

# Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Recognition Luncheon

Friday, October 18, 2013 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Alumni House and Visitor Center

Welcome Frederick J. Antczak
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Luncheon

Recognition of Honorees Shaily Menon
Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

# **Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Program**

The Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Program provides a venue for departments to invite outstanding alumni back to campus to share their post-graduation experiences with the GVSU community. Through the program, our distinguished alumni have the opportunity to share their insights about what constitutes a strong academic preparation for students. We are pleased this afternoon to recognize distinguished alumni from eleven of the departments within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and welcome them back to campus.

# 2013 Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Honorees

Matthew Breen (AWRI) B.S. in Biology (2005)

M.S. in Biology (emphasis in aquatic

science) (2008)

Dr. Paul Cook B.S. in Chemistry (2004)

Hunter Eberly B.M. in Music (2009)

Dr. Michelle Green B.S. in Biology (2000)

Dr. Charles "Ty" Ham B.A. in Classics (2006)

David Huang B.F.A. in Studio Art (2001)

Dr. Jordan R. Moon B.S. in Physical Education (2004)

Craig Reynolds B.A. in Philosophy (1989)

Hannah Rodgers, J.D. B.A. in History & Anthropology (2009)

Molly (Helbing) Sherwood B.S. in Geology (1994)

Lisa Rose Starner B.A. in Anthropology & French (2000)

M.P.A. in Public Administration (2003)

## Matthew Breen (AWRI)

B.S. in Biology (2005)

M.S. in Biology (emphasis in aquatic science) (2008)

Matt Breen earned his bachelor's degree in biology with an aquatics emphasis from Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in 2005, after serving four years in the Active Army. As an undergraduate, Matt took part in GVSU Student Summer Scholars program, conducting research to examine gear selectivity of fish in fyke nets. He published his research in North American Journal of Fisheries Management. With a Graduate Research Assistantship through Annis Water Resources Institute, Matt also earned his master's degree at GVSU in biology with an aquatics emphasis. His thesis research focused on movement ecology of a small, non-game fish species, and he published his work in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. Matt received numerous awards and grants while at GVSU, including the George L. Disborough Trout Unlimited Research Grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the Clark Hubbs Research Assistance Award from the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, and the best student paper at the 2007 annual meeting of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Matt is currently employed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources where he is the Native Aquatics Project Leader for northeastern Utah. He oversees projects conducted for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, including recovery efforts for endangered Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, bonytail, and humpback chub. Additionally, his program focuses on conservation measures for state-listed sensitive species to preclude federal listing where his efforts have earned him the Award of Merit from the Utah Chapter of AFS.

#### Dr. Paul Cook

B.S. in Chemistry (2004)

Paul Cook earned his B.S. in Chemistry/Biochemistry from Grand Valley in 2004. As a student at GVSU he was highly successful, receiving the ACS Analytical Division Award and the Outstanding Senior Chemistry Award. He was involved in undergraduate research projects at Grand Valley and at Indiana University-Bloomington as part of the NSF-REU program. After graduation, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 2009. As a graduate student, he worked in the laboratory of Professor Hazel M. Holden, where he utilized X-ray crystallography to determine the three-dimensional structures of several bacterial enzymes. While at Wisconsin, Paul was awarded the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. After completion of his graduate work, he was an NIH Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Professor Richard Armstrong's lab at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. There he studied the structures and functions of a class of enzymes that confer antibiotic resistance to certain bacteria. Eager to get back into the classroom and work with undergraduates in the lab. Paul secured a faculty position in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. In addition to teaching general chemistry and biochemistry, he also developed his undergraduate-geared research program, again involving structural and functional studies of bacterial enzymes. Paul has now returned to the Chemistry Department at Grand Valley as an Assistant Professor. He is excited to continue developing his teaching techniques and expand his research program.

