

Graduate Student Celebration

December 8, 2017

Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

Presented by The Graduate School
318C DeVos Center
616-331-7105
www.gvsu.edu/gs
gradschool@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:

Tyler Kanczuzewski, GSA President

Welcome:

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School

Graduate Dean's Citation Awards Recognition:

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School,
Dr. Mark R. Luttenton, Associate Dean of The Graduate School,
Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students
and Jennifer Palm, Assistant to The Graduate School

Graduate Student Association Faculty Awards Recognition:

Tyler Kanczuzewski, GSA President,
And Daniel Myers, GSA Vice President

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

Welcome!

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

This evening 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 celebrate their achievements. First held in 2006, this proud Grand Valley State University tradition began thanks to the combined efforts of the University Graduate Council and the Graduate Program Directors. The Graduate School and the Graduate Student Association serve as 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 The Graduate School 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 graduate faculty members. I wish each of our award winners a very 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 initial "J" and "P".

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

Table of Contents

Graduate Dean's Citations Recipients for Fall 2017	7
Graduate Student Association Faculty Awards for Fall 2017	11
Academic Excellence in the Degree Program	12
Outstanding Master's Thesis	18
Outstanding Final Project	20
Excellence in Service to the Community or Profession	23
Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU	26
Excellence in Promoting Diversity and Inclusion at GVSU	29
Excellence in Sustainability	31
MAGS Distinguished Thesis Nominees	32
Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award	36
Graduate Student Association Officers	38
Graduate Council Officers	38
The Graduate School Staff	39

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Fall 2017**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Daria S. Konanykhina, Accounting
- ❖ Megan R. Spruit, Business Administration

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Ayris T. Gonzalez, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Kurtis C. Boeve, Health Administration
- ❖ Andrea J. Osburn, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
- ❖ Andrew M. Claucherty, Public Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Victoria L. Toth, School Counseling

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Eric M. Domke, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Sai Krishna Kotha, Medical and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Corinna R. Kudwa, Clinical Dietetics
- ❖ Luke B. Holly, Physician Assistant Studies-Traverse City
- ❖ Samantha L. Ferqueron, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Emily A. Kindervater, Biology
- ❖ Pasha E. Shipp, Communications

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Mary K. Ziomkowski, Nursing

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Joseph T. Altobelli, Biology

OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Kylie J. Hornak, Health Administration

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Matias Gil, Computer Information Systems

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Jodie L. Vander Meer, Clinical Dietetics
- ❖ Michelle M. Strzyzewski, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Jocelyn V. Flint, Communications

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Tamara S. Van Kampen, Nursing

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Robert A. Joseph, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Kaitlyn R. Kleibusch, Health Administration

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Susan E. Herman, Physician Assistant Studies-Traverse City
- ❖ Timothy J. Zmudka, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Rajesh Sigdel, Biology
- ❖ Mychal A. Cantu, Communications

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Luanne M. Shaw, Nursing

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Jasmine Ahuja, Health Administration
- ❖ Tammy R. Britton, Public Administration

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Sowjanya Ratho, Medical and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Aaron M. Michaud, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Lindsey K. Banktson, Physician Assistant Studies-Traverse City
- ❖ Kelsey A. Hines, Speech-Language Pathology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Tamara S. Van Kampen, Nursing

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Elizabeth A. Jawish, Public Administration

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Maria del Pilar Roldan Bustinza, Physician Assistant Studies

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Kristen J. Welbourn, Physician Assistant Studies

MAGS DISTINGUISHED THESIS NOMINEES

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Sarah E. VanOeveren, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Geoffrey M. Kishbaugh, English

*Congratulations to all of the Fall 2017
Graduate Dean's Citation Award Recipients!*

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARDS
Fall 2017

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Richard Rediske, Annis Water Resources Institute/Biology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Jean Barry, Nursing

*Congratulations to the Fall 2017
Graduate Student Association Faculty Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM
Fall 2017**

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Daria S. Konanykhina, Master of Science in Accounting**

Daria is a student in the Master of Science in Accounting program and is a top student in the program. Daria also attended GVSU as an undergraduate and received her BBA in Accounting and Economics. As an undergraduate, Daria was involved in many student organizations and also served as a student assistant during summer orientation. In addition, she has held the position of Vice President in the accounting fraternity, Beta Alpha Psi. She plans to complete the CPA exam and work in a large firm as a public accountant. Faculty believe that there is no doubt Daria will continue her success in the field of accounting.

