



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**FREDERIK MEIJER  
HONORS COLLEGE**

Graduate Profiles

Grand Valley State University

Class of Winter 2024 and Summer 2024



# Bryenna Akhurst

**Major:** *Psychology*

## **Senior Project**

*Exploring the Relationship Between Mental Health and Religion*

In my project, I look combine previous research to look into how religious beliefs can improve mental health, as well as its potential negative impacts..

## **Research and Presentations**

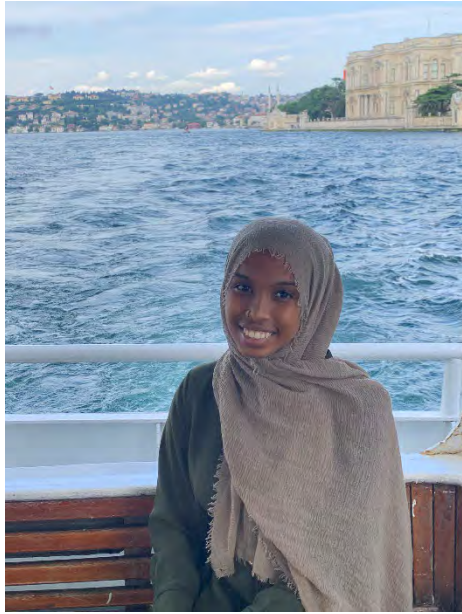
In my PSY 400 class, I and my group members investigated how social media is related to appearance esteem.

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

My greatest accomplishment at GSVU was utilizing what I've learned in my classes and applying it to my work as a medical scribe, helping to improve patient care.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to apply to medical school and pursue training to become a psychiatrist.



# Yasmin Alemayehu

**Major:** *Education and English as a Second Language*

**Minor:** *Elementary Certification and Applied Linguistics - Teaching*

## Senior Project

***The Importance of Recognizing Dialectal Languages within Language Policy***

"The Importance of Recognizing Dialectal Languages within Language Policy" emphasizes acknowledging dialects in language policy. It explores neglect's consequences, advocating for dialect inclusion to preserve diversity, cultural identity, and community cohesion. The project warns against marginalization, language loss, and social inequality, urging policies promoting inclusivity, cultural preservation, and linguistic equity.

## Research and Presentations

- The Intersectionality of Language, Power, and Race: Linguistic Bias Within the Classroom
- The Linguistic Discrimination and Bias Against African American English in the Classroom
- The Student Voice of Educators of Color Network.
- Teaching Abroad: The Palestinian right for Education.
- Disrupting the Whiteness with the Education System.

## Leadership Activities

- Member, Phi Kappa Phi
- Member, Sigma Tau Delta
- Member, McNair Scholars
- Member, Omicron Delta Kappa
- Member, Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy
- Founder, Educators of Color Network

## Activities and Awards

- Recipient, Laker of the Year Award, Grand Valley State University, 2023
- Recipient, Glenn Niemeyer, Grand Valley State University 2023
- Recipient, Excellence in Discipline, Grand Valley State University 2023
- Recipient, I am Grand Valley, Grand Valley State University 2023
- Recipient, Kenneth R. Venderbush Student Award, 2023

## Study Abroad Experience

- Ramallah Palestine, 3rd Grade ESL teacher
- Maastricht Netherlands, EFL teacher Assistant

## Internship and Practicum

- Peter C. Cook Leader Academy, Grand Valley State University, Lead Facilitator, 2023
- Educators of Color Network, Grand Valley State University, Finance Coordinator, 2021-present
- Refugee Education Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Administrative Summer Internship, 2021
- WGVSU Public Media, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Education Intern 2021-2023

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Earning the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award at Grand Valley was my greatest achievement. A passion for teaching and social justice, I excelled academically and contributed to campus life. Inside the classroom, I fostered a vibrant academic environment, while outside, I engaged in social justice initiatives, enriching both myself and community.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to pursue a Master's in Instruction and Curriculum at GVSU while starting my first year as a 4th-grade teacher in West Michigan. This dual path reflects my commitment to continuous learning and practical application, aiming to become a dedicated educator fostering student growth.



# Mackenzie Allen

**Major:** *Applied Food & Nutrition and Clinical Dietetics*

## **Senior Project**

***The Association between College Age Student's Nutrition Intake and Depression***

The research performed used NHANES data and IBM's SPSS statistical software to analyze a correlation between depression and nutrition/lifestyle variables: vitamin D, vitamin B12, saturated fatty acids, unsaturated fatty acids, fiber, and exercise. The study found that fiber and unsaturated fatty acid intake had a negative correlation with depression.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Honors Mentor in 2022 and 2023
- Honors TA in Fall semester 2023

## **Activities and Awards**

- Dean's list for 7 semesters
- GVSU pre-dietetics club

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Corewell Health Food Service Practicum
- New City Neighbors Community Nutrition Practicum
- Trinity Health Clinical Nutrition Practicum

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

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was getting accepted for the combined degree Clinical Dietetics Master's program, allowing me to begin my master's degree in my last year of undergrad.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be continuing to complete my master's degree with the GVSU Clinical Dietetics Program in 2025, and afterward, I plan to become a Registered Dietitian (RD).





# Nina Alpers

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences and Spanish*

## Senior Project

*The Quality of Life in Assisted Living Facilities in Grand Rapids*

My research explored the life satisfaction of residents of assisted living facilities in Grand Rapids. This study highlighted the voices of the residents in ALFs by doing a qualitative study using an interview-styled approach. Overall, 13 domains of quality of life were identified.

## Research and Presentations

I participated in research in Dr. Bergmans Crayfish Neuroscience lab where we used the crayfish as a model to study the mechanistic causes of neurophysiological chronic stress by using the hydrophobic chemical nonylphenol as a stressor, and then modulating that stress using serotonin and a serotonin agonist.

## Leadership Activities

I have served as vice president of Destino for 2 years and have also worked as a targeted reading tutor for K-12 Connect

## Activities and Awards

Activities:

- VP of Destino
- Member of La Tertulia
- Member of Cru
- Volunteer at the Community Food Club
- participant in intramural sports
- Member of Sigma Delta Pi, the Hispanic Honor Society

Awards:

- Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction
- Deans list for all semesters at GVSU
- GV Award for Excellence Scholarship
- Emily and Frank Smiddy Memorial STEM Scholarship
- GV Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award for Spanish

## Study Abroad Experience

After Graduation, I will be studying abroad in Bilbao, Spain at la Universidad de Deusto to complete my Spanish major.

## Internship and Practicum

Three years of experience working with the elderly population as a nurse aide at Freighterview Assisted Living and Continuing Care

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Developing a passion for learning about the Spanish language and culture that I can use in my future career as a physician. In addition, I am proud of being able to maintain a 4.0 GPA in both my majors, while still being actively involved in many extracurriculars.

## Plans after Graduation

After Graduation, I will be studying abroad in Spain to complete my Spanish major. I also plan to study for the MCAT while continuing to shadow and gain clinical experience in preparation for applying to medical school.



# Samantha Arnone

**Major:** *Studio Art*

## **Senior Project**

*Study Abroad*

## **Research and Presentations**

- Senior BFA Art Exhibition: "Distance"
- Issues in Art Capstone: Sara Cwynar's reclamation of the visual language of advertisements to archive the complexity of female identity and experience.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Public Relations Officer for the AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts) Club
- Lead Promotional Designer for the GVSU 2024 Spring Concert
- Lead Promotional Designer for the 2023 GVSU Winterfest

## **Activities and Awards**

- Recipient of the Nedra J. Smith Otis Scholarship
- Featured in the 2023 Student Scholars Day Exhibition of Art
- Recipient of the GV Award for Excellence
- Dean's List
- Curatorial Assistant for the Department of Visual and Media Arts
- Installation Assistant for visiting artists Emmy Bright and Margaret Hull

## **Study Abroad Experience**

Semester at the Santa Reparata International School of Art in Florence, Italy.

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Graphic Designer at the GVSU Promotions Office
- Marketing Specialist Internship at Media Genesis, Inc.

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

Designed all promotional materials for the 2024 Spring Concert while employed at the GVSU Promotions Office. Materials included posters, web headers, yard signs, credentials, event signage, and more.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Seeking a design position in the Metro Detroit area and enjoying the summer weather!



# Kelsey Atkins

**Major:** *Biochemistry*

## **Senior Project**

***How Nicotine Affects the Gut Brain Axis***

A presentation diving into how nicotine alters aspects of the gut microbiome and brain through the gut brain axis.

## **Research and Presentations**

Undergrad research with Dr Derek Thomas

## **Activities and Awards**

- Club Volleyball
- Pre-med club
- Make A Wish Club

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

All the friends and memories I have made along the way as well as completing my undergraduate degree in 3 years.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Work for a year and then go to medical school.



# Katie Rain Auberle

**Major:** *Theatre*

## Senior Project

### *Direction and Study Guide for "The Baltimore Waltz"*

In fall 2023 I directed Paula Vogel's brilliant play, "The Baltimore Waltz" and created a comprehensive study guide for the dramaturgical elements of the play.

## Leadership Activities

Currently president of the Phi Beta chapter of the National Theatre Honors Society, Alpha Psi Omega and previously served as treasurer. Experience as a director and assistant director for mainstage theatre productions at GVSU.

## Activities and Awards

- "Excellence in a Discipline Award" (2024)
- First recipient of the Jake Jager Memorial Scholarship in 2022 and received the scholarship again in 2023
- Two-time Irene Ryan Scholarship nominee (2021, 2022) and competed both years at KCACTF for the national acting scholarship
- Calder Scholarship Recipient (2023)
- Shakespeare Festival Scholarship recipient (2021)

## Internship and Practicum

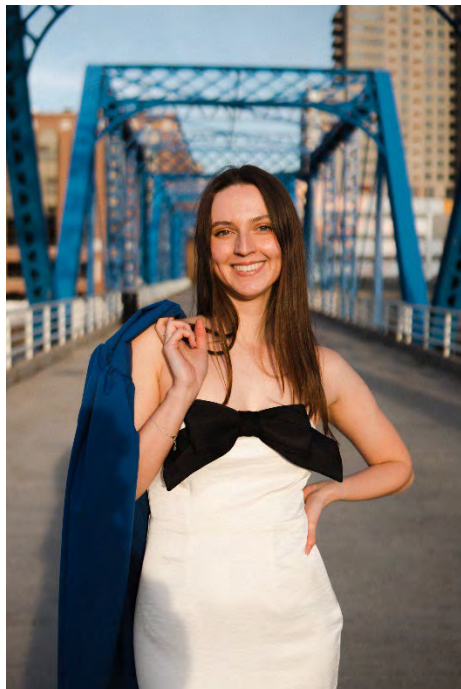
Teaching assistant for Costume Construction at GVSU for two years. Experience serving as an actor, costume designer, director, and other roles for over 20 co-curricular theatre productions.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest achievement at Grand Valley was receiving the Excellence in a Discipline Award from the theatre department. It was a recognition of the culmination of all the hard work I have poured into the department in my four years here through my acting, costuming, and directing.

## Plans after Graduation

I am currently interviewing at various theaters for internship positions to start after graduation. My goal is to work as a professional actor or costumer in theatre.



# Angelina Avramenko

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## Senior Project

***Iron-mediated biofilm formation and antibiotic sensitivity in *Staphylococcus lugdunensis*.***

The focus area of this research project was to examine *Staphylococcus lugdunensis* biofilm formation in iron starvation conditions. Iron availability within the media will be modulated using the iron chelator 2,2'-dipyridil. Antibiotic sensitivity of both planktonic cells, as well as those within a biofilm, was measured and compared.

## Leadership Activities

- I was a mentor for Honors freshman students in the fall of 2021 and the fall of 2023.
- I also was an ambassador for Honors College in 2021-2022.
- I was a TA for HNR 201.

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's list (majority of semesters)
- Microbiology research
- Ukraine support tables and information presentations

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was being a great and successful representative of my home country, Ukraine. I maintained high academic results while working on campus, taking steps for my future career, and being an active member of campus life.

## Plans after Graduation

I am going to start my 4-year program at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry in late August.





# Aseel Ayesch

**Major:** *Accounting and Finance*

## Senior Project

### *Threads of Heritage: Weaving Stories Across Time*

Created a large mural showcasing the Palestinian embroidery known as Tareez. This embroidery, rich in cultural significance, symbolizes resilience and identity. The mural serves as a tribute to Palestinian heritage, fostering understanding and appreciation through art.

## Leadership Activities

- Cooks Leadership Academy candidate fellow
- Volunteer Income tax Assistance reviewer and Preparer
- Mentor in the Seidman MentorShip program

## Activities and Awards

- Glenn A. Niemeyer Award
- Kenneth R. Vanderbush Leadership Award

## Study Abroad

Palestine (2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade)

## Internship and Practicum

- Corporate Tax Internship at Corewell Health
- Plante Moran TRACK Leadership program"

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

One of my greatest accomplishments was my volunteer work with VITA. Serving as a tax preparer and a reviewer for low-income individuals brought me immense gratitude. I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to others' financial stability and reinforcing my commitment to serving others with my education and skills.

## Plans after Graduation

Graduate with a master's in science of accounting in December 2024. Then study for the CPA Exam to obtain my license.



# Jonathan Bajko

**Major:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

### *Synthesis Of Potential Novel Tuberculosis Antibiotics*

Designed and synthesized novel Diphenyl Ureas (DPU) to treat tuberculosis. I design compounds that may show activity against the InhA receptor in the mycolic acid layer of the Mycobacterium cell wall. Synthesized these DPU variations and characterized products with HNMR, CNMR, IR, and MS. Furthered the structure-activity-relationship in the lab.

## Research and Presentations

Suicide Gene therapy cancer treatment and N7-Methyltransferase inhibitor research at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; summer 2023. Computational research on modeling molecular interactions of molten carbonate filters as well as amino acid and protein interactions; January-April 2022. Opioid substitutes research; Fall 2022. Pierce Ponds Water Quality Research; Fall 2021.

## Leadership Activities

GVSU Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics Tutor.

## Activities and Awards

GVSU Organic Chemistry Award 2022/23, GVSU Excellence in Chemistry Award 2023/24, GVSU Kindschi Fellowship Spring 2023, Fall 2023, and Spring 2024, UIUC Snyder Scholar Summer 2023, Mayo Clinic Observership Summer 2023

## Internship and Practicum

UIUC Snyder Scholar Summer 2023 - I conducted research on Suicide Gene therapy cancer treatment and N7-Methyltransferase inhibitor research at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Helping students become the best versions of themselves and advancing the pursuit of scientific knowledge.

## Plans after Graduation

Attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to pursue a PhD in Chemistry starting in fall 2024.



# Rachael Baker

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## Senior Project

### *Healing the Hurt*

Healing the hurt is a three-episode collaborative podcast series. Using a mixture of academic sources and our own experiences as psych techs, my peer, Emma La Rocca, and I cover the impact of trauma on adolescents, how to be trauma-informed in our care, and burnout in mental health professionals.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I think my greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is graduating in 4 years while building community, living independently for this first time, and finding more about who I am and who I want to be.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to move back to the east side of Michigan and work in a psychiatric hospital setting.



# Sophia Bates

**Major:** *Legal Studies*

## Senior Project

### *Student Senate Legislation to Create a Student Legal Services*

Passed by the GVSU Student Senate to establish a Student Legal Services Department at GVSU, this proposal draws on research from universities like Wright State University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Minnesota. It outlines the structure, funding, and benefits of a GVSU Student Legal Services Department.

## Leadership Activities

- Senator on GVSU Student Senate
- Elections Commission Chairwoman on GVSU Student Senate
- Service Committee Chairwoman for Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority

## Activities and Awards

- 2023-2024 Sorority Member of the Year for Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority
- Emerging Leader Award for GVSU 2024 Student Life Awards
- 2023-2024 Homecoming Court Royalty Candidate
- Order of Omega Honor Society Member
- Lambda Epsilon Chi Honor Society Member

## Internship and Practicum

Legal Intern for Schmitt Schneck Even & Williams, P.C. Summer 2023

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment was writing legislation through the Student Senate to propose the creation of a Student Legal Services department on campus. This department would provide legal representation, legal advice, legal education, and legal resources for students. My legislation was passed unanimously by the GVSU Student Senate.

## Plans after Graduation

My greatest accomplishment was writing legislation through the Student Senate to propose the creation of a Student Legal Services department on campus. This department would provide legal representation, legal advice, legal education, and legal resources for students. My legislation was passed unanimously by the GVSU Student Senate.



# Coltrane Bodbyl-Mast

**Major:** *History*

**Minor:** *Arabic and Middle East Studies*

## Senior Project

***"Damming, Deluge, Degradation and Displacement: The Relationship Between Hydroelectric Infrastructure and the Poor and Indigenous"***

A paper which focuses on the effects of damming on Indigenous and impoverished communities in North America, South America and the Middle East and North Africa.

## Research and Presentations

**"The Temperance Movement in Grand Rapids as Interdenominational and Public Health-Oriented"**  
(Grand Rapids Public Museum Internship)

## Leadership Activities

President of the History Club

## Activities and Awards

- Research Presentation at Senior Scholar's Day
- Research Presentation for Grand Rapids Public Museum
- Award for Outstanding achievement in Middle East Studies
- Membership in Phi Kappa Phi
- Membership in Phi Alpha Theta
- Two-time recipient of the Glenn Niemeyer Award
- Distinguished Delegation award at National Model Arab League

## Study Abroad

Jordan, fall 2023

## Internship and Practicum

- Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Archival Intern
- Grand Rapids Public Museum, Project Intern

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Researching and complying my Senior Thesis

## Plans after Graduation

I have been hired as a Probate Court Clerk at Kent County





# Jenna Boelkins

**Major:** *Biology and Mathematics*

## Senior Project

### *An Analysis of Arctic Vegetation Cover and Growth Within the Lens of Global Climate Change*

In this project we examined vegetation data from Utqiagvik, Alaska over the past 14 years for patterns relating to cover composition, growth height, and local weather using various graphs and mathematical models. We found the strongest positive linear relationship occurred between total August precipitation and average canopy height of graminoids.

## Research and Presentations

- Two field summers in Utqiagvik and Atkasuk, Alaska with the GVSU Arctic Ecology Program conducting tundra vegetation research.
- Studied mycorrhizal infection in deciduous shrub roots collected from Atkasuk, Alaska and presented it at the 2024 International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) Conference.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Pushing myself outside of my comfort zone by joining a research project where I spent two summers living in remote Alaska for three months.

