

# Graduate Student Celebration

April 17, 2009

Cooke DeVos Center for Health Sciences  
Hager Auditorium

Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies and Grants Administration

388C DeVos Center 616-331-7105

[www.gvsu.edu/gsga](http://www.gvsu.edu/gsga)

[gsga@gvsu.edu](mailto:gsga@gvsu.edu)

in collaboration with the  
Graduate and Professional Student Association

## Program

5:00 PM: Refreshments and Social Hour (Steelcase Foundation Lecture Hall)

6:00-7:00 PM: Awards Presentation Ceremony (Hager Auditorium)

- Introduction: Dorothy Asare-Kumah, GPSA President
- Welcome: Dr. Priscilla Kimboko, Dean of Graduate Studies and Grants Administration
- Awards: Dr. Priscilla Kimboko, Dean of Graduate Studies and Grants Administration and Dr. John Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies
- Faculty Mentor Recognition Awards: Dorothy Asare-Kumah, GPSA President

*Award recipients please note: group photos will be taken on the Hager Auditorium front platform, following the award ceremony*

## Welcome from the Graduate Dean

Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome to the Winter 2009 Graduate Student Celebration and Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence. This event is to celebrate *you* and to honor *you* for all your hard work and the sacrifices you and your family make to achieve your goal of obtaining a graduate degree at Grand Valley State University.

Some of you are here tonight to celebrate the end of the academic year, while others are here to celebrate your graduation and to be recognized for outstanding academic achievement. Please let me assure you that, no matter where you are in your program, you should be proud of your accomplishments. I know that each and every one of you can look forward to a bright and successful future.

Congratulations and the best of everything to you and yours,



Priscilla J. Kimboko, Ph.D., Dean  
Graduate Studies and Grants Administration  
Grand Valley State University

## Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence in the Major (Winter 2009)	7
Comments from Faculty and Staff about Some of the Honorees, by College	8
Graduate Dean's Citations for Outstanding Master's Thesis in a Major (Winter 2009)	14
Graduate Dean's Citations for Outstanding Master's Final Project in a Major	20
Graduate Dean's Citation for Outstanding Publication	23
Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence in Service to the Community or Profession	26
Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU	30
Other Graduate Students Demonstrating Academic Excellence in Winter 2009	33
Niemeyer Award for Outstanding Graduate Student	33
Departmental Honors 2008-2009	35
Graduate Student Presidential Research Grant Recipients (Winter 2009)	37
Graduate Student Recipients of Scholarly Travel Grants (Winter 2009)	39
Graduate and Professional Student Award: Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards	41
Graduate and Professional Student Association Officers 2008-2009	45
Graduate Council Officers 2008-2009	45
Graduate Studies and Grants Administration	46

# **Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence**

## **Introduction**

Welcome! This is the fourth academic year that we are holding this ceremony devoted exclusively to recognition of the academic excellence of graduate students during their studies at Grand Valley State University. It came about at the urging of the faculty-led Graduate Council and the Graduate Program Directors. The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) has agreed to co-host this event and allow these awards to be offered at their end-of-semester Graduate Student Celebration.

In this ceremony, we will recognize excellence in academic performance in the major, as designated by the Graduate Dean and Academic Departments in the form of the Graduate Dean's Citation for Academic Excellence in the Major. Each recipient of this award will receive a graduate honors cord (purple and white) which can be worn in the Winter Commencement ceremony. They will each receive a certificate of recognition. These forms of recognition denote outstanding academic accomplishment in one's own field of study, compared to others in the same field.

A second form of recognition is a Citation for Excellence in the Thesis or Project, either of which may be prepared as the culminating demonstration of advanced knowledge, skills, and learning in the Major. These students, too, will be recognized with an honors cord, certificate, and a silver star symbolizing the high level of performance in this final academic work. All those so nominated are eligible for consideration for the university-wide awards, in which one student's work is recognized for its excellence, described below.

The ceremony will also highlight several graduate students who have shown a university-wide level of excellence in their performance. The Graduate Dean's Citations for Excellence also include university-wide recognition in these areas: 1) Outstanding Master's Thesis, 2) Outstanding Master's Project, 3) Outstanding Publication, 4) Excellence in Community and Professional Service, and 5) Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU. Graduate students are nominated for these awards by their major advisors, the graduate program director, and the departmental chair or school director, and/or other faculty and staff engaged in graduate education that are familiar with the individual student's accomplishments in the specific areas

noted. The nominees are reviewed by the Graduate Dean in consultation with others involved in graduate education. Final selection is made by the Graduate Dean. Each recipient will be granted a certificate of recognition and a graduate honors cord. Due to the timing of this event the final recipients of each of the university-wide thesis and project awards will not be announced until the semester ends. Many are finishing their theses and project reports at this time.

In this booklet we have compiled the names of the recipients of these awards in a format that allows the university community and the public to discover the accomplishments of our master's and doctoral graduates.

Honors cords can be worn in the commencement ceremony.

**Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence in the Major  
Winter 2009**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ Jeffrey R. Fedewa, Accounting, 3.950
- ❖ Supriya G. Hedge, Business Administration, 3.751
- ❖ Ashley M. Prins, Taxation, 3.855

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Melinda S. Furtaw, Criminal Justice, 3.945
- ❖ Hilary B. Jackson, Health Administration, 3.891
- ❖ Patrick T. Morgan, Public Administration, 4.000

*College of Education*

- ❖ Marissa L. Higgs, School Counseling, 3.973

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Vinay Alofs, Computer Information Systems, 4.000
- ❖ Jennifer M. Tomaszczyk, Medical & BioInformatics, 3.719

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Kathleen M. Godinez, Physician Assistance Studies, 3.702
- ❖ Heather E. Hurt, Physical Therapy, 3.948

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Caitlin N. Dodd, Biostatistics, 4.000
- ❖ Megan Lockard, Master of Arts in English, 3.968
- ❖ Garry Sanders, Biology, 3.950

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Erin N. Hughes, Nursing, 3.982

**Comments from Faculty and Staff about the Honorees  
for  
Graduate Dean's Citations for Excellence in the Major, by College**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ **Jeffrey R. Fedewa, Master of Science in Accounting, 3.950**  
(B.B.A., Accounting, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Jeffrey Fedewa graduated Magna Cum Laude from GVSU in April 2008 and immediately entered the Accounting graduate program. As an undergraduate, he completed an internship in public accounting at Maner, Costerisan, & Ellis, P.C., preparing federal, state, and city income tax returns. "Jeff is a bright, accomplished student with high academic abilities." He is also an active member in Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary accounting society and a recipient of the GVSU Accounting Alumni Scholarship. After graduation, he plans to complete the CPA exam and pursue a career in public accounting.

- ❖ **Supriya G. Hedge, Master of Business Administration, 3.751**  
(Bach., Chemical Engineering, University of Mumbai, 2006)

After completing her Bachelors' degree in India, Supriya Hedge worked as an analyst for Wachovia Bank. She began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2007 and has completed a graduate assistantship as well as served as an officer on the Seidman Graduate Student Advisory Board. "In the classroom, Supriya possesses strong conceptual and research skills, including intellectual curiosity and willingness to 'dig for details'...additionally, she has developed strong skills in critical thinking and evaluation." Sypriya recently competed along side two other MBA candidates in a masters-level case analysis competition and the GVSU team won, beating out teams from WMU and MSU.

- ❖ **Ashley M. Prins, Master of Science in Taxation, 3.855**  
(B.B.A., Accounting, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

Ashley Prins completed her undergraduate degree in Accounting within three years with a near perfect GPA of 3.990. "Ashley is truly a homegrown GVSU product and an outstanding student." Ashley has worked during her school years in various financial enterprises, most recently taking a full-time position



at the Grand Rapids office of Plante & Moran, PLLC after completing an internship there in 2007. She is currently working on completing her CPA exam.

