

Graduate Student Celebration

December 4, 2015

Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies
318C DeVos Center
616-331-7105
www.gvsu.edu/gs
gradstudies@gvsu.edu

in collaboration with the
Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Program

5:00 PM: Refreshments and Social Hour (Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall)

6:00 PM: Awards Presentation Ceremony (Loosemore Auditorium)

Introduction:

Lauren Presutti, GSA President

Welcome:

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies

Graduate Dean's Citation Awards Recognition:

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies,
Dr. John R. Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies,
and Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Graduate Student Association Faculty Awards Recognition:

Lauren Presutti, GSA President,
Colette Cascarilla, GSA Vice President,
and Frederick Lawrence, GSA Communications Officer

*Award recipients, please note: group photos will be taken
immediately following the award ceremony.*

Welcome!

Dear members and friends of Grand Valley's graduate community,

Tonight we have the great pleasure to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves in graduate education at Grand Valley State University. The Dean's Citation Awards for Academic Excellence are given to recognize the accomplishments of our students and faculty and celebrates their achievements. First held in 2006, this proud Grand Valley State University tradition originated through the combined efforts of the members of the Graduate Council and the Graduate Program Directors. The Office of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Student Association are co-hosts for this evening's activities.

The Dean's Citation Awards recognize excellence in academic performance in several categories. Graduate students are nominated for these awards by staff or faculty members, advisors, graduate program directors, and departmental chair or school directors. The Dean of Graduate Studies reviews the nominees and approves the final selection. Each recipient receives a certificate of recognition and a graduate honors cord, which may be worn at commencement. Additionally, we honor several of our graduate faculty members who have distinguished themselves in mentoring and serving our students at Grand Valley. Their dedication helps to create a rich and vibrant learning environment.

Grand Valley State University is proud of the accomplishments of these graduate students and faculty members. I wish each and every one of our award winners a successful future.

Congratulations to all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Potteiger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Ph.D., FACSM
Dean of Graduate Studies
Grand Valley State University

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**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Fall 2015**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Spencer R. Schultze, Accounting
- ❖ Trevor S. Koop, Business Administration
- ❖ Jake D. Thole, Taxation

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Stephanie M. Marquez, Health Administration
- ❖ Jinyi Kim, Public Administration
- ❖ Audrey J. Van Oene, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Carlos Michael Martinez Cruz, Higher Education

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ James Cornett, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Shilpa Rekha Sahini, Medical and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Kirsten K. Werner, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ John M. Rooy, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Sayantoni Mukhopadhyay, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Kurt J. Denison, Communications
- ❖ Brandon J. Muri, English

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS

College of Education

- ❖ Theresa D. Lyon, Higher Education
- ❖ Lindsay M. McHolme, Literacy Studies

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Michael J. Snider, Biology
- ❖ Kate D. Hickey, English

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT

College of Education

- ❖ Kimberly A. Jaster, Educational Leadership
- ❖ Katherine C. Thome, Higher Education
- ❖ Erica J. Hilliker, Literacy Studies

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Simona Goi, Holly R. White, Kyle P. Woodworth, and Stephanie A. Urbanawiz, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Nicole L. Nicolas, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Rory T. Kruithoff, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Scott D. Harmsen, Communications

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Nicholas F. Vogel, Computer Information Systems

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Deborah S. Lyzenga, Public Administration

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Julie A. VanderMale, Physician Assistant Studies

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Majesta M. VanWyk, Cell and Molecular Biology

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU

College of Education

- ❖ Carlos Michael Martinez Cruz, Higher Education

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Mallory E. Martens, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Caitlin E. Montague, Speech Language Pathology

MAGS DISTINGUISHED THESIS NOMINEES

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Jared J. Homola, Biology
- ❖ Anna M. Worm, English

*Congratulations to all of the Fall 2015
Graduate Dean's Citation Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARDS
Fall 2015**

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

College of Education

- ❖ Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury, Assistant Professor of Education

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Cynthia Grapczynski, Professor of Occupational Therapy

*Congratulations to the Fall 2015
Graduate Student Association Faculty Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM
Fall 2015**

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Spencer R. Schultze, Master of Science in Accounting**

Spencer left a career in banking to enroll in the MSA program in order to pursue a career as a Certified Public Accountant. His experience in banking and years in the work force helped contribute to his being as a stand out student. He brought a world view and high level of focus to each class that encouraged all students to raise their level of effort. He brought questions to his classes that made people think at a deeper level. The faculty have great appreciation for his contributions he has made to his classes. Spencer has taken a job with the CPA firm, BDO.

❖ **Trevor S. Koop, Master of Business Administration**

Trevor earned his Master of Business Administration degree in August 2015. While maintaining full-time MBA studies and working in a part-time fellowship, Trevor also served as a member of the Seidman Graduate Student Advisory Board and the Vice President of Finance for the FIMBA Student Organization. He is also the recipient of the FIMBA Student of the Year award. The faculty has spoken to Trevor's academic preparedness, contributions in the classroom, leadership and insight. After graduation, Trevor has taken on a full-time role as a Product Launch Specialist for Steelcase.

❖ **Jake D. Thole, Master of Science in Taxation**

Jake graduated with honors from Michigan State University with an undergraduate degree in Accounting and immediately pursued the Master of Science in Taxation at Grand Valley. The Accounting & Taxation faculty are impressed by Jake's drive to finish the graduate program at the top of his class, particularly given the demanding nature of the program. He has also served as a member of the Business Professionals of America. During his graduate studies, Jake was a Core Tax Services Intern at BDO USA, LLP, and

will be joining BDO in Grand Rapids as a full-time tax associate in January 2016.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Stephanie M. Marquez, Master of Health Administration**

Stephanie has attained a virtually perfect GPA through her combination of intelligence, strong commitment to her coursework and capacity for sustained high levels of effort. She has achieved this while working full time in the field of healthcare administration, adding much to her achievements in the classroom. She was also the Vice President of the Health Professionals Graduate Student Alliance. During her graduate studies, Stephanie worked as a Regional Talent Acquisition Coordinator for Mercy Health and is now a Recruiter for Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids.

