

Graduate Student Celebration

April 14, 2017

Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

Presented by The Graduate School
318C DeVos Center
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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,
Kathryn Christopher, GSA Vice President,
Blaine Harvey, GSA Finance Officer,
Richa Bhurtel, GSA Communications Officer,
and Jordyn Lawton, GSA Administrative Officer

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

Welcome!

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

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!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Potteiger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "P".

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

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

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Jason A. Balgavy, Business Administration

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Anna M. Mucci, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Dave Chesla, Health Administration
- ❖ Julia J. Henshaw, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Taylor Benjamin Hardy Boyd, Higher Education
- ❖ Star L. Zetocha, School Counseling

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Tony L. Phillips, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Matthew R. Lueder, Medical & Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Ashley L. Avery, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Amanda M. Sherman, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Carl T. Nord, Biostatistics
- ❖ Andrew J. Umstead, Cell & Molecular Biology
- ❖ Isaac D. Simon, Communications
- ❖ Sarah L. Chanski, English
- ❖ Conor W. Dahlquist, School Psychology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Megan J. Madole, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Megan M. Rose, Nursing-Masters

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS

College of Education

- ❖ ReChard L. Peel, Higher Education

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Danielle R. Bradke, Biology
- ❖ Samantha B. MacKay, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Karen E. Luidens, English

OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT

College of Education

- ❖ Carrie Smucker, Education Technology
- ❖ Blaine Harvey, Higher Education
- ❖ Andrea Bourque, Literacy Studies

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Divya Vaishnavi Gandra, Cell & Molecular Biology
- ❖ Jennifer R. Palm, Communications

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Tanya A. Rowerdink, Nursing

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Tonya N. Calkins, Physical Therapy

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION

College of Community and Public Service

- ❖ Brittany A. Byrnes, Health Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Brandon A. Shamoun, Higher Education
- ❖ Joseph B. Kessel, School Counseling
- ❖ Kathryn J. Lett, Literacy Studies

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Erin A. Spruit, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Emily E. Dunnigan, Biology
- ❖ Samantha B. MacKay, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Bikash Rana, Cell & Molecular Biology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Kaitlin J. Hendriksma, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Danielle M. Hartig, Nursing-Masters

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Jennifer L. Clark, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Britannia B. Schreurs, Higher Education

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Douglas C. Sjoerdsma, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Nikki S. Marlatt, Cell & Molecular Biology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Allison E. Reynolds, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Kim R. Henry, Nursing-Masters

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU

College of Community and Public Service

- ❖ Belinda Bardwell, Public Administration

College of Education

- ❖ ReChard L. Peel, Higher Education

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Katharine P. Cline, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Cheryl L. Christie, Cell & Molecular Biology

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Ali R. Saheb, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Jessica P. Pelletier, Nursing-Masters

3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION WINNER

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Samantha B. MacKay, Biomedical Sciences

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

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARDS
Winter 2017

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

College of Education

- ❖ Shawn Bultsma, School Counseling

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Karen Niemchick, Public Health

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Daniel Bergman, Biomedical Sciences

KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Melba Velez Ortiz, Communications

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

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

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Jason A. Balgavy, Master of Business Administration**

Jason is currently working on completing his MBA in the Seidman College of Business while holding the position of Vice President, Investment Advisor for PNC Bank. Jason oversees the Wealth Management Team at PNC and assists in the development and implementation of investment strategies for his clients. He has also been president of the Seidman Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) for the last two years. In his time as president, he has assisted in coordinating a non-profit board training for graduate students and has assembled GSAB to work with Seidman leadership on strategic planning input and feedback, AACSB accreditation and the MBA revision taskforce. He is described as a strong, approachable leader who is always fully engaged in his responsibilities. Recently, Jason started teaching an undergraduate finance course at GVSU so he can share his expertise with up and coming business students.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Anna M. Mucci, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

Anna Mucci is pursuing her graduate degree in Criminal Justice at GVSU and is excelling in both her written and oral work as seen by her outstanding grade point average. Anna is also a graduate assistant in the School of Criminal Justice and often goes above and beyond what is expected of her. Faculty express that she is a classroom leader with superb scholarly and research skills that far exceed the typical student. She has been an active member of Alpha Phi Sigma, the Criminal Justice Honor Society at GVSU since 2014, and has served as both Secretary and Vice President for the organization.

❖ **Dave Chelsa, Master of Health Administration**

Dave Chelsa is a midcareer student who brings intellectual curiosity and integrity coupled with many years of management experience to the Master of Health Administration program. His advisor, Dr. Raymond Higbea, states Dave “is thoughtful and thorough in all of his oral and written class presentations, always prepared for class, and thoughtfully contributes to class and team discussions.” Dave frequently interacts with his team members and classmates providing thoughtful discussion and critiques of their work and always thoroughly completes all of his assignments. Finally, Dave is a positive example to his classmates and other young professionals of academic and professional excellence.

❖ **Julia J. Henshaw, Master of Social Work**

Julia Henshaw is currently completing her Master of Social Work degree while working as a graduate assistant at GVSU. Due to her knowledge and skills as well as deep understanding of the course material, Social Work faculty have often asked her to guest lecture and present in their undergraduate and graduate classes. Faculty describe her as passionate, driven, respectfully challenging, and committed to excellence – as seen in her outstanding grade point average. In her graduate assistantship, she is seen as a strong leader who willingly and skillfully takes on projects. Her work is seen as invaluable, engaging, and successful. She is balancing a full-time course load, a part-time internship, a part-time graduate assistantship, raising two kids, and maintaining a marriage – faculty are beyond impressed with her tremendous work ethic and successful balance of the many requirements and opportunities in graduate school.

College of Education

❖ **Taylor Benjamin Hardy Boyd, Master of Education in Higher Education**

Taylor Boyd is pursuing his Master of Education in Higher Education degree at GVSU with an emphasis in college student affairs leadership. Faculty see Taylor as dedicated to academic excellence and a model graduate student that is actively engaged with scholarship. Taylor is a graduate student representative on the University Assessment Committee and was recently inducted into the Grand Valley chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa

Phi. He exhibits an outstanding GPA every semester and faculty state that he often challenges his peers and himself. He recently completed a well-designed thesis titled "Black Male Persistence Through Stereotypes in College" that his professors say is "worthy of publication in a peer-reviewed journal."

❖ **Star L. Zetocha, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Star Zetocha, a student in the Master of Education in School Counseling graduate program is described as one of the best in her program. A well-rounded student, Star uses her expertise in research and writing skills, and love for literature to encourage other students in her cohort. She has high expectations of herself, which are evident through her coursework. Star models what it means to be a strong advocate for students, particularly related to issues of social justice and through her desire to work with at risk students. Her site supervisor commented that Star is able to work with all kinds of students and finds ways to connect with all of them in meaningful ways. Star is the School Counseling program's first two-time presenter for the Graduate Student Showcase and was a co-presenter for the American School Counselor Association's national conference in Denver, CO this past summer. Dr. Shawn Bultsma has nominated Star for this award noting that her contributions to the field will make a lasting positive impression.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Tony L. Phillips, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

Tony Phillips, a student in the Computer Information Systems graduate program at GVSU, is seen by his professors as a student who completes commendable work in each of his courses. He also holds down a busy full-time job while completing his degree. For his master's project, he was inspired by his dissatisfaction with his company's commercial solution for asset management tracking software, so he implemented an extensive asset management tracking software system. Faculty were pleasantly surprised to hear that Tony's project will be put in place by his employer this spring.