❖ **Megan R. Spruit, Master of Business Administration**

Megan is a student in the Masters of Business Administration graduate program and comes from a family who has always owned their own business. Because of this, Megan has always wanted to pursue a degree in business. Megan's personal philosophy has been, "It's not about making as much money as possible for the shareholder; it's about providing needed goods and services to our community and giving our employees a steady job with fair wages and benefits." Faculty state that this is a very similar philosophy to that of Frank Edward Seidman, the founder of the Seidman College of business. Faculty express that her hard work for her family and tenacity to succeed has transcended to the classroom.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Ayris T. Gonzalez, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

Ayris is a student in the Criminal Justice graduate program and has also worked as a Graduate Assistant while completing her degree. Faculty express that she is very capable of understanding needs and completing tasks on her

own, and demonstrates a strong level of commitment to her education and work. She is currently working with a faculty member on a project for “Paws with a Cause,” analyzing secondary data about Dog-Training Programs in Michigan Prisons. She acts as a leader among her peers and is an active participant in her education by consistently asking questions, seeking clarification on difficult topics and posing thoughtful queries to the group. Ayris is described as open-minded, fair, reflective and genuinely interested in (and dedicated to) her own education, and personal and professional development.

❖ **Kurtis C. Boeve, Master of Health Administration**

Kurtis is a non-traditional graduate student in the Master of Health Administration program, coming from a business background outside of health care. Despite this, and his hectic global travel in his current employment, he excelled throughout the entire degree program. His love of learning, attention to detail, strong team skills, completing all projects and exceeding expectations are all strengths he has exhibited. He is focused on his goal of a future ‘encore’ career in health administration following retirement from his current position in the auto industry.

❖ **Andrea J. Osburn, Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership**

Andrea is a student in the Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership program with an emphasis in Mission Advancement. She has excelled academically in a rigorous graduate program. Currently, Andrea serves as the Senior Director of Growth and Innovation for Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, MI. She also holds a Master’s degree in Education and regularly publishes and presents on topics related to education and nonprofit leadership. In addition to her teacher certification, Andrea is also completing the graduate certificate in Nonprofit Leadership at GVSU.

❖ **Andrew M. Claucherty, Master of Public Administration**

Andrew is a student in the Master of Public Administration program and also works as a Grants and Data Specialist for Habitat for Humanity of Kent County. Andrew’s academic performance in each class has been exceptional, as evidenced by his high grade point average and his contributions to in-class engagement. During his time as a graduate student, he also served as the Frey

Chair for Family Philanthropy Graduate Assistant in the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at GVSU. The faculty of the program state it is widely felt that Andrew reflects the spirit of this award.

College of Education

❖ **Victoria L. Toth, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Victoria is a student in the Master of Education in School Counseling program and serves as an intern at a middle school, where she has worked with students of varying abilities to become a trusted part of the school's counseling team. In this role, it is said that she demonstrated strong classroom curriculum delivery skills and exemplified compassion and confidence when working with students across the learning spectrum. Faculty express that Victoria possesses a genuine, compassionate, and empathetic presence, and that she is on an unending quest for knowledge about the profession.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Eric M. Domke, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

Eric is a student in the Computer Information Systems graduate program. He has excelled in all of his course work and will graduate with a 4.0 GPA. While completing his graduate studies, Eric has been working as a Software Engineering and Business Analyst for the Gentex Corporation located in Zeeland, MI. He also volunteers with GiveCamp, building websites for nonprofit organizations. The faculty in the School of Computing and Information systems note that Eric routinely went well beyond the homework and project specifications, and that he was a model student to have in the classroom.

❖ **Sai Krishna Kotha, Master of Science in Medical and Bioinformatics**

Sai is a student in the Medical and Bioinformatics graduate program. He is known by faculty as a very interested and active student, and as a student, Sai was always among the best in class. He was able to secure an internship at Dataplus Pharma Services in New Jersey as a Clinical Data Analyst. His general attitude towards work is excellent, which he showed in class and

with more challenging class and internship projects. Considering Sai's academic record, special ambition, and determination, the faculty strongly recommend him for this award.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Corinna R. Kudwa, Master of Science in Clinical Dietetics**

Corinna is a student in the Clinical Dietetics graduate program. The faculty note that she is a positive presence in class, where she is hard-working, inquisitive and naturally took on leadership roles in group work with fellow students. Throughout her time in the program, she earned a remarkably high GPA and maintained a positive attitude and strong work ethic. Corinna enthusiastically pursued and successfully obtained the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Program Certificate. This is impressive given the demanding schedule required of students during the graduate program. The faculty believe Corinna is an exceptional student and a fantastic example of academic excellence.

❖ **Luke B. Holly, Master of Physician Assistant Studies (Traverse City)**

Luke is part of the inaugural class of Physician Assistant Studies to graduate in Traverse City. He has maintained exceptional grades through the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program and has portrayed professionalism and a commitment to learning. His academic excellence earned him great respect among his peers. Luke is looked up to by his peers and frequently asked to explain difficult concepts. He has a gift for educating his peers and there is no question that he will continue these actions with his patients. Luke's drive, determination, and passion to educate others will make him an exemplar Physician Assistant to all of his patients, community, and to the profession.