❖ **Jinyi Kim, Master of Public Administration**

Jinyi is an outstanding student and professional. She completed her MPA while working full time as a Registered Nurse Manager at Mary Free Bed. Prior to admission at Grand Valley, Jinyi received a Master of Education with a concentration in Nursing from Kyung Hee University. The faculty stated she has excelled in both written work and class participation, and has done so with both hard work and thoughtfulness. While completing her degree at Grand Valley, she was also a Lab Assistant in the Simulation Center and a volunteer with the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program.

❖ **Audrey J. Van Oene, Master of Social Work**

Audrey has shown a strong desire to learn in her MSW coursework and has earned a near perfect GPA. She was placed at Bethany Christian Services in their refugee service program as part of the program's internship requirement. She has excelled and gone far above and beyond her responsibilities as a student intern and has taken leadership in several areas. Currently she is working at the development of agency policy to better serve individuals in a refugee status. The roles and responsibilities at her internship are rarely given to students; however, her desire for excellence and her high level of competence have made Audrey a valued asset to her internship site and well deserving of this award.

College of Education

❖ **Carlos Michael Martinez Cruz, Master of Education in Higher Education**

Carlos is a student that goes above and beyond throughout his education. It is apparent that he is not there just going through the motions; he makes significant contributions to the learning environment while challenging his classmates. He brings real life experiences to the learning environment and is very engaged day to day. The faculty noted that Carlos makes significant contributions to the learning environment by challenging his classmates and professors and acknowledging the experiences of marginalized populations in the work of student affairs and higher education professionals.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **James Cornett, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

The faculty of the graduate program in the School of Computing and Information Systems enthusiastically recommends James for this citation. He is an exceptional student, thus far achieving an excellent GPA in his coursework with only his project remaining. James has 21 years of diverse electrical design and support experiences, from the United States Army to General Electric. Prior to his graduate studies at Grand Valley, James transitioned to a position at GE Aviation and is responsible for hardware support and implementation of design changes to the 787 CCR.

In recognition of his service in the US Armed Forces, the Office of Graduate Studies will present James with red, white, and blue cords, courtesy of President Thomas J. Haas.

❖ **Shilpa Rekha Sahini, Master of Science in Medical and Bioinformatics**

Shilpa is a non-traditional student who was able to get excellent grades and challenged the faculty by pursuing an interesting career path: a mix between informatics, engineering and business. She stands out from her peers not only by her special interests, but also through her persistence and quality of her work. After securing an internship at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital for Strategic Planning in the Business/Network Development Unit, Shilpa focused her research on Telemedicine in Rehabilitation and produced an outstanding case study for telemedicine in an inpatient rehabilitation facility.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Kirsten K. Werner, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

The Physician Assistant Studies faculty are in unanimous agreement that Kirsten has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement as well as clinical skills that are above average. Kirsten has consistently been one of the top-performing students from the Class of 2015. She has shown great academic achievements not only in the classroom, but in the clinic as well. As part of her graduate studies, she has assisted faculty with research on textbook usage in medical education and generational differences. She is dedicated to learning and puts forth tremendous effort to becoming a competent and caring Physician Assistant.

❖ **John M. Rooy, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

John has been selected by faculty for this award because of his outstanding academic performance, exceptional clinical skills, and overall leadership and commitment to GVSU. Although his classroom performance was stellar, his exceptional ability to apply and integrate the classroom knowledge into each clinical setting was what set him apart from his peers - including a highly competitive speech-language pathology internship in the traumatic brain injury unit at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Center. John's meritorious work across every aspect of the graduate program is what led the faculty to select him for this prestigious recognition.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Sayantoni Mukhopadhyay, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

In addition to an excellent academic record, Sayantoni has represented the department well by presenting 6 posters at local and national venues. She is also a co-author on a review article in AIMS Medical Science and is senior author on a publication in preparation for the journal eNeuro. She has accepted a position as Research Specialist in the Department of Pediatrics, University of Illinois at Chicago. With this nomination, the faculty recognize Sayantoni's academic achievements as well as her service in enhancing the image and reputation of the department and Grand Valley.

❖ **Kurt J. Denison, Master of Science in Communications**

Kurt exhibited a level of mastery of the subject matter that is indeed rare among graduate students nationally. His academic performance in all his classes was superlative and in every case far-exceeding the expectations of the program. Not only does he possess a vast reading knowledge of communication theory, but he skillfully applies theory and conceptual principals to practical communication problem-solving situations: the hallmark of true excellence in the Communications graduate program. It has been an honor to have had Kurt in the program.

❖ **Brandon J. Muri, Master of Arts in English**

Brandon sets extraordinarily high standards for himself, and he consistently meets those standards, with the result that he not only challenges himself to excel but raises the level of achievement among his peers as well. His essays are thoroughly researched, original in conception, and eloquently written. His thesis on Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene* takes on one of the longest and most complex poems in English and is informed by wide and deep reading in critical commentaries on the poem. The result is a highly original and brilliantly argued thesis that offers profound insights, illuminating the work in new and fascinating ways.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS
Fall 2015**

College of Education

- ❖ **Theresa D. Lyon, Master of Education in Higher Education**
 - **Thesis Title:** Undocumented Latino College Students and Identity Development: A Qualitative Analysis of Undocumented Latino College Students' Movement Towards Developing Purpose
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Donald Mitchell (Chair) - College of Education, Dr. Jay Cooper - College of Education, and Dr. Shawn Bultsma - College of Education

Theresa's thesis explores an original and important topic; however, her study also fits within current scholarly work considering undocumented Latino/a students and college student development theory. She highlights the need for revisiting dated college student development theories as the higher education landscape becomes more diverse. In particular, she highlights the need to know more about undocumented Latino/a students who face numerous legal, social, and financial barriers as they attempt to pursue a postsecondary degree.

