

# Graduate Student Celebration

April 20, 2018

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:**

Kelsey Stevenson, GSA Communications Officer

## **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:**

Dan Myers, GSA Vice President,  
Emily Agnello, GSA Administrative Officer,  
and Kelsey Stevenson, GSA Communications 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 education 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 to 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 graduate 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 2018**

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ David J. Schlaudt, Business Administration

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Amanda K. Fecker, Health Administration
- ❖ Brady D. Selner, Public Administration
- ❖ Whitney D. Ehresman, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
- ❖ Cassandra L. Kiger, Social Work

*College of Education*

- ❖ Rebecca K. Spangler, Literacy Studies
- ❖ Lauren K. Robinson, School Counseling

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Juan Carcamo Zuluaga, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Shreya S. Paithankar, Medical & Bioinformatics

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Rebecca S. Kuster, Physical Therapy

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Justin E. Wegner, Biology
- ❖ Colin J. Jones, Biostatistics
- ❖ Rebecca M. Mitchell, Cell & Molecular Biology
- ❖ Rachel L. Lopez, Communications
- ❖ Ying Feng, English
- ❖ Kathleen M. Spoelman, School Psychology

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Emily M. McCloskey, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Nichole L. Schmidt, Nursing-Masters

**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS**

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Christina E. Ledezma, Criminal Justice

*College of Education*

- ❖ Irma Y. Ramirez, Higher Education

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Angela M. Kujawa, Biology
- ❖ Sarah E. Thompson, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Molly A. Stabler, English

**OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT**

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ James D. Crocker, Health Administration
- ❖ Liza J. Felix, Social Work

*College of Education*

- ❖ Sara J. Karsten, Instruction and Curriculum
- ❖ Steven R. Plominski, Literacy Studies

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Kristoffer M. Hain, Computer Information Systems

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Brooke A. Armistead, Cell & Molecular Biology
- ❖ Dustin C. Moore, Communications

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Kathryn L. Ellens, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Casie N. Sultana, Nursing-Masters

**OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION**

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Nick A. Dipisa, Engineering

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

*College of Community and Public Service*

- ❖ Tori R. Wasylk, Health Administration
- ❖ Ash M. Herald, Social Work

*College of Education*

- ❖ Amina A. Mohamed, Literacy Studies
- ❖ Shannon C. Mazey, School Counseling

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Alissa M. Smith, Engineering-Biomedical Engineering
- ❖ Kyle A. Dinger, Engineering-Mechanical

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Austin P. Cammire, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Hannah C. Napolillo, Public Health



*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Kristy C. Lewis, Cell & Molecular Biology
- ❖ Abigayle K. Sladick, Communications
- ❖ Mireille Ukeye, School Psychology

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Mark A. Contreras, Nursing-Doctorate

**EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ Richa Bhurtel, Business Administration

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Heather E. Kehoe, Health Administration
- ❖ Samantha J. Rose, Social Work

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Kathryn E. Collins, Physical Therapy

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Roslyn E. Vashon, Cell & Molecular Biology
- ❖ Sarah J. Kooienga, English

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Christina A. Winkelman, Nursing-Masters

**PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU**

*College of Community and Public Service*

- ❖ Yesica Ramirez-Perez, Social Work

*College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Erica N. Little, Physical Therapy

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ John K. Dekock, Nursing-Doctorate

**EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Emily A. Kindervater, Biology

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Katelyn M. Gettel, Nursing-Doctorate

**3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION WINNER**

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Kathryn L. Ellens, Nursing-Doctorate

*Congratulations to all of the Winter 2018  
Graduate Dean's Citation Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARDS**  
**Winter 2018**

**OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ Denise de la Rosa, Accounting

*College of Community and Public Service*

- ❖ Jamie Langlois, Social Work

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Sandra Spoelstra, Nursing

**OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD**

*College of Education*

- ❖ Sean Lancaster, Educational Technology

*Congratulations to the Winter 2018  
Graduate Student Association Faculty Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM  
Winter 2018**

*Seidman College of Business*

❖ **David J. Schlaudt, Master of Business Administration**

While completing his graduate studies, David has worked as a Financial Analyst at the Amway Corporation. As a busy, non-traditional student it took him some time to complete his MBA including a 3 year hiatus. However, his tenacity and resilience are admirable traits that make him a strong candidate for this citation. David has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout the program. His commitment to consistent, academic excellence and strong performance has quickly made him stand out amongst his peers. He was also named the 2018 Outstanding MBA student of the year in the Seidman College of Business.

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Amanda K. Fecker, Master of Health Administration**

Amanda has been consistent in her contributions to all of her courses. In both individual assignments and as a member of a team she has consistently excelled. Her academic achievements are second to none. Faculty from the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration state that despite her quiet nature, her participation in classes and in team activities has been as stronger than most. While completing her graduate studies, she was a member of the Health Professions Graduate Student Alliance and the GVSU chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

❖ **Brady D. Selner, Master of Public Administration**

Brady has been an exemplary student, always well-prepared for class. His attention to detail, thoughtful inquiry and excellent written work makes him an ideal MPA student. Faculty in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration state Brady has displayed an inquisitive mind and a serious commitment to his studies.

❖ **Whitney D. Ehresman, Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership**

Whitney is pursuing the Community Impact and Mission Advancement in the MPNL program. She actively engages in class discussions, is willing to take class responsibilities, and is committed to her studies, displaying an outstanding work ethic. Faculty from the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration state Whitney sets an example of excellence for other students. She is currently the Public Outreach Coordinator of Community Engagement for The Rapid in Grand Rapids, MI and served on the Executive Committee of the Clean Water for the World board.

❖ **Cassandra L. Kiger, Master of Social Work**

Cassandra's academic achievement in her program along with her experience and commitment to working in the area of human rights and social justice make her an ideal candidate for this award. She recently spent three weeks in Rwanda attending the International School of Reconciliation for Peace Practitioners, a Christian-based Healing Ethnic Wounds Workshop. The groups processed racial and ethnic wounds in their communities and countries, and discussed the wounds that their own countries have inflicted upon each other. Cassandra was the only person representing the U.S. at the workshop, demonstrating her commitment to social justice and affecting change in the world. Faculty express that Cassandra has excelled academically, and is experienced, insightful, and has strong critical thinking skills.

*College of Education*

❖ **Rebecca K. Spangler, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

Rebecca has demonstrated academic excellence by achieving high grades in her courses and by performing in outstanding ways within her coursework beyond her grades as well. For example, Rebecca is currently enrolled in her final Reading Specialist practicum, learning how to plan and facilitate professional development. Her thoughtful and conscientious persona has led her to create meaningful experiences for teachers in her building, contributing to their growth as professionals in the teaching field. Rebecca's dedication to

the education of children and growth of teachers is obvious, as well as her commitment to her own growth and learning.

❖ **Lauren K. Robinson, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Lauren has excelled in all aspects of her graduate student experience. She is also a member of the School Counseling Graduate Student Organization and will be attending the American School Counselor Association conference in the summer of 2018 as a member of this group. Lauren is completing her internship at Hamilton High School and, during her time there, has created a scheduling video to ease in the annual scheduling process for all students and has created counseling activities in both English and Spanish to address the needs of both students and parents. She has also given a presentation to the Hamilton High School faculty on the role of school counselor as a part of the school's emphasis on mental health awareness. Faculty describe Lauren as a student with scholarly knowledge, an ever present quest for knowledge, and attention to detail. They state that her passion for serving all students rings true in both her written work and internship experiences.

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

❖ **Juan Carcamo Zuluaga, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

Juan is finishing his Master's thesis this semester, and the faculty fully expect him to graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA. The faculty note that in many of his classes Juan went well beyond the homework and project specifications, as well as being a model student to have in the classroom. While maintaining academic excellence, Juan also served as a graduate assistant supporting research in the School of Computing and Information Systems. Juan also holds a Master in Engineering with a focus on Educational Technologies from Universidad EAFIT in Colombia.