### **Hunter Eberly**

B.M. in Music (2009)

Hunter Eberly, the newly appointed Principal Trumpet of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, is a native of Muskegon, Michigan, Hunter started playing the trumpet at the age of eight under the tutelage of his mother, with whom he studied through high school. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree at Grand Valley State University, where he studied with Richard Stoelzel. While studying at GVSU, Hunter won prizes at multiple competitions including: first prize in the National Trumpet Competition Undergraduate Solo Competition, first prize in the National Trumpet Competition Trumpet Ensemble division, second prize in the International Trumpet Guild Mock Orchestra competition, and first prize at the GVSU International Trumpet Seminar Solo Competition. While at GVSU Hunter was the principal trumpet in the GVSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, as well as the GVSU Orchestra, and was a member of the Faculty Brass Quintet. Hunter continued his education by attending The Colburn School in Los Angeles, where he studied with James Wilt, and earned a Professional Studies Certificate. Prior to his appointment in Detroit, Hunter was principal trumpet of the Jacksonville Symphony. He has also performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra (China), and the Antalya Symphony (Turkey). Hunter lives in Detroit with his wife Kimberly, who is a GVSU alum, and their dog Daisy, and chinchilla Buddy. A Yamaha Performing Artist, Hunter plays exclusively on Yamaha instruments.

#### Dr. Michelle Green

B.S. in Biology (2000)

Michelle Green earned her bachelor's degree in biology at Grand Valley State University in December of 2000. Her experiences at Grand Valley led her to pursue a career focusing on research and conservation. She earned her doctorate in Integrative Biology from Florida Atlantic University in 2008. During graduate school, she focused her research on mating systems and population genetics of wild Atlantic spotted dolphins. Green's research allowed her to work closely with a non-profit research organization, The Wild Dolphin Project. This organization prides itself on research with minimal disturbance to wild dolphins and Green's work pioneered the use of noninvasive techniques for genetic data collection in this system. Her research allows scientists to genetically identify individual animals, determine family pedigrees and trace genetic lineages without direct impact to the animals. In 2011, Green accepted a post-doctoral research position at the University of Illinois where she holds dual appointments with the Department of Animal Sciences and the Illinois Natural History Survey. Her current research continues to explore mating systems and population genetics in wildlife, but has expanded to focus on populations affected by various diseases. The majority of her current research centers on white-tailed deer populations affected by chronic wasting disease, but she is also involved in genetic studies of other wildlife diseases, including toxoplasma in river otters and white-nose syndrome in wild bats. Green continues to develop noninvasive methodologies for genetic data collection in an effort to help other researchers study the natural world with minimal impact.

## Dr. Charles "Ty" Ham

B.A. in Classics (2006)

Charles (Ty) Ham is originally from Allendale, Michigan, and is the son of Charlie and Lisa Ham. His parents own and operate Ham Family Farm, a small produce farm that supplies both local farmers' markets and restaurants. Both his parents are GVSU alumni, and his mother also currently works at the Counseling Center at GVSU as a database coordinator.

Ty attended Allendale Public Schools before matriculating at GVSU. He was admitted to the Honors College and eventually decided to major in Classical Languages. While at GVSU, he spent a year abroad in Rome at John Cabot University as a Barbara H. Padnos International Scholar. After graduating cum laude from GVSU in 2006, he enrolled in the Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania as further preparation for graduate work in Classics; in the following year he entered the Ph.D. program at Penn.

A recent recipient of the Ph.D. in Classical Studies, Ty completed a dissertation on the Roman poet Ovid's reception of the ideas of the fifth-century BCE Greek philosopher-poet Empedocles. He is currently a lecturer at Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania, where he is teaching courses on Greek theater and the Greek and Latin languages. He is also in the process of preparing for publication several articles based on his dissertation.

#### **David Huang**

B.F.A. in Studio Art (2001)

David Huang is highly-regarded in the contemporary field of metalsmithing. He is one of a few professional metalsmiths whose living comes from the creation of pieces made using the techniques of raising and chase and repousse. These techniques have an ancient history in the field, but are discouraging to most metalsmiths, because they are labor intensive taking many years to conquer and perfect.

