

Graduate Student Celebration

April 22, 2016

Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

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

in collaboration with the
Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Program

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

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

Introduction:

Frederick Lawrence, GSA President

Welcome:

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

Graduate Dean's Citation Awards Recognition:

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

Graduate Student Association Faculty Awards Recognition:

Frederick Lawrence, GSA President,
Colette Cascarilla, GSA Vice President,
and Jordyn Lawton, GSA Administrative Officer

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

Welcome!

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

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

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

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

Congratulations to all!



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 2016**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Kari L. Oliver, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Melanie L. Ball, Health Administration
- ❖ Elizabeth J. Vallier-Booth, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Tiffany L. Steele, Higher Education
- ❖ Martice A. Moffett, School Counseling

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Soon Cheng Tang, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Shahrzad Eslamian, Medical & Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Melanie D. Koops, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Rachel Byars, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Emily M. Dean, Biology
- ❖ Veronia D. Renauldo, Biostatistics
- ❖ Lillia R. Dincheva, Cell & Molecular Biology
- ❖ Jessica A. Notenbaum, Communications

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Rachel E. Cardoso, Nursing

OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Jonathan C. Gibson, Nursing

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS

College of Education

- ❖ Mariana I. Naddaf, Higher Education

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Ravi Bhatta, Engineering

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

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

OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Steven P. McNeely, Health Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Lauren N. Presutti, Higher Education
- ❖ Deborah R. Farris, Literacy Studies

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Abigail E. Clark, Melanie D. Koops, and Lauren E. Smith, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Jon A. Bialowicz, Public Health

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Brian M. Zuber, Biology
- ❖ Alix N. Booms, Cell & Molecular Biology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Dawn M. Korson, Nursing

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

College of Education

- ❖ Chad T. Patton, Higher Education

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Lauren E. Smith, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Robert T. Barrett, Biology

**EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR
PROFESSION**

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Colin D. Cumming, Public Administration
- ❖ Carly R. Roach, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Ashleigh R. Begres, Higher Education
- ❖ Rosemarie Starook, Literacy Studies

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Christopher L. Wise, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Ashley K. DeWitt, Cell & Molecular Biology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Leda T. Evans, Nursing

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Colette M. Cascarilla, Business Administration

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Daniel L. Cook, Health Administration
- ❖ Bramwell S. Roberts, Public Administration
- ❖ Phillip T. Capps, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Ja'Kia Marie, Higher Education
- ❖ Dori A. Castignola, School Counseling

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Rodrigo Barriuso DeJuan, Engineering
- ❖ Shahrzad Eslamian, Medical & Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Emilee L. Van Hoven, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Kayleigh N. McCollum, Cell & Molecular Biology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Jennifer M. Ohman, Nursing

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU

College of Education

- ❖ Chad T. Patton, Higher Education

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Crystal J. Lamb, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Daniela C. Gomez, Cell & Molecular Biology

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Alex S. Wierenga, Communications

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Jennifer L. Zachary, Nursing

3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION WINNER

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Matthew T. Lindenberg, Biology

*Congratulations to all of the Winter 2016
Graduate Dean's Citation Award Recipients!*

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARDS
Winter 2016

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Parvez Sopariwala, Accounting

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Kathleen Bailey, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Raymond Higbea, Health Administration

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Jon Rose, Physical Therapy

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Rebecca Davis, Nursing

KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD

College of Education

- ❖ Donald Mitchell, Higher Education

*Congratulations to the Winter 2016
Graduate Student Association Faculty Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM
Winter 2016**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Kari L. Oliver, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

Kari's academic performance, in each and every class, was at or near the top. She consistently exceeded expectations and outperformed most, if not all, of her peers on her assignments, both written and oral. Kari's dedication and hard work is remarkable. Additionally, Kari was an excellent role model to other students during her course work at Grand Valley, and she demonstrates the essence of what faculty in the School of Criminal Justice hope graduate students will become. Kari was hired by the Kentwood Police Department as a crime data analyst while she was still a student in the graduate program.

❖ **Melanie L. Ball, Master of Health Administration**

Melanie has demonstrated high academic excellence in her studies at GVSU. While working full time as a Compliance Analyst at Spectrum Health, she has consistently performed at the top of her class across the curriculum. In the classroom environment, she is always well prepared and an active contributor to the discussions, team assignments, and other collaborative learning activities. In her written work, she excels as well, showing excellent command of the language, careful attention to detail on assignments, a mastery of written communication, and a commitment to deep learning about the administrative challenges of the healthcare world.

❖ **Elizabeth J. Vallier-Booth, Master of Social Work**

Elizabeth has excelled in all of her classes with the highest possible GPA, and she has also demonstrated this academic excellence in her internship. She is a very hard worker, self-driven, and rises to the challenge of excellence. Her internship as a medical social worker is one of the most challenging in regards to the fast pace and rigor, and she has surpassed her field supervisor's expectations. She is valued by her internship site and has volunteered extra hours there because of extra client needs. Elizabeth is also a member of the Phi Alpha National Honor Society.

College of Education

❖ **Tiffany L. Steele, Master of Education in Higher Education**

Tiffany has performed extremely well, maintaining a 4.0 GPA to date. In particular, she always provided thorough critiques during classroom discussions and well-written and well-structured assignments. Her academic excellence extends beyond the classroom, as a faculty member invited her to work on a study which is currently under review for a top-tier journal in the field. Tiffany has been recognized with a GVSU's "I am Grand Valley" award, as well as inductions into Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. In the fall, Tiffany will be pursuing a PhD in higher education at The Ohio State University.

❖ **Martice A. Moffett, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Martice is an excellent student and she has demonstrated proactive advocacy for the students with whom she works in the areas of academic, career, and social/emotional development. Her internship supervisor also stated that Martice would make an exemplary school counselor. When the School Counseling Graduate Student Organization (SCGSO) was in need of a treasurer, Martice was eager to take up this leadership position. She went above and beyond her responsibilities to represent the SCGSO at various meetings throughout the year and was an active participant during her first year. The faculty are convinced her contributions to the field will make a lasting positive impression.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Soon Cheng Tang, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

CS is an exceptional student, thus far achieving a perfect 4.0 GPA in his coursework. Faculty reported that he is bright and engaging in the classroom, diligent with all of his work, and an all-around exceptional student. During his graduate studies, he also worked as a developer for Amway Inc.'s e-commerce web applications in North America and Asia. He is also an independent application consultant for National Heritage Academies and is developing his own web and android applications. The faculty enthusiastically recommend CS for this award.

❖ **Shahrzad Eslamian, Master of Science in Medical and Bioinformatics**

Shahrzad not only earned very good grades but also challenged the faculty by pursuing an interesting career path, a mixture of bio- and medical informatics. She stood out from her peers not only by her special interests, but also through her persistence and quality of her work. Furthermore, she was very active in faculty research groups, resulting in several peer-reviewed conference presentations, including one at the Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference 2015 at Purdue University. She will be an asset and make positive contributions to real-world bioinformatics-related research projects in the future based on her excellence here at GVSU.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Melanie D. Koops, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Melanie is an outstanding student who has shown academic excellence in didactic coursework, laboratory coursework, and clinical coursework. She is inquisitive and a skilled problem solver. During her graduate studies, she completed graduate assistantships in the Department of Physical Therapy and the College of Health Professions Student Services Office. Melanie is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Alpha Lambda. The faculty of the Department of Physical Therapy are certain Melanie will be an outstanding addition to the physical therapy profession.

❖ **Rachel E. Byars, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

Rachel has shown herself to be an outstanding student throughout her time in the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology at GVSU. She has excelled in both her academic and clinical courses, with each of her professors noting a high degree of participation and insight in class. In addition, she presented research with faculty at the Michigan Division for Early Childhood Conference during her first semester in the program. Rachel is a student who will continue to excel as she enters the profession and the faculty look forward to hearing about all of her future accomplishments.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Emily M. Dean, Master of Science in Biology**

Emily has done an extraordinary job in all elements of her graduate work. She learns new material quickly and integrates that information with material she has learned previously. In addition, she is very responsible, motivated, thoughtful, independent, inquiring, and she works extraordinarily hard. These same characteristics are clearly evident in the research projects she has undertaken. Her strong commitment to pursue advanced studies and her career goals are apparent to the faculty who work with her. Based on her overwhelming drive and strong work ethic, Emily has the potential to be very successful as a professional in the field of ecology.

