 2023.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation my goal is to keep playing flute and get a job teaching elementary music.



# Khoudia Fall

**Major:** *Advertising & Public Relations*

## Senior Project

*Study Abroad Faculty-Led Program; London, United Kingdom: Communications and the City*

Studying the cultural landscape in London was an enriching experience. My research competency was heightened through exploring iconic sites like Stonehenge and the British Museum. Investigating communication rituals, from ancient cultures to modern communities, deepened my understanding of symbolic practices in the UK; it was an enriching journey.

## Leadership Activities

Campus Tour Guide  
International Student Orientation Leader  
Black Excellence Orientation Leader  
Freshmen Orientation Leader  
Resident Assistant

## Activities and Awards

Thompson Working Family Scholarship Recipient, Frederick A. Chapman Memorial Public Relations Scholarship Recipient, Robert W. Mayberry School of Communications Endowed Scholarship Recipient, Dean's List (Fall 2022, Winter 2023), WGUVU Public Media Scholarship Recipient, Laker Connection Engagement Scholarship Recipient, Ruth Chamberlain Global Scholarship Recipient

## Study Abroad Experience

London, United Kingdom: Communications

## Internship/Practicum

Marketing and Social Media Assistant: GVSU Bus Systems (Facilities - Pew Campus)

Communications Assistant: Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy

LendGr Business Consultant: Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My most significant achievement was persevering through adversity, ultimately earning my degree. During a challenging period, uncertainty clouded my path, but I discovered my passion, filling me with enthusiasm to create positive change within my community.

## Plans after Graduation

While my life's path remains uncertain, I'm in the process of discovering my true calling. One thing I'm certain of is my aspiration to become an independent entrepreneur or establish my own firm, following in my father's footsteps, driven by the same entrepreneurial spirit.



# Kathryn Falzone

**Major:** *Hospitality Tourism Management*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## **Senior Project**

***Geotourism Study Abroad in Costa Rica***

Studied international food and culture and geotourism in Costa Rica on a faculty led study abroad. The trip involved traveling throughout the country to visit a variety of geographic features that bring in tourism and studying their sustainability efforts.

## **Leadership Activities**

Attended 2023 Resort and Commercial Recreation Association Conference.

## **Study Abroad Experience**

2023 Geotourism in Costa Rica

## **Internship/Practicum**

I was a Recreation Intern at The Quechee Club in Quechee Vermont in 2022. I also interned at Cheley Colorado Camps as a hiking counselor in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Landing incredible internship opportunities in Vermont and Colorado and my study abroad trip

## **Plans after Graduation**

Work in the tourism and recreation industry and travel to more cool places!



# Luis Fernandez

**Major:** *Psychology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***LA VOZ DE MI GENTE***

LA VOZ DE MI GENTE is a photo series celebrating the Puerto Rican story and identity, bridging the diaspora to our homeland. Despite natural disasters and displacement, it emphasizes the resilience, and culture behind our boricua spirit. Uniting us in a powerful homage to our roots and vibrant heritage.

## **Research**

Learning to Teach Well in Any Format: Examining the Effects of Online Teachers' Training on University Faculty Teaching

Jarvie-Eggart, M., Freeman, T., Woerner, J. S., Benjamin, M., & Fernandez-Arcay, L. (2023). Learning to Teach Well in Any Format: Examining the Effects of Online Teachers'. *Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice*, 23(2).

<https://doi.org/10.33423/jhetp.v23i2.5808>

## **Leadership Activities**

Advisory Committee Member at the Kent Career Tech Center, serving as a voice and advocate for our minority students. Connecting the Career center with the broader community and looking to create opportunities for our students.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Daring to dream beyond the confines of the institution, and being able to accomplish something bigger than myself, and doing so with purpose.

## **Plans after Graduation**

There is immense power in every one of our stories, and I am committed to continuing to create opportunities for others to share theirs. I also strive to be an advocate and a voice for students like me, ensuring our often-overlooked voices are heard and valued in our community.



# Allison Fitzgerald

**Major:** *Computer Science*

**Minor:** *Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

### ***myAphasia App***

It is a mobile app that uses AI and user information to generate prompts meant to help people with Broca's Aphasia form and speak sentences out loud.

## **Activities and Awards**

Worked in campus dining for 2 semesters.