Raised in West Michigan, David was introduced to jewelry making at East Kentwood High School. Upon graduation, he enrolled in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, but after two years found the program not suited to his career goals. David transferred to Grand Valley State University where he continued to pursue a BFA degree with an emphasis in Jewelry/Metalsmithing, graduating in 2001 Magna Cum Laude.

David had one goal....to be his own boss. Upon graduation, he had a well-established studio in Sand Lake, Michigan where he feverously pursued galleries and the sale of his work. David is currently represented by some of the foremost craft galleries in the country: Creative Metalsmiths, Chapel Hill, N.C., R. Grey Gallery, Boise, ID, Vale Craft Gallery, Chicago, IL, Velvet da Vinci, San Francisco, CA, William Zimmer Gallery, Mendocino, CA and LaFontsee Gallery in Grand Rapids, MI.

David's work has been shown in over 100 exhibitions nationally and internationally. He has been published in five books, featured in dozens of articles, and his work resides in numerous public and private collections including Grand Valley State University and Muskegon Museum of Art.

The vessels David creates reference nature in form, texture and color. The exception might be the intense gold leaf that covers in the inner surface, shining so brightly they seem to be lit. "I

see the vessels as metaphors for people representing the belief that every person contains similar virtues. We all have this shell holding our inner spirit. We all have this light within."

#### Dr. Jordan R. Moon

B.S. in Physical Education (2004)

Dr. Jordan R. Moon is currently the MusclePharm Sports Science Center Research Institute Director, the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Colorado State Director, as well as a Distance Learning Faculty Member for the Department of Sports Exercise Science at The United States Sports Academy (USSA). Dr. Moon received his bachelor's degree in Movement Science from GVSU in 2004 and has subsequently completed a Master's degree in Exercise Science and Health Promotion from Florida Atlantic University and a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology from The University of Oklahoma. After graduating from GVSU, Dr. Moon became a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist with Distinction (CSCS\*D) through the NSCA and a Certified Health and Fitness Specialist (HFS) through the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and has trained all levels of athletes, including professionals in Major League Baseball, the National Football League, and the National Hockey League, as well as college athletes and teams. In addition to chairing the Department of Sports Exercise Science at the USSA for several years, Dr. Moon served as the Human Body Composition Laboratory Coordinator at OU and the Human Performance and Body Composition Laboratory Director at the USSA where he helped secure over one million dollars in grants, funding, and equipment acquisitions. Dr. Moon has presented at multiple scientific conferences and lectures, including the NSCA, the ACSM, and the International Society of Sports Nutrition (ISSN) national conferences, the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and at the Arnold Sports Festival. In addition to dozens of educational manuscripts, articles, and interviews, Dr. Moon has published more than sixty research articles and abstracts in twelve journals focusing on sports nutrition and human body composition and on changes regarding age and fitness level.

## **Craig Reynolds**

B.A. in Philosophy (1989)

Craig Reynolds is Associate Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects at the University of Michigan. He has been in research administration his entire professional career, having held positions at the University of Pennsylvania, Central Michigan University, and the National Science Foundation. Craig cannot think of a better preparation for the work he does than a degree in Philosophy. With over \$1.28 billion in annual research expenditures, one of his most important roles is to identify ways the institution can run more efficiently to support research. He relies upon the critical thinking skills he began to hone during his time in the Philosophy program at GVSU. His training in Philosophy, and more broadly his liberal education, have made him a strong research administrator. He attributes to his education at GVSU a deeper appreciation for the value of what he and others do, and an understanding of that work as part of a larger endeavor in support of research and scholarly endeavors. He draws meaning from the fact that he is able to help to bring about new medicines that alleviate human suffering, and to find new and deeper ways of understanding and serving the human experience.