## Plans after Graduation

I have accepted a job as a software developer for Auto-Owners Insurance.



# Alaina Boersema

**Major:** *Human Resources Management*

## **Senior Project**

***Examining the Skills Gap in West, Michigan: A Study on What Skills Entry Level Hires are Lacking.***

Alaina met with business leaders nationwide to discuss what skills recent [undergraduate college and university] graduates are lacking in the workplace. With this research she made recommendations to both current students and the university for better preparation in the workplace.

## **Leadership Activities**

- 2022 - 2023 President of GVSU Society for Human Resources Management
- 2021 - 2023 Administrative Officer for Seidman Investment Portfolio

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Human Resources Intern, CWC Textron - Summer 2022
- Corporate Human Resources Intern, Kautex Textron HQ - Sep 2022 - May 2023
- Human Resources Intern - Talent Development, Textron Systems - May 2023 - April 2024

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

Meeting lifelong friends and getting involved in lots of extracurricular activities!

## **Plans after Graduation**

Alaina has accepted an administrative assistant position at Corewell Health working under four directors.



# Madison Bohatuk

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

**Minor:** *Biology*

## Senior Project

### *Intercellular Communication Via Gap Junctions Influences Stem Cell Therapy*

Stem cell therapy has potential to be beneficial for cardiac muscle recovery following myocardial infarction. We transfected mouse bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells and measured transfection efficiency to try and prove why a large percent of the implanted stem cells die during the process. Gap junctions could be the culprit.

## Leadership Activities

- Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority: chapter treasurer, sisterhood committee head, fundraising committee head, sunshine committee head
- GVSU Transitions Leader
- Panhellenic Rho Gamma

## Activities and Awards

- Thompson Scholar
- Sigma Sigma Sigma: Highest GPA, Highest New Member GPA, and Academic Excellence awards
- Order of Omega (Greek Honors Society)

## Internship and Practicum

1.5 years of patient care experience at Trinity Health Grand Rapids as a patient care assistant on an orthopedic trauma/med surg floor.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Graduating with academic excellence as a pre-PA student while also working nightshift at a hospital and maintaining an exceptional social and professional network. I have learned to embrace all moments, be true to myself, and always fall back on what I love.

## Plans after Graduation

Spend time with family, continue gaining healthcare experience on the East side of the state, and applying to the upcoming cycle for PA school.





# Megan Bohatuk

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

**Minor:** *Biology*

## Senior Project

### *Intercellular Communication Via Gap Junctions Influences Stem Cell Therapy*

Stem cell therapy can be beneficial for cardiac muscle recovery. A problem with this has been the loss of a large percentage of the implanted stem cells. Gap junctions may be the culprit. We transfected mouse bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells and measured transfection efficiency to prove the gap junction theory.

## Leadership Activities

- Gamma Phi Beta sorority: Parent and Faculty Relations Chairwoman, Ritual Chairwoman, Alumni Relations Chairwoman, Rho Gamma (recruitment counselor).
- GVSU transitions leader

## Activities and Awards

- Thompson Scholar
- Nominated for "I am Grand Valley"
- Gamma Phi Beta Highest New Member GPA
- Order of Omega (Greek Leadership Honors Society).

## Internship and Practicum

About 1.5 years of patient care experience at Trinity Health Grand Rapids.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Persevering through my difficult academic journey as a Pre-PA student all while maintaining a high GPA, working nightshift at the Trinity Health Grand Rapids hospital, as well as maintaining my social and professional network of support.

## Plans after Graduation

Moving back home to continue gaining patient care experience and applying in the next cycle for physician assistant school.



# Hannah Bondy

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Standards-Based Grading in Higher STEM Education***

I conducted a comprehensive study analyzing data from introductory chemistry courses at Grand Valley University, investigating the efficacy of standards-based grading in optimizing long-term academic performance and enriching the learning experience.

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

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was completing my Biomedical Sciences degree. It was one of the hardest things I have ever done but I learned so much about myself and all I can accomplish. The hardest challenges have the greatest rewards!

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I plan to continue my education by getting a master's in biomedical sciences and then going to medical school to one day become a physician.





# Owen Boonie

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Student Nurses Into Leadership***

Student Nurses Into Leadership was a day-long interactive event including community speakers, a job fair, and recreation and wellness activities through Grand Valley. This event was offered to Pre-Nursing Students, Traditional Program, Graduate Program, Second Degree, and surrounding Nursing Programs.

## **Research and Presentations**

Nursing Capstone Project related to Mount Mercy Living Facilities and proper nutritional education based on diet and income.

## **Leadership Activities**

President of the Student Nurses Association

## **Activities and Awards**

Shelia Williams Outstanding Organization

## **Internship and Practicum**

Nurse Extern with Trinity Health

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

My greatest accomplishment was being accepted into Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing and now graduating with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I will begin my job as a Registered Nurse at Trinity Health on 4 Lacks, a Medical-Surgical and Oncology Unit.

# Audrey Braund

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## Senior Project

### *Heart Disease*

I am creating an informational booklet that focuses on creating awareness for heart disease.

## Research and Presentations

- Effects of Various Recovery Methods on Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness and Anaerobic Power Output.
- Effects of Medicinal Plants on Cumulative Fatigue.



## Leadership Activities

I was a part of the GVSU's Pre-OT club and the American Cancer Society Club. I also had a leadership role as a ski coach for a volunteer program for people with disabilities.

## Activities and Awards

I have an undergraduate certificate in Medical Health and Humanities.

## Internship and Practicum

I am currently doing my internship (600 hrs) at Trinity Health for Cardiac Rehab.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Meeting so many amazing people while working really hard throughout each semester, especially during COVID-19 is one of my greatest accomplishments.

## Plans after Graduation

I have been accepted into Grand Valley's Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program and will start in the fall.



# Devin Brown

**Major:** *Mechanical Engineering*

**Minor:** *Mathematics & Economics*

## Senior Project

***Intelligent, Self-Functioning, Traveling, Lawn-Watering System***

I am in a group of eight engineering students tasked with designing and building a prototype of an automated watering machine that lays down water onto a football field.

## Leadership Activities

- Honors College Mentor
- Tutor at Engineering Student Success Center

## Internship and Practicum

Three Semester of Co-op Rotations at Koops Automation Systems

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Graduating with my Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering after years of hard work.

## Plans after Graduation

Working full time as a mechanical engineer.



# Julianne Browning

**Major:** *Marketing*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Business Through Her Eyes***

A podcast series featuring female business owners in the Grand Rapids area, highlighting the unique experiences female entrepreneurs face and the challenges they have overcome on the road to success.

## **Leadership Activities**

Women In Business marketing co-chair and Vice President of Marketing for Alpha Sigma Tau.

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's list Fall '23 and Winter '24.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Marketing intern with Grand Valley State University Athletics, Project Management intern with Seamless Ventures, and Social Media Assistant for Grand Valley State University Recreation and Wellness.

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

My greatest accomplishment has been my honors project, Business Through Her Eyes. Connecting with female business owners has been an incredible experience and has provided me a diverse network.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Beginning a career in marketing, while creating my own business!



# Lindsey Bunday

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

*The significance of palliative care education and areas for improvement*

Palliative care is vital in prioritizing quality of life for patients with serious illnesses. However, physician shortages, improper utilization, and non-standardized medical curriculum amplify the gaps in care and demonstrate significant room for improvement. Innovative curriculum and opportunities for knowledge advancement can refine education and improve patient care.

## **Research and Presentations**

Presentation at Student Scholars day, 2024- Traumatic Brain Injury: Approaches to Treatment

## **Leadership Activities**

- CHAARG VP media
- FMHC mentor
- Pre-PA club secretary, president

## **Activities and Awards**

- BMS graduate of distinction
- Dean's list all semesters

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Patient Care Assistant (PCA) at Trinity Health GR (med-surg, oncology)

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

The growth I have experienced both as a person and a student, meeting all of my best friends, and getting accepted into PA school.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attend Des Moines University for my Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies





# Allison Burke

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

***The Impact of Water; An Integrated Healthcare Perspective***

My partner, Kate Livingston, and I made a documentary about water quality and how it impacts public health. We interviewed a hydrologist to gain perspective on the scientific background and a community health nurse to discuss how they navigated care during the Flint Water Crisis.

## **Leadership Activities**

Honors Freshman Orientation Mentor Student Nursing Association Mentor

## **Activities and Awards**

- Student Nurses Association
- Grand Valley Award for Excellence Scholarship
- Thompson Working Family Scholarship

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Completed 1,260 clinical hours with Kirkhof College of Nursing in a variety of areas such as medical surgical, obstetrics, pediatrics, mental health, and community health
- Completed 160 hours with an RN preceptor at Orthopedics Associates of Michigan Surgery Center

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

I am most proud of being accepted into the Kirkhof College of Nursing on my first attempt!

## **Plans after Graduation**

Following graduation, I am going to work as a registered nurse on a digestive floor at Blodgett Hospital in East Grand Rapids.



# Ethan Butterbaugh

**Major:** *International Relations*

**Minor:** *Music*



# Caroline Carlson

**Major:** *Computer Science*

**Minor:** *Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

***MyAphasia: An App to Help People with Expressive Aphasia Speak Independently***

Through my capstone class, we created a mobile application solution to assist people with expressive aphasia to speak in everyday life. The app uses a large language model to act as a "speech language pathologist" in your pocket.

## **Leadership Activities**

President of Rotaract (volunteering club)

## **Activities and Awards**

- Dean's List all semesters of study
- Grand Valley Award for Excellence

## **Internship and Practicum**

Interned at Applied Innovation as a Internal Solutions Developer Intern for 2 years

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

My greatest accomplishment would have to be being able to utilize all of my learning into my capstone project where I worked on a mobile application that can largely improve the quality of life for people with aphasia.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I accepted a full-time position at Applied Innovation where I will be an Internal Solutions Developer!



# Katherine Carron

**Major:** *Nursing and Environmental and Sustainability Studies*

## **Senior Project**

***A search for happiness through connection with environment and sustainability: a pilot study***

This research project explores the role of environmental ethics in human happiness and community sustainability. It investigates the cause-and-effect relationship between human well-being and ecological sustainability. A journal article has been written and will be published in Sustainability which is an open access journal by MDPI.

## **Research and Presentations**

- Exploring Equity and Inclusion in Climate Action Plans of Michigan Cities. A journal article has been written and will be published in the journal Sustainability.
- Nesting areas for white back vultures in South Africa
- Traditional healing emphasizing the need for sustainability in South Africa
- The Benefits of Dark Skies on Beaver Island

## **Leadership Activities**

- Co-chair for the Community Health Committee for Student Nurses Association
- Mentor in the Student Nurses Association

## **Activities and Awards**

Russel G. Mawby Student Fellow in Philanthropic Studies

## **Study Abroad Experience**

Studied wildlife biology in South Africa through the Southern African Wildlife College during the Summer 2023 semester. Also, studied environmental sustainability at the Beaver Island Field School (Michigan) during the Summer 2023 semester.

## **Internship and Practicum**

My practicum was A search for happiness through connection with environment and sustainability: a pilot study. This research was presented at the virtual climate change student symposium for student scholar day.

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

My greatest accomplishment at GV was completing two degrees I am very passionate about in four years.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Work in environmental health and attend graduate school.





# Laken Chapin

**Major:** *Accounting*

## Senior Project

*Land of Fire and Ice: Study Abroad in Iceland.*

I studied abroad in Iceland in the summer of 2023 and explored the geological history and rich culture of the nation. We witnessed waterfalls, glaciers, volcanoes, and more. I wrote my research paper about the history of literature in Iceland.

## Research and Presentations

Immediate Response of MI Community Foundations to COVID-19, completed as an Undergraduate Fellow through the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy

## Leadership Activities

- Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization- Membership Officer
- Cru- Former Secretary
- 616 Service- Community Ambassador

## Activities and Awards

- Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy Undergraduate Fellow
- Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow at Princeton University
- Published in Fishladder Magazine of GVSU x2
- Published in Brainchild Magazine of Kent State University x2
- Dean's List in all semesters
- Panel member for ""Exploring Opportunities to Amplify Youth Voice"" at the Council of Michigan Foundations Annual Conference

## Study Abroad Experience

I studied abroad in Iceland in the summer of 2023.

## Internship and Practicum

- Council of Michigan Foundations Mawby Intern 2022
- Crowe State and Local Tax Intern 2023
- BDO Core Tax Intern 2024

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I am so grateful for the community and network that GVSU and the GR community has helped me to cultivate in West Michigan. The people I have been able to connect with and witness at work doing incredible things has been the most rewarding experience for me.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to attend the Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute at Princeton this summer, followed by sitting for my CPA exams and beginning full time work in tax accounting.





# Anna Cleveland

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

*Analyzing GVSU rowing team blood lactate measurements to propose endurance training practices*

Through analysis of the blood lactate of the current Grand Valley club rowing team we are able to develop an association between aerobic training based on blood lactate levels and improved race performance.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Habitat for Humanity Membership Officer
- Habitat for Humanity President
- Grand Valley Rowing Club Vice President

## **Activities and Awards**

- Paul Springer Scholarship
- Grand Valley Rowing Varsity Award

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

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was rowing for the Laker Navy. Throughout my time on the rowing team, I have grown tremendously as an individual and made many meaningful connections. The lessons I have learned from both the sport and my position within the club will continue with me.

## **Plans after Graduation**

My plans after graduation are to work as a dental assistant and apply to dental school.



# Makenzie Collier

**Major:** *Human Resources Management*

**Minor:** *Economics*

## Senior Project

***The Impact of Right-to-Work Laws on Employee Satisfaction***

Determining based on previous literature and independent research how employee satisfaction in mid-sized universities compares between right-to-work and non-right-to-work states.

## Research and Presentations

Undergraduate Research Assistant in the Seidman College of Business

## Leadership Activities

Treasurer for two years for the Society for Human Resources Management (GVSU Chapter)

## Activities and Awards

- Magna Cum Laude
- Beta Gamma Sigma Member (International Business Honor Society)

## Internship and Practicum

- HR Acquisition intern at Pace Industries
- HR Talent Intern at The Windquest Group

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

All the growth made in both my personal and professional lives.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to take the GMAT, solo travel to Europe, and after my travels, work a job in HR.



# Karen Collins

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

### *The Psychology of Juvenile Offenders in School Shootings*

An in-depth research paper that analyzes the complex issue that is what drives an adolescent to commit a school shooting. In my paper, I explore the theme of nature versus nurture and how each may influence antisocial behavior. I also attempt to create a profile of a potential perpetrator.

## Leadership Activities

TA for HNR 201

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's List
- Pre-PA Club

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is how I pushed myself to overcome academic challenges. For example, retaking two classes to better understand the content and improve my grade.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan on taking a gap year to gain work experience in the healthcare field. I also will begin applying to PA programs in May.



# Rebecca Cooper

**Major:** *Information Systems Management*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Centralized Knowledge of SAP Features and Benefits***

Created a website that highlighted the significant features and benefits of SAP and discussed why having SAP experience could be beneficial.

## **Research and Presentations**

- Research paper on LGBT Workplace Discrimination
- Research project on effective ways to reduce criminal recidivism and why it is important.

## **Leadership Activities**

Currently on the board of DEI leaders at place of employment.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Interned summer 2023 as a data analyst

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

Maintaining a 3.5 GPA and receiving multiple dean's list awards while working and attending college, both fulltime

## **Plans after Graduation**

Stay at my current employer and move into a system's support analyst role.



# Paige Corfixsen

**Major:** *Nursing*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## **Senior Project**

### ***The Benefits of Studying Abroad***

A 10-15 minute video about my experience studying abroad in Spain along with research articles that highlight the benefits of studying in a different country.

## **Research and Presentations**

Community Health Nursing Capstone- Research on Art Therapy at Gilda's Club

## **Leadership Activities**

- Younglife
- Campus Ministry

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List

## **Study Abroad**

Seville, Spain

## **Internship and Practicum**

Kirkhof College of Nursing Immersion Clinical

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

Getting through Nursing School

## **Plans after Graduation**

I'm getting married at the end of May and moving to Ann Arbor to find a job at a pediatric hospital, where I will work as a registered nurse.





# Ethan Darin

**Major:** *Microbiology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Bioremediating Bacteria and Their Physiology***

A comprehensive paper categorizing and comparing the different metabolisms of bacteria with the potential of being used to removed pollutants from the environment.

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

Passing bacterial genetics first try

## **Plans after Graduation**

Pursuing a masters in embryology



# Meghan Day

**Major:** *Occupational Safety/Health Management*

**Minor:** *Engineering Science*

## Leadership Activities

- Vice president of ASSP (American Society of Safety Professionals)
- Helped found Plant Club and was the treasurer
- A member of Circle K (college level of Kiwanis) - a club focused on volunteering

## Internship and Practicum

EHS (Environmental Health and Safety) Intern at National Safety Apparel in Cleveland Ohio

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Participating in a variety of volunteer events through all 5 years here at GV on and off campus. Including: making and handing out food to the homeless, volunteering at IKUS, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity (on builds and at the re-store), park clean ups and more.

## Plans after Graduation

Currently looking for a job in the Lansing area to be closer to family. And after a few years of experience in the safety field I plan to apply for my CSP (certified safety professional).



# Elvie DeJonge

**Major:** *Biology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Life with FIV and FeLV***

During my time at GVSU, I volunteered weekly at Crash's Landing Cat Shelter. Many of their residents have FeLV/FIV. I decided to create a booklet explaining how FeLV/FIV impacts a cat's life. I also included bios from cats at the shelter that are adoptable.

## **Leadership Activities**

Public Relations Officer of the Pre-Vet Club

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List

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

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU is balancing school, extracurriculars, and working full-time in order to enhance my veterinary school application. I am proud of the work I have done to further my future career ambitions.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I am taking a gap year after I graduate. I plan to apply to veterinary school and work at Animal Emergency Hospital in Grand Rapids.



# Matthew Dickinson

**Major:** *Statistics*

**Minor:** *Data Science and Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

*Studying abroad in South Korea*

I spent a semester in Seoul

## **Research and Presentations**

Involuntary musical imagery

## **Leadership Activities**

Honors Mentor, Alternative Breaks E-Board

## **Activities and Awards**

- Neal Rogness Collegiality Award - DataFest 2023

- Best Insight - DataFest 2024

## **Study Abroad**

Korea University in Fall 2022

## **Internship and Practicum**

IT Data Scientist Intern at Amcor

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

Working with the Grand Valley Magazine to help them better identify their reader demographics to aid the transition to a more digital medium.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attending graduate school at North Carolina State University





# Hannah Dobson

**Major:** *Behavioral Neuroscience*

**Minor:** *Anthropology*

## **Senior Project**

***The Services and Various Applications of Equine-Assisted Therapy***

My senior project is an overview of the different types of equine-assisted therapy, their possible applications for a variety of physical and psychological disorders, and the general form and procedures of sessions.