She crafted an excellent narrative of the literature and highlighted the gap she filled with her overall research question, and her methods advanced knowledge about undocumented Latino/a college students and their identity development, while also offering practical recommendations to support them during college. Finally, Theresa's writing is clear, strong, and well organized. She was thoughtful in the interpretation of her results and made several recommendations for future research and practice.

ABSTRACT

Undocumented Latino college students face numerous legal, social, and financial barriers as they attempt to pursue a postsecondary degree. The psychosocial stressors that accompany being labeled as an undocumented immigrant put these students at risk of disengaging from their postsecondary education as they face limited career options and social rejection. Researchers have noted the psychosocial development that occurs as students transition to an adult identity, yet little research has been done on how undocumented Latino college students navigate barriers to their identity development and attempt to define their purpose as not only college students, but members of U.S. Society. This thesis explores how undocumented Latino college students develop a sense of purpose as a result of their psychosocial identity development that occurs during their postsecondary experiences. This study utilizes hermeneutic phenomenological methods to interpret how the narratives provided by study participants reflected Chickering and Reisser's definition of developing purpose, as well as the barrier navigation that occurs as undocumented students face the challenges of pursuing a postsecondary education within an ambiguous legal climate.

❖ **Lindsay M. McHolme, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

- **Thesis Title:** Measuring the Adult Literacy Rate in English: The Case of the Grand Rapids West Hope Zone
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba (Chair) - College of Education, Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury - College of Education, and Dr. Julien Kouamé - Johnson Center for Philanthropy

Lindsay's work is a thesis that is to be situated among studies that deal with adult literacy. While research has focused on adult literacy at national and international levels, no researcher has given attention to neighborhood adult literacy rates. As a matter of fact, the earliest study related to a medium sized city like Grand Rapids, but not to a neighborhood, dates back to approximately two decades.

Even when these studies deal with literacy rates, the focus is on being literate in English, forgetting that literacy is larger than being able to read and write in one language. Lindsay's thesis, though dealing with literacy rate in English, not only embraces literacy aspects on many dimensions, but also

includes adults who are literate in English and other languages such as Spanish. In addition, she has also investigated factors associated with being literate. This thesis has implications for a number of stakeholders in adult literacy development including but not limited to city decision makers, adult literacy development agencies, community based literacy development institutions, and experts interested in human improvement.

ABSTRACT

Research efforts in identifying adult literacy rates have for the most part focused on national and international contexts. Conversely, there has been little to no research conducted on neighborhood literacy rates in medium size cities. The purpose of this study was to identify the adult literacy rate in the West Hope Zone, a neighborhood in Grand Rapids Michigan. The major findings reveal that the English illiteracy rates are higher than the most recent estimations by the National Adult Literacy Survey. Adults who attended college, regardless of the language, had more literacy skills and knowledge than those who had a high school diploma or did not graduate from high school. Native speakers of English developed more English literacy skills and knowledge than non-native speakers of English. Based on these findings the author recommended that literacy development efforts be focused on concurrent bilingual programs. Similarly, the author suggested that systematic studies are needed to identify literacy rate and implement literacy programs in neighborhoods within medium and large cities.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Michael J. Snider, Master of Science in Biology**

- **Thesis Title:** Photophysiological Studies of Cyanobacterial Mats in Submerged Sinkholes of Lake Huron
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Bopi Biddanda (Chair) - Annis Water Resources Institute/Biology Department, Dr. Mark Luttenton - Biology Department, Dr. Rick Rediske - Annis Water Resources Institute/Biology Department, and Dr. Greg Dick - University of Michigan

Michael's thesis work identified distinct seasonal trends in photosynthetic efficiency of cyanobacterial mat communities inhabiting areas of starkly

different sunlight availability. His work is important in showing the ecological versatility of newly discovered and relatively unknown extreme ecosystems present in the Great Lakes that bear resemblance to life on early Earth 2bya, and aids in the search for microbial life elsewhere on Earth and on other habitable planets.

Michael secured a Michigan Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellowship and a Presidential Research Grant from the Office of Graduate Studies at Grand Valley in support of his research. He enthusiastically participated in expeditions to the Lake Huron sinkholes where he obtained hands on experience working with a team of collaborating researchers from NOAA and the University of Michigan. He has presented his findings at the Michigan Space Grant Consortium annual conference (University of Michigan, MI), International Association of Great Lakes Research conference (Purdue, IN), American Society for Microbiology (Denver, CO), Student Scholars Day (GVSU), and the Michigan Academy of Sciences (Hope College). His many contributions have landed him a co-authorship in a 2015 article published this summer in the top-tier journal *Frontiers-Microbiology* by the Biddanda lab.

Michael richly deserves recognition for his outstanding thesis work.