❖ **Veronia D. Renauldo, Master of Science in Biostatistics**

Veronia's passion for expanding her programming skills was apparent from day one. She has shown strong attention for detail and a tireless work ethic in all of her graduate work. In 2015, she completed a successful internship at Spectrum Health's Department of Healthier Communities. She will present some of this work at the upcoming 2016 SAS Global Forum Conference in Las Vegas, NV. Veronia is now currently working as an intern SAS Programmer at QST Consultations in Allendale, MI. The Statistics Department wishes her well in all future professional pursuits.

❖ **Lillia R. Dincheva, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

In addition to an excellent (4.0 GPA) academic record, Lillia's interest in neurological disease lead her to a successful internship in Dr. Carly Sortwell's lab at Michigan State University where she worked on a project "Characterization of a brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF rs6265) knock-in rat." After graduation, Lillia will work in clinical research and pursue an MD. With this nomination, the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology recognizes Lillia's academic achievements as well as her service in enhancing the image and reputation of the department and University.

❖ **Jessica A. Notenbaum, Master of Science in Communications**

Jessica exhibits a level of mastery of the subject matter that is indeed rare among graduate students nationally. Her academic performance in all classes has been superlative and in every case far exceeding the expectations of the program. Not only does she possess a vast reading knowledge of communication theory, but she successfully and skillfully applies theory and conceptual principals to practical communication problem-solving situations. Jessica will continue to be a major contributor in the field of professional communication throughout her career.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Rachel E. Cardosa, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Rachel is recognized as a leader among the doctoral students as a facilitator between faculty and students. She was instrumental in starting the Graduate Student Organization in the Kirkhof College of Nursing. Rachel has been a tireless advocate for persons with life limiting illness. She has worked in partnership with Spectrum Health to develop improved communication and collaboration for persons with congestive heart failure that are in need of palliative and hospice care. Rachel has also been recognized by the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners for leadership in the nursing profession, academic achievement, community involvement and exemplary character.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
Winter 2016**

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Jonathan C. Gibson, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

- **Dissertation Title:** A Process Improvement Project: Demonstrating a Patient Portal to Increase Enrollment and Use in an Underserved Population with Chronic Illness
- **Dissertation Committee:** Dr. Cynthia Coviak (Chair) – Kirkhof College of Nursing, Dr. Lori Houghton-Rahrig – Kirkhof College of Nursing, Dr. Guenter Tusch – School of Computing and Information Systems, and Dr. Peter Christensen – InterCare Community Health Center

Jonathan is a committed advocate for the use of electronic health records and electronic communications between health care providers and their clients to improve and reduce the costs of care. He assisted a federally qualified health center in moving toward greater use of the patient portal for its electronic health record. The significance of this use lies in its abilities to address the safety, quality and cost issues noted earlier. Through the communication fostered by the portal, providers are more readily able to share with clients, appropriate information about their health status and care. Clients are more able to engage in the process of moving toward better health by asking questions and clarifying treatment goals.

By initiating the pilot project and showing the effectiveness of a simple demonstration of the portal, Jon provided a template procedure that the clinic's personnel found to be reasonable and replicable, not only for the clinic's other providers, but for use in the other clinics run by the health organization. Jon completed his dissertation with an outstanding degree of self-direction, organization, and professionalism. His final report was scholarly, written with clarity, and appropriately demonstrated the knowledge gained through the process of its completion.

ABSTRACT

High risk, high cost chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and congestive heart failure are prevalent in the United States. Nearly half of all Americans have at least one chronic condition (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009). Almost four-fifths of total health care spending in the U.S. is related to high risk, chronic conditions (Baker, Johnson, Macaulay, & Birnbaum, 2011). The use of patient portals in ambulatory care may be an avenue toward improving chronic disease management. Portals can be used by patients to schedule appointments, send secure messages to their providers, request medication refills, review lab and test results, make payments, and other activities. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to evaluate whether combining portal demonstration to patients during clinic visits with immediate enrollment would increase the use of a portal in a safety-net primary care clinic. Most of the participants (N = 51) were Caucasian aged 38 to 47 years, high school graduates, and diabetic with no comorbid conditions. Over half were daily internet users. Participants' use of the portal was recorded over three months. The use rate improved from none prior to portal demonstration to 39.2%. The demonstration was timed and a cost analysis was performed to present a sustainability plan for demonstration adoption in the primary care clinic. Increased portal use rates may over time equate to improved patient-provider communication and increased patient self-care, leading to improved chronic condition management.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS
Winter 2016**

College of Education

- ❖ **Mariana I. Naddaf, Master of Education in Higher Education**
 - **Thesis Title:** Coming Home: How Identity Plays a Role in Students who Study Abroad in an Area That is Representative of Their Heritage
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Donald Mitchell (Chair) – College of Education, Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury – College of Education, and Dr. Mark Schaub – Barbara H. Padnos International Center

Mariana's thesis explores an original and important topic; however, her study is well positioned within current scholarly work about student outcomes associated with study abroad experiences. Her thesis, exploring the ways students' identities are affected as a result of studying abroad in an area representative of their heritage, contributes to higher education/student affairs literature, and more importantly, offers study abroad professionals a rich, descriptive study exploring the experiences of students who fit within this population.

She highlights the need for documenting the experiences of students who study abroad in an area representative of their heritage and why documenting the participants' experiences is important. Mariana's conclusion was truly a blending of the problem statement, literature review, and her findings, as she was thoughtful in the interpretation of her results and made several recommendations for future research and practice. Finally, Mariana's thesis is well written, clear, and well organized.

ABSTRACT

Study abroad participation has more than tripled over the past two decades in the United States and has led to increased research efforts on topics such as the benefits of study abroad and the development of students who study abroad; however, little research exists on students who have heritage connections to the area in which they study abroad. In order to address this need within the field of higher education and study abroad, a hermeneutic phenomenological qualitative study was conducted to explore what factors, if any, affect changes in identity salience for students who study abroad in areas that are representative of their heritage. Rather than focus on one aspect of identity (e.g., social, ethnic, racial, or nationality), this study left it up to the participants to disclose what pieces of their identity, if any, were affected by their individual study abroad experience. Identity salience in regards to ancestral connection was a focus of this study. The theories that guide this study include Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory and Abes, Jones, and McEwen's reconceptualized model of multiple dimensions of identity. This research provides insight into this phenomenon by exploring the lived experiences of American students who studied abroad in an area connected to some part of their heritage. In addition, this research embraces a holistic perspective of student development as a guiding philosophy throughout in order to represent the fluidity and intersectionality of identity.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Ravi Bhatta, Master of Science in Engineering**

- **Thesis Title:** Comparison of Load Carrying Capacity of Three and Four Lobed Polygonal Shaft and Hub Connection for Constant Grinding Diameter
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Wendy Reffeor (Chair) – School of Engineering, Dr. Princewill Anyalebechi – School of Engineering, and Dr. Sung-Hwan Joo – School of Engineering

Throughout his graduate studies at GVSU, Ravi has risen above the level expected of graduate students. His thesis is exceptionally researched and well written. He consistently went above the level required for a Master's thesis including not only theoretical, but experimental validation of his numerical analysis. The thesis topic is of immediate relevance for design engineers. It provides validation of the existing standard as well as work that furthers the understanding of the design of polygonal shafts, a machine element widely used in heavy machinery.

In addition to the thesis, Ravi has also published in a number of venues. On March 19, 2016, he presented, "Experimental and Numerical Validation of DIN standard for polygonal shafts," at the ASEE North Central Conference. His paper, "Comparison of Load Carrying Capacity of Three and Four Lobed Polygonal Shaft and Hub Connection for Constant Grinding Diameter," has been accepted for presentation at the 2016 ASME International Congress and Exposition in November. He is also preparing a manuscript, "Torsional Shear Stress in Polygonal Shaft and Hub Connections," for publication in the Journal of Applied Mechanics. Finally, he presented his work at GVSU's Student Scholarship Day on April 13, 2016, in the GVSU Graduate Showcase on April 19, 2016.