## **Research and Presentations**

I am currently working with Professor Xandra Xu researching the effects of developmental lead exposure on the behavior and learning of zebrafish.

I attended the 2023 SFAA conference with my classmates to present our anthropology research about undergraduate research done under Professor Kristin Hedges.

## **Leadership Activities**

I am treasurer for the Women in Medicine and Science club on campus.

## **Activities and Awards**

- Member of Women in Medicine and Science since winter 2022.
- Received a grant through the Academic Conference Fund to attend the SFAA convention (2023).
- Excellence in Academics Award in Behavioral Neuroscience (2024).
- Inducted into Lambda Alpha, the Anthropology Honor Society (2024).
- Dean's list recipient all academic semesters (2020-2024).

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

Exploring so many opportunities from volunteering to research, on-campus clubs, and finding a new passion in anthropology.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I have been accepted to join Michigan State University's PhD program for Behavioral Neuroscience.





# Meredith Doyle

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## **Senior Project**

***People Aren't Plants: How Controlled Vocabularies Impact Research and Access***

My senior project is about how controlled vocabularies like the Library of Congress Subject Headings, MeSH terms, and JSTOR impact how users can access research. The project touches on hidden biases in controlled vocabularies and how they can perpetuate harmful stereotypes and limit the materials of a particular marginalized group.

## **Leadership Activities**

I was an Honors Mentor for two years.

## **Activities and Awards**

I made the dean's list for Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, and Fall 2023. I am an anatomy tutor in the anatomy tutor lab, and I work as an access services student assistant at the Mary Idema Pew Library.

## **Internship and Practicum**

I did my fieldwork at Hulst Jepsen Physical Therapy and my internship at Evergreen Commons.

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

My greatest accomplishments while at Grand Valley are earning a 3.9 GPA and getting into a physical therapy program.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago's physical therapy program next fall.



# Callie Dzurisin

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *History*

## Senior Project

*"Virtual Walk-Through of the Rudell Drug Store Exhibit at the Grand Rapids Public Museum"*

I volunteer in the Rudell Drug Store exhibit at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. I wrote about my experience as a volunteer, as well as everything I have learned about the exhibit to eventually record videos for a virtual tour accessible through a QR code in the exhibit.

## Research and Presentations

- Alzheimer's Caregiver Research with GVSU KCON
- Public Health History Research Intern with GRPM and GVSU History department

## Leadership Activities

- Wellness and Outreach Chair of Pre-Med Club
- Co-President of Pre-Med Club

## Activities and Awards

- I am Grand Valley Award
- Recognized by History Department at Award Ceremony

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Having the opportunity to conduct research that I am truly passionate about in the fields of medicine and history.

## Plans after Graduation

Attend GVSU's Master's in Public Health program.



# Gracie Endres

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Equine Assisted Psychotherapy: A Podcast***

In this podcast, I talked with licensed social workers Jennifer and Alexa McVoy at Outside In. During our conversation, we explored what equine-assisted psychotherapy is, who it benefits, and much more.

## **Research and Presentations**

Nursing Capstone Project: Mt. Mercy Apartments

## **Leadership Activities**

I was part of the GVSU Western Equestrian team e-board for 2 years.

## **Activities and Awards**

- I was part of the GVSU Western Equestrian team for 3 years
- I competed at IHSA Regionals 2 years in a row
- I have been a member of Student Nurses Association for 3 years.

## **Internship and Practicum**

I participated in clinicals at Corewell Health and Trinity Health in Grand Rapids as part of my nursing education.

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

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was finishing my Nursing Degree

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I plan on working as an ICU nurse at Trinity Health Grand Rapids.



# Elise Eurich

**Major:** *Advertising and Public Relations*

**Minor:** *Environment and Sustainability Studies*

## Senior Project

### *ArtPrize Campaign*

The challenge of this campaign was to foster a more robust connection with the West Michigan community, surpassing the existing level of engagement between ArtPrize and local community members. Additionally, we aimed to address and mitigate any identified pain points to enhance overall community satisfaction.

## Research and Presentations

Intercultural Communication, COM 680

Conducted research with approval of IRB on the lived experiences of young adult Chinese American women in the United States.

## Leadership Activities

- Product and Equipment Manager at Student Painters
- Founding member of the Graduate Communication Association
- Graduate Assistant for the GVSU Writing Department

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's List 2020 - 2024
- Member of PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America)
- Board member of Graduate Communications Association

## Internship and Practicum

- Internal Communications Intern at Meijer
- Content and Event Team at Campus View Apartments

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was getting accepted into the combined degree M.S. program for communications to pursue my master's degree.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will be spending one more year at Grand Valley to complete my master's in communications.





# Brooke Faber

**Major:** *Advertising and Public Relations*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

***The Impact of Organizational Structure on Public Relations as a Strategic Management Function***

The structural positioning of PR within an organization can influence its operational dynamics, decision-making processes, and ethical frameworks. This project dives into the impact of organizational structure on PR, exploring how distinct structural placements, embedded within marketing versus operating as a separate department, shape communication strategies and ethical considerations.

## Leadership Activities

- Vice President, Rotaract
- Account Executive, GrandPR

## Activities and Awards

- PRSSA
- GrandPR
- Rotaract
- Dean's List

## Internship and Practicum

Community Relations Internship, Lake Michigan Credit Union

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Getting involved on campus with GrandPR, PRSSA, and Rotaract to further my education and professional experiences.

## Plans after Graduation

Pursue a career in public relations and travel.





# Calle Faerber

**Major:** *Computer Science & Arts for Teaching and Special Education*

## **Senior Project**

***Analysis of Disability Support Resources at Grand Valley State***

This study aimed to determine the potential barriers for students at GVSU to receive accommodations for a disability. The results of the survey were mixed, some respondents reported positive experiences with faculty, while others reported that the reason they chose not to receive accommodations was fear of negative perceptions.

## **Research and Presentations**

Research Assistant in the Department of Teaching and Learning- Guest Speaker Advocacy

## **Leadership Activities**

- Student Council for Exceptional Children- Vice President
- Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Student Board- Representative of Student Membership

## **Activities and Awards**

Excellence in a Discipline- Undergraduate Special Education

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Teacher Assisting- Challenger Elementary, Kentwood Public Schools
- Teacher Intern-
- Pine Grove Learning Center, Kent ISD
- Sibley Elementary, Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Northern Trails 5/6, Forest Hills Public Schools

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

Graduating a year early.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Teaching elementary in the Detroit area.



# Julie Farrier

**Major:** *Music & Education*

## Senior Project

### *Russian Romanticism in Art Song*

A study of Russian Romantic composers and the social and political motivations behind their works. A special focus is given to the Mighty Handful and their enduring legacy in classical music.

## Research and Presentations

I have researched the efficacy of Music Education in teaching Social-Emotional Learning skills. Additionally, I have researched how Music Education can help build empathy and bridge cultural divides.

## Leadership Activities

Phi Sigma Sigma Executive Board - 2018-2020

## Activities and Awards

Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority

## Internship and Practicum

I have been a teacher assistant in Northview Public Schools district at East Oakview Elementary. Additionally, I have been a teacher intern in Grand Rapids Public Schools at Union High School and Museum High School.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I have broadened my world view and have become a highly empathetic individual. I feel prepared to enter the field of education so that I can help students create a better future.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to work as a music educator in the Grand Rapids area. I wish to pursue a master's degree in either music education or conducting performance.



# Elora Ferrie

**Major:** *Electrical Engineering*

**Minor:** *Management*

## **Senior Project**

*CE Micro Display*

Creating a visual model of a microcontroller core for the Computer Engineering Department at GVSU

## **Leadership Activities**

- President of PSMH
- Captain of GVSU Lacrosse

## **Activities and Awards**

- Varsity Lacrosse
- Student-Athlete Liaison for IAAC
- Fulbright ETA Semi-Finalist

## **Internship and Practicum**

Twisthink Co-Op

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

Sparking an interest in generating student-led solutions to campus issues such as food insecurity, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Either spend 9 months in Malta as a Fulbright ETA or find a job within renewable energy management.

# Nicholas Ford



**Major:** *Physics and Computer Science*

**Minor:** *Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Spherical Easel***

An educational web app for students and educators to learn more about spherical geometry through drawing. Sponsored by Professors Hans Dulimarta and William Dickinson, my team and I added the ability to favorite things that others have created and made public.

## **Research and Presentations**

Detection of Near-Earth Asteroids Using LISA Satellite

## **Leadership Activities**

Section Leader in the Laker Marching Band, Parliamentarian in Kappa Kappa Psi, and President of the GVSU Physics Club

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List for 7 out of 9 semesters.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Frontend Application Developer Intern at Standard Process

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

Marching in the LMB for all five years I attended Grand Valley.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Searching for a software engineering position in the West Michigan Area.





# Hannah Frassetto

**Major:** *Advertising and Public Relations*

**Minor:** *Digital Studies*

## Senior Project

*An American Student's Guide to Study Abroad in Rome, Italy*

My senior project serves as a guide for students who wish to study abroad in Rome, Italy. I created the guide with the goal of preparing other students with the knowledge I gained from my time abroad.

## Leadership Activities

Public Relations chair of Delta Zeta, Sisterhood chair of Delta Zeta

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's List
- Delta Zeta sorority

## Study Abroad

6-week summer study abroad program at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy

## Internship and Practicum

Communications and Marketing Intern at Vervint

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

While at Grand Valley, my greatest accomplishment was studying abroad in Rome, Italy at John Cabot University. I learned so much from this experience and have become a more adaptable and open-minded person as a result.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will be moving to Chicago to continue my career in advertising.



# Riley Fuller

**Major:** *Exercise Science and Pre-Grad Health Professions*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Kinetic Conversations: A Podcast***

Kinetic Conversations is a podcast designed to be a resource for any students considering a career in physical therapy. It explores six different specialties including: LSVT, Pediatric, Pelvic Floor, Vertigo, Schroth, and Aquatic Therapy. Through interviews with physical therapists, we discover what these specialties entail, and how to pursue them.

## **Activities and Awards**

- Pre-PT Club
- Dean's List

## **Internship and Practicum**

I completed a semester long internship at The Center for Physical Rehabilitation Academy for Sports and Wellness.

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

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is building connections and friendships that will last a lifetime.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will continue working at The Center for Physical Rehabilitation. I also will apply to graduate school in the fall to continue my education.



# Colleen Garcia

**Major:** *Marketing*

**Minor:** *International Business*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Educational Growth Through Travel***

I spent six months studying abroad in Spain where I grew both academically and personally, and it has impacted my entire life. Throughout my time I discovered what being a lifelong learner truly meant. I used my project to share my experience with travel and continuous learning.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Seidman mentorship 2022-2023
- Seidman Mentorship Cohort Leader 2023-2024
- Executive Board Secretary (Delta Zeta) 2021-2022
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Leader (Delta Zeta) 2020-2021

## **Activities and Awards**

- Dean's List
- GVSU Lanthorn

## **Study Abroad**

Spain, Bilbao - Universidad De Deusto

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Runnera - International Internship, Spain
- Gallagher Insurance - Sales Internship, Rolling Meadows IL
- Koeze Business Ethics- Internship, Grand Rapids MI
- Kendra Scott - Ambassador, Allendale MI

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

My greatest accomplishment has been joining the Honors College something I never thought I would be able to achieve. I am incredibly proud of my determination and strong will to work hard enough to be a part of this program.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to move to Chicago where I have accepted a full-time position as a Producer Associate at Gallagher. I also plan on continuing to travel and will be traveling to Mexico, Aruba, and Puerto Rico before I start full time.



# Jessica Geisler

**Major:** *International Relations*

**Minor:** *Spanish and Human Rights*

## Senior Project

### *The Impact of the Justice Gap*

I wrote journals about my personal experience working as a volunteer at the Legal Assistance Center and how that has impacted my thoughts on the legal system as I prepare for law school. I also wrote a research paper on how the justice gap negatively impacts the justice system.

## Leadership Activities

TA for HNR 201

Vice President of Communications in GVSU Law Society

## Activities and Awards

Supervisor for intramural sports at GVSU.

## Internship and Practicum

Intern with the Michigan House of Representatives, Volunteer at the Legal Assistance Center

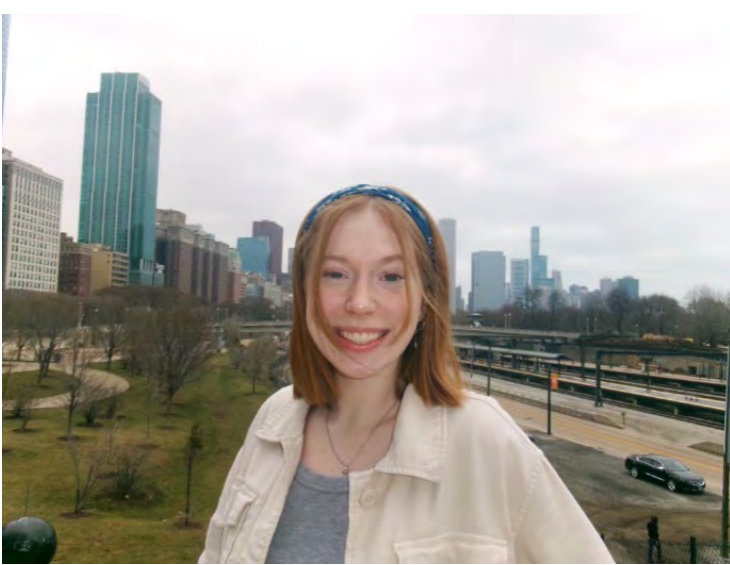
## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Making great friends and connections throughout my four years!

## Plans after Graduation

I will be attending law school in the fall at Wayne State University.





# Athena Gillespie

**Major:** *Social Work*

**Minor:** *Human Rights*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Ghana Social Work Study Abroad***

Through this faculty-led experience I was able to serve communities in Ghana while learning about the diverse cultures there. This opened my eyes to global social work and its impacts.

## **Study Abroad**

Ghana Social Work Study Abroad

## **Internship and Practicum**

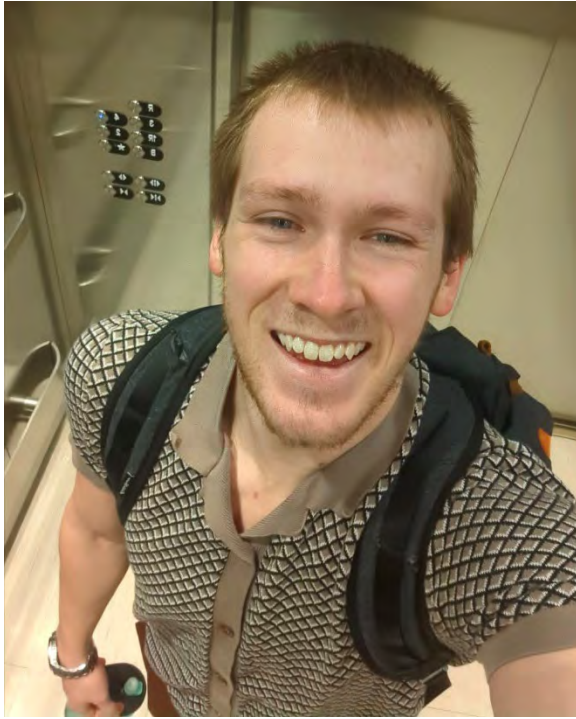
Refugee Foster Care Intern at Bethany Christian Services

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

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU has been graduating Summa Cum Laude and growing in my passion for global social work through studying abroad in Ghana and working with refugee communities in Grand Rapids.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be attending the University of Michigan this fall to obtain my Masters of Social Work through their advanced standing program, with a Global Social Work track.



# Jackson Gilman

**Major:** *Cybersecurity*

## **Senior Project**

*SOC in a Box*

Virtualization of a security operations center

## **Research and Presentations**

Testing the security of Radio Frequency Identification technology

## **Leadership Activities**

Board member of HAT(Hackers Analyzing Threats) club

## **Activities and Awards**

- compTIA Network+ certification
- compTIA Security+ certification
- Dean's List x2"

## **Internship and Practicum**

IT Security Intern at GVSU

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

Successfully creating a phishing campaign using USB drives for GVSU IT Security

## **Plans after Graduation**

Move to Illinois and find a job.



# Alayna Goodman

**Major:** *Economics*

## **Senior Project**

***Reaganomics and Modern-Day American Political Polarization***

An analysis of Reaganomics and how it has influenced the current political climate.

## **Leadership Activities**

Organized volunteer opportunities for AF Group of Lansing staff

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List recipient for all semesters

## **Internship and Practicum**

Internship at AF Group of Lansing

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

Completed my education in three years while working two jobs.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Working in data analytics for economic forecasting.



# Marta Grabowski

**Major:** *Biology*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## **Senior Project**

***Polishing the Profession: Advancements in Dentistry During the French Enlightenment***

My project focuses on the contributions of Pierre Fauchard, an influential Enlightenment-era dentist, to dentistry. As a future matriculant to dental school, I reflect on the origins and advancements of the profession in the era of the Enlightenment. I presented my research at Student Scholar's Day.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Social Media Coordinator for GVSU Pre-Dental Club
- Secretary-Elect for GVSU Women in Medicine and Science Club
- Teaching Assistant for Genetics Laboratory

## **Activities and Awards**

- General Chemistry Award (2022)
- Nominated for the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award (2024)

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

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was getting into the professional school of my choice.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be attending the University of Iowa College of Dentistry starting in August.





# Benjamin Gregg

**Major:** *Political Science*

**Minor:** *Philosophy*

## **Senior Project**

***The Theory of Perseverance.***

Interview various individuals - including professors of philosophy, social workers, students, and a military leader - regarding the potential moral value of the virtue of Perseverance. This involves discussing Perseverance as a potential meta-virtue upon which all other virtues are reliant, as well as its necessity for a moral person.

## **Research and Presentations**

The future role of political scientists in preserving democracy in a world where democracy seems to be declining.

## **Activities and Awards**

Was a member of the GVSU Strength Club.

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

Made Dean's list every semester.