ABSTRACT

Recently discovered submerged sinkholes in Lake Huron are high-sulfur, low-oxygen extreme environments for microbial life. The steep biogeochemical gradients at the sites are maintained by groundwater ventilation to the floor of Lake Huron passing through Paleozoic marine evaporates, and provide a freshwater link to ecosystems that thrived on the seafloor over 2 b.y.a. In order to understand the relationship between the physical environment, photophysiology and community composition of these unique ecosystems, we measured the physical conditions, photophysiological indices, and genetic diversity at 3 microbial mat sites bathed in high conductivity groundwater under a natural light gradient during 2012-2013. A strong seasonal trend prevailed at all sites, characterized by decreased photosynthetic yield (F_v'/F_m') during the summer (0.25 – 0.40; April – August) and increased yield during the winter (0.70 - 0.75; November – March). Chlorophyll content varied seasonally in a similar manner to photosynthetic yield. *Continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT

All sites were dominated by >80% abundance of one cyanobacterial group – most closely related to Phormidium sp., and cyanobacteria-associated phycobilins were consistently higher in concentration than chlorophyll. Photosynthetic yield was statistically indistinguishable between sites, suggesting that these mat communities are able to acclimate across a wide range of photosynthetically active radiation (PAR). Interestingly, these cyanobacteria carried out oxygenic photosynthesis in the presence of in vitro H₂S – further suggestive of their versatile photophysiology under variable redox conditions. Collectively, our study provides insight into the adaptive capabilities of cyanobacteria by revealing how they photophysiology respond to changes in the light climate and redox conditions, and are thereby able to inhabit a wide range of physico-chemical environments. Such versatile physiologies may have enabled their ancestors to thrive across a range of habitats in early Earth.

❖ **Kate D. Hickey, Master of Arts in English**

- **Thesis Title:** “Struck with Her Tongue:” Speech, Gender, and Power in *King Lear*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Benjamin Lockerd (Chair) - Department of English, Dr. Rachel Anderson - Department of English, and Dr. Robert Rozema - Department of English

Kate’s thesis deserves the nomination for Outstanding Thesis this semester because it is thoroughly researched, persuasively argued, and extremely well-written. Kate’s work with Shakespeare’s *King Lear* follows an original path by including Ian Pollock’s contemporary interpretation of the play in his graphic novel, *The Illustrated King Lear*. Arguing that the tragedy illustrates the folly of choosing personal desires over loyalty and responsibility, Kate also explores some of the ways in which Shakespeare changed his sources to make the Lear story not only darker but also more complex and compelling, intentionally evoking strong audience reactions. Kate’s focus on speech and power allows her to make a compelling case that Cordelia’s supposed silence and absence centralize her as a second tragic hero, ultimately affirming her voice and value.

Kate's writing has also won awards at the annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Essay Competition, placing first or second in the Graduate Writing category over the past four years. She teaches English and Drama at Sparta High School.

ABSTRACT

My thesis addresses the supposed sexism in William Shakespeare's *King Lear* through an examination of the power of speech in the play. Employing a variety of scholarship, I argue that Cordelia exerts power both through prudent speech and in her silence, adhering to Renaissance expectations for women but also defying the unreasonable behavior of her father. I explore how Cordelia's values are recognized by and through other characters, especially Lear's Fool. While Cordelia is often viewed as the opposite of her sisters Goneril and Regan, I provide a reading of the play that treats all three sisters as complex characters rather than stereotypes. Employing Ian Pollock's interpretation in his graphic novel *Illustrated King Lear*, I explicate how Goneril, Regan, and Edmund embrace speech and sex as means to power. After examining misogynistic passages and psychoanalytic interpretations, I determine that Lear's sexism is a symptom of his own unnatural decisions and struggle with loss of power to his daughters. I argue that Lear is a misogynist, but Shakespeare was not. Contextualizing *King Lear* within Shakespeare's body of work and audience expectations, I conclude that Shakespeare intentionally used the mode of tragedy to illustrate the folly of choosing personal desires over loyalty and responsibility. Shakespeare changed his sources to make the Lear story not only darker but also more complex and compelling, intentionally evoking strong audience reactions. I argue that Shakespeare ironically used Cordelia's supposed silence and absence to centralize her as a second tragic hero, ultimately affirming the youngest daughter's voice and value.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT
Fall 2015**

College of Education

- ❖ **Kimberly A. Jaster, Master of Education in Educational Leadership**
 - **Project Title:** Global Outreach in STEM to Improve Science Literacy and Achievement
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Suzanne Richards - College of Education

Kimberly had a vision to provide her science students with a more engaged learning experience incorporating global connections and lessons which included S.T.E.M. standards (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). In addition, she wanted to utilize technology, integrate higher order thinking skills and increase student motivation. Her ultimate dream was to develop a classroom where students loved to learn science as well as encouraging students to move into the S.T.E.M. fields as careers.

Kim has truly implemented significant research based changes in her classroom while at the same time bringing multiple stakeholders and partners to the table. She has integrated a global learning experience for her students that cannot be compared to any other. Kim has continued to seek other countries interested in combining efforts to promote science education and has formed a new partnership in the Dominican Republic. Her faculty advisor stated "It has been a genuine pleasure and honor to work with Kim."

- ❖ **Katherine C. Thome, Master of Education in Higher Education**
 - **Project Title:** Promoting Self-Authored Career Decision-Making through Parent Partnerships
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Jay Cooper - College of Education

Many colleges and universities have turned away from involving parents and guardians of college students in their college experience partly due to privacy mandates. Still, parents are involved in students' college experiences. Within Kate's outstanding project, she highlights the importance of sharing information with parents about the major selection process and offers an orientation for parents during the student's orientation. Kate's project

acknowledges that parents are often nervous about their child's future, are advocates and partners in their child's college experience, and that some cultures emphasize family. Introducing parents to the theory of self-authorship, Kate's proposed orientation eases parents' nerves as their child decides, or is undecided, on a major during their college career.