❖ **Shreya S. Paithankar, Master of Science in Medical and Bioinformatics**

Shreya is an "A student" and is among the best in her classes. Faculty expressed that Shreya mastered one of the most challenging parts of one of her classes, a group project where she teamed up with a student with a technical background to reproduce the results of a peer reviewed scientific

publication using different software packages in the lab. Shreya has been working as a graduate assistant for over a year now and recently joined a research group on “Usability and Patient Safety.” Faculty describe Shreya as a determined, ambitious, and organized student and state that her general attitude towards work is excellent.

### *College of Health Professions*

#### ❖ **Rebecca S. Kuster, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Rebecca has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate excellence in the classroom. She has the highest GPA in the DPT class of 2018, and is the only PT student to ever achieve a 4.0. She is an independent learner, and pushes herself to learn material above and beyond that which is required. Her problem solving skills will enable her to become a top notch physical therapist. PT faculty remark that Rebecca is extremely humble, “her humility really sets her apart from other students.” As well as in the classroom, Rebecca also excelled during her clinical internships, receiving high marks for her performance, professionalism, and knowledge.

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

#### ❖ **Justin E. Wegner, Master of Science in Biology**

Justin’s academic excellence is apparent in his research which addressed how temperatures impact brook trout movement patterns and habitat selection in Cedar Creek, Kent County. Justin has extended his achievements outside of GVSU by representing the university at numerous conferences and establishing a growing professional reputation based on presenting his work. Faculty express that Justin was able to succeed in his thesis research due to an extraordinary level of professional sophistication and a commitment to go above and beyond. He is described as a student who possesses innate learning and analytical abilities, an unwavering commitment to excel, perseverance, and passion.

❖ **Colin J. Jones, Master of Science in Biostatistics**

Colin has shown a very strong performance throughout the Biostatistics Master's program. He holds a 4.0 GPA and his work shows an attention to detail that is superlative in all respects. Colin has been a graduate assistant in the Department of Economics since the fall of 2017 while completing an internship with MPI Research. Colin always explored every possible angle for experimental design or predictive model and has taken on a wide variety of endeavors with great results. Faculty express that Colin is a diligent, smart and hardworking student who has done an excellent job of advancing the charge, direction, and outcomes of the tasks assigned to him.

❖ **Rebecca M. Mitchell, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Rebecca has maintained an excellent academic record and a busy research schedule during her time at GVSU. Rebecca works as an Instructional Graduate Assistant at the university, assisting in instructing undergraduate laboratory classes and tutoring students. Initially, she worked on research to identify biomarkers for Parkinson's disease and mentored three undergraduate and one graduate student in basic molecular techniques. She also presented this research at the Art & Science Aging Conference last year. Faculty highly recommend Rebecca for her academic achievements as well as her service in enhancing the image and reputation of the department and university.

❖ **Rachel L. Lopez, Master of Science in Communications**

Rachel is a bilingual professional with over eight years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. She has held positions at RDV Corporation as well as the Hispanic Center of West Michigan, and she currently is an Advisory Board Member and Committee Chair at the YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin where she leads the Diversity, Inclusion, and Global Outreach Committee's inclusion and equity initiatives, among other duties. Rachel holds a 4.0 GPA and faculty express that she possesses a vast knowledge of communication theory and successfully and skillfully applies theory and conceptual principles to practical communication problem-solving situations.



❖ **Ying Feng, Master of Arts in English**

Throughout her time at GVSU, Ying has demonstrated a keen commitment to her studies, excelling in every course and thus earning a high GPA. Ying makes astute observations about literature and literary theory and encourages her peers to question deeply-ingrained cultural assumptions. Faculty state that her written work provides further evidence of her ability to read closely, think critically, and sustain persuasive, sophisticated arguments. Several professors have remarked that Ying is a model graduate student, and that she is intelligent, dedicated, collegial, and eager to explore challenging topics.

❖ **Kathleen M. Spoelman, Master of Science in School Psychology**

Katie is a third-year student in the School Psychology program is currently completing her internship in school psychology. She holds a 4.0 GPA, demonstrating solid mastery of the course content and continually distinguishing herself as one of the top students in her cohort. School Psychology faculty members noted a level of organization, preparedness, and maturity that set Katie apart and clearly led to her success. They believe Katie will be a life-long learner who transitions the skills she used as a student in GVSU's program to support the learning of others.

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Emily M. McCloskey, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Emily has demonstrated her academic excellence with an extraordinarily high GPA in her doctoral graduate studies. She has excelled in all aspects of doctoral education including the classroom, clinical sites, and community organizations demonstrating the joy of learning as part of a community of scholars. Adding to the clinical practice role as a nurse practitioner student, Emily has shown outstanding scholarship and leadership with demonstration of the many Doctor of Nursing Practice competencies with her doctoral project. Emily is an outstanding student and demonstrates the qualities of excellence as a scholar, health professional and leader.

❖ **Nichole L. Schmidt, Master of Science in Nursing**

Nichole is well known for her dedication to the program, her excellence in both academic and clinical practice, and her accomplishments as a GVSU student. She has the academic qualifications that make her an excellent candidate for this award as she has an exceptional GPA and excels in the classroom and clinical setting. Nicole is respected by her classmates, professors, and preceptors in the clinical area. She is mature in her thinking and a role model for nursing. In summary, the faculty strongly recommend Nichole for this award for her demonstrated excellence in the MSN program.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR  
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS  
Winter 2018**

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ **Christina E. Ledezma, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**
  - **Thesis Title:** Cold Careers and Occupational Hazards: The Occupational Preferences of Canadian Serial Killers
  - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Christopher Kierkus – School of Criminal Justice (Chair), Dr. Carrie Buist – School of Criminal Justice, and Dr. Jaclyn Cwick – School of Criminal Justice

Christina's thesis adds to the greatly under-developed literature on serial killers' occupational preferences and encourages further exploration for both research and application. Faculty express that it demonstrates a degree of intellectual curiosity, analytic ability, and methodological sophistication that is unusual among Master's students. Christina was one of the first Criminal Justice students to complete the full graduate program within two years and she has also presented her thesis at The Graduate School's 3-Minute Thesis competition. She is described as highly engaged and a valued leader in the program. Christina is viewed as a student that embodies what it means to participate in graduate study. She is intellectually curious, insightful, motivated, and extremely hardworking.

**ABSTRACT**

Serial killing is a complex phenomenon in which certain areas are still relatively unknown. As researchers have begun to recognize that serial killing exists and interacts within a broad modern and influential context, how these factors affect serial killing have received more attention. This includes serial killers' occupational preferences and the influence that occupations have on their offending. However, studies on serial killers' occupational preferences have been limited to the United States and the United Kingdom. Therefore, using content analysis this thesis sought to classify the occupational preferences of 36 Canadian serial killers and how these occupations may influence their offending, both instrumentally and psychologically. *Continued on next page.*

### ABSTRACT

According to Canada's 2016 National Occupational Classification, Canadian serial killers preferred occupations in "Management occupations," "Sales and services occupations," and "Trades, transports and equipment operators and related occupations." Using content analysis on biographical cases of Canadian serial killers within these classifications, it was proposed that these work environments were the most preferred since they contained occupational elements advantageous for their offending both instrumentally and psychologically. Specifically, the freedom of movements—typically through a vehicle—the lack of supervision, and the provision of solitude. Hence, Canadian serial killers' offending was shown to be influenced by a lesser-known contemporary lifestyle factor: occupation. This thesis adds to the greatly under-

## *College of Education*

### ❖ **Irma Y. Ramirez, Master of Education in Higher Education**

- **Thesis Title:** Access to Higher Education through Community-Based Organizations
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury – College of Education (Chair), Dr. Kevin Holohan – College of Education, and Dr. David Martin – Aquinas College

Irma's commitment to her academic and professional excellence has been evident in all of her coursework, culminating in the successful completion of her thesis. Irma's thesis investigates the strategies community-based organizations use to help low-income students of color access higher education. Irma is concerned with how these organizations help students cultivate the social capital deemed necessary to access and navigate post-secondary institutions. Faculty express that her thesis reflects the kind of high quality, publishable work that The Graduate School seeks to recognize. They state that her thesis findings have practical implications for the great work that community-based organizations do while offering suggestions for how they might build their capacity. Irma is described as a talented, hardworking individual, an active learner, and someone who engages with her peers in a way that challenges students to grow and provide perspectives in ways that are meaningful and insightful. *Irma's abstract appears on the next page.*

### ABSTRACT

Although low-income students of color share similar desires as their White, affluent counterparts to attend college, studies indicate that they are at a disadvantage in accumulating the dominant social capital needed to access higher education. Research has yet to explore the accumulation of social capital through community-based organizations to help students access higher education. The purpose of this exploratory qualitative study was to identify the strategies community-based organizations use to help low-income students of color access higher education, using a social capital framework. Nine participants from three different types of community-based organizations participated in this study, including staff, students, and alumni. Nine individual semi-structured interview, one focus group, and a document analysis of textual artifacts revealed that community-based organization staff have the ability to expand students' social networks and connect students with opportunities to accumulate dominant forms of capital needed to access higher education. Community-based organizations also use strategies like providing monetary resources, advising, direct programming, assessments, and empowering relationships to help students access higher education. The findings of this study indicate that further research should explore the relationship between social capital, low-income students of color, access to higher education, and community-based organizations. The results of this study can be used by scholars, educators, and community-based organization service providers to better understand the effect of social capital on access to life opportunities.

