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LETTER FROM GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY’S HEALTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are pleased to share the fifth edition of the Grand Valley State University Annual Health Report, a reflection of the many health-related programs, collaborations, and contributions from across our university dedicated to addressing the current and future health needs of our communities.

Grand Valley continues to serve the needs of our communities by providing more highly-trained health care professionals in the West Michigan region than any other educational institution. As the leading provider of health care professionals in West Michigan, our presence on Grand Rapids’ medical mile and proximity to exceptional health care systems and research institutes brings incredible opportunities for collaborative partnerships and innovations that are improving the quality and safety of health care in our region and beyond.

Critical to our success is the engagement of health care and business professionals who serve as preceptors and internship supervisors ensuring that our students’ education is enriched through valuable experiential learning that is necessary to become effective health care providers. In addition, our faculty who believe that research experience is an important aspect of a quality education inspire and encourage our students to engage in active scholarship to enhance understanding and discovery.

An important highlight this year is the opening of Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall, the most recent expansion of our Health Campus. Thanks to support from 1,100 donors, the new 84,000 square foot facility provides additional opportunities for students to engage in interactive learning and work in interprofessional teams. This building will support the more than 1,500 simulated clinical events that occur annually on the Health Campus.

Grand Valley continues to attract highly-talented students to the West Michigan area who are interested in pursuing careers in health care. To prepare these students and to support the workforce demand in health care, our Health Campus expansion will continue with the construction of the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health, a $49 million facility scheduled to open in 2021, will include an additional 15 classrooms and 14 interactive laboratories designed as interprofessional team environments.

We are proud of our accomplishments and excited about the future! Thank you for your interest in and support of Grand Valley’s health-related programs and initiatives. Please use the directory at the back of this publication to contact us with questions or recommendations about future collaborations.

Respectfully,

Jean Nagelkerk, Ph.D., F.N.P., F.N.A.P.
Vice Provost for Health

Diana Lawson
Dean, Seidman College of Business

Roy H. Olsson Jr.
Dean, College of Health Professions

Frederick J. Antczak
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Cynthia McCurren
Dean, Kirkhof College of Nursing

Paul D. Plotkowski
Dean, Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing
SELECT HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Grand Valley offers health-related programs that are in demand. Rigorous classroom instruction and clinical training challenge the best and brightest students who are admitted into these programs. The outcome? Graduates who are immediately ready to make meaningful contributions in an extensive assortment of health professions.

Doctor of Audiology Program

One of Grand Valley’s newest programs in the health professions is the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.), an intensive three-year postbaccalaureate degree program that prepares students to work with individuals experiencing hearing loss and/or balance problems.

The prevalence of hearing loss in Americans has doubled in recent years. One to six per 1,000 newborns are identified with congenital hearing loss, which significantly impacts their speech and language development, academic achievement, and psychosocial maturity throughout childhood and into adulthood. A number of factors contribute to hearing loss in adults, with age being the
largest contributor. According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), “Regardless of age, men are about twice as likely as women to have hearing loss, even when accounting for occupational noise exposure. Other factors that are correlated with hearing loss include race/ethnicity, education level, and use of firearms.”

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) estimates that “…approximately 40 percent of the population in the United States will experience some form of dizziness or balance difficulty over the course of a lifetime.” Dan Halling, Ph.D., director of the audiology program, reports that dizziness and balance problems are among the most frequent complaints of patients over age 70.

To help meet the needs of individuals with hearing impairment or balance disturbances, Grand Valley has significantly invested in the creation of the audiology program with state-of-the-science instrumentation and facilities to provide hands-on experience for students and to advance the scientific exploration of processes associated with hearing and balance. The program will be located in the new Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall in downtown Grand Rapids. Students from any bachelor’s degree program are welcome to apply for the Doctor of Audiology program. Pending accreditation by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the start date is scheduled for Fall 2020. For more information about this degree, visit gvsu.edu/csd or contact Dan C. Halling, Ph.D., CCC-A., at halling@gvsu.edu.

One to six per 1,000 newborns are identified with congenital hearing loss.
Biomedical engineering classes include human motion, bioelectric potentials, and medical device design.

Computational simulation is one way biomedical engineers develop technological solutions in health care.

Biomedical Engineering

Biomedical engineers apply the design, analytical, and problem-solving skills acquired in engineering training to improve health and quality of human life. At its core, biomedical engineering is a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative field. Biomedical engineers work with health care professionals, applying advanced technological solutions and innovative rehabilitation devices to clinical problems. Collaborations with physiologists and molecular biologists for the study of complex disease mechanisms are invaluable for the development of new drugs and the understanding of physiologic systems.

The biomedical engineering program at Grand Valley started in 2010 with the introduction of the biomedical engineering minor for engineering undergraduates majoring in computer, electrical, mechanical, and product design and manufacturing engineering. In 2012, a master’s degree program in biomedical engineering was added with help from a National Science Foundation grant. Today, with classes in mechanics of human motion, bioelectric potentials, and medical device design, the program not only challenges students with technical breadth and depth, but also provides them with the necessary information to successfully bring biomedical products to market. This translational emphasis has been the hallmark of the curriculum since the program’s inception.

Students have worked with community partners, such as Spectrum Innovation and the imaging facility at Van Andel Research Institution, to pioneer designs and techniques for improving diagnostic and monitoring devices. Faculty have collaborated with colleagues in mathematics to study epilepsy and with physical therapists to study neural development in children with multiple developmental disorders. Grand Valley graduates are working in industries such as Stryker and MedBioInc, and some have been accepted to prestigious doctoral programs at Northwestern University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Marquette University.

In the future, the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing plans to develop an undergraduate major in biomedical engineering, which would be the only one in West Michigan, and to allow the program to provide more career options for area students while leveraging the emerging health care industry in the region.

For more information, please visit the biomedical engineering program website at gvsu.edu/engineering/biomed or contact Samhita Rhodes, Ph.D., at rhodesam@gvsu.edu.
Master’s and Specialist Degree Programs in School Psychology

Schools across the nation confront the difficult task of meeting the needs of students with increasingly diverse academic, social, and emotional needs. They strive to raise achievement for all students, including those who may present learning or social difficulties. School psychologists play integral roles in developing effective educational systems to meet the needs of all students. The school psychology program at Grand Valley prepares students to be leaders and innovators in the educational environment by bringing evidence-based practices into schools and making positive impacts on students.

The relatively new program is an offering of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students earn both a master’s specialist degree in school psychology and a graduate certificate in applied behavior analysis upon completing the three-year program. Throughout the program, students apply content and concepts learned in coursework by working in local schools through practica and a final, year-long, full-time internship.

Admission to the program is increasingly competitive, and the application pool continues to grow each year. Graduates work in local schools, schools in other parts of Michigan, and even other states. More than 95 percent of Grand Valley psychology students obtain competitive, paid internships.

In 2018, Grand Valley faculty and students have made an impact on local, regional, and national schools. Students have presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of School Psychologists, served of the board of the Michigan Association of School Psychologists, and volunteered in local districts to assist with reading assessments. Erika Schmitt, a third-year student, received a Fulbright award and is currently teaching in Brazil.