Kate's well-written and well-crafted project received the 2014-2015 College of Education Dean's Award for Outstanding Project. Kate's project exemplified all of the qualities that make up an outstanding project, which include: originality; a well-defined problem statement; an insightful and sophisticated use of a theoretical framework; a well-written and critical understanding of the literature; a novel introduction of methods/solutions for the proposed problem; and a conclusion that highlighted a compelling interest in the field.

❖ **Erica J. Hilliker, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

- **Project Title:** Ongoing Professional Development in the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol Model
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba - College of Education

Erica is not only intellectually honed, but she also epitomizes research and professional development in school district contexts. Her master's project is to be viewed as a systematic effort to provide teachers with the tools not only to question their practice, but also to adapt these tools to the new developments and particular types of learners in education and in schools. While the No Child Left Behind Act mandates that English learners be put in the mainstream classroom and also requires that these learners take high stake tests, it has not focused on the implications and consequences for mainstreaming English learners.

Erica's project is novel in the sense that it is a critique of a model that school districts have embraced across the United States. She states that if school districts have to adopt such a method, in particular the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), the one professional training for life is insufficient. Teachers need to constantly be trained and followed up. Her project has implications for not only teachers but also for school districts that have been looking for ways to maintain their faculty's knowledge base and professional practice current.

College of Health Professions

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies has selected four recipients of this semester's Outstanding Final Project Award as part of a group project.

❖ **Simona Goi, Holly R. White, Kyle P. Woodworth, and Stephanie A. Urbanawiz, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

- **Project Title:** Gender Differences in Treatment of Post-Concussion Syndrome after Mild Traumatic Brain Injury
- **Project Advisor:** Andrew Booth - Physician Assistant Studies

❖ **Simona Goi, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Simona holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota and previously was an Associate Professor of Political Science at Calvin College. For the PAS program, she completed clinical rotations with Mercy Health Physician Partners, MH Hackley Hospital, Forest View Hospital, and Lakeshore Medical Center. Simona has accepted a position of Physician Assistant in the ER at Mercy Health Hackley Hospital in Muskegon.

❖ **Holly R. White, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Holly completed a Bachelor of Business Administration prior to admission to the PAS program at Grand Valley. She completed clinical rotations at Cherry Street Health Services, Ionia County Community Mental Health, Westside Health Center, and Mercy Health Saint Mary's ER. She served as a nursing assistant at Spectrum Health's Neuroscience unit, volunteered for Relay for Life and Heels to Heal 5k for the PAS program.

❖ **Kyle P. Woodworth, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Hope College, Kyle began to the PAS program at GVSU in 2013. His clinical rotations include Women's Health First, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Center for Health and Wellness, and Great Lakes Neurosurgical Associates. He has also worked as a Mental Health Worker for Forest View Psychiatric Hospital in Grand Rapids and served as the Treasurer for the Richard P. Clodfelter Student Society.

❖ **Stephanie A. Urbanawiz, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Stephanie Anne Urbanawiz, a graduate student in the Physician Assistant Studies program, died February 28, 2015 after battling breast cancer at the age of 29. Andrew Booth, assistant professor and chair of PAS, said Stephanie was a dedicated student, compassionate provider and an inspiration to her classmates and faculty members. Stephanie's family and the PAS program have established a scholarship fund in her name to share her legacy.

This group has exemplified a strong commitment to research and dedication to advancing medical knowledge and health care as related to post-concussion syndrome. Their project is not only clinically significant, it also has the potential to impact the treatment of post-concussion care. This project has been accepted for presentation at the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants Annual Conference as well as the American Academy of Physician Assistants Annual Conference.

❖ **Nicole L. Nicolas, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

- **Project Title:** Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology Professional Portfolio
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Courtney Karasinski - Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

As part of her graduate program, Nicole completed clinical practicums at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Ionia Public Schools, and the Grand Valley Simulation Center's Child Language Lab. She is also completing the graduate certificate program in Integrative Holistic Health & Wellness at Western Michigan University in 2016.

Students completing the master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology complete a summative portfolio in their final semester. Nicole's portfolio exemplified reflection, critical thinking, and acquisition of knowledge across the entire scope of practice of the field. The artifacts she included and her reflective statements demonstrated insight into her growth and development as a clinician from the beginning of the program until the present, and plans for lifelong learning. Her portfolio was superior to those of all of her peers, and will be held as the gold standard by the faculty for judging future portfolios. The faculty believes Nicole is deserving of recognition for her outstanding work.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Rory T. Kruithoff, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

- **Project Title:** Longitudinal Assessment of Novel and Established Dyskinesia “Priming Factors”
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Kathy Steece-Collier - Michigan State University

Rory completed his final project at the Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine at Michigan State University. His work involved several concurrent research projects focused on neurodegeneration in Parkinson’s disease as well as the maladaptive side-effects of levodopa drug therapy. Rory’s success in the internship resulted in his being asked to continue his work in the lab.

With this nomination, the department recognizes Rory’s success in his final project as well as his service as a Graduate Assistant in the department during which time he assisted with teaching labs. He is also the Vice President/Communications Officer for the Professional Associate of Graduate Scientists at Grand Valley. Upon graduation, Rory will continue his work in the lab while also teaching two sections of Grand Valley’s general education “Biotechnology and Society” course. Rory is also a Microbiology Laboratory Technician at Perrigo Company in Holland, Michigan.

❖ **Scott D. Harmsen, Master of Science in Communications**

- **Project Title:** Oak Hill Cemetery: Grand Rapids History Lives Here
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko - School of Communications

Scott’s project is exceptionally relevant in that he explores and documents a part of history that is central to the development of the City of Grand Rapids. Moreover, he brings his considerable skills as a professional photographer and journalist to bear on the topic. The final project will be provided to the Grand Rapids Public Library’s Local History Department. The faculty of the School of Communications noted that Scott’s work is worthy of special notice and celebration.