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

#### ❖ **Angela M. Kujawa, Master of Science in Biology**

- **Thesis Title:** American Marten Habitat Connectivity in Michigan's Manistee National Forest
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Paul Keenlance (Chair) – Department of Biology, Dr. Joseph Jacquot – Department of Biology, Dr. Alexandra Locher – Department of Biology, and Dr. Jennifer Moore – Department of Biology

Angela's thesis research involved developing a habitat suitability model for American marten in and around the Manistee National Forest. Her project

combined four years of radio telemetry data with a remote camera survey throughout her study area in developing her habitat model. The results of her research provide information on the current distribution and connectivity of habitat for martens in her study area and in the Lower Peninsula. This information will help to inform resource agencies when habitat management decisions are being made in areas where martens occur. Her model also highlighted two areas of suitable habitat which can potentially form the basis of dispersal corridors for martens between the existing populations in the Lower Peninsula. Angela overcame a variety of challenges as she completed her data collection and maintained a positive attitude throughout. Her thesis markedly increased the understanding of American marten habitat use and suitability and will prove useful to resource management agencies thanks to Angela's hard work, perseverance, and accomplishments.

#### **ABSTRACT**

American marten (*Martes americana*) are typically associated with mature coniferous forests. Marten were extirpated from Michigan's Lower Peninsula due to human impacts, such as fire, logging and over-harvest. Little is known about the resource selection and distribution of marten in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula since their reintroduction in 1985-86. Resource selection functions are valuable tools to estimate the relative probability an animal will utilize an area and predict where they may occur. When creating a resource selection function, potential sources of variation in data collection methods and wildlife populations should be considered to ensure accurate results. Our objective was to determine whether home-range estimates derived across different seasons or collar types would impact marten home-range size and habitat selection. We also sought to create a resource selection function for marten across Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula to estimate their occurrence and identify regions with a high probability of use by marten to maintain or low probability of use to improve. Marten were live-trapped, fitted with VHF or GPS collars, and locations were obtained via radio-tracking VHF collars downloading data stored within GPS collars. We estimated 95% fixed kernel home-ranges for all marten with at least 30 locations from one collar type. Characteristics potentially indicative of marten habitat selection determined a priori were measured within each used home-range and surrounding available habitat. *Continued on next page.*

### ABSTRACT

Kruskal-Wallis and ANOVA tests were used to compare habitat characteristics, size, and overlap among individuals with 30 locations from both VHF and GPS collars. Forward and backward selection were used to establish the best-fit logistic regression model explaining marten resource selection. Five marten were used in collar and seasonal home-range comparisons, which found no significant differences based on collar type or season data was collected. Home-ranges were then combined across collar types and seasons. Eighteen marten were then used to generate the resource selection function. The resource selection function found percent of canopy cover, coniferous forest, and mixed forest were the best predictors of marten habitat selection. We extrapolated our model to Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula and ~38% was estimated to have a high probability of being used by marten.

❖ **Sarah E. Thompson, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

- **Thesis Title:** Enhancing Sensitivity of Dopamine Detection in Fast-Scan Cyclic Voltammetry through Electrodeposition of Electronegative Species
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Eric Ramsson (Chair) – Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Dr. Sok Keen Khoo – Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Dr. Andrew Korich – Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Scott Thorgaard – Department of Chemistry

Sarah's thesis investigates a modified version of the carbon fiber microelectrode for enhanced sensitivity for dopamine. Her research is an in vitro proof-of-concept for the use of tryptophan modified electrodes in Fast Scan Cyclic Voltammetry dopamine detection. Sarah has presented her research twice in GVSU's 3-Minute Thesis competition and has placed both times. She has also presented her research at Student Scholars Day, the Michigan Chapter Society for Neuroscience Conference, the Society for Neuroscience National Meeting, and the GVSU Graduate Showcase. Sarah currently works as a graduate assistant at the university, mentoring students, helping with coursework, and assisting in labs. *Sarah's abstract appears on the next page.*

## ABSTRACT

**PURPOSE:** Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease are two neurological disorders affecting millions of people worldwide. There is no cure for either, and the pathology is not fully understood for Parkinson's disease. Both diseases result in the degeneration of dopaminergic neurons. Dopamine has been used a therapeutic treatment for both, although this mechanism is not fully understood either. Fast Scan Cyclic Voltammetry (FSCV) is used to monitor real time extracellular neurotransmitter concentrations, including dopamine. FSCV can detect subsecond concentration changes in dopamine, making it an appropriate tool for research in pathology and treatment. The current limit of detection for FSCV detection of dopamine is not suitable for research of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, diseases which result in decreased levels of dopamine. Therefore, I investigated a modified version of the carbon fiber microelectrode for enhanced sensitivity for dopamine. Tryptophan is responsible for fast kinetics of electron transfer in enzymatic redox reactions. Therefore it was hypothesized that tryptophan would increase the electron transfer kinetics of the redox reaction for dopamine, resulting in a larger current detected and increased sensitivity for dopamine detection. **SUBJECTS:** Carbon fiber microelectrodes modified with tryptophan, n= 3-5 electrodes. **METHODS AND MATERIALS:** Modification parameters were tested to improve the efficiency of tryptophan deposition. Final parameters used for modification were 1 mM tryptophan deposited in a potential window: -1.7 – 1.8 V, scan rate = .02V/s. Dopamine tests were performed in a potential window: -.4 – 1.0 V, scan rate = 400 V/s. **ANALYSES:** Statistical analysis was performed in R used student's t-tests,  $\alpha = .05$ . **RESULTS:** Tryptophan deposition is diffusion controlled and forms a monolayer coating. Optimal tryptophan deposition should be performed at slow scan rates (.02 V/s). Tryptophan derivatives suggest the covalent binding of tryptophan to the electrode occurs at the secondary amine group in the indole side chain. Dopamine detected with tryptophan modified electrodes had a current density 3.5 times greater than the unmodified electrode. Extensive cycling showed the electrodes to be durable. Lastly, tryptophan modified electrodes were on average 15 times more selective for dopamine over the interfering molecule ascorbic acid. **CONCLUSIONS:** This research is an in vitro proof of concept for the use of tryptophan modified electrodes in FSCV dopamine detection. The electrodes fit key criteria needed for dopamine detection; increased sensitivity, durability, and selectivity for dopamine. Future work in an animal model is needed for a complete proof of concept.



❖ **Molly A. Stabler, Master of Arts in English**

- **Thesis Title:** A Maze to Grace: Ted Hughes's Casting of The Myth of the Minotaur in *Birthday Letters*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. James Persoon (Chair) – Department of English, Dr. Jo Miller – Department of English, and Dr. Linda Chown – Department of English

Molly's thesis is a highly original reinterpretation of Hughes's last and most famous book of poetry, reflecting upon the marriage of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath. Molly was in a seminar on Hughes and was intrigued enough to hunt down a biography of Plath, and from a minor claim in that biography, conceived a counter argument about *Birthday Letters* that she then followed through a year's worth of further reading and research to make her claim. This is a claim that reverses the more common understanding of Hughes's work. Faculty express that Molly's thesis is powerfully argued and sensitively written, and that it is one of the best written theses they have yet read from the English graduate program.