ABSTRACT

Polygonal shafts are a major competitor to spline and keyed shafts for power transmission due to features as self-centering, lack of stress concentration area, and ease of assembly and disassembly. Past studies on polygonal profiles have focused on a single profile and comparisons based on nominal sizes of three and four lobe profiles. This research explores the loading strength of the standardized three and four lobe polygonal shafts and hubs manufactured from the same stock size, subjected to pure torsional and torsional bending load from a spur gear of 20° pressure angle at various fits. In absence of analytical solution, Finite element method has been used after verifying the results experimentally, theoretically, and DIN standard. From the finite element analysis, the hub was found to experience greater stress than the shaft in all cases. The clearance fit was found to be the most critical connection and interference fit to be the most suitable for larger power transmission. The P4C connection had greater stress, especially in the hub, than the P3G connection. The difference between the P4C shaft and the P3G shaft was 4.05% in the interference fit and 60.6% in the clearance fit, suggesting P4C clearance fit to be less favorable for larger power transmission. Owing to its small normal axial stress, the P4C clearance fit has its use in low power transmission where sliding fit is a requirement. The reason for greater stress in P4C shaft and hub connection is due to the large pressure angle at the point of contact, which leads to a smaller contact area and greater contact pressure. The contact pressure was found to be triangular shaped in clearance and transition fit and with a large crest, followed by a trough and a small crest in interference fit for torsional bending load.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Sarah E. VanOeveren, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**
 - **Thesis Title:** Mid1 Cytoskeletal Proteins for the Cortical Confinement of Actin Filaments During Ring Assembly in *Schizosaccharomyces Pombe*
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Dawn Clifford Hart (Chair) – Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Dr. Brad Waller – Department of Chemistry, and Dr. David Zeitler – Department of Statistics

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

In addition to publishing the results as part of her thesis, Sarah presented the results at the American Society of Cell Biology annual meeting (San Diego; December 2015) and the Chicago Cytoskeleton (March 2015 and 2016). At the most recent Chicago Cytoskeleton meeting, Sarah earned an Honorable Mention in the poster competition, which included posters from PhD students and post-doctoral fellows. Sarah was the only master's student in the competition. With this nomination, the department recognizes Sarah's research and academic achievements as well as her support and mentorship of other students in the program.

ABSTRACT

In fission yeast, components of the actin cytoskeleton assemble into membrane-anchored nodes that condense to form the actomyosin contractile ring that will physically divide a cell into two genetically identical cells. Two essential elements of contractile ring assembly include actin polymerization at the division site and organization of filaments into a robust ring. Experimental research and computational modeling has shown that these two elements depend on the contribution of actin crosslinking and bundling proteins. *Continued on next page.*

Similar to the actin binding domain (ABD) of Anillin, our lab has recently characterized Mid1 Pleckstrin Homology domain (Mid1PH) as a novel actin binding domain. Here, we combine confocal microscopy with published computational modeling to show that Mid1PH provides additional roles, beyond recruitment and anchoring, as an actin bundling protein. Mid1 cooperates with alpha-actinin to confine actin filaments to the cortex. During late stage ring assembly, Mid1 collaborates with fimbrin to inhibit actin polymerization. These results contribute to our understanding of the mechanistic assembly of an actomyosin contractile ring.

❖ **Geoffrey M. Kishbaugh, Master of Arts in English**

- **Thesis Title:** *Becoming Self: A Jungian Approach to Paradise Lost*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Benjamin Lockerd (Chair) – Department of English, Dr. Kathleen Blumreich – Department of English, and Dr. James Persoon – Department of English

Geoffrey's thesis makes use of the concepts developed by the Swiss psychologist Carl Jung in an interpretation of John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*. Through his analysis of the dreams of patients, as well as world mythology, Jung identified certain "archetypes" that appear to be universal human symbols connected with stages of psychological individuation. Literary scholars have previously used Jung's archetypes in analyzing many different literary works, but very little has been previously said about *Paradise Lost* from this point of view.

Geoffrey's thesis is thus highly original in its application of Jungian concepts to the interpretation of the poem. Kishbaugh explores elements in the epic that correspond to the Jungian archetypes called the "Shadow," the "Anima," and the "Animus." His analysis reveals a process of psychic development in the poem, leading to the psychological integration symbolized by what Jung calls the "Wise Old Man" and "Great Mother" archetypes. In following this approach, the thesis resolves several important issues that have been raised by previous scholars, thereby making a significant contribution to the field of Renaissance studies.

ABSTRACT

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

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT
Winter 2016**

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Steven P. McNeely, Master of Health Administration**
 - **Project Title:** Infliximab Infusions in an Alternate Treatment Setting: Home Infusion vs. Acute Care and its effect on the patient experience
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Greg Cline – School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration

Steven is an already accomplished mid-level healthcare administrator completing his MHA degree. In his final semester in the MHA program, he completed the Managerial Epidemiology course and he led his student team in an experience-based learning (EBL) project examining the quality outcomes of the delivery of Remicade by infusion in the home based setting. This EBL project was a partnership with OptionCare, the largest home infusion firm in the United States. Steven's years of practical work experience along with his natural leadership skills produced an outstanding study of great help to his fellow MHA students as well as to OptionCare. Steven is currently a Manager of Patient Experience at Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital.

College of Education

- ❖ **Lauren N. Presutti, Master of Education in Higher Education**
 - **Project Title:** Designing an Online Orientation Program for Adult Learners at Grand Valley State University
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Mary Bair – College of Education

Within Lauren's outstanding project, she highlights the importance of developing orientation programming for adult learners, eventually recommending an online orientation program for adult learners at GVSU. Lauren's project seeks to improve the college readiness levels of adult learners at GVSU, with broader goals of improving retention and satisfaction rates among this student population. Given Lauren's careful attention to detail, her project can be considered a literature-based model for institutions across the nation. Lauren's project exemplified all of the qualities that make

up an outstanding project, which include: originality; a well-defined problem statement; an insightful and sophisticated use of a theoretical framework; a well-written and critical understanding of the literature; a novel introduction of methods/solutions for the proposed problem; and a conclusion that highlighted a compelling interest in the field.

❖ **Deborah R. Farris, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

- **Project Title:** Wikis to Improve English Learners' Writing Performance
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba – College of Education

Deborah's project relates to the application of Web 2.0 to writing. It is an invitation to teachers and school administrators to adopt instructional technology to meet the learning needs of non-native speakers of English and hence improve their academic performance. The interest in Deborah's project lies in the fact that it provides both teachers and administrators with solutions to an area where English learners struggle with, namely writing. Her project combines foundational English learner writing strategies with effective instructor and peer feedback that is facilitated in a student personalized wiki. The collaborative nature of the wiki facilitates social and academic interaction among English learners, which is vital for language acquisition.

College of Health Professions

The Department of Physical Therapy has selected three recipients of this semester's Outstanding Final Project Award as part of a group project.

❖ **Abigail E. Clark, Melanie D. Koops, and Lauren E. Smith, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

- **Project Title:** Grand Valley Power Mobility Project
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Lisa Kenyon – Department of Physical Therapy

Abigail, Melanie, and Lauren have been involved in the Grand Valley Power Mobility Project since late Fall 2014 and have provided power mobility training to a variety of young children who have multiple severe impairments. In addition to their hands-on work with children, the students completed a qualitative systematic review focused on power mobility training methods for children 21 years of age and younger as their final project. In conducting this systematic review, the students searched 19

databases and reviewed over 14,000 publications for potential inclusion in the systematic review. Studies that met the established inclusion and exclusion criteria were then appraised and critiqued. The discussion section of their final project outlined ways that qualitative methodologies could be used to enhance research outcomes in the area of power mobility training. Abigail, Melanie, and Lauren all were strong participants in implementing, interpreting and writing up this final project.