Faculty members conduct applied research in local schools and serve in state association leadership positions. Grand Valley Professor Amy Matthews is the director of the Statewide Autism Resources and Training project (START), funded by the Office of Special Education, which provides professional education, technical assistance, and statewide coordination for students with autism spectrum disorder. She is also vice chair of the governor’s Autism Council. Amy Campbell, the director of the graduate program in School Psychology, served as the president of the Michigan Association of School Psychologists.

More than 95% of Grand Valley school psychology students obtain competitive, paid internships.

Grand Valley school psychology students receive extensive training through coursework, practicum, and research.
The exercise science program offers both clinical and health fitness emphases.

Exercise Science Program

All students in the exercise science program receive a foundation in exercise physiology, prescription, and testing, as well as experiential learning opportunities.

The exercise science major is one of four majors in the Movement Science Department, housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The undergraduate exercise science program is the fifth largest major at Grand Valley State University (more than 1,050 students) and has two distinct emphasis areas, clinical exercise science and health fitness instruction. Students pursuing the clinical emphasis focus on a science-intensive approach to understanding the role of exercise and physical activity as a tool for training, rehabilitation, and healthy lifestyles. Often these students plan to enroll in graduate degree programs in exercise physiology, cardiac rehabilitation, biomechanics, physical therapy, physician assistant, or other health-related professions. The health fitness emphasis is designed for students planning to assist individuals in changing their physical activity behaviors in settings such as employee wellness, community health, fitness and/or strength and conditioning programs, or a variety of other exercise and physical activity related fields.

All students receive a strong preparation in exercise physiology, exercise prescription, and exercise testing, and are required to complete both 112-hour fieldwork and 300- to 600-hour internship experiences. Students are also exposed to research and public service through activities within the Human Performance Laboratory.

All students in the exercise science program receive a foundation in exercise physiology, prescription, and testing, as well as experiential learning opportunities.
The department has a strong track record of engaging students who graduate with an average GPA of 3.26. Ninety-six percent of graduating students recommend the program to prospective applicants. Daniel Brown (2015 graduate) said, “The opportunities that were presented to me in my professional life wouldn’t have been possible without GVSU. The faculty and students in the exercise science program want nothing more than to support you and push you to be the best that you can be. That support helped me succeed as soon as I graduated and led me to my initial career goal of working for a major league baseball team.”

Public Health - Health Promotion Emphasis

Individuals' abilities and capacities to practice healthy lifestyles are perhaps the most important factors related to well-being across the lifespan. A Grand Valley master's degree in public health (M.P.H.), focusing on health promotion, offers students robust and powerful tools for systematic and strategic improvement of population level health. Health promotion uses health education, advocacy, research, and theory to improve health status, enhance quality of life, and reduce premature death and disease through disease prevention.

The World Health Organization and Institute of Medicine regard public health and health promotion as critical to solving urgent and profound national, state, and local health concerns. National development and implementation of policies to reduce inequality, health disparity, and overwhelming health care costs are needed. At the state level, the Flint water crisis has promoted a need for advocacy and health education around lead abatement and safe drinking water practices. Likewise, the Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Plan highly emphasizes the need for health promotion education, training, and prevention for cancer patients, communities, and providers.

Students of the Grand Valley M.P.H. program complete research-based practicums and projects. As a result of a rigorous curriculum, ongoing faculty support, highly regarded public health preceptors, hands-on research, and opportunities for applied fieldwork, graduates are well-prepared for work in a diverse and growing array of community environments.

Health promotion is one way that society can ensure that all people attain and retain health and wellness across the lifespan. For students seeking graduate education, the M.P.H. in health promotion offers a valuable, diverse, meaningful, and applied degree for a gratifying career.

Information on the program can be obtained through the department website at gvsu.edu/grad/mph or by contacting Ranelle Brew, Ed.D., at brewr@gvsu.edu.

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Emphasis in health promotion provides students with tools for systematic and strategic improvement of population health.
GVSU Scribe Academy Expands

For three years, the Office of the Vice Provost for Health and Helix Scribe Solutions of Grand Rapids have been offering a free scribe training program to students searching for health care experiences. Since the first scribe class held May 1, 2015, more than 230 students have received training with more than 100 currently working in emergency departments, supporting providers with patient documentation in electronic medical records. Starting in Grand Rapids emergency departments, the demand for scribes has expanded to emergency departments in Big Rapids, Greenville, Owosso, and Zeeland.

Rationale for the expansion of the scribe program is a result of its consistent positive impact on emergency department teams. A study by Helix Scribes Solutions, comparing shifts with and without scribes from April 2015 to August 2016 among three emergency...
departments, showed an increase in patients seen per hour, while the increase in staffing costs per patient was only 0.7 percent. Additionally, patients expressed increased satisfaction. Patients reported that providers spent more time with them and that they were more willing to refer family and friends to services.

Starting spring of 2018, the Grand Valley Scribe Academy began offering certification for medical scribes. To be eligible for certification, scribes must have worked a minimum of 200 hours, have consistent satisfactory chart audit scores, and have positive recommendations from supervisors. After scribes pass the certification examination and submit proof of hours worked, they are rewarded with medical scribe certification. Certification is a way for scribes to advance their professional careers and their academic program applications. Certification is also a benchmark for advancing within Helix Scribe Solutions, including expansion to other medical specialties outside of emergency medicine.

Providers from other clinical specialties offices have expressed interest in working with scribes. Grand Valley partnered with subject matter experts to design and implement online modules to prepare scribes for work in cardiovascular, general surgery, orthopedics, pain management, primary care, and urology medical offices. Completion of a specialty module is a requirement for working as a scribe in these additional environments.

Using medical scribes improves provider satisfaction. Christopher Benner, D.O., said, “I have found working with scribes to be very helpful. I am still able to maintain an efficient pace while it is much easier to keep up on charting with the help of a scribe. I have noticed that I leave my shifts much closer to the time they are supposed to end than before, which makes the work-life balance a little easier.”

For more information on the Grand Valley State University Scribe Academy, contact Jeff Trytko, M.A., program director of the scribe program, at trytkoj@gvsu.edu.
Collaboration with community partners is a key ingredient to ensuring Grand Valley remains the leading provider of health professionals in the region. These collaborative opportunities provide pathways to student success in addition to enhancing and strengthening the health care provided in our communities.
Vice Provost for Health Jean Nagelkerk, Ph.D., F.N.P., F.N.A.P. cited other benefits to the agreement that was signed October 19, 2017, on CMU’s Mount Pleasant campus. Nagelkerk said the agreement serves as an example of public higher education institutions collaborating to meet the needs of the State of Michigan and its residents. “The early assurance program assists with addressing the projected shortage of physicians by filling a critical need in the health care talent pipeline,” she said.
CMU will reserve up to five seats in the College of Medicine program for qualified Grand Valley students.

CMU will reserve up to five seats for qualified Grand Valley students. Through this agreement, CMU College of Medicine will also waive the supplemental application fees for Grand Valley students.

“We’re very excited about this partnership, which expands upon our existing interprofessional education relationship with Grand Valley,” said Dr. George E. Kikano, CMU College of Medicine dean. “We identify our admitted students based largely on their expressed desire to focus on rural and underserved populations, which is core to our mission.”