Scott is a most capable student and has the drive, determination, curiosity, and ambition that make him highly successful in the communications industry. Scott continues to be a significant and major contributor to the field of professional communication.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION
Fall 2015**

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ **Nicholas F. Vogel, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**
 - **Publication Title:** Mining Mobile Datasets to Enable the Fine-Grained Stochastic Simulation of Ebola Diffusion
 - **Research Advisor:** Dr. Greg Wolffe - School of Computing and Information Systems

Nicholas joined Dr. Greg Wolffe's research team after impressing faculty in the lab as a Graduate Assistant. Nikko has an admirable work ethic and excellent problem-solving skills. He's a self-motivated student who investigates and discovers creative solutions to the inevitable roadblocks that research presents.

The research topic involved the study of transmission vectors, predictive methods, and policy planning as applied to the recent and unprecedented Ebola epidemic centered in West Africa.

The project was in the realm of Big Data, as the team began by analyzing over 3 billion anonymized call data records from over 10 million mobile phone subscribers in the country of Senegal. The basic idea was to mine the records to produce accurate population density maps and detailed activity/movement models of each individual in the country.

The project was successful in demonstrating the efficacy of using this unique new dataset for purposes of better health planning. Nikko presented the team's preliminary results as a poster at the NetMob 2015 conference for the Scientific Analysis of Mobile Phone Data, at MIT in April. A subsequent paper, on which Nikko served as the primary author, was also accepted for publication.

Nikko's efforts have benefitted Grand Valley by visibly representing the department via dissemination of his high-quality graduate-level research. It behooves Grand Valley to likewise acknowledge his efforts.

ABSTRACT

The emergence of Ebola in West Africa is of worldwide public health concern. Successful mitigation of epidemics requires coordinated, well-planned intervention strategies that are specific to the pathogen, transmission modality, population, and available resources. Modeling and simulation in the field of computational epidemiology provides predictions of expected outcomes that are used by public policy planners in setting response strategies.

Developing up to date models of population structures, daily activities, and movement has proven challenging for developing countries due to limited governmental resources. Recent collaborations (in 2012 and 2014) with telecom providers have given public health researchers access to Big Data needed to build high-fidelity models. Researchers now have access to billions of anonymized, detailed call data records (CDR) of mobile devices for several West African countries. In addition to official census records, these CDR datasets provide insights into the actual population locations, densities, movement, travel patterns, and migration in hard to reach areas. These datasets allow for the construction of population, activity, and movement models. For the first time, these models provide computational support of health related decision making in these developing areas (via simulation-based studies).

New models, datasets, and simulation software were produced to assist in mitigating the continuing outbreak of Ebola. Existing models of disease characteristics, propagation, and progression were updated for the current circulating strain of Ebola. The simulation process required the interactions of multi-scale models, including viral loads (at the cellular level), disease progression (at the individual person level), disease propagation (at the workplace and family level), societal changes in migration and travel movements (at the population level), and mitigating interventions (at the abstract governmental policy level). The predictive results from this system were validated against results from the CDC's high-level predictions.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION
Fall 2015**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Deborah S. Lyzenga, Master of Public Administration**

Faculty in the School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration have nominated Deborah for this award based on her excellence academic record along with impressive professional achievements while completing the graduate program in Public Administration at Grand Valley. While completing classes, she has also served Michigan Works as a Business Service Manager and most recently the Regional Director for the Business Solutions Unit. Her manuscript, based off her final master's project, "Impact of Michigan Industry Cluster Approach to Workforce Development in West Michigan" is a quantitative evaluation of a pilot project she's been running from her West Michigan office that is going state-wide.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Julie A. VanderMale, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Julie has demonstrated service by volunteering her time to learn more about her patients while on a clinical rotation. Because most of her patients on this rotation were migrant workers, Julie wanted to get a better understanding of what a day as a migrant worker was like. She was able to team up with a worker from Guatemala and spend the day with her in the fields of a blueberry farm. This allowed her to understand what life was like as a migrant farm worker in order to better care for them as a PA. Additionally, Julie has volunteered her time with the Richard P. Clodfelter Student Society as well as being the Graduate Student Representative on the GVSU Physician Assistant Studies Advisory Committee. She has shown great professionalism and dedication to her patients and to the profession.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU
Fall 2015**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Majesta M. VanWyk, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Majesta provided excellent service to the university by serving as founding president of the Professional Association for Graduate Scientists (PAGS) which serves the students in Grand Valley's Professional Science Master's degrees. In addition, Majesta has served the department as a Graduate Assistant, assisting with classes and providing individual laboratory training for new graduate students. Majesta represented Grand Valley's PSM programs in the research labs of Spectrum Health and Michigan State University, paving the way for opportunities for future students. She also served as a student representative on the Graduate Council, a faculty governance committee. With this nomination, the department recognizes both Majesta's service to the University, graduate program and her department as well as her own academic success.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU
Fall 2015**

College of Education

❖ **Carlos Michael Martinez Cruz, Master of Education in Higher Education**

As a student and professional who emphasizes and values diversity, equity, and inclusion, Carlos has: recruited students from South America, coordinated the International Student Ambassador program, is a past board member for the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, serves as a mentor and coordinator for Hermanos: The Latino Male Scholar Initiative, and has conducted special projects on, or traveled to Brazil, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Italy, Mexico, and New Zealand. These are just some of the initiatives Carlos has been involved in, and a full review of his accomplishments will reveal much more that he has done in the name of social justice. In short, his advocacy for creating more inclusive environments at GVSU and West Michigan is remarkable and contagious.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Mallory E. Martens, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

The Physician Assistant Studies faculty are in unanimous agreement that Mallory has demonstrated a dedication to inclusion and promoting the knowledge of cultural differences. Mallory was elected as the Richard P. Clodfelter Student Society Diversity chair. During her time in this position, she took the position from reactive to proactive. Instead of waiting for emails and forwarding opportunities, Mallory decided that more needed to be done. She started the RPC Cultural awareness lunches in which she would invite various individuals from the community to come to Grand Valley and give presentations on cultural diversity and inclusion. This series has continued as part of the regular student society activities. Mallory continues to forward inclusiveness in PA in thoughtful and effective ways.