❖ **Jon A. Bialowicz, Master of Public Health**

- **Project Title:** Assessing Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Disparities in Three Grand Rapids Outpatient Facilities
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Kelly Strutz – Department of Public Health

Jon's project examined disparities in vaccination for seasonal influenza across three outpatient clinics in Grand Rapids. This arose from his practicum collaboration with partners in the Office of Research and Innovation at Mercy Health St. Mary's. The significance of his project topic is apparent to public health practitioners, bringing together the core public health values of disease prevention and health equity across populations. Along each step of the process, Jon implemented the project thoughtfully and with great attention to detail. His quantitative analyses were straightforward yet elegant, and his manuscript writing was clear and well organized. His results, showing that Hispanic patients at the clinics were less likely to have record of receipt of influenza vaccination, should assist the clinics in targeting outreach to this population.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Brian M. Zuber, Master of Science in Biology**

- **Project Title:** Geospatial Prioritization of Historic Wetland Restoration: A Multi-model Watershed Scale Approach in the Lower Grand River Watershed of Michigan
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Richard Rediske – Annis Water Resources Institute/Department of Biology

Brian's graduate project used an innovative approach to combine the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model and the Landscape Level Wetlands Functional Assessment (LLWFA) model to prioritize historic wetlands in the lower Grand River watershed for restoration. By linking the two models,

Brian was able to determine which historic wetlands had the greatest potential to reduce suspended sediment and stormwater volumes based on topography and hydrology with SWAT and then identify the subset of sites that still retained the greatest amount of natural wetland function with LLWFA. Brian's work was used by Grand Valley Metro Council for a recent grant request to EPA and will be used in the future to prioritize specific parcels for wetland restoration. The faculty nominated Brian's project for this award based on technical merit and relevance to the management of water quality issues in the west Michigan.

- ❖ **Alix N. Booms, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**
 - **Project Title:** Antisense Oligonucleotide-Mediated Reduction of Alpha-Synuclein as a Therapy for Parkinson's Disease
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Katrina Paumier – Michigan State University

Alix completed her project in the Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine of MSU. This research involved extensive work with rat models of Parkinson's Disease and she became proficient in several techniques, including immunohistochemistry and stereology of neurons. She is expected to produce a publication based on her research in 2016. At GVSU, Alix completed a graduate assistantship supporting undergraduate laborites with the Professional Science Master's program. Alix's success in her internship led directly to her being hired as a research technician in the Center for Neurodegenerative Science at the Van Andel Institute where she is investigating how genetics contributes to the risk of developing diseases such as Parkinson's Disease and cancer.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ **Dawn M. Korson, Doctor of Nursing Practice**
 - **Project Title:** Quality Improvement Initiative in Transplant Diabetes Care: Need Assessment and Protocol Development
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Dianne Conrad – Kirkhof College of Nursing

Dawn's project is an outstanding product that will dramatically improve the care of patients who develop Diabetes Mellitus after receiving kidney transplants. Using system change strategies learned during her doctoral program, Dawn conducted an exceptional organizational assessment and her work will transform the care of kidney transplant patients with diabetes

using strong evidence to guide care. Her work is an exemplar model of a high quality final doctoral project. Her work is innovative, and has strong merit for improvement in care in numerous health care settings. Dawn's work is very significant, providing new tools that can be used to assess and manage care for people with transplantation and diabetes mellitus. Her recognition for this project is well deserved.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION
Winter 2016**

College of Education

- ❖ **Chad T. Patton, Master of Education in Higher Education**
 - **Publication Title:** Whose Fault is it, Anyway?: Who is to Blame for Limited College Access in the United States?
 - **Research Advisor:** Dr. Shannon Burton – College of Education

Chad's work was published in *College Student Affairs Leadership*, a peer-reviewed graduate student journal. Chad challenges those interested in K-12 and higher education outcomes to reframe their thinking by focusing on K-16 or pipeline initiatives. By introducing readers to the proficiency model, Chad provocatively highlights the need for K-12 and higher education stakeholders to work together to align what is expected of students as they move through their educational careers, and supports this approach as a way to close the achievement or opportunity gaps that exist when comparing racial/ethnic groups.

Chad is a bilingual educator with experience in program development, customized curriculum design, and goal-aligned partnerships. Chad currently serves as Director of Workplace Customized English at the Literacy Center of West Michigan where he creates literacy curricula that is contextualized to the workplace for learners who read below a 9th grade reading level.

ABSTRACT

Access to higher education has been limited for many underrepresented racial minorities (URMs) in the United States. Part of the reason for this has been because of weaknesses in the K-16 pipeline. This article takes a collective impact approach to understanding what K-16 personnel can do to assist URMs through proper curriculum development and implementation. Overall, this article will focus on the proficiency model, how it has been used in the mainstream, and why the proficiency model is important when working together within the K-16 continuum.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Lauren E. Smith, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

- **Publication Title:** The Female Athlete Triad: What Every Physical Therapist Should Know
- **Co-Authors:** Dr. Laurie Stickler and Dr. Barb Hoogenboom, Department of Physical Therapy

Lauren's work was published in the *International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy* (August 2015). Lauren played an integral part in writing this review paper. She helped search the literature, participated in the writing process, and helped create tables and figures. She also assisted in completing this article as a second year physical therapy student. She displayed professionalism in her interactions, was timely in preparation of materials, and was a great asset to the research process.

During her graduate program, Lauren served on the Executive Board for the GVSU DPT Class of 2016 and completed a Pro Bono Physical Therapy service trip to Guatemala. She is also the Chair of the Michigan Athletic Trainers Society Student Seminar Communication & Philanthropy Committee. She has also received Certification of Achievement in Pregnancy and Postpartum Physical Therapy.

ABSTRACT

Females participating in sports have the potential of developing one or multiple parts of the Female Athlete Triad, defined as the inter-relationship among energy availability, menstrual function, and bone mineral density. Energy availability, defined as dietary energy intake minus exercise energy expended, is believed to be at the cornerstone of the triad, and complications from low energy availability span many of the bodily systems and can have psychological implications. Treatment of the triad requires a comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach. *Continued on next page.*

Physical therapists frequently treat injured athletes and may have prolonged interactions with athletes depending on the length of the rehabilitation process. In addition to examination, assessment, and treatment of injuries, the role of the physical therapist includes prevention, and the promotion of health, wellness, and fitness. Thus, the goal of this clinical commentary is to identify and describe essential knowledge for the physical therapist, clearly identify the role of the physical therapist as part of multi-disciplinary management team, and outline resources for the physical therapist and athletes relevant to the female athlete triad.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Robert T. Barrett, Master of Science in Biology**

- **Publication Title:** Arctic Plant Responses to Changing Abiotic Factors in Northern Alaska
- **Research Advisor:** Dr. Robert Hollister – Department of Biology

Rob's work was published in the *American Journal of Botany*. The journal has a long rich history of excellence and is widely respected. The paper examined a dozen years of climate records against six years of plant performance at four different locations. Rob was personally responsible for half of the plant observations. The skill sets necessary to organize and analyze the information was impressive. Rob did all the analysis and all the recent data processing. The earlier data was previously processed and quality checked, but for consistency he had to re-screen all data using the same protocols. Rob was responsible for all of it.

In his final year as a full time master's student, after nearly completing all his analysis and most of his writing, he decided he wanted to become a high school teacher. He was accepted into a teacher training program and is currently teaching at the West Michigan Academy of Environment Science. In his spare time he completed his analysis and submitted two papers for publication. It was a very daunting process but he persevered through two sets of revisions and ultimately the paper is much better for it. This paper he is nominated for is an excellent paper representing a huge amount of work.

ABSTRACT

PREMISE OF THE STUDY: Understanding the relationship between plants and changing abiotic factors is necessary to document and anticipate the impacts of climate change. **METHODS:** We used data from long-term research sites at Barrow and Atqasuk, Alaska, to investigate trends in abiotic factors (snow melt and freeze-up dates, air and soil temperature, thaw depth, and soil moisture) and their relationships with plant traits (inflorescence height, leaf length, reproductive effort, and reproductive phenology) over time. **KEY RESULTS:** Several abiotic factors, including increasing air and soil temperatures, earlier snowmelt, delayed freeze-up, drier soils, and increasing thaw depths, showed non-significant tendencies over time that were consistent with the regional warming pattern observed in the Barrow area. Over the same period, plants showed consistent, although typically non-significant tendencies toward increasing inflorescence heights and reproductive efforts. Air and soil temperatures, measured as degree days, were consistently correlated with plant growth and reproductive effort. Reproductive effort was best predicted using abiotic conditions from the previous year. We also found that varying the base temperature used to calculate degree days changed the number of significant relationships between temperature and the trait: in general, reproductive phenologies in colder sites were better predicted using lower base temperatures, but the opposite held for those in warmer sites. **CONCLUSIONS:** Plant response to changing abiotic factors is complex and varies by species, site, and trait; however, for six plant species, we have strong evidence that climate change will cause significant shifts in their growth and reproductive effort as the region continues to warm.