Maria Cimitile, provost and executive vice president for academic and student affairs at Grand Valley, called this an important partnership for Michigan. “If we can create pathways for shaping, fostering a hope, a dream, we can open doors to those students at GVSU who want to be doctors,” Cimitile said.

Students who are admitted do not have to submit multiple medical school applications, and they are notified of their acceptance before their senior year at Grand Valley. This affords students an opportunity to concentrate on broadening their knowledge base and skillset while engaging in high-impact learning experiences during their senior year.

applied Computing Institute

Experiential learning is a key component in Grand Valley’s Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing (PCEC) undergraduate and graduate degree programs. For undergraduates, this learning takes place via industry-sponsored senior projects, co-ops, and internships and for graduate students, via industry-sponsored graduate fellowships and projects. The applied Computing Institute (aCi) is an intentional expansion of these well-established PCEC practices to further enrich experiential learning opportunities for Grand Valley students while simultaneously providing industry partners with increased access to faculty and student computing expertise.
Hosted by the university’s School of Computing and Information Systems (SCiS), the institute offers collaborative applied research and advanced development opportunities to external partners in areas aligned with SCiS faculty areas of computing expertise, including applications, data science, cyber security, and health informatics. Collaborations may take the form of small, short-term, single semester (15 weeks) engagements involving computer science, such as senior projects where three to four students work on computing-related assignments with an industry sponsor. Additionally, longer-term collaborations with industry partners are available via the institute’s Applied Computing Services Laboratory (ACSL) in which SCiS faculty and students collaborate with industry partners on projects over multiple semesters.

“SCiS undergraduates participate in institute projects via a residency program in which they earn degree program credit as well as wages for working on sponsored applied computing research projects with faculty and industry sponsors,” SCiS Professor Jonathan Engelsma, Ph.D., explains. “Graduate students are recruited to SCiS graduate degree programs via industry-sponsored graduate fellowships and are assigned to work on applied computing research projects with faculty supervision.”

The applied Computing Institute exemplifies how Grand Valley seeks to advance and enrich student-learning opportunities while simultaneously providing industry partners access to invaluable expertise in the rapidly developing computing field.

**Teaching Dietetics**

The Clinical Dietetics Coordinated Graduate Program utilizes the Grand Valley Simulation Center services located in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences to provide students with pedagogy that is novel within the realm of dietetics for teaching clinical skills. Under the guidance of program director Jody Vogelzang, Ph.D., R.D.N., L.D., F.A.N.D.,

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*Dietetics program uses simulation as a key methodology in teaching clinical skills.*

Clinical dietetic students practice feeding tube placement in the Simulation Center as part of their learning experience.
C.H.E.S., the clinical dietetics program provides students the opportunity to earn a Master of Science degree and also to complete 1,200 hours of supervised practice required to sit for the dietician registration exam.

Simulation supports upcoming shifts in the academic preparation of dietitians, such as the movement to competency-based education and the required entry-level master’s degree. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ 2017 Visioning Report has identified simulation as a key methodology to meet future expectations for dietetics education, especially the ability to foster critical thinking and higher-level clinical decision-making skills, both of which are important components of graduate-level academic work.1

In the Simulation Center, under the supervision of faculty member Libby MacQuillan, Ph.D., R.D.N., students have opportunities to practice feeding tube placements on specially designed manikins and to conduct nutrition-focused physical exams and counseling with a standardized patient (SP), a trained community member portraying a specific case situation. Student feedback has been positive; a recent graduate of the program, Marie Nalezyty, M.S., R.D.N., stated, “The Simulation Center was the perfect place to make mistakes and then learn from those mistakes with the feedback from the standardized patients, my peers, and my professor.” Program alumna, Emily Rykaczewski, M.S., R.D.N., added, “The Simulation Center gave me the hands-on experience that I not only wanted but needed to become a skilled nutrition professional.”

MacQuillan plans to begin collecting data in the 2018-2019 academic year on student confidence and competence, both before and after Simulation Center experiences. Information gathered from this research will be used to improve the effectiveness and student satisfaction with simulation in dietetics education and may be applied in other graduate dietetics programs across the country.
Physician Assistant Studies Celebrate First Graduating Class in Traverse City

In December 2017, Grand Valley’s Master of Physician Assistant Studies (M.P.A.S.) program honored the first graduating class of the Traverse City campus! Grand Valley State University’s M.P.A.S. program has been providing high quality education for more than 25 years, and in recent years, faculty decided to expand the M.P.A.S. program beyond the Grand Rapids Health Campus.

The mission of this initiative was to train, educate, and graduate future physician assistants in rural communities to increase access to health care in northern Michigan. To help accomplish this goal, the physician assistant program wrote and was awarded a federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to fund the initiative. An advanced Independent Television System (iTV) was installed to deliver real-time lecture content to both Grand Rapids and Traverse City campuses simultaneously, assuring equivalent education was being delivered to both campuses. In the fall of 2015, the Traverse City campus accepted their inaugural class.

The first eight M.P.A.S. students are not just “traditional” graduates from the program, as they developed new learning techniques to adjust to remote instruction. They were key partners with the faculty as they improved the program with their suggestions about delivery methods and developed new relationships in northern Michigan communities where they are now employed.

The M.P.A.S. program is fully accredited. Classes for students in Traverse City are held at the University Center at Northwestern Michigan College and require 28 months of full-time study. New students are accepted each fall. More information can be found at gvsu.edu/traverse/.

Pathways to Health Careers

In March 2018, Grand Valley State University joined the Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI) and six other west Michigan colleges and universities to identify opportunities to increase diversity in health professions to more closely represent the community.

Funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Pathways to Health Careers is a planning grant in which the collaborating institutions work to increase awareness of advanced practice health careers among high school and undergraduate African American and Latino/Hispanic students and to reduce barriers to entering these fields.

Participation in Pathways to Health Careers allows GVSU to continue work that started in 2011 with the initial university-wide Inclusion Implementation Plan which identified four key areas of focus: Access and Equity, Campus Climate, Diversity in Curriculum/Co-Curriculum, and Organizational Learning. The 2016–2021 university strategic plan demonstrates the ongoing commitment to this work, in which a key objective is to increase the diversity of students, faculty, staff, and administrators to more closely reflect the population of West Michigan.

Through April 2019, the participating institutions will work to define the challenges, identify best practices in other institutions, and create new approaches. The end result will be a new grant proposal requesting funds for implementation.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACHIEVEMENT

Students pursuing health-related programs at Grand Valley enter with high academic credentials and then expand those qualifications even more. Under faculty guidance, students learn to problem solve and lead in ways that get noticed. Their success is evident not only in the recognition they receive but also in testing results: The pass rate for graduating students who take their board exams for the first time is consistently above the national average.
Epilepsy Research by Students Changes Patients’ Lives

Students and faculty members in the School of Engineering are going the extra Medical Mile. For several years, they have partnered with physicians at Spectrum Health’s Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) to research epilepsy and help patients manage the disorder. The partnership allows graduate students to gain experience while obtaining a master’s degree in biomedical engineering.