❖ **Matthew R. Lueder, Master of Science in Medical and Bioinformatics**

Matthew Lueder is in the process of completing his Master's degree in Medical and Bioinformatics at GVSU. In addition, he has an internship with the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg, Germany where he mainly worked on speeding up a statistical software package and was able to significantly increase the performance by rewriting portions of the software package's code in a faster programming language. Faculty see Matt as an interested and active student who is organized and has an excellent attitude towards his schoolwork and work. They say that he has stood out from his peers through his persistence and quality of work.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Ashley L. Avery, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Ashley Avery is pursuing her Doctor of Physical Therapy and is extremely involved in the GVSU and the Physical Therapy community while completing her degree. During her time at Grand Valley, Ashley attended the Michigan Physical Therapy Student Conclave, a continuing education class for Physical Therapy students. She also attended the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting, as well as two physical therapy continuing education courses in the Grand Rapids area. In addition, Ashley chose to participate in the GVSU Advanced Topic Course in Spinal Manual Therapy. Faculty recognize Ashley's strong desire to learn as much as she possibly can, and they express that she is an outstanding, independent learner who demonstrates highly proficient hands-on skills and always exceeds expectations.

❖ **Amanda M. Sherman, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

Amanda Sherman is currently completing her Speech-Language Pathology graduate degree at GVSU. She has earned the highest grade point average in the program. Faculty describe her as a leader among her peers and state that she excels both academically and clinically. She is highly regarded by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty and the department's community affiliates. As a graduate student, she completed an internship at Family Three Therapies, where she is completing her Clinical Fellowship Year and has been hired permanently.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Carl T. Nord, Master of Science in Biostatistics**

Carl Nord is a graduate student in the Biostatistics program and will graduate in April after consistently demonstrating what faculty see as “strong performance” in the program. Previously, Carl was an intern at Priority Health where he investigated the member population and costs associated with chronic diseases. Currently, Carl is a graduate assistant in the Office of the Vice Provost for Health (OVPH) and has been for over a year. The faculty and staff at OVPH express that Carl has an “amiable, unassuming demeanor” that complements a “sharp and articulate mind.” They believe he gracefully adjusts to shifts in priorities and deadlines and that he exhibits excellent work in a collaborative team environment. Faculty in the Biostatistics program describe Carl as a fantastic student and statistician who shows strong attention to detail and a tireless work ethic. Carl has also gone above and beyond by co-authoring and presenting a paper at the fall 2016 MidWest SAS Users Group Conference.

❖ **Andrew J. Umstead, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Andrew Umstead is currently finishing his Cell and Molecular Biology graduate degree in addition to completing an internship in the laboratory of Dr. Irving Vega at Michigan State University in the Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine. He was drawn to this internship due to his interest in neurodegenerative disease and he spent the majority of his time investigating potential biomarkers in Alzheimer’s disease. Upon graduation, Andrew will remain in this lab employed as a research assistant. Andrew has also volunteered as a life science instructor to help prepare students at Grand Rapids City High for the International Baccalaureate exam in biology. Faculty express that Andrew was nominated due to his academic achievements, as seen in his exceptional grade point average, and his service in enhancing the image and reputation of the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology and the University as a whole.

❖ **Isaac D. Simon, Master of Science in Communications**

Isaac Simon is pursuing his Master of Science in Communications graduate degree. Isaac received a graduate assistantship for working in the recently-

established Speech Lab at GVSU. His contributions have made the Speech Lab an enormous success. He has presented work at GVSU's Student Scholars Day as well as at national communication and psychology conferences. Faculty state that Isaac exhibits a level of mastery in the subject matter that is rare among graduate students nationally. They also express that Isaac's academic performance is superlative and far exceeds the expectations of the program, as demonstrated by his outstanding grade point average.

❖ **Sarah L. Chanski, Master of Arts in English**

Sarah Chanski is currently completing her Master of Arts in English Literature degree. While completing her graduate degree, Sarah has worked at Hamilton Community Schools teaching English to high school students. She also co-sponsored the school's Gay Straight Alliance and was asked by students to speak at commencement. Faculty describe Sarah as an outstanding student with a willingness to take on new intellectual challenges. They believe she has a "combination of modesty and self-assurance" that makes her exceptional among many other intellectually gifted students. Sara was recently admitted to the Ph.D. program in Rhetoric and Communication at Northwestern University in Chicago.

❖ **Conor W. Dahlquist, Master of Science in School Psychology**

Conor Dahlquist is a student in the School Psychology graduate program at GVSU, performing exceptionally and demonstrating excellence by holding the highest GPA in the program. He completed a high-quality master's project with potential for publication on an alternating treatment design study evaluating the effectiveness of Cover-Copy-Compare (CCC) and Taped-Problems for improving the multiplication fact fluency of third graders. Dahlquist is currently working as a School Psychologist in a challenging setting serving K-12 students. His internship supervisor sees him as someone who takes initiative to bring in new ideas and programs and someone who advocates strongly for students, even when it may not be the most popular option. Faculty describe Conor as good-natured, approachable, and considerate of others and state that he is making GVSU proud in a very rigorous and extensive program.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Megan J. Madole, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Megan Madole, BSN, RN is currently pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice at GVSU. Faculty see her as a highly engaged student who embraces new learning experiences with enthusiasm and energy. Her current project, *Return on Investment of Three Payment Models for Chronic Care Management in Northwestern Physician Hospital Organization*, is described as “an exemplar of her approach to challenges.” Faculty expressed that there are few nursing authors publishing work of this nature for community-based care and that Madole chose this project because of the opportunities it provided for better understanding health care financing, innovations in care delivery, and reimbursement patterns. Both her professors and project co-chair firmly believe that her work will be publishable due to her pioneering of new methods.

❖ **Megan M. Rose, Master of Science in Nursing**

Megan Rose is in the process of completing her master’s degree in Nursing at GVSU. She is known in the program for her dedication, her excellence in both academic and clinical practice, and her accomplishments as a student. Faculty see her as a mature student who is a role model for nursing and who excels in the classroom, as demonstrated by her 4.0 grade point average. She is also highly respected by classmates, professors, and preceptors in the clinical area.

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

College of Education

- ❖ **ReChard L. Peel, Master of Education in Higher Education**
 - **Thesis Title:** Racial Ideology and Black Students' Leadership Experiences at a Predominantly White Institution
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury – College of Education (Chair), Dr. Donald Mitchell – College of Education, and Marlene Kowalski-Braun – Dean of Students Office

ReChard's study is significant as he highlights the need for further documenting the experiences of Black students to improve their collegiate experiences at higher education institutions, and predominantly White institutions specifically, become more diverse. ReChard used a qualitative methodology and phenomenological research design. Using this approach, he advanced what we know about Black student leadership in relation to their racial ideologies by sharing students' voices.

According to one of his committee members, ReChard's theoretical framework is one of the strongest the committee member has seen after serving on over a dozen thesis committees at GVSU. ReChard thoroughly introduces the reader to the multidimensional model of racial identity and the theory is interwoven into the entire thesis from the literature review to the discussion/recommendations. ReChard's conclusion is strong, with that strength coming from the way his theoretical framework is woven throughout the document and shows up in his interpretations and conclusion.

ReChard's abstract appears on the following page.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to understand the relationship between racial ideology and leadership experiences of Black student leaders at predominantly White institution (PWI). Using a phenomenological research design, the study delineates the experiences of Black students as it relates to their leadership and racial identity. Using the multidimensional inventory of Black identity (MIBI; Sellers et al., 1997) and one-on-one semi-structured interviews, data were collected regarding Black students' racial ideologies, racial centrality and their experiences and perceptions about leadership at a midsized public PWI in the Midwest.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Danielle R. Bradke, Master of Science in Biology**

- **Thesis Title:** Effective Population Size and Demography of Eastern Massasaugas in Southwest Michigan
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Jennifer Moore (Chair) – Department of Biology, Dr. Amy Russell – Department of Biology, and Dr. Peter Jones – Waubensee Community College

In nominating Danielle Bradke for the award of Outstanding Master's Thesis, Professor Jennifer Moore stated that Danielle "has absolutely set the bar for her in terms of what a student can achieve in the relatively short time of a master's degree". For her thesis, Danielle completed a study on population dynamics of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes, a project that she became interested in and began participating in during her time as an undergraduate student. In her thesis, Danielle was able to combine the somewhat disparate techniques of both population biology and molecular ecology, which required her to become proficient in the theory and practice of both of these fields.

