



# Graduate Student Celebration

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Presented by The Graduate School in collaboration with  
the Graduate Student Association

WINTER 2020



GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL



# Graduate Dean's Citation Awards

Winter 2020

Presented by The Graduate School

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in collaboration with the  
Graduate Student Association (GSA)



Dear friends and members of our graduate education community,

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. This proud Grand Valley State University tradition began in 2006 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-sponsors.

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 chairs 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. Additionally, we honor several of our graduate faculty members who have distinguished themselves in mentoring and supporting our students at Grand Valley. Their dedication helps to create a vibrant and engaged learning environment.

Grand Valley State University is extremely proud of the accomplishments of these graduate students and graduate faculty members. I commend each of our award winners and wish them 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.

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

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**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
Winter 2020**

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ Sho A. Suzuki, Business Administration

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Kayla M. Bates, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Nicolette G. Keller, Health Administration
- ❖ Jordan J. Crandell, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
- ❖ Olivia J. Rau, Public Administration

*College of Education*

- ❖ Katelynn L. James, School Counseling

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Jeffrey P. Wagner, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Paige M. Melick, Data Science and Analytics
- ❖ Samuel C. Kujawski, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Hannah E. Sommers, Physical Therapy

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Jasmine L. Mancuso, Biology
- ❖ Hanna P. Groeber, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Katelyn J. Ware, Biostatistics
- ❖ Stefanos D. Apostle, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Elizabeth M. Kheder, Communications

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Amy M. Manderscheid, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Lesli E. Teed, Nursing-Master's

**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Paige M. Kleindl, Biology

**OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT**

*College of Education*

- ❖ Erin R. Kuhn, Instruction and Curriculum
- ❖ Kyra Short, School Counseling

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Michael J. Wynne, Engineering
- ❖ Wanda G. Sankey, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Olivia C. Bruck, Haley M. Ewald, and Courtney N. Pepper,  
Physical Therapy
- ❖ Eva L. Kool, Public Health

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Kathleen G. Tejada, Cell and Molecular Biology

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Briauna J. Taylor, Nursing-Doctorate

## OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Jerika Schmitt, Physical Therapy

## EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION

### *College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Kelli J. DeLong, Health Administration
- ❖ Katherine F. Potter, Public Administration

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Courtney A. Tuinier, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Diana N. Rutaremarara, Public Health

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Mark J. Cunningham, Cell and Molecular Biology

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Laura N. Love, Nursing-Doctorate

## EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

### *College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Brent S. Reed, Health Administration

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Justyna M. Marasco, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Dami Olufosoye, Public Health

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Ikenna P. Njoku, Cell and Molecular Biology

## PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Samantha J. Taylor, Physical Therapy

## EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Emily L. Kraus, Nursing-Doctorate

## 3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION WINNER

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Afokoghene H. Odhu, Nursing-Doctorate

*Congratulations to all of the Winter 2020  
Graduate Dean's Citation Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARDS**  
**Winter 2020**

**FACULTY MENTOR AWARD**

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Naoki Kanaboshi, School of Criminal Justice

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Julia VanderMolen, Department of Public Health

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Dan Brown, Department of English

**OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD**

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Laura Lenkey, Department of Communication Science and Disorders
- ❖ Dan Vaughn, Department of Physical Therapy

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ M. Megan Woller-Skar, Department of Biology

*Congratulations to the Winter 2020  
Graduate Student Association Faculty Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM  
Winter 2020**

*Seidman College of Business*

❖ **Sho A. Suzuki, Master of Business Administration**

Sho is the top academic performer for his graduating class. He obtained his undergraduate degree from GVSU, highlighting his Laker for a Lifetime mentality. He is currently employed at Mary Free Bed using his Finance degree to help sustain and grow that organization. He juggled his full-time employment with being a part-time student in the MBA program, exemplifying his dedication to succeed. Maintaining his excellent grade point average while being a full-time employee is impressive and takes hard work and commitment. Sho is an excellent example of a Seidman College of Business student who has exceeded academically.

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Kayla M. Bates, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

Kayla is a hardworking, disciplined, and focused student who values academic success. She has engaged in independent scholarships and collaborated with the School of Criminal Justice faculty to work on research projects. She has also had the opportunity to co-present at an academic conference. Kayla has actively sought out opportunities to enhance her learning which lead her to become an intern at a Michigan Correctional Facility. She has gone above and beyond to make connections with her peers and faculty. Kayla will be attending Northeastern University in the fall to obtain her Ph.D. in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and has accepted a five-year fully-funded Research Assistantship.

❖ **Nicolette G. Keller, Master of Health Administration**

Throughout her graduate career, Nicolette has been an exemplary student while maintaining a full-time course load and being revered as a student you "want to have on your team." The excellence of her work is apparent in her

flawless execution of every class discussion, written assignment, and verbal presentation. Beyond academic excellence, Nicolette has demonstrated excellent interpersonal skills, team membership, and team leadership as a demanding yet personable leader. She is the first Spectrum Health Revenue Cycle intern whom Spectrum Health found to be so valuable that they created a new position for her. As a faculty, we are proud of Nicolette's multiple accomplishments and awards, and find her to be an exemplary MHA student, future leader, and very deserving of the Excellence in the Degree Program award.

❖ **Jordan J. Crandell, Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership**

Since joining the MPNL program, Jordan has proven herself not only to be an excellent student but also someone who is dedicated to the nonprofit sector. Throughout the last few years, Jordan has maintained an excellent GPA, been an active participant in all of her classes, served as a team leader for numerous projects, and has also been working as an Americorps VISTA at the Michigan College Access Network. Jordan previously earned her degree in International Relations from GVSU and spent several years in Vietnam after completing her undergraduate degree.

❖ **Olivia Rau, Master of Public Administration**

The MPA program is pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Olivia. Olivia has demonstrated a high level of academic achievement throughout her studies. She is an active participant in her courses, is always prepared and engaged. She is an outstanding writer and researcher, and very dedicated to her coursework. In 2019 she participated in the Network of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) Battan student simulation at the University of Michigan and has been active with the International City Management Association Graduate chapter. She has been able to integrate her internship experiences within the classroom setting, and is poised to become a leader in local government.