### *College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ **Melinda S. Furtaw, Master of Science, Criminal Justice, 3.945**  
(B.S., Loyola University of Chicago, 2004)

Melinda Furtaw entered the graduate program in Criminal Justice at GVSU in 2007. She has worked as a graduate assistant, researching and conducting observations of juvenile drug court hearings, as well as the Just Kids School S.A.F.E.T.Y Project, an anti-bully project. Her master's research project explores the role of family dynamics in juvenile delinquency, joining her dual interests in criminal justice and psychology. Melinda is "genuinely interested and engaged in her academic work, unafraid of sorting through the complexities of this difficult project in order to find ways to best serve youth and their families...she is willing to be the change that we seek."

- ❖ **Hilary B. Jackson, Master of Health Administration, 3.891**  
(B.A., Zoology, B.A., Organismal Biology, University of Wisconsin, 2007)

Hilary Jackson began her graduate studies at GVSU, after receiving Bachelor's degrees from the University of Wisconsin in Zoology and Organismal Biology. She has served as a graduate assistant since 2008, developing an Internship Course Guide for the MHA program. Most recently, she completed an internship with the West Michigan Health Information Exchange, "where she quickly became a valued asset." Hilary "has shown a spirit of commitment and discipline to the learning process and has achieved an excellent academic record through her careful, persistent and in-depth approach to her studies."

- ❖ **Patrick T. Morgan, Master of Public Administration, 4.000**  
(B.S., History, Lake Superior State University, 2004)

Patrick Morgan's 4.000 GPA "says a lot, but it doesn't quite do him justice." Rarely does one find "an MPA student who is more dedicated to his graduate work in terms of intellectual maturity, knowledge base, and work ethic than Patrick." His major projects have been a funded project to create a Native-American Atlas for the State of Oregon, an independent study project to create an Asian-American Atlas for West Michigan, and an update to a study on the

Michigan brain-drain. He is also learning to speak Chinese and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Chinese cultural studies.

### *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ **Vinay Alofs, Computer Information Systems, 4.000**  
(B.S., Computer Science, Grand Valley State University, 2005)

Vinay Alofs began his graduate studies at GVSU in 2006, and has since “completed one of the more interesting and outstanding projects in recent years for the master’s program.” His project won a Dean’s Citation Award for Outstanding Final Project and extended the curriculum of the CIS master’s program with new internet web technologies. After completing his undergraduate degree, Vinay took a position as a Software Engineer at General Electric – Aviation, completing a complex application and contributed to the critical task of certification of flight software. He is currently employed as an Embedded Systems Engineer at DorneWorks, Ltd.

- ❖ **Jennifer M. Tomaszczyk, Medical & BioInformatics, 3.719**  
(B.S., Human Biology, Michigan State University, 2005)

Jennifer Tomaszczyk completed her undergraduate degree in 2005, which included a study abroad program in London, England focusing on Medical Ethics and the History of Health Care. She began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2007, where she completed a graduate assistantship, multiple internships, and independent research projects. Jennifer “graciously and generously supports and promotes the program through speaking engagements and promotional endeavors.” She is currently employed at the Michigan State University’s Health Information Exchange Program.

### *College of Education*

- ❖ **Marissa L. Higgs, Master of Education in School Counseling, 3.973**  
(B.S., Liberal Studies, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

Marissa Higgs began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2008, after completing her undergraduate degree in Liberal Studies. She is currently completing an internship at Spring Lake High School and Holmes Elementary, where she previously worked as a substitute paraprofessional. “Marissa’s approach to her role is both proactive and responsive, tailoring the counseling intervention to

the needs of the individuals and groups with whom she works...In addition to being a fine scholar, Marissa actively seeks out opportunities to improve her counseling skills." She is preparing to take the exam to become a licensed school counselor.

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ **Kathleen M. Godinez, Master of Physician Assistant Studies, 3.702**  
(B.A., Biology, Cedarville University, 2006)

Kathleen Godinez began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2006, following the completion of her undergraduate degree at Cedarville University. Kathleen has completed clinical rotations in several areas, including internal medicine, pediatrics, tropical medicine, rural medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, family practice, emergency medicine, psychiatry, general surgery, and pediatric hematology oncology. She also completed a graduate assistantship in the Physician Assistant Studies program. "Kathleen is an excellent student and her academic achievements exemplify the high quality of student in the PAS program."

- ❖ **Heather E. Hurt, Doctor of Physical Therapy, 3.948**  
(B.S., Clinical Exercise Physiology, Mississippi State University, 2006)

Heather Hurt completed her undergraduate degree in 2006 with a perfect 4.000 GPA and immediately began her graduate studies at GVSU. In 2007, she worked as a graduate assistant in the Physical Therapy department. "Heather is an excellent graduate student who has excelled in didactic as well as in clinical courses...she will be an outstanding addition to the physical therapy profession." She has also received a Dean's Citation Award for Outstanding Publication in collaboration with classmate, Leah M. Arndt, and advisor, Dr. Michael J. Schoemaker.

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Caitlin N. Dodd, Master of Science in Biostatistics, 4.000**  
(B.A., Literature, Grinnell College, 2001)

Caitlin Dodd was accepted into the Biostatistics program at GVSU in Fall 2007, where her excellent writing skills from her undergraduate degree are evident

in her course work and projects. "The detail and clarity of her written reviews and critiques of journal articles has been exceptional and her work in this area is definitely the best of any biostatistics student that has gone through the GVSU master's program so far." She is currently a Research Assistant in the Biostatistics department, and also completed an internship at MPI Research, a contract research organization. Caitlin "has an overwhelming eagerness to learn that is very refreshing and inspiring."

❖ **Megan Lockard, Master of Arts in English, 3.968**  
(B.A., Writing, Grand Valley State University, 2006)

Megan Lockard began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2007 and has maintained a near perfect GPA of 3.968. "Her academic work, both in the classroom and during her progress toward her thesis, has exemplified intellectual curiosity, critical rigor, and original, engaged thought." During her studies at GVSU, Megan has prepared for and attended lectures by several visiting writers and scholars, and is very engaged in the wider intellectual life of the English graduate program. She also completed a graduate assistantship for the Tutoring Center, coordinating the university's 200+ student tutors.

❖ **Garry Sanders, Master of Science in Biology, 3.950**  
(B.A., Geosciences, Williams College, 2002)

Garry Sanders completed his undergraduate degree in 2002 and has since worked with the Annis Water Research Institute. As a graduate assistant for AWRI, he completed independent research and a successful grant application. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member in the Biology department. His research on Lake Huron has led to several publication credits. "By every measure, Garry is an outstanding graduate student, and represents the best outcome of what a quality graduate education at GVSU provides in terms of fellowship/grant support, mentorship, research and teaching experiences."

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Erin N. Hughes, Master of Science in Nursing, 3.982**  
(B.S.N., Nursing, Hope College, 2003)

Erin Hughes began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2006 while employed as a Registered Nurse at St. Mary's Health Care. She has also served as an adjunct professor at the Aquinas Campus of the University of Detroit Mercy. Erin has

received excellent evaluations from all of her clinical preceptors, and based on her reputation for excellence, was accepted as a student in an office which previously did not have students from the Kirkhof College of Nursing. “Erin has been an outstanding student who far exceeds the criteria for this award...she is a leader who shows a zest for life, nursing, patients and the community.”