❖ **Samantha L. Ferqueron, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

Samantha is a student in the Speech-Language Pathology graduate program. She is receiving this award because of her incredible growth as a student since her undergraduate studies. During her time at GVSU, Samantha has served in the Information Technology department as an A.V. Technician. She has also completed clinical experiences at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital, Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, and the Grand

Rapids Home for Veterans. Samantha holds a high GPA in this program and faculty express that she continuously impresses her professors and clinical preceptors with her knowledge and clinical skills.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Emily A. Kindervater, Master of Science in Biology**

Emily is a student in the Master of Science in Biology program through the Annis Water Resources Institute. Emily is described as an inquisitive, bright, hard-working, collaborative, respectful, model graduate student. She has excelled in the classroom, field, and laboratory. Emily's thesis project focused on the effectiveness of two-stage ditches to control phosphorus runoff in the Macatawa watershed and involved intensive year-round field sampling and cutting edge laboratory analysis. During her graduate studies, she obtained four external grants to supplement her graduate assistantship, including very competitive grants from the Society for Freshwater Science and the Michigan chapter of the North American Lake Management Society. Emily is currently in the process of finalizing a manuscript for submission to a scientific journal while she continues to work in the lab and serve as a teaching assistant in the Department of Biology. Faculty express that Emily has a clear drive and passion for her work and has striven to meet and exceed all academic expectations.

❖ **Pasha E. Shipp, Master of Science in Communications**

Pasha is a student in the Master of Science in Communication program and currently works as a Communications Project Lead at Steelcase Operations Communications here in Grand Rapids. She has also previously worked as a Digital Content Specialist for ArtPrize and a Graduate Assistant in the Office for Community Engagement. Faculty express that Pasha exhibits a level of mastery of the subject matter that is rare among graduate students nationally. She has a strong academic performance in all classes and possesses a vast knowledge of communication theory. Additionally, faculty state that she successfully and skillfully applies theory and conceptual principals to practical communication problem-solving situations. She is described as "a clear example of achieving ones dream."

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Mary K. Ziomkowski, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Mary is a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate program in the Health Systems Leadership track. She is an excellent student, as evidenced by her 4.0 GPA. Mary is described as a leader in her cohort, demonstrating a true passion to learn and to work in partnership with her peers so that all are inspired to strive for excellence. Faculty express that her writing ability is outstanding, and her ability to express herself in writing gives new meaning to writing clarity, coherence of thought, and expressive use of language. Both in the classroom and in the clinical arena, Mary is described as a leader, always striving to be on the cutting edge of knowledge and to be a peak performer.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS
Fall 2017**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Joseph T. Altobelli, Master of Science in Biology**

- **Thesis Title:** Nest-Site Selection and Neonate Survival of Eastern Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) in Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Jennifer Moore (Chair) – Department of Biology, Dr. Paul Keenlance – Department of Biology, and Dr. Alexandra Locher – Department of Biology

Joseph's thesis research focused on nest site selection and neonate survival in eastern box turtles. Turtles are declining globally, and knowledge gaps currently hinder our ability to effectively manage and recover these populations. Joe's thesis addresses an important question for the viability of a species that is of conservation concern in Michigan. Broadly speaking, his research is important for conservation biology and management. The Biology Graduate Committee has evaluated Joseph's thesis and found it to be excellent.

During his tenure at GVSU, Joseph has turned into an excellent communicator. His excellence in written communication is evident in his thesis. He has managed to communicate complex topics in an effective and understandable way. The faculty of the Biology Department have no doubts that Joseph's thesis will ultimately be published in high quality scientific journals, with minimal editing prior to submission. This is a testament to the quality of the science and the writing.

Joseph's abstract appears on the following page.

ABSTRACT

Turtles (Order Testudines) are experiencing global declines largely due to anthropogenic influences such as habitat fragmentation, illegal collection and sales, and the threat of global climate change. Removal of individuals from the adult age-classes means there is now a greater need to understand the survival of neonate and juvenile turtle age-classes. In this study I examined a population of eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) at the northern limit of their range in Michigan's lower peninsula. The objectives of my thesis were 1. to determine the microhabitat factors that influence nest site selection by female box turtles and how selected microhabitat and environmental factors affect box turtle nest success and 2. create known-fate annual survival estimates for hatchling box turtles through the first year of life. Box turtles select nest sites with a higher percent of bare soil and lower amounts of understory vegetation compared to random sites and avoid nesting on north facing slopes. Larger clutch sizes as well as a lower percent of bare soil at the nest site increased the probability of nest success. Depredation and exposure to suboptimal environmental conditions were the primary sources of neonate mortality from 2013-2015, and annual survival estimates for neonate box turtles predicted survival to decrease through the first year of life with a steep drop in the probability of survival from nest emergence in the fall, before leveling off at 50% for overwintering (day 50 = .503; SE = 0.067), then gradually decreasing again with spring emergence till reaching 0% survival short of the 1 year mark (day 335 = 0.0). Similar studies should be conducted across the geographic range of Eastern Box Turtles to better understand the major threats to the survival of other box turtle populations.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT
Fall 2017**