Worked in the Technology Showcase for 2 semesters, while also being a member of STING.

Worked solely in STING for a semester.

Member of KGE.

## **Internship/Practicum**

I interned at a software consulting company called X by 2. I worked directly on a client project where I helped transfer, manipulate, and organize a large amount of data through code.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Establishing new and meaningful relationships while also performing well in my studies.

## **Plans after Graduation**

To work on some personal projects and start looking for a job in software development.





# Lea Gaetto

**Major:** *Journalism*

## **Senior Project**

*TikTok creators fight for transparency: unmasking hidden dangers of toxic food additives in the American diet, but is it true or just more fake news?*

I will be evaluating the credibility of TikTok users' posts on harmful food additives allowed in the US and outlawed in other countries. To help diffuse the spread of misinformation found on social media platforms regarding food additives, I aim to separate facts from falsehoods regarding these TikToks and their credibility.

## **Research**

I did an investigative journalism report on domestic violence.

"Breaking the Silence: The Urgent Need to Raise Domestic Violence Awareness and End the Cycle of Abuse."

## **Leadership Activities**

I am the Associate Print Editor of the Grand Valley Lanthorn.

## **Activities and Awards**

Member of GVSU's Law Society, Associate Print Editor of the Grand Valley Lanthorn, and was a student-caller at the Telephone Outreach Center.

## **Internship/Practicum**

Legal Intern at the Private Practice of Frank J. Del Medico, Ltd.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Graduating early with Summa cum laude recognition.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to continue working as a paralegal with Pintas & Mullins Law Firm as well as attend law school in Chicago.



# Cassidy Grevemeyer

**Major:** *Studio Art*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Memento Mori***

An analysis of the evolution of memento mori through time and a discussion of whether the original meaning has been lost in modern times.

## **Activities and Awards**

Student Scholars Day Exhibition 2022 "Pagan Censer"

Student Scholars Day Exhibition 2023 "Bottle Brooch" and "Captured Bottle Brooch"

Ann M. Dilly Jewelry/Metalsmithing Scholarship

## **Internship/Practicum**

Floral Design Internship May-August 2021

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Learned metalworking skills and formed an artistic community.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I am planning to get a job at a jewelry store as a bench jeweler.



# Riley Hagen

**Major:** *Finance and Supply Chain Management*

## **Senior Project**

### ***The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Finance Sector***

A research paper that discussed how far artificial intelligence has come and where it is going, and ultimately how all areas of finance are going to be impacted, from a legal, business, and people standpoint.

## **Leadership Activities**

Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization Vice President  
Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization Portfolio Manager  
Honors College Mentor

## **Activities and Awards**

Association for Corporate Growth Competitor  
Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization Stock Pitch Competition  
Participant and Winner

## **Internship/Practicum**

Howmet Aerospace Finance Intern Summer 2022 - Fall 2023

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Maintaining a GPA that meets the summa cum laude standards while going through multiple different challenges both personally and professionally.

## **Plans after Graduation**

To start my career in investment banking as a mergers and acquisitions analyst at Calder Capital in Grand Rapids.



# Emma Hamilton

**Major:** *Legal Studies*

**Minor:** *Criminal Justice*

## **Senior Project**

*Painting as a process for navigating the uncertainties of an invisible disability*

My project is an application of the history and techniques of art therapy to explore ways to cope with the uncertainties of living with an invisible disability.

## **Research**

Presented case research at Michigan State Police 6th District Headquarters.

2023 MSA Conference Presentation: Cold Case Investigation: Students Working with Michigan State Police Using Experiential Learning

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List

LEX Honors Society

## **Internship/Practicum**

Internship at the Ottawa County Legal Self-Help Center

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment is my participation in the inaugural Cold Case Investigations class at GVSU. We were able to assist MSP with an immense amount of time and dedication and help jumpstart this important program at our college.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I plan to work in a law firm as a paralegal. I am planning to take the LSAT in January and may attend law school in the fall of next year.



# Sydney Hohlbein

**Major:** *Political Science*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Reflection on Study Abroad Experience***

I studied abroad in Florence, Italy and wrote a reflection on Florentine art and Italian transportation.