## Hannah Rodgers, J.D.

B.A. in History & Anthropology (2009)

Hannah Rodgers earned a B.A. in both History and Anthropology, graduating magna cum laude, in 2009. While at GVSU, she was awarded several prestigious scholarships and studied abroad at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand and the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Hannah is also a member of the Anthropology, History and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. After graduating, Hannah spent nearly a year as a National Park Ranger at Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Massachusetts, where she was Black Powder certified and helped with daily musket firing demonstrations and interpretive talks. She then attended New York University School of Law, earning a J.D. in May. During law school, she was on the Student Bar Association, the Student Lawyers Athletic Program, Law Women, the HIV Law Society, and a training director for the Mediation Society. Hannah spent her first summer as an intern for the Attorney General of Alaska in Anchorage, where she was almost killed by a moose her first day while biking to work! Her next internship was as an associate at Jones Day in Atlanta, Georgia, where she will be returning in the fall to the firm's Banking and Finance division. About her History major, Hannah says, "I am so incredibly happy that I majored in History at GVSU. I learned how to think critically, write with clarity and precision, and analyze information and research efficiently. These skills were so valuable in law school. I highly recommend a history major for anyone interested in law!"

## Molly (Helbing) Sherwood

B.S. in Geology (1994)

Molly Sherwood earned her B.S. in Geology at Grand Valley State University in 1994 and an M.S. in Geosciences from Western Michigan University in 2013. She also earned a B.A. in Social Science/Prelaw from Michigan State University in 1991. Ms. Sherwood has more than 18 years of experience in environmental management working in both the private and public sectors. In 2000 she became the Environmental Compliance Manager for the Kent County Department of Public Works. Her areas of expertise include Superfund site management, groundwater monitoring and remediation, stormwater management, environmental management systems, landfill construction and management, air permitting, underground storage tanks, Brownfield redevelopment, and solid waste management. In her position with Kent County, Ms. Sherwood oversees all environmental programs and permitting for open and closed County landfills (two Superfund Sites) as well as for the County-owned Waste to Energy facility. Ms. Sherwood also has been involved in the redevelopment of property in Millennium Park, which includes numerous abandoned oil wells in the Walker Oil Field and the assessment of numerous contaminated properties. From 2005-2007 she was the project manager for four EPA Brownfield grants for Millennium Park properties.

Ms. Sherwood is a member of the National Ground Water Association, the Geological Society of America, the American Institute of Professional Geologists, and is on the Board of Directors for the West Michigan Air and Waste Management Association.

In her personal life, Ms. Sherwood is a member of the National Ski Patrol, owns and trains horses, and competes in tennis and triathlons.

#### Lisa Rose Starner

B.S. in Anthropology & French (2000) M.P.A. in Public Administration (2003)

Lisa Rose Starner's writings and her foraging skills have been featured in Rapid Growth Media, Solace Magazine, Women's Lifestyle Magazine, Shore Magazine, and in The Rapidian. Starner's first book, "Grand Rapids Food: A Culinary Revolution," is now available by The History Press (Charleston, SC). Starner is now an author for The Timber Press, writing "The ReWilded Kitchen: A Forager's Guide to Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Midwest," to be released in 2014. With a background in anthropology and professional focus on community health, Starner has gathered her food, farming and wild plant knowledge from many people and places along a very delicious journey. Growing up in Michigan only a handful of few minutes from the magical dunes and shoreline of the Big Lake, Starner first learned the art and pleasure of eating while a university student in Nice, France. After university, her edible journey took her to work in the Stags Leap District of Napa Valley and to volunteer at Alice Waters's Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley, California. It was at the Edible Schoolyard where Starner witnessed the power of growing gardens with children and the impact it can have on their health, the environment and the future of our global food system. Starner returned to Michigan from the Bay Area in 2001 and has since been an activist in her local food community writing, teaching and getting her own hands dirty in the soil to help grow the local food movement with her family in Grand Rapids, Michigan.