As part of the partnership, students assist the Spectrum Health epilepsy team by analyzing data about patients considering surgical procedures to stop seizures. The data comes from electrodes that are implanted in a patient’s brain; students use several methods to analyze the data and pinpoint where a seizure might have originated. In 2017, several students continued and advanced the research under the guidance of faculty members Robert Bossemeyer, Samhita Rhodes, and Paul Fishback.

Allison Rogutich, who recently graduated with a master’s degree in biomedical engineering, created an algorithm to help detect seizure onset zones in patients with refractory epilepsy. “My role in this research has been to...”
look at high frequency activity in EEG data from patients,” she said. “Research findings indicate that high frequency oscillations in EEG data might be more accurate in delineating seizure onset zones in the brain.”

Rogutich, who was a member of Grand Valley’s Track and Field team when she was an undergraduate student, completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees through Grand Valley’s articulated master’s degree program.

Cody Dean, recent program graduate and current research scientist at Amway, developed a tool for physicians to apply the Grand Valley research in their diagnoses and analyses. Using open-source software, Dean designed and built a module for his thesis project.

“We noticed there was a gap,” Dean said. “Students do the data analysis from patients, but it’s hard for doctors to apply data because there’s a lot of data and many evaluation methods are slow. My goal was to speed things up, so doctors have quicker and easier access to some of that data, which will help with decisions.”

**D.P.T. Students Turn Out for Day of Service**

Grand Valley State University Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) students, Heather Saturley and Lindsay Nesburg, Class of 2019, planned, organized, and coordinated the first annual Global Physical Therapy Day-of-Service engagement in the Grand Rapids community. Several organizations were the beneficiaries of their hard work and planning.

On two separate days in the fall of 2017, more than 75 D.P.T. students and faculty volunteered at least one-half day of service to a number of community organizations. The volunteers spread throughout West Michigan to provide assistance at Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society of West Michigan, Knapp Charter Academy, Kids’ Food Basket, and the North East Community Action Association. Students also provided volunteer services to an exercise class for patients with Parkinson’s disease, the GVSU Family Health Center, and the Grand Valley sonography lab.
This national day of community service spearheaded by the American Physical Therapy Association involved more than 8,000 volunteers in 42 countries. Saturley and Nesburg were instrumental in bringing this event to Grand Valley and ensured a robust level of enthusiastic participation by the D.P.T. students and faculty. The orange-clad volunteers made quite an impact and provided a snapshot of what it means to be a “Laker for a Lifetime” during these days of meaningful community engagement.

Biochemistry Major Participates in a Research Program in Switzerland

Uyen Pham, a junior majoring in biochemistry, spent her summer in Switzerland participating in a global undergraduate research program at the Université de Lausanne. She was one of 20 students selected to work with a research group there. Participants also attended workshops and presented their own research at a student symposium.

Her month in Switzerland capped an eventful spring for Pham, a native of Vietnam. She had a research proposal accepted at the prestigious Posters on the Hill competition sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research. More than 400 students applied this year; 60 were selected. Held in April in Washington, D.C., student participants had opportunities to meet their congressional members and learn about advocacy for undergraduate research.

Pham has worked with Rachel Powers, professor of chemistry at Grand Valley, for two years, assisting with Powers’ research on bacterial resistance to antibiotics by studying beta-lactamase. Her Posters on the Hill presentation highlighted fragment-based inhibitors for a particular antibiotic resistance enzyme.

“I started working with Dr. Powers before I had organic chemistry,” Pham said. “She is such a good mentor; I didn’t need a lot of knowledge in that area before starting.” Powers said Pham has a natural curiosity for learning and science. “She is also a gifted communicator and can articulate the importance of her project at the correct technical level to general audiences and scientific experts,” Powers said.

Susan Mendoza, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, said Pham has done a terrific job of pursuing every research opportunity while at Grand Valley. Pham spent a summer in the lab as a Modified Student Summer Scholar (MS3), a program geared toward first- and second-year students.

Pham grew up in Vietnam but spent her senior year of high school as an exchange student in Arkansas. She wanted to stay in the U.S. for college and deciding where to go was like casting a wide fishing net, she said. Pham narrowed her initial search of 2,000 potential colleges by eliminating two-year institutions, those set in hotter climates, then by ACT/SAT scores and finally, tuition.

Pham’s younger sister, Han, is also a Grand Valley student majoring in biology.
Grand Valley students were awarded three of the five scholarships offered by Michigan Safety Conference.

OSH Students Finish Strong

Three students in the Grand Valley State University Occupational Safety and Health Management (OSH) program earned scholarships through the 2018 Michigan Safety Conference. Patrick Lynch, Luis Gonzales, and Eric Bell each earned a scholarship for their academic performance and engagement with the health and safety program. Eric Bell had earned the scholarship in 2017 as well. The conference awards five scholarships annually to Michigan students based upon academic performance, leadership attributes, and future plans to work in the field of health and safety. In addition to being excellent students, Patrick Lynch, Avery Moore, and Eric Bell serve on the Student Chapter Board of the American Society of Safety Engineers as the president, vice president, and secretary respectively.

The OSH students worked with mentor Lynn Houseman, vice president of customer service at Comprenew, to establish a student-led, nonprofit consulting system for nonprofit organizations across West Michigan. The students were able to effectively create a process for ergonomics assessments in the work place. With this new system, Grand Valley OSH students can provide services to West Michigan nonprofit organizations that are concerned about safety.

There were more than 20 submissions for the award. Only seven groups, selected by community polls, were chosen to present their idea to the community and a group of judges.

The Grand Valley American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Student Chapter also successfully tied for second place in the Laker Effect Challenge this past fall, winning $1,000. The Laker Effect Challenge builds on the idea of collective impact of the Grand Valley community on individual students, West Michigan, the State of Michigan, and beyond. All submissions were from individuals or groups at Grand Valley working in collaboration with a community partner focused on solving a real problem and demonstrating leadership and advocacy aimed at shaping the future.

The OSH students worked with mentor Lynn Houseman, vice president of customer service at Comprenew, to establish a student-led, nonprofit consulting system for nonprofit organizations across West Michigan. The students were able to effectively create a process for ergonomics assessments in the work place. With this new system, Grand Valley OSH students can provide services to West Michigan nonprofit organizations that are concerned about safety.

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Members of the GVSU American Society of Safety Engineers Student Chapter emerged successful from the Laker Effect Challenge. From left to right are Ronald Friedrichsen, Patrick Lynch, Eric Bell, Avery Moore
Simulation Design Competition

The Office of the Vice Provost for Health and the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MiPERC) hosted an inaugural interprofessional simulation design competition to provide students and health care professionals opportunities to create simulation designs, increase MiPERC’s database of interprofessional simulations, and to assess a new design rubric developed by the MiPERC Simulation Workgroup.

