**Elizabeth Kalos-Kaplan**

*Writing*

B.A. in English, Rider University

M.A. in English, Tulane University

PhD in English, Tulane University

Elizabeth Kalos-Kaplan specializes in teaching first-year composition, and for the past four years, served as the Director of the First-Year Writing Program at Tulane University. In her nearly two-decade-long teaching career, she has taught first-year, expository, and business writing, as well as literature classes, at the college level. Her prior experience also includes teaching English as a foreign language at a high school in France and teaching reading and study skills classes in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. Additionally, Elizabeth has worked in administration at three New Orleans-based nonprofits: a volunteer service corps, a legal advocacy group, and a continuing medical education organization. Originally from Cincinnati, Elizabeth lived in New Orleans for much of her adult life before recently relocating to Western Michigan with her husband and their two children, Lucas, and Margot.

**Emma Carlton**

*Writing*

B.A. Writing, Grand Valley State University

M.F.A. Creative Writing, University of New Orleans

Emma Carlton is a fiction writer from Grand Rapids who teaches first-year writing and creative writing courses. Her pedagogical research interests lie in disability and inclusivity, with a specific focus on accessibility for neurodiverse students in college writing courses. Her creative writing and literary studies focus on speculative fiction that uses imaginative settings to isolate and examine issues that exist in our own world. When she isn’t working, she can be found practicing a wide variety of crafting hobbies and baking sourdough bread.

**Matt Cooper**

*Biology*

B.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University

M.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University

Ph.D., Aquatic Ecology, University of Notre Dame

Matt Cooper is an aquatic ecologist whose research focuses on how human activities affect ecosystem structure and function in lakes, streams, and wetlands. Much of Dr. Cooper’s research is aimed at improving management and restoration practices in aquatic systems and he regularly collaborates with natural resource professionals to put science into practice. Dr. Cooper has taught courses in general biology, ecology, limnology, botany, aquatic chemistry, and ecological restoration and loves to bring his past and current research into his courses. He is also an associate editor for the journal *Frontiers in Freshwater Science*, serves on several working groups, boards, and committees for coastal management and restoration around the Great Lakes, and is a principal investigator and project manager for the $30 million Great Lakes Coastal Wetland monitoring program. Matt is a husband and father who loves spending time outdoors with his family, hiking, boating, fishing, and exploring new places.

**Natashia Swalve**

*Psychology*

B.A. Psychology, Winona State University

M.S. Neuroscience and Behavior, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Ph.D. Neuroscience and Behavior, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Tasha Swalve is a behavioral neuroscientist who teaches foundations of neuroscience and psychopharmacology courses. After completing a post-doctoral position at the University of Minnesota, Tasha spent seven years at Alma College as an associate professor, interim associate provost, and director of the first-year seminar program. Her research is focused on vulnerability to drug abuse, specifically on the intersection of mental health and tobacco and opioid use. She also publishes interdisciplinary research on the intersection of addiction on public health and media that has been featured in Forbes and is currently in the process of writing a book on misguided fears with her long-time co-author. Tasha lives on a farm where she has a menagerie of animals, including greyhounds that she fosters in her spare time.

**Maria Kwesiga**

*Biomedical Sciences/Anatomy and Physiology*

M.D., Human Medicine, University of Algiers

Ph.D. Biomedical Engineering, Michigan Technological University

Maria Kwesiga was a previous visiting faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at GVSU for the past year. In her new TT position, she will primarily teach undergraduate Anatomy and Physiology. Prior to GVSU, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Michigan Technological University. Her research expertise is in the areas of cardiovascular engineering, biomaterials, and in assessing the molecular mechanisms involved with wound healing. Maria was born and raised in Uganda and is proficient in both English and French. She is looking forward to working with students at both the undergraduate and graduate level to promote innovative approaches in biomedical sciences and healthcare.

**Lauren Berry**

*Statistics*

B.S., Statistics and Psychology, Grand Valley State University

M.S., Statistics, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Lauren Berry is a McNair scholar and alum of Grand Valley (special thanks to her McNair mentor, Dr. Ernest Park). She has always felt at home at GVSU among the beautiful trees, ravines, and sculptures across campus as well as the exceptionally kind people that make the university truly grand. She is delighted to continue sharing her passion for statistics with students from across the university. She enjoys developing innovative and effective lessons to help students appreciate and get comfortable with analyzing data. Lauren’s research interests include inclusive pedagogy and gamification of learning. She has published work on nonparametric statistics in the journal *Stats*. When she is not teaching or thinking of new activities for her students, she enjoys playing tennis, reading mystery novels on Lake Michigan with her partner, Andrew, and spending time with their cat, Lei.