Danielle's thesis focused on federally threatened wildlife species using long-term data to provide some of the first estimates of effective and census population size for this species which are two measures that are necessary

for effective conservation and recovery for this rattlesnake species. Danielle plans to submit her two primary thesis chapters to Conservation Genetics and the Journal of Wildlife Management – highly regarded journals in the fields of conservation and wildlife management.

ABSTRACT

As humans increasingly exploit natural areas, wildlife populations face a growing number of threats that often result in population decline and isolation. Small, isolated populations are generally vulnerable to extirpation due to both genetic and demographic factors. Yet, low detectability of many imperiled species often precludes the collection of population-level data important for assessing population viability and implementing successful conservation. The eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*) is a cryptic pitviper that has been extirpated throughout much of its historic range due to agricultural conversion of wetland habitat and other synergistic threats. Consequently, this species is federally listed as threatened in both the United States and Canada, and most remnant populations are believed to be small and isolated. However, most extant populations lack data on population size and long-term survival rates, making effective management, monitoring, and viability assessments difficult. To address these data deficiencies, I first estimated the genetic effective population size (N_e) and census population size (N_c) for eastern massasaugas at two sites in southwest Michigan. My results revealed small N_c , with approximately 108 (95% CI = 87–165) and 148 (95% CI = 102–295) adults estimated at the study sites in Cass County and Barry County, respectively. Estimates of N_e were even smaller: approximately 29.5 (95% CI = 22.2–40.5) for Cass County and 44.2 (95% CI = 29.7–73.4) for Barry County. Additionally, N_e/N_c ratios were similar across study sites. Secondly, for the Barry County population, I used mark-recapture data spanning 2008–2016 to estimate annual apparent adult survival rates. Using these estimates and other parameter values obtained from my site and a nearby population, I modeled population viability over the next 100 years. I also performed a sensitivity analysis to assess the relative influence of model parameters on extinction risk. I estimated annual apparent survival rates of 0.79 (95% CI = 0.68–0.87) for adult males and 0.78 (95% CI = 0.68–0.86) for adult females. Results of my sensitivity analysis suggest that actions promoting high survival of adult females should be a management priority, followed by activities that facilitate high reproductive output and neonate survival.

❖ **Samantha B. MacKay, Master of Health Science**

- **Thesis Title:** Chronic Effects of Nonylphenol on Reproductive Behavior, Physiology, and Development of Crayfish
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Daniel Bergman (Chair) – Department of Biomedical Sciences, Dr. Christopher Pearl – Department of Biomedical Sciences, and Dr. Thomas Pentecost – Department of Chemistry

Samantha's motivation for this project came from her interest in investigating the effects of chronic nonylphenol exposure at current EPA levels that may lead to effects that are not limited to lab conditions and animal models. Samantha's thesis has led her to win the GVSU 3-Minute Thesis Competition and continue on to compete at the Midwestern Association of Graduate School's Regional 3-Minute Thesis competition in Indianapolis, IN. Samantha will also share her research with the Grand Valley community at the Graduate Showcase event this April.

Recently, she was the first author and presenter of a talk at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting in New Orleans, LA. Samantha presented her research as a talk entitled "Chronic Effects of Nonylphenol on Reproductive Behavior and Development of Crayfish," in the Behavioral and Ecological Toxicology symposium. She was awarded the "Best Student Presenter Award" by the Crustacean Society for her talk at the internationally attended meeting of over 5000 scientists. She later gave a talk at the Michigan Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters.

ABSTRACT

Nonylphenol (NP), an alkylphenol, is a commonly used surfactant in a variety of industries. Its chemical structure is composed of hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions, allowing for polar and nonpolar substances to be easily miscible. It is incredibly versatile, producing around 500,000 tons of alkylphenols annually. Due to its structure, NP shows an affinity for estrogen receptors, hence its classification as an endocrine disruptor; a potential danger to reproductive success. Various alkylphenols accumulate in aquatic environments and have been shown to have effects on both aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates. Moreover, several studies have shown the reduction in olfaction from NP exposure. *Continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT

As crayfish rely on olfaction in mating and courtship, impairment in this system would also lead to a decreased ability to locate a mate. Due to the endocrine disruptive effects of alkylphenols observed in testis development and diminished sperm production in a variety of species, crayfish are likely to exhibit similar results when chronically exposed to sublethal NP concentrations. We hypothesize that both juvenile and adult crayfish will exhibit a dose dependent decreased ability to locate a mate that will continue to decrease over extended exposure. After chronic exposure, we also expect the juvenile male crayfish exposed to increased sublethal NP levels will exhibit decreased testis development, while female juveniles will exhibit increased ovary size relative to controls. Observing both the behavioral and developmental effects of low but chronic NP exposure will provide insight to its potential effects on crayfish courtship, and subsequent ramifications on crayfish populations and ecosystems at current EPA level guidelines.

❖ Karen E. Luidens, Master of Arts in English

- **Thesis Title:** Religion, Science, and Truth in Human Experience: Poetry as Living Synthesis in Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Robert Franciosi (Chair) – Department of English, Dr. Michael Webster – Department of English, and Dr. Brian Deyo – Department of English

Karen Luidens has distinguished herself in the Masters of Arts in English graduate program as a writer of great potential in many different fields. Karen's thesis impressed the English faculty in many ways. Dr. Jo Miller noted that her thesis not only places Walt Whitman amidst the scientific revolution of his day, but demonstrates again and again how he suffused his poetry with concepts drawn from the emerging fields of astronomy, geology, and biology. She also shows that while Whitman embraced the scientific materialism of 19th century America, he remained committed to a wide-ranging religious faith and, most importantly, to the poet's role in creating a "new comprehensive scientific spirituality." In making her case for Whitman as a synthesizer of religion and science, Luidens ranges widely over the poet's

vast corpus, all while writing in a style that combines insight and inspiration, clarity and grace.

ABSTRACT

Walt Whitman's great masterpiece *Leaves of Grass* stands out in the canon of nineteenth-century American poetry for both its innovations in form and its bold ventures into controversial subjects. One such subject is the role of science as opposed to religion in shaping the modern worldview. Whitman's poetry alternately and at times simultaneously expresses both materialistic and metaphysical worldviews, criticizing and casting away ancient traditions as often as he calls on them for inspiration.

In this paper I explore the influence of contemporary science on Whitman's worldview, analyze how its theories shape the cosmology presented by his poetry, and discuss the complex relationship between *Leaves of Grass* and the legacy of Western religion and literature out of which it grew-and continues to "grow" with each new reading. Ultimately I argue that Whitman seeks to discover and express truth in all its forms, which means engaging directly with the natural world, then embracing both the objective hard data we draw from it as well as our own subjective, even spiritual, experiences. Since neither religion alone nor science alone allows for this complex and often cognitively dissonant relationship to the world, he preaches a new way forward: poetry will offer the grand transcendent synthesis of the two, encompassing all truth and continuing to evolve as a living entity within humanity generation by generation going forward.