In the competition, students and health professionals worked in teams of two to five members from at least two disciplines to create interprofessional simulations. The simulation designs were assessed by members of the workgroup using the rubric developed specifically for the competition. The rubric, based on the Interprofessional Education Collaborative’s core competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice, included the following components: interprofessional learning objectives of simulation, clinical relevance, feasible scenario progression, and adaptability for different learners. Participating scenarios were expunged of author identification, therefore eliminating bias from the evaluation process. Following the competition, a post-event survey was sent to participants.
The winning student design, Nursing and OT Discharge Rounds, won the first place award and was featured at the Promoting Interprofessional Education for Students (PIPES) event in March 2018. The group was also invited to present their simulation design at the 2018 Midwest Interprofessional, Practice, Education, and Research Center Conference in September. The winning health professional team from Western Michigan University was also invited to present their design at the conference. The inaugural Interprofessional Simulation Design Competition will be accepting submissions for next year’s competition beginning in fall of 2018.

1st Place Student Design Winners
Nursing and OT Discharge Rounds
By Amanda Deel, O.S.T.; Melanie Ralph, O.S.T.; Jayme Larson, Nursing; Angela Bucci, Nursing; Melinda Hoholik, O.S.T.

1st Place Health Professional Team
Adolescent Eating Disorders
By Western Michigan University Stryker School of Medicine – Kristine Gibson, M.D., F.A.A.P.; Lisa Singleterry, Ph.D., M.S.N.; B.S.N.; Sally Vliem, Ph.D., M.S., B.S.N.; Scott Gaynor, Ph.D.; Gretchen Kauth, M.Ed., R.D.

2nd Place Student Design winners
Interprofessional Post-stroke Feeding Session
By Amy Bartkus, O.S.T.; Lauren Goldstein, O.S.T.; Chloe Bielby, M.P.H.; Kaitlin Chauv, S.L.P.; Caroline Farney, S.L.P.

3rd Place Student Design Winners
Skilled Nursing Facility Interdisciplinary Evaluation and Plan of Care
By Jamie Emens, O.S.T.; Zoey Rose, O.S.T.; Elyse Vos, O.S.T.; Kinsey Hill, S.L.P.

Student Design Honorable Mention
Communication and Mobility: PT and SLP Collaboration in Acute Care
By Shelby Myers, D.P.T.; Olivia Lawson, S.L.P.; Brittany Mathis, T.R.

Stephanie A. Urbanawiz PAS Program Scholarship Fully Endowed

In winter of 2018, Audrey Droge was named the first recipient of the Stephanie A. Urbanawiz scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a Michigan resident who is currently enrolled in the didactic phase of the Grand Valley physician assistant studies (PAS) program and has a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Audrey is a second-year PAS student.

The scholarship was established to honor a former student, Stephanie Urbanawiz, Class of 2015, who had made a significant impact on her classmates, faculty, and peers. Just prior to starting in her cohort (fall of 2013), Stephanie was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 27. In the first year of her PAS program, she scheduled her treatments so she wouldn’t miss any classes. Throughout her didactic phase, Stephanie continued to perform exceptionally well in her courses, never asking for special treatment. She held her head high, even when battling the side effects of treatment. Prior to starting clinicals, Stephanie found that the treatment was not effective and on February 28, 2015, Stephanie passed away at her home with family members at her side. In December of 2015, Stephanie was awarded, posthumously, her honorary Master’s of Physician Assistant Studies degree.

According to Andrew Booth, PA-C, PAS program director, “Stephanie was a true inspiration to all of us in the program — faculty and students alike. She lived her life for others, with great humility.”
In early 2016, Stephanie’s parents, Michael and Patricia Urbanawiz, along with the PAS department faculty and staff and Stephanie’s classmates, established the Stephanie A. Urbanawiz Physician Assistant Endowed Scholarship. In three short years, through an outpouring of support and fundraising, the scholarship effort has reached its goal of raising $30,000, a true testament to the life Stephanie lived with energy and commitment!

According to Booth, “We thank everyone who contributed in the scholarship. Fundraising efforts will continue in order to support additional scholarships and to continue Stephanie’s legacy.”

To donate to the Stephanie A. Urbanawiz Physician Assistant Endowed Scholarship, please go to gvsu.edu/giving/urbanawiz/.

The Stephanie A. Urbanawiz scholarship was created in collaboration with Stephanie’s parents, her classmates, and the physician assistant program.
PRECEPTORS

A prime component of a successful Grand Valley health sciences education is the work of preceptors with students. These medical professionals not only provide the crucial clinical experience students need but also the necessary guidance and feedback to optimize the fieldwork. Preceptors find reward in guiding this next generation of health professionals and benefits to their own practice because of the need to stay up-to-date to effectively teach.
Experiential Learning

Each year, students in Grand Valley State University’s health-related programs participate in clinical- and research-based experiential learning opportunities such as fieldwork, internships, and practicums. During experiential learning, students gain exposure to health care in the real world, while being guided by preceptors who assist with the practical application of knowledge, provide feedback, serve as role models, and support students’ overall professional development.

Preceptors also benefit from working with students, as students share current knowledge from coursework, enabling preceptors to remain current with developing knowledge in their fields. Preceptors also report significant satisfaction in helping students.

The Grand Valley Preceptor Perks program recognizes the invaluable contributions made by preceptors to student education. Perks include a gratis university title of affiliated clinical faculty, GVSU library privileges, free continuing education opportunities, and access to the fieldhouse, as well as to employee discounts and free attendance at the annual MIPERC conference.

Health care professionals interested in becoming a preceptor, or learning more about Preceptor Perks, can visit gvsu.edu/vphealth or contact Tina Barnikow at barnikot@gvsu.edu.
Beg’s leadership, mentorship, and expertise fit well with KCON’s certificate program in hospice and palliative care.

Nursing Preceptor

Dr. Simin Beg, chief of hospice and palliative care services for Spectrum Health, served as preceptor to three Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) students who worked on a long-term project to expand the organization’s palliative care services.

The first of the trio, Rachel Cardosa, built on the work she started as a doctoral student in the Kirkhof College of Nursing (KCON) and turned it into a successful $400,000 Spectrum Health Foundation grant to expand palliative services.

Beg was asked to be a preceptor for KCON’s D.N.P. students and she heartedly agreed.

“I wanted to do this, I felt it was not only beneficial for Grand Valley but had opportunities to make our division better,” Beg said. “It’s the perspective that D.N.P. students bring. They have a different way of looking at systems and how best to improve patient care.”

The community-based palliative care project started when Tanya Kolenbrander was a D.N.P. student in Beg’s office in 2016. Kolenbrander analyzed outcomes of the Medicare Care Choices Model and developed an evidence-based toolkit so the next D.N.P. student could put it into practice.

Dianne Conrad, associate professor of nursing, said Beg’s leadership, mentorship and expertise fits well with KCON’s certificate program in hospice and palliative care.

“Dr. Beg is a committed, energetic, and supportive practice partner, committed to her work as well as the patients and students she works with,” Conrad said.

Cardosa studied patients with advanced heart failure, which she termed among the most expensive and most chronic illness. She found, as many heart patients were treated at an outpatient clinic, palliative services were not forefront of mind.

Team members who established a community-based palliative care project for Spectrum Health are pictured: from left, Dianne Conrad, Lisa Vanderwel, Katelyn Gettel, Dr. Simin Beg, Rachel Cardosa, and Angela Kinch. Not pictured is Tanya Rowerdink.
The most recent D.N.P. student in Beg’s office was Katelyn Gettel, who focused on expanding services to oncology patients, another illness (like heart disease) known for delayed referrals to hospice care. She said early referrals often are cost-saving measures.