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Kylie J. Hornak, Master of Health Administration**
 - **Project Title:** Breastfeeding America
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Priscilla Kimboko – School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration

Kylie excelled throughout her graduate program and played a leadership role in the Health Professions Graduate Student Alliance. For her final 'project' – the preparation of a journal quality research paper – she started with a team project focused on process improvement in a breastfeeding initiative at a local hospital. Her paper, *Breastfeeding America*, describes the known benefits of breast feeding overall, and then investigates the evolution and impact of infant formula and cow's milk on a mother's ability to breastfeed and on the cognitive and physical development of children. She also tracks how these trends in the US have influenced other countries and addresses the challenges of creating a culture of breast milk utilization.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ **Matias Gil, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**
 - **Project Title:** Using a smartphone to help improve the accuracy of Varroa destructor infestation monitoring
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Jonathan Engelsma – School of Computing and Information Systems

For his Master's project, Matias researched various gesture recognition algorithms using an iPhone accelerometer. His focus was to develop a smartphone app that helps train apiculturists to monitor live honey bee colonies for varroa infestations. Entomologists have identified the varroa destructor, an external parasitic mite, as the number one threat to honey bee populations. The project was in collaboration with the GVSU Mobile Applications and Services Lab and a bee research scientist at Michigan State

University. In addition to his research, Matias has excelled in his CIS coursework, exhibiting a consistent passion for learning and strong work ethic that enables him to see his creative ideas carried through to fruition.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Jodie L. Vander Meer, Master of Science in Clinical Dietetics**

- **Project Title:** Breastfeeding Practices of WIC Participants: Exploration of Barriers
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Elizabeth MacQuillan – Department of Allied Health Sciences

Jodie's project advisor, Dr. MacQuillan, writes she has sincerely enjoyed observing the development of Jodie's project and feels her research makes an important contribution to the field of maternal-infant nutrition through its exploration of barriers to breastfeeding among participants of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Dr. MacQuillan states she has been continually impressed by the depth of understanding Jodie has for this topic, and this is clearly informed by her hard work reviewing the literature as well as her passionate interest. Jodie's research is important because it resulted in a finding that can be moved forward to advance the effectiveness of current interventions and also can inform future studies by pinpointing an area of research that has been neglected up to now.

❖ **Michelle M. Strzyzewski, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

- **Project Title:** Speech-Language Pathology Praxis Examination (Final Portfolio)
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Courtney Karasinski – Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Michelle is a student in the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology graduate program. As an undergraduate she had a speech-language pathology emphasis and chose to continue for her master's degree. Both her academic and clinical faculty are impressed with her knowledge of the field and her clinical skill. Faculty express that her final portfolio displayed a deep understanding of Speech-Language Pathology. Additionally, she earned the highest score in the program's history on the certification exam.

College of Liberal & Arts and Sciences

❖ **Jocelyn V. Flint, Master of Science in Communications**

- **Project Title:** Strategic Internal Communications Plan: A Case Study
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko – School of Communications

Jocelyn's case study project is exemplary of what world-class communication professionals do best: provide strategic communication advice and direction to aid in organizational decision-making. Her work properly theorizes and predicts the problems and shortcomings of a particular organization. Guided by theoretical insight, Jocelyn provides an analysis that is both sophisticated and practical. Her recommendations create the foundation upon which the organization will be able to become more functional and directed, two critical attributes it presently lacks. In addition, she is a most capable student and has the drive, determination, curiosity, and ambition that make her highly successful in the communication industry.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Tamara S. Van Kampen, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

- **Project Title:** An Evaluation of a Care Conference Model and Improvement in the Transition Process for Medically Complex Pediatric Patients between Inpatient and Outpatient Care
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Amy Manderscheid – Kirkhof College of Nursing

Tamara's engagement, passion and talent was immediately evident as she conducted an organizational assessment to determine needs within a significant healthcare system for her final project. Tamara's partnership with her site mentor; engagement with the inter-professional team, including nursing and healthcare executives, attending physicians, resident physicians, and primary care physicians; and robust drive to improve quality and safety are impeccable and worthy of sincere recognition. Her expertise in health systems leadership coupled with recognition as a valued team member within this healthcare organization led to greatly impacting outcomes through her project. Throughout the doctoral project journey, her intelligence, genuine approach, compassion, humbleness and high work ethic shone through.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION
Fall 2017**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Robert A. Joseph, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

Robert has spent the last year and a half engaging with the community and conducting applied research to evaluate the implementation of restorative circles in four schools in western Michigan. Robert worked with faculty to design a study and built a database in SPSS. He has since entered approximately 1,000 cases into the database. Faculty express that he was exceptionally engaged in the process, often making positive suggestions about how the database could be improved. Robert plans to participate in the dissemination of the findings of this study to a national audience at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in February 2018. Robert is described by faculty as someone who has made significant contributions to the community, is a superb graduate student, and has always been a classroom leader and a fine scholar.