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

Winter 2016

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Colin D. Cumming, Master of Public Administration**

Colin currently serves on the Public Relations Committee with the Grand Rapids Young Professionals, and for the past two years he served on the executive team for the Nonprofit Graduate Student Organization, where he connected MPA students to professional and community service opportunities. Colin's ongoing commitment to the nonprofit community shows through in his coursework as well. He completed the following community service projects during his time at GVSU: a Financial Assessment of the Ronald McDonald House of Western Michigan (RMHWM), a Marketing Assessment for North Ottawa Community Health System, and Professional Development Goals and Objectives for Safe Haven Ministries (while he was an intern within the organization). Colin is an exceptional student and nonprofit professional, and is well deserving of this award

❖ **Carly R. Roach, Master of Social Work**

Carly has continuously volunteered her time throughout the years at Arbor Circle's The Bridge Youth Shelter for Run Away and Homeless youth, Arbor Circle's Youth Mentoring, the Well House, and The Center for Women in Transition. Outside of volunteering, it is commonly mentioned by her student peers, and GVSU faculty and staff that Carly exudes kindness and care. She is also incredibly humble. Many have mentioned that she is "a very kind soul." This trait seems to be contagious and this tends to bring cohesion and unity in her communities. She also completed graduate assistantships in the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation and the School of Social Work. Her willingness to give to others is exemplified by her upcoming six month trip to El Salvador where she will be working with youth and women's groups.

College of Education

❖ **Ashleigh R. Begres, Master of Education in Higher Education**

Ashleigh's service to the community and profession is remarkable. In her graduate assistant role, Ashleigh does campus programming at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) in the Office of Student Life & Conduct. She does not just do the work, but she does it extremely well, giving students her all. Beyond her current graduate assistant role, Ashleigh has also contributed to the GVSU and the Grand Rapids community as an intern for GVSU's Padnos International Center (PIC) and GRCC's College Success Center. In PIC, her responsibilities included making recommendations on projects and programming to support international students; and, at GRCC she was instrumental in developing a handbook to support undocumented Latino/a students and training materials for faculty and staff to support undocumented Latino/a students.

❖ **Rosemarie Starook, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

Rosemarie currently works with the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance in Holland, MI, implementing a program at Eagle Crest Middle School entitled "Calling All Colors." This program's mission is to dismantle barriers such as racism to ensure people of all ethnic backgrounds to have equal access and opportunity to participate fully in the life of their community. Additionally, she is involved with Holland Rescue Mission, where she has launched clothing drives for the community within her home church and at Eagle Crest Charter Academy. She also collaborates with the Tulip Time Festival Costume Committee to provide costumes for staff as they participate in the Kinderparade every spring. Rosemarie is engaged in community and professional activities as well as an excellent student.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Christopher L. Wise, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Chris has been involved in multiple service activities in the community during his graduate studies at GVSU. He was a physical therapy volunteer for Baycliff Health Camp where he worked with children with cerebral palsy, spinal bifida, spinal muscular atrophy, autism and attention deficit disorder.

He is also the pro bono coordinator for the GVSU Family Health Center physical therapy services as well as a volunteer for the GVSU Parkinson's exercise program. As the co-president for the Michigan Physical Therapy Association student relations committee, he organized and ran the Michigan Student Physical Therapy Conclave. His employment history has also included service aspects as he was a rehab technician at Mary Free Bed Hospital, an after school assistant for the Salvation Army Corps, and a graduate assistant for the Department of Physical Therapy.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Ashley K. DeWitt, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Ashley provided excellent service to the life science research community at GVSU and as well West Michigan by leading the writing of a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation for a confocal microscope. This proposal served as the basis for GVSU acquiring the (> \$500,000) instrument in the new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science. The ability to employ confocal microscopy at GVSU fills an enormous gap in our capacity to conduct research in cell biology and will facilitate collaboration with many partners in the research community. With this nomination, the department recognizes Ashley's service to the community, her remarkable academic success, and her many contributions to research as a Laboratory Manager.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Leda T. Evans, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

As a doctoral student, Leda recognized the pressing need for heightened awareness of HIV for expanded screening and early intervention especially in the African American population. As a result, she created an innovative means of increasing HIV testing among African Americans in her final project. Leda is also very deserving of this award for her continued work in the community with the Red Project. The Red Project is a program in Grand Rapids which provides disease prevention and health promotion in people with, or who are at risk of contracting HIV. Leda has developed strong professional relationships with the staff and clients of the Grand Rapids Red Project. She is well respected by the members of the organization and has worked hard with them to assist with their overall mission.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU
Winter 2016**

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Colette M. Cascarilla, Master of Business Administration**

Colette is bright, hard-working, and interested in business practices from multiple dimensions. During the summer of 2015, she was a project manager during an internship with Herman Miller. She is completing her second year as Vice President of the Graduate Student Association and is also a Cook Leadership Academy fellow with the Hauenstein Center of GVSU. Colette is a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor society for collegiate leadership and has served as Graduate Assistant in the Seidman College of Business, advising undergraduate students in their fields of study, assisting with special projects and working with prospective students and their families as they visit GVSU. She recently presented her research on gender stereotyping and its impact on parental purchasing behavior in New Orleans, LA at the March 25th Academy of Business Research conference.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Daniel L. Cook, Master of Health Administration**

Daniel served as Vice President (2014-15) and President (2015-16) for the Healthcare Professionals Graduate Student Alliance (HPGSA) during his time at GVSU. He led the organization in providing education, networking opportunities, and the opportunity for 7 students to attend the ACHE congress in March. He has also been involved in the Great Lakes Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (GLACHE) and has encouraged many students to join and be part of both organizations to enhance their leadership skills. He is also an informal leader in the classroom. His enthusiasm for learning, leadership and life is contagious. His career has already been launched as his new position at Spectrum Health is the Educator for the new innovative program, MEDNow. This is a perfect position for Daniel to excel and demonstrate his strong communication and leadership skills.

❖ **Bramwell S. Roberts, Master of Public Administration**

Bram serves as President of the Nonprofit Professionals Graduate Student Organization. Beyond his effective service for that organization, Bram has stepped up to demonstrate leadership many times in informal ways. These include classroom situations, communication and networking with current students, engaging alumni, coordinating events, making suggestions for improvement in the nonprofit program and connecting students to his place of employment, The Kroc Center where Bram is a Program Director. He is Certified Park and Recreation Professional and a member of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association as well as the National Recreation and Park Association.

❖ **Phillip T. Capps, Master of Social Work**

Phillip possesses immense leadership qualities and ability to engage others. He has demonstrated great leadership both at GVSU and in the community. He has advocated and created change in service and housing provision for those with disabilities; brought awareness and empowered the parents at a child care center regarding health safety issues for their children; advocated and changed policies at his employment where minimum wage employees were mandated to attend long trainings without pay. At GVSU, he used his leadership skills to improve events, such as increasing student organization involvement, developing fund-raising events, and encouraging student volunteers. He advocates for social justice in class, but also participated and helped organize a teach-in on multiculturalism for the university. He is very courageous in advocating for change but uses respect, relationships, and collaborating to create such change.

College of Education

❖ **Ja’Kia Marie, Master of Education in Higher Education**

Ja’Kia possesses the characteristics that are the mark of an exceptional graduate student, servant leader, and model citizen; she is dependable, trustworthy, and remarkable; and she is a Laker for a Lifetime! Ja’Kia is a walking billboard for excellent student leadership and service to GVSU. Her contributions on campus include, but are not limited to: the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week Committee, the Niara Women of Color

Mentoring Program, an Internship in the TRIO Student Support Services office, Co-Facilitator for the Laker Strategies for Success Course, the Editorial Board of the College Student Affairs Leadership Journal, a Graduate Orientation Leader for the Padnos International Center, and an official Graduate Student Representative on multiple university committees. Quite frankly, Ja’Kia has made GVSU a better place because of her presence here.