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR  
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS IN A MAJOR  
Winter 2009**

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Shaun T. Ross, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**

(B.S., Kinesiology, Michigan State University, 2006)

- **Thesis Title:** Factors Affecting Occupational Therapists' Decisions to Join Their State Association
- **Thesis Committee Members:** Dr. Cynthia Grapczynski, OTR., Dr. Kirk Anderson, William Sisco, OTR.
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.894

Shaun Ross is deserving of this award because of the breadth and depth of his thesis, as well as the quality of his work, and its importance to occupational therapy in Michigan.

The project addressed the issue of lack of professional involvement by practicing occupational therapists in the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association (MiOTA). Involvement in the state professional association is significant because it reflects the level of interest in service to the profession, level of currency in practice knowledge, and commitment to the continued success of the profession.

The results of Shaun's study were significant for identification of issues related to lack of MiOTA professional activity and clearly indicated the need for action on the part of practicing therapists.

**ABSTRACT**

The following research focuses on the factors affecting occupational therapists' decisions to join, withdraw from, or never join their state association. Data was collected using a mixed methods design consisting of a survey that included quantitative questions and a qualitative question. The survey was sent to 1,908 occupational therapists in Michigan and 497 (26%) were returned and usable. Occupational therapists consistently reported dissatisfaction with their state association. Three themes developed regarding reasons occupational therapists' decisions about membership: prioritization, interpersonal and group communication, and benefits. (continued on next page)

### **ABSTRACT (con't)**

State and national association memberships were found to be associated. The greatest predictor of membership was determined to be national association membership which contrasted with past research that identified education as the greatest predictor.

The results of the study supported previous research regarding professional associations and the factors that affect decisions to join them. The results emphasize a distinct desire for continuing education opportunities, new ideas for practice, and an avenue for professional self improvement among occupational therapists in Michigan. Occupational therapists felt these needs were not adequately addresses by their state association.

## *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

### ❖ **Matthew J. Cooper, Master of Science in Biology**

(B.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University, 2002)

- **Thesis Title:** Community Metabolism in Great Lakes Costal Wetlands
- **Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Alan D. Steinman
- **Cumulative GPA:** 4.000

Matt Cooper's thesis represents a tremendous amount of work in both the field and laboratory. In addition, Matt had to develop novel ways to experimentally evaluate in-situ conditions. His work serves as a model of graduate student effort and commitment. The depth of his commitment to his thesis was evident from the start and at no time, in spite of the amount of work required, has Matt's enthusiasm waned. His conviction has been an inspiration for other graduate students in the program.

Matt's understanding of the issue he addresses in his thesis is clearly articulated in his experimental design and analysis. Because of his attention to design and his perseverance (sampling wetlands in November), Matt's work will be a clear and notable addition to our understanding of how Great Lakes coastal wetlands function. The work is of very high quality that will be publishable in the peer reviewed scientific literature.

Although Matt's thesis work has required a significant amount of effort on his part, he has been more than willing to help undergraduate students with related research projects. This fact, in addition to his thesis work and his overall

academic performance, exemplifies our ideals of what graduate education should be for our students.

### ABSTRACT

Coastal wetlands are critical to the Great Lakes ecosystem partially due to high rates of primary and secondary productivity that occur within these habitats. Though highly productive in general, I hypothesized that certain hydrogeomorphic factors and anthropogenic impacts affect rates of both primary and secondary production in coastal wetlands. To test this, I measured community metabolism variables including gross primary production (GPP), respiration (R), and net ecosystem productivity (NEP) along gradients of wind and wave exposure, bathymetry, and human disturbance in wetlands of Lakes Michigan and Huron. Measurements were made in the spring, summer, and fall of 2007 and in all seasons R was best explained by organic content of surficial sediments which correlated negatively with exposure to wind and wave energy. Gross primary production was highly correlated with R indicating that heightened respiration in sheltered wetlands was likely supported by autochthonous production. When macrophyte productivity was incorporated into annual NEP rates, most wetlands were found to be net autotrophic, producing an average of 109 g more C m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> than they respired. This suggests that Great Lakes coastal wetlands may provide organic matter to other Great Lake habitats. In 2008 I tested whether anthropogenic nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) loading influenced GPP and R over short time periods (hours to days) and whether wetland fish diversity and production were related to wetland metabolism. Increasing N and P concentrations approximately 1 and 0.3 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, in closed metabolism chambers, resulted in a slight increase in water column R and a slight decrease in epiphytic GPP in 1-day incubations. This suggests that anthropogenic nutrients likely affect wetland GPP over time periods longer than my incubations were able to account for. Fish species richness and biomass net-night<sup>-1</sup> correlated positively with primary productivity suggesting that higher trophic levels are structured, in part, by primary productivity in Great Lakes coastal wetlands. While wetlands occupy only a small portion of Great Lake surface area, they contribute disproportionately to Great Lakes productivity and ecosystem services. Since shoreline geomorphology was found to be an important driver of wetland metabolism and metabolic conditions appeared to influence wetland fish production and diversity, these factors should be considered in future assessments of nearshore ecological function.



## *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (con't)*

### ❖ **Sheridan L. Steelman, Master of Arts in English**

(B.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University, 2002)

- **Thesis Title:** Transcending Tragedy: The Power of the Green World in Renaissance Drama
- **Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Benjamin Lockerd
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.968

Several critics have written about the “Green World” in Shakespearean comedy. In *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, for instance, the young lovers leave the city of Athens and spend a night in the woods nearby, where they encounter magic, mischief, and chaos, but where they somehow find their confusions and uncertainties sorted out.

In this highly original thesis, Sheridan Steelman looks at the ways in which the Green World setting is also used in two Renaissance tragedies, *The Spanish Tragedy* by Thomas Kyd and *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare. In both of these dramas, Sheridan points out, crucial scenes involving central female characters, Isabella and Ophelia, take place in natural settings: a garden and a stream. In the tragic Green World, the result is not, of course, a happy ending: Isabella’s son Horatio is murdered and hanged in the garden, and she subsequently goes to that garden and slashes at the tree with a knife, finally killing herself as well; Ophelia speaks of healing herbs and flowers in her madness and then is found drowned in a stream. Sheridan argues that even though the Green World is the scene of death and destruction in these two works it is a place in which the heroines reach a resolution that transcends the evil circumstances in which they find themselves.

This thesis examines the use of nature in several Renaissance texts, including John Webster’s *The Duchess of Malfi* and Thomas More’s *Utopia*, in order to give a broad context in which to understand the nature images used by Kyd and Shakespeare. Sheridan also examines modern knowledge about the healing power of natural settings and the application of that knowledge in contemporary hospital design, making fascinating connections between the nature lore of the Renaissance and more recent rediscoveries of those old truths. It is a wide-ranging, imaginative, and learned work of literary and cultural analysis.

## ABSTRACT

Hospitals in the twenty-first century are using healing gardens to help patients heal their minds, bodies, and souls by offering views of lush flora from their rooms and calming pathways for their walks. Recent studies have shown that patients who are able to witness nature's beauty request less pain medication and report shorter stays. Today's use of gardens as part of a total wellness package may have found its roots in the work of John Gerard who was the first to study and catalogue over 300 varieties of plants and herbs, many of which had common medicinal uses. Gerard's findings, such as the sleep-induced power of the mandrake root, found their way into early modern playwrights' works, such as William Shakespeare who referenced over 200 plants in his drama.

The natural world or the "green world" as described by Northrup Frye is a place of magic and often used in Renaissance comedies as a place where characters can escape society's trappings, a place where problems are magically solved and lives are put to rights. Early modern drama, specifically tragedy, is another genre where playwrights have infused the power of green world, first as garden-lovely language and next as a place where women, specifically, go to mourn. Isabella in *The Spanish Tragedy* (1587) is one such character who, having lost her only son in a brutal murder, returns to the place of the crime, her enclosed family garden. In a 38-line soliloquy Isabella journeys through the five stages of grief, ending in an acceptance of her son's death and her own impending doom. Obviously, the beautiful flowers and trees do not provide a cure; but Isabella, through the destruction of the innocent flora that witnessed the heinous crime, is transformed. She makes the decision to end her life and join her son, rather than live a life immobilized with fear and resentment.