## **Plans after Graduation**

To attend law school



# Julia Gutowski

**Major:** *Psychology*

**Minor:** *Sociology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Social Media Impacts on Mental Health***

Research to help highlight the connection between social media and mental health with the help of utilizing data from before and after the pandemic to see any changes in this widespread phenomenon.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Pine Rest

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

Finding out who I want to be in terms of my career, what I want out of life, and in relationships.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Continuing working at Pine Rest and attending Central Michigan University in the winter for Mental Health Counseling.



# Emily Haines

**Major:** *General Management*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

***Two-Way Mentoring: The Benefits of Learning from Each Other***

Mentorship is a very important part of business, and with the changing world new styles are being implemented such as two-way mentoring.

## Activities and Awards

Seidman Mentorship Program

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was being a part of the Seidman Mentorship Program and having the opportunity to mentor a freshman as they adjust to college!

## Plans after Graduation

I will be working at a Title company starting with abstracting with hopes to work my way up to higher positions.



# Leah Hanacek

**Major:** *Finance and Business Economics*

## Senior Project

### *The Inequities of Federal Parent PLUS Loans*

A research paper analyzing part of the ongoing student debt crisis, specifically relating to the federal parent PLUS loan program. The report investigates the inequities based on socioeconomic status, race, and the long-term economic effects of parent PLUS loans for families.

## Leadership Activities

- President- Delta Sigma Pi
- Vice President of Pledge Education- Delta Sigma Pi
- GVSU Transitions Leader

## Activities and Awards

- Excellence in a Discipline Award for Finance
- Dean's List, all 4 years
- I Am GV Leadership Award, 2x
- Delta Sigma Pi Lambda-Xi Collegian of the Year

## Internship and Practicum

- Trust Intern- Plante Moran
- Commercial Credit Intern- Mercantile Bank

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GV has been coming out of my shell and transforming into a confident leader. Moving from out of state, I didn't know anyone when I started school here. I am so proud of myself for every opportunity I took to grow into a confident business professional.

## Plans after Graduation

Working at Plante Moran as a Trust Advisor in the Grand Rapids office.





# Emma Haney

**Major:** *Biology and English Language & Literature*

## **Senior Project**

***Recognizing (Human) Nature: A Desperate Plea to Restore Humanity's Appreciation of Nature through Ecocritical Fiction***

A video essay which details the effect of the human-centered worldview (anthropocentrism) of the environment and how literature may help us reconcile environmental injustices.

## **Research and Presentations**

Image Flow Cytometry Live/Dead Analysis at the AWRI

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List for 4 years

## **Study Abroad**

San Salvador Field Study in the Bahamas

## **Internship and Practicum**

Internship at Annis Water Resource institute

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

Being able to form long-lasting and meaningful relationships with people.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attend the School for Environment and Sustainability at UofM



# Gabe Harpe

**Major:** *Environment and Sustainability Studies*

**Minor:** *Statistics and STEM Ethics*

## Senior Project

***GVSU Student Sustainability Guide***

My group and I made a brochure with resources on living more sustainably and being responsible consumers as well as providing resources for greenwashing education.

## Research and Presentations

Potato blight historical and present implications, Aquaculture

## Activities and Awards

Dean's List

## Internship and Practicum

Ecological Internship with Stantec, Engineering Technician COOP with SME

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Working as an outdoor educator with WMEAC. I found my passion for the environment while attending the Frederick Meijer Honors College.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to work as a Plant Healthcare Specialist at SavATree.



# Elinor Harrison

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences and Classics*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Research and Presentations

- Student Scholars Day Presentation April 2024 - All Roads Lead to Home: Exploring the Complexities of Home in Antiquity
- Cook Leadership Academy Leader Lab - The Dangers of Idealizing the Past Through the Example of Ancient Rome.

## Leadership Activities

- Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy Fellow Candidate - 2 years
- President of Eta Sigma Pi Classical Honors Society - 2 years
- President of Phi Sigma Pi
- Site Leader for Alternative Breaks

## Activities and Awards

- Member of the Pre-Med Club
- Member of the American Red Cross Disaster Health Services Team
- Tutor at the Chemistry Success Center

## Study Abroad

John Cabot University - Rome, Italy

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I completed two degrees in four years.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan on attending medical school in July.



# Alyxandria Hartsock

**Major:** *Nursing*

**Minor:** *Spanish and Health Care Ethics*

## Senior Project

### *Granada Spain Study Abroad*

My study abroad experience was filled with learning experiences for my career and for me as an adult. The FMHC values of living, learning, and leading were the areas where I grew the most while studying in Spain.

## Research and Presentations

- Emphasis on Healthy Aging
- Continuing to work towards a research project about infants with tongue-tie and effective breastfeeding
- Capstone on Mindfulness for Children during Grieving
- Research Presentation on Decreasing Stress for Nursing Students through Walking

## Leadership Activities

- Mentor through SNA for 3 students
- Counselor for GVSU Shape Camp Kids

## Activities and Awards

- Volunteered for MFB Hospital, Gilda's Club, Kids Food Basket, and Children's Healing Center

## Study Abroad

Studied abroad for my Spanish Minor in Granada, Spain. I enjoyed learning most about the culture of food and wine in their country as well as the impact of food in building community. I also learned the joy of slowing down and enjoying life in the present.

## Internship and Practicum

Nursing Leadership in Med/Surg, ED, and ICU at Corewell Zeeland Community Hospital

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I think my greatest accomplishment at GVSU was building my community of people through classes. My best friends are people I met in clinicals, and my clinical groups feel like family. My best friends from clinical are the reason I met my husband!

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to move to Southern California to be an Emergency Nurse. I hope to someday go back to school to strengthen my education in a higher nursing level.





# Emily Hartwell

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

*A podcast for incoming freshman going into the science field to learn more about it!*

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Working two jobs while being a full-time student, maintaining work life balance, while staying happy with life :)

## Plans after Graduation

Gap year then either Med School or PA School



# Quinn Hefferan Nordlund

**Major:** *International Relations and German*

## **Senior Project**

*Study Abroad*

## **Research and Presentations**

I completed an independent German study with Dr. Donovan Anderson. Through this research, I examined the history of social policy in Germany and its implications on the world.

## **Activities and Awards**

- Excellence in a Discipline Award in German
- Barbara H Padnos Scholarship for Study Abroad

## **Study Abroad**

I studied abroad in Munich, Germany during the 2022-2023 academic year.

## **Internship and Practicum**

I interned with US Congresswoman Hillary Scholten, who represents Michigan's third district.

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

During my internship with Congresswoman Hillary Scholten, I was primarily responsible for communicating with constituents and also had some of my own case work. In one case, I was able to help a constituent receive a \$50,000 student loan forgiveness repayment that they were owed, which was so rewarding!

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to complete a Fulbright US teaching assistantship in Althofen, Austria during the 2024-2025 academic year. After that, I will attend the University of Michigan for a master's in public policy.



# Amber Heist

**Major:** *Cell & Molecular Biology*

## **Senior Project**

***Renewed: The Podcast***

Generating a podcast for the campus group Campus Ministry to help young women struggling with addiction.

## **Research and Presentations**

Understanding how Diazepam and Flumazenil affect the GABA(A) receptor.

## **Leadership Activities**

Leading the group Renewed for campus ministry.

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

Presenting my research

## **Plans after Graduation**

To finish my master's program and enter into the biotech industry



# Rachel Herbst

**Major:** *Exercise Science and Psychology*

## Senior Project

### *Mental Health Counseling and Performance of Collegiate and Professional Athletes*

The project entailed a review of the current literature concerning how athletes who have or have not received psychological counseling score on the Profile of Mood States and Sport Competition Anxiety Test surveys.

## Research and Presentations

- Research presentation on the psychosocial impact of body dysmorphic disorder.

Conducted research on the reliability of finger pulse oximeters compared to medical grade oximeters and smartwatches in detecting resting and exercise heart rate.

## Leadership Activities

Teacher's assistant

## Activities and Awards

Student mental health ambassador

## Internship and Practicum

Exercise science intern for the Grand Valley Women's Lacrosse Team

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I greatly improved my writing abilities between the Spain in Europe sequence and the Holocaust and Its Legacy class. These were both difficult courses but so rewarding and were taught by terrific professors who pushed students to transcend their thinking.

## Plans after Graduation

I will attend Northern Michigan University for their Master's in Applied Sport Psychology program. Additionally, I plan to acquire a limited psychology license and mental performance consultant certification.





# Sierra Hilditch

**Major:** *Chemistry*

## **Senior Project**

*Mechanistic Analysis of CO Oxidation to CO<sub>2</sub> at Bimetallic Complexes*

Computational analysis of the catalytic cycle for the oxidation of CO to CO<sub>2</sub> using Mo and Cu as the metal centers.

## **Research and Presentations**

Presentation at 40th, 41st, and 42nd Michigan Undergraduate Computational Chemistry Consortium Conference. Presentation at GVSU Student Scholars Day 2023.

## **Leadership Activities**

- 4-year member of the GVSU Laker Dance Team
- Tutor at the Chemistry Success Center.

## **Activities and Awards**

Received the "Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award" from the GVSU Chemistry department.

## **Study Abroad**

Studied abroad for a month at Florence University of the Arts in Italy.

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

Received the "Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award" from the GVSU Chemistry department.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attending Ohio State University to get my PhD in Chemistry.



# Jared Hogan

**Major:** *Film and Video*

**Minor:** *Theatre*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Sound Designing for PS Series 2024***

Designed for the two 2024 PS Shows, Tracks by Peter Tarsi, & Radium Girls by DW Gregory, both of which ran on the same days from January 24-26.

## **Leadership Activities**

Worked as scene shop supervisor in the past for numerous builds and strikes, teaching students how to use tools and operator equipment. Also previously worked numerous shows as warmup captain for both vocal and physical preparation.

## **Activities and Awards**

GVSU Theatre credits consist of 10 Acting credits, 3 Understudy credits, and 6 Sound Design Credits. Previously nominated for KCACTF twice in 2021 (Ernest Maltravers) & 2023 (The Baltimore Waltz). Also received merits from KCACTF for Sound Design in 2022 (Welcome to Paradise) and 2024 (Radium Girls).

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

Playing all 12 side characters in a 3-person show that I also Sound Designed, Programmed Projections, and acted as Student Deputy for in Baltimore Waltz (2023).



# Riley Hohlbein

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

**Minor:** *Writing*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Pathway to Professional Success: Personal Branding Portfolio***

This comprehensive personal branding portfolio serves as a strategic tool to establish and enhance my online presence. In today's digitally driven society, personal branding is crucial for career advancement, networking, and professional success. The project is geared towards solving the challenge of distinguishing myself from other job applicants.

## **Leadership Activities**

Chief Operations Officer of GrandPR

## **Activities and Awards**

- Member of GVPRSSA
- COO of GrandPR
- Member of the National Millennial and Gen Z Community
- Recipient of the 2024 Kelly Rossman McKinney Leadership Award
- Serves on the West Michigan PRSA Professional Development Committee
- Dean's List every semester

## **Internship and Practicum**

Riley completed her internship at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa as the Marketing Intern.

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

Riley's greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been leading a 30 person firm while serving as the Chief Operations Officer of GrandPR for the 2023-2024 school year. She's also proud to be graduating one year early with Summa cum laude recognition.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Riley will begin her career right here in downtown Grand Rapids as the Content & SEO Coordinator and BlackTruck Media + Marketing.



# Sophia Hornik

**Major:** *Political Science and Legal Studies*

**Minor:** *Criminal Justice*

## Senior Project

*Comparison of Japanese and American Justice System's.*

Took an indepth look at the differences between the justice systems of America and Japan, and the cultural values driving them while studying abroad in Hikone, Japan.

## Research and Presentations

Legal Studies Capstone: Prosecutorial Discretion.

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's List
- Lambda Epsilon Chi Honor Society

## Study Abroad

Criminal Justice in Japan, 2023.

## Internship and Practicum

Internship at Muskegon County Office of the Public Defender. Internship at the Kent County Public Prosecutor's Office.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Receiving a full tuition scholarship at two different law schools.

## Plans after Graduation

To go to law school, and then pass the bar exam.





# Paige Hunt

**Major:** *Marketing*

## **Senior Project**

### ***The Metaverse Era***

The Metaverse Era is a podcast exploring the effects of virtual reality technology and artificial intelligence (specifically LLMs) in classrooms and the workplace. This first episode is hosted by Paige Hunt, a Marketing student at GVSU, and will have special guest Paul Hillman joining to share his wisdom.

## **Leadership Activities**

Seidman Mentorship Program

## **Activities and Awards**

Awards:

- Seidman Dean's Advisory Board Scholarship
- Thompson Working Family Scholarship
- Dean's List
- GV Award for Excellence Scholarship

Activities:

- Seidman Mentorship Program
- Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honors Society
- American Marketing Association
- Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization

## **Internship and Practicum**

- TRUMPF Laser, Outbound Marketing - October 2023-May 2024
- Universal Robots, Digital Marketing - March 2022-August 2023

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

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was completing my BBA - Marketing with a 3.8 GPA. This was during a difficult time in the world, all while I completed two internships and took a full courseload.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduating, I will begin working in a sales role, beginning out of state this July.



# Meghan Imhoff

**Major:** *Behavioral Neuroscience and Exercise Science*

## **Senior Project**

*I studied abroad in Iceland.*

I attended a two-week geology program in Iceland.

## **Research and Presentations**

I completed research in exercise science under Dr Lerma

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

Presenting research at conferences and student scholars day

## **Plans after Graduation**

I am attending Loyola University in Chicago to complete my PhD in neuroscience.



# Samantha Irish

**Major:** *Biology with Pre-vet emphasis*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

### *Assessing Equine Cognition Through the Ability to Learn*

For my senior project, I decided to track the progress of teaching my horse a trick that she had never been exposed to before to provide insight on how the equine brain processes information and how they learn over time. This project took place over a span of 3 months with a total of 20 training sessions each lasting about 30 minutes. I took short videos and notes after each training session and compiled them into a short video compilation and a paper detailing how the process went and providing a visual representation of the equine thinking process and behavior in a training environment.

## Research and Presentations

In the spring of 2023, I assisted the Gun Lake Tribe of Potawatomi Indians with their annual sturgeon research by setting and pulling in gill nets in the Kalamazoo River and the Grand River and documenting the fish caught.

## Leadership Activities

- Vice President of the Native American Student Association
- Member of the Pre-Vet Club
- Camp Monitor for Anishinaabe Student Leadership Camp

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's list
- Grand Valley Award for Excellence
- Thompson Scholar

## Study Abroad

I studied Equine Medicine and Management in Rojales, Alicante, Spain during the summer of 2022 through LOOP Abroad.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

While at GV, I am proud that I was able to do well in all my classes while balancing extracurricular activities, work, research, and volunteering. All of this culminated into my greatest accomplishment of getting accepted into three vet schools.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be pursuing a DVM at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



# Simon Kailing

**Major:** *Writing*

## **Senior Project**

*Educational Children's Books*

The project consists of three standalone children's books, fully illustrated by Reagan McLaughlin.

## **Research and Presentations**

I participated in the 2022 Library Scholars program and presented at Student Scholars Day.

## **Leadership Activities**

I co-founded and ran the Wordsmiths Writing Club during my time here, helped plan and run the Student Reading Series events, and captained several intermural sports teams.

## **Activities and Awards**

My piece "Dirty Hands" won first place in the 2023 Oldenburg's "Personal Essay by a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior" category.

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

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU has been the creation, maintenance, and growing of the Wordsmiths creative writing club. I take great personal pride in the collaborative space I've helped create there.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Try to finish one of these darn books.





# Elizabeth Kalafut

**Major:** *Applied Food & Nutrition*

## Senior Project

*Feasting on the Frontier: A Gastronomic Exploration on Water in the West Study Away*

During my time as a TA for "Water in the West," we explored many states, notably Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. I created three travel posters on the cultural significance and history of culinary adventures experienced: Rocky Mountain Oysters, Navajo Fry Bread, and Tamales.

## Research and Presentations

Teach-in Power, Privilege and Difficult Dialogues presenter on Hidden Hunger on Campus: A Panel Discussion on Food Security

## Leadership Activities

- Clinical Dietetics Student Association (CDSA) Cohort 8 Co-president
- TA for Water in the West study away program 2023
- Selected to sit on the College of Health Professions (CHP) Student Empowerment and Success Council
- President of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK)
- Senior RA
- Kirkoff Advisory Board Committee
- FMHS Honors Mentor
- Transitions Leader

## Activities and Awards

- GVSU Equestrian Hunt Team
- Dean's List

## Study Abroad

Water in the West Study Away Program 2023

## Internship and Practicum

- Nutrition Intern at Corewell Health
- Dietetic Intern at Replenish Basic Needs Center
- Dietetics Intern at WIC South Campus

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My transformation into the person I am proud to be today, from the girl who told Prof. Gilles that she did not want to go to college, to graduating and pursuing her master's degree. This transformation is thanks to my diverse involvement, amazing opportunities, and support from family and friends.

## Plans after Graduation

Complete my Combined master's in clinical dietetics at GVSU.



# Natalie Kline

**Major:** *Computer Science and Music*

## Senior Project

### *IGBO*

As part of the inaugural team at Blue Nucleus, launched by the GVSU Applied Computing Institute in January 2024, I collaborated with a team to create a full-stack iOS application. This app enables parents whose children are in close proximity to one another to connect easily.

## Leadership Activities

- Member of the PCEC Dean's Student Advisory Council
- Executive Board Member of Women in Computing (WIC)
- Executive Board Member of Computing Club

## Activities and Awards

- Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in Computer Science
- Eric Maino Community Technology Award
- School of Computing Study Abroad Scholarship
- Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Endowment for the Performing Arts
- Academic and Professional Enrichment Fund Travel Grant
- Music Upper Division Award
- GV Award for Excellence
- GV Alumni Heritage Scholarship
- GV Music Department Scholarship
- Summa Cum Laude
- Dean's List"
- Study Abroad
- Faculty-Led Program: Music in Austria & Czech Republic (Summer 2023)
- Faculty-Led Program: Switzerland Summer Exchange (Summer 2023)

## Internship and Practicum

Software Developer Intern at Auto-Owners Insurance Company (May 2022 - December 2022)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest achievement at GVSU includes participating in multiple faculty-led study abroad programs within a single summer, contributing to a new initiative with the Applied Computing Institute, deepening my Catholic faith, and completing two bachelor's degrees within just four years, achieving summa cum laude honors.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will take one additional year to finish a master's degree in applied computer science at Grand Valley State University. Concurrently, I plan to leverage my music degree by establishing a private oboe studio, performing with local ensembles, and auditioning for professional orchestra positions when opportunities arise.