**ABSTRACT**

This work analyzes Ted Hughes's poetry collection *Birthday Letters*, specifically his allusions to The Myth of the Minotaur in the poems "18 Rugby Street," "Your Paris," "Fishing Bridge," and "The Minotaur." This analysis of *Birthday Letters*, recognized as Hughes's perspective on his relationship with Sylvia Plath -- from their fateful introduction to her traumatic suicide -- asserts that Hughes utilizes The Myth of the Minotaur to reflect on the role he played in his wife's mental illness and suicide by casting himself, Plath, her clinical depression, and her death in the roles of Ariadne, Theseus, the Labyrinth, and the Minotaur, respectively. Furthermore, Hughes's allusions to The Myth of the Minotaur are investigated here as a means by which Hughes uses his art to find personal grace -- despite public calumny -- in his role as lover, professional partner, and husband of feminist icon Sylvia Plath, and in doing so, offers readers an empathetic lens through which to view him. In order to lay a groundwork for said analysis, the exploration begins with a thorough summary of The Myth of the Minotaur, addressing various classic retellings, while highlighting the core plot common across sundry versions of the myth. *Continued on next page.*

### **ABSTRACT**

Next, close readings of the four aforementioned poems are presented, supplemented with biographical information of the couples' relationship, juxtaposing the details and chronology of Hughes's lines with his relationship to Plath. Each poem's individual analysis hones in on the allusions -- implicit and explicit -- to The Myth of the Minotaur, clarifying the double exposure of the mythical characters to Hughes and Plath, as well as to Plath's mental illness and self-inflicted death. The piece concludes by asserting Hughes's role as that of mythical Ariadne, for he loves --and attempts to help -- a "Theseus," who must navigate the labyrinth of mental illness and face the monster of suicide. Most importantly, this work presents a unique reading of Hughes's final poetry collection -- one that fosters a sympathetic understanding of Hughes's role in his wife's mental illness and suicide and that serves as a witness to the man's own self-reflection and ultimate discovery of personal grace.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT  
Winter 2018**

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **James D. Crocker, Master of Health Administration**

- **Project Title:** Human Factors Engineering and Healthcare Reliability: Theory and Practice
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Dan Balfour – School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration

James' research project is a sophisticated application of theory to real world problems in healthcare administration. Specifically, the author explores how Humans Factors Engineering can be applied to health care, and the potential benefits, drawbacks, and obstacles of implementation. The findings are quite promising and suggestive of some original contributions to both theory and practice.

❖ **Liza J. Felix, Master of Social Work**

- **Project Title:** Teen Impact
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Jamie Langlois – School of Social Work

Liza has worked diligently to develop her final project entitled "Teen Impact." Teen Impact is a 10-week support group for teens who have at least one parent that is undocumented. The group intends to teach practical life skills and provide a safe space for teens to share their stories and create community with those going through similar circumstances. Liza's project responds to a need in the Latinx community, provides a culturally and linguistically appropriate curriculum, and is sustainable through the implementation of a peer program. Faculty express that Liza is a bright, enthusiastic, outstanding student with innovative ideas and insights who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her studies and community engagement.

## *College of Education*

### ❖ **Sara J. Karsten, Master of Instruction and Curriculum**

- **Project Title:** Overcoming Student Anxiety through Relationships
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba – College of Education

Sara has written an excellent project that deals with the reduction of anxiety and stress in students attending secondary schools, and particularly high schools in the United States. The merit of her work resides in the fact that in spite of compelling research findings that anxiety and stress impact students' lives and learning, little professional development for in service teachers is available. This project informs teachers of the prevalence of student stress and anxiety, the negative ramifications of stress and anxiety, and provides secondary school teachers with a professional development workshop in effective classroom strategies to decrease stress and anxiety.

### ❖ **Steven R. Plominski, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

- **Project Title:** Teaching Phatic Communion in Adult English Language Programs
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba – College of Education

Steven has written an excellent project that relates to the teaching of phatic communication to adult English learners. Phatic communication, often referred to as small talk, is an area that has been given much importance and deserving consideration in the teaching of adult English learners. Steven's work is filling up this deficit. The purpose of his project is to construct professional development preparation materials regarding phatic communion for adult English instructors, based on Hymes' theory of communicative competence as a framework and empirical literature that were critically reviewed. Due to the fact that Steven has addressed an area where practitioners have little to no preparation and his quality of work, he is quite deserving of this award.

## *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

### ❖ **Kristoffer M. Hain, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

- **Project Title:** Context-Aware IIoT Data Logger
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Jonathan Engelsma – School of Computing and Information Systems

For his master's project, Kris researched and developed a context-aware Industrial Internet of Things data logger. The device he developed gathers environmental data during the manufacturing process and transmits it to a cloud-based data service. The project is now being field-tested within the environment of a large West Michigan manufacturer. In addition to his research, Kris excelled in his coursework, exhibiting a consistent passion for learning and a strong work ethic that enables him to see his creative ideas carried through to fruition. Upon graduation, Kris plans to continue his career as an IS Lead at Arconic, a manufacturer in the aerospace industry.

## *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

### ❖ **Brooke A. Armistead, Master of Science in Cell & Molecular Biology**

- **Project Title:** Clinical variables and newborn bloodspot gene expression analyses for cerebral palsy
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Sok Kean Khoo – Department of Cell and Molecular Biology

Brooke's project identifies a gene that is significantly up-regulated in cerebral palsy patients when compared to healthy control samples. Combined with clinical data, this gene can be used to predict cerebral palsy at the neonatal stage with increased sensitivity and specificity. She has received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Academic & Scholarly Excellence as well as the Outstanding Cell & Molecular Biology Student for 2018. Brooke has recently been accepted into the Bio-Molecular Science's Ph.D. program at Michigan State University where she hopes to pursue research on women's reproductive health.

❖ **Dustin C. Moore, Master of Science in Communications**

- **Project Title:** MRV AT GV: Developing a Framework for Organizational Adoption of Mixed Reality Video Production
- **Project Advisors:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko and Dr. Len O’Kelly – School of Communications

Dustin has been described by faculty as a highly capable young professional with drive, determination, curiosity, and ambition, all of which make him highly successful in the communication industry and a major contributor to the field of professional communication. Dustin’s final project on the adoption of mixed reality production explores the ways in which mixed reality video production can bridge the accessibility gap in many classrooms by allowing videographers to record their subjects using virtual reality from a third person perspective. His project has been described as exemplary of what world-class communication professionals do best: provide strategic communication advice and direction to aid in decision-making and improving the lives of others.

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Kathryn L. Ellens, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

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

Over the course of her academic pursuits in the DNP program, Katie demonstrated outstanding intellectual curiosity and the ability to lead change through her clinical and immersion experiences. Her DNP Project and immersion on the SH Observation Unit in the Butterworth Tower. Katie had a personal interest of focusing on the problem of opioid misuse, a crisis in the US, Michigan, and health care providers and systems everywhere. Over-reliance on opioids for pain has been ineffective and is leading to devastating consequences. Katie developed and enacted a plan to improve clinician education, clinical practice and outcomes; and is currently disseminating findings. She has a literature review manuscript in development and plans another from her findings.

❖ **Casie N. Sultana, Master of Science in Nursing**

- **Project Title:** Improving Medication Education on a Senior Care Unit
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Rebecca Davis – Kirkhof College of Nursing

Casie has worked extremely hard on producing a high quality, innovative, and impactful scholarly project which involves helping to solve a frequent and problematic issue with nursing care of seniors who are hospitalized. Casie has created an inter-professional team in order to address the clinical problem. The project is well organized, appropriate in scope, and sustainable. She excels in her ability to write a scholarly paper. The project is expected to continue on after she leaves and has the potential to improve the care of a population of patients who are vulnerable to health complications. Casie is an articulate, professional, enthusiastic student who has a passion to improve the lives of those with whom she works.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION  
Winter 2018**

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ **Nick A. Dipisa, Master of Science in Engineering**
  - **Publication Title:** Classical Shielding Theory vs. Near-Field Measurements
  - **Co-Authored:** Dr. Bogdan Adamczyk – School of Engineering

Nick has excelled academically in the Electrical Engineering program at GVSU. While completing his graduate studies, he has also progressively increased his position at Gentex Corporation in Zeeland, MI. Currently, Nick serves as an Electromagnetic Lab Group Leader.