Kyd and Shakespeare planted the seeds that the modern world has learned to nurture: the green world can be the balm for life's tragic events. Like these Renaissance tragic heroines, we may be seeking the "fair quiet" that Andrew Marvell longs for in his poem "The Garden." Tragedies do end in death but not before the green world offers us some comforting shade.

## *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

### ❖ **Amy M. Manderscheid, Master of Science in Nursing**

(B.S.N., Nursing, Grand Valley State University, 2003)

- **Thesis Title:** Examining the Effects of Nurse Work Hours, Inter-Shift Recovery, Fatigue, and Sleep Debt on Intent to Leave
- **Thesis Committee Members:** Dr. Linda D. Scott, Dr. Patricia Schafer, Dr. John Zaugra
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.789

Amy Manderscheid submitted an outstanding thesis on the relationships between shift work, fatigue, length, and quality of recovery time, and registered nurses intent to leave their bedside nursing positions in the acute care hospital setting. This is an example of excellent nursing scholarship on the pressing problem of the national nursing shortage, since the retention of nurses needs to be considered as part of the solution to our current shortage.

Amy is currently a Staff Nurse in the Digestive Disease unit of Spectrum Health Hospitals. She is also the Chair of the Central Shared Leadership Council, where she launched a system-wide annual Nursing Assistive Personnel recognition effort. Her teaching experience includes working as a clinical preceptor for GVSU, Calvin College, and Grand Rapids Community College, as well as a staff preceptor for Spectrum Health.

#### **ABSTRACT**

The nursing profession contains dedicated professionals who work varying shifts with assorted timeframes to recover before returning to work. The purpose of this study was to examine shiftwork, inter-shift recovery, fatigue, sleep debt and intent to leave among full-time nurses. Data were collected through the use of electronic questionnaires from a sample of 36 registered nurses from the Sigma Theta Tau Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large.

Findings revealed significant differences among nurses working 10 hour shifts and their accumulation of sleep debt in comparison to nurses working 8 or 12 hour shifts. Significant differences were not found between acute and chronic fatigue, and inter-shift recovery by shiftwork. However, several significant relationships were found between acute and chronic fatigue, inter-shift recovery and sleep debt. Additionally, significant differences were not found among acute and chronic fatigue, inter-shift recovery and sleep debt by intent to leave.

## GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT IN A MAJOR

### *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ **Vinay Alofs, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**  
(B.S., Computer Science, Grand Valley State University, 2005)
  - **Title:** High-Performance Distributed Computing Data Mining of Social Networks
  - **Advisor:** Dr. Gregg Wolffe
  - **Cumulative GPA:** 4.000

Vinay Alofs completed one of the more interesting and outstanding projects in recent years for the master's program in Computer Information Systems. Vinay extended the curriculum with new internet web technologies with his capstone project. The project created an application that implemented the well-known Traveling Salesman Problem. This represented a social networking research application that performed data mining on a large set, data from the Wikipedia website, and gathering metrics to show the improvement in execution time of the distributed Hadoop applications against their serial versions. The faculty unanimously recognized the advanced nature of this project and encourages his receipt of this honor.

The faculty of the School of Computing & Information Systems also recognized Vinay's academic achievements and perfect 4.000 GPA by unanimously nominating him for the Dean's Citation Award for Academic Excellence.

#### **ABSTRACT**

This project involved learning and using a new, open-source, high-performance distributed computing framework called Hadoop. As it is a relatively recent release from Yahoo, the first step in the process was researching this cutting-edge technology. Since the project was intended to be a complete investigation from hardware to results, the next step was to setup a distributed computing platform using a blade server powered by the Ubuntu operating system. The infrastructure stage was completed with the installation and configuration of the Hadoop framework and filesystem. (continued on next page)

### **ABSTRACT (con't)**

The next step, learning and using the features of the framework, was approached by writing a simple Hadoop application that implemented the well-known Traveling Salesman Problem. This naturally helped in learning the basics of distributed computing using Hadoop, although it did not stress the file handling capabilities of the system. To test that aspect, a second and much more complex application was developed. This represented a social networking research application that performed data mining on a large set – data from the Wikipedia website. The final step involved gathering metrics to show the improvement in execution time of the distributed Hadoop applications against their serial versions.

This project was very time-consuming and complex, but offered numerous learning opportunities. There were quite a few problems that had to be overcome, ranging from hardware issues to language incompatibilities. This afforded a deep reflection on the project, the framework, and lessons learned.

## *College of Education*

### ❖ **Susan J. Gray, Master of Education (Elementary)**

(B.A., Biology and Psychology, Hope College, 1975)

- **Title:** Teacher Self-Efficacy and Collaborative Assessment of Student Learning
- **Advisor:** Dorothy Armstrong
- **Cumulative GPA:** 4.000

Susan Gray's study was completed as the culminating requirement for her Master's degree. Her research demonstrated excellence in its conception, merit, and significance. She did a research study on the efficacy of a staff development model being used by Forest Hills Public Schools designed to develop teachers' sense of self-efficacy in preparing them to have their own students be more successful learners. Her results showed that the teachers believed that the program was developing their sense of efficacy and that in the school using the model, the student test scores had risen dramatically. Both the developers of the model and her district have used this evaluation data. The developers of the Collaborative Assessment of Student Learning program plan to publish the findings of Susan's study. This is the type of exemplary work that well deserves an award.

Susan is currently employed in the Forest Hills Public School district. She has led professional development experiences as a long-term substitute and full-time employee in the areas of differentiation and professional learning groups. In 2009, she sought and received grant money for the purchase of equipment for podcasts and integrated podcasts in reading curriculum.

### **ABSTRACT**

The highly stressful environment in education today has negatively affected teacher self-efficacy. Yet, teacher self-efficacy has been shown to be positively correlated to student learning and motivation. Therefore enhancement of self-efficacy will increase student achievement and strengthen collective teach efficacy in schools overall. In social cognitive theory, four sources of self-efficacy have been described and research has identified indicators tied to a strengthened sense of self-efficacy. This project reviews this literature and uses the research to assess a program, the Collaborative Assessment of Student Learning (CASL) for its effectiveness in enhancing teacher self-efficacy.

The experience of implementation of CASL at an elementary school was explored in this project. A survey was created and conducted to identify teachers' experiences of the sources and indicators of self-efficacy after three years of CASL implementation. A follow up interview provided confirmation that the researcher's survey results likely reflected teacher experience and provided greater information on the teachers' experiences of self-efficacy as it related to CASL implementation. Based on the results of the survey and interview, CASL had an extremely positive impact on teacher self-efficacy and collective efficacy at the studied school.

## GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

- ❖ **Kevin J. Holleran, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**  
(B.S., Information Systems, Grand Valley State University, 2005)
  - **Title:** Disciplined MVC: Using AJAX to Ensure Separation of View and Controller in Web Applications
  - **Advisor:** Dr. Robert D. Adams
  - **Cumulative GPA:** 3.817

Kevin Holleran's research paper was submitted to the Computing Consortium for Small Colleges, and is expected to be accepted for presentation at their Midwest Conference in fall 2009. While some students have their research accepted and presented at conferences, the faculty in the School of Computing and Information Systems consider his work exemplary, showing an innovative application of new technology.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from GVSU in 2005, Kevin served as a High School IT Academy Teacher in Fort Myers, FL. He has also held positions at Nuclear Management Company in PC Network Support and Zanco LLC as a LAN/WAN Engineer.