**Joel Schut**

*Music, Director of Orchestras*

B.M. Violin Performance and Music Education, University of Michigan

M.M. Orchestral Conducting, University of Colorado-Boulder

D.M.A. Orchestral Conducting, Michigan State University

Joel Schut previously taught at the University of Colorado-Boulder, the Crane School of Music SUNY-Potsdam, and in the Michigan public schools. He led the Denver Young Artists Conservatory Orchestra, served as Music Director of the Livingston Symphony, and founding director of the Detroit Medical Orchestra. His research centers on performance pedagogy, best practices teacher-training, and cross-cultural music engagement. He is an active clinician for all-state, regional, and honor orchestras. Joel is past editor of the *American String Teachers Journal* and has publications in the *Southwest Musician*, *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra* Series (GIA), and *Teaching Instrumental Music* (Oxford). A graduate of the YOA Orchestra of the Americas Global Leaders Program, he has performed with students in the US, China, Germany, Honduras, Tunisia, Mexico, Myanmar, and Afghanistan. Joel is thrilled to contribute to a thriving West Michigan with his wife Ali and children Lily, Max, and Gabe.

**Jin Chen**

*School of Communications*

*Advertising and Public Relations*

Ph.D., Mass Communications, Penn State University

M.A., Communication Studies, Northern Illinois University

M.A., Translation, Beijing Technology and Business University

Dual B.A., Marketing and International Finance, Tianjin University of Finance & Economics

Dr. Jin Chen is an assistant professor in the School of Communications at Grand Valley State University. Her research primarily focuses on media effects and strategic health communication, particularly in the context of interactive communication technologies. Her work has been recognized in the form of the Top Student Paper Award and Professional Relevance Award at the Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communications (AEJMC). She published research papers in peer-reviewed journals such as *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*, and *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*. Before her academic career, she held marketing and retail management positions in multicultural organizations and worked as a freelance translator specializing in business. She published six solo translated books in marketing, communication, psychology, and philosophy.

**Ian Winkelstern**

*Geology*

B.S. Geological Sciences, University of Michigan

M.S. Geological Sciences, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Ph.D. Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Michigan

Ian is new to the tenure track but not Grand Valley, having started here as an Affiliate Faculty in 2018. He is enthusiastic about conveying the importance of Earth Science to students, especially through experiential learning and undergraduate research. Ian’s research focuses on using carbonate sedimentology to study past climate change. He is currently part of two National Science Foundation-funded collaborations, including a study of environmental records preserved in 125,000+ year old fossil shells. His work has been published in *Geology*, *Nature Communications*,and *Paleoceanography*, among others. Paige (4 yrs) and Evan (2 yrs) keep him and his wife Colleen very busy but never bored.

**Heather Moody**

*Department of Geography and Sustainable Planning; College’s Cluster in Environmental and Aquatic Restoration and Sustainability*

B.S. Environmental Science, Findlay University

M.P.A. Environmental Policy-Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University

Ph.D. Geography-Urban Economic Core, Michigan State University

Heather Moody has been a professor for over 15 years and developed the Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering programs at her prior university. Her research expertise includes mapping the relationship of neighbourhood socioeconomic differences and racial residential segregation to environmental exposure hazards in metropolitan Detroit. She has also assisted students in a variety of original research topics and conference presentations involving local partners and a variety of environmental pollution/restoration topics. She has been a decades long faculty club advisor and is an NSF STEM Grant Co-PI. Heather has a partner/husband is mother to two young adult children.

**Ryan Otter**

*Annis Water Resources Institute / Chemistry*

B.S. Zoology, Michigan State University

M. S. Zoology, Michigan State University

Ph.D. Environmental Toxicology, Clemson University

Ryan Otter is the former Director of the Data Science Institute and Professor of Biology at Middle Tennessee State University. His research focuses on addressing real-world problems in environmental science, including the remediation, restoration and revitalization of Great Lakes areas of concern. He is an active member of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and works closely with community school systems to help integrate modern data analysis skills into the K-12 classroom. He is the father to two sons and is excited to be moving back to his home state of Michigan.

**Sarah Kearney**

*Department of Movement Science*

*Assistant Professor in Exercise Science*

B.S. Kinesiology, Saginaw Valley State University

M. Ed. Kinesiology, Bowling Green State University

Ph.D. Exercise Physiology, Kent State University

Sarah Kearney is joining the Department of Movement Science as an Assistant Professor in Exercise Science. Her expertise is in cardiovascular physiology and her research focus includes caffeine supplementation and resistance exercise and how it effects the cardiovascular system of young women. Sarah is involved in the American College of Sports Medicine, presenting research at both the regional and national level, and has served as the Pennsylvania representative for diversity and inclusion to encourage participation of underrepresented students. Sarah was raised in a Bed & Breakfast in a small town in Northern Michigan. She is thrilled to call herself a Michigander again, finally returning home to friends and family, where she enjoys exploring new hiking trails, playing beach volleyball, and spending summer days on Lake Michigan.