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

College of Education

- ❖ **Carrie Smucker, Master of Education in Educational Technology**
 - **Project Title:** Development of an E-Portfolio System for Administrative and Curricular Processes
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Andrew Topper – College of Education

Carrie Smucker, a student in the Master of Education in Educational Technology graduate program, completed a project that focused on evaluating and improving the E-portfolio system for Nursing students and educators in the Kirkhof College of Nursing. Her project is both academically and professionally relevant given her current jobs and responsibilities. Dr. Andrew Topper described Carrie as a student who has an excellent demeanor for academic work and is comfortable working with and learning from anyone. Dr. Topper also noted his confidence in Carrie to make significant contributions to the field of Educational Technology which is showcased through this project.

- ❖ **Blaine Harvey, Master of Education in Higher Education**
 - **Project Title:** International College Students and Career and Academic Advising
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Karyn Rabourn – College of Education

Blaine Harvey, a student in the Master of Education in Higher Education graduate program, completed a project that examines a growing population of international students on college campuses. Blaine examines the many reasons that international students are intentionally recruited to postsecondary education institutions, including responding to the internationalization or globalization of higher education, economic reasons, and efforts to create more diverse learning environments. This project identifies missed opportunities for international students to fully develop, personally and professionally. Blaine's work also approaches this issue in a way that prioritizes international students, a student population that is often minoritized in terms of programs and practices on campus. Dr. Donald

Mitchell describes Blaine's project as thorough, well-written, and well-reasoned.

❖ **Andrea M. Bourque, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

- **Project Title:** Engaging English Language Learners during Instruction
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba – College of Education

Andrea Bourque, while completing her Master of Education in Literacy Studies, has been nominated for her outstanding final project. Her project, titled *Engaging English Language Learners during Instruction*, aims at providing mainstream teachers with the tools to effectively teach in a heterogeneous classroom setting. As the K-12 schools have become increasingly diverse over the years, mainstream teachers find it difficult to meet the academic needs of the culturally and linguistically different students, as these learners socio-economically, culturally and linguistically differ from them. The merit of Andrea's project is to perceive this difficulty and to propose solutions to the disparities between learners and their teachers through adequate professional in-service general classroom teacher preparation. Faculty express that Andrea's project deals with a critically important area in education today.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Divya Vaishnavi Gandra, Master of Science in Cell & Molecular Biology**

- **Project Title:** Quantitative Detection of Small Population of Human Prostate Cancer Cells in Mouse Tissue
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Xiaohong Li – Van Andel Research Institute

Divya, a student in the Cell and Molecular Biology graduate program, completed her research project under the supervision of Dr. Xiaohong Li from the Van Andel Research Institute. Divya's project developed a rapid, quantitative method for detecting human prostate cancer cells in mouse tissue making use of a real-time PCR based assay. The goal was to establish the best possible biomarker, which is both sensitive and specific for human prostate cancer cell lines. *Alu* sequences are 280 bp long retrotransposons element termed SINEs (short interspersed elements) which represent 11% of human genomic DNA. Divya chose to amplify human *alu* sequences with PCR and found that the selected *alu* biomarker was sensitive to prostate cancer but not completely specific to the cancer. She will continue her

research towards finding a biomarker which is both sensitive and specific.

❖ **Jennifer R. Palm, Master of Science in Communications**

- **Project Title:** Creating and Utilizing Podcasts for Promotion of Women's Health Issues
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Len O'Kelly – School of Communications

Jennifer Palm, a student in the Master of Science in Communications graduate program, has been described as an excellent graduate student by her project advisor, Dr. Len O'Kelly. Jennifer's project essentially entails a series of podcast episodes centered on the subject of women's health. Specifically, the changes in women's healthcare needs across the lifespan and across socioeconomic backgrounds are discussed in the podcasts. She does this in a manner that alerts women to their health care options and removing the stigma surrounding reproductive health, a discussion that is formerly thought to be "taboo" in today's society. Dr. O'Kelly noted that Jennifer's work will likely make a profound difference in the lives of those who benefit from it across a global online community.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Tanya A. Rowerdink, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

- **Project Title:** Toolkit Development for a Community-Based Palliative Care Program
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Dianne Conrad – Kirkhof College of Nursing

Tanya Rowerdink, a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate program, used knowledge from evidence-based research to introduce a new practice approach for a major academic practice partner. The project involved the development and implementation of a sustainable and feasible evidence-based community-based palliative care program to bridge the gap in care within a local healthcare organization. A toolkit with the care model, business model, implementation model, evaluation tools, and sustainability plan was developed to implement an evidence-based community based palliative care program. Tanya integrated her Doctor of Nursing Practice competencies by utilizing information technology, population health concepts, policy development and systems level thinking. In addition, Dr. Dianne Conrad described Tanya as an outstanding student that demonstrates qualities of excellence as a scholar, health professional and leader.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION
Winter 2017**

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Tonya N. Calkins, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
 - **Publication Title:** Seasonal Variation of Daily Physical Activity in Individuals with Heart Failure
 - **Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Michael Shoemaker – Department of Physical Therapy

The Department of Physical Therapy has nominated Tonya for this award based on her co-authorship of this original research article which appears in the Journal Health International.

Tonya's publication explores the extent to which daily physical activity varies with changes in season. The importance of quantifying the magnitude of variation in order to account for changes in physical activity is noted in the clinical trial design. Tonya played a critical role in performing the literature review, extensive database management and analysis, and manuscript preparation for this publication. Although much of this work was completed as part of her graduate assistantship, she continued to work on the paper long after her assistantship was completed, demonstrating, her commitment to seeing the project through to completion and successful dissemination.

Tonya is also a co-author of an upcoming case report on mobility issues in children with severe disabilities with a projected completion date of July 2017.

Tonya's abstract appears on the following page.

ABSTRACT

Background: Previous studies indicate that seasonal variation affects daily physical activity (PA), but none have investigated this relationship in individuals with heart failure (HF) who also have implanted cardioverter defibrillators and cardiac resynchronization devices (ICD/CRTs). The purpose of the present study was to determine if seasonal variation in temperature affects daily PA in patients with HF and ICD/CRTs.

Patients and Methods: Secondary analysis of data from 16 subjects with HF and Medtronic® ICD/CRTs enrolled in a randomized trial investigating interventions to improve daily PA. Due to the rolling study enrollment, daily PA data for all subjects were not available for the entire time frame and were divided into two groups.

Determination of seasonal variation of daily PA was determined using visual analysis of daily PA plotted with average temperature, autocorrelation, visual analysis of seasonal subseries plots and boxplot analysis, as well as Wilcoxon Signed-Rank tests.

Results: Subjects 1-8 demonstrated the greatest differences in daily PA during periods of seasonal transition whereas subjects 9-16 demonstrated the greatest variation in daily PA with greatest seasonal temperature difference. Wilcoxon signed-rank testing of the lowest and highest months for daily PA revealed median differences of 0.30 (p=0.050) and 0.36 hours (p=0.036) for subjects 1-8 and 9-16, with effect sizes of 0.69 and 0.74, respectively.

Conclusions: Seasonal variation in mean temperature appears to affect daily PA in individuals with HF and ICD/CRT devices by a magnitude of 0.30-0.36 hours, which may need to be accounted for in future research investigating interventions to improve daily PA.

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

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Brittany A. Byrnes, Master of Health Administration**

Brittany Byrnes has, since starting the Master of Health Administration program, demonstrated active participation in and leading teams while maintaining strong academic performance. In the course of her studies, she turned an early internship at Mercy Health into full-time employment. She then earned promotion to a management level position at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital as the Business Office Coordinator. She has supported, among many other initiatives, the Pain Clinic at Heartside Health Center, Faith Hospice, and established a Back to School Community Event.