Beg, who earned an executive M.B.A. from Grand Valley’s Seidman College of Business, said it’s not unusual for physicians to be hesitant to send their patients to a palliative care specialist. “Doctors are resistant to it. Medicine is about curing and fixing patients, it’s what we’re trained to do; this type of medical care is counterintuitive to how we were trained,” she said.

The expansion project created by Beg and three D.N.P. students is making headway, she added. “The cardiologists are now seeing the benefits, we’ve earned their trust. They know that having palliative care is better for the patient. We can impact our community and have long-lasting benefits because of this partnership,” Beg said.

**Physician Assistant Program Preceptor Awards**

Each year, Grand Valley’s physician assistant studies (PAS) program selects two preceptors to receive awards honoring their commitment to educating Grand Valley students. One of the awards is selected by student nomination and the other is chosen by PAS faculty.

The faculty-selected Preceptor of the Year award was bestowed on William Heath, P.A.-C, who provides both a family medicine and rural/underserved clinical rotation for PA students in Lakeview, Michigan. Heath completed his own physician assistant program at Western Michigan University.

Heath provides a unique experience for students through his practice in the outpatient family care setting at Spectrum Health Lakeview Family Medicine and in the inpatient general medicine floor at Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital in Lakeview. Students have remarked about his excellent teaching abilities, the copious amounts of clinical pearls that he provides, and the hands-on learning experiences available during their clinical rotations.

Heath has mentored multiple students over the past several years and is often willing to take on a student in need of a last minute clinical placement.

The student-selected Preceptor of the Year award was given to Ryan Marin, M.D., who practices adult, inpatient psychiatry with the Spectrum Health Psychiatry Consult Service. He has been precepting with Grand Valley for four years. Marin completed his medical
Gosnell ensures students understand how academic didactic and laboratory information applies to the clinical setting.

The students commented about Dr. Martin’s clinical and teaching excellence. He and the other clinicians in the Consult Service create a valuable learning environment for students, giving them opportunities to experience the collaborative work of an interprofessional team. Students are challenged to become competent providers. One student commented, “I feel as though he has played a big part in the practitioner that I will become.”

Cardiovascular Sonography Preceptor

Jordan Gosnell, B.S., RDCS, AE, PE, is an echo technologist at the Congenital Heart Center at the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital-Spectrum Health where he serves as a clinical instructor for Grand Valley State University’s cardiovascular sonography program. “Details matter. Patients’ perspectives matter,” he says, “…every test you perform is unique for that patient.” He tries to pass this philosophy on to the students he mentors, challenging their previously held perspectives and helping them understand why what they do is so important.

Gosnell routinely goes above and beyond to ensure that his students receive a well-rounded clinical experience and works to foster opportunities for students to engage in interprofessional activities. “It’s satisfying to see students grow. In a very small way, I am able to provide care for more patients through the work my students go on to perform.”

He comes highly recommended for his dedication to fostering a student-centric learning environment and ensuring that every student he mentors fully understands how academic didactic and laboratory information applies to the clinical setting. For this dedication, he has previously received the student-nominated Outstanding Clinical Mentor Award.

Gosnell’s connection to Grand Valley goes well beyond his clinical instruction and mentorship. He has served as an adjunct faculty member in Grand Valley’s cardiovascular sonography program and is an alumnus of the program. In addition to his two bachelor’s degrees from Grand Valley State University, he is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology at Grand Valley.

Jordan Gosnell, B.S., RDCS, AE, PE
**Dietetics Preceptor**

Crystal Creighton, RD, has been a strong supporter of the Master of Clinical Dietetics supervised practice program from the beginning, taking time to mentor six students from the program over the past three years. In addition to sitting on the admissions panel for the program, Creighton went above and beyond to provide a clinical rotation experience to a student when the student’s original site withdrew on the first day of the student’s rotation.

Creighton receives high praise from her students, with many of them describing the wonderful learning experiences and opportunities experienced as her mentees. Creighton herself describes the experience of being a preceptor as a learning experience as well as a teaching one, and that mentorship has helped her to grow professionally. She works to provide a balanced internship experience to help her interns achieve the goals that they set out for themselves as they begin their careers. Her position as the clinical nutrition manager at Spectrum Health enables her to offer interns unique and valuable experiences in the field of clinical dietetics, and she feels duty bound to do so. “I’m in a position where I can offer that and feel I have an obligation to,” she says. “The future’s registered dietitians are in need of the experience they can get working with my teams.”

Creighton received her Bachelor of Science in dietetics from Central Michigan University and completed her dietetic internship through Andrews University.

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**Health Information Management Preceptor**

Peggy Chapo, M.S., RHIA, is the director of health information management education at Beaumont Health. She received her bachelor’s in medical record administration from Mercy College of Detroit and her Master of Science in health services administration from the University of Detroit Mercy. Her 30 years of service in hospital operations has enabled her to take on student interns from health information management programs throughout the State of Michigan.

Chapo approaches mentorship with a “pay it forward” philosophy. “I had many mentors that I learned from and who assisted me in the early stages of my career and I always felt a professional responsibility to do that for others.” She says, “I find great personal satisfaction in seeing students who I have worked with go on to succeed in their careers!”

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Chapo’s 30 years of service in hospital operations has enabled her to take on student interns from health information management programs throughout the state.

As a first-time preceptor for Grand Valley, Chapo was named as an outstanding preceptor at the 2017 Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center Conference for participating in a 10-week-long health information management internship program. Chapo’s willingness to take on an intern, despite an ongoing merger of the Beaumont Health, Royal Oak, and Botsford Health Systems gave her student invaluable insights into the ways in which successful departments can be managed during periods of organizational change.

One of Chapo’s students nominated her for the award and offered her sincere gratitude for including her in high-level meetings at Beaumont Health and for connecting her to professionals outside of her academic program who could advise her about career opportunities. The student acknowledged the genuine interest that Chapo took in her career and interests, and her continued support, even after graduation: “Any student from Grand Valley would be very fortunate to be able to have an experience like mine.”

Physical Therapy Preceptors

Arika Button, PT, D.P.T., CBIS, and Ron Radawiec PT, M.S., C/NDT, CBIS, from the Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center in Mason, Michigan, have served as preceptors for Grand Valley’s physical therapy program for several years.

Button received both her bachelor’s degree in health sciences (2005) and a clinical doctorate (2008) from Grand Valley. She has been employed at Origami for 10 years, during which time she has mentored 15 Grand Valley physical therapy students. When asked about the importance of clinical education, she stated that, “Clinical education is where students can put all of what they have learned in the classroom into practice. I love helping to foster students’ independence and clinical growth.”

Radawiec received a bachelor’s degree in physical therapy from the University of Michigan–Flint in 1987 and a master’s degree in biomechanics from Michigan State University in 1993. He has been employed at Origami for 12 years, during which time he has mentored seven Grand Valley physical therapy students. He has also served as the clinical education coordinator for Origami.