## **Research**

GVSU Teach-in Presentation, Ally to Accomplice: Personal and Collective Responsibility

## **Leadership Activities**

Rotaract President 2022-2023

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Counselor

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List 2021-2023

## **Study Abroad Experience**

Florence University of the Arts, Spring 2023

## **Internship/Practicum**

Legal Assistance Center Internship

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Pursuing a degree that I am passionate about and being actively involved in a volunteer organization over the past three years.

## **Plans after Graduation**

My plan after graduation is to work at a nonprofit organization. I hope to eventually attend graduate school to pursue an MPA degree.



# Mackenzie Johnson

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

### *Studying Abroad in Rome, Italy*

Studying abroad in Italy fulfilled my Senior Project. I was immersed in Italian culture for 6 weeks and was able to experience an international approach to marketing/management. I traveled all over Italy and enjoyed the delicious food, beautiful scenery, hiking, and learning to navigate life in a new country.

## Research

My capstone senior project through my BMS major was The Role Bacterial Colonization of Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus Have on Infant Development.

## Leadership Activities

President of the Honors Student Council

Mentor in the FMHC

Fellow Candidate in the Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy

## Activities and Awards

I am GV Award

K-12 Connect Tutor

IM Sand Volleyball

Member of Phi Kappa Phi

## Study Abroad Experience

Rome, Italy Summer Semester 2023

## Internship/Practicum

I was able to work at DBC Natural Holistic Health Center to gain experience in my field. No specific Internship experience, but an amazing opportunity that supported my education at GVSU.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was becoming the president of the Honors Student Council and working with an amazing group of leaders to inspire the next class of Honors students, while seeing their confidence grow as we welcomed them all throughout Welcome Week.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation I am getting married in May! I will then begin studying at National University of Health Sciences to pursue my doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine to become a Naturopathic Doctor.



# Jaeda Jonker

**Major:** *Marketing*

## **Senior Project**

### ***The Beginning of an Unexpected Partnership***

Increasing engagement amongst students is hard. After being approached by a small business owner in Grand Rapids, it seemed an answer might be in the road ahead. My project addresses the beginning stages of the partnership that commenced, and the learnings drawn from it.

## **Leadership Activities**

FMHC Student Council Vice President

## **Activities and Awards**

Honors College Mentor

## **Internship/Practicum**

Product Marketing Intern at Steelcase

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment is all the experiences, classes, and conversations I have been a part of that have helped shape my desires for the future and teach me more about my strengths as an individual.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Transition to a full-time role after finishing internship.



# Marian Kenney

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## **Senior Project**

*The Psychology of Peace, Conflict, and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland*

A faculty led study abroad exploring the divided culture of the country of Northern Ireland, discovering the history of the conflict leading to the Troubles, and meeting peacemakers who work to heal the divisions today.

## **Research**

Autism Spectrum Disorders Review- BMS Capstone project

## **Leadership Activities**

GVSU Resident Assistant  
HNR 201 Teaching Assistant

## **Activities and Awards**

I am Grand Valley Award 2023

## **Study Abroad Experience**

Northern Ireland Summer 2023

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU is my experience as a resident assistant on campus working with freshmen, planning programs, and making amazing friends along the way.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I am applying to graduate school at GVSU for school psychology to continue learning about systems to improve schools for children with disabilities.





# Emily Kruegel

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

*Influence of Biological Factors on ACL Injury Susceptibility: A Systematic Review*

Female athletes are four to six times more likely to suffer an anterior cruciate ligament injury in comparison to their male counterparts. My project is a synthesis of evidence regarding the different biological factors that may or may not increase ACL injury susceptibility in competitive female athletes.

## **Research**

The Effects of Proprioceptive Training on ACL Injury Prevention in Female Adolescent Athletes

## **Leadership Activities**

Honors College Mentor  
Vice President of Medical Sciences Discussion Club  
Human Anatomy and Human Physiology Tutor  
Human Physiology Laboratory Teaching Assistant

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List for all semesters  
GV Award for Excellence

## **Internship and Practicum**

Physical Therapy Technician at Hulst Jepsen Physical Therapy

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was being able to conduct a multitude of research projects, enhancing my understanding of the field of physical therapy.

## **Plans after Graduation**

My plans after graduation are to continue my education in graduate school and earn my doctoral degree in physical therapy.