College of Education

❖ **Brandon A. Shamoun, Master of Education in Higher Education**

Brandon's service to the community and the profession of higher education was described as remarkable by Dr. Donald Mitchell, Jr., adding that he is poised to leave an indelible mark on the field of student affairs. Brandon was involved in a number of professional and academic organizations as both a member and serving on executive boards. Brandon was President of the GVSU Student Affairs Graduate Association, a Graduate Associate with NASPA, an Instructor of GVSU's Laker Strategies for Success, Evaluator of GVSU's Chapter of Excellence, an Advisor for the Michigan RA Conference Planning Committee, Graduate Liaison for ACPA Michigan, Ambassador of the Placement Exchange, and a member of NASPA, ACPA, ACPA-MI, and NODA. In addition, Brandon presented twice at the Michigan RA Conference, the ACPA-MI Annual Conference and NASPA Region IX-West/East Conference. Dr. Mitchell recommended Brandon for this award saying that he "makes the M.Ed. in Higher Education proud."

❖ **Joseph B. Kessel, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Joseph has been nominated by Dr. Shawn Bultsma and described as a strong student who leads by his service to others. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee for the School Counseling Graduate Student Organization. Joseph and his peers participated in the American School Counselor Association national conference in New Orleans, LA and Denver, CO largely in part to his leadership in obtaining funding for both of these conferences. Additionally, he served as a representative of the West Michigan Counseling Association in his second year of the Master of Education in School Counseling graduate program, a professional position that is rarely filled by a graduate student. Joseph's university supervisor noted that Joseph is a team player and actively seeks input from other professionals as well as adds his knowledge to create plans to benefit students. Dr. Bultsma has nominated Joseph with enthusiasm for this award.

❖ **Kathryn J. Lett, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

Kathryn Lett, while completing her Master of Education in Literacy Studies degree, has proved herself greatly to GVSU faculty by serving communities both nationally and internationally as a non-paid volunteer outside of any organized group or institution. Kathryn volunteered teaching English in Thailand in summer 2016, which she financed herself. She is also committed to refugee settlement in Michigan and serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Refugee Education Center in Kentwood, MI, and organized multiple parades at Bowen Elementary School that showed various country characteristics and what that school possesses in regards to diversity. Additionally, she regularly organizes a multicultural celebration at Bowen Elementary School where she teaches. Finally, Kathryn provides support to English learners in an after school program for low socioeconomic children called ARCH in Kentwood. Due to Kathryn's outstanding volunteering opportunities at both the national and international level, faculty highly recommended her for this award without hesitation.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Erin A. Spruit, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Erin has been identified by Physical Therapy faculty as being involved in an array of service activities during her three years in the graduate program. Erin was Co-Vice President of the Michigan Physical Therapy Association (MPTA) for one year and Co-President of MPTA for two years. Through these roles she assisted in planning the MPTA Student Conclave which brings physical therapy students from all over the state of Michigan together for a weekend of educational meetings. Erin has also been involved in many children's health and fitness programs at the YMCA and served as a SHAPE camp leader at GVSU. Additionally, Erin was a participant in a fitness event for Special Olympics and served as the student coordinator of a Parkinson's exercise class. Erin has been involved in even more activities than this list captures, which is why Dr. Barbara Baker and Dr. Dan Vaughn feel that she is more than worthy of this award.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Emily E. Dunnigan, Master of Science in Biology**

Emily Dunnigan has enriched the biology community with her knowledge and skills. During her time in the Masters of Science in Biology graduate program she served as an intern supervisor at the Blandford Nature Center in Grand Rapids. Her supervisors, Dr. Shaily Menon and Dr. Neil MacDonald provided excellent reviews of her work and her on-site project coordinator, Jessica Schulte echoed their statements. Dr. Eric Snyder, a professor in the Biology graduate program also noted that he was very impressed by Emily's performance and contributions in his aquatic ecosystems management class. He also noted that Emily's combined work with the Blandford Nature Center and degree experiences will pave the way for significant future contributions to conservation biology and educational outreach and communication.

❖ **Samantha B. MacKay, Master of Health Science**

Samantha, a graduate student in the Biomedical Sciences program, has served a lab manager for the Biomedical Sciences department. In this role, she does much of the animal care work in the lab, assists fellow graduate students, and

supervises undergraduate students completing research in the lab. She often directs lab meetings and journal clubs. Her advisor, Dr. Daniel Bergman, describes Samantha as “a true leader...she is exceptionally bright and the faculty have been impressed by her knowledge and commitment to her studies.” She has been active in teaching others as well, teaching Human Anatomy and Physiology lab courses. Her evaluations from undergraduate students and feedback from faculty state “she is highly valued for her instructional techniques and clarity in teaching others.”

❖ **Bikash Rana, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Bikash Rana is an international student who has contributed greatly to the GVSU and Grand Rapids communities. A student in the Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology program, Bikash has taken the initiative to volunteer in his areas of interest. While volunteering at the Grand Rapids Public Museum during ‘Brain Awareness Week Neuroscience Fair’ this year, he helped children of several age groups understand what scientists actually do in a lab and taught them how to use lab equipment. As a member of GVSU Rotaract he has volunteered with Kids’ Food Basket, and as a graduate assistant in the GVSU Center for Health Science Cell and Molecular Biology lab he assists the lab manager and faculty in keeping the lab running smoothly. Bikash has remarked that throughout all of his volunteer experiences he remembers the “cause to serve” and enjoys any chance he gets to give back to the community. Dr. Mark Staves has nominated Bikash for this award on behalf of the Cell and Molecular Biology department.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Kaitlin J. Hendriksma, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Kaitlin Hendriksma has been recognized for her bilingual, cross-cultural project at a Grand Rapids safety net clinic. As a student in the Master of Science in Nursing graduate program, Kaitlin tailored her project to meet the quality assessment needs recognized by the clinic as part of a grant from the CVS Corporation. She worked with an interdisciplinary team to identify the top five diagnoses and assisted staff in streamlining their Electronic Medical Record and processes to incorporate evidence based practice measures. Kaitlin also created tools to facilitate consistent documentation by the clinic’s various volunteer providers. Dr. Dianne Slager, faculty in the Master of

Science in Nursing graduate program, stated that Kaitlin's project will strengthen much needed quality assessment data over the coming years.

❖ **Danielle M. Hartig, Master of Science in Nursing**

Danielle Hartig has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the community in her evidence-based efforts to support and educate parent and caregivers in understanding and implementing safe sleep practices. Danielle's scholarly project for her Master of Science in Nursing graduate degree included the inter-professional team and community outreach, demonstrating exceptional skill in "meeting people where they are" and respecting their choices. She has supported members of the inter-professional team as they explored long held beliefs that were in conflict with expected practice. Danielle's strong interpersonal skills and maturity have led her to support, encourage, and promote safe sleep best practices that improve the overall health of her community. Dr. Tricia Thomas and Dr. Marie Vanderkooi, faculty in the MSN program nominate Danielle for this award without reservation.

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

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Jennifer L. Clark, Master of Social Work**

Jennifer Clark is currently completing her Social Work graduate degree at the Traverse City campus. Jennifer recognized the need to find ways to connect students in her cohort to the main campus, so she began her efforts by being elected to the Traverse City Liaison for the Phi Alpha National Honor Society. In this role, she has been able to help connect the cohort to the main campus as well as promote support, unity and scholastic achievement. In addition, Jennifer actively nominates deserving students for awards offered by various organizations on the main campus to offer Traverse City cohort members the opportunity to be recognized for their excellence in the social work profession. Faculty express that Jennifer's involvement in her community is a testament to her desire to lead and to connect the School of Social Work and Grand Valley State University in general. After an eye-opening experience hearing Jenn Amo speak about the Warning Lights educational program, Jennifer began actively fundraising for Warning Lights through the Phi Alpha board. In doing this, she has helped increase awareness of human trafficking within the GVSU community. Faculty believe that Jennifer's leadership and service has built bridges that enhance educational experiences and has represented the School of Social Work and GVSU well by always going above and beyond.