## *College of Education*

### ❖ **Katelynn L. James, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Katelynn demonstrates proactive advocacy for the students with whom she works as evidenced by her Master's project titled Supporting the Needs of Economically Disadvantaged Students: A Multi-Tiered School Counseling Approach. She is keenly aware of marginalized students and is working to create systemic change in equity of opportunities for students who have not had these, particularly in the area of career development and post-secondary readiness. Katelynn's supervisor for her internship noted she has exhibited strong advocacy and collaboration skills in her position, especially as it has related to the integration of an outside community-based counselor in her school. Her contributions to the field will make a lasting positive impression.

## *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

### ❖ **Jeffrey P. Wagner, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

Jeff has shown to be a model student since the beginning of his program in the Fall of 2018. Jeff earned his undergraduate in finance but has still excelled in every course, despite not having a background in a computing discipline. Faculty in the School of Computing have noted that Jeff was "one of the best" students in the program and all supported his nomination for this award.

### ❖ **Paige M. Melick, Master of Science in Data Science and Analytics**

This year the DAS program nominates Paige Melick for the Academic Excellence in a degree program for the Data Science and Analytics Master's degree. In addition to her studies she, also works full time at Herman Miller. Paige is so valued at Herman Miller that managers routinely fight with each other to get Paige to work on one of their projects. The extra pressure and drive for excellence has not got in the way of Paige as she has been able to maintain an exceptional GPA in the DSA program. All of the professors in the department agree that Paige is deserving of this award. Overall Paige represents what we all think of as a model student: smart, hardworking, calm, friendly, and energetic. She has represented Grand Valley well and will continue to do so in the future.

❖ **Samuel C. Kujawski, Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**

Sam has excelled during his time at Grand Valley and recognized as always being among the best in his class and stood out further with his persistence and quality of work. His undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan prepared him well for his Master's program in health informatics. Sam completed an internship Spectrum Health and during this time received a full-time job offer at Epic with their applications analyst team. Sam's work ethic is what allowed him to excel in his classes while balancing a new full-time job. Sam's academic record, special ambition, and determination make him an excellent candidate for this award.

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Hannah E. Sommers, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Hannah has distinguished herself with excellence in both didactic and conical coursework. Hannah is a leader in her cohort, displaying a deep understanding of foundational concepts and applied practices in physical therapy. She initiates and engages in rich discussion in the classroom; and constantly considers and plied evidence in clinical practice. In addition to her outstanding coursework, she has been a significant contributor to research with a faculty member with her project *Multiple Sclerosis, Fatigue and Participation: A Qualitative Study*. The research is expected to result in a peer-reviewed publication. Hannah's three years in the program has been marked with academic excellence and she has distinguished herself among a strong class of academic peers.

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

❖ **Jasmine L. Mancuso, Master of Science in Biology**

Jasmine is carrying out her thesis work with the Annis Water Resources Institute in an area intersecting land-use, pollution, water quality and society: "Search for drivers of harmful cyanobacterial blooms in a model Great Lakes estuary." Jasmine's well-rounded tenure at GVSU makes her a model graduate student and an unofficial ambassador for the graduate programs. She has served as lead author of four funded grant proposals and co-author

on three. She is also an effective writer and teacher with the capacity to inspire future generations. Therefore, it is only natural that her work in Michigan waters should be featured in the prestigious *American Geophysical Union's* Tumblr.

❖ **Hanna P. Groeber, Master of Health Science**

From the beginning, Hanna has shown her talent as a leader, scholar, and researcher. She is interested in anti-tumor immune responses and will be measuring whether prior microbial experiences can influence the future immune response to the tumor using a mouse model. Her findings could be extremely important for understanding cancer immunotherapy mechanisms and the frustratingly low success rate of phase I clinical trials. She will be first author on a manuscript based on her thesis work. Not only is Hanna an accomplished student, but an athlete as well. She has achieved a 4.0 GPA as a BMS MHS student while participating on the GVSU track and cross-country teams. Hanna is dedicated with palpable passion for biomedical sciences.

❖ **Katelyn J. Ware, Master of Science in Biostatistics**

Katelyn's academic work shows an attention to detail that is superlative in all respects, and especially in her written submissions and verbal presentations. Her effort far exceeds the typical performance and this strong effort has led to scholarships for conferences and led to a working paper which is being co-authored with Dr. Daniel Frobish in the Department of Statistics (and collaborators at the Annis Water Resources Institute) entitled 'How to use statistical methods of survival analysis to analyze left-censored concentration data'. In addition to her course work and graduate assistantship positions, she also secured an internship at Spectrum Health Office of Research. Katelyn has exceeded expectations as a student and will have tremendous success in the future.

❖ **Stefanos D. Apostle, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

While upholding an impressive academic record, Stefanos has maintained a busy research schedule during his studies in the PSM Biotechnology program. He was an intern at Empirical Biosciences where he was doing novel research analyzing DNA from oil samples to track underground connections between known oil deposits. As an intern at the Van Andel

Institute, he has been developing techniques for the analysis of next-generation sequence data using Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) to study combinations of biologically grouped genes which are differentially expressed together. With this nomination, the Department recognizes Stefanos' academic and scientific achievements as well as his service in enhancing the image and reputation of the department and University.

❖ **Elizabeth M. Kheder, Master of Science in Communications**

Elizabeth exhibits a level of mastery of subject matter that is rare among graduate students nationally. Her academic performance has been superlative and, in every case, far exceeding the expectations of the program. Not only does Elizabeth possess a remarkable reading knowledge relevant to the field of communication, but she skillfully and successfully applies conceptual principals to practical communication problem-solving situations—the hallmark of true excellence in the Master of Science in Communication program. Elizabeth's pursuit of graduate education speaks to the heart of her character, like that of an individual who is deeply passionate about education and committed to learning.

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Amy M. Manderscheid, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Amy strives for success in all areas of her education. She has excelled in the classroom, clinical sites, and community organizations while demonstrating the joy of learning as part of a community of scholars. She is a natural leader and has been a mentor to fellow students by creating study guides and leading groups for clinical courses. Amy's final project entitled "Articulating the value of the Doctor of Nursing Practice: An evaluation of projects, impact, and recommendations for the future" is quality, in-depth work and she plans to submit an abstract at the national nursing conference. Amy has excelled greatly during her time in the DNP program at GVSU and is a great example of an outstanding student.