Kevin is currently employed as a Network Engineer at the Brunswick Corporation, providing systems administration and technology management. He also owns his own business TIS LLC, providing consultation to various clients on infrastructure, systems, and development. On top of his Master's degree from GVSU, Kevin is earning a Master of Business Administration at Western Michigan University and is scheduled to complete the program in December 2009.

### ABSTRACT

Learning to create web applications is difficult, involving the mastery of multiple languages, multiple computers, network protocols, database access, etc. Over the past several years the field has experienced a growing collection of books, tutorials, and on-line materials that aim at helping programmers learn how to create them. Although these materials offer coverage of how web applications are built, many of them inadvertently instill bad architectural habits, especially in novice programmers venturing into the field. Our aim in this paper is to point out the fact that AJAX is an easy to learn, lightweight, readily-available technique that, when used in a disciplined way, can help instill good architectural habits.

## *College of Health Professions*

### ❖ **Leah M. Arndt, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

(B.S., Physiology, Michigan State University, 2006)

- **Title:** The Evidence Regarding Exercise Training in the Management of Cystic Fibrosis: A Systematic Review
- **Advisor:** Dr. Michael J. Shoemaker
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.723

Leah Arndt earned her Bachelor's degree from the Lyman Briggs School of Natural Science at MSU before beginning her graduate studies at GVSU in 2006. Her clinical experience includes working at Holland Hospital OP Clinic, McLaren Regional Medical Center, Genesys Regional Medical Center, and Beaumont Pediatric Health Center. She also volunteers for pro bono clinics, Parkinson's Disease exercise classes, and assisting a client with Cerebral Palsy. Leah is listed as a co-author on this nominated publication along with fellow student Heather Hurt and faculty advisor Dr. Michael J. Shoemaker.

### ❖ **Heather E. Hurt, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

(B.S., Clinical Exercise Physiology, Mississippi State University, 2006)

- **Title:** The Evidence Regarding Exercise Training in the Management of Cystic Fibrosis: A Systematic Review
- **Advisor:** Dr. Michael J. Shoemaker
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.948

Heather Hurt is also the recipient of the Dean's Citation Award for Academic Excellence, as demonstrated by her near perfect 3.948 GPA. She is also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Heather and Leah worked collaboratively on a systematic review which was published in "Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy Journal" in 2008. These student authors provided keen insight into the research question and its relevance to the body of knowledge regarding the role that exercise has in the management of individuals with cystic fibrosis. The quality of the methods they developed for this review belies the fact that this was their first systematic review. This work was a milestone for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program as it demonstrated that they systematic review is a viable option for collaborative scholarship with faculty that can result in peer-reviewed dissemination.



## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** To conduct a systematic review of the evidence regarding the efficacy of exercise training in the management of cystic fibrosis (CF).

**Methods:** Articles were found by searching PEDRO, MEDLINE, and CINAHL databases. Included articles involved exercise-related interventions for long-term adaptations (i.e. not acute effects of exercise). Articles were excluded if the language was other than English or if other non-exercise interventions were used. Date of publication was not a factor for exclusion. Two independent reviewers evaluated the included articles using Sackett's levels of evidence and select scoring criteria.

**Results:** Twelve articles were eligible for inclusion. Interventions studied included various aspects of exercise training: anaerobic, aerobic, or resistance training. Study end-points included pulmonary function, aerobic capacity, strength, and health-related quality of life (HRQL).

**Conclusions:** Exercise training in individuals with CF is beneficial, with aerobic and resistance training having the greatest support in the literature for improved aerobic capacity and strength, respectively. Exercise training does not appear to have an effect of improving pulmonary function, but may have a preservation effect. Strong conclusions about improvement in HRQL from exercise training cannot be made. However, greater consistency in measuring this outcome is needed in future trials. There is a paucity of evidence regarding the role of exercise training in reducing hospitalization and health care utilization, and questions raised by this review should be considered in the design of future trials.

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

### *College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ **Lucius A. Hawkins, Master of Public Administration, 3.260**  
(B.S., Criminal Justice, Grand Valley State University, 2004)

Lucius Hawkins began his graduate studies at GVSU in 2006, pursuing the Public Management emphasis in the MPA program. On top of working and going to school full-time, Lucius has found time to “give back to the community that has presented him with opportunities.” He volunteers with the Grand Rapids African American Health Institution, a nonprofit organization within the inner city of Grand Rapids, where he makes public appearances at events, including performances, educational lectures, and social gatherings. He serves on the organizing committee for the “2009 Rhythm Run,” a 5K walk/run held at Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Grand Rapids.

Lucius also volunteers with the Visiting Nurse Foundation, an organization that conducts development activities and administers funds to support home health care agencies in and around Kent County. His volunteer duties include helping them create a strategic plan and make the organization more attractive for minorities. He also personally visits, sends letters, and calls potential and current donors. His “attempt to make a difference in the community is apparent...with his commitment to leadership, desire to provide great health care to the community, and positive attitude makes him very deserving of this award.”

- ❖ **Natalie R. Hirdes, Master of Health Administration, 3.791**  
(B.S.N., Nursing, Grand Valley State University, 2005)

Natalie Hirdes completed her undergraduate nursing degree at GVSU and became a Licensed RN in 2005. She has worked as a Unit Tech and Registered Nurse in Holland Hospital since 2003. During her time in this role, she has been active in shared governance of Holland Hospital and is currently a member of the Nursing Practice Executive Committee. In 2007, she began her graduate studies in the Health Administration program.

Natalie is currently a graduate intern with the Executive Vice President at Holland Home Continuing Care Retirement Community. During this internship, she advanced her understanding regarding Skilled Nurse facilities and Home For the Aged and the many rules and regulations that pertain to each of these levels of nursing care. She is also involved in a new aging program called "Masterpiece Living," working with the coordinator to launch the program in the independent living sector of Holland Home. She is currently involved with a plan for an Electronic Medical Record system and is researching grant opportunities available to support this endeavor.

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ **Stephanie B. Osborn, Doctor of Physical Therapy, 3.883**  
(B.S.E., Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Michigan, 1999)

Stephanie Osborn received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan before beginning graduate studies at GVSU. In 2006, she was admitted to the highly competitive Doctor of Physical Therapy program. As part of the program, Stephanie, as well as being an excellent student, participated in multiple community and professional service activities. She received clinical experience on a TBI/Stroke Team at TIRR in Houston, TX during 2008. She also served as a graduate assistant in 2009.

Stephanie was the American Physical Therapy Association student liaison for her physical therapy class and the coordinator for one of the Pro Bono Clinics. In this role, she scheduled students and community physical therapists to work with people who could not afford physical therapy. She also volunteered for this St. Mary's Parkinson's Clinic where she helped with exercise programs. In 2007 and 2008, she held multiple leadership roles in the Annual Wheel Run Event. To participate in this many extracurricular activities, while maintaining a high grade point in a very difficult program, makes Stephanie truly an outstanding student.

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Maxine Y. Gray, Master of Science in Communications, 3.789**  
(B.A., Communications, Hope College, 2004)

Maxine Gray served as Program Coordinator for Hope College's Office of Multicultural Affairs before beginning her graduate studies at GVSU in 2007.

She also served as Special Events Coordinator for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's West Michigan Chapter, responsible for all fundraising activities. Now in the last semester of her program, Maxine is a full-time graduate student with 20-hour per week graduate assistantship with Pew Student Services and employed 20-plus hours per week at Williams Group, a local strategic communications consulting firm.