❖ **Kaitlyn R. Kleibusch, Master of Health Administration**

While excelling in her MHA studies, Kaitlyn has also completed two internships, worked part-time, and is the first MHA student to complete the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Program Certification. The IPE Certification Program has allowed her the opportunity of interacting with multiple clinical students and gain an understanding of their perspective on the delivery of healthcare services. Kaitlyn's detail oriented nature is evident in all of her class work as well as is reflected in her new appreciation of how different disciplines view healthcare delivery. Kaitlyn has reached into the community to work with the elderly, low-income, and college student populations. In all of her community outreach efforts, she has provided leadership and represented the healthcare profession in an admirable manner.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Susan E. Herman, Master of Physician Assistant Studies (Traverse City)**

Susan has demonstrated her passion for giving back to the community in a variety of ways. Being part of the first graduating class from Traverse City, Susan had to develop new relationships with community leaders and come up with ways to serve the community that this program has not had to do before. In her role as the PA student society's (RPC) Traverse City volunteer coordinator, she developed the Traverse City children's museum volunteer opportunities. The hard work Susan has put into these efforts will continue to be utilized for years to come by the PA students at the Traverse City campus. Faculty express that it has been an honor and pleasure to have Susan in the program and are excited to honor and recognize her work with this award.

❖ **Timothy J. Zmudka, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

Timothy is a student in the Speech-Language Pathology graduate program and has worked in a number of service roles. He has directed a camp for individuals with disabilities, he has worked to develop strategies for improving the writing of college students with learning disabilities, and has presented these findings to help other students do the same. Timothy has presented at the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association Conference and the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education & Research Center Conference. He is described as a student who truly makes a difference in the lives of others. Faculty express that they are proud to have Timothy as their student and look forward to his continued service in the community.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Rajesh Sigdel, Master of Science in Biology**

While completing his graduate program, Rajesh has also been recognized for his contributions and outreach to the Asian community in the West Michigan area. He has served as a volunteer for the Bhutanese Association of Michigan (BAM), a non-profit organization to help the Bhutanese refugee community. Rajesh was the master of ceremonies at BAM's World Refugee Day Celebration in 2016 and translated presentations into Nepali for attendees. In

addition, he is an active volunteer of the West Michigan Asian American Association and coordinated fundraising and food donations for the community. Rajesh has happily and diligently served the newest and lesser known individuals and families in West Michigan, all while maintaining academic excellence in his degree program.

❖ **Mychal A. Cantu, Master of Science in Communications**

During Mychal's time in the Communications program he completed an internship with the Detroit nonprofit organization buildOn – an organization committed to the idea that service and education will break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations. Mychal held the position of Program Service Learning Coordinator at this organization. In his role, Mychal identified service learning opportunities throughout the Detroit area for high school student volunteers, pairing students with specific service learning opportunities. This program exceeded expectations this year, and has grown to over 70 students under Mychal's leadership. Faculty believe that Mychal's contributions are making a significant difference to the community, and celebrate his leadership and achievement with this award.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Luanne M. Shaw, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Luanne is an active member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and has been involved in the leadership of the regional Sigma Theta Tau chapter Kappa Epsilon at large since 2010. Currently, Luanne serves as the chapter's secretary. In addition to these activities, Luanne has an active role in Nursing's Honorary Scholastic Society and is very active in the community doing volunteer work. She has volunteered for Open Bible Church, Operation Christmas Child, Gilda's Club, Kid's Food Basket, Jump Jam, and East Grand Rapids Public Schools. She has also served as a judge for the Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners Research Day. Faculty commend Luanne for her consistent contributions to both the profession and the community.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU
Fall 2017**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Jasmine Ahuja, Master of Health Administration**

Jasmine has shown her leadership abilities and her willingness to serve GVSU as she has served as Vice President (2016-2017) and then President (2017-2018) in the Health Professionals Graduate Student Alliance, the ACHE (American College of Healthcare Executives) Student Chapter at GVSU. As President of HPGSA, she attended Board meetings and other educational offerings of the Great Lakes Chapter of ACHE representing GVSU. She was instrumental in acquiring funds for at least 7 students to attend the National Congress of ACHE in Chicago two years in a row - a conference she attended representing GVSU, networking with other healthcare leaders, and gaining knowledge to apply to her career as a healthcare leader. The faculty state they are fortunate to have Jasmine as a graduate of the MHA program.