❖ **Lesli E. Teed, Master of Science in Nursing**

Lesli is a hardworking, energetic, and dedicated student. Her evidence-based project that is taking place at Mercy Health Saint Mary's exemplifies her drive

to succeed. This project involves daily weights on a geriatric inpatient unit where she found a lack of standardization in the structure and process of daily weights. Lesli has fully immersed herself in her project by creating a budget, writing new policies and procedures, finding the best practices and equipment, and developing materials to educate staff. Her preceptor, along with professors have been impressed and thoroughly pleased with Lesli's work ethic. She has grown as a professionally and as a student. Her dedication is phenomenal and exemplified on a regular basis.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR  
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS  
Winter 2020**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Paige M. Kleindl, Master of Science in Biology**
  - **Thesis Title:** Impacts of Shoreline Restoration and Source of Nutrient Enrichment on Macrophytes and Epiphytic Algal Communities
  - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Alan Steinman (Chair) –Annis Water Resources Institute, Dr. Mark Luttenton – Department of Biology, Dr. Erica Young – Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Paige's thesis research, conducted at the Annis Water Resources Institute, centered on evaluating the effectiveness of shoreline restoration in Muskegon Lake, with a special focus on macrophytes and epiphytic algae that attach to the macrophytes. She combined an observational study conducted in the lake with an experiment using the AWRI mesocosm facility that manipulating nutrient source (water vs. sediment) to determine how the macrophytes and algae competed for limiting nutrients. She has just submitted her first manuscript (the lake study) to the journal Aquatic Botany and is currently working on the second manuscript (mesocosm study).

Paige successfully defended her thesis this past October and has recently been accepted to the Ph.D. program at Florida International University.

*Paige's abstract appears on the next page.*

## ABSTRACT

Macrophytes and their epiphytic algal communities are integral for optimizing littoral ecosystem functioning in lakes. Epiphytic algae's placement on the plant's surface can reduce light and nutrient availability (i.e., nitrogen and phosphorus) for the host macrophyte. Macrophyte and epiphytic algal proximity complicates these primary producer group interactions and responses to bioavailable nutrients in the water column or porewater. For example, epiphytic algae may have a competitive advantage over surface water nutrients compared to macrophytes, which may have a competitive advantage over porewater nutrients via root systems.

Muskegon Lake's industrial history and designation as an Area of Concern prompted shoreline restoration, where macrophyte surveys were conducted pre- (2009-2010) and post- (2011-2012) restoration. For my thesis, I continued the macrophyte survey in 2018 to determine restoration impacts on the macrophyte community. An epiphytic algal survey also was included to evaluate interactions with their host macrophyte (*Vallisneria americana*) and to determine algal community structure variation across habitats. To further evaluate *V. americana*-epiphytic algal interactions, I examined both primary producer groups responses to source of nutrient enrichment (sediment porewater and/or surface water).

Fluctuations in hydrologic and meteorological conditions among all survey years, largely due to water levels, obscured restoration-induced macrophyte changes and slowed ecosystem improvement. By 2018, however, we had seen an increase in restored habitat quality compared to the reference habitat based on Coefficient of Conservatism values and macrophyte biomass and density increases. My results also indicated a negative impact of epiphytic algal biomass and density on *V. americana* in Muskegon Lake and the mesocosm experiment. During the experiment, water column nutrient enrichment induced phytoplankton accumulation, reducing light and subsequent macrophyte and epiphytic algal biomass. Porewater nutrient enrichment helped alleviate the negative influence of phytoplankton biomass on macrophyte and epiphytic algal biomass when the water column was enriched.

These studies reinforced the importance of environmental variation and biological interactions in influencing macrophyte community structure. Managers can use this knowledge to choose restoration locations that will enhance macrophyte success: intermediate light and hydrologic exposure will help mitigate epiphytic algal growth, and shallow slope could help increase habitat resiliency to climactic scale environmental shifts.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT  
Winter 2020**

*College of Education*

- ❖ **Erin R. Kuhn, Master of Education in Instruction and Curriculum**
  - **Project Title:** Second Language Acquisition Instructional Methods in the World Language Classroom
  - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba – College of Education

Erin is an innovative and passionate student. She created a well-written, research-based project that provides world language teachers with strategies to be effective and to end the isolation of practitioners in rural areas. Her project is a professional development workshop that aims to provide world language instructors with meaningful training for second language acquisition, increase teacher confidence, familiarize teachers with national and state world language standards, and create a supportive, collaborative community with other world language teachers in the area, which will help alleviate the professional isolation of teaching in rural, northern Michigan school districts.

- ❖ **Kyra Short, Master of Education in School Counseling**
  - **Project Title:** Trauma-Informed Practices: A School Counselor Facilitated Professional Development
  - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Shawn Bultsma – College of Education

Kyra received the grade of “pass with distinction” during the Winter 2020 semester for her final master’s project. Kyra’s project focused on the challenges that students impacted by trauma face as they struggle in school. She documented the short and long-term effects of traumatic experiences, noting that they diminish a child’s capacity to function appropriately while engaging in the school learning environment. Her focus on advocacy and recommending systems support are not only consistent with professional standards but serve as a model for professionals and could also serve to inform a position statement for the school counseling profession.

## *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

### ❖ **Michael J. Wynne, Master of Science in Engineering**

- **Project Title:** Tesla M3 Line 2 Production Work Balance
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Charlies Standridge – School of Engineering

Michael's final project deals with the design of a new production line at Yanfeng Automotive in Holland, Michigan. Furthermore, a journal article based on this work is planned for submission to the International Journal of Industrial Engineering Computation. This paper will discuss the selection of a deterministic simulation model versus a stochastic model as well as a unique model structure with no explicit flow between the model processes with movement based on the changes in state variable values. His work is a significant contribution to both a teaching case study and a submitted journal article to result from one master's project.