Maxine's commitment to diversity and helping young professionals, particularly those of color, find mentors and network with successful professionals in the Grand Rapids area is exemplified by her ongoing involvement with "Business Leaders Linked to Encourage New Directions" (BL<sup>2</sup>END). Maxine is a founding member and serves in multiple roles. The better you know Maxine, the more impressed one becomes with her positive attitude, strong skills and creative talent, and her ability to take on multiple tasks while yielding excellent results.

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ **Susan J. Owens, Master of Science in Nursing, 3.870**  
(B.S.N., Nursing, Hope College, 1984)

Susan Owens enrolled in GVSU with an earned masters and certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. She is currently completing course work in the College of Nursing aimed at an eventual nurse practitioner certification.

Susan is employed by Dr. Robert Rood, a respected expert in diabetes mellitus in the Grand Rapids community. In her role, Susan has devoted her professional life to the care and education of patients who suffer from diabetes. She, in fact, is completing our program to develop a greater independence in their direct care. Those who work with Susan find her to be exceptional in every way. She has earned the respect of her fellow nurses and medical colleagues who frequently seek her opinion for diabetic management of their patients. Her recent physician preceptor commented "Susan has amazing knowledge; she has educated me regarding diabetes management...if you know diabetes, you know Susan". Without question, Susan's expertise as an advanced practice nurse in diabetes is unmatched in our community. It is not surprising that her classroom and clinical practice skills are also stellar.

Susan has a history of service at the College of Nursing. In the past, Susan has mentored students and lectured to graduate students on diabetic care

management. More recently, Susan was a “guest” lecturer to her peers in the graduate program and delivered a simply exceptional lecture. In summary, Susan is able to utilize her skills as a certified diabetic educator to educate and improve the health and welfare care of those who are impacted by diabetes. She is a recognized nursing expert in the Grand Rapids community and upon graduation she will continue to be a reflection of the level of excellence that typifies the graduates of the Kirkhof College of Nursing.

## **GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP & SERVICE TO GVSU**

### *College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ **Lara C. Cook , Master of Social Work, 4.000**  
(B.A., Psychology, Laurentian University, 2006)

Lara Cook began graduate study in 2007 at the Sault Ste. Marie cohort of the Social Work MSW program. She has maintained a perfect 4.000 GPA. She has also served as a graduate assistant, where she has been instrumental in recruiting for a new cohort. Lara is networking with social service agencies in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Ontario, and assisting in planning and attending information sessions in both cities. Lara's commitment to the recruitment drive is multifaceted. It is through these activities that Lara can share her GVSU experience and passion for the social work profession with potential students.

More importantly, Lara is advocating for the continued existence of the social work program in Sault Ste. Marie. Lara has a unique cross-border experience, as she is an American citizen living in Canada while working and studying in Michigan. She is all too cognizant of the challenges living, working, studying, and providing service in a rural area with unique social welfare and diversity issues. Lara's activities are invaluable and demonstrate her commitment to the social work profession, the School of Social Work at GVSU, and to the recruitment process.

- ❖ **Constance M. Dang, Master of Public Administration, 3.758**  
(B.S., Business, Western Michigan University, 1987)

Connie Dang has been employed by GVSU for 13 years and is currently the Interim Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). In 2002, Connie joined OMA to serve students and help them achieve academic and professional success. In addition to her administrative role, Connie serves as an advisor for the Asian Student Union and Boba Bellas, and also serves on the Advisory Council for the Women's Center. In the community, she serves on the West Michigan College and University Presidents Compact Committee and the Governor's Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Connie was admitted to the Public Administration graduate program in 2007. She is a committee member of the GVSU Intercultural Awareness Council, where she assesses and recommends diversity initiatives at all levels of the university, after serving on the Diversity Assessment Committee in 2007. She is also presents Diversity Guest Lectures for GVSU classes.

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ **Mari A. Melville, Doctor of Physical Therapy, 3.827**  
(B.S., Psychology, Grand Valley State University, 2006)

Mari Melville began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2006. While in the Doctoral of Physical Therapy program, Mari was a leader in her class and provided great services to GVSU, as well as being an excellent student. She also assisted first year physical therapy students in the use of equipment in the Biomechanics Laboratory. Mari was involved with helping with DPT Research Day and helping with DPT faculty candidate interviews. In 2007 and 2009, she held graduate assistantship positions.

Other activities that Mari has been involved with include being a Pro Bono Coordinator. In this role, she scheduled students and community physical therapists to work with people who could not afford physical therapy. She was also a committee chair for the Annual Wheel Run, which raised money to supply wheelchairs to people who could not afford them. Throughout her time in the DPT program, Mari has set herself apart from the others as a leader in service to GVSU.

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Janel R. Zeman, Master of Science in Biology, 3.973**  
(B.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University, 1993)

Janel Zeman completed her second Bachelor's degree in Biology at GVSU in 1993 and started her graduate studies when GVSU implemented the long-awaited thesis-based Master's program in Biology. For ecologists, service and teaching go hand-in-hand with research. Janel's work during the past four years exemplifies this pattern perfectly. For her thesis, she completed a three-year experimental study of the restoration of highly disturbed, urban riparian (shoreline) habitat at the City of Wyoming's Clean Water Plant. Janel beautifully represented GVSU whenever interacting with City of Wyoming

personnel. She also participated in their Community Outreach group, providing science experiences to K-8 students.

As an Affiliate Professor of Biology, Janel also mentors new teachers. Rapid enrollment growth in introductory courses means the Biology department often has new, inexperienced teachers. She has served generously and well on a committee to implement a rigorous peer-evaluation procedure. Affiliate Professors are not required to provide university service, but she does so semester after semester, providing detailed, constructive feedback. Those new to teaching benefit tremendously from the feedback they receive, and Janel is generous with her time in one-on-one conversations as well as in her role as an evaluator. Through her teaching, mentoring, research, service, and community outreach, Janel enriches the lives of students, peers, scientists, and citizens. She is a shining example of the very best GVSU has to offer our community.



## OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2009

### NIEMEYER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS

*This is a university-wide award honoring the most outstanding graduate students; students who strive for excellence in all aspects of a well-rounded academic experience. Selection is made by the Deans Council.*

#### *Seidman College of Business*

##### ❖ **Jeffery J. Sattler, Master of Business Administration**

Jeff Sattler earned a JD/MBA under an agreement between GVSU and MSU Law, with GPAs of 3.9 and 3.5 respectively. As a Michigan State Police Trooper, Jeff has worked as an undercover detective in narcotics and also in uniform in Detroit. As a law student, he represented the State Police in court proceedings regarding criminal prosecutions, and improved State Police rapport with the local courts, agencies, and officials. He was awarded the Professional Excellence Award from the Michigan State Police for going beyond the call of duty in investigating a complicated prescription fraud investigation.

A former GVSU football starter and Academic All-American nominee, Jeff created a scholarship for young athletes in the names of his high school coaches and volunteered as a high school football coach. He is currently conducting criminal and civil investigations for the Michigan State Police and preparing for the Michigan Bar exam. He has committed to the Detroit law firm Kilpatrick & Associates.

#### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

##### ❖ **Ashley J. DesRocher, Master of Science in Nursing**

At the time of nomination, Ashley DesRocher has completed over 35 total graduate credits and maintained a 3.847 GPA. The remarking nature of her intellectual ability is maintaining high achievements while working full time at Spectrum Health in surgical critical care. Her ability to balance high achievement with community service sets her apart from peer graduate students.

Ashley has excelled in the classroom in her graduate studies. In addition to serving as a hard-working graduate assistant for the Kirkhof College of Nursing since August 2008, she has a strong commitment to learning, synthesis and empirical application. In addition to high level performance on examinations and course requirements, her intellectual abilities can be best demonstrated in a course project at Blodgett Hospital facilitating the use of barcode technology for medication administration within the health system. Ashley reflects excellence, enthusiasm and loyalty to the profession of nursing and its impact on the Grand Rapids community.

## DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

2008-2009

(Recognized at the annual Scholar Awards Banquet on April 6, 2009)

### *Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ Casey Shelters, Accounting (MSA)
- ❖ Phil Rolfe, Business Administration (MBA)
- ❖ Lisa Roelofs, Taxation (MST)

### *College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Melinda Furtaw, Criminal Justice (MS)
- ❖ Geraldine Vandreumel, Health Administration (MHA)
- ❖ Brian Flanagan, Public Administration (MPA)
- ❖ Krista Kopchick, Social Work (MSW)

### *College of Education*

- ❖ Megan Riksen, General Education (M.Ed)
- ❖ Andrea Hilaski, School Counseling (M.Ed)
- ❖ Autumn Dawdy, Special Education (M.Ed)

### *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Vinay Alofs, Computer Information Systems (MS)
- ❖ Luana Georgescu, Engineering (MSE)
- ❖ Jennifer Tomaszczyk, Medical and Bioinformatics (MS)

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Jessica Pascavis, Occupational Therapy (MS)
- ❖ Carrie Heerdt, Physical Therapy (DPT)
- ❖ Josh Thornhill, Physician Assistance Studies (MPAS)

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Matt Cooper, Biology (MS)
- ❖ Sarah McCormick, Biostatistics (MS)
- ❖ Jennifer Adams, Cell and Molecular Biology (MS)
- ❖ Dorothy Asare-Kumah, Communications, (MS)
- ❖ Sheridan Steelman, English (MA)

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Ashley DesRocher, Nursing (MSN)

**GRADUATE STUDENT  
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS  
2008-2009**

**Heather Andrews**, College of Community and Public Service, School of Criminal Justice, *Program Evaluation of the 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Court Internship Program*

**Vanitha Bhoopalan**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, *Cellular and Molecular Biology, Microarray Analysis of CD82 Expression in Normal Prostate Cell Lines*

**Dana Bonnell**, College of Community and Public Service, School of Criminal Justice, *A Battle of Bills: Exploring Non-Compliance in the Health Care Industry*

**Katie Brandt**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, *Striped Cucumber Beetle Control in Organic Farm Systems: Comparing Floating Row Covers, Predatory Nematodes and Compost Tea*

**Megan Cunningham**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, *Ecology of Juvenile Salmon in an Upland vs. Lowland Stream: An Assessment of Food Webs Using Stable Isotope Analysis*

**Angela DeFore**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, *Seasonal Cycle of Carbon in Muskegon Lake: Search for Driving Forces*

**Erin Dickey**, College of Health Professions, Department of Physical Therapy, *Effects of Trust Training on Performance of a Discrete Motor Skill: Comparison of Preferred and Non-preferred Hand Use*

**Matt Ferre**, College of Community and Public Service, School of Criminal Justice, *Mediation as a Conflict Resolution Technique in Law Enforcement*

**Teresa Forton**, College of Education, *Language Use and Attitudes Among Elementary Dual Immersion Students*

**Claire Lelli**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Biomedical Sciences, *Bacteriological Study of Drinking Water on Isla de Ometepe, Nicaragua*

**Rebecca Norris**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, *Habitat Use of Bobcats in Central Michigan*

**Viralkumar Patel**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology, *The Correlation of ERG and Ach Release Targeting Alpha-7 Microtomic Ach Receptors*

**Kirra Sheremet**, College of Health Professions, Department of Physician Assistant Studies, *A Comparison of the Prevalence of Depression Between African Americans and Caucasians with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus*

**Katee Stahl**, College of Community and Public Service, School of Criminal Justice, *Comparative Evaluation of Approaches to Human Trafficking Based on Legalization Status of Prostitution: London and Amsterdam*

**James Van Huisen**, College of Health Professions, Department of Physical Therapy, *Decision-making Abilities of Doctor of Physical Therapy Students and New Graduates: Are they Ready for Direct Access?*

**Anna Young**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, *Nest Selection of Great Lakes Piping Plovers*

## GRADUATE STUDENT RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARLY TRAVEL GRANTS

Winter 2009

(To be eligible for travel grants students must be presenting or performing at a peer-reviewed professional conference or event.)

**Alyssa Aubry**, College of Health Professions, Department of Physician Assistant Studies, American Academy of Physician Assistants, San Diego, CA

**Kacie Babcock**, College of Community and Public Service, School of Social Work, National Social Work & HIV/AIDS Conference, New Orleans, LA

**Kari Blech**, Kirkhof College of Nursing, Society of Trauma Nurses, Phoenix, AZ

**Daniel Byrne**, Seidman College of Business, Association for U.S. Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Anaheim, CA

**Travis Cornwell**, Seidman College of Business, 30th McMaster World Conference, Hamilton, Ontario

**Ann Hayward**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of English, Sixteen Century Society Conference, St. Louis, MO

**Katherine Lindt**, College of Community and Public Service, School of Public and Nonprofit Administration, Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL

**Mercedes Liscomb**, College of Health Professions, Department of Physician Assistant Studies, American Academy of Physician Assistants, San Diego, CA

**Erin Pinkster**, Seidman College of Business, U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Anaheim, CA

**Ashfaque-Ur Rahman**, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, School of Engineering, Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, Washington D.C.

**Jessica Rheame**, College of Health Professions, Department of Physical Therapy, American College of Sports Medicine, Indianapolis, IN

**Aaron Rider**, College of Community and Public Service, School of Criminal Justice,  
Academy of Criminal Justice Science 2009 Annual Conference Meeting, Boston, MA

**T. Garrison Sanders**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology,  
North American Benthological Society, Grand Rapids, MI

**Katee Stahl**, College of Community and Public Service, School of Criminal Justice,  
Academy of Criminal Justice Science 2009 Annual Conference Meeting, Boston, MA

**Amy Weber**, Kirkhof College of Nursing, Midwest Nursing Research Society 2009  
Conference, Minneapolis, MN



## **GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT AWARD OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARDS**

❖ **Glenna Decker, Adjunct Faculty in the College of Education**

Nominated by: Dianna Lunsford, Master of Education

Webster defines a mentor as a wise and trusted guide or counselor. Professor Decker fits this description and so much more. During my graduate studies, I have been a student in two classes that Professor Decker has taught through the College of Education. What I will take away from these classes has significantly helped to shape my future as an educator. Professor Decker has been more than an instructor who practices what she preaches, but one who models it naturally and flawlessly. Professor Decker is able to create a classroom atmosphere which is a comfortable and safe place to share experiences, ask questions and delve deep into the material studied. The classroom and coursework are engaging and useful as well as differentiated to meet many needs and styles of her students. The adult learner is encouraged to think critically, become self-directed and to take accountability for their own learning. By incorporating the interests of her students and making the content relatable, Professor Decker is able to assist her students to make meaning of what is to be learned. There was always a relationship to the projects and assignments which were constructed and developing a greater understanding of the theory and subject matter.

Professor Decker has given of her personal time outside of class to guide and explore topics not necessarily related to her class. Professor Decker's door (or email) is always open, even after the class is over. She has made herself available to advise and answer questions beyond "teaching" her class. It is apparent to this writer that she takes great satisfaction in knowing that she can help and make a difference. She attempts to know her students and encourages them to rise to the challenge. Professor Decker's commitment to her students as well as her passion for the adult learner is apparent in what she does in and out of the classroom. Although my time with Professor Decker has been limited, I would recommend her and seek out future classes with her in the future. Professor Decker has been a "wise and trusted guide" for me and that is why I believe she is deserving of this nomination.