❖ **Caitlin E. Montague, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

Caitlin spent a semester working closely with the members of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. As a first semester clinician, this experience is meant to expose students to providing services in the areas of cognition, communication and swallowing. To say that Caitlin embraced this experience with all of her being is putting it mildly. She included all members in activities regardless of their background, status or cultural beliefs. She displayed a mature respect for these men and women who have given so much. This population is often neglected and Caitlin's interactions displayed both professionalism and empathy for these persons. In the classroom, Caitlin embraced the idea of inclusion and diversity by bringing up very relevant discussions that displayed her broad sense of how therapists must leave prejudices and past experiences at the door in order to treat all patients with equality.

MAGS DISTINGUISHED THESIS NOMINEES OUTSTANDING THESIS 2015

The Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) calls for nominations for the annual Distinguished Thesis Award. Each school is allowed to nominate one student thesis for the award competition in each discipline category. This year's categories are Biological/Life Sciences and the Humanities. The theses representing GVSU are selected by a committee of faculty members from multiple disciplines and approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2015 MAGS selection committee included:

- Dr. Bryan Deyo, Department of English
- Dr. Danielle Leek, School of Communications
- Dr. Ali Locher, Department of Biology
- Dr. James McNair, Department of Biology
- Dr. Jennifer Moore, Department of Biology
- Dr. Osman Patel, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology

Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies and Associate Dean Dr. John Stevenson also served on the review committee and approved the final thesis selections.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Jared J. Homola, Master of Science in Biology (graduated Spring/Summer 2013)**
 - **Thesis Title:** Disease Ecology of a Microsporidian Parasite: Effects on Mottled Sculpin Population Dynamics
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Carl Ruetz, III (Chair) - Annis Water Resources Institute/Department of Biology, Dr. Mark Luttenton - Department of Biology, Dr. Stephen Kohler - Western Michigan University, and Dr. Ryan Thum - Montana State University

Jared successfully completed his thesis and graduated at the conclusion of the Spring/Summer 2013 semester. His thesis was selected to represent Grand Valley in the Biological/Life Sciences category as the nominee for the MAGS Distinguish Thesis Award.

Jared's faculty advisor, Dr. Carl Ruetz of the Annis Water Resources Institute, stated that "Jared exemplified the characteristics of a scholar while a graduate student at GVSU. Jared gave eight scientific presentations on his research at national and regional conferences, including a poster presentation at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in St. Paul, Minnesota. More impressively, Jared published a manuscript (Homola et al. 2015) summarizing the main findings of his thesis research in Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science, which is arguably the premier journal of fisheries science."

Jared is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Ecology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine.

ABSTRACT

Infectious disease can influence organisms at all levels of ecological organization, from individuals to ecosystems. Likewise, the ecosystems where pathogens exist directly influence their success. Recent theoretical studies have tied disease prevalence to biotic factors such as genetic diversity, biodiversity, and host behavior, and abiotic factors that include temperature and increased nutrient concentrations. Parasites included in the phylum Microspora are increasingly recognized for being ubiquitous in nature, although their ecological roles are generally unknown. This study examined several environmental, community, and host-related metrics to compare the biotic and abiotic aspects of 16 small streams; 6 with mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*) populations infected by the microsporidian *Glugea* sp., and 10 without the parasite. Comparisons were made between the condition of infected and uninfected mottled sculpin. Relatively high water temperatures were implicated in the presence of the parasite, although the fish assemblages did not differ significantly between streams with and without *Glugea*. Evidence of the consequences of infection was limited to reductions in liver somatic indices and increases in the somatic mass at age for infected individuals, as well as reductions in gene diversity and Wright's inbreeding coefficient. *Continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT

No significant differences were detected in host densities, host sex ratios, relative abundances, or mortality rates, and there was an absence of genetic bottlenecks in infected mottled sculpin populations. Together, these findings suggested that host population dynamics were generally unaffected by the disease. Contrary to previous ecological research on microsporidian species, mottled sculpin populations appear to be robust to infection, which is likely due to the strong density-dependent population dynamics of mottled sculpin that allow for losses due to disease to be compensatory and quickly offset. This study provides basic ecological insight into the role of microsporidian parasites in natural ecosystems.

- ❖ **Anna M. Worm, Master of Arts in English (graduated Winter 2014)**
 - **Thesis Title:** "God Made Me Thisaway:" Mary Wilkins Freeman, Flannery O'Connor, and Religiosity as Challenge to Heteronormativity
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Avis Hewitt (Chair) - Department of English, Dr. Brian White - Department of English, Dr. Danielle DeMuth - Department of Women and Gender Studies, Dr. Frederick Antczak - Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Anna successfully completed her thesis and graduated at the conclusion of the Winter 2014 semester. Her thesis was selected to represent GVSU in the Humanities category as the nominee for the MAGS Distinguish Thesis Award.