### ❖ **Wanda G. Sankey, Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**

- **Project Title:** VCF Stats Search
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Guenter Tusch – School of Computing and Information Systems

Wanda was well prepared for her career path in bioinformatics from her undergraduate background in genetics and molecular genomics, with a minor in computer science. Working with scientists at Van Andel Institute, as a part of her capstone project Wanda developed a single application to easily create statistical outputs for VCF (variant call format) files, saving researchers time and computing expenses. She not only leveraged in her project what she had learned in class and her undergraduate degree, she by far exceeded the expectations for a capstone project. Wanda's general attitude towards her work, her curiosity in new developments, and persistence that sets her apart from others.

## *College of Health Professions*

*The Department of Physical Therapy has selected a group for this semester's Outstanding Final Project Award.*

❖ **Olivia C. Bruck, Haley M. Ewald, and Courtney N. Pepper, Physical Therapy**

- **Project Title:** The Effects of Various Canes on Degree of postural Sway During a Simulated Forward Fall
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Meri Goehring – Department of Physical Therapy

This group of students is well-deserving of the award for Outstanding Final Project. This project demonstrates excellence in conception, merit, significance, and presentation. They diligently and thoroughly performed their literature search, refined their research question then developed materials needed to submit to the Institutional Review Board. They quickly recruited and tested subjects, and working with Dr. Yunju Lee to run the statistical analysis. They revised and submitted their final approved manuscript well ahead of the June deadline and defended their research project via Blackboard Collaborate.

❖ **Eva L. Kool, Master of Public Health**

- **Project Title:** Association between prescription opioid distribution and overdose deaths in Michigan, 2014-2018
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Kathryn Barnhart – Department of Public Health

Eva has produced exceptional work throughout her time in the MPH program. Her final project reflects professionalism and her commitment to producing ethical and important scholarly work. She was responsible for the idea, design, and implementation of all study protocols. Eva's project addressed a critical public health issue: the current opioid epidemic, which has led to overdose becoming the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. She will be submitting a manuscript for publication upon the completion of her project in April 2020. All of the faculty in the MPH department agree that Eva is the most deserving of this award. Eva is a hard-working student who goes above and beyond to create high-quality work and her final project exemplified just that.

## *College of Liberal & Arts and Sciences*

### ❖ **Kathleen G. Tejada, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

- **Project Title:** Active Molecular Identification (AMI) Tags: Improving Sample Traceability at NxGen MDx
- **Project Advisor:** Kyle Ingersoll – NxGen MDx

Kathleen's project was conducted at the local biotechnology company. Kathleen used PCR optimization techniques learned at Grand Valley and NxGen MDx to design a new generation of AMI tags that contained improved primer sequences. These improved sequences allowed the tags to be sequenced on both ThermoFisher and MiSeq sequencing platforms without interfering with patient DNA. Additionally, during her internship at NxGen MDx, Kathleen was promoted to a molecular technologist and shortly afterward began testing for coronavirus to diagnose COVID-19 cases in Michigan.

## *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

### ❖ **Briauna J. Taylor, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

- **Project Title:** Incentivizing Healthy Food Choices among Uncontrolled Type 2 Diabetic Patients to Improve Food Insecurity, Depressive Symptoms, and Glycemic Control
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Karen Burritt – Kirkhof College of Nursing

Briauna is an innovative student who puts her all into everything that she does. She is an interdisciplinary entrepreneur as she is the co-founder of a medical device company that is currently seeking FDA approval of a sit to stand device that was developed by members of nursing, physical therapy, and engineering at GVSU. She has an excellent academic record and demonstrates quality work in her courses and clinical practice. For her final project, she developed a partnership with a local Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that noted that their diabetic outcomes and depression prevalence were failing to meet national standards. By developing a partnership with a membership-based incentivized grocery store, Briauna was able to demonstrate that better food choices help control diabetes for patients that participated. Briauna is an exceptional student who has continuously exhibited excellence.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION  
Winter 2020**

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ **Jerika Schmitt, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
  - **Publication Title:** Providing paediatric power wheelchairs in the USA then and now: a survey of providers
  - **Co-Authors:** Dr. Lisa Kenyon – Department of Physical Therapy, Dr. Sango Otieno – Department of Statistics, and Laura Cohen – Rehabilitation & Technology Consultants, Arlington VA

Jerika was a key member of the research team for this survey study. She took lead roles in the analysis, interpretation, and presentation of the findings of our 2018 survey. She worked with Dr. Otieno on the statistical analysis of the 2018 survey findings, was one of 2 researchers who independently coded responses to open questions on the survey, worked with the PI to reach consensus on this coding, and extracted all relevant data from a past similar survey. Jerika worked with Dr. Otieno to compare and contrast findings between this 2018 survey and the 2001 survey. She also developed all of the tables and figures for the manuscript and wrote the initial draft of parts of both the results and discussion sections. Her efforts on this publication earned her second author status.

*Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology:*  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2019.1617358>

*The publication abstract appears on the following page.*

## ABSTRACT

**Aims:** To explore and describe current practices in the USA related to the provision of paediatric power wheelchairs (PWCs) from the perspective of professionals involved in recommending, ordering or prescribing a PWC, and to compare and contrast current PWC practices to findings of a 2001 survey. **Materials and methods:** This descriptive study utilized a web-based survey to collect quantitative and qualitative data related to paediatric PWC evaluation activities, recommendations, decision-making considerations and other issues related to the provision of paediatric PWCs. **Results:** Both child and non-child related PWC evaluation activities were reported as frequently occurring and important. Recommendations for a child who was evaluated for a PWC but who was not endorsed to receive one included extended PWC practice and determining a child's mobility prognosis. The average age of the youngest child for whom respondents had recommended a PWC was 3 years, 3.56 months. Significant differences between the responses to this 2018 survey and a 2001 survey were found suggesting possible changes in practice pertaining to PWC evaluation activities as well as to recommendations for a child who is not endorsed to receive a PWC. **Conclusions:** Findings of the current survey suggest that barriers exist to a child, especially a younger child, obtaining a PWC.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE  
TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION  
Winter 2020**

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Kelli J. DeLong, Master of Health Administration**

Kelli has taken the long route to the MHA program beginning in the Fall of 2013 and taking only one course at a time due to demanding community and professional service in Muskegon. Throughout her graduate career, Kelli has held positions focusing on increasing the healthcare access and health outcomes for Muskegon's low-income population. She has worked on securing several state and federal grants to secure funding to address the health needs of low-income populations and currently is employed by the YMCA working in the Y-Hip program addressing the chronic and social determinants of health needs of low-income Muskegon residents. As a faculty, we are proud of Kelli's commitment of service to the health needs of Muskegon's low-income population and find her very deserving of the Excellence in Community and Professional Service award.