# Emily Kwekel

**Major:** *Psychology*

**Minor:** *Sociology*

## **Senior Project**

***Rising Above Podcast - Overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences***

This podcast interviews survivors of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and advocates who share their experiences, knowledge, and tools to help listeners understand, process, and overcome the lingering effects of childhood trauma. From mental health to relationships, education to career, we uncover how ACEs shape our lives.

## **Research**

An investigative Psychology research project analyzing the impacts of marijuana smoking habits on emotional regulation among college students.

PACE Presentation to create better faculty support for GVSU students in regard to mental health.

## **Leadership Activities**

Drum Major of the Laker Marching Band

Committee (Public Relations Chair) of Kappa Kappa Psi - Mu Kappa

Eboard member (Social Media) of the Mental Health Awareness Initiative

## **Activities and Awards**

Member of University Christian Outreach

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Becoming Drum Major of the Laker Marching Band. I feel I was able to inspire unity and passion among GV musicians, foster a culture of excellence, and help elevate the band's presence on our campus. The LMB has given me more than I could ever give in return.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attend graduate school to obtain my Masters of Social Work, and go into private practice for counseling trauma survivors.



# Owen Laverty

**Major:** *Finance*

**Minor:** *Business Economics*

## Senior Project

### *Right-to-Work Laws and Creativity*

Using data from the Kickstarter crowdfunding platform, we find that there are more projects launched and more successful projects in states without RTW laws than in states with RTW laws. Thus, the findings suggest that non-RTW states provide a better environment for creativity than states with RTW laws.

## Research

Research assistant conducting data collection for a study looking at risk-taking behavior of companies that IPO when the CEO is the founder of the company or a professional manager.

## Leadership Activities

Seidman IPO Portfolio Manager

Honors College Mentor

Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Student Ambassador

## Activities and Awards

Seidman IPO

Honors College Mentor

OURS Student Ambassador

## Internship and Practicum

Pearl Planning, Finance Intern

Marcus & Millichap, Commercial Real Estate Agent Assistant

Plante Moran Real Estate Investment Advisors, Project Analyst Intern

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining a 4.0 throughout all semesters and graduating one semester early.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be returning full-time to Plante Moran as a Real Estate Investment Advisory Consultant, working out of their Chicago and Southfield offices.

# Joseph Lockhart



**Major:** *Marketing and International Business*

## **Senior Project**

*Study Abroad in Italy*

Was covered by study abroad credits.

## **Leadership Activities**

President of the Italian club for 2 years

## **Study Abroad**

Studied for 5 weeks in a language intensive college in Sicily.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Worked and interned at Campus View

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Graduating early with 2 degrees

## **Plans after Graduation**

To continue working at my job and look for another one.



# Lauren Luomala

**Major:** *Psychology*

**Minor:** *Writing*

## **Senior Project**

### *Little Moments*

A collection of poems inspired by life's little moments, such as friendships, faith, and the beauty of the created world.

## **Leadership Activities**

Member of the University Apostolate for Catholic Student Ministries.

## **Activities and Awards**

Partnered with a non-profit organization to help package food for those who experience poverty and homelessness in Grand Rapids.

Mission trip to Chattanooga, TN

Mission trip to Guyana

## **Study Abroad**

Studied psychology and Jazz and Blues history in Athens, Greece during the Summer 2023 semester.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment while at GV was the opportunities I received to travel and learn. I studied abroad in Athens, Greece, as well as had the opportunity to go on mission trips during my Sophomore and Junior year spring breaks.

## **Plans after Graduation**

To attend graduate school in order to become a licensed counselor.



# Julia Malysh

**Major:** *Biology*

## Senior Project

### *Costa Rica Wildlife Medicine Study Abroad*

I had the opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica and stay at a Rescue Center, where the mission was to rehabilitate wildlife that had been injured or unlawfully held captive. The ultimate objective of rehabilitation was to reintroduce them to their natural habitat in the wild.

## Research

"The Stability and Physical Properties of Compartment Models Through Liquid-Liquid Phase Separation" with Dr. Fatma Pir Cakmak

## Leadership Activities

Event coordinator, public relations officer, and vice president of the Pre-Vet Club  
APVMA Regional Symposium Committee Chair

## Activities and Awards

I am Grand Valley Award  
Dean's List

## Study Abroad

Costa Rica (Pre-Vet Wildlife Medicine) Summer 2023

## Internship and Practicum

Veterinary Assistant Internship at MVP Advanced Animal Hospital  
Veterinary Assistant Internship at Pawsitive Steps Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine  
Veterinary Assistant at Animal Emergency and Specialty Hospital of Byron Center

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Finishing my degree a semester early and developing a true passion for veterinary medicine. I had the opportunity to be vice president of the Pre-Vet Club and committee chair for the APVMA Regional Symposium.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to continue my education and attend Veterinary School.