College of Education

❖ **Brittania B. Schreurs, Master of Education in Higher Education**

Brittania Schreurs' efforts through her involvement with campus committees and through her graduate assistantship with GVSU's Disability Support Resources Office qualify her for this recognition. Brittania was instrumental in improving the university's graduate assistantship visitation days as a member of the College Student Affairs Leadership professional development committee. In addition, Brittania is a member of the Student Hearing Board, a

First Year Leadership Facilitator with the Office of Student Life, a graduate intern with TRIO Student Support Services, and a member of the Student Affairs Graduate Association. Dr. Donald Mitchell describes Brittania as a “walking billboard for excellent student leadership and service to GVSU at the graduate level” and expressed his belief that the M.Ed. in Higher Education program at GVSU is a better place because of Brittania’s presence.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Douglas C. Sjoerdsma, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Douglas Sjoerdsma has exemplified leadership through his involvement in a variety of activities during his three years in the Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate program. Douglas was the DPT Class of 2017 Class President, a role in which he coordinated lunch and learn events between students and faculty, provided preparation materials for his fellow students studying for the national DPT exam, and organized class fundraising efforts. As president, Douglas submitted for and secured funding from the Graduate Student Association for a group of physical therapy students to attend the Michigan Physical Therapy Student Conclave and the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting. In addition, he organized and executed a training session for both recreational therapy and sonography students on how to successfully complete client transfers for those who cannot move themselves independently. Dr. Barbara Baker highly recommends Douglas for this award.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Nikki S. Marlatt, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Nikki Marlatt, while completing her graduate degree in Cell and Molecular Biology, also served as vice president of the Professional Association for Graduate Scientists (PAGS) during the 2016 academic year and president of PAGS during the 2017 academic year. This organization serves the Professional Science Masters graduate student population, and Nikki assisted in organizing meetings for the members, inviting guest speakers, and securing funding. She was also instrumental in revamping the PAGS web page to better serve students interested in using PAGS to gain information about resources available for them at GVSU. Faculty express that Nikki

represented GVSU's Professional Science Masters programs well during her internship under Dr. Kathy Steece-Collier at Michigan State University's research lab in Grand Rapids. The Department of Cell and Molecular Biology recognize both Nikki's service to the University, the graduate program and the department as well as her own academic success.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Allison E. Reynolds, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Allison Reynolds, BSN, RN, CCRN is pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at GVSU. Allison has been an active participant in the Kirkhof College of Nursing (KCON) Graduate Student Organization from the start of her degree. She eventually became the KCON Graduate Student Organization's second President. As president, Allison provided opportunities for student involvement and participation while enacting effective leadership to keep the organization functioning and relevant for its constituents. Faculty see Allison as a student who recognizes the importance of student engagement and participation, and they express that she has embodied the role of a leader in her roles in the KCON Graduate Student Organization.

❖ **Kim R. Henry, Master of Science in Nursing**

Kim Henry is currently completing her Clinical Nurse Leader Master of Science in Nursing degree and faculty see her as a student who demonstrates ongoing and persistent commitment to lifelong learning and leadership at GVSU and in the community. Kim has worked in a variety of clinical and nonclinical roles in her organization and continually demonstrates dedication to exceptional clinical practice and outcomes, inclusion, and horizontal leadership necessary for meaningful and sustainable change. Kim has embraced her colleagues by serving as a role model on her immersion unit and inspiring team members to consider advancing their education, as well as mentoring them in personal and professional goal development. In addition, she spent the last year serving as the Master of Science in Nursing student representative on the Kirkhof College of Nursing Practice Committee.

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

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Belinda Bardwell, Master of Public Administration**

Belinda began her studies at GVSU as an undergraduate student pursuing Cultural Sustainability and Tribal Sovereignty, and continued on in the Master of Public Administration program. Her passion for Native American rights brought new perspectives into public policy discussions in her graduate classes. Her book review of the Indian Civil Rights Act was very well done. Belinda's activism on behalf of Native American rights as well as her passion for justice is an asset to GVSU's graduate student population and she will be wonderful addition to SPNHA's alumni. She is currently serving as a Project Coordinator for the Kutsche Office of Local History as well as the Community Relations Coordinator for Great Lakes Lifeways Institute. She is a board member of GVSU's Native American Advisory Board as well as a member of the GVSU Pow-wow Committee. She also co-authored a publication with Dr. Melanie Shell-Weiss in *Alter Native: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples* in Spring 2017.

College of Education

❖ **ReChard L. Peel, Master of Education in Higher Education**

ReChard Peel is pursuing his Master of Education in Higher Educating while also working as a graduate assistant for the Office of Multicultural Affairs within the Division of Inclusion & Equity. ReChard often challenges himself and takes advantage of opportunities that focus on marginalized and unrepresented populations. He enrolled in the "Minority Serving-Institutions" course that included a travel component to Atlanta, Georgia, where he learned about historically Black colleges and universities. After this experience, he published an opinion editorial in the *College Student Affairs Leadership* journal. He also completed his first practicum experience at Lincoln University, a historically Black institution, and his second practicum with the Higher Education program to improve the Minority Serving-

Institutions study away experience for all who may attend for professional development. In addition, ReChard played a large role in the planning committee for the first Black student graduation celebration. Faculty express that ReChard is a steward of diversity, equity, and inclusion and that he represents the best of GVSU.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Katharine P. Cline, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Katharine Cline is completing her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at GVSU while tirelessly promoting inclusion and equity on campus and off. She took part in a voluntary service trip to Guatemala where she demonstrated superior interaction skills without being able to fluently speak Spanish. She made clients in Guatemala feel comfortable and her faculty advisor expressed that her compassion was unforgettable. Katharine also assisted in the organization of the GVSU Physical Therapy sponsored Wheel Race Run, a race that attracts a large number of runners and wheelchair users in the Grand Rapids area. The money for the event was then donated to Alternatives in Motion, an organization that supplies wheelchairs to those in need. Faculty describe Katharine as a woman who truly cares about all people and as one of the most outstanding students in the Physical Therapy class of 2017.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Cheryl L. Christie, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Cheryl Christie is completing her graduate degree in Cell and Molecular Biology while also working as a Professional Science Masters (PSM) graduate assistant. In her graduate assistantship she worked with students from all three PSM programs, including about 30 international students from six different countries. Cheryl often led the creation of social events where domestic and international students could interact and share their experiences. She also assisted in developing the PSM Facebook page where she highlighted student accomplishments and promoted cultural events. Cheryl's additional accomplishments include organizing the PSM International Student Orientation, creating a LinkedIn workshop, and leading

a bowling social event to conclude the year. Faculty recognize that Cheryl has played an important role in promoting inclusion and diversity to the University, the graduate program, and her department.

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

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

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Ali R. Saheb, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Through Ali Saheb's engagement with the Caring Circle of Organization in Benton Harbor, Michigan he has proved more than worthy of the Graduate Dean's Citation Award for Excellence in Sustainability. During Ali's time working with the Caring Circle, he assessed the needs of the organization and developed a strategic business plan to implement sustainable business objectives in Value Based Healthcare. Ali collaborated with the leadership team of Lakeland Health, the Caring Circle, and House Calls home based primary care to identify key activities that would help the House Calls enterprise become a more sustainable model of primary care. Shaping a business model to reflect this process required the alignment of quality implications, reimbursement initiatives, a framework that takes in account stipulations on reimbursement for different types of clinicians, and an understanding and preparedness for emerging guidelines and nationally recognized frameworks for quality indicators.

Both the House Calls program and the leadership of Lakeland Health have recognized the impact of Ali's business plan which resulted in the organization developing a long term plan for sustainability of best business practices. Dr. Karren Burritt noted that Ali deserves recognition for this successful contribution that will have a lasting effect.