❖ **Dori A. Castignola, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Dori’s energy and enthusiasm are contagious. She leads by her service to others. During her first year, Dori volunteered to serve at the Michigan School Counselor Association Fall Conference. During the conference, Dori was enthusiastic and eager to provide support wherever she was needed. Faculty credit her with reorganizing and reenergizing the School Counselors Graduate Student Organization (SCGSO), which had become inactive. It was Dori who breathed new life into this student organization. She worked to get a new executive team formed, attended or delegated attendance at the monthly meetings related to funding, organized a fall meeting, facilitated resource sharing efforts, and offered recommendations to support peers in their practicum and internship experiences. As a result of Dori’s work and dedication to the group’s success, the SCGSO is well positioned to achieve even more in the coming year

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Rodrigo Barriuso DeJuan, Master of Science in Engineering**

Rodrigo has a natural ability to teach and has an affinity for students. He became a leader among the Engineering Graduate Assistants, and Rodrigo was selected to coordinate the Freshman Design course. Given his ability to train other graduate students, the faculty asked him to develop a new lab module for the class. The lab worked great due to the fact that it was well organized and easily understood. Through his leadership, Rodrigo has helped the development of the freshman sequence. His hard work did not stop there. He also was instrumental in coordinating the Robot Olympics Competition and the Sumo Robot Competition. He also served as the Finance Officer for the GVSU Professional Association of Graduate Engineering Students. Rodrigo’s contributions to the School of Engineering have been incredibly valuable.

❖ **Shahrzad Eslamian, Master of Science in Medical and Bioinformatics**

Shahrzad not only earned very good grades but also was very interested in graduate student culture at GVSU. For instance, she organized a Meet and Greet Party, for students in the graduate program to meet their faculty and exchange experiences with their peers. Being very active in research herself, she also encouraged other students to become active in their own research and identified resources and funding opportunities. Her general attitude towards her volunteer activities is excellent. She showed this in her role as Administration Officer of the Graduate Student Association as well as in the many student events that she attended or organized. Shahrzad has done an excellent job in helping graduate students develop their goals, getting them interested in research, and growing the community among graduate students.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Emilee L. Van Hoven, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Emilee has been involved in multiple service activities during her time in the Physical Therapy graduate program. She has been a graduate assistant to the Department of Physical Therapy in 2014 and 2016. Since 2013, she has served as the secretary to the DPT Class of 2016. In this role, she has been very involved in her classes' activities. As a member of the Michigan Athletic Trainers Society, she presents to students on professionalism. Emilee regularly participates in voluntary physical therapy activities, including the GVSU Family Health Center Pro Bono Physical Therapy Clinic and the GVSU Parkinson's "Power Up" class. The faculty wish to recognize Emilee as an outstanding graduate student and in this role she has provided outstanding service to GVSU.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Kayleigh N. McCollum, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Kayleigh provided excellent service to the university by serving as Vice-President and then President of the Professional Association for Graduate Scientists. This organization served the Professional Science Masters graduate student population by encouraging networking, and informing graduate students of the resources available from GVSU. She was instrumental in

organizing meetings for the members, inviting guest speakers, and securing funding. Kayleigh represented the PSM programs in the research labs of Michigan State University in Grand Rapids where she served as head of the baboon endometriosis project, under Dr. Sangeeta Devi Yendrembam – paving the way for opportunities for future students. After graduation, Kayleigh will begin a position at Northern Biomedical Research.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Jennifer M. Ohman, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Jennifer has many accomplishments, but probably one of the most important has been her involvement in setting up the Graduate Student Association group in the Kirkhof College of Nursing in 2012. She was the founder and President of this group for several years. This group has provided a wonderful opportunity for graduate students to get connected to resources. Jennifer volunteers her time with the KCON Alumni organization and is the Vice President of Education and Special Events. Ms. Ohman displays her leadership characteristics in her scholarly work as well. She has received numerous scholarships and awards for her outstanding work. She has displayed her scholarship at numerous conferences and publications. Jennifer is a far above average student and excels especially in the role of leader within GVSU.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU
Winter 2016**

College of Education

❖ **Chad T. Patton, Master of Education in Higher Education**

As a student and professional who emphasizes and values diversity, equity, and inclusion, Chad is most deserving of this award. In his classroom assignments, Chad challenges himself, often focusing on historically underrepresented populations. In addition, his promotion of inclusion and diversity during classroom conversations is noticeable. Chad has also sought out professional experiences where he works with diverse populations. For example, he served as an instructor and counselor for GVSU's Upward Bound program, a federal college preparation program for low-income and potential first-generation college students. Chad has served as an inclusion advocate at GVSU; as a member of GVSU's Latino Faculty and Staff Association; and participated in the Institute for Healing Racism training. These are just some of Chad's involvements, and he does much more good work in the name of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Crystal J. Lamb, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Crystal has been involved in multiple activities which promote diversity, at both GVSU and in the Grand Rapids community. She is the Clinical Coordinator at Heartside's Physical Therapy Pro Bono Clinic and also volunteers at the PT Pro Bono Clinic and offers pro bono services to persons from underrepresented groups in Grand Rapids. She is volunteering with a local private practice owner to reach out to local high school kids in an effort to recruit students from underrepresented groups into the PT profession. In 2015, she was a lead organizer and community ambassador for the Global PT Day of Service. During her time at GVSU, Crystal has successfully completed two research-based graduate assistantships. Crystal is an example for other PT students and other PTs representing the importance of including everyone.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Daniela C. Gomez, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Daniela worked on a project, supported by a graduate assistantship, designed to help international students pursuing graduate education at GVSU. Working with new international students, Daniela created a guide to help prospective students through the application process as well as a guide to help them prepare for coming to GVSU after they were accepted. She also connected new international students with current students so that they would have a peer to talk with before arriving. Daniela led an orientation session for all Professional Science Masters international students and continued to be a contact for them throughout the academic year. From a professional perspective, Daniela collaborated with the Padnos International Center on a CPT/OPT workshop and with the Career Center on a LinkedIn workshop. The faculty recognize Daniela's important service in promoting inclusion and diversity to the graduate program, her department as well as to the broader GVSU community.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY
Winter 2016**

The Excellence in Sustainability award is new for 2016. Nominees need to have demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovative thinking in the community by implementing sustainable best practices. The award recipients must have given life to a sustainability initiative in one or more aspects of the triple bottom line in sustainability (economic, social, or environmental).

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Alex S. Wierenga, Master of Science in Communications**

For the past several years, Alex has been a member of the Transformation Research and Analysis Team working for the City of Grand Rapids in the Grand Rapids Information Network. The city desired to focus and build upon social media outlets which have progressed significantly with his efforts.

Alex has done amazing work at the City of Grand Rapids Office of Cable Television Administration. His work in the city's social media efforts has far exceeded expectations for audience growth and engagement. He produces 2-5 video blogs per week, including monthly features with the Mayor and City Manager. He directs our LIVE television presentations of the Grand Rapids City Commission. He also directs and edits a bi-weekly Spanish language television program for the City's cable television channel. Besides these very important communications skills, he is energetic, enthusiastic and optimistic in his approach to the daily activities of our operation. He is a regular volunteer in the Grand Rapids community, including the City of Grand Rapids Strong Neighborhoods, Strong City Summit, Grand Rapids Labor Day Walk, DeGage Ministries, and the Festival of the Arts.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Jennifer L. Zachary, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Through her engagement with the Healthy Babies, Healthy Start initiative in Kalamazoo County, Jennifer assessed the needs of the organization and the community, and learned of the importance of creating an antenatal education program for the high-risk pregnant women in the county. After completing an integrative review of the literature, she designed the program based on evidence of best practices. Working in concert with the case managers of the Healthy Babies, Healthy Start program she recruited women into the program, presenting information and community resources to explain health behaviors that would enhance the women's chances for healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. With a deliberate emphasis on the receptivity of the women to the program, she included information, enactment and support opportunities.

The program staff of Healthy Babies, Healthy Start, recognizing the strength of the program that Jennifer developed, and the responses of the participants, is planning to conduct the program at the YWCA in Kalamazoo. Given that the infant mortality rate among African-American women in Kalamazoo County was more than double that of all women in the same county, the antenatal initiative designed, delivered and evaluated by Jennifer will continue to be an important community-based support.