❖ **Tammy R. Britton, Master of Public Administration**

During her time at GVSU, Tammy has been a leader both in the classroom and outside of it. In class, Tammy is an exceptional team player and is always prepared and outspoken. Tammy has also taken a leadership role in the Nonprofit Student Graduate Student Organization, helping to guide the future of this student organization for graduate students. In addition to her leadership roles at GVSU, Tammy is currently serving as Board Secretary for the Kenowa Hills Education Foundation and worked as a Program Support Specialist at the Post-Adoption Resource Center, a partnership program with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, MI.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Sowjanya Ratho, Master of Science in Medical and Bioinformatics**

In addition to performing exceptionally in her classes for the Medical and Bioinformatics graduate program, Sowjanya has been very active in the larger graduate student community. In 2016-17, Sowjanya served as the Administration Officer of the Professional Association of Graduate Scientists at GVSU. In this role, she assisted the Communications Officer and facilitated general assembly and executive board meetings. Sowjanya assisted with the organization of several events for her fellow graduate students. The faculty of the Medical and Bioinformatics program state that her record of service, ambition, and determination make her an ideal recipient for this award.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Aaron M. Michaud, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Aaron has demonstrated leadership and service to GVSU, the Physician Assistant Studies program and his classmates as the president of the PA's Student Society for GVSU. Aaron possesses strong leadership skills and motivates others with his servitude to his classmates and the community. Aaron was instrumental at organizing the 2016 Heels to Heal 5K, and supported others by participating in multiple other community service events. His strong leadership skills took him to the national level where he represented the GVSU PAS program at the student assembly of representatives for the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistant.

❖ **Lindsey K. Banktson, Master of Physician Assistant Studies (Traverse City)**

Lindsey is a natural leader and proven to be an outstanding communicator. As a member of the inaugural class at the Traverse City campus, Lindsey found a way to blaze a new path for her classmates and the students to follow in their path. She was the first Vice President at the Traverse City campus. In this position, she worked very closely with the President and Vice President at the Grand Rapids campus to ensure consistency between the two sites. Lindsey represented the Traverse City Campus student voice and was instrumental at establishing a strong organizational structure and function

between the two sites. She demonstrated not only leadership, but creativity and adaptability as the student society worked and developed a new structure that met the needs for all students in the Physician Assistant Studies Program.

❖ **Kelsey A. Hines, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

Kelsey is a student in the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology graduate program and has worked in the GVSU Speech Lab since she was an undergraduate. Despite her heavy graduate course load, she has remained active in her work at the Speech Lab, and has presented on this work, with a publication in review. Kelsey also works at Lakeview Elementary School as a Graduate Clinician, developing individualized and group therapy sessions. Faculty state that it is rare that a student in the master's program in Speech-Language Pathology is able to remain active in GVSU's broader community, as the program is accelerated and intense, but Kelsey has beautifully balanced university service and academic excellence.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Tamara S. Van Kampen, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Tamara has been described as a student who displays active leadership and service to GVSU. She represented nursing doctoral students from Grand Valley at the Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana in September of 2017. Tamara also serves as the community liaison for Kirkhof College of Nursing and is the first point of contact for clinical site. Tamara is also responsible for the Clinical Placement Consortium (CPC) site for greater Grand Rapids area undergraduate placements. Additionally, Tamara serves as an ex-officio member of the Kirkhof College of Nursing Practice Committee. Faculty express that Tamara's innumerable strengths were noticeable throughout the course of serving the university, as she led with class, professionalism and integrity.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU
Fall 2017**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Elizabeth A. Jawish, Master of Public Administration**

Libby's work during her GVSU career has been focused on promoting diversity and inclusion at GVSU. Beyond her work in the classroom, Libby has been a leader with the Padnos International Center, helping international students integrate onto the GVSU campus and helping GVSU students learn about study-abroad and other internationally-focused opportunities. Libby also presents on International Education, continues to mentor student organizations, and partners with other universities on advising of international students. From 2014 to 2017, she served as an International Student Integration Coordinator for the Padnos International Center. Libby is now the International Student Services Coordinator, where she plans and implements orientation for international students, advises students on immigration, academic transition, and social engagement, and develops integration programming for faculty, staff, and students.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Maria del Pilar Roldan Bustinza, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Pilar served as the Diversity Chair for 2016 for the Richard Paul Clodfelder (RPC) PA Student Society. She embraced this role, prioritizing special lecture topics based on consensus with her classmates. She invited speakers, coordinated logistics, and communicated with students and faculty. The invited speakers and topics from diverse groups including but not limited to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, the Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI), Center for Women's Sexual Health on LGBTQ Issues in Health Care, Neurocore, and also Pine Rest ECT Clinic on Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT). Pilar brought a genuine passion and dedication to her role as Diversity Chair, providing benefits to the students and faculty of the Physician Assistant Studies program.