Both Arika and Ron are certified brain injury specialists and certified American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) clinical instructors. In addition, Ron is certified in neurodevelopmental techniques and has held the following professional positions: member of the APTA Clinical Education Technology Workgroup, president of the Michigan Physical Therapy Association (MPTA) Special Interest Group for Clinical Education, and co-president of the MPTA West Michigan Clinical Education Forum.
Physical therapists in Mason, MI, have mentored more than 22 Grand Valley students.
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE LEARNING

Grand Valley’s robust health education system provides an optimal setting to help expand knowledge in the community about health care issues and challenges. Planned events present speakers who work with such matters and also allow for networking and more learning. Students also find ample environments in the community for service learning through co-ops, internships, and other opportunities.
Expanded Partnership with Mary Free Bed

An expanded partnership between Grand Valley and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital will benefit both area patients and the health care talent pipeline.

Leaders from both institutions celebrated the opening of the Mary Free Bed Motion Analysis Laboratory at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on January 11, 2018. Mary Free Bed specialists will conduct studies of patient walking patterns there and serve as preceptors to Grand Valley students and graduate fellows. At the event, Mitch Barr, a Mary Free Bed physical therapist, conducted a gait analysis on a 10-year-old girl.

The new collaboration provides an important clinical service to the community for which patients otherwise would have to travel out-of-state. Currently, the lab is enabling two to three gait studies per week for children with, primarily, cerebral palsy. The results of those studies inform important clinical and surgical decisions related to management of these patients. Preserving the capability of conducting these studies in our community was an important factor that inspired this new agreement.
President Thomas J. Haas called the expanded agreement a good example of a public-private partnership. “What we see here is the ability to help people achieve their quality of life; that’s a great mission you have at Mary Free Bed, and we’re so pleased to do this augmentation,” he said. “This lab is another tool at our disposal to help you achieve your mission.”

Austin Cammire, who graduated in August with a doctorate of physical therapy, attended the January celebration. Cammire served a nine-week clinical placement at Mary Free Bed with the inpatient stroke team, and he said that experience prepared him well for the workforce. “Having this partnership with Mary Free Bed, where they accept so many of our students and it’s such a great hospital, it really helps you with the hands-on experience,” Cammire said.

Kent Riddle, CEO of Mary Free Bed said, “there is strength in numbers. We’re bringing our two organizations together, and why that is so great is because we can be better together than apart.” Riddle added, “More than half of the clinical staff at Mary Free Bed are Grand Valley alumni.”

A Public Health and Occupational Therapy Study Abroad to a Blue Zone: Living Longer and Better

An interdisciplinary service learning trip to Ikaria, Greece, provided lessons on living longer, happier lives. During May 2018, College of Health Professions faculty and students from the public health and occupational therapy departments worked and learned in this remote Greek island, recently defined as one of five places on earth where longevity is defying odds. The trip was based on The New York Times best-selling book series, The Blue Zones, through a partnership with the author Dan Buettner and Ranelle Brew, Ed.D., M.S., CHES, chair of the Public Health Department.

The Blue Zones community is defined as an area in which citizens, schools, employers, restaurants, grocery stores, and community leaders have come together to optimize residents’ longevity and well-being through daily lifestyles. The participants studied the Blue Zones Power 9® principles — nine
commonalities that lead to longer, healthier, happier lives: moving naturally, knowing your purpose, downshifting, the 80 percent rule, plant slant, wine at five, family first, belonging, and the right tribe. Thea Parikos, a Michigan native with a Greek ethnic background and owner of a local inn, was the educational host of the trip.

Students, guided by Brew and Grand Valley faculty member, Susan Cleghorn, Dr.O.T., OTR/L, T.R.S., C.A.P.S., spent two weeks living, working, gardening, and socializing with a spectrum of Ikarian locals including health professionals and community members of all ages. The group studied and evaluated how improved overall population health has been achieved and compared and contrasted characteristics between the United States and Greece.

“The partnership of our two programs and students was such a unique and meaningful experience for us all! The Ikarian daily lifestyle was the opposite of our fast-paced American culture in so many ways. Practices in cooking, physical activity, socializing, and the sense of belonging, were all noted by our students as vast differences from those in the United States. Observing contributing factors of longevity in Ikaria has encouraged the students to dig deeper into the facets of healthy living and how they will use this knowledge in their respective fields,” said Brew.
Service Learning, Interprofessional Student Teams at the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum

On May 11, 2018, Diagnosis, Fun! was held at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum as part of a service-learning partnership of the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MiPERC) with the Children's Museum. During the event, undergraduate and graduate students in health and health-related programs from Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Ferris State University College of Pharmacy, and Central Michigan University College of Medicine collaborated to create community-based, health education experiences for local, elementary age students.

Nearly 200 second- and third-grade students from area schools visited the museum throughout the day. The elementary school students visited each of 10 health stations and interacted with team-based health professions students from allied health, public health, occupational and physical therapy, nursing, therapeutic recreation, pharmacy, and medicine programs. The health stations were designed with developmentally appropriate content and interactive activities that stimulated creative play and learning. The health stations supported the content for elementary school Michigan Health Education Content Standards, as well as provided an opportunity for children to learn about health professions roles.

Brenda Pawl, director of the Interprofessional Education Office commented, “This is such a rich experience for our future health care clinicians to learn about, from, and with each other, as they collaborate on developing their themed stations.” Diagnosis: Fun! will be an annual spring service-learning event for health professions students and an opportunity to work in interprofessional teams focusing on the themes of team dynamics, health literacy, and social determinants of health while also providing a significant service to the community.

Student Michael Bassett discusses health food choices with event participants Matthew and Samuel Higbea at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum.
MIPERC Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MIPERC) reached a milestone during its September 2017 annual conference, celebrating its 10th year of gathering health care professionals, educators, and students to promote collaboration, innovation, and interprofessional initiatives across disciplines, learning institutions, and health care systems. The conference, titled Team Science and Virtual Health Care, drew more than 350 participants.

MIPERC is housed in the Office of the Vice Provost for Health at Grand Valley and is comprised of more than 25 organizational members across six states. Members meet throughout the year in workgroups focused on discussion, development, and implementation of interprofessional initiatives in the areas of clinical setting, curriculum, professional development, scholarship, service-learning, and simulation.

As part of the celebration, MIPERC launched a new video that highlights the importance of organizations and health care professionals infusing interprofessional education and practice into communities to improve the quality and safety of care. The video will be used to expand the organization’s efforts across the region and draw new members to the center.

Speakers at the conference included Barbara Brandt, Ph.D., National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education at University of Minnesota; Eduardo Salas, Ph.D., Psychology Department Chair at Rice University, Houston, Texas; John Scott, M.D., M.Sc., medical director and telehealth associate director at University of Washington; and Gwen Sandefur, M.H.S.A., president of Spectrum Health Hospital Group in Grand Rapids.

The conference is held annually at the Richard M. DeVos Center on Grand Valley’s downtown campus. Individuals interested in participating in MIPERC or becoming involved with the conference can contact Brenda Pawl, director of interprofessional initiatives and special projects, at pawlb@gvsu.edu.