3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION 2016 First Place Winner

The Graduate School hosted GVSU's inaugural 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on February 19, 2016. The winner of this competition continued on to compete in the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools regional 3MT competition in Chicago, IL. 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 2016 3MT judging panel included:

- Dr. Corey Anton, School of Communications
- Dr. Katie Barnhart, Department of Public Health
- Dr. Shannon Biros, Department of Chemistry
- Dr. Shabbir Choudhuri, School of Engineering
- Dr. Lori Houghton-Rahrig, Kirkhof College of Nursing
- Dr. Roger Wilson, College of Education
- Dr. Bandon Youker, School of Social Work

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Matthew T. Lindenberg, Master of Science in Biology**
 - **Title:** Prey and habitat selection of rewilded cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) in north-central Namibia
 - **Advisor:** Dr. Paul Keenlance – Department of Biology

Dr. Paul Keenlance, Matthew's advisor, provided the following comments: "I first met Matt when he served as one of the instructors for a group of students I was leading on a Study Abroad trip to South Africa. During this time, it became apparent that his life experience had given him a much broader and mature world view than most individuals his age. It was also apparent that he had a deep passion for wildlife conservation and a very impressive field ecology skill set.

Since Matt's thesis project involves cheetah conservation in Namibia, he has many opportunities to explain his project to interested parties. His ability to

pare down the years of effort and masses of scientific knowledge underpinning his work into a concise and interesting message is impressive.”

Matthew is the President and Founder of Global Conservation Corps., a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds and awareness for developing African communities surrounding conservation areas. He is also the Executive producer of the Rhino Man Documentary which highlights the war on rhino poaching in South Africa. He is currently in negotiations with Netflix and National Geographic for sale of completed product.

ABSTRACT

We released captive-held female cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) onto north-central Namibian farmlands to determine prey preference and habitat selection. While habitat and feeding selectivity of wild female cheetahs in north-central Namibia are known, it is unknown if rewilded female cheetahs display the same preferences. All females ($n=7$) in the study arrived at the Cheetah Conservation Fund as orphans. Individuals were held in isolated enclosures with a mean release age of five years. Cheetahs were fitted with SirTrack GPS/VHF collars and physically tracked in the wild. Individuals received supplemental feeding when GPS data indicated an individual hadn't killed for three to five days. Trackers investigated cheetah kill sites ($n=90$) and collected ecological data of the prey species. We used ARC GIS (version 9.3) to analyse habitat selection by classifying the landscape into three distinct canopy cover classes; sparse (<30%), medium (30-75%) and thick bush (>75%). Steenbok (*Raphicerus campestris*) was the most selected prey ($n=29$). There was no significant preference shown by cheetahs among the three different habitat types. All findings are comparable to wild-occurring cheetah females within the same geographic area. All rewilded cheetahs made kills, with 2 females raising their cubs to adulthood, deeming their release a true success.

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
Winter 2016**

❖ **Dr. Kathleen Bailey, Professor of Criminal Justice**

Nominated by: Jessica Mac Vane, Social Work

Jessica writes: "My faculty mentor, Dr. Bailey, has been my mentor for the past 6 years and is the reason I am where I am today. During my freshman year, I attended a training to become a mentor for Pals Student Mentors. The stories she shared not only inspired me to work with youth, but they pushed me to become president of Pals Student Mentors and expand the organization's reach. Her mentorship taught me not only how to be a mentor myself, but how to mentor other college mentors and become a leader within Pals Student Mentors.

When I think of a faculty mentor, there is nobody better than Dr. Bailey. Her kindness and unconditional support helped me realize the value of mentorship. She is the heart behind Pals Student Mentors and has empowered me to inspire other mentors. As I graduate I hope to have the same positive attitude and appreciation for service that she has. Dr. Bailey is a lifelong mentor and I could never thank her enough for how she's impacted my life."

❖ **Dr. Rebecca Davis, Professor of Nursing**

Nominated by: Jennifer Ohman, Nursing-Doctorate

Jennifer writes: "Dr. Davis hired me in 2012 to be her graduate assistant. For four years, she has constantly mentored and supported me in research and ethics, collaboration with a team, writing for publication, attending and presenting at conferences, applying for scholarships, and most importantly, how to be passionate about patient populations and the importance of improving their quality of life.

Her mentorship has encouraged me to go outside of my comfort zone, to question and design methods to find the answers, and to love the work I do in advancing the care of older adults. Dr. Davis challenged me to remain true to my passion while designing a project that reflects this. She has supported

me every step of this journey, and I know, as I quickly approach graduation, I would not have made it through the DNP program without Dr. Davis's guidance, passion, and confidence. She is very deserving of this award."

❖ **Dr. Raymond Higbea, Assistant Professor of Health Administration**
Nominated by: Mic Garcia, Public Health

Mic writes: "Throughout my graduate career, Dr. Higbea has taken a strong personal interest in mentoring and coaching me. I attribute my strong foundational understanding of health administration to the insight Dr. Higbea has so generously shared. Dr. Higbea has also supported my professional development by encouraging me to get invested with the American College of Healthcare Executives, an organization in which Dr. Higbea has achieved the prestigious Fellow credential. Dr. Higbea and I recently attended the organization's annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago, and I strongly value my membership in this organization. I've also attended several healthcare forums locally with Dr. Higbea where, again, he's willingly introduced me among his professional network.

My graduate career has been extremely rewarding, and I thank Dr. Higbea for the significant role he's played in this proud achievement."

❖ **Jon Rose, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy**
Nominated by: Erin Spruit, Physical Therapy

Erin writes: "I have been so fortunate in the DPT Program to have encountered many wonderful faculty. Dr. Rose is one that goes above and beyond the call of duty to make sure his students are understanding the concepts in class and doing well in other aspects of life. From his quirky metaphors to everyday advice and encouragement, Dr. Rose makes this program better each and every day.

I have often experienced his casual "Good mornings" and encouraging fist bumps after practicals. He never demands respect but treats each student in a way that earns him respect. I wish there were more faculty members out there like Dr. Rose. He truly does make an impact on students' lives by the way that he treats them."

❖ **Dr. Parvez Sopariwala, Professor of Accounting**

Nominated by: Kallie Bauer, Business Administration

Kallie writes: “Without question, Dr. Sopariwala is the best professor I’ve had in the entire program. Dr. Sopariwala made accounting interesting and motivated me to thoroughly understand the material. I have fond memories of the way he enthusiastically talked about resources used and capacity.

Dr. Sopariwala should be considered a mentor to not only students but also to his fellow colleagues. His class was the most challenging in the program, but I also feel it was the most rewarding. He went above and beyond in his efforts to make sure no one was left behind or in the dark. I truly believe Dr. Sopariwala has made it his life mission to help students succeed in both the accounting field and in life. To him, teaching is not about the research or the pay. His focus is on developing and caring for students. What more could you ask for in a professor and a mentor?”

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD
Winter 2016**

The Graduate Student Association created the Kimboko Award to faculty who have made significant contributions in outstanding teaching, distinctive scholarship or creative work, or noteworthy service in moving GVSU graduate education toward being a more diverse and inclusive community. The award recognizes the accomplishments of Dr. Priscilla Kimboko, GVSU's first Graduate Dean, and represents her commitment to these values.

- ❖ **Dr. Donald Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Leadership & Learning**
Nominated by: Scott Burden, Higher Education

Scott writes: "I consider it an honor to be writing this letter of support as I can think of no one more worthy of the Kimboko Inclusion Award than Dr. Mitchell. DJ demonstrates a commitment to improving the campus climate for students who hold marginalized identities as his pedagogical approach to the classroom emphasizes the necessity to increase equity on campus.

From the onset, Dr. Mitchell's efforts to challenge his students to think critically surrounding issues of diversity and inclusion were clear. Specifically, DJ challenged the class to think about how identity development differs amongst various populations of people and how it is imperative to use an intersectional lens in our approach to college student development. This framework of thinking has directly impacted the way that I approached my coursework in the CSAL program as well as my work with students as a GA in the LGBT center at GVSU.