❖ **Katherine F. Potter, Master of Public Administration**

Katherine is an excellent student and a dedicated public servant. Her work for the State of Michigan has her at the front lines of serving those most affected by the economic losses stemming from the coronavirus pandemic. Her dedication and expertise, and that of her colleagues across state government, are essential to the public interest and a prosperous and healthy future. "As a civil servant, I want to lead and teach others the programs that aid citizens of Michigan to help my organization reach and help as many people as needed and to build a better system."

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Courtney A. Tuinier, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Courtney has served faithfully and exceptionally in her role as the APTA National Student Assembly Core Ambassador to Michigan. In this role, she

has served as a conduit of critical information from our national association, organized student events, and helped in the formation of the MPTA Student Special Interest Group. In addition, she has served as the Physical Therapy Day of Service coordinator for Grand Valley State University, as a pro bono patient volunteer guiding a maintenance program for a patient with cerebral palsy, and as a volunteer leader as in a Parkinson's class at the local hospital. The extent and depth of her commitment to service to her community and profession are truly outstanding, and she should be recognized for how she has represented GVSU in her service to others.

❖ **Diana N. Rutaremara, Master of Public Health**

Diana is a hardworking MPH student who shows her dedication to her community through consistent volunteer work. For the past two years, Diana has shown passion and commitment to making sure people in our community know their HIV status by volunteering at the Grand Rapids Red Project. Shortly after beginning her coursework, Diana began volunteering to do HIV testing and counseling. This experience required extra training at the state level, which she gladly found the time to participate in. Diana has continued to volunteer monthly to increase the availability of this public health service in the community. Diana's commitment to improving the health of the community goes above and beyond the general requirements for graduate school and her service has the potential to impact multiple communities long after receiving her MPH.

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

❖ **Mark J. Cunningham, Master of Cell and Molecular Biology**

At GVSU, Mark helped developing members of the profession by assisting with laboratory techniques and providing writing feedback for students enrolled in the undergraduate cell and molecular biology laboratory course. Within the community, Mark led a "Fall in Love with STEM" event at GVSU where he led groups making models of DNA with food. At the "Brain Awareness Week Neuroscience Fair at Grand Rapids Public Museum," Mark made model neurons using pencils and pipe cleaners to explain the neural system to the general public. With this nomination, the CMB department recognizes Mark's service to the Community and Profession, the graduate program, and his department as well as his own academic success.

## *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

### ❖ **Laura N. Love, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Laura has demonstrated a real commitment to the service of the community while conducting her final project entitled “Self-Monitoring of Blood Pressure in Community Dwelling Seniors.” She has worked exceptionally hard to establish herself in a local low-income senior housing community in order to make this research possible. She went above and beyond to attend events frequently, have face-to-face interaction with individuals living and working there, and gained the trust of those in the community. She has a passion to help this population achieve optimal health. Laura received a presidential grant to purchase blood pressure cuffs, so the residents could self-monitor their blood pressure. She truly cares about the people of this community and has used her evidence-based research to help a vulnerable population attain better health.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU  
Winter 2020**

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Brent S. Reed, Master of Health Administration**

Brent has demonstrated leadership skills since his first day in class and has continued as a leader throughout his MHA career. Brent has demonstrated leadership in the classroom through excellence in written assignments, oral presentations, and effective team leadership. He has served as President of the Healthcare Graduate Professional Student Association who led several MHA students to the 2019 annual ACHE Congress and has developed an HPGSA succession plan ensuring that future HPGSA leaders are prepared for their leadership positions. Brent is another one of our students who has taken an internship and, after successful completion, was hired into a position created for him. As a faculty, we are proud of Brent's leadership accomplishments at GVSU and Trinity Health and find him very deserving of this award.

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Justyna M. Marasco, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Justyna is a member and President of the graduating class of 2020 in the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program. She is an energetic and enthusiastic young woman who puts 110% of her energy into everything that she undertakes. At GVSU, Justyna has been involved in so many aspects of her academic community. As President of the Class of 2020, she has been integral in organizing class projects that serve other programs in the College of Health Professions, pulling together students to serve in the International Physical Therapy Day of Service initiative every year while a member of our DPT Class of 2020, orchestrating fundraising and social events that support local community organizations, and working with the DPT Program Chair to coordinate orientation and welcome events for incoming DPT students.

❖ **Dami Olufosoye, Master of Public Health**

Dami is greatly involved in the campus community and goes above and beyond to connect with students, faculty, and staff across academic programs. She is a graduate assistant with the Laboratory Safety Director and has also volunteered her time towards multiple campus opportunities. She has worked with the Cook Leadership Academy to connect with mentors and community members, served as a member for both the Vice Provost Student Advisory Board and Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center's Promoting Interprofessional Education for Students Student Advisory Board. She has also taken part in the Reach Higher Campaign and was one of multiple students who presented at the GVSU Teach-in last fall, volunteering her time to raise awareness about issues relating to social justice. Dami has far exceeded the general requirements of graduate school through her various commitments to service.