# Riley Klumb

**Major:** *Film and Video*

**Minor:** *Philosophy*

## Senior Project

***The (Ig)nota Lingua***

A paper in which I detail my process of attempting to expand Hildegard of Bigden's Ignota Lingua into an independent constructed language.

## Leadership Activities

- President of the Tabletop Gaming Club (2022-2024)
- Vice President of the GV Film Academy (2022-2023)

## Activities and Awards

- Was on the Dean's List for six semesters
- Outstanding Collaboration in programming 2022- 2023
- Production designer for "Bender" - 2022
- Best Experimental Film for "City Ghosts" - 2022
- Scriptwriter for two feature length projects - 2023-2024

## Internship and Practicum

I worked on several student films as a part of the crew.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being able to spread my wings creatively and come to better understand myself and others.

## Plans after Graduation

Write as much as I can.



# Kaitlyn Knapp

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## Senior Project

### *How Similar are Two Candida albicans Phosphatase Enzymes in their Regulation of Virulence Traits?*

One of the most common hospital-acquired infections in the U.S. is the fungus and opportunistic pathogen, *Candida albicans*. I worked under Dr. Cleary and Dr. Thomas to investigate the impacts of over-expressing two specific genes in *C. albicans* to determine their similarities and differences in the morphology of the microorganism.

## Research and Presentations

I worked with Dr. Cleary and Dr. Thomas to be accepted into the S3 Summer Scholar Program. We investigated the overexpression of PHO13 in *Candida albicans* to determine its impact on morphology. With this S3 Research, I was able to present at the GVSU Summer Showcase and the WMRUGS at Van Andel.

## Leadership Activities

I am currently the President and have served as VP of Dance Marathon, a group that raises money for Helen Devos Children's Hospital. I have worked as a Transitions Leader for incoming freshmen and student-athlete tutor. I was also on the e-board for the Medical Sciences Discussions Club.

## Activities and Awards

I was designated as a Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction. I worked as a pharmacy technician and a CNA, where I found my true passion for helping others. I've also been a member of APO since freshman year, which is a co-ed service fraternity.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at GV was building a community of people around me who were able to serve and make a difference in the lives of others. These people have helped me become a driven and goal-oriented individual with a passion for service and creating change.

## Plans after Graduation

I have accepted a seat at the Kettering College Physician Assistant Program near Dayton, Ohio, which begins May 6th, 2024. I am so excited to begin this journey and I cannot thank GVSU and the Honors College enough for helping me achieve my dreams.





# Madeline Krawciw

**Major:** *Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience*

## **Senior Project**

***Baby Llama (Cria) Weight Gain Chart, 0-6 months.***

I developed a Llama Cria Weight Gain chart for the llama community, covering the first 0-6 months. This is the first update in nearly three decades and the only one to use retrospective data. My analysis also explored gender variations, regional influences, and the impact of human care and supplementation.

## **Research and Presentations**

- Research through ANT 420: Applied Anthropology on undergraduate research barriers, presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology National Conference.
- Systemic Literature review on Integrated Care and Foster Care in progress for publication.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Secretary, Michigan Llama Association
- Chair, International Llama Registry - Performance Committee

## **Activities and Awards**

Obtaining a Certificate in Applied Anthropology (CAA)

## **Internship and Practicum**

Summer internship through Community Mental Health of Central Michigan (CMHCM). Focused on grant writing, literature review, and conducting community needs assessments.

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

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was presenting research that a team and I conducted at the Society for Applied Anthropology National Conference (SfAA).

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to continue working with my current grant team at Grand Valley and pursue a master's in public health (MPH).



# Hannah Krebs

Major: *History*

## Senior Project

### *Christians and Gay Rights in Grand Rapids, MI: 1973-2000*

This project discusses the ongoing conversation about Christian faith and gay rights in Grand Rapids. Focusing on the Dutch Reformed denominations, I explore the unexpectedly nuanced positions taken by church leadership. Additionally, I consider how local controversies have shaped national denominational policies.

## Research and Presentations

- Library Summer Scholars Program 2023: Michigan Archives: Guidelines for First Time Archival Researchers
- Grand Rapids Stories: "Quite a Courageous Thing to Do": Grand Rapids, Women Scientists, and the Development of a Whooping Cough Vaccine, 1932-1942
- Capstone: Creating Spaces: LGBT Life at Grand Valley

## Leadership Activities

Honors College Mentor

## Activities and Awards

- "I am Grand Valley" Award 2023
- Frances Anne Kelleher Endowed Scholarship 2023
- History Major of the Year 2024
- GVSU Presidential Scholarship

## Study Abroad

Vietnam 2023

## Internship and Practicum

- Grand Rapids Stories (Grand Rapids Public Museum and GVSU History Department)
- Website Intern (Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council)
- Archives Intern (Troy Historic Village)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Contributing to Grand Rapids' historical scholarship in women's and LGBTQ+ history through my internships, capstone, and thesis

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to take a gap year, then attend graduate school for museum studies.



# Samantha LaMantia

**Major:** *Cell & Molecular Biology*

## Senior Project

### *Studying Abroad in Paros, Greece*

I studied abroad at the Hellenic International Studies in the Arts (HISA) institution. I spent a month there, immersed in Greek culture, food, and the history of the region and the people. I wrote a reflection on cycladic art and culture, and how it intertwines with Greek mythology.

## Research and Presentations

I worked with Dr. Christians in the CMB department to develop the understanding of LRB proteins that degrade photoreceptors in *A. thaliana*. My project focused on LRB degradation in response to temperature changes under varying light conditions.

Presented at: WMRUGS 2023, Student Scholar's Day 2024, and CMB Undergraduate Symposium 2024.

## Leadership Activities

- Vice President of Genetic Counseling Club
- Honors College Mentor

## Activities and Awards

- IM Volleyball, Soccer, Pickleball
- Dean's List 2021-2024
- GVSU Presidential Scholarship
- GVSU Award for Excellence

## Study Abroad

Paros, Greece Summer Semester 2023.

## Internship and Practicum

- Pharmacy Technician throughout undergrad
- Adaptive Sports Supervisor (GVSU RecWell)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I'm proud that I was able to graduate a year early while working and doing research. Working for the adaptive sports program through GV Recreation and Wellness and having the opportunity to build the program and its community and meet new people through that experience.

## Plans after Graduation

This summer I will be interning in the Triche lab at Van Andel Institute. In the fall, I am continuing to work on my Master's in Cell and Molecular Biology at GVSU as part of combined BS/MS degree program.



# Madeleine Lang

**Major:** *Biochemistry*

## Senior Project

### *Water Storage and Accessibility in South Africa*

In May of 2023, I studied abroad in South Africa on a faculty-led trip. We studied the wildlife at Kruger National Park and experienced the culture. While there I focused on researching water storage and accessibility through talking to locals and making observations in the community.

## Research and Presentations

MS3 scholar : "2021 Grand River Water Quality" published with Dr. Peter Wampler and Allison Romanski

## Leadership Activities

- Bible Study co-leader with Cru (2021-2024)
- Honors Mentor (2022-2024)

## Activities and Awards

- GVSU Presidential Scholarship
- General Chemistry Award
- Dean's List 2020-2024
- Tutor in the Chemistry Success Center (2022-2024)
- Volunteer at the Community Food Club (2020-2024)
- Intramural Sports Participant

## Study Abroad

South Africa and Eswatini (2023)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been making the most of my time here -- through exploring the ravines with friends, studying abroad in South Africa, summer research kayaking the Grand River, guiding students in chemistry, and mentoring students in their faith.

## Plans after Graduation

I am taking a gap year to gain more clinical experience as a patient care technician. I am also planning on traveling and enjoying time with friends and family. Afterwards, I plan on going to Physician Assistant School.





# Kate Livingston

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

*"The Impact of Water*

*An Integrated Healthcare Perspective"*

This project, in the form of a mini documentary, explores water quality indexes throughout the world, what factors contribute to better/poorer water quality, and what the implications of each are. We then utilized this information regarding water quality to create potential nursing diagnoses that are pertinent to areas throughout Michigan.

## **Leadership Activities**

Overnight Orientation Committee Chair with the GVSU Frederik Meijer Honors College Student Council (2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years).

## **Activities and Awards**

Grand Valley State University's Award for Excellence (scholarship)

## **Internship and Practicum**

- 1,260 clinical hours completed with Grand Valley State University's Kirkhof College of Nursing during the undergraduate experience in areas including medical/surgery, mental health, obstetrics, pediatrics, long term care, and community health.

- 160 clinical hours completed with an RN preceptor at Trinity Health's Psychiatric Medical Unit.

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

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was getting into their Nursing Program, completing the curriculum, and earning my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I'm also proud of getting involved in the Honors Community through the student council. I will always cherish the people I met, and the relationships made.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I have accepted a position at Trinity Health in Grand Rapids as a registered nurse on their Hauenstein Neuroscience Intermediate Care Unit. With this job, I am also a part of Trinity Health's Nurse Residency Program. I'm looking forward to my time at Trinity Health.



# Aliah Lloyd

**Major:** *Computer Science*

**Minor:** *Chinese Language*

## Senior Project

***End-To-End Development of a Dashboard with Interactions to an AI Program.***

Dashboard and pipeline development for an AI program to help detect rare diseases using multiple different platforms. Pipeline is a connection between what the user(doctor) will see, which is the dashboard, and the AI program and Database.

## Research and Presentations

Mental Health App Development Research project - started in 2021/2022.

## Leadership Activities

- GVSU Rifle Club- President for a year, Membership officer for a year, and Financial officer for a year.
- Tour Guide for University Admissions
- Lead in projects such as class projects and research projects.
- Honors College Mentor for 2 years
- Lead student employee for a year in University Development Gift Processing Department.

## Activities and Awards

Tour Guide, Honors college mentor, Padnos International Study Abroad Scholarship, Award for achievement in Chinese Language, Academic Scholarship, Student Spotlight for University Development.

## Study Abroad

A year in Taiwan which consisted of an intensive language program to study Chinese and an internship.

## Internship and Practicum

Three things: Reaching the Junior Olympics (JO) 6 months after joining the GVSU Rifle Team, Studying abroad in Taiwan after 3 years of trying with the help of Padnos International Study Abroad committee, Seeing my Mental health app research project reach new heights.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is how I pushed myself to overcome academic challenges. For example, retaking two classes to better understand the content and improve my grade.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be working full-time with Gartner as a software engineer in Fort Myers, FL while continuing my research on the side. I also plan to pursue a master's or other degrees in the future.



# Sarah Love

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## Senior Project

*A Cross-Cultural Exploration of Feline Folklore and the Benefits of the Human-Cat Relationship*

A study of how cats have impacted different cultures, their legends, and the benefits cats can provide to us from expertly hunting rodents to healing bones.

## Research and Presentations

The Effects of Vitamin E on Parkinson's Disease

## Activities and Awards

- Red Cross Club
- Humane Society Volunteer

## Plans after Graduation

Medical Device Sales



# Zachary Lowe

**Major:** *Biochemistry*

**Minor:** *Chemistry and Mathematical Statistics*

## **Senior Project**

***An Analysis of the FDA's Emergency Use Approval of Molnupiravir.***

I investigated the approval process for this drug as well as the evidence that was on hand at the time and that became available later. I used this information to weigh in on the debate surrounding this controversial drug.

## **Research and Presentations**

I worked on adapting metalloprotease inhibitors from the opossum for use in humans as a treatment for snake envenomation.

## **Leadership Activities**

- GVSU SAAC member 2022-2023
- GVSU Anchor 2022-2024

## **Activities and Awards**

I was a 4-year varsity swimmer at GVSU.

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

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was being admitted into medical school.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attend medical school.





# Katelyn Machuta

**Major:** *Environ and Sustain Studies*

**Minor:** *Sociology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Practicum for ENS***

A systemic literature review that examines the intersection between environmental and social justice movements in the United States and Canada..

## **Research and Presentations**

ENS Practicum

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List

## **Internship and Practicum**

ENS Practicum

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

Having the opportunity to present to student and faculty at Student Scholar's Day.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I am planning on attending graduate school in the future.



# Kelsey Marquez

**Major:** *Computer Engineering*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Electron Tunneling Microscope***

The purpose of the project is to improve an existing z-axis tunneling microscope prototype design, reduce the time necessary to achieve tunneling current, build and deliver five functional units, and create software for user interface and control. It's intended to be made open-sourced and available to all.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Part of the 2020-2021 Asian Student Union Executive Board and planned the R.I.C.E. Conference
- Co-Founder of the Filipinx American Student Association
- President of the Filipinx American Student Association from 2021-2023

## **Activities and Awards**

"I am Grand Valley" Award 2019

## **Internship and Practicum**

Co-Op at Gentex Corporation for ~2 years

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

Founding the cultural organization Filipinx American Student Association

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation I will travel out of the country to enjoy and experience the world. Once returning, I will be staying in the Grand Rapids area working as a Software Engineer in the Embedded Software Team at Gentex Corporation. I will be getting another cat!



# Mallory Marsac

**Major:** *Finance and Marketing*

## Senior Project

### *Artificial Intelligence in Business*

This project explores the usage of artificial intelligence in a business environment. It covers some of the current and potential utilizations of different available technologies, along with possible benefits and disadvantages involved with using them.

## Research and Presentations

IPO stock pitch competition and equity report

## Leadership Activities

CHAARG Small Group Coordinator

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's List recipient every semester
- CHAARG
- IPO

## Internship and Practicum

Rotational Finance Internship at Dematic

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining a 3.9+ GPA while double majoring and attending the honors college

## Plans after Graduation

Find a career that I am passionate about, travel to new places, and live life to the fullest!



# Paige McAloon

**Major:** *Mathematics*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

### *Book Recommendation System*

Using datasets from the Goodreads app, I created a system that can use a reader's books and ratings to recommend other books they will likely enjoy.

## Research and Presentations

I worked with a group of 5 other students to help the Kent District Library system determine which programs drive key performance indicators. We presented our findings to the Math Department and to KDL leadership.

## Leadership Activities

Mentor for my track teammate.

## Activities and Awards

- Cross Country
- Track and Field
- 5x All-Conference in Track and Field
- Math Center Tutor
- Math and Athletics Scholarship recipient
- Math Department Scholarship recipient

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was completing my capstone project with Kent District Library. I got real-world project experience and learned about what a job in the industry could entail.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to move to Madison, Wisconsin and work at Epic as a Technical Solutions Engineer.





# Jonathan McCabe

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences and Philosophy*

## Senior Project

### *Deception vs Incomplete disclosure*

Working with the Office of Research Compliance and Integrity (ORCI), I created a video on how to use deception and incomplete disclosure in research. This included researching the topic, script writing, directing, and acting. This is one of 3 videos I have made with the ORCI.

## Research and Presentations

- Effects of Nonylphenol on Crayfish Aggressiveness - 2024 Seattle Conference Poster Presentation
- Evidence based medicine, translational precision medicine, and forward thinking: The Epistemology of Medicine - Philosophy Senior Thesis Presentation
- NRP-cDcD: Outpacing Ethical Considerations - SSD 2023
- Effects of Mechanical Injury on Crayfish foraging behavior - Nociception - SSD 2023

## Leadership Activities

- Founder/Director - Young PIs Summer Scholar Program
- Co-Founder - GVSU Partners In Health Engage team
- Founder/President - GVSU Club Connect

## Activities and Awards

Frederik Meijer Honors College Excellence in a Discipline award, Biomedical Sciences Excellence in a Discipline award, Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction, Thomas M. Seykora Award for Outstanding contribution, Community Leadership Scholarship, Cook Leadership Academy Independent Initiative fund, Phi Kappa Phi Scholar, Organic Chemistry Award, GVSU Nominee for the Truman Scholarship

## Study Abroad

Universidad Veritas - San José, Costa Rica  
July - August 2022

## Internship and Practicum

- Student Chair - Corewell Health Ethics Committee - Grand Rapids, MI
- GVSU Office of Research Compliance and Integrity - Allendale, MI
- Health Promotion Intern - Ottawa County Department of Public Health y Holland, MI

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Adopting my cat, Wheat (he's the best).

## Plans after Graduation

I will pursue a Master's in Bioethics at Harvard Medical School. Following this, I will apply for medical school.



# Madison McDonald

**Major:** *Behavioral Neuroscience*

## Senior Project

### *Navigating the Road to Inclusive Transportation Policies*

Our current public transportation system is riddled with barriers to access for individuals with disabilities. For my senior project, I wrote a policy paper on how to improve this lack of access for a more equitable transportation system.

## Research and Presentations

BMS 499: "The Effects of Beta-Estradiol on Crayfish Behavior and Gonadal Structure"

## Leadership Activities

- Honors College Freshmen Mentor
- Pre-Physician Assistant Student Mentor

## Activities and Awards

- Pre-Physician Assistant Club
- Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology
- GV Award for Excellence Scholarship
- Metro Detroit Alumni Scholarship
- Dean's List

## Study Abroad

Vida Volunteer- I travelled to Liberia, Costa Rica and partnered with local physicians to provide medical care in underserved communities.

## Internship and Practicum

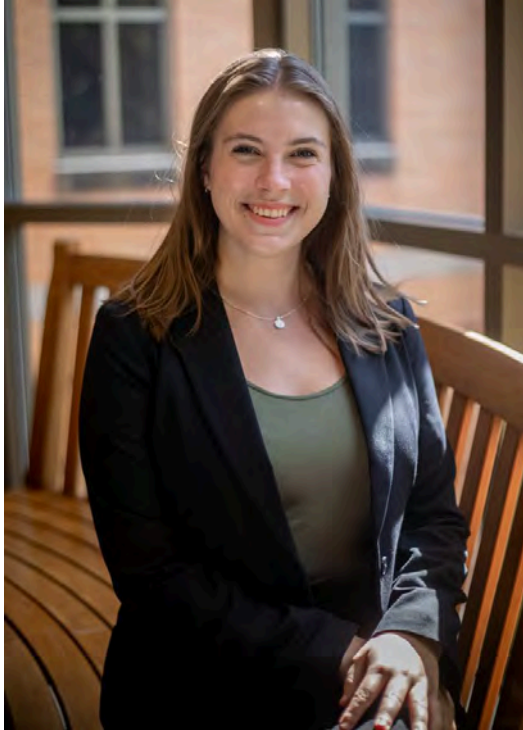
I obtained over 2,000 hours of patient care experience working as a Direct Support Professional at Olivia's Gift, an organization that provides housing for young adults with disabilities. I also spent time volunteering at the Refugee Education Center and Grace's Table.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU was the experience that I gained in the healthcare field through Olivia's Gift and Vida Volunteer. These organizations had an incredible impact on me and really furthered my passion for providing care!