DJ has made his commitment to teaching, service, and research for our community as evidenced by his extensive involvement with our social justice centers and partnerships with the Division of Inclusion and Equity as a faculty fellow. DJ is very deserving of the Kimboko Inclusion Award."

**GRADUATE STUDENT
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS
Spring/Summer 2015**

Altobelli, Joseph. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Mother Knows Best: Neonate Survival of Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) in Northern Michigan*

Carter, Rachel. Hall, Angela. Peterson, Nina. College of Health Professions, Occupational Therapy. Title: *Use of the Life Balance Inventory (LBI) to Determine the Satisfaction of Female Military Veterans in Meeting Occupationally Performance Patterns Post Military Service*

Clement, Delilah. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Phosphorus Loss via Tile Drains in the Macatawa Watershed*

Dean, Emily. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Do Adfluvial Fishes Supplement Energy to a Freshwater Coastal System?*

Ellens, Travis. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Seasonal and Habitat-Specific Top-Down Effects of Macroconsumers in a Michigan Stream*

Gaskill, Jacob. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *A Spatial and Temporal Examination of Microcystis Distribution in Little Traverse Lake, Leelanau County, Michigan*

Harris, Anna. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Amphibian Conservation (Centrolenidae) in Neotropical Cloud-Forest Streams Using Stable Isotopes to Measure Energy Subsidies*

Joyce, Jillian. Moore, Ashley, Pilarski, Hannah. College of Health Professions, Occupational Therapy. Title: *Toilet Hygiene and the Role of the Occupational Therapist*

Kunde, Kayla. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *The Long Term Effects of Erosion and Anthropogenic Damage on Both Macroinvertebrate Community Structure and Genetic Diversity in Tributary Streams*

Lindenberg, Matthew. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Reinforcement of Cheetah Populations: Rewilding in North Central Namibia*

McCartney, Riley. Tan, Joseph. Thompson, Mark. College of Health Professions, Occupational Therapy. Title: *Group Case Analysis of West Michigan Residential Recovery Program*

Pradeep, Archana. Padnos College of Engineering & Computing, Engineering.

Title: *A Cost Effective Assistive Haptic Device*

Shinde, Sapana. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Evaluation of Parkinson's Disease-Specific microRNA Expression in Midbrain Dopaminergic Neuron Cells*

Wegner, Justin. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Brook Trout Behavioral Thermoregulation and Microhabitat Selection*

Weinke, Anthony. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Troubled Waters: Exploring the Dynamics of Seasonal Productivity, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Hypoxia in a Great Lakes Area of Concern Estuary Using Time-Series Measurements*

Zaparynski, Graeme. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Food Consumption and Growth of Brook Trout in Cool-Water Michigan Stream: Potential Impacts of a Warming Climate*

Fall 2015

Davis, Danielle. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Influence of Fatty Acid Structure on Endothelial Cell Inflammation*

VanOeveren, Sarah. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Balance between cell growth and division mechanism in Fission yeast*

Winter 2016

Cascarilla, Colette. Seidman College of Business, Business Administration.

Title: *The Ramifications of Gender Stereotyping on Parental Purchasing Behaviors of Children's Toys*

Wesseling, Greg. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Isolation and Identification of Deletion mutations in the HDC Gene of Drosophila Melanogaster*

Uhl, Katie. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Role of Metastasis Suppressor CD82 in the Activation of the C-Met Signaling Pathway in Prostate Cancer Cell Lines*

McCormick, Maria. Kirkhof College of Nursing, Nursing.

Title: *The Implementation of the Evidence-Based COPE Intervention in an Elementary Classroom to Promote Mental Health*

**OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2016**

**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.*

- ❖ Jonathan Gibson, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Scott Burden, Higher Education
- ❖ Crystal Lamb, Physical Therapy

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

2015-16

Recognized at the Annual Awards Celebration on April 11, 2016.

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Spencer Schultze, Accounting
- ❖ William Norkus, Business Administration
- ❖ Jake Thole, Taxation

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Julie Frick, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Marcus Manders, Health Administration
- ❖ Shatha Abusrour, Public Administration
- ❖ Kristyne Skippergosh, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Chad Conklin, Educational Leadership
- ❖ Kathryn Drake, Educational Specialist in Leadership
- ❖ Sarah Woodring, Educational Technology

- ❖ Scott Burden, Higher Education
- ❖ Tad VandenBrink, Instruction and Curriculum
- ❖ Bridget Rieth, Literacy Studies
- ❖ Jamie Dawson, School Counseling
- ❖ Ned Van Farowe, Special Education

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Soon Tang, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Nadina Zwiefel, Engineering
- ❖ Swati Gupta, Medical and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Patrick Farris, Medical Dosimetry
- ❖ Amanda Rankin, Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Micah Huegel, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Kirsten Short, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Goel-Micah Garcia, Public Health
- ❖ Rachel Byars, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Timothy Botting, Biology
- ❖ Katherine Hekstra, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Paul Egeler, Biostatistics
- ❖ Ashley DeWitt, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Scott Harmsen, Communications
- ❖ Geoffrey Kishbaugh, English

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Linda Buck, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Katherine Hoffhines, Nursing-Masters

***Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) National Leadership Honor Society
Winter 2016***

Omicron Delta Kappa was founded December 3, 1914 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia by 15 student and faculty leaders. Now present on more than 300 campuses nationwide, membership in OΔK is one of the highest honors a college student can receive. Membership is granted to juniors, seniors and graduate students who excel academically and exhibit leadership in at least one of the five phases of campus life:

- Scholarship
- Athletics
- Campus or Community Service, Social and Religious Activities, or Campus Government
- Journalism, Speech, or the Mass Media
- Creative and Performing Arts

*Graduate Students inducted into the
GVSU Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa in 2015-16:*

<i>Natalie Allardyce</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Kleibusch</i>
<i>Jessica Beswick</i>	<i>Amanda Kosten</i>
<i>Taylor Boyd</i>	<i>George Kukich</i>
<i>Colette Cascarilla</i>	<i>Matthew Lypka</i>
<i>Jeffrey Cendejas</i>	<i>Kayleigh McCollum</i>
<i>Mora Clark</i>	<i>Timothy Piers</i>
<i>Lindsay Raher</i>	<i>Nina Pucci</i>
<i>Laura Goedhart</i>	<i>Amanda Rostic</i>
<i>Cindy Gresock</i>	<i>Brittani Rowles</i>
<i>Karen Hanson</i>	<i>Stephanie Savic</i>
<i>Scott Harmsen</i>	<i>Jeffrey Skinner</i>
<i>Sarah Hicks</i>	<i>Monica Slagh</i>
<i>Alexander Jacobsson</i>	<i>Tiffany Steele</i>
<i>Grace Jasny S Kuhal</i>	<i>Nazeer Zerka</i>

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Lauren Presutti, Higher Education

President Elect: Frederick Lawrence, Business Administration

Vice President: Colette Cascarilla, Business Administration

Vice President Elect: Kathryn Christopher, Engineering

Finance Officer: Nadina Zweifel, Biomedical Engineering

Finance Officer Elect: Blaine Harvey, Higher Education

Administrative Officer: Shahrzad Eslamian, Medical and Bioinformatics

Administrative Officer Elect: Jordyn Lawton, Public Health

Communications Officer: Frederick Lawrence, Business Administration

Communications Officer Elect: Richa Bhurtel, Business Administration

Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:

Amber DePree, College Student Affairs Leadership

Ja'Kia Marie, College Student Affairs Leadership

Advisors:

Mr. Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Dr. Mark Luttenton, Associate Dean of The Graduate School

GRADUATE COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chair:

Dr. Claudia Leiras, Allied Health Sciences

Vice Chair:

Dr. Monica Harris, Education

Policy Subcommittee Chair:

Mr. Andrew Booth, Physician Assistant Studies

Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. Mark Staves, Cell and Molecular Biology



Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of 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:

Jordyn Lawton, Public Health

Brent Showerman, Public Administration and Social Work

Student Assistants:

Eugenia Browner, Social Work (undergraduate)

Shannon Heynen, International Business (undergraduate)

The Graduate School

401 W. Fulton St

318C DeVos Center

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Phone: 616-331-7105

Email: gradschool@gvsu.edu

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