During his time in the graduate program, Nick co-authored an article which appeared in the February issue of the electromagnetic compatibility trade magazine *Interference Technology*. He is described by faculty in the School of Computing and Information Systems as dedicated, hard-working, and most deserving of this recognition. *Nick's abstract appears on the follow page.*



### **ABSTRACT**

This article addresses the fundamental concepts underlying the classical shielding theory based on Schelkunoff's equations [1]. In order to assess the applicability of these equations, an understanding of their origin, assumptions made in their derivations, and their limitations, are needed. This tutorial article addresses each of these points. The goal is not to show the derivations but to explain the process leading to the final Schelkunoff's equations underlying the accepted shielding theory. The validity of these equations is assessed by performing the magnetic and electric field measurements in the near field of the source. It is shown that the H-field measurements in the near field correlate with the results of the Schelkunoff's equations. The E-field measurements in the near field, however, do not. Instead, the measurement results of the electric field in the near field of the source adhere to the wave theory developed for the far field. A plausible explanation of this fact is that the shielding theory was developed under the assumption of a point source, which is not the case for practical sources and near field measurements.

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

**Winter 2018**

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Tori R. Wasylk, Master of Health Administration**

While Tori has been completing her MHA degree program in Grand Rapids, and employed full time, she has maintained her deep ties to her southeast Michigan roots. She exercised her new health administration skills and competencies in Port Huron in support of the Port Huron Hospital Festival of Trees. She also continued to volunteer for the Red Cross (in both Grand Rapids and Port Huron). Given her course load and her success in the MHA degree program all while working full time, the faculty of the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration believe Tori is most deserving of this recognition for her work in the community.

❖ **Ash M. Herald, Master of Social Work**

Ash's commitment to human rights, social justice, and activism has had a great impact on both the Grand Rapids community and the Social Work profession. Ash has always strived to communicate their community endeavors with the School of Social Work community and has created opportunities for other students to be involved in these initiatives. Guided by their passions, Ash has compiled a guide that includes resources on socio-political issues and a how-to on political processes for those who wish to be involved in advocacy and has made both available to the community. Ash was recently awarded the School of Social Work Human Rights and Diversity Faculty Recognition Award for their exemplary work in this area.

*College of Education*

❖ **Amina A. Mohamed, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

Amina works as an English Learner (EL) teacher for Kentwood Public Schools. As part of that professional community, Amina has created the

Institute for Leadership, Empowerment, Activism, and Dialogue (iLEAD), which is an after-school program for English learners with a focus on centering the narratives of refugees and immigrants. To run this program, she has been awarded a federal grant through the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. She is also an active member on the Board of the Refugee Education Center and has been the main organizer of is a local conference hosted by the Refugee Education Center (REC) for K-12 educators in West Michigan.

❖ **Shannon C. Mazy, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Shannon served as the School Counseling Graduate Student Organization president during the 2017-18 academic year and, under her leadership, the executive board became a high functioning team that provided networking and professional development opportunities to school counseling students and members of the community. Shannon led the organization in networking events and helped the organization establish a presence in community events such as the Fall 2017 National Alliance for Mental Illness walk and the GVSU Relay for Life. Faculty express that Shannon exhibits energy, a commitment to excellence, and a deep passion for the profession of school counseling.

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

❖ **Alissa M. Smith, Master of Engineering-Biomedical Engineering**

Spectrum Health Innovation decided to support Alissa's graduate studies with an Industry Sponsored Graduate Fellowship (IGF) award. Since then, Alissa is engaged with them as an IGF and an intern while excelling in her academics endeavors. Alissa made significant contribution to the organization along with the development of a new commercial product. Alissa has been a wonderful teammate and asset for SHI. She has worked on assessing and developing a wide array of new health care-related product ideas. For her graduate thesis project, Alissa has been working on developing a new device for shoulder surgeries, and SHI is already exploring commercial outlets for this product. Her contribution to the profession and community is evident by both the faculty and her supervisors at SHI.

❖ **Kyle A. Dinger, Master of Engineering-Mechanical Engineering**

Kyle joined the MSE program in Fall 2016. Under an agreement with West Michigan Aviation Academy (WMAA), the School of Engineering pledged to provide technical support in educating their students. Kyle was sent to WMAA as the first graduate assistant to help the program. Kyle was not only helping the students, but he became instrumental to the teachers in delivering the curriculum and laboratory activities. Kyle's contribution was highly regarded by WMAA leadership. As Kyle is graduating, the next graduate assistant will have some big shoes to fill. His contribution to the profession and community has created tangible effect in multiple young lives.

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Austin P. Cammire, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Austin has been involved in multiple service activities in the community during his time in the DPT program. He was a physical therapy volunteer for Camp Sunshine where he worked with children who have cognitive disabilities. He has volunteered at Achieve Physical Therapy, I'move, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Center and the Christian Rest Home in the Physical Therapy Department. His service has also taken him outside of the U.S. He was a volunteer at Centro De Terapia Fisica y Ocupacional in the undergraduate school, a volunteer on the Physical Therapy Service trip to Guatemala where he provided physical therapy services to an underserved population, and was a Dominican Republic Study Abroad Participant.

❖ **Hannah C. Napolillo, Master of Public Health**

Soon after enrolling in the Public Health graduate program, Hannah became a volunteer with the Grand Rapids Red Project. Since that time she has volunteered on a weekly basis to provide harm reduction services. Multiple employees at the Grand Rapids Red Project have expressed how valuable Hannah has been to their organization. She assists with syringe exchange services on a mobile unit through sun, rain, and freezing temperatures, she has volunteered at fundraisers and community events, and she has been a constant advocate for health and is truly an agent for change. Hannah completed her final project with the intent to influence and expand programming at Red Project. She has already committed to a second round

of data collection after graduation and plans to continue assisting with implementation of recommendations. Faculty express that her commitment to improving the health of the community and addressing social justice issues goes above and beyond the general requirements of graduate school.

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

#### ❖ **Kristy C. Lewis, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Kristy's passion for helping children is evident through her community involvement and professional career. Kristy's passion for helping children started as a teen by officiating soccer games in 2008, and then volunteering as a coach later in her life. Kristy then joined a mentorship program where she was partnered with youth in foster care and acted as a role model, teaching life skills, offering advice, and providing fun activities. Kristy's passion for helping others continued into her professional career. She recently secured a Laboratory Manager position in the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development at Michigan State University in Grand Rapids. Her focus will be on the impact of environmental factors, such as pollution, on brain development in autism spectrum disorders.

#### ❖ **Abigayle K. Sladick, Master of Science in Communications**

Abigayle currently serves as the Vice President of Communication at Mel Trotter Ministries, a major non-profit organization serving Grand Rapids and West Michigan. Abigayle chose her final project topic based on this organization, with the purpose of researching best practices in the communication field to develop a comprehensive communication package that enables Mel Trotter Ministries staff to present a strong, cohesive brand to its various publics. Abigayle's final project was met with great success for Mel Trotter. Some of the resources she created have been used at over twenty public speaking engagements and more than fifteen Mel Trotter staff members have completed the media training program.

❖ **Mireille Ukeye, Master of Science in School Psychology**

Mireille has consistently impressed faculty with her competence in the field of education and is described as insightful and articulate. She is a fierce advocate for students who are immigrants, refugees, and English language learners. Mireille is an immigrant and English language learner herself, and she has persevered through undergraduate studies and graduate school despite the barriers she encountered. Additionally, Mireille has consistently given back to her community. She spent two years as a Refugee Foster Care Supervisor with Bethany Christian Services and oversaw the welfare of children and youth in the Refugee Foster Care Program. Mireille is currently completing a School Psychology internship in San Francisco, California where she continues to advocate for the rights of all students.