## Plans after Graduation

I will be attending the Physician Assistant program at the University of Detroit Mercy!



# Margaret Mclean

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

## Senior Project

***An In-depth Look at the Feasibility of Electric Semi-Trucks***

This paper dives in to why replacing modern Diesel Semi trucks with new Electric Semi Trucks is not as easy as just switching which one is bought. It considers labor laws, environmental regulations, and current infrastructure.

## Leadership Activities

President of the Seidman Supply Chain Management Association

## Activities and Awards

3x Supply Chain Case Competition Participant

## Internship and Practicum

"Supply Chain Intern at JR Automation  
Management Intern at Dayton Freight  
Purchasing Intern at EBW Electronics  
Project Management Intern at Cascade Engineering"

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is becoming the president of SSCMA.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be working as the Supply Chain Project Coordinator at Cascade Engineering



# Marina McMahon

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## Senior Project

### *Caffeine Supplementation and its Effects on Cognition, Mood State, and Physical Performance*

This project was designed to explore the cognitive and mood benefits of caffeine in conjunction with physical activity. Clinical trials were conducted where participants were given caffeine or a placebo and evaluated on their mood state and cognitive ability at times before and after exercise.

## Research and Presentations

-Effects of Nitric Oxide boosting supplementation on clearance of Lactate after strength training to failure.

## Activities and Awards

- GV award for excellence
- Dean's list for several semesters
- Participation in GVSU Strength Club

## Study Abroad

Fellowship in Genoa, Italy- Shadowed doctors of many different specialties in Genoa's main hospital. Gained experience with foreign culture and healthcare policies, while learning new medical terminology and procedures. Majority of time was spent within the cardiology unit, specifically in surgery and the catheterization lab!

## Internship and Practicum

Research internship with Dr. Matthew Feedback, movement science professor. Dove deeper into research on caffeine and its effects on mental state and cognitive function.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Acceptance into my Doctor's in Italy Fellowship. I was able to experience so many new medical specialties and procedures and spend a lot of time learning about cardiology. This experience was incredible, and I am proud to have been a part of it!

## Plans after Graduation

Attend graduate school at an accredited Cardiovascular Perfusion Program and become a licensed perfusionist!





# Casey Miller

**Major:** *Psychology*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

*Study Aboard substitute- United Kingdom: Communications*

Studied Abroad in London for a month and traveled to Dublin, Amsterdam, and traveled around Scotland.

## Leadership Activities

I held an ecouncil position in my sorority.

## Activities and Awards

Dean's list every semester

## Study Abroad

United Kingdom: Communications

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Graduating

## Plans after Graduation

Hoping to begin a career in HR.



# Faith Miller

**Major:** *Marketing and Management*

## Senior Project

### *Gen Z Preferences are Changing the Alcohol Industry*

This project looks at Gen Z consumer behavior and alcohol preferences, and how it is affecting the alcohol industry. There is a focus on the spirit industry, specifically moonshine.

## Research and Presentations

Competed in the PMI Case Competition in April 2023

## Leadership Activities

Eboard member and small group leader of the GVSU Belly Dance Club.

## Activities and Awards

Member of GVSU Belly Dance Club

## Internship and Practicum

Non-Stock Internship at Gordon Food Service from May 2023-Present

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Meeting my closest friends

## Plans after Graduation

Start at Gordon Food Service as a full-time Non-Stock analyst.



# Samantha Miller

**Major:** *Electrical Engineering*

## Senior Project

### *Magna Mirrors Lightbox 2.0*

My project is confidential so I can't share a lot of information on it. Essentially a tester for electrochromic cells in car mirrors.

## Leadership Activities

Senior Project Captain

## Internship and Practicum

Helped create masks for frontline healthcare workers during COVID through General Motors. I also worked as an electrification intern at Visteon to assist their EV battery development. Lastly, I did 3 co-op rotations with Magna Mirrors as a product engineering co-op.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Meeting the most amazing people and securing full-time employment in October!

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to work as a Test and Integration Engineer for Northrop Grumman in Baltimore, Maryland.



# Jacquelyn Molloseau

**Major:** *Biology*

**Minor:** *French and Mathematical Statistics*

## Senior Project

### *Assessing the Role of Groundwater in Road Salt Pollution of Urban Lakes*

This study aimed to determine if groundwater in a residential lake system is contributing to road salt pollution dispersal across three lakes in the area. After sampling groundwater, it was determined that the system is saturated with salt and groundwater may be acting as a source to the lakes.

## Research and Presentations

- Presented twice at Student Scholars Day
- Selected as GVSU student speaker for WMRUGS conference
- Kindschi Fellow fall 2022
- Published in Journal of Freshwater Ecology

## Activities and Awards

- General Chemistry Award
- Dean's list all semesters
- Excellence in a Discipline: Biology
- Member of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences club

## Internship and Practicum

Research intern at Annis water Resources Institute for three summers (2021-2023)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was being published as first author in the Journal of Freshwater Ecology on research that I conducted at the Annis Water Resources Institute.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be taking a gap year, during which I will be working on lake sturgeon at the Black River Streamside Rearing Facility, before pursuing a PhD in aquatic ecology.





# Kelly Morgan

**Major:** *Art History*

**Minor:** *Classics*

## **Senior Project**

***Study Abroad: Stobi Roman Pottery and Glass Conservation***

I traveled to North Macedonia for a period of several weeks to learn the art of conserving ancient Roman vessels made of ceramic and glass.

## **Research and Presentations**

I created and displayed a collaborative poster at Student Scholars Day with the rest of my class in Research Methods in Classics

## **Leadership Activities**

I was the vice president of a queer-inclusive creative writing club called In The Margins

## **Activities and Awards**

I won the award for Excellence in a Discipline for Art History.

## **Study Abroad**

I studied abroad in North Macedonia during the summer of 2023.

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

Winning the Excellence in a Discipline award.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to take a year off to gain practical experience and then continue to pursue a career in art conservation.



# Lauren Munley

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## **Senior Project**

*Studied abroad in Spain*

## **Leadership Activities**

Campus ministry leadership

## **Activities and Awards**

- Michigan State Competitive Scholarship
- Thompson Working Family Scholarship
- GV Award for Excellence
- John W. and Rose E Watson Foundation Scholarship

## **Study Abroad**

Studied abroad in Bilbao, Spain summer 2023 at Universidad de Deusto

## **Internship and Practicum**

Internship at Corewell Health in Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation

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

continuing to pursue my degree despite unsure what I wanted to do with my future and expanding my world view through travel, education, and relationship with others.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Accepted job at Corewell Health doing Pulmonary Rehab.



# Lauren Murray

**Major:** *Accounting*

**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.

## Activities and Awards

- Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy Fellow Candidate from 2022-2024
- Peer Mentor in Seidman Mentorship Program from 2022-2024
- Member of Beta Alpha Psi from 2022-2024

## Study Abroad

Studied abroad in Northern Ireland from late May 2023-mid June 2023

## Internship and Practicum

- Audit internship at Plante Moran in Auburn Hills, MI from January 2023-April 2023
- Assurance internship at Clayton & McKervey (Wipfli LLP) in Southfield, MI from June 2022-August 2022
- Accounting internship at Dee Cramer, Inc. in Holly, MI from June 2021-August 2021 and June 2020-August 2020

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Consistently pushing myself out of my comfort zone and making lifelong friends through my study abroad program.

## Plans after Graduation

Attending GVSU to complete MSA degree from May 2024-April 2025, then work at Plante Moran in Auburn Hills, MI as an audit staff member starting August 2025.



# Co Nguyen

**Major:** *Engineering*

## Senior Project

### *Electroplating of Additively Manufactured Polymers A Feasibility Study*

This thesis project aims to establish a methodical approach for electroplating additively manufactured polymers, ensuring consistent outcomes. By 3D printing tensile specimens with lattice structures, coating them in nickel, and testing them in a tensile machine, the goal is to optimize the performance of these parts.

## Research and Presentations

My other research and presentations include "Exploring the Relationship of ECG and Respiration due to Age-Related Changes" and a "Lattice Unit Cell Compression Study".

## Leadership Activities

I was a secretary for the American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) and was a Co-Event Coordinator for Asian Student Union.

## Activities and Awards

- 1st Place and Technical Award - ASME Oral Old Guard Competition March 2022
- 2nd Place - ASME Oral Old Guard Competition Finals Nov. 2022
- People's Choice Award at GVSU Project Day for Recycling Pinball Machine (2021) and Follow Me Cooler (2023)

## Internship and Practicum

I completed 3 semesters of Co-op experiences at Applied Medical Device Institute.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Writing a research paper and getting it accepted at SME's North American Manufacturing Research Conference (NAMRC).

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to stay in Grand Rapids and find a Mechanical or Biomedical Engineering position in design or product development.





# Taylor Niles

**Major:** *Finance and Marketing*

## Senior Project

*AI Influence on Personal Finance*

I spent the semester researching how Artificial Intelligence has changed the world of finance and has helped increase financial literacy.

## Research and Presentations

Disney and Pixar merger and acquisition valuation

## Leadership Activities

Seidman Mentorship Program

## Activities and Awards

Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization

## Internship and Practicum

Sales and Management Internship at Sherwin Williams

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Making so many great friends while working hard and doing well in school.

## Plans after Graduation

Undecided.



# Michelle Oberlin

**Major:** *Anthropology*

**Minor:** *Archaeology*

## **Research and Presentations**

3D Scanning and Mapping Heritage. Student Scholars Day 2023

## **Leadership Activities**

President and social media manager- Anthropology Club

## **Activities and Awards**

Lambda Alpha- Anthropology Honors Society

## **Internship and Practicum**

Disney College Program

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

My biggest accomplishment at grand valley was going to a Midwest Archaeological Conference to present our research.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Work as a traveling archaeologist.



# Maeghan O'Laughlin

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences and Pre-Physical Therapy*

## **Senior Project**

***MQU: A Travel Guide to Navigating International Study and Travel in Australia***

The central focus of this project was to create a study abroad guide for students from GVSU who are attending Macquarie University or another similar host university in Sydney, Australia. The travel guide was created to solve the lack of extensive resources available to aid in the study abroad process.

## **Study Abroad**

Studied Abroad in Sydney, Australia at Macquarie University

## **Plans after Graduation**

Plan to pursue a Doctorate of Physical Therapy at the University of Hartford in Connecticut.



# Luke Olson

**Major:** *Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering*

## Senior Project

***Trailer-Tow Mirror Force vs Displacement Tester***

A device that will measure the total amount of displacement of an automotive outside mirror as a result of discrete force value applications.

## Leadership Activities

- GVSU Laker Marching Band - Section Leader
- Kappa Kappa Psi - Parliamentarian

## Activities and Awards

- GVSU Laker Marching Band
- GVSU Club Bowling Team
- Kappa Kappa Psi
- Tau Beta Pi

## Internship and Practicum

Embedded Software Co-op at Magna Mirrors

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Performing the guitar solo for Free Bird at GV football games

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to pursue graduate school to study VLSI design and computing hardware to pursue a career in digital hardware design.





# Genevieve Palazzolo

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Spanish and Business General*

## Senior Project

### *Genevieve in Europe*

I created a blog which highlighted my experience studying abroad in Bilbao, Spain. This allowed me to share my highlights and lessons learned through my summer in Europe.

## Research and Presentations

Undergraduate student researcher in the department of Chemistry, Project titled: Biochemical Characterization of Class C <sup>2</sup>-lactamases in Carbapenem Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii.

## Leadership Activities

- Sisterhood Chair (Phi Sigma Sigma)
- President (Phi Sigma Sigma)
- Vice President (Order of Omega)
- President (Order of Omega)

## Activities and Awards

MSU CHM Pipeline Program, 7 Semester Dean's List, Award for Excellence Scholarship recipient, Presidential Scholarship recipient, I am Grand Valley award 2024, Top Undergraduate Student Poster (MECC).

## Study Abroad

Studied abroad in Bilbao, Spain in Summer 2022

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment was the connections and friends I made along the way and getting into grad school early!

## Plans after Graduation

Continuing my master's in public health at GVSU



# Abigail Palmiter

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

*The Underrepresentation of Minorities within Honors Colleges*

To delve into the unique experiences of minorities within the Honors college and compare them with those of non-Honors students, as well as with Honors programs nationwide. The aim is to uncover strategies for fostering diversity within the Honors college at GVSU.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Pre-PT Club President
- Overnights committee Honors Student Council
- Honors mentor
- Founding Vice President for Professional Society for Minorities in Honors
- Teaching assistant for HNR 201

## **Activities and Awards**

- GVSU Dean's List
- ImPacT Fund Scholarship recipient
- Allied Health Sciences group member

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

Having the chance to grow not just academically, but also personally, has been transformative. Through this journey, I've refined my leadership abilities and made lifelong friendships. These invaluable experiences have played a pivotal role in my biggest accomplishment which is being accepted into my desired graduate school program.

## **Plans after Graduation**

To attend the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Grand Valley State University.



# Sara Peltier

**Major:** *Studio Art*

## **Senior Project**

***Dine Well: An Interactive Guide to Dining in Grand Rapids***

A guidebook to strengthen readers' connections to their communities via food.

## **Leadership Activities**

Creative Director of the GVSU National Student Advertising Competition Team

## **Activities and Awards**

National Student Advertising Competition

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Marketing Intern at Nucraft Furniture
- Graphic Design Intern at PADNOS
- Graphic Design Intern at University Development
- Graphic Design Intern at Square One Design

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

Exhibiting my graphic design senior thesis project at the Illuminate BFA Exhibition.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to pursue a career in graphic design after graduation.



# Juliana Petrucci

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

**Minor:** *Biology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***COVID-19 Mental Health and Developmental Effects on Children and Adolescents***

A literary analysis on the developmental effects COVID-19 has had on children and adolescents, along with a short interview with psychologist Dr. Carolyn Daitch.

## **Research and Presentations**

A symptomatic review- Understanding the Relationship between Traumatic Brain Injury and Mental Illness

## **Leadership Activities**

Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority: VP of Community Relations, Director of Lifetime Engagement, Director of Chapter Culture, and Assistant VP of Philanthropy

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List: Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Winter 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Fall 2023

## **Internship and Practicum**

Patient care experience- Float Patient Care Technician at Ascension Novi Hospital and Physical Therapy Technician at Hulst Jepsen Physical Therapy

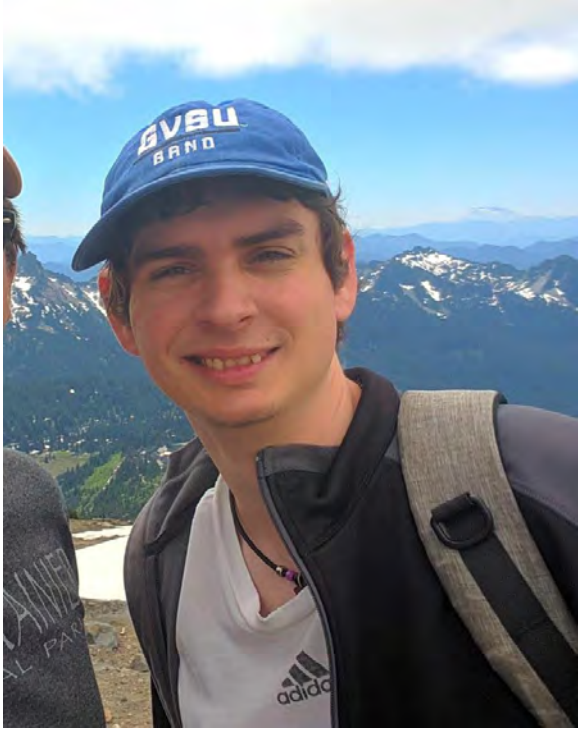
## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Fostering a passion for healthcare through hands-on patient care experiences, alongside active engagement in on-campus clubs and volunteer organizations.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attending PA school at the University of Detroit Mercy.





# Connor Piotrkowski

**Major:** *Music*

## **Senior Project**

*In Blue*

A large-scale arrangement of Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin for marching band.

## **Research and Presentations**

Senior recital April of 2023. Numerous performances with the GVSU Wind Symphony and Percussion Ensemble.

## **Activities and Awards**

Participated in the Laker Marching Band, G2 Percussion, and Northern Lights DBC. Member of the GVSU Percussion and Composition Studios.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Teaching experience with the Grand Haven High School Marching Band.

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

Finally finishing after too long.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Compose Music and potentially go to grad school in the future.



# Jordyn Plichta

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Psychology and Business General*

## Senior Project

### *Evidence-Based Womanhood*

This project is an Instagram page dedicated to educating young people on topics in women's health that I have found are often not taught well in schools or are simply misunderstood by the majority of people. My goal is to present this information in an artistic, engaging, and accessible way.

## Leadership Activities

I served as a teaching assistant for both the Honors class, Live. Learn. Lead., and an anatomy lab. I was also a chemistry and microbiology tutor in the Tutoring Center and an Anatomy Lab tutor. I also led my own women's Bible study through the campus ministry organization Laker Catholic.

## Activities and Awards

I received the Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction award this semester, and have received the GVSU Award for Excellence, GVSU Faculty Scholarship, and Deans List all semesters throughout undergrad.

## Internship and Practicum

To gain patient care experience, I have worked as a residential psychiatric technician at Pine Rest, as well as a medication technician at American House Senior Living. For more clinical experience, I currently work as a medical scribe in the Butterworth adult & pediatric emergency departments.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

One of my greatest accomplishments was serving as a residential psychiatric technician for 2 years, assisting adults with disabilities with their daily & medical care. While challenging in several ways, it allowed me to grow in empathy, patience & respect for the human person & realize my passion for healthcare.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduating, I plan to take a gap year to apply to physician assistant (PA) programs. I will also work full-time as an Associate Medical Scribe in primary care, and plan to volunteer in the Grand Rapids community more regularly. I hope to one day become a primary care PA.



# Olivia Ploucha

**Major:** *Accounting*

**Minor:** *International Business*

## Senior Project

### *The Evolution of Accounting Technology Throughout History*

Throughout my senior project, I examined the ways that technology has progressed in the accounting field. I also focused on the ways that technology can grow in the accounting field in the future.

## Leadership Activities

I have been on the Women in Business Executive Board for 3 years.