Pilar also worked to develop a partnership with Programa Puente at Spectrum Health, a program devoted to improving the health of the Hispanic population in Kent County. This program provides interested PA students with training and opportunities to interact with the Hispanic population, participate in health screenings, and practice or improve their Spanish skills.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY
Fall 2017**

The Excellence in Sustainability award nominees have demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovative thinking in the community by implementing sustainable best practices. The award recipients must have given life to a sustainability initiative in one or more aspects of the triple bottom line in sustainability (economic, social, or environmental).

College of Health Professions

❖ **Kristen J. Welbourn, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Kristen was elected as the Richard P. Clodfelter Student Society's Health and Wellness chair. She took this title and went above and beyond the initial position role. Kristen looked at health and wellness as a sustainability endeavor encouraging, developing and promoting a number of initiatives that meet some of the university's sustainability efforts. First, Kristin promoted health by encouraging exercise and activity. She planned exercise programs including a weekly running group, exercise classes including yoga, and crystal bowl meditation. Kristin even organized a PAS Healthy cookbook, with healthy recipes from her classmates.

Kristen has shown great sustainability practices through healthy eating, healthy activities and especially by her example! The PAS students, and faculty, are healthier and more sustainable thanks to Kristen.

MAGS DISTINGUISHED THESIS NOMINEES OUTSTANDING THESIS 2017

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 The Graduate School.

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2017 MAGS selection committee included:

- Dr. Corey Anton, School of Communications
- Dr. Sheila Blackman, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology
- Dr. Tim Born, Professional Science Masters
- Dr. Kurt Bullock, Department of English
- Dr. Amanda Dillard, Department of Psychology
- Dr. Neil MacDonald, Department of Biology
- Dr. Melanie Shell-Weiss, Department of Liberal Studies
- Dr. Laura Stroik, Department of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School and Associate Dean Dr. Mark Luttenton also served on the review committee and approved the final thesis selections.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Sarah E. VanOeveren, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology (Winter 2016)**
 - **Thesis Title:** Anillin-like Mid1 cooperates with alpha-actinin for the cortical confinement of actin filaments during ring assembly in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Dawn Hart (Chair) – Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Dr. Margaret Dietrich – Department of Biology/Cell and Molecular Biology, Dr. Brad Waller – Department of Chemistry, and Dr. David Zeitler – Department of Statistics

Sarah successfully completed her thesis and graduated at the conclusion of the Winter semester. Her thesis was selected to represent Grand Valley in the Biological/Life Sciences category as the nominee for the MAGS Distinguish Thesis Award.

Sarah's faculty advisor, Dr. Dawn Hart, stated that "Sarah's thesis project is unique for a Cell and Molecular Biology student in that it combines cell biology with advanced statistical analysis. With her thesis work, she also completed an independent study in the statistics department to advance her computational skill set. Her thesis aims to understand important mechanisms in cell division. Sarah is using the model organism fission yeast to understand how a protein called Mid1, which is required for equal division of one cell into two new cells, interacts with actin to ensure successful cell division. Cell division is a fundamental property of all cells. Therefore, Sarah's work has implications in many areas of cell biology and human disease."

ABSTRACT

In fission yeast, components of the actin cytoskeleton assemble into membrane-anchored nodes that condense to form the actomyosin contractile ring. The contractile ring physically divides a cell into two genetically identical cells. Two essential elements of contractile ring assembly include actin polymerization at the division site and organization of the resulting filaments into a robust ring. Experimental research and computational modeling has shown that these two elements depend on the contribution of actin crosslinking and bundling proteins. Although the role of many key proteins have been identified in the assembly of the contractile ring, the mechanism that confines actin filaments to the cortex is not fully understood. Moreover, defects in cytoskeletal structures lead to various diseases, including cancer and neurological disorders. Similar to the actin binding domain (ABD) of Anillin, our lab has recently characterized Mid1 Pleckstrin Homology domain (Mid1PH) as a novel actin binding domain. Here, confocal microscopy is combined with published computational modeling to show that Mid1 provides additional roles, beyond recruitment and anchoring, as an actin bundling protein. Moreover, Mid1 cooperates with alpha-actinin to confine actin filaments to the cortex. During late stage ring assembly, Mid1 shows evidence as a potential collaborator with fimbrin to inhibit actin polymerization. These results contribute to the mechanistic assembly of an actomyosin contractile ring.

- ❖ **Geoffrey M. Kishbaugh, Master of Arts in English (Winter 2016)**
 - **Thesis Title:** *Becoming Self: A Jungian Approach to Paradise Lost*
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Benjamin Lockerd (Chair) – Department of English, Dr. Kathleen Blumreich – Department of English, Dr. James Persoon – Department of English

Geoffrey successfully completed his thesis and graduated at the conclusion of the Winter 2016 semester. His thesis was selected to represent GVSU in the Humanities category as the nominee for the MAGS Distinguish Thesis Award.