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Mark A. Contreras, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Mark has shown outstanding scholarship and leadership with his DNP final project. The project, titled “Structure, Process, and Outcomes: The Foundation for Continuous Quality Improvement in Primary Care,” has demonstrated how addressing the fundamental need for supportive structure and process improvements can facilitate the successful adoption of continuous quality improvement at GVSU’s Family Health Center. This is an important contribution, not only to the healthcare of the vulnerable populations in the Grand Rapids area, but also to the profession by demonstrating excellence and quality in nurse-practitioner delivered primary care. Mark has also been an outstanding advocate for refugees in the community by promoting the importance of men’s health in this vulnerable population, with educational classes and sharing his work at a community symposium on refugee health.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU  
Winter 2018**

*Seidman College of Business*

❖ **Richa Bhurtel, Master of Business Administration**

As many of the MBA students are non-traditional and work full-time, it is not often that we have students with the capacity to get involved at the college and university level. Richa not only had the capacity, but took it upon herself to be involved in multiple areas as well. As a Seidman MBA student, Richa volunteered with the Seidman Alumni Board and was a member of our Graduate Student Advisory Board. As a member of the university, Richa served as member of the Graduate Student Association and, to further her development, she also participated with the Cook Leadership Academy. In 2017 she also won an "I am Grand Valley" Leadership Award for her service. It is her level of involvement, and the passion she brings to her work that leads the faculty to nominate her for this award.

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Heather E. Kehoe, Master of Health Administration**

Heather has been an active and engaged member of the MHA program over the past few years. She has served on the board of the Health Professions Graduate Student Alliance and has taken opportunities to expand her experiences through supporting other activities, such as the Art and Science of Aging Conference. She is thoughtful in her feedback and models excellence through her willingness to challenge herself and to take responsibility for successful implementation of teaching tools appropriate for undergraduate education in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration. She will further present her work at the ARNOVA 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in November 2018.

❖ **Samantha J. Rose, Master of Social Work**

Samantha previously served in the U.S. Army and for the last two years, she has served as president and vice-president of Grand Valley State University's chapter of Student Veterans of America. During her time with SVA, she advocated for a new location for the Student Veterans' Lounge to better meet the needs of GVSU's military connected students. She connected GVSU Student Veterans to the Disability Support Resources Office and she coordinated a Walk for Veteran Mental Health and Suicide Awareness event, among many other efforts. Her contributions to GVSU's military-connected students are too numerous to address, but it is stated that her leadership has elevated the visibility and importance of over four hundred military students attending GVSU.

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Kathryn E. Collins, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

During Kathryn's time at GVSU in the DPT program, she has been involved in multiple service activities. She has served as Vice President for the DPT Class of 2018. In this role, she has been very involved in her classes' activities and during this time, she also completed a graduate assistantship with the PT faculty. Kathryn has regularly participated in GVSU Family Health Center's Pro Bono Physical Therapy Clinic, providing services to patients while working through language barriers. Kathryn is an outstanding student and in this role has provided outstanding service to GVSU.

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

❖ **Roslyn E. Vashon, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Throughout her years at the university, Roslyn has been very involved on campus and with giving back to the greater Grand Rapids community. Roslyn served as the president of the Professional Association of Graduate Scientists during the 2017-18 academic year, where she organized networking events, obtained student conference funding, and held regular meetings. This group has grown significantly over the last year thanks to Roslyn's leadership. Roslyn also completed a 440 hour research internship at Michigan State University where she studied the etiology and treatments for



Parkinson's disease and excelled in her role. Recently, Roslyn has been assisting with the Kent Intermediate School District Early College program at GVSU where she has helped to rewrite the course curriculum and worked closely with students on projects.

❖ **Sarah J. Kooienga, Master of Arts in English**

Sarah has held a position as a graduate assistant in the English program for the last three years. Since her first year as editorial assistant for *Spring: The Journal of the E.E. Cummings Society*, Sarah has proven her close, careful attention to detail, her thoughtful work with other graduate students, and her willingness to go beyond expectations to be invaluable. Sarah has helped faculty advertise and market courses with attractive offerings, she has solicited, organized, and submitted book orders for the Library in conjunction with graduate course offerings, she has served as an officer with the English GSA, and she has organized two student/faculty gatherings to promote the English program. Sarah has shown leadership in every respect, and has been able to transition effortlessly between several different kinds of tasks and still complete them all with the same meticulous attention to detail and timeliness.

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Christina A. Winkelman, Master of Science in Nursing**

Over the course of her academic pursuits in the DNP program, Christina demonstrated outstanding intellectual curiosity and the ability to lead change through exemplars as well as demonstrated high academic achievements, emotional intelligence, and effective communication skills. Consequently, Christina was elected President of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) in the Kirkhof College of Nursing. Under Christina's leadership, the GSO has engaged both doctoral and master's students to participate, assured interaction with GVSU Graduate Council, and coordinated several activities. One such activity includes creating a panel of DNP Alumni to speak to current students regarding applying for jobs, preparing for certification exams, completion of projects, time management, and scholarship acquisition. Christina's exceptional leadership and service to GVSU demonstrate her capacity to be a contributing member of society, her profession, and a deserving recipient of this award.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU  
Winter 2018**

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Yesica Ramirez-Perez, Master of Social Work**

Throughout her time at GVSU, Yesica has taken every opportunity to engage fellow students in discussions surrounding culture. She has brought awareness to the heterogeneity of the Latinx cultural group, and has assisted faculty at the School of Social Work in incorporating the Latinx experience into their course preparation. Faculty state that she is always generous with her time and eager to share her personal experiences, using them as a way to raise awareness and promote the value of recognizing diversity of experiences within our campus community. She has also helped facilitate discussions regarding potential barriers to working with Latinx populations that have been well received by fellow students and that have brought awareness to the biases that may interfere with their practice.

*College of Health Professions*

❖ **Erica N. Little, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Erica has been instrumental in several facets of inclusion and diversity efforts in the program. She has always accepted, with great enthusiasm, invitations to be of assistance in these departmental endeavors. Erica was a co-host at an outreach event at the Center for Health Sciences during her first year of the program. This event was developed, along with the assistance of the Division of Inclusion and Equity specifically as an outreach for students from underrepresented groups (URG's) on campus in an effort to try to attract students to the Physical Therapy Program. Erica also has made herself available to serve as a mentor to students from the URG's who have expressed an interest in becoming physical therapists. Erica's willingness to give her time, share her experiences, offer advice, and serve as a role model for students considering this career pathway has been vital to efforts to grow representation of students from URG's in the DPT Program.

## *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

### ❖ **John K. DeKock, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

John has shown outstanding scholarship and leadership with his DNP final project, titled “Quality Indicator Protocol for a Federally Qualified Health Center.” This project demonstrates the implementation of the quality indicator protocol, incorporating staff education and increased utilization of electronic health record functionality for improved quality documentation and reporting at a West Michigan Federally Qualified Health Center, serving vulnerable populations. John has also been an outstanding advocate for refugees in the community. He has been a project leader for his DNP class, collaborating with the local health department to present a symposium on refugee health in April 2018. This has help address inclusion of refugees in the West Michigan healthcare community and promoted an important collaborative relationship for the university with a local community practice partner.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY  
Winter 2018**

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

*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

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

Emily's thesis examined the effectiveness of two-stage ditches to control phosphorous runoff in the Macatawa watershed, one of the most polluted systems in the State of Michigan. Emily's findings have significant management implications. By understanding the mechanism by which phosphorous can be removed, agricultural producers now have a new technique to reduce pollutants off their land, saving them time and money. Faculty express that Emily's project truly demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovative thinking, and while focused primarily on environmental sustainability, it had economic implications as well. She completed her research with the Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon, MI.

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Katelyn M. Gettel, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Katelyn's final project, titled "Development of an Evidence Based Toolkit to Improve Oncology Referrals to Palliative Care: A Quality Improvement Project," involves performing a cost savings analysis of current high priority oncology quality measure performance at a large Midwestern cancer center utilizing MACRA (Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization) to substantiate value of palliative care services. The project also addresses referral recommendations for oncology providers, utilizing a logistic regression analysis to determine which oncology diagnoses are associated

with poor quality measures performance. Katelyn has demonstrated advanced nursing competencies in promoting the importance of palliative care with her project work. This project assists a valued community academic-practice partner to promote and sustain an essential social service, palliative care, providing the business case to sustain this care economically for the organization.