## Activities and Awards

I participated in Beta Alpha Psi, Women in Business, and Campus Ministry. I was chosen for many scholarships throughout my time at the university.

## Internship and Practicum

I had an internship at Deloitte in Detroit during the summer of 2023.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was getting accounting scholarships. Another accomplishment was being inducted into Beta Alpha Psi.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to work at Deloitte in Detroit after graduation to start my accounting career.



# Shannon Richardson

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

### *The Business Realm of the Dental Profession*

My senior project explored the business aspect of the dental profession. Encompassing everything from the daily life of a dentist to the different types of practices a dentist may choose to pursue (private practice, partnership, corporate setups, etc.).

## Leadership Activities

- President of the Pre-Dental Club
- Vice President of WIMS
- Member of MED
- Vida Volunteer Campus Coordinator

## Activities and Awards

I received the Dean's List Award for 5 semesters.

## Study Abroad

I coordinated and participated in medical and dental service-learning trips abroad to Costa Rica and Guatemala.

## Internship and Practicum

I participated in Detroit Mercy Dental's Summer Enrichment Program, where I lived in Detroit for a summer and participated in various Pre-Dental workshops at the school of dentistry.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU has been coordinating medical and dental volunteer trips abroad to Guatemala and Costa Rica.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be attending the University of Michigan School of Dentistry.





# Katie Rivard

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## **Senior Project**

### *Study Abroad Trip to Ireland*

In Ireland, I will meet with social workers and advocates for social policies there. While also learning about social work, I will be learning and experiencing Irish culture.

## **Research and Presentations**

I have researched the effects of caffeine on exercise performance, how fentanyl affects the brain, the stigma around ADHD, and female athlete triad syndrome.

## **Leadership Activities**

I have been on the executive board of Mu Epsilon Delta for 2 years.

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's list, Pre-OT club, Mu Epsilon Delta

## **Study Abroad**

Social work in Ireland

## **Internship and Practicum**

Completed 90 hours of fieldwork at Mary Free Bed and 300 hours of interning at Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding

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

Getting into graduate school at Grand Valley for Occupational Therapy!

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be attending Grand Valley's MSOT program this fall.



# Emily Roelant

**Major:** *Marketing*

**Minor:** *Digital Studies*

## Senior Project

***Dine Well: An Interactive Guide to Dining in Grand Rapids***

A guidebook to strengthen readers' connections within their communities via food.

## Activities and Awards

- 4-year Laker Scholarship recipient.
- Active member in Delight Ministries.

## Internship and Practicum

- Event Planning and Design Intern at Jen House Design
- Marketing Intern at TGW Logistics

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is how I pushed myself to overcome academic challenges. For example, retaking two classes to better understand the content and improve my grade.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will be working full time at TGW Logistics as an Event Marketing Specialist.



# Evynn Rohde

**Major:** *Hospitality Tourism Management*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

***HNR 201 Teaching Assistant***

I had the wonderful opportunity of serving as a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Kurt Ellenberger's section of HNR 201: Live Learn Lead.

## Leadership Activities

- Student Desk Supervisor
- Resident Assistant
- Camps & Conference Assistant
- Transitions Leader

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's List recognition
- "I am Grand Valley" award recipient
- Thompson Working Family Scholar
- Currently employed as an Adj. Operations Services Specialist for the GVSU Housing Dept.
- Member of the Facilities and Operations Committee for the GLACUHO Organization

## Internship and Practicum

Completed over 1000 documented internship hours as a Student Desk Supervisor over the course of three semesters.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment has been seeking out every opportunity for advancing my career and professional development. Although it meant dropping down to part-time student status, I was able to take on a full-time professional role for my senior year and enter the higher education workforce as an undergraduate student.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to continue working with the GVSU Housing Department full-time. I will also pursue my master's in business administration here at Grand Valley.



# Darcy Roper

**Major:** *Natural Resources & Envmt Management*

**Minor:** *Biology*

## Senior Project

### ***Bird Species Richness and Abundance as Indicators of Urbanization***

A comparison of species at urban, rural, and intermediate locations to determine the effects urbanization has on which species and how many species have adapted to human impacts.

## Research and Presentations

- Animal behavior analysis: jumping spider habitat preferences
- Field work to classify soil profiles
- Water quality assessment via macroinvertebrate sampling and other water measurements

## Leadership Activities

Lead guide at John Ball Zoo.

## Activities and Awards

- GVSU Rugby
- Soil and Water Conservation Society

## Study Abroad

South Africa,  
Eswatini

## Internship and Practicum

Lead guide at John Ball Zoo: practice in animal care and education

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Gaining knowledge in a variety of fields which will allow me to successfully pursue my passion of conservation work both locally and abroad.

## Plans after Graduation

Move out west and work in National Parks or wilderness, focusing on endangered species advocacy, habitat restoration, and wildlife conservation.





# Sarah Roseman

**Major:** *Biology*

## **Senior Project**

*Exploring the Impact of the Oil and Gas Industry on Wildlife in the Great Lakes*

This project is a literature review that focuses on the harmful effects the oil and gas industry have on local wildlife. It focuses on habitat fragmentation, sensory pollution, accidental spills, and potential mitigation efforts.

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List

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

My greatest accomplishment is my personal and academic growth.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I have accepted a summer job with the Bureau of Reclamation as a biological science aid. I also look forward to beginning my master's in biology this fall.



# Angela Ross-Halfacre

**Major:** *Exercise Science and Pre-Professional Preparation*

## **Senior Project**

*The Effects of L-glutamine on Muscle Recovery, Strength, and Digestive System Function*

My research paper gives a deep background on the science of glutamine in the human body in several dipeptide forms. It discusses in depth the effects on the human body when paired with aerobic and anaerobic bouts of exercise. It also discusses how glutamine effects the digestive system.

## **Leadership Activities**

Joined the Dance Marathon Club here at GVSU for a semester!

## **Internship and Practicum**

I did my exercise science fieldwork at MaryFree Bed Rehabilitation on the pediatric unit in the summer of 2023.

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

Joining the Honors College. I took on more credits than I anticipated my last year of my undergraduate career. It helped me grow as a student and gave me better time management abilities.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Finish my last two pre-recs for PA school and apply next cycle!



# Rachel Rossini

**Major:** *Music and Film and Video*

## Senior Project

### *Support Local History Museums*

I volunteered at The Plymouth Historical Museum; a local museum run by volunteers. I helped to create the displays for the rotating exhibits and gave tours teaching visitors about our local history. Most volunteers are elderly and are always looking for new blood to preserve it for future generations.

## Research and Presentations

Senior Voice Recital - A performance that showcases what I learned over my years studying Musical Theater and Opera.

Giovanna Rossini - A new YouTube channel about History and Opera Music.

## Leadership Activities

I have produced several short film projects including the Spanish Language Film Mi

## Activities and Awards

Linn Maxwell Keller Professional Vocalist Award - The money from this helped me to Study abroad in Austria.

## Study Abroad

Herbert First School of Music Summer in Salzburg Austria

## Internship and Practicum

I have produced several short films including the Spanish Language Film 'Mictlan' and 'No Loitering, Please'. As well as a promotional video for the charity West Michigan Trails.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I produced a short film titled, 'No Loitering, Please'. It is intended to raise awareness and compassion for those who are homeless. We then donated our profits to the charity 'Bagged Lunch Crew'.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to work at a recording studio as an audio mixer. In addition to this, I will continue working on my YouTube channel, producing independent film projects, and performing music wherever I can. In a few years, I will continue studying to earn a master's degree in Vocal Performance.



# Jillian Roux

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Exploring Compensatory Mechanisms Against ACEs***

Adverse Childhood Experiences are more prevalent than led to believe yet their impacts are highly unstudied. For my Senior Project, I created a reflective podcast discussing ACEs and their incidence, as well as exploring my experiences with compensatory mechanisms against ACEs.

## **Research and Presentations**

The Effects of Balance Training on ACL Injury Prevention in Female Adolescent Athletes  
Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Etiology, Diagnostics, and Treatments: A Review  
Solution Hypothesis for the Rural Ghana Water Crisis - DTSPI Project

## **Leadership Activities**

- FHMC Honors Mentor for 3 years
- Served as the Chapter President of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity
- BMS 309 Teaching Assistant

## **Activities and Awards**

- Dean's List
- Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction Award 2024
- "I am GV" Award
- APO John Mack Scholarship

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

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been the opportunities I have taken to advance my education, leadership abilities, and making meaningful connections with my peers and Professors.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I will be applying to Physician Assistant school to obtain my master's degree. During this time, I will continue to work as a Nursing Technician at Butterworth Hospital and volunteer with MomsBloom.





# Aubrey Rupert

**Major:** *Education*

**Minor:** *Early Childhood Education - Teaching*

## **Senior Project**

### ***HNR 201 TA***

During the Winter 2023 semester I was a TA for the HNR 201 class with Roger Giles. As a TA I was in charge of facilitating small group and whole class discussions, attending co-curricular events with students outside of class, and responding to journal entries throughout the semester!

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Winter 2022: Early Childhood Education Practicum at Appletree and Gilden Woods Childcare center ages 0-2
- Spring 2023: Special Education Practicum at Alger Head Start Preschool
- Fall 2023 Semester: Teacher Apprenticeship at Vanderbilt Charter Academy in a 3rd grade classroom
- Winter 2024: Teacher Internship at Woodbridge Elementary School in a kindergarten classroom

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

I consider my greatest accomplishment at GVSU to be learning how to create a healthy work life balance that I will bring with me into my career!

## **Plans after Graduation**

To foster a love for learning in young students as an Early Childhood Educator!



# Elizabeth Schanz

**Major:** *Dance and Multimedia Journalism*

**Minor:** *History*

## Senior Project

*In the summer of 2023, I studied abroad in Florence, Italy which completed my senior project.*

I took a Magazine Editing and Publishing class at Florence University of the Arts. I wrote an article on Florence Dance Festival, highlighting the dance scene in Italy.

## Leadership Activities

- Editor in Chief (2023-2024), News Editor (winter 2023), and Arts and Entertainment Editor (fall 2022) for the Grand Valley Lanthorn
- Frederik Meijer Honors College Mentor (2021-2023).

## Activities and Awards

- Excellence in a Discipline for Multimedia Journalism
- Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Endowment for the Performing Arts Scholar and Grant Recipient
- GVSU Dance Program Scholarship
- Grand Valley Lanthorn Scholarship
- GVSU Award for Excellence

## Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Florence, Italy for the summer 2023 semester at Florence University of the Arts.

## Internship and Practicum

Intern at the Oakland County Times (2022-2024).

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I am proud of my dedication and leadership positions I had in the GVSU Dance Program and the Grand Valley Lanthorn. Additionally, my greatest accomplishment at GVSU was completing my double major in Multimedia Journalism and Dance with a minor in History in four years.

## Plans after Graduation

I accepted a full-time summer internship as the Business Reporting Intern at Crain's Detroit Business. I plan to continue dancing and teaching within the Detroit area.



# Madelyn Scheese

**Major:** *Accounting and Economics*

## Senior Project

### *Study Abroad Experience in Ireland*

Through the program Global Experiences, I interned at an accounting firm in Dublin, Ireland, in the Fall of 2023. I took courses there and explored Europe while getting professional work experience in accounting.

## Leadership Activities

Honors 201 Teaching Assistant

## Activities and Awards

- Dean's List Recipient all semesters
- Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in Accounting: Awarded to the top student from each academic major
- Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key: Highest cumulative academic average in business administration or economics

## Study Abroad

Internship abroad in Dublin, Ireland, Fall of 2023 semester.

## Internship and Practicum

- FM Accountants & Business Advisors - Intern (Dublin, Ireland, 2023)
- PwC - International Tax Services Intern (Detroit, MI, 2023)
- (BorgWarner - Internal Audit Intern (Auburn Hills, MI, 2022-2023)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout all semesters, stepping out of my comfort zone, and interning abroad for a semester.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will start my M.B.A. at Wayne State University and study for my CPA exams. Beginning in the Summer of 2025, I will start my career as an associate in International Tax with PricewaterhouseCoopers in their Detroit office.



# Jessica Schick

**Major:** *Psychology*

## Senior Project

### *Unsinkable Recipes: A Titanic Cookbook*

My project is a collection of authentic historical recipes adapted for the modern kitchen. Included in the book are sketches of some of the dishes, facts about the Titanic and its passengers, and artwork and photographs of the ship.

## Research and Presentations

Recycling Education with Kids' Food Basket - Sustainability Showcase W22

## Leadership Activities

- Phi Sigma Sigma: Junior Panhellenic council representative and philanthropy committee member (F21), Sunshine and Spirit Chairman (2022), Academic Excellence Chairman (2023)
- Honors College Mentor (2022-2023)

## Activities and Awards

- Order of Omega
- Psi Chi
- Psychology Club
- Campus Ministry
- Dean's List (F21, W22, F22, W23, F23)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Graduating a year early while being involved in leadership roles and maintaining a high GPA.

## Plans after Graduation

I am hoping to pursue a master's in social work and go on to work with at-risk children.





# Carmen Schot

**Major:** *Legal Studies*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

### *Study Abroad*

1 month trip around the southwestern United States studying geology and water along with its historical affects.

## Activities and Awards

- Legal Society
- Dean's list

## Study Abroad

Study away with honors for 1 month through the southwestern United States

## Internship and Practicum

Internship with Lenawee Now

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Dean's list every semester.

## Plans after Graduation

Law School.



# Zoe Schultz

**Major:** *Psychology and Criminal Justice*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## **Senior Project**

*Study Abroad .*

## **Research and Presentations**

Capacity to Parent Research Lab which analyzed the factors of child maltreatment that predict removal or termination of parental rights. Conducted interviews with campus police officers to identify their training and perspectives on their role in dealing with student mental health issues through the Law Enforcement Officials Mental HealthAttitudes Lab.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Psi Chi International Honors Society, current President of GVSU Chapter
- Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honors Society, served as Vice President of GVSU Chapter
- Served as an Honors Student Council Member and have been an Honors Mentor for three years
- Previous member of the Vice Provost Student Advisory Board

## **Activities and Awards**

- Provost Award for Excellence-in-a-Discipline Recipient for Psychology
- Robert Hendersen Leadership Award in Psychology Recipient
- I am Grand Valley Award Recipient
- Intramural Sports Supervisor and Participant

## **Study Abroad**

I studied abroad for a semester at the Universidad del País Vasco in Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain. While there, I gained an in-depth understanding of cultural variations and greatly improved my Spanish language abilities. I also volunteered with a local non-profit, La Fundación Haurralde, tutoring underprivileged children.

## **Internship and Practicum**

I interned at the Blue Island Police Department for 156 hours. During this time, I completed patrol, investigative, and records division tasks and responsibilities. I also served as the primary Spanish translator for any calls for service that included Latinx residents.

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

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been all of the connections, both with students and faculty, that I have grown during my time here. This support system paved the way for the other amazing opportunities I was involved in while here.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I will be attending Saint Louis University as a PhD student in their clinical psychology program. While growing my clinical expertise, I will also continue exploring my research interests under the supervision of Dr. Madeline Stenersen in the Community Health Equity and Justice Lab.



# Levi Sikkema

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

*Organic Chemistry Worksheets for the Chemistry Success Center*

I am creating several resources for students to use in the Chemistry Success Center that give them extra help with difficult organic chemistry topics. These resources are targeted at certain misconceptions students possess.

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

Maintaining my grades and getting good DAT scores while remaining involved in campus clubs.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I am heading to the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in dentistry.



# Megan Singer

**Major:** *Behavioral Neuroscience and Communication Science & Disorders*

## Senior Project

### *An Exploration of Misophonia in the Literature*

Misophonia is a disorder that elicits an extreme negative reaction to specific auditory and visual stimuli. The comprehensive review synthesizes current research on misophonia, exploring underlying mechanisms, diagnostic methodologies, comorbidities, and treatments. By combining valuable insights, the review aims to enhance awareness and understanding of this often-overlooked disorder.

## Research and Presentations

- "Assessment of Undergraduate Peer Mentor Program Focused on Advising and Student Success" -- Presented at the Region 5/6 National Academic Advising Association Conference in Milwaukee, WI and GVSU's Student Scholars Day
- "Neurobehavioral Effects of Environmental Contaminants on Zebra Fish"

## Leadership Activities

- Psych Friends Peer Mentor
- Tutored Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology classes
- Freshman Orientation Leader
- Visitor Information Personnel

## Activities and Awards

- Excellence in a Discipline Award in Behavioral Neuroscience
- Psychology Student of Distinction Award
- GVSU Academic Conference Fund Grant Recipient (2024)
- GVSU Dean's List (2020-2023)
- GVSU Non-Competitive Club Golf Team
- Member of National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association

## Study Abroad

Studied at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy, Winter Semester 2022

## Internship and Practicum

Psych Friends Practicum

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

During my time at Grand Valley, my greatest accomplishment was immersing myself in all that GVSU's campus has to offer and connecting with amazing friends along the way. Despite encountering many obstacles, my commitment to pursuing my passion in audiology and neuroscience, specifically in the realm of misophonia, remained unwavering.

## Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will be applying to graduate schools and (hopefully) traveling! I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience to further my contribution to the research on misophonia.





# Briana Skerpan

**Major:** *Studio Art*

**Minor:** *Middle East Studies*

## **Senior Project**

***Fearsome Critters of the Lumberwoods: A very Beastly Coloring Book***

This 40-page coloring book contains 18 hand-drawn illustrations and 15 whimsical poems for monster enthusiasts of all ages, delving into the strange, silly, and frightening creatures of lumberjack folklore.

## **Leadership Activities**

SIGIL (Student Interest Group for Illustrators) Eboard: Fall 2022-Winter 2024

## **Activities and Awards**

- SIGIL Vice President (Fall 2022-Winter 2023)
- SIGIL President (Fall 2023-Winter 2024)

## **Internship and Practicum**

Illustration Internship at Blockhead City (Winter 2024)

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

Either self-publishing my first coloring book or helping to put together GVSU's first Laker Con campus comics convention.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I will be completing some additional graphic design training at Madison Area Technical College while pursuing illustration internships and freelance contracts. After completing this training, I plan to find work in the print and pre-press industry while continuing to build my freelance career..