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

❖ **Ikenna P. Njoku, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Ikenna is a second-year graduate student in the Professional Science Masters (PSM) program in Biotechnology. Through his role as Financial Office with PAGES, Ikenna played an important role in generating student interest, and procuring funds for a unique workshop offered to the PSM students at GVSU. Ikenna was spearheading a PAGES event for PSM students focused on networking. He was single-handedly planning the event, which included, food, guest speakers, and a CV/Resume workshop. Ikenna has shown a willingness to serve the graduate student population because he wants to make a difference in the grad student community and GVSU. He is a model student and has used his position in the PAGES organization to leave a lasting impact at GVSU.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU  
Winter 2020**

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Samantha J. Taylor, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Sam has promoted Inclusion and Diversity in many ways. She is a student coordinator for the GVSU physical therapy pro bono clinic. Throughout her role, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to our very diverse patient population, including making sure all patients have interpreters when needed to improve our patient care. Sam was the first to volunteer to study the impact of student's experience with professional interpreters. She was highly interested in making sure her peers had proper training and wanted to learn about their experiences. Sam also promotes inclusive thinking in both the classroom and in her clinical experiences and has a desire to continue her work beyond graduation.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY  
Winter 2020**

*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).*

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Emily L. Kraus Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Emily exemplifies the qualities of an active scholar, an expert clinician, and a global citizen. She is a well-rounded student that exhibits professionalism regularly. Her final project identified a need for improving the use of do not resuscitate (DNR) orders on patients who wished to not have CPR at the end of life in a local health system where there had been multiple critical incidents. Emily expressed outstanding leadership and innovative thinking throughout the whole process. Her work is particularly important during the global pandemic, which contributes to her global citizenship. She has shown exceptional academic performance and scholarship, specifically through her course project, and deserves to be recognized.

## 3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION 2020 First Place Winner

*The Graduate School hosted GVSU's fifth annual 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on February 12, 2020. Students presented their independent research in exactly three minutes with the aid of one static PowerPoint slide. A panel of faculty judges from a variety of disciplines at GVSU determined the winner.*

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2020 3MT judging panel included:

- Dr. Andrew Booth, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Neal Buckwalter, College of Community and Public Service
- Dr. James Dunn, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Brian Hatzel, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Libby MacQuillan, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Wendy Reffeor, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing
- Dr. Steven Smith, College of Community and Public Service
- Dr. Gregory Warsen, College of Education
- Dr. Janet Winter, Kirkhof College of Nursing

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ **Afokoghene H. Odhu, Doctor of Nursing Practice**
  - **Title:** Improving Annual Dilated Retinal Screening in Type 2 Diabetic Patients
  - **Advisor:** Dr. Karen Roberts Burritt

Dr. Karen Roberts Burritt, of the Kirkhof of Nursing, stated, “Afo has demonstrated good scholarship and student performance. He also demonstrates perseverance in developing his project to improve diabetes care for vulnerable populations. The Institute for Health Care Improvement Triple Aim calls health system leaders to develop systems of care that improve patient experience, reduce cost and improve the health of populations. Afo was placed at a federally qualified health center to further his interest in improving outcomes in chronic conditions such as diabetes.

As Afo developed his DNP project work, he identified that the organization had identified a need to improve retinal screening in persons with type 2

diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy is a leading cause of blindness and vision loss among persons with type 2 diabetes. By improving annual screening rates, Afo's project has the potential to help prevent vision loss in vulnerable populations."

### **RESEARCH SYNOPSIS**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that approximately 30 million people in the United States (US) have diabetes (CDC, 2017). Approximately 8 million have diabetic retinopathy (DR) (CDC, 2018). DR is the leading cause of vision impairment in type 2 diabetic patients. Left untreated, DR can result in loss of vision and blindness (Hernández, Simó-Servat, Bogdanov, & Simó, 2017). The US spends approximately \$500 million dollars annually in the treatment of diabetes-related blindness (CDC, n.d.). Early detection and management of DR through tight glycemic control, aggressive blood pressure and lipid management is essential to preventing complications of the disease (Cunha-Vaz, 2004). Thus, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) endorse yearly diabetic retinal exam screening as part of the management of diabetes (NCQA, 2019; ADA, 2016). Failure by providers to properly manage DR results in forfeiting of an enhanced reimbursement (MVP Health Care, 2018). The purpose of this Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) project is to implement an intervention to address the question: Can implementation of a retinopathy protocol improve adherence to screening and treatment standards of care for type 2 diabetes patients and improve quality metrics from baseline at a Midwest (Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)? The Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) framework served as the implementation strategy to support the evidence-based interventions (Health Improvement Scotland, 2019). The intervention is designed to address the clinical question were: (1) the documentation of the completed retinal exam results in the electronic health record (EHR), and (2) implementation and evaluation of an educational sessions intervention on Type 2 diabetes Quality Improvement (QI) metrics for DR. As a result of these interventions, there was improvement in retinal exam screening among type 2 diabetes patients.

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
FACULTY MENTOR AWARD  
Winter 2020**

*The Faculty Mentor Award serves to acknowledge faculty who exemplify a deep commitment to fostering the professional and personal development of graduate students. This includes encouraging the development of individual talent through advising graduate level research, promoting professional development opportunities beyond the classroom, and providing successful transition from graduate studies to individual careers.*

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Dr. Naoki Kanaboshi, School of Criminal Justice**

Nominated by: Malu Gadelha, Criminal Justice

Malu writes: "In addition to performing his job at an exemplary level, Dr. Kanaboshi demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the university and all his students. Dr. Kanaboshi excels as a teacher who links theory to practice and provides relevant real-world examples of how the course material relates to current events. In our graduate course, Dr. Kanaboshi consistently used case-studies to provide us with an opportunity to explore what we were covering in class. He established a positive classroom climate, and taught us the skills necessary to voice, listen to, and understand each other's points of view.

Dr. Kanaboshi has demonstrated extraordinary commitment and effectiveness as a mentor, with persistent effort to provide meaningful assistance and mentorship to his students. I will always appreciate how Dr. Kanaboshi's mentorship allowed me to follow my passion in teaching. Because of his support, I will be starting my PhD next fall where I expect to serve as a mentor to others."

## *College of Health Professions*

### ❖ **Dr. Julia VanderMolen, Department of Public Health**

Nominated by: Gabby Roux, Public Health

Gabby writes: "I have had the pleasure and honor of knowing and working with Dr. VanderMolen for four years now, during my time at Grand Valley State University. As a graduate student, I have seen Dr. VanderMolen continuously make time to mentor students, keep my cohort up to date on research, stimulate community opportunities, encourage conference attendance, and so much more!

Dr. VanderMolen goes above and beyond for each and every one of her students. Dr. VanderMolen is an influential role model in every aspect of her life. She demonstrates a unique passion in her commitment to education, community, and advocacy with nonprofit community partners. Dr. VanderMolen has made advancements to better the lives of individuals with disabilities. Dr. VanderMolen promotes growth in education and compassion in public health practice."