## 3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION 2018 First Place Winner

*The Graduate School hosted GVSU's second annual 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on February 15, 2018. The winner of this competition continued on to compete in the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools regional 3MT competition in Grand Rapids, MI. 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 2018 3MT judging panel included:

- Dr. Corey Anton, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Dr. Andrew Booth, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Jennifer Moore, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Dr. Steven Smith, College of Community and Public Service
- Dr. Gregory Warsen, College of Education
- Dr. Janet Winter, Kirkhof College of Nursing

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

#### ❖ **Kathryn L. Ellens, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

- **Title:** Effect on Opioid Use following the Implementation of Evidence-Based Pain Management
- **Advisor:** Dr. Sandra Spoelstra – Kirkhof College of Nursing

Dr. Sandra Spoelstra, Kathryn's advisor, provided the following comments: "This OPIOID project addresses a WICKED clinical problem that leads to poor pain management, longer hospital length of stay, addition, and in some cases death for patients with common diagnosis such as back pain, hip fractures, and kidney stones as well as many other conditions. Kathryn is focused on the implementation of evidence based care related to reduce or prevent OPIOID to fulfill the requirements of her program of student. Thus far, her preliminary data has demonstrated a 16% reduction in opioid usage in the setting where she is working.

In addition, over the course of this project she will prepare a manuscript, present an abstract, complete her project and papers, and inform the health

care community on a critical problem in one of our local health care settings and in our nation. This important work will have significant impact upon how providers go about prescribing pain medications and how patients use these medications.

Overall, Kathryn has been an exemplary doctoral student who has performed highly in her clinical and theoretical courses and is a delight to advise. She has progressed on time, and has already presented some of her work. Kathryn is focused, ready to graduate and begin her professional career as a Doctor of Nursing Practice.”

### **RESEARCH SYNOPSIS**

Pain is the most common reason people seek healthcare. Initiatives to prevent the under treatment of pain have resulted in overreliance on opioids to treat pain. Despite significant increases in opioid use over the past two decades, pain is more prevalent than ever. Additionally, devastating consequences from abundant use opioids have resulted, such as addiction, physical dependence, and increasing opioid-related deaths. Researchers have demonstrated multimodal analgesic therapy is an effective alternative to the overreliance on opioids for pain. Multimodal analgesia is the synergistic use of two or more analgesics with different mechanisms of action. This method allows for the pain signal to be disrupted at multiple levels of the “pain pathway”. Multimodal analgesia produces significantly more effective and efficient pain management than opioid-only drug therapy. Evidence also suggests multimodal pain management allows for lower doses of drugs (such as opioids) to produce effective pain relief. The purpose of this project is to implement multimodal pain management practices as the standard of care when opioids are used to treat pain at a Midwestern hospital emergency department Observation unit. Implementation occurred primarily through staff education regarding the benefits of multimodal analgesia. Pain management practices are being monitored to determine its effect on opioid use on the unit. Prior to implementation, nearly one in three patients treated for pain received opioid-only drug therapy for pain. Additionally, opioids accounted for 75% of all analgesics used on the unit.  
*Continued on next page.*

### **RESEARCH SYNOPSIS**

Preliminary results indicate opioid-only drug therapy has decreased 50% while multimodal pain management has increased 25%.

Furthermore, overall opioid usage on the unit has decreased 16%. At this time, it appears that implementation of multimodal pain management practices results in a reduction of opioid use. Further results will be investigated to determine whether multimodal pain management also produces more effective pain relief.



**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD  
Winter 2018**

❖ **Dr. Denise de la Rose, Associate Professor of Accounting**

Nominated by: Sreelakshmi Nair, Accounting

Sreelakshmi writes: "As an MSA student with a non-business degree background, I was initially not confident and did not possess a substantial knowledge of the professional expectations. Dr. de la Rosa's guidance has played a detrimental aspect to my career development over the past year. I will be participating in next year's recruiting cycle. If I am fortunate enough to get an offer, I owe it Dr. De la Rosa's guidance and encouragement. She was my advisor and instructor and truly the best professor I have ever had.

She genuinely cares about her students and goes out of her way to help students comprehend challenging concepts. She encouraged me to join Beta Alpha Psi and provided insights regarding a career in Public Accounting and professional expectations over the past year. She constantly continues to demonstrate a sincere and active interest in the well-being of all her students. She also structures her course in a manner that is relevant to the CPA exam and challenges her students. I strongly believe she deserves this award for her commitment to teaching, her truly genuine interest in seeing her students succeed and commitment to diversity."

❖ **Dr. Jamie Langlois, Associate Professor of Social Work**

Nominated by: Cassandra Kiger, Social Work

Cassandra writes: "Dr. Langlois of the School of Social Work has gone above and beyond in her role as a professor to not only support her students in their work in class, but to walk along students in engaging in the community and move from education to profession. Personally, Dr. Langlois has directly given me support and guidance in my resume and CV development, preparing for job interviews, navigating "isms" in the workplace, identifying which community organizations and resources to invest in, finding support for projects and dreams, and has been my biggest and most energetic cheerleader in projects and competitions.

At times in the past year I have been tempted to give simple, easy work that I know will take minimal effort and achieve a decent grade, and Dr. Langlois has pushed me to use every academic opportunity to bring change to the community and my career instead. I am both a better student and professional for having spent the past year under Dr. Langlois."

❖ **Sandra Spoelstra, Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship**

Nominated by: Kathryn Ellens, Nursing

Kathryn writes: "Dr. Spoelstra is an exceptional mentor and I cannot imagine anyone exemplifies this award more. She is committed to the success of her students, both professionally and personally. I have had the tremendous opportunity to have her as my advisor within the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Without her, the caliber of my education would not be what it is.

Dr. Spoelstra respects her students by providing timely (replies within minutes to emails), detailed, and thorough feedback. She believes in her students and inspires them to excel. Thanks to her encouragement and support, I entered and won the 3 Minute Thesis competition and am seeking multiple publications for my work. Other students under her tutelage have expressed similar gratefulness for her mentorship.

Dr. Spoelstra has attended and encouraged me through all my endeavors – GVSU and regional 3MT competitions, conferences I spoke at (because she recommended me), and my many poster presentations. She has also helped me get the Presidential Research Grant, IRB approval, and championed my project among GVSU faculty and community professionals. Furthermore, based on my cohort's experiences, she is spearheading changes within the DNP program that I truly believe will make it one of the best in the nation. She also assisted me in obtaining employment even before I graduated. With any other mentor, I am certain I would not have had the same experiences or successes. I am grateful for Dr. Spoelstra's mentorship!"

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD  
Winter 2018**

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

❖ **Dr. Sean Lancaster, Professor of Educational Technology**

Nominated by: Maeling Groya-Higher Education, Andrew Travis-Higher Education, and Anna O'Leary-Higher Education

Maeling writes "Dr. Lancaster's teaching style broke all of my expectations of learning within an online class. He was creative and innovative in every aspect of the course. Something that has stuck with me the most about Dr. Lancaster was his passion for teaching, and teaching thoroughly. Within the first online discussion, our class knew that Dr. Lancaster was someone that went above and beyond to incorporate our classroom learning to the world beyond our screens."

Andrew adds "Dr. Lancaster used very creative methods and taught us ways to engage with students that I would have never dreamed of. Not only is Dr. Lancaster an excellent instructor, but he's probably the most involved and dedicated person I know on this campus. He serves on several committees, is the department chair, and with all of that he was available to help my education at all times of the day."

Anna states "Dr. Lancaster became the faculty advisor of my master's project. I am grateful that Dr. Lancaster took me under his wing and supported my project to its completion. The thing that I love the most about having Dr. Lancaster as an educator is how relative he can make everything, even if it's not within his area of expertise. I find myself being able to have engaging conversations with him about topics within our respective fields and learning about the connections they have to my work.