# Logan Sole

**Major:** *Statistics*

**Minor:** *History*

## **Senior Project**

*An investigation into Google's algorithm, and Holocaust Denial*

Created an experiment based off a recent UNESCO study, to programmatically evaluate how Google could influence the spread of Holocaust Denial misinformation online.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Vice President of GVSU Men's Club Volleyball
- RA

## **Activities and Awards**

- DataFest Best Visualization 2023 and Judges' Choice 2024
- Men's Club Volleyball

## **Internship and Practicum**

Data science internship at OneMagnify

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

Being involved in Grand Valley community by being VP of Men's Club Volleyball, an RA, and an active part of the Statistics department in and out of classes.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Going and finding a job as a Data Scientist!



# Samuel Sommerdyke

**Major:** *Marketing*

## **Senior Project**

*The Marketing of Dangerous Products to Adolescents*

This paper examines the ethical concerns and potential consequences of marketing dangerous products to adolescents.

## **Research and Presentations**

- Market Research/ Presentation for Tea Time Cafe.
- Marketing Analysis Paper for Oakley.
- Advertising Analysis Presentation of Disney.

## **Leadership Activities**

- Grand Valley State University Varsity Rowing Team Member
- Alumni Relations Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor and Writer
- GVSU Economics Club Member

## **Activities and Awards**

- Dean's List

## **Study Abroad**

Completed USC's School of Cinematic Arts Filmmaking Intensive and Inside the Business of the Film Industry Program  
Los Angeles, California

## **Internship and Practicum**

- LuxFleurs Marketing Associate
- Gold NBA G-League Basketball: Marketing Associate
- Bowery Boatworks: Marketing Consultant
- C.A. Carlin: Retail Marketing Associate
- Katt Medical Products: Sales Representative

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

Learning how to cook the perfect bowl of ramen noodles and winning the intramural flag football championship.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Pursuing a marketing and content creation career. Heading to Vietnam for a medical supply company this summer to learn the ropes, live the culture, and level up my ramen expertise.



# Carly Sowirka

**Major:** *Environ and Sustain Studies & Management*

## **Leadership Activities**

- Financial Officer of the Women's Water Polo Club

## **Activities and Awards**

- Member of Phi Kappa Phi
- Member of Beta Gamma Sigma

## **Study Abroad and Internship**

- Completed an internship abroad in Japan during the summer of 2023
- Worked for a travel company to help them implement sustainable travel initiatives

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be starting law school in the fall.





# Sidney Sparks

**Major:** *Social Work*

## Senior Project

### *Iceland Study Abroad Reflection*

For my Senior Project, I wrote a reflection on my study abroad experience in Iceland. I discussed the ways in which my Honors education aided my growth and development on the trip.

## Research and Presentations

The Power of Medicinal Plants in Aiding Vaping Cessation

## Leadership Activities

In January of 2023, I traveled with Professor Eick and Professor Guikema to present at the Modern Language Arts Annual Conference in San Francisco, California.

## Activities and Awards

-Dean's List

## Study Abroad

In July 2023, I participated in GVSU Iceland: Geology in the Land of Fire and Ice.

## Internship and Practicum

I completed a yearlong internship at West Grand Neighborhood Organization.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was my study abroad experience. Professors Tari and Steve Mattox showed me the power of interdisciplinary education in action. These few weeks were life-changing and opened my eyes to alternative life paths I had never considered.

## Plans after Graduation

I have been accepted into the Advanced Standing Master of Social Work program here at Grand Valley. I will begin my graduate degree in the Spring/Summer 2024 semester.



# Bailey Strang

**Major:** *Biology*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

### *The Use of Livestock Guarding Dogs to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict*

An informational pamphlet targeted towards farmers in southern Africa, with information about using livestock guarding dogs to prevent livestock loss without using lethal methods on nearby endangered carnivores.

## Leadership Activities

- Co-president and co-founder of Yarn Arts Club
- President of Biology Club

## Activities and Awards

- John Ball Zoo Presidential Service Award.
- GVSU Dean's List.
- Animal Care Volunteer at John Ball Zoo
- Cat Care Volunteer at Crash's Landing
- Vet assistant at Animal Emergency Hospital of Grand Rapids
- GVSU Pre-vet Club General Member
- GVSU Biology Club Member
- GVSU Yarn Arts Club Co-president

## Study Abroad

Loop Abroad Big Cats at Selati program in South Africa.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is co-founding the Yarn Arts Club and creating a welcoming community for those who crochet and knit, as well as a welcoming space for those who want to learn.

## Plans after Graduation

My plan after graduation is to take a gap year to work and gain more experience before going to vet school.



# Abby Svec

**Major:** *Mathematics*

**Minor:** *Computer Science*

## Senior Project

***Southeast Asia and its Spirits: A Travel Guide***

This travel guide sheds light on the mythology and folklore of spirits and ghosts within Southeast Asia. It gives a cultural analysis of the country's history with spirits and prepares the reader for possible encounters during their travels through the countries Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, The Philippines, and Indonesia.

## Research and Presentations

Math Modeling - Movie Scene Analysis and Model

## Leadership Activities

- HNR 201 TA
- Tutor at the Grand Valley Tutoring and Reading Center
- SLA Facilitator

## Activities and Awards

- Pi Mu Epsilon
- Mathematics Honor's Society

## Internship and Practicum

Summer and Academic Year Intern at Gentex Corporation in IT Operations

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being Inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon

## Plans after Graduation

Continue working at Gentex





# Marie Topoloski

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Biology*

## **Senior Project**

***OSIRIS (Open Source Interactive Repository for Imaging of the Skeleton)***

This project is an open source, 3D model viewer that contains scans of real human bones from GVSU's cadaver lab. The goal of this website is to create a study tool for future students learning anatomy.

## **Research and Presentations**

I participated in research at Dr. Chris Pearl's endocrinology laboratory. There, I helped study the effects of dietary phytoestrogens on the male reproductive system. This research was presented at Grand Valley's Student Scholars Day and the Michigan Alliance for Reproduction Technologies and Sciences conference.

## **Leadership Activities**

I served as a teaching assistant in the Frederik Meijer Honors College, and I also volunteer at various food banks in Southeast Michigan, including Gleaner's Community Food Bank and Fish and Loaves Fresh Market.

## **Activities and Awards**

- BMS Graduate of Distinction
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
- Grand Valley Award for Excellence
- Grand Valley Faculty Scholarship

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

Being identified as one of the Biomedical Sciences Department's Graduates of Distinction was a huge honor, and I believe it highlights the relationships I was able to cultivate with various BMS faculty here at GV.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Following graduation, I plan to take a gap year where I will apply to dental schools and continue volunteering in Southeast Michigan.





# Zach Veenstra

**Major:** *Applied Computer Science & Computer Science*

## **Senior Project**

***Implementing 3D Augmented Reality Feature Using RealityKit and ARKit***

Implemented an augmented reality (AR) feature for the Art At GVSU app on iOS. Used real-world object recognition to recognize a statue of Mathias J. Alten and superimpose a digital animation so it appears as if the statue is talking to the viewer.

## **Activities and Awards**

- Ultimate Frisbee Club
- Dean's List every semester
- Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society

## **Study Abroad**

Studied machine learning in Switzerland.

## **Internship and Practicum**

iOS Software Engineer Intern at Alarm.com in Washington D.C.

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

Completed a combined master's degree program in four years.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Plans to become an iOS Software Engineer.



# Alex Verheek

**Major:** *Environ and Sustain Studies*

## Senior Project

### *A Comparative Analysis of Economic and Social Change in Redeveloping Grand Rapids Neighborhoods*

This project seeks to examine the ways in which select Grand Rapids neighborhoods have changed since 1970. Primarily using census data, economic and social indicators are tracked over this time period to analyze and compare the change in character in each neighborhood over this time span.

## Research and Presentations

- Assessment of Environmental Health Risks in Grand Rapids, MI Neighborhoods using GIS Software - GPY 407
- Planning Children's Sensory Garden for Child Enrichment Center, Grand Valley State University - ENS 401
- MODIS FPAR and LAI Analysis - GPY 470
- Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler MSA Analysis - GPY 324

## Activities and Awards

-Dean's List

## Study Abroad

Semester in Detroit – 2022

## Internship and Practicum

Intern at Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition in Detroit, Michigan

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Completing my Senior Project

## Plans after Graduation

Seek gainful employment

# Zane Walters

**Major:** *Cell & Molecular Biology*

## Senior Project

*Effects of microRNA mimics on alpha-synuclein gene expression in Parkinson-like cell culture*

Parkinson's disease (PD) progression is associated with increased levels of alpha-synuclein (aSyn). Employing PD-like cell culture, we sought to reduce aSyn accumulation using two microRNA mimics known to decrease aSyn expression. We found that these mimics increased expression rather than decreasing it.

## Research and Presentations

I presented my work on PD at the Art and Science of Aging Conference, Student Scholars Day twice, at WMRUGS, and at the annual Society for Neuroscience conference. I later presented my work in amplicon sequencing in SARS-CoV-2 wastewater samples at WMRUGS and the Go With the Flow conference.



## Leadership Activities

I have served on the executive boards of the Sour Grapes satirical writing club and the undergraduate Cell and Molecular Biology club. Additionally, I have also served as the president of the Professional Association of Graduate Scientists.

## Activities and Awards

I have maintained my position on the Dean's List since my freshman year.

## Internship and Practicum

My internship was with the Molecular Monitoring laboratory. This lab performs wastewater monitoring for SARS-CoV-2. While I worked on all portions of the process, I specialized in variant identification through amplicon sequencing.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I have completed both my bachelor's and master's degree in a total of four years.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to pursue a career in the pharmaceuticals / biotechnology fields.



# Connor Wardrop

**Major:** *Psychology & Spanish*

**Minor:** *Geospatial Technology & Criminal Justice*

## **Senior Project**

***Tracking Traffickers: Investigating the Relationship Between Human Trafficking and Ports of Entry***

This project uses data collected by the FBI combined with ESRI's Business Analyst software to map cases of human trafficking throughout the US and determine if hotspots of human trafficking are near international ports of entry throughout the United States.

## **Activities and Awards**

- Honors Outstanding Senior Project Award (2023)
- Dean's List 4 times

## **Internship and Practicum**

Summer internship at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) during the summer of 2023.

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

Finishing with over a 3.4 GPA while working on average 24hrs per week.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to be a federal criminal investigator and currently have applications active with a handful of agencies.





# RheaAnn Weber

**Major:** *Social Work*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## **Senior Project**

***Panhellenic Inclusion Model for Grand Valley State University Panhellenic Sorority Primary Recruitment***

A model of a disability inclusive sorority recruitment process for Grand Valley's Panhellenic sororities.

## **Leadership Activities**

Alpha Sigma Tau: Vice President of Organization Development and Director of Ritual

## **Activities and Awards**

- Phi Alpha Honors Society
- Order of Omega Honors Society
- Dean's List
- I am Grand Valley Award (Spring 2023)

## **Internship and Practicum**

Bachelor of Social Work Field Education at Grandville Public Schools

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

Graduating in 3 years and getting into the top MSW program in the US!

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be attending the University of Michigan Advanced Standing Master of Social Work program on the child and family welfare track starting in the fall of 2025. After I receive my MSW, I plan on pursuing a career in post-secondary special education.



# Samuel Wieneke

**Major:** *Mechanical Engineering*

**Minor:** *Spanish & Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Test Fuel and Blowout Stand***

Worked with Woodward INC and 5 other mechanical engineers to redesign their test fuel and blowout stands for aerospace fuel parts. My specific responsibilities involved programming the machine with a PLC and designing all of the electrical schematics.

## **Leadership Activities**

Vice President of the GVSU Club Golf Team

## **Activities and Awards**

Club Golf

## **Study Abroad**

Due to my study abroad in Spain being canceled due to COVID, I participated in an online study abroad for 6 weeks in the Netherlands.

## **Internship and Practicum**

The engineering program at GVSU includes a co-op program where participants complete three semesters working at a company full-time. For my three co-op semesters, I worked at DLN Integrated Systems INC in Byron Center. During the three different semesters, I worked as a mechanical engineer, robotics engineer, and controls engineer.

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

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is majoring in Mechanical Engineering with minors in Mathematics and Spanish and being a part of the honors college.

## **Plans after Graduation**

After graduation, I plan to work at DLN Integrated Systems INC as a controls engineer.



# Tanner Wooden

**Major:** *Accounting*

## **Senior Project**

*The effect of mentorship on the college experience.*

This project explores the hot topic of mentorship, and whether or not it has a measurable impact on the college experience and the pursuit of a career thereafter.

## **Leadership Activities**

Group Mentor at the Seidman Mentorship Program

## **Internship and Practicum**

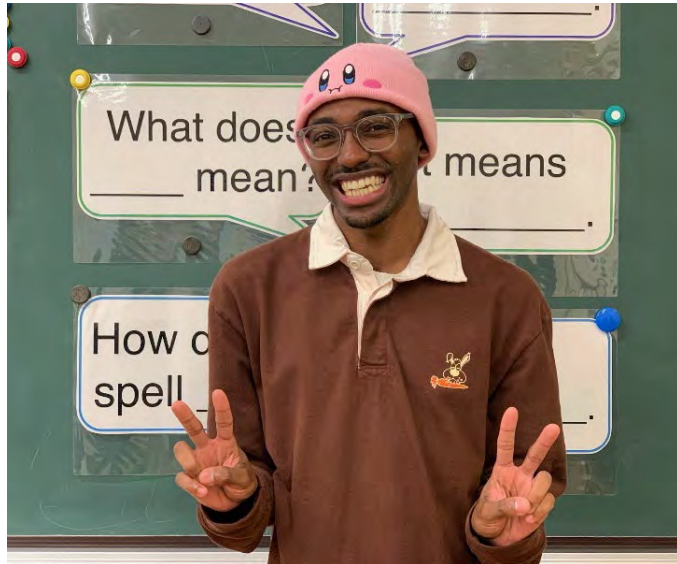
- 2 tax internships at Andrews Hooper Pavlik
- Audit internship at Gabridge & Company

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

The internships

## **Plans after Graduation**

Receive CPA certification



# Kobe Wright

**Major:** *Film and Video*

## **Senior Project**

*Substituted with Japan Study Abroad - Japan Center for Michigan Universities (Sept 4 - Dec 16, 2023)*

Last semester, I studied abroad in Hikone, Japan. Living as a student abroad provided opportunities for me to improve my language proficiency through an intensive Level 3 program, apply my studies to my daily interactions in society, and deepen my connection to Japan through the tastes, smells, sights, and memories.

## **Research and Presentations**

IIE Freeman Asia Service Project - Volunteered at the Study Abroad Fair (Jan 25) and presented slideshow on Signature Saturday (Feb 3)

Service Project Proposal

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gFauqSsjgKEigYcwyJjVV\\_GNgG\\_MWAaGOQM54iJHAXM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gFauqSsjgKEigYcwyJjVV_GNgG_MWAaGOQM54iJHAXM/edit?usp=sharing)

## **Leadership Activities**

GVSU Japanese Cultural Association - Former Vice President (Joined Apr. 8, 2021)

## **Activities and Awards**

Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation Scholarship, IIE Freeman Asia Scholarship, Mark A. Murray Scholarship Finalist, Thompson Scholar

## **Study Abroad**

Japan Study Abroad - Japan Center for Michigan Universities (Sept 4 - Dec 16, 2023)

## **Internship and Practicum**

Michael Lynn Animation Studio - Illustration Intern (Aug 2022 - Feb 2023)

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

Completed a full semester abroad in Japan, gained significant global awareness, and became more involved in my community at home through volunteering at post-study abroad events and connecting with students at GVSU.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Designing stickers and posters for the Padnos International Center, networking to find work at animation studios, and most of all, developing my art portfolio and brand (KobeKartoons).





# Makenna Wynn

**Major:** *International Relations*

**Minor:** *History*

## **Senior Project**

***Study Abroad in Northern Ireland***

Over the course of three weeks, I studied abroad all throughout Northern Ireland and Dublin.

## **Activities and Awards**

- Students Demand Action
- Lakers Go Abroad Scholarship

## **Study Abroad**

PSY 386: The Psychology of Peace, Conflict, and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland

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

Studying abroad in Northern Ireland and participating the Midwest Model European Union simulation

## **Plans after Graduation**

Attending graduate school beginning in 2025.



# Reece Zeller

**Major:** *Music & Education*

## **Senior Project**

### *The Importance of Composer Diversity*

In the music world, it is very easy to teach and learn Western music. Typically, this ends up being music written by white males in the field. I explored the benefits of expanding the scope of composer diversity and their takes on Western music.

## **Leadership Activities**

Section Leader of the GVSU Laker Marching Band (Fall 2020 and Fall 2021)

## **Activities and Awards**

Various Tuba Quartets (Fall 2019-Winter 2023)

## **Internship and Practicum**

- Low Brass Technician for White Cloud Marching Band, Allendale Marching Band and Mona Shores Marching Band (2021 and 2023)
- Muskegon Big Red Marching Band Percussion Technician (2022)
- Teacher Apprenticeship at Oakridge Lower and Upper Elementary (Fall 2023)
- Student Teacher/Percussion Technician at Kent City High School and Middle School (Winter 2024)

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

My greatest accomplishment was creating a Christmas event with my tuba quartet where we arranged classic Christmas music and put a twist on them. It was a lot of fun and it became our signature event.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to either become an assistant director or an elementary music teacher right out of college, with the future goal of being a full Music Director for a district.



# Sydney Zimmerman

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Biology and Spanish*

## **Senior Project**

*Studied abroad.*

## **Research and Presentations**

I have worked on multiple research projects under Dr. Eric Ramsson. We use an electrochemical technique to study the effects of different chemicals (melatonin, glucose, pesticides, and CBD) on the dopamine pathway. Issues in this pathway are directly linked with parkinsons, stroke, and other neurological diseases.

## **Leadership Activities**

I am the captain of the GVSU Women's Ultimate Frisbee team for the last two years.

## **Activities and Awards**

- Graduate of Distinction Award
- GV Award for Excellence
- GV Faculty Scholarship"

## **Study Abroad**

I studied abroad in Seville, Spain in Summer 2023 for 6 weeks. I studied Spanish while I was there.

## **Internship and Practicum**

In summer of 2022, I did the Ann Arbor Sparks Internship. I worked with a PhD student at MSU to complete experiments for her thesis. It ended with a publication: Developmental exposure to the Parkinsons disease-associated organochlorine pesticide dieldrin alters dopamine neurotransmission in  $\pm$ -synuclein pre-formed fibril (PFF)-injected mice.

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

My name is on a paper that was published in the toxicology journal. The paper made the cover of the journal in November of 2023!

## **Plans after Graduation**

I am pursuing my master's in biomedical science on the thesis track at GVSU. Afterwards, I plan to pursue a PhD.