# Hogan Milam

**Major:** *Political Science and Spanish*

## **Senior Project**

*US Border Militarization and Exploration of Traditional Notions of Freedom*

To call into question the validity of U.S. border militarization in terms of its restraint on freedom, human rights, and the human spirit. This project looks to explain the race- and class-based marginalization of border control as it pertains to migrating persons from the Global South to the United States.

## **Research**

Research paper for Spanish major addressing the effect of anthropocentrism on the commercialization of the non-human world.

## **Leadership Activities**

English Instructor for children in Germany Summer of 2023

## **Activities and Awards**

Member of Pi Sigma Alpha: The National Political Science Honor Society

Member of Sigma Delta Pi: The National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society

## **Internship and Practicum**

Hillary Scholten 2022 Congressional Campaign Intern

2022 Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights Intern

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Overcoming Hodgkin's Lymphoma, traveling extensively in Latin America and Europe, completing a couple of internships, and completing two bachelor's degrees in five years.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Looking to gain work experience with a Human Rights non-governmental organization before pursuing a master's degree in international development.



# Matthew Newhouse

**Major:** *Computer Science*

**Minor:** *Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

*Data Center Infrastructure Management System / Steelcase, Inc.*

A secure system that allows information about the equipment in Steelcase's data centers to be easily referenced, so that I.T. teams can make decisions regarding power, capacity, heat, carbon output, and scalability.

## **Leadership Activities**

Teaching Assistant for HNR 201

## **Internship and Practicum**

Internship at Auto-Owners Insurance (Summer 2022), focused on web application development.

Internship at Auto-Owners Insurance (Summer 2023), focused on data engineering.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

By applying the knowledge and skills I acquired through my coursework, I secured two internships at Auto-Owners Insurance, where I excelled in web application development and data engineering. These experiences reinforced my academic learning and culminated in an offer for a full-time position.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I plan to work as a software developer at Auto-Owners Insurance in their data engineering department.





# Lauren Phelps

**Major:** *Facilities Management*

## **Senior Project**

*Applying Raman spectroscopy of carbonaceous material (RSCM) to study very low-grade metamorphism and connect exposed Northern Range rocks with subsurface economic basement, Trinidad, West Indies.*

Using carbon to graphite transition to understand Trinidad's Northern Range and it's placement.

## **Research**

Applying Raman spectroscopy of carbonaceous material (RSCM) to study very low-grade metamorphism Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas, USA core and flanks

## **Leadership Activities**

Vice president of AAPG GVSU student chapter

## **Activities and Awards**

Geology Scholarship

## **Study Abroad Experience**

Field camp at University of St. Andrews, Scotland

## **Internship and Practicum**

Geology intern for Martin Marietta's Central Division.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Presented at the geological society of Americas national conference in Denver, Colorado.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attend graduate school.



# Emma Piasecki

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

**Minor:** *Biology*

## Senior Project

### *The Relationship Between Pubic Symphysis Width and Parity*

I examined the relationship between pubic symphysis width and number of births (parity). Pubic symphysis widths were measured at three locations on about 80 de-identified CT scans. The aim of my project was to contribute to a greater understanding of pain related to the widening of the pubic symphysis.

## Research

Examining the Relationship between Gut Size and Pubic Symphysis Width: Student Scholars Day Poster Presentation (2022)  
Simian Primate Pelvic Morphology and Obstetric Constraints (2023)  
Annis Water Resources Institute: Muskegon County COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance (2022)  
Annis Water Resources Institute: Muskegon County Beach Monitoring (2022)

## Leadership Activities

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Facilitator (2021)  
Pre-Physician Assistant Mentor (2022-Present)

## Activities and Awards

P. Douglas Kindschi Undergraduate Research Fellowship in the Sciences (Two-time Fellow: Summer 2023 and Winter 2021)  
Interprofessional Education Certificate (Awarded April 2023)  
Promoting Interprofessional Education for Students (PIPES) Member (2022-Present)  
Dean's List for 7 semesters  
Pre-Physician Assistant Club (2020-Present)

## Internship and Practicum

Annis Water Resources Institute Undergraduate Student Internship (Summer 2022)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment is receiving the P. Douglas Kindschi Undergraduate Research Fellowship in the Sciences twice under the guidance of Dr. Natalie Laudicina. She has been a driving force in my development of problem-solving skills I will need to carry me through my career and a tremendous mentor.