## *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

### ❖ **Dr. Dan Brown, Department of English**

Nominated by: Sarah Parlette, Applied Linguistics

Sarah writes: "Over the past two years that I have been taught by Dr. Dan Brown, he has gone above and beyond the role of professor and mentor. Dr. Brown has always made time for the students of the Applied Linguistics program. He goes out of his way to meet with students, even if it is outside of his regular office hours.

Dr. Brown has been immensely supportive of me, academically and professionally. This past summer, he encouraged me to submit a presentation proposal to a regional conference and was willing to give me feedback on multiple drafts. I feel that his guidance helped in the acceptance of my presentation proposal and that his advice prior to the conference made me a more effective speaker. As my Master's Project faculty member this semester, he has continuously offered advice and has made sure I haven't

bitten off more than I can chew. On top of this, he assisted me in fine-tuning my CV as well as preparing answers for job interviews.”

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD  
Winter 2020**

*The Outstanding Teaching Award distinguishes faculty who deserve special recognition for exemplary teaching. This includes contributing to graduate student development by using thoughtful and creative methods of instruction, assisting in deeply understanding course content, and engaging students in a dynamic and inclusive manner.*

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Dr. Laura E. Lenkey, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

Nominated by: Mary Kate Hoeve

Mary writes: "As a current graduate student at GVSU studying Speech-Language Pathology, I am honored to nominate Dr. Laura E. Lenkey from the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department. I have known Dr. Lenkey for almost two years and she is honestly one of the reasons I chose to pursue a graduate degree at GVSU. Her dedication to student learning and effective teaching is unmatched by those around her. She is willing to pursue any educational challenge with guided advice and constructive criticism through her consistent dedication to her students.

As her student, I know that I would not have accomplished what I have accomplished or pursued what I have without her gentle nudge and aggressive willingness to fight for her students in the midst of uncertainty. As I mentioned, she is one of the reasons I chose to attend GVSU for graduate studies because of her unique representation of what it means to be a teacher and enthusiasm to push students out of their comfort zone for the sake of personal and professional growth. I could say more, but I hope Dr. Lenkey has been done justice in this short letter for this award. Simply, she deserves it!"

❖ **Dr. Dan Vaughn, Department of Physical Therapy**

Nominated by: Justyna Marasco, Physical Therapy

Justyna writes: “From being the first one to arrive for the day, to the last to go home, Dan is ever present in our curriculum. He assists in the lab during our first semester which is easily our most vulnerable time during the program allowing him to learn more about us than we know about ourselves. He engages each student by name, fulfills conversation, and shares his jokes daily.

Dan offers large amounts of knowledge both personally and professionally with years of clinical experience encompassing the overall needs of an outstanding physical therapist. Equally important, his teaching style allows us as students to feel at ease, to be more confident, and to continue to push forward even when challenges arise. His demeanor, instructions, and demonstrations exemplify his deep understanding of concepts enhancing our learning and critical thinking skills. It is no secret that he wants us all to succeed and is willing to do everything in his power to ensure a positive and flourishing outcome. Dan is the epitome of an exceptional teacher who is always there to offer inspiration, wisdom, or encouragement, letting us know how much he cares.”

### *College of Health Professions*

❖ **Dr. M. Megan Woller-Skar, Department of Biology**

Nominated by: Jeff Heise, Biology

Jeff writes: “The Biology Graduate Student Club (a registered graduate student organization at Grand Valley) would like to nominate Dr. Megan Woller-Skar for the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award. She does an exemplary job of teaching concepts to graduate students that few people in her field even understand. She makes this look easy while making a daunting class enjoyable.

While COVID-19 was beginning to break out in West Michigan, she was in Indonesia conducting research out of internet range. Upon her return she converted her many classes into full online courses flawlessly in less than 12 hours. Dr. Woller-Skar is a shining example of character, equity, and

brilliance in the biology department. GVSU would be fortunate to have other staff members like her.”

**GRADUATE STUDENT  
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS**

**Spring/Summer 2019**

Allen, Matt. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Public and Environmental Health Restoration on Little Flower Creek, Muskegon County, MI: Biological Communities and Microbial Source Tracking*

Aguilar-Quiroz, Christian. Brzys, Kaylyn. Paclibar, Chris. Witte, Kyle. College of Health Professions, Occupational Science and Therapy.

Title: *The Experiences of Rural Voters with Disabilities in Michigan*

Barthel, Trevor. Stehouwer, Joseph. Taylor, Samantha. College of Health Professions, Physical Therapy.

Title: *Students' Perception of the Benefits of Training and Experience with Interpreters in the Pro Bono Physical Therapy Setting*

Brouwers, Carly. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Turtles in Trouble: the Impacts of Urbanization on Two Threatened Turtle Species*

Gilmore, Cassidy. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *On the Brink of Extinction: Staghorn Coral*

Glassen, Frederick. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Competitive Interactions Between Native Brook Trout and Introduced Brown Trout: an Exploration of Niche Partitioning Using Temporal and Spatial Diet Analyses*

Harman, Tyler. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Symbiosis and Immunology of the Northern Star Coral affected by Climate Change*

Heise, Jeffrey. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Oak Savanna Vegetation Diversity and Carbon Sequestration: Implications for Management Practices*

Herweyer, Afaia. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.  
Title: *Comparison of Native and Non-Native Nectar Selections by the Endangered Karner Blue Butterfly (Lycaeides melissa samuelis)*

Lesagonicz, Randi. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.  
Title: *Detection of Tarnished Plantbugs, Apple Maggots, and Codling Moths in Bats' Diet in Southern Michigan Apple Orchards*

Mancuso, Jasmine. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.  
Title: *Search for Drivers of Cyanobacterial Blooms with Time-Series Observations, Field Measurements, and Bioassay Experiments in a Model Great Lakes Estuary*

Regenold, Miranda. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.  
Title: *The Determination of Nato3 Phosphorylation by PKA*

Ruvina, Kristi. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.  
Title: *The Road to Identify the First Aggressive Pheromone in Crayfish*

Van Linge, Katrina. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.  
Title: *Effects of Oak Savanna Restoration on Forb and Pollinator Communities*

## **Fall 2019**

Swinehart, Alyssa. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology  
Title: *Molecular analysis of Threatened Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (Sistrurus catenatus) Diet Using DNA Metabarcoding*

Kovach, Jennifer. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology  
Title: *Hematological Study with the use of Flow Cytometry to Determine Blood Cell Parameters of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake*

Cunningham, Mark. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.  
Title: *Establishing and Validating a Parkinson's Disease-like Cellular Model*

Godoy, Vivian. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.  
Title: *Effects of Muscle Contraction Intensity on Muscle Blood Flow and Blood Pressure*

## Winter 2020

Abraham, Smriti. College of Health Professions, Public Health.