Geoffrey's thesis committee chair, Dr. Benjamin Lockerd, stated "Geoffrey's thesis makes use of the concepts developed by the Swiss psychologist Carl Jung in an interpretation of John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*. Through his analysis of the dreams of patients, as well as his study of world mythology, Jung identified certain "archetypes" that appear to be universal human symbols connected with stages of psychological individuation. Literary scholars have previously used Jung's archetypes in analyzing many different literary works, but very little has been previously said about *Paradise Lost* from this theoretical perspective – and, as this thesis shows, the one extended attempt to do so makes fundamental errors in applying the theory. Geoffrey's thesis is thus highly original in its application of Jungian concepts to the interpretation of the poem."

Geoffrey's abstract appears on the following page.

ABSTRACT

When addressing *Paradise Lost*, the reader is not encountering static characters but is interacting with and being acted upon by highly symbolic manifestations of the primitive condition of humanity's collective psyche. In dealing with the figures of Christianity's mythos, John Milton creates a text that stimulates the collective unconscious of the reader and draws out the primordial expressions of the *self*—archetypal manifestations. Subsequently, these manifestations are projected back onto the figures within the text and the reader engages in a dynamic relationship with the poem as both the reader and the figures of Adam and Eve experience the process of individuation alongside one another. Carl Jung's archetypal theory offers a comprehensive blend of psychology and cultural anthropology with which to observe the individuation process, a four-stage psychological journey that involves an encounter with three archetypal manifestations: the *shadow*, the *anima(us)*, and the *wise old man* or *great mother*. Each of the predominant characters of the text act as an external projection of these internal psychological forms as the reader, along with Adam and Eve, encounters first the *shadow* in the form of Satan, next the *anima(us)* in the form of the contra-sexual other—Eve for Adam and Adam for Eve, and finally the *wise old man* or *great mother* who is simultaneously a representation of the *self* in the figure of the triune God. In the end, Adam and Eve achieve a state of individuated *self*-hood through the union of God with man, which is realized in the figure of the Christ. This image is the final manifestation of the reader's individuated *self*, a psychological state of internal and external harmony.

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
Fall 2017**

❖ **Dr. Jean Barry, Associate Professor of Nursing**

Nominated by: Mary Ziomkowski, Nursing

Mary writes: "Dr. Barry serves as graduate faculty for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program in the Health Systems Leadership tract. I have had the privilege of Dr. Barry's instruction, guidance, leadership, and mentorship over the course of the past three years. She has been a great influence on my preparation as a DNP relevant to her expert knowledge of systems thinking, application of implementation science, and experience with quality improvement and lean processes.

Dr. Barry is an exemplar of Grand Valley State University, known for its reputation for creating unique learning opportunities that emphasize a global perspective, critical thinking, creative problem solving, and cultural understanding. Dr. Barry has enhanced my scholarship by sharing the knowledge and experience attained throughout her long career as a nurse executive leader in the private sector. Her collective expertise has been invaluable to my learning and has broadened my capacity to become a successful health system leader. Dr. Barry is to be commended for her strong mentorship in preparing me to become a DNP."

❖ **Dr. Richard Rediske, Annis Water Resources Institute and Professor of Biology**

Nominated by: Daniel Myers, Biology – Aquatic Sciences

Daniel writes: "Dr. Rediske is an advisor who, above all others, exemplifies a deep commitment to fostering the professional and personal development of his students. Rick is strongly invested in the potential of his students and assists them far beyond the academic advising role. He has greatly contributed to my experience at Grand Valley by developing my talents, promoting professional development, and demonstrating sincere interest in myself and his other students.

Dr. Rediske is approachable and always has good humor. He provided me with helpful advice for my research and academics, including developing my

research interests into a three-part thesis. He help me write my first publication by reviewing countless drafts and providing additional resources for my work. He also helped me get in touch with schools for further research after I graduate, and helped me prepare my applications to be most competitive by publishing a chapter of my thesis before the deadlines. I'm confident there is no other advisor who is more deserving of this reward."

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Vice President: Dan Myers, Biology/AWRI

Finance Officer: Tyler Currie, Business Administration

Administrative Officer: Emily Agnello, College Student Affairs Leadership

Communications Officer: Kelsey Stevenson, Communications

Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:

Richa Bhurtel, Business Administration

Collin Jonkman, Communications

Advisors:

Mr. Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Dr. Mark Luttenton, Associate Dean of The Graduate School

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Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School

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Irene Fountain, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Palm, Assistant to The Graduate School

Graduate Assistants:

Amanda Gay, Occupational Therapy

Kelsey Stevenson, Communications

Student Assistants:

Brittany Ackerman, Finance (undergraduate)

Kelley Heynen, Accounting (undergraduate)

The Graduate School

401 W. Fulton St

318C DeVos Center

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Phone: 616-331-7105

Email: gradschool@gvsu.edu

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