## Plans after Graduation

I am excited to start Grand Valley's Physician Assistant program in 2024!



# Cameron Schneider

**Major:** *Computer Science*

## **Senior Project**

*myAphasia*

Created a mobile application to assist people with Aphasia in having conversation. The application uses machine learning to produce prompts from nearby conversations as well as from users' interests, beliefs, and favorites.

## **Leadership Activities**

Small group leader and Teaching Assistant in an Honors College course.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Worked at Enterprise Tool & Die to develop a full stack inventory management system.

Worked at a start-up called Moxie to develop a Client Relationship Management system for freelancers and independent contractors.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Completed a mobile application that will greatly improve the quality of life for people with Aphasia across the country.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Begin working on my M.S. in Applied Computer Science, also at GVSU. While getting my advanced degree, I will continue working to develop my software development skills and to continue growing my career.



# Jordan Schneider

**Major:** *Behavioral Neuroscience and Allied Health Sciences*

## Senior Project

*Understanding the Correlation Between Vitamin D deficiency and the Progression of Alzheimer's Disease.*

The Basis of our research was to look at different brain tissue from subjects that had the Alzheimer's gene and had different amounts of vitamin D composition. This is to see if there was any progression or a decrease amount of Tau or GAP-43 within the brain matter.

## Research

Did research with my Animal Behavior class on the aggression of jumping spiders between genders. I also did research on the effects of social media with appearance with my Advance Research Class.

## Leadership Activities

Vice President of Finance of Delta Gamma Sorority  
Vice President of Finance of the Panhellenic Association at Grand Valley  
Vice President of Communications for Mu Epsilon Delta Fraternity  
Vice President of the Alzheimer's Awareness Club

## Study Abroad Experience

Will be going to Costa Rica with Vida during Spring Break to help give free medical care to people in rural communities!

## Internship and Practicum

I have been working as a Nurse Technician at Corewell Health Butterworth to get experience in the medical field.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I think my greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley Was being as involved as I was. I was able to not only further my communication skills, but I was also able to build lifelong friendships along the way.

## Plans after Graduation

My plans after graduation will be that I will attend Grand Valleys Accelerated Nursing Program and work at Corewell in the ER for 2 Years. From there I will get training to become a Trauma 1 Flight Nurse.



# Mayra Sedano-Rodriguez

**Major:** *Criminal Justice*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## **Senior Project**

*Study Abroad in Japan*

Investigating the criminal justice system in Japan.

## **Research**

Presentation about studying abroad and the Gilman scholarship.

Presented research about Japan's low crime rate at Ryukoku University.

## **Leadership Activities**

President of Latino Student Union

Secretary for Monarcas Ballet Folklorico

Student volunteer at ALSAME

## **Activities and Awards**

Most Improved Student Organization Student Life Award

Gilman McCain Scholarship

Thompson Scholar

GVSU Graduating Student Highlight

Laker Connections/Laker Familia Scholar

## **Study Abroad Experience**

Hikone, Shiga in Japan.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Kenty County Family Division Juvenile Community Service Program.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

I believe my greatest accomplishment would be being someone that other students can depend on. I've become someone that other students can come to for advice academically and professionally. I'm a reminder to them that if I can do it, they can too.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to get into entry-level positions (either local or state level) pertaining to my degree. I want to work for a year or two before continuing my education and getting a master's degree in criminology or social work.



# Grace Smith

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Aging and Adult Life*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Neurophysiological Alterations in Crayfish Using Common Inhibitory Drug***

This project seeks to propose a model to assist with closing the gap in information surrounding the drug gabapentin's mechanism. By examining the provisional results yielded in this study, we hope it will open the door for future research which will eventually lead to further discovery.