❖ **Jessica P. Pelletier, Master of Science in Nursing**

Jessica Pelletier completed her scholarly project on managing the care of “micro” babies, the smallest size premature babies. Through knowledge gained from her work with the CNL program, she began implementing evidence-based changes last year and has continued to do so in her professional role. Using the guiding principles of autonomy in decision making, teamwork, standardization, horizontal leadership, and evidence-based best practice to achieve clinical excellence, Jessica has consulted with experts to establish consistent messaging tools and team interactions enabling the evidence-based concepts to permeate clinical practice discussions and interventions.

Dr. Tricia Thomas and Dr. Marie VanderKooi, both professors in the Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate program have nominated Jessica for this award. Both professors serve as advisors for her scholarly project and recommend her without reservation.

3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION 2017 First Place Winner

The Graduate School hosted GVSU's second annual 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on February 22, 2017. The winner of this competition continued on to compete in the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools regional 3MT competition in Indianapolis, IN. 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 2017 3MT judging panel included:

- Dr. Katie Barnhart, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Shabbir Choudhuri, Padnos College of Engineering & Computing
- Dr. Karyn Raybourn, College of Education
- Dr. Shinian Wu, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Steven Smith, College of Community and Public Service
- Dr. Janet Winter, Kirkhof College of Nursing

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Samantha B. MacKay, Master of Health Science**

- **Title:** The Effects of Long Term Exposure to an Estrogen Mimic: From Crayfish to You
- **Advisor:** Dr. Daniel Bergman – Department of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Daniel Bergman, Samantha's advisor, provided the following comments: "Samantha's enthusiasm and dedication in our graduate program is readily apparent and consequently caused me to invite her to join my research lab group. She has taken to the research with vigor and passion. She has sought unique research experiences and actively applied for a Presidential Research Grant that was funded. For the application, Samantha prepared a grant entitled *Chronic Effects of Nonylphenol on Reproductive Behavior, Physiology, and Development of Crayfish*.

Samantha has now examined how crayfish respond after chronic exposure to a known endocrine disruptor, nonylphenol. In the study, she tested the crayfish's ability to find a prospective mate, tested the neurophysiological

responses of the antennules, and examine gonadal structure and size for any alterations after long-term exposure to nonylphenol. Recently, she was the first author and presenter of a talk at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting in New Orleans, LA. She presented her research as a talk entitled "Chronic Effects of Nonylphenol on Reproductive Behavior and Development of Crayfish," in the Behavioral and Ecological Toxicology symposium."

RESEARCH SYNOPSIS

As the human population increases, so does their increase in the pursuit for simplicity and efficiency. However, these efforts can often result in secondary effects on other animal populations, ecosystems and potentially human health. Nonylphenol, an alkylphenol, is a commonly used surfactant in a variety of industries, producing around 500,000 tons of alkylphenols annually. Due to its structure, nonylphenol shows an affinity for estrogen receptors, hence its classification as an endocrine disruptor and potential danger to reproductive success. Nonylphenol accumulates in aquatic environments for extensive periods of time as its half-life can be up to sixty years. Several studies have demonstrated reduced olfaction after nonylphenol exposure. As crayfish rely on olfaction in mating and courtship, impairment in this system would likely lead to a decreased ability to locate a mate. Due to the endocrine disruptive effects of alkylphenols observed in gonad development in a variety of species, crayfish are likely to exhibit similar results. Although acute studies have been performed, chronic exposure studies are limited. We measured the ability of crayfish to locate a mate, electrophysiological recordings of olfactory neurons, and examined gonad morphology post four-month exposure. After performing electrophysiological recordings we revealed groundbreaking results as we discovered the mechanism of impairment from exposure. Exposing crayfish to varying sub lethal concentrations of nonylphenol affects not only behavior, but neuron responsiveness. We expect that both male and female reproductive maturation will also be affected. As crayfish are a part of an extensive trophic web, studying the long term effects of nonylphenol on their behavior and reproductive capacity is imperative to understanding the extent of the influence on ecosystems, its potential infiltration into human health, and subsequent ramifications at current EPA level guidelines.

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

❖ **Dr. Daniel Bergman, Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences**

Nominated by: Samantha MacKay, Biomedical Sciences

Samantha writes: "From the beginning of my graduate education, Dr. Bergman has gone beyond what is required of a graduate mentor. He encouraged my involvement in classwork, research, and professional activities. He believed in my capabilities more than I believed in myself. He continues pushing me beyond what I thought I was capable of, leading to my success as a graduate student.

Upon joining his lab, he challenged me to not only pursue my own research but to take on leadership within the lab. In doing so, he contributed to my management of time, people, research projects, and responsibilities. He pushed me creatively to develop my own graduate research project and to think independently.

Above all, Dr. Bergman sees the potential in his students and encourages their passions, leading to their success. Without his mentorship, I would be nowhere near as successful as I have been within my program. He has afforded me opportunities, life skills, and perspective that I could never repay nor express but he deserves acknowledgement for his selflessness and mentorship whenever possible."

❖ **Dr. Shawn Bultsma, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership & Counseling**

Nominated by: Star Zetocha, School Counseling

Star writes: "Dr. Bultsma encourages his students to participate in professional development opportunities and conferences, so much so that at meetings of local, state, and even national school counseling organizations, there is always a group of Dr. Bultsma's students present.

He is more than a professor—he is a true mentor and role model. The impact he has had on me has been profound. He oversaw my work as a graduate assistant last year, was my professor for multiple classes, and he is my project

mentor this semester; every conversation and classroom interaction I have had with Shawn has enriched my scholarship or outlook in some way.

I am leaving GVSU empowered and energized to pursue educational equity and systemic change as a professional school counselor, and I owe that to Dr. Bultsma's dedication as a professor and mentor. He has inspired the best in me, and I know I am not alone in that sentiment."

❖ **Karen Niemchick, Assistant Professor of Health Administration**

Nominated by: Jordyn Lawton, Public Health

Jordyn writes: "Professor Niemchick brings a sense of inspiration and positivity to the classroom. She integrates these characteristics into her teaching by encouraging her students to take risks and allow yourself to fail if it means that you learn from the experience. She strives to instruct her courses in a way that is relatable rather than just informative.

Professor Niemchick is also the practicum coordinator for all MPH. students and she meets face-to-face with each of us throughout our placements. Not only is she outstanding in the classroom she has also co-led my cohort on two professional development and service learning trips to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA and various national public health organizations in Washington D.C.. She is genuinely invested in providing these opportunities to students and is excited to witness the learning that takes place on these trips.

In closing, I am forever grateful for the encouragement Professor Niemchick has given me over the past two years and I know that she will continue to do this for her students in the future."

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD
Winter 2017**

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. Melba Velez-Ortiz, Associate Professor of Communication**

Nominated by: Jennifer Palm, Communications

Jennifer writes: "Dr. MVO, as she is known by her students, is a dynamic and passionate instructor. Her classes are challenging and engaging, creating an environment where students can discuss ethical issues from a worldview lens. Dr. MVO brought modern ethics and ethical situation into the classroom while providing a broad underpinning of ethics theories and frameworks, including discussions on social issues of race, gender, ability/disability, and socioeconomic status.

When we talk about diversity, we usually discuss the visual ways in which we are different. Dr. MVO provides a classroom that is inclusive of invisible identities as well. As a parent, I felt welcome and understood in her classroom, especially when parenting disrupted my role as a graduate student. My class partner discovered she was pregnant over the course of the semester, and we both expressed gratitude for the understanding we received. As student parents, we do not seek to do less work, but we sometimes need the parameters of class adjusted so we can be successful. Dr. MVO was willing to address these issues.

In short, I cannot think of a faculty member more deserving of this award than Dr. MVO and the vibrant presence she creates on campus."