Title: *Bibliotherapy and Autism Among Children*

DeRuiter, Damaris. College of Education, Higher Education.

Title: *Race and Gender Awareness Among White Female College Students Who Study Abroad in Non-European Countries*

Golus, Francesca. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology

Title: *Genomic Analysis of Captive Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) Populations: Genetic Diversity and Structure*

Groeber, Hanna. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Characterizing the Immune and Anti-Melanoma Response in a Michigan Dirty Mouse Model*

Kraus, Emily. Kirkhof College of Nursing, DNP.

Title: *Honoring Patient Do Not Resuscitate Wishes and Reducing Harm During Transitions of Care*

Kucharek, Erin. Kirkhof College of Nursing, DNP.

Title: *Implementation Strategies to Reduce Readmission Rates in Adults with Sepsis*

Love, Laura. Kirkhof College of Nursing, DNP.

Title: *Self-Monitoring of Blood Pressure in Community-Dwelling Senior Adults*

Morrison, Cody. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *The Impact of Microbial Experience on the Murine Innate Immune Response*

Roux, Gabrielle. College of Health Professions, Public Health.

Title: *An Assessment of Emergency Preparedness and Disability Training in Physician Assistant Programs and Medical Schools*

Skalski, Hilary. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Contribution of the Efferent Ducts to Reproductive Dysfunction in Obese Mice*

Taylor, Briauna. Kirkhof College of Nursing, DNP.

Title: *Incentivizing Healthy Food Choices among Uncontrolled Type 2 Diabetic Patients to Improve Food Insecurity Depressive Symptoms, and Glycemic Control*

Wilssens, Jennifer. Kirkhof College of Nursing, DNP.

Title: *Sustainable Healthcare Innovations*

**OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2020**

**GLENN A. NIEMEYER AWARD  
FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS**

*This is a university-wide award honoring the most outstanding graduate students;  
selection is made by the Provost's Cabinet.*

- ❖ Allyson Schultz, Physical Therapy

**DEPARTMENTAL HONORS  
2019-20**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ Justine Barla, Accounting
- ❖ Rachel David, General Business
- ❖ Stacey Elliott, Taxation

*College of Community and Public Service*

- ❖ Kayla Bates, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Brent Reed, Health Administration
- ❖ Jordan Crandell, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
- ❖ Danielle LaJoie, Public Administration
- ❖ Lauren Presutti, Social Work

*College of Education*

- ❖ Jason Krugler, Educational Leadership
- ❖ Oguzhan Yildiz, Educational Specialist in Leadership
- ❖ Damaris De Ruiten, Higher Education
- ❖ Alexandria Pratt, Instruction and Curriculum
- ❖ Nicole Durso, Literacy Studies
- ❖ Katelynn James, School Counseling
- ❖ Kyra Siverly, Special Education

***Padnos College of Engineering and Computing***

- ❖ Jeffrey Wagner, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Sydney Brougham, Data Science and Analytics
- ❖ Nicoline Saw, Engineering
- ❖ Brenna Kizer, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics

***College of Health Professions***

- ❖ Kyrsten Austin, Clinical Dietetics
- ❖ Ben Armbruster, Medical Dosimetry
- ❖ Angela Swindell, Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Lynsey Raschke, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Alyssa Echelbarger, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Brian Scherf, Public Health
- ❖ Mary Hoeve, Speech-Language Pathology

***Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies***

- ❖ Yeram Leonard, Social Innovation

***College of Liberal Arts and Sciences***

- ❖ Sarah Parlette, Applied Linguistics
- ❖ Jacob Schultz, Athletic Training
- ❖ Spencer West, Biology
- ❖ Hanna Groeber, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Kathryn Latack, Biostatistics
- ❖ Stefanos Apostle, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Elizabeth Kheder, Communications
- ❖ Jennifer Kinne, English
- ❖ Stephanie Rann, School Psychology

***Kirkhof College of Nursing***

- ❖ Omoyemi Idowu, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Lesli Teed, Nursing-Masters

## GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

**President:** Christina Lunn, Higher Education  
**President Elect:** John T. Jones, Business Administration

**Vice President:** Camille Pulver, Social Work  
**Vice President Elect:** Jeff Brown, Higher Education

**Finance Officer:** Jesse Smade, Business Administration  
**Finance Officer Elect:** Nyia Slade, Higher Education

**Administrative Officer:** Kersten O'Brien, Nursing  
**Administrative Officer Elect:** Phillip Todd, Higher Education

**Communications Officer:** Nate Swanson, Higher Education  
**Communications Officer Elect:** Kesha Jones, Higher Education

### **Advisors:**

Mr. Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students  
Dr. Mark Luttenton, Associate Dean of The Graduate School

## GRADUATE COUNCIL OFFICERS

### **Chair:**

Dr. Andrea Bostrom, Nursing

### **Vice Chair:**

Dr. Dan Balfour, Public Administration

### **Policy Subcommittee Chair:**

Dr. Shabbir Choudhuri, Engineering

### **Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:**

Dr. Mark Staves, Cell and Molecular Biology



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

Dr. Mark R. Luttenton, Associate Dean of The Graduate School

Irene Fountain, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Palm, Assistant to The Graduate School

**Graduate Assistants:**

Sara Campbell, Public Health

Amanda Filkins, Public Health

Cori Jaskiewicz, Data Science and Analytics

**Student Assistants:**

Brittany Ackerman, Finance (undergraduate)

Long Ho, Management Information Systems (undergraduate)

Sarah Spencer, Writing (undergraduate)

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