## **Research**

I have participated in other graduate research projects within Dr. Bergman's crayfish neurophysiology lab studying the effects of nonylphenol and quetiapine on crayfish. On these projects I mainly assisted with data analytics.

## **Leadership Activities**

Honors student mentor

## **Activities and Awards**

Member of Red Cross Club, Circle K, and Pre-med club.

Reporter for the Lanthorn.

Attended 2 surgical mission trips in Central America.

Worked as a Pharmacy Technician through undergrad.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Getting to create meaningful connections with my education and community.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan on attending medical school in the Midwest to become an anesthesiologist.



# Rachel Stray

**Major:** *Mechanical Engineering*

**Minor:** *Biomedical Engineering and Chinese Language*

## **Senior Project**

***Block Portability (sponsored by MI Foam Products)***

Solved ergonomic problems for MFP by creating a hydraulic cart and low friction storage solution. Also implemented a FIFO inventory system.

## **Leadership Activities**

Choreographer for Grand Valley Dance Troupe (GVDT) and treasurer for society of women engineers (SWE)

## **Activities and Awards**

SWE and GVDT

## **Internship and Practicum**

3 semester co-op rotation through Viant Medical

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Working hard to graduate with an engineering degree.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Finding a full-time position in the field.



# Lauren Stevenson

**Major:** *Accounting and Marketing*

## **Senior Project**

*Campus Ministry and the effect it has on students*

An hour-long video in Campus Ministry and essentially how it can change someone's life. Interviewing freshman, upperclassmen, and staff on their experience.

## **Leadership Activities**

Campus Ministry LifeGroup Leader

Honors 201 Teacher's Assistant

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List 2020-2023

## **Internship and Practicum**

Finance Intern at the Road Commission for Oakland County

Corporate Sales Intern at the Grand Rapids Griffins

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment is leading other girls on their journey with Christ and getting to watch them now lead others.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Getting my Masters of Science in Accounting from GVSU.





# Devin Sutton

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

*Introduction to ACEs and its Effects on Adolescent and Adult Health*

An annotated bibliography that included 20 research and scientific articles all based around the topic of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). As well as a introductory presentation on what ACEs is, how they are caused and ways to prevent them. As well as the impact they have on future health.

## **Research**

Completed presentations in nursing school based on Gestational diabetes. In honors college I completed a research paper on shoreline erosion and the impact of sea walls.

## **Leadership Activities**

Member of SNA and Sigma

Participated in American Red Cross blood drives throughout college

## **Internship and Practicum**

Nurse Internship at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in the ICU

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

The effort I put into my studies and clinical time in order to complete the Nursing program at GVSU.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan on taking my Nursing boards after graduation. After becoming licensed to work as an R.N, I plan to work at a local hospital in Northern Michigan in either the ICU or ED.



# Leah Wilson

**Major:** *Biology*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

*Examining the effects of cytoplasmic streaming in Chara Corallina with calcium ions and inhibitors*

The rate of cytoplasmic streaming in Chara cells were analyzed in environments of different calcium ion concentrations and calcium channel inhibitors. Results were consistent with previous findings in literature and offer valuable information to multiple fields of study, such as agriculture and health care.

## Research

GFP knockdown in ovarian tissue of *D. melanogaster* to examine possible phenotypes of ppan/connections to a-synuclein.  
Cloned both TAS2R38 and wnt5a genes using PCR/ligation into p-GEMT recombinant plasmids.  
Mutagenesis of FDC-1 in brewer's yeast through PCR/TA cloning.  
Collected field data of Tree Swallow colony for a 25-year long ongoing population survey.

## Leadership Activities

Clarinet section leader in the Laker Marching Band for three years  
Lead as a lab prep assistant for GVSU's biology department for two years

## Activities and Awards

Member of the Laker Marching Band for 5 years  
Biology lab prep assistant for 3 years  
Brother of Kappa Kappa Psi-Mu Kappa for 3 years

## Internship and Practicum

Nurse Internship at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in the ICU

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment (more of a decision) while at GVSU was joining the Laker Marching Band. It is the best decision I have made in college for MANY reasons, but nothing can come close to the family I have gained through joining it. Get involved, it will change your life!

## Plans after Graduation

I am looking to gain experience as a laboratory technician in either fields of biology or chemistry. After perfecting my skills for a few years, I am considering going to grad school to further my scientific career.