Anna's thesis committee chair, Dr. Avis Hewitt, stated "Anna's work is powerful in several ways. First, her choice of texts to juxtapose and the conceptions with which she framed her reading of them speaks to the powerfully bold and deeply creative way she thinks. She courageously chose to combine what might be considered a culturally conservative conventional frame, religiosity, with a dramatically contemporary social issue, heteronormativity."

Anna is currently enrolled in the Rhetoric and Composition doctoral program at Florida State University.

ABSTRACT

The fiction of Mary Wilkins Freeman and Flannery O'Connor, especially Freeman's "A New England Nun" and "The Balsam Fir" and O'Connor's "A Temple of the Holy Ghost" and "Good Country People," expose and challenge heteronormativity. Consideration of heteronormativity and compulsory heterosexuality, as well as religious themes demonstrates the way their works offer an avenue of challenge for characters struggling with societal forces that push them towards an unwanted or unfulfilling heterosexuality. Although Freeman's works suggest that a satisfactory life outside heterosexual norms is unrealistic, with community alienation the price for resistance, she envisions religion a valuable tool in such resistances. O'Connor's texts explore the problems and possibilities of living in a heteronormative society and suggest divine grace as an avenue to transcendence of these harms. Neither believes in an easy solution to the struggles of finding fulfillment in the face of heteronormativity, but each considers resistance valuable.

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
Fall 2015**

❖ **Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury, Assistant Professor of Education**

Nominated by: Jakia Fuller, Education-Higher Education and Tiffany Steele, Education-Higher Education

Jakia writes: "I met Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury during my first year of graduate school. She met individually with each student to discuss thesis and project ideas. This level of dedication and commitment is rare to come by in regards to faculty members who have a plethora of teaching and outside obligations. I felt that I could trust Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury's input, advice and guidance throughout the course and my graduate school career. Since that moment, she has been an outstanding mentor throughout my current endeavors of completing a master's thesis and applying for doctoral programs.

Serving as a member of my thesis committee, Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury provides me with thoughtful feedback in order to encourage me to produce my best. Her confidence in my abilities to complete research influenced me to apply to doctoral programs and she has continued to show her support in my future by providing me recommendations for doctoral admission. I never question reaching out to Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury for advice, as I know she will always have my best interest at heart. Even beyond my thesis and doctoral application process, Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury encourages me to participate in research with faculty members in order to gain more research experience, develop my writing skills and eventually publish a peer-reviewed article. With her encouragement, I continue to strive to be the best I can be."

Tiffany adds: "Not only did she keep the classroom engaged, but she took time to ensure my writing was clear with my thesis proposal and guided me through this process outside of class. There were many times when I doubted myself because I did not know what direction I wanted to take my research in, but Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury spent time with me to organize my ideas and conceptualize my project while being encouraging and supportive. Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury also encouraged me to work with faculty members on research projects in an effort to further develop my research and analytical skills. The willingness to be completely accessible to students in order to ensure their success is the difference between a professor and an exceptional

educator. Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury is an exceptional educator and remarkable mentor. My experience as a graduate student in the College of Education has been enhanced as a result of the leadership of Dr. Bailey-Fakhoury. If there is anyone who deserves this award, it is her.”

❖ **Cynthia Grapczynski, Professor of Occupational Therapy**

Nominated by: Jessica Drews, Occupational Therapy

Jessica writes: “Dr. Grapczynski exemplifies what it means to be a mentor by modeling the way toward success through hard work and dedication. Dr. Grapczynski’s passion for occupational therapy has been nothing short of contagious while in her position as program director for many years. Speaking to her about the future of occupational therapy has been motivation for numerous students in the program to continue learning and growing throughout our careers to make a difference in the profession.

One of the unique attributes that Dr. Grapczynski embraces is her ability to maintain a high level of professionalism while continuing to be approachable and compassionate toward students.

Dr. Grapczynski is strong-willed and always respectful toward other faculty members within the program and the students. Her sense of humor has brightened my day many times and has made the classroom a positive environment. Through real-life examples and various teaching methods, she has successfully facilitated active learning, which has helped me to comprehend and apply the content of the courses.

I feel extremely blessed to have Dr. Grapczynski as an influential mentor in my education toward becoming an occupational therapist. She never ceases to amaze me with her positive attitude, regardless of approaching deadlines or personal life stresses. Dr. Grapczynski continually embraces opportunities to grow as an occupational therapy practitioner and to develop new advances in the profession, which sets a magnificent example for students.”

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS
Fall 2015**

President: Lauren Presutti, Higher Education

Vice President: Colette Cascarilla, Business Administration

Finance Officer: Nadina Zweifel, Biomedical Engineering

Administrative Officer: Shahrzad Eslamian, Medical and Bioinformatics

Communications Officer: Frederick Lawrence, Business Administration

Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:

Amber DePree, College Student Affairs Leadership

Jakia Fuller, College Student Affairs Leadership

Advisors:

Mr. Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Dr. John Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

**GRADUATE COUNCIL OFFICERS
Fall 2015**

Chair:

Dr. Mark Luttenton, Biology

Vice-Chair:

Dr. Claudia Leiras, Allied Health Sciences

Policy Subcommittee Chair:

Mr. Andrew Booth, Physician Assistant Studies

Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. Mark Staves, Cell and Molecular Biology



Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. John R. Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

Irene Fountain, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Palm, Office Coordinator

Graduate Assistants:

Jordyn Lawton, Public Health

Brent Showerman, Public Administration and Social Work

Student Assistants:

Eugenia Browner, Social Work (undergraduate)

Shannon Heynen, International Business (undergraduate)

Office of Graduate Studies

401 W. Fulton St

318C DeVos Center

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Phone: 616-331-7105

Email: gradstudies@gvsu.edu

Website: <http://www.gvsu.edu/gs>