Dr. Lancaster is an educator who is truly invested in the success of students, academically, professionally, and personally."

**GRADUATE STUDENT  
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS**

**Spring/Summer 2017**

Akey, Nathaniel. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *The Relationship Between Nutrients, Algae and Schistosomiasis (Swimmer's Itch)*

Armistead, Brooke. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Molecular Biomarkers for Early Detection of Cerebral Palsy*

Grawe, Angela. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Live Cell Imaging of Cytoskeletal Proteins During Cell Division*

Hendershot, Carly. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Testing Between the Statolith and Gravitational Pressure Models for Plant Gravisensing*

Jouney, Alex. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Factors Influencing Amphibian Distribution and Abundance in Freshwater Ephemeral Dune Wetlands*

Knapp, Katie. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Breath of an Ecosystem: Quantifying a Lake's Variable Carbon Cycle in Time and Space*

Kujawa, Angela. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Characteristics of American Marten Habitat Use: A Resource Selection Function for Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula*

Mittner, Kevin. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Impact of High Sucrose or High Fat Diet on Sensitivity to Social Defeat Stress*

Myers, Daniel. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Estimating Sediment Yield of an Eroding Stream Channel Using Multiple Techniques*

Oldenburg, Kim. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Impact of Sediment Dredging on Wetland Phosphorus Dynamics*

Pavisich, Hailee. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Genetic Diversity and Population Structure Analysis of Invasive Baby's Breath Populations in a Northwest Michigan Dune System*

Pyman, Andrew. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Development of Rapid Assessment Methods for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) using qPCR on Two Connected Drowned River Mouth Systems: Muskegon and Bear Lake*

Quinn, Joshua. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Effects of Chronic Atrazine Exposure on Reproductive Function in Male Rats*

Rabjohn, Tera Lee. College of Health Professions, Medical Dosimetry.

Title: *Bolus Material and the Effects of Air Gaps in the Treatment of Chest Wall Patients with Tissue Expanders*

Rice, Emma. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Adaptive Management of Invasive Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*) in Coastal Dune Habitats of Northwest Michigan*

Siemen, Jessica. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Modeling Effects of Climate Change on Woodland Jumping Mice using Landscape Genetics*

Wessels, Dana. College and Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Saving Streams in the Neotropical Cloud Forest: Evaluating the Impacts of Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Farming on Invertebrates and Glassfrogs*

## **Fall 2017**

Pageau, Spencer. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Effects of EPA on Mouse Endothelial Cell Health*

Pellegrom, Colin. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Dental Topography of Maxillary and Mandibular Microbat Molars and Diet Reconstruction*

## Winter 2018

Crum, Alexandra. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Phylogenetic Analysis of the Plant Genus Palisota (Commelinaceae) Using a Transcriptome as a Source of Low-Copy Nuclear Genes*

Dolan, Chase. College of Education, Higher Education.

Title: *Education and Understanding of White Privilege*

Ellens, Kathryn. Kirkhof College of Nursing, Nursing-DNP.

Title: *Implementation of an Evidence-Based Opioid Reduction Pain Management Protocol for an Observation Unit*

Ghosh, Ratan Chandra. Tanjil, Syeda Tahsina. Yemineni, Vijaya Durga Teja. Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, Engineering.

Title: *Intelligent Parking Slot: Detection in Time and Space*

Grayson, Amelia. Kirkhof College of Nursing, Nursing-DNP.

Title: *The Implementation of a Toileting Intervention to Decrease Falls in a Hospital Elderly Acute Care Unit*

Kloosterman, Kelsey. Kirkhof College of Nursing, Nursing-DNP.

Title: *Care of Adult Cancer Survivors*

Taylor, Amanda. Kirkhof College of Nursing, Nursing-DNP.

Title: *Transitions of Care in a Children's Hospital from Operating Room to Outpatient: A Quality Improvement Project*

Vanderwell, Kristin. Kirkhof College of Nursing, Nursing-DNP.

Title: *Improving Adolescent Risk Assessment in a Primary Care Setting*

Winkelman, Christina. Kirkhof College of Nursing, Nursing-DNP.

Title: *Prevention of Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) in Adult Oncology Patients*

**OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2018**

**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.*

- ❖ Kathryn Ellens, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Allison Bondie, Educational Leadership

**DEPARTMENTAL HONORS  
2017-18**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ Allyse Bachelder, Accounting
- ❖ David Schlaudt, General Business
- ❖ Aaron Strain, Taxation

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Dashay Berry-Purnell, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Kali Phillips, Health Administration
- ❖ Suzie Blake, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
- ❖ Spencer Ballard, Public Administration
- ❖ Lori Strehler, Social Work

*College of Education*

- ❖ Nikki Schellenberg, Educational Leadership
- ❖ Jason Snyder, Educational Specialist in Leadership
- ❖ Claire Tarquini, Educational Technology
- ❖ Mallory Miller, Higher Education
- ❖ Dan Kuiper, Instruction and Curriculum
- ❖ Elise Bouman, Literacy Studies

- ❖ Jessica Tibbitts, School Counseling
- ❖ Rebekah Hall, Special Education

### *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Juan Cárcamo, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Ankit Bhaukajee, Data Science and Analytics
- ❖ Allison Rogutich, Engineering
- ❖ Shreya Paithankar, Medical and Bioinformatics

### *College of Health Professions*

- ❖ Allison Krieger, Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Addie Ingles, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Mackenzie Blust, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Taylor Payne, Public Health
- ❖ Alison Fielder, Speech-Language Pathology

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Nguyet Nguyen, Applied Linguistics
- ❖ Susanna LaGory, Biology
- ❖ Eric Laney, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Brandon George, Biostatistics
- ❖ Rebecca Mitchell, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Alexander Jacobsson, Communications
- ❖ Sarah Kooienga, English
- ❖ Kelly Frey, School Psychology

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

- ❖ Mark Contreras, Nursing-Doctorate
- ❖ Casie Sultana, Nursing-Masters



***Omicron Delta Kappa (©©©) National Leadership Honor Society  
Winter 2018***

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 three hundred campuses nationwide, membership in ©©© 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 2017-18:*

<i>Eva Andrews</i>	<i>Allison Merlos</i>
<i>Vanessa Blackburn</i>	<i>Laura Morin</i>
<i>Derick Chia</i>	<i>Nicole McDermott</i>
<i>Maria Cimitile</i>	<i>Sarah Nadeau</i>
<i>Olivia DeWeerd</i>	<i>Chanel Newton</i>
<i>Crystal Duncan</i>	<i>Brendan O'Donnel</i>
<i>Kristen Farmer</i>	<i>Hilary Ortiz</i>
<i>Sonny Haskins</i>	<i>Irma Ramirez</i>
<i>Collin Jonkman</i>	<i>Tiffany Ray</i>
<i>Melodie Kepto</i>	<i>Mary Roberts</i>
<i>Benjamin Kim</i>	<i>Ashton Roth</i>
<i>Ka Laam Canaan Lee</i>	<i>Elizabeth Sweet</i>
<i>Te'Asia Martin</i>	<i>Jennifer Torreano</i>
<i>Samantha Martin</i>	<i>Michelle Utykanski</i>
<i>Andrew McDonough</i>	

## GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

**President:** Tyler Kanczuzewski, Business Administration

**President Elect:** Sarah Tibbe, Higher Education

**Vice President:** Dan Myers, Biology

**Vice President Elect:** Bradley Wallsteadt, Social Work

**Finance Officer:** Tyler Currie, Business Administration

**Finance Officer Elect:** Andrea Osei-Bonsu, Accounting

**Administrative Officer:** Emily Agnello, College Student Affairs Leadership

**Administrative Officer Elect:** Rachel Dzapu

**Communications Officer:** Kelsey Stevenson, Communications

**Communications Officer Elect:** Callie Melton, Public Administration

**Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:**

Collin Jonkman, Communications

Nick Ross, School Counseling

**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:**

Amanda Gay, Occupational Therapy

Nick Ross, School Counseling

Kelsey Stevenson, Communications

**Student Assistants:**

Brittany Ackerman, Supply Chain Management (undergraduate)

Kelley Heynen, Accounting and Management Information Systems (undergraduate)

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