❖ **Dr. Jo Miller, Associate Professor in the English Department**

Nominated by: Sheridan Steelman, Master of Arts in English

Dr. Miller agreed to be my Thesis Advisor over a year ago, just when a seed was beginning to germinate in my own mind about a project idea. After listening to my thinking about female characters who are drawn to plants for healing in Renaissance tragedy, her eyes lit up and she said, "I'd love to learn more about that." These words are what makes Dr. Miller an outstanding mentor, and that is what she is – more than a professor, more than a scholar, even more than a friend.

Besides facilitating my thesis project, Dr. Miller taught three of my graduate-level English courses. My learning was certainly enriched throughout each semester course, but the way she views not only our learning but her own is what sets her apart from other professors. When the semester is at an end, the students in her classes always remark, "What a disappointment that it's over!" The reason for their disappointment certainly attests to her ability to draw out our ideas, but there is more: each evening class begins with a discussion about her own learning from rereading the work she is teaching. One night in particular, the class met to watch *The Revenger's Tragedy*, an early modern drama that we had just read. When it was over, she walked out with me and wondered how I felt about by the director's interpretation of the play. We both shared our own perspectives, and then she said, "I was thinking of you." I know she thinks about all of her students in this way. We are all thinkers and learners, individuals from whom Dr. Miller extends her own learning.

Of all the professors I have had at Grand Valley State University over the past five years (and I have taken a wide variety of classes at the graduate level in various departments), Dr. Miller is by far the shining star. I am graduating this semester and when I look back at my learning, she is the one person who exceeds all others. She often made me feel like I was her only student, which is the most important quality of a mentor.

❖ **Dr. Paul Reitemeier, Chair of the Human Research Review Committee**

Nominated by: Lauren Sagorski, Master of Public Administration

Dr. Reitemeier serves as the Chair of the Human Research Review Committee and I serve as his Graduate Assistant. Throughout my year in this position, I have felt tremendous support not only in my role as a Graduate Assistant, but in my academic program as well. Dr. Reitemeier understands that I am a full

time student and may need to readjust my work schedule based on my course work. His expectations are that I work hard and complete my required hours each week. This level of respect and trust make all the difference. It motivates me to be organized, responsible, and conscientious in all my duties as a graduate assistant to the Institutional Review Board.

My experiences with the Institutional Review Board have led me down a career path I didn't expect. With Dr. Reitemeier as a mentor, I have been introduced to the federal regulations and administration practices that guide human research. He has allowed me to attend educational conferences, strengthen my research administration skills, and interact with the researchers. Dr. Reitemeier's professional experiences are extensive and interesting and I have benefited from hearing about them. The world of research regulation is confusing and open to interpretation. Dr. Reitemeier has given me the skills to understand these regulations and the time and relevant projects to sharpen these skills. Dr. Reitemeier is constantly respectful and patient and I am grateful for his encouragements. As technology advances, the need for competent research is imperative. Because of the support and lessons from Dr. Reitemeier, I feel confident and excited to pursue a career in research administration.

❖ **Dr. Michael J. Shoemaker, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy**

Nominated by: Katie Lamp, Doctor of Physical Therapy

Throughout the three years I have been in the program, Dr. Shoemaker has demonstrated a true dedication to the profession of physical therapy and his role as a professor. Dr. Shoemaker also continues to be a lifelong learner and stays up to date on literature related to physical therapy. He provides this information to students and other therapists throughout his teaching profession and during speeches at conferences and district meetings. He uses the literature to challenge our decision making skills as to the best choices for us to make as clinicians. Through readings and discussion is he able to foster our growth as evidenced-based clinicians and to always as the question "why". The class of 2009 nominated him as their class advisor due to his amicable personality and genuine concern for all of the students and their growth as physical therapists. Dr. Shoemaker has proven himself as a knowledgeable clinician who many students seek out as a resource.

Dr. Shoemaker has been pivotal in creating a positive learning environment for us as students. He has encouraged us to grasp evidence based practice and

begin to use it during our clinical rotations and during clinical decision making scenarios in class. He has created useful handouts that which help foster our clinical decision making skills. During classes he has offered resources for our use to provide to patients and other healthcare providers. Dr. Shoemaker has done a wonderful job advocating for us as a student body to help us grow as individuals and physical therapists.

I am nominating Dr. Shoemaker for the outstanding Faculty Mentor Award because he is highly regarded by the Physical Therapy students as a knowledgeable and skillful clinician. Part of his excellent mentoring qualities are providing students with practical resources and promoting them to critically evaluate their decisions. By his example, students and clinicians are encouraged to be invested in the future of Physical Therapy. Dr. Shoemaker is well respected by the students and faculty of the physical therapy program and other clinicians throughout western Michigan.

❖ **Dr. Christine A. Yalda, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice**

Nominated by: Kindsey Neeson, Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Dr. Yalda exemplifies the definition of a mentor for many reasons. After my first year in graduate school I was told I needed assistance with my writing to continue on in the program and succeed. I enrolled in a writing workshop with Dr. Yalda. Over the summer, I worked extremely hard. Dr. Yalda encouraged, challenged and had faith in her students. She was fair and dedicated to all her students. She took so much time and effort to see us succeed in the class. She equipped us with the tools to change and become better writers. Dr. Yalda made me feel that I could become a better writer if I just did what she asked in the class and with her support and dedication she was correct.

After class, she continued to support me and provide feedback for my writing when needed. Dr. Yalda is unbiased and her classes feel safe. She teaches in an environment where students can put their guard down and is honest about where their learning level is at and she can truly impact her students. She allowed me to believe in myself. I thought it was impossible to change my writing style or move forward in my writing but with her help and effort I will be graduating this spring with a master in criminal justice. The things Dr. Yalda changed who I am, and I am a better person because of it. I learned how to advocate for myself and write a graduate level paper. Thank you Dr. Yalda.

**GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
Officers 2008-2009**

**President:**

Dorothy Asare-Kumah, Communications

**Secretary:**

Cari DelMariani, General Education

**Treasurer:**

Megan Riksen, College Student Affairs Leadership

**Graduate Council Student Representatives:**

**Elected:**

Maxine Gray, Communications

Michael Soltis, Health Administration

**Advisors:**

Steven Lipnicki, Director, Pew Student Services

Michelle Burke, Student Life

**GRADUATE COUNCIL  
Officers 2008-2009**

**Chair:**

Dr. Mark Luttenton, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Vice-Chair:**

Dr. David Cannon, Seidman College of Business

**Policy Subcommittee Chair:**

Dr. Roger Wilson, College of Education

**Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:**

Dr. Cynthia Coviak, Kirkhof College of Nursing

## **Office of Graduate Studies & Grants Administration**

### **Dean:**

Priscilla J. Kimboko, Ph. D.

### **Staff:**

John Stevenson, PT, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

Irene Fountain, GSGA Administrative Assistant

Jenn Wildey, Office Coordinator

Christine Chamberlain, Director, Grants Development and Administration

Beverly Dickinson, Grants and Contracts Specialist

Shirley Dilworth, Grants Office Coordinator

Paul Reitemeier, Ph.D., Chair, Human Research Review Committee

Christina Moord, Human Research Protections Coordinator

Jeannie Moseler, R&D Coordinator

### **Graduate Assistants:**

Tara Blury, MSW program

Lauren Sagorski, MPA program

Michael Soltis, MHA program

### **Office of Graduate Studies and Grants Administration**

**401 W. Fulton, 388C DeVos Center**

**Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

**Department Line: 616-331-7105**

**Fax: 616-331-7317**

**Email: [gsga@gvsu.edu](mailto:gsga@gvsu.edu)**

**Website: <http://www.gvsu.edu/gsga>**