**Se Ra Choi**

*School of Communications*

*Advertising and Public Relations*

Ph.D., (ABD) in Public Communication and Technology, Colorado State University

M.Sc., in Public Communication and Technology, Colorado State University

B.B.A., in Advertising and Public Relations, Hongik University, South Korea

Se Ra Choi, a doctoral candidate and Anschutz Fellow (2021-2023) at Colorado State University, has a diverse research portfolio that spans a variety of themes. Her work ranges from exploring the ethics of care in artificial intelligence (AI) failures and crises to examining the role of AI influencers on social media, along with strategies for correcting misinformation. She has contributed notable insights to the academic discourse, including book chapters on South Korea's COVID-19 response and the interplay of media and reputation. Choi's academic excellence has been recognized with two Top Student Paper Awards from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), and she currently has several papers under review in prestigious academic journals. As an educator, she brings her rich research experience to various courses, such as Technology in Public Relations and Advertising and Fundamentals of Public Relations at GVSU. Raised in South Korea, she moved to the United States to pursue her master's degree, which opened new avenues for personal growth and interests. She is a keen gardener, cook, craft enthusiast, and golfer. In her free time, she enjoys exploring Michigan's picturesque trails with her dog and husband!

**Rori Meyer**

*Writing*

B.A. Creative Writing, Grand Valley State University

MFA, Creative Writing Georgia College and State University

Rori Meyer began teaching composition at Georgia College and State University in 2012. A former Lake Michigan Writing Project scholar, she’s taught at a variety of schools across the state including Aquinas College, Lansing Community College, and GVSU, among others. Her passions include student-autonomy in writing and learning how to give the most effective feedback to students. In fall 2023 she will be presenting, along with her Faculty-Learning Community, at the Lilly Conference on best practices for student belonging and inclusion. As a GVSU alum, she’s thrilled to be working for a school that prioritizes student learning and critical thinking. When not teaching, she enjoys hiking, cooking, and doing puzzles.

**Wendy Ransom-Hodgkins**

*Cell and Molecular Biology*

B.A. Biology, Kalamazoo College

M.S. Botany, Miami University

Ph.D. Botany/Plant Physiology, North Carolina State University

Post Doctoral Research Position in Plant Biology/USDA, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign.

Wendy Ransom-Hodgkins is a former assistant professor teaching in the areas of Cell Biology, Molecular Biology and Plant Biology. Her research has focused on signal transduction in plant cells using molecular biology tools. Her scholarship has been published in Molecular Genetics and Genomics, Planta, and Plant Physiology. Wendy has directed several undergraduate research projects. She enjoys walking with her husband and dog, and gardening.

**AK (Alisa Kotash)**

they/them

*Geology*

Ph.D., Geology (2021) Oregon State University

M.S., Geology (2014) University of North Carolina at Charlotte

B.A., Geology (2012) State University of New York College at Geneseo

AK is a dedicated geoscience educator with a keen interest in unraveling Earth’s complexities through the study of igneous rocks and minerals. Their expertise lies at the intersection of igneous petrology, volcanology, and geochemistry, where they investigate the dynamic processes that shape underwater volcanism. AK brings their enthusiasm for teaching into the classroom with a commitment to inclusive, learner-centered instruction, and curriculum. Beyond their academic endeavors, they participate in public outreach events and giving talks and workshops that examine how geoscience faculty are evaluated on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and engagement. AK is a proud partner and parent to two feathered rescue birds and a polydactyl cat.

**Scott Hall-Jones**

*Math Ed/ (PCKET)*

Bachelor of Education, Ohio University

Masters of Education, Instructional Technology, Ohio University

Scott Hall-Jones was a 4th,6th, and 8th grade teacher for over 20 years. He currently teaches early childhood education courses in mathematics for Grand Valley with the occasional movement science course. He has presented at the National Association of Professional Development Schools conferences. Scott was a member of the Network of Regional Leaders for the Ohio Department of Education Mathematics, and an Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional Elementary Math Teacher of the Year. He has been an advisor to several Eagle Scouts, coached middle school track and field, and spent 10+ years as an archery coach to elementary, middle, and high schoolers. He lives along the fabulous West Michigan lakeshore with his wife Jenny, and every once in a while, his adult sons Casey and Bryan pay him a visit.

**Rob Larson**

*Natural Resources Management/Geography & Sustainable Planning*

B.S. Natural Resource Management (minors in Biology & Geospatial technologies)-Grand Valley State University

M.S. Natural Resources Management- Grand Valley State University

Rob Larson is an enrolled citizen with the Nottawasseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians. His focus is teaching applied Geographic Information Science (GIS) skills with methodology in professional and field-based settings. He also integrates traditional Native American viewpoints, beliefs, and practices into natural resources management methods and practices. His research is centered on forest ecosystem issues and watershed management. He also does service through interpretive teaching of natural resource management outreach at various K-12 schools in Muskegon and Ottawa Counties. Rob is a member of GVSU`s Native American Advisory Council. He resides in North Muskegon with his family.