**GRADUATE STUDENT
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS
Spring/Summer 2016**

Bradke, Danielle. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Natural Resources.
Title: *Effective Population Size and Demography of Eastern Massasaugas in Southwest Michigan*

Chorak, Greg. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Aquatic Sciences.
Title: *Genetic Stock Structure of Yellow Perch in Eastern Lake Michigan: What is the Importance of Drowned River Mouth Lakes?*

Fanourakis, Sofia. McCarthy, Patrick. Melick, Justin. College of Education,
Educational Technology. Padnos College of Engineering and Computing,
Engineering.
Title: *Solar Suction Surgery System: Delivery, Installation, and Sustainability Project*

Gezon, Nicholas. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Aquatic Sciences.
Title: *Blast from the Past: Exploring Potentially Pathogenic Viruses in Invasive Species and Sediments in Lake Michigan*

Giffin, Benjamin. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Aquatic Sciences.
Title: *Development of a Propidium Monoazide qPCR Protocol for the Detection of Fecal Indicators Bacteria*

Harris, Victoria. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Aquatic Sciences.
Title: *The Assessment of the Impact of Sawmill Debris on Chironomid Populations in Muskegon Lake using DNA Barcoding*

Kindervater, Emily. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Aquatic Sciences.
Title: *Phosphorus Retention in West Michigan Two-Stage Agricultural Ditches*

LaGory, Susanna. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Aquatic Sciences.
Title: *Reducing Bias in Fish Abundance Estimates Using a Modified Sampling Scheme*

Munson, Steven. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Natural Resources.
Title: *Competitive Interaction between Spotted Knapweed and Native Grasses and Forbs in Restored Plant Communities in the Bass River Recreation Area*

Riley, Denielle. College of Health Professions, Public Health.

Title: *Midwives for Haiti: Process Evaluation of Postpartum Data Collection*

Sigdel, Rajesh. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Aquatic Sciences.

Title: *Assessment of Environmental Stressors in the Indian Mill Creek Watershed*

Vu, Kristen. College of Health Professions, Medical Dosimetry.

Title: *Single-Fraction versus Multi-Fraction Radiotherapy in Palliative Bony Metastasis Patients: Comparison of Primary Malignancy and Demographic Factors*

Zuidema, Jay. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Aquatic Sciences.

Title: *Estimating Components of Stream Metabolism Using the Free Water Dissolved Oxygen Method*

Fall 2016

Cutler, Brian. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Effects of Aging and Dietary Phytoestrogens on Sperm Production in Sprague Dawley Rats*

MacKay, Samantha. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Chronic Effects of Nonylphenol on Reproductive Behavior, Physiology, and Development of Crayfish*

Winter 2017

Boyd, Taylor. College of Education, Higher Education: College Student Affairs Leadership.

Title: *Black Male Persistence Through Stereotypes in College*

Clark, Isaac. College of Health Professions, Public Health.

Title: *Exploring the Complexity of Mental Health Predictors for African American College Students*

Garvin, Travis. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *The Relationship between Feeding Type and Temporomandibular Joint Morphology in Superfamily Musteloidea*

Kaylor, Kelsey. College of Health Professions, Public Health.

Title: *Needle Exchange Program Utilization Patterns of Women who Inject Drugs in Grand Rapids, Michigan*

Rombach, Nicole. College of Education, Higher Education: College Student Affairs Leadership.

Title: *Reasons for Their Departure: A Look at Undergraduate Women who Abandon STEM Majors*

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

Title: *Enhancing Sensitivity of dopamine Detection Fast-Scan Cyclic Voltammetry through Electrodeposition of Electronegative Species*

**OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2017**

**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.*

- ❖ Megan Madole, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Lauren Huisman, Social Work

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

2016-17

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Danica deWaha, Accounting
- ❖ David Courtade, Business Administration
- ❖ Jennifer McMahan, Taxation

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Anna Mucci, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Marcus Manders, Health Administration
- ❖ Veronica Dainelis, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
- ❖ Julie Mavis, Public Administration
- ❖ Owen Hunter, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Carmel McDonald, Educational Leadership
- ❖ Brett Cataldo, Educational Specialist in Leadership
- ❖ Carrie Smucker, Educational Technology
- ❖ Nicole Rombach, Higher Education
- ❖ Kallie Holzhueter, Instruction and Curriculum
- ❖ Jana Eding, Literacy Studies
- ❖ Justin Knoth, School Counseling

- ❖ Abbey Siegel, Special Education

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Xiaomei, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Jared Heys, Engineering
- ❖ Matthew Lueder, Medical and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Eric Niekamp, Medical Dosimetry
- ❖ Danielle Benter, Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Caitlyn Smith, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Beccalynne Gray, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Amber Bytwerk, Public Health
- ❖ Sharijo Taylor, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Benjamin Sparks, Applied Linguistics
- ❖ Matthew Lindenberg, Biology
- ❖ Samantha MacKay, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Zachary Weber, Biostatistics
- ❖ Andrew Umstead, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Nicholas LaFave, Communications
- ❖ Danielle Cope, English
- ❖ Taylor Thorpe, School Psychology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Melissa Rykse, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Allison Reynolds, Nursing-Masters

***Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) National Leadership Honor Society
Winter 2017***

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 2016-17:*

<i>Toluwalopemi Agbede</i>	<i>Rebecca Need</i>
<i>Bree Austin-Roberts</i>	<i>Ryan Norton</i>
<i>Antonio Bailey</i>	<i>Benjamin Pichette</i>
<i>Diana Barker</i>	<i>Nichole Pierson</i>
<i>Mandy Barney</i>	<i>Josh Quinn</i>
<i>Jeremy Bissett</i>	<i>Paula Reed</i>
<i>Elizabeth Brown</i>	<i>Justin Schnurer</i>
<i>Julie Bulson</i>	<i>Kenya Shakir</i>
<i>Michelle Doebler</i>	<i>Chelsea Simkhada</i>
<i>Jillian Kain</i>	<i>Kelsey Steinberger</i>
<i>Kelley Kasul</i>	<i>Rebecca Stoddard</i>
<i>Lauren Krumholz</i>	<i>Joshua Usoro</i>
<i>Tanish Kuykendall</i>	<i>Jeanna Watson</i>
<i>Christopher Lawitzke</i>	<i>Brianna Wilson</i>
<i>Kristy Lewis</i>	<i>Sidney Wiltshire</i>

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Frederick Lawrence, Business Administration
President Elect: Tyler Kanczuzewski, Business Administration

Vice President: Kathryn Christopher, Engineering
Vice President Elect: Dan Myers, Biology

Finance Officer: Blaine Harvey, Higher Education
Finance Officer Elect: Tyler Currie, Business Administration

Administrative Officer: Jordyn Lawton, Public Health
Administrative Officer Elect: Emily Agnello, College Student Affairs Leadership

Communications Officer: Richa Bhurtel, Business Administration
Communications Officer Elect: Kelsey Stevenson, Communications

Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:
Chase Dolan, College Student Affairs Leadership
Danielle Dunneback, 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. Andrea Bostrom, Nursing

Vice Chair:
Dr. Dan Balfour, Public Administration

Policy Subcommittee Chair:
Dr. Shabbir Choudhuri, Engineering

Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:
Dr. Mark Staves, Cell and Molecular Biology



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

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

Irene Fountain, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Palm, Assistant to The Graduate School

Graduate Assistants:

Jasmine Ahuja, Health Administration

Jordyn Lawton, Public Health

Kelsey Stevenson, Communications

Student Assistants:

Eugenia Browner, Social Work (undergraduate)

Kelley Heynen, Accounting (undergraduate)

The Graduate School

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Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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Email: gradschool@gvsu.edu

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

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

Padnos College of Education & Computing

❖ **Shardul C. Kachare, Master of Science in Engineering**

Shardul Kachare is completing his graduate degree in Engineering...