MIPERC is comprised of more than 25 organizational members across six states.
More than 275 clinicians, educators, and students participated in an ethic series on genomic medicine.

Inaugural West Michigan Ethics Conference focuses on Genomic Medicine

In March, Grand Valley’s Office of the Vice Provost for Health, in collaboration with Spectrum Health, hosted the 2018 West Michigan Health Care Ethics Conference: Ethical Issues in Genomic Medicine. This inaugural afternoon symposium was paired with the long-standing evening DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy at Grand Valley's L.V. Eberhard Center and featured local, regional, and national experts who led the audience in informative and thought-provoking discussions focused on ethical considerations in the use of genomic medicine in clinical care.

Afternoon keynote speakers included Bart Williams, Ph.D., Van Andel Research Institute; Debora Barnbaum, Ph.D., and Kimberly Garchar, Ph.D., Kent State University; and Ruth Sanborn, D.Be., M.A., Spectrum Health. More than 275 clinicians, educators, and students participated in the event. Continuing education credits were offered for physicians, nurses, physical therapists, social workers, and respiratory therapists.
The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy, the evening component of the program, provided content focused specifically on The Ethics of Genome Editing. The colloquy speakers included Matthew Porteus, M.D., and Alta Charo, J.D.

Porteus is an associate professor at Stanford University and the associate director of the Stanford Medical Science Training Program. His work has been the first to demonstrate that gene correction could be achieved in human cells at frequencies high enough to potentially cure patients. He is considered one of the pioneers and founders of the genome editing field. His research program continues to focus on developing genome editing by homologous recombination as curative therapy for children with genetic diseases.

While Charo was unable to participate, Porteus was able to present her material, which focused on the regulatory issues of genomic medicine. Charo teaches bioethics, biotechnology regulation, and public health law and torts at the University of Wisconsin. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and, in 2017, served on the committee drafting regulatory policy recommendations for governance of genome editing.

Support for the 2018 events was provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The combined spring DeVos Colloquy/Ethics Conference will become an annual event and will take place next on March 25, 2019, examining issues related to the ethics of conscientious objection.

Information is available on the colloquy website at gvsu.edu/colloquy/.
RESEARCH AND GRANTS

The passion Grand Valley faculty members have for research is matched by their passion to incorporate students into their efforts. Involving students in research is such a fundamental tenet of instruction at Grand Valley that undergraduate students have the opportunity to work on the type of research that is usually reserved for graduate students at other schools. This comprehensive research is aided by a significant number of grants, allowing close examination across all sectors of health care.
New Grants Support High-tech Projects in Health Care

In the past year, two Grand Valley initiatives were awarded grants from the Grand Rapids SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) to support student, faculty, and staff projects focused on the development of medical devices.

The applied Medical Devices Institute (aMDI) was awarded $680,000 for students and staff members to work with two local technology companies to help create medical devices and prepare them for manufacturing and sales. The aMDI, housed in Grand Valley’s Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on Grand Rapids’ Medical Mile, brings medical device ideas to life through research, design, and development. The center is led by Brent Nowak, executive director.
Engineering initiatives receive multiple grants for development of medical devices.

The Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, Spectrum Health Innovations (SHI), and Kendall College of Art and Design received a three-year, $700,000 grant. In this collaboration, physicians and medical staff come to SHI with ideas, and students are challenged with developing the ideas and building prototypes. The partnership began in 2011.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said the grants will allow Grand Valley to continue to make contributions to the West Michigan community. “West Michigan is becoming a thriving hub for medical device design and development,” Plotkowski said. “These programs have the potential to make a significant impact on patients’ quality of life and enrich the economy of West Michigan, and they are excellent examples of the Laker Effect.”

Grand Valley Program Receives $1 Million Grant to Support STEM Students

A new project at Grand Valley will financially help academically talented, low-income students seeking an education in science or engineering. The project received a $1 million grant in December 2017 from the National Science Foundation’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program (S-STEM) program.

Retaining and Inspiring Students in Science and Engineering (RISE) will create a set of progressively increasing four-year scholarships for at least 50 Grand Valley students. The program will offer scholarships to students in all year levels at Grand Valley, with an emphasis on incoming first-year students. Funding initiated in Fall 2018. RISE will immerse students in a cohort with faculty mentors and provide experiential learning opportunities, such as summer research, internships, and career preparation throughout their studies.

Through an in-depth evaluation, the RISE project team will investigate the aspects of the program that help support student retention and graduation, roadblocks to low-income students’ graduation, and student perceptions of the value of RISE’s experiential learning activities.

“Research shows that up to 60 percent of students who begin their freshman year as STEM majors leave the STEM disciplines in their first two years,” said Deborah Herrington, professor of chemistry and associate department chair, and RISE co-principal investigator. “This attrition from STEM is highest for low-income and underrepresented students. Many students who change their majors are capable of success in a STEM field, but for financial and time reasons, they change to disciplines that may appear to require less time and structure.”

The RISE project is led by Deborah Herrington, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and associate department chair; Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing; Charlie Standridge, associate dean of the Padnos College; and Jerry Johnson, associate professor of social work.

For more information, contact Deborah Herrington at herringd@gvsu.edu.
Cooling and Functionality in Multiple Sclerosis

A unique, interdisciplinary, clinical research team, which included graduate and undergraduate students from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Health Professions, received the Collaborative Research and Creative Activity Initiative Grant in November 2017. Grand Valley’s Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence awarded the grant to encourage new, collaborative research and creative activities among faculty members from different disciplines and/or areas of expertise.

The 12-month, $9,020 grant will support the team’s research on the impact of neck cooling on functional performance in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS). The team will assess exercise capacity, strength-endurance, activities of daily living, and extremity range of motion, as well as subjective fatigue and psychological well-being.

Members of the research team include Ross Sherman, Ph.D., associate professor of exercise science in the Movement Science Department; Shaunna Kelder, Dr.O.T., OTR/L, assistant professor of occupational therapy in the College of Health Professions; Barbara Baker, P.T., Ph.D., N.C.S., associate professor of physical therapy in the College of Health Professions; and Danita Vander Kodde, M.S., P.A.C., M.S.C.S., a physician assistant in neurology at Spectrum Health Medical Group.

The debilitating effects of fatigue are experienced by 70 percent of individuals suffering from MS, and are often due to impaired regulation of core body temperature. As one’s body temperature begins to increase, due to increasing metabolic load and heat production, the symptoms of MS are exacerbated and the sensation of fatigue begins to increase. These symptoms lead to decreased physical activity or exercise tolerance, which longitudinally will lead to reduced quality of life.

Study examines benefits of neck cooling in the management of multiple sclerosis.

Professors Ross Sherman, Ph.D., and Shaunna Kelder, Dr.O.T., OTR/L are two of the members of an interprofessional team furthering research on multiple sclerosis. Additional team members not pictured are Barbara Baker, P.T., Ph.D., N.C.S., and Danita Vander Kodde, M.S., P.A.C., M.S.C.S.
Research has identified cooling as an effective strategy to reduce exercise-induced fatigue; however, none of the earlier-identified techniques would be usable without access to extensive funds, a well-equipped laboratory, and qualified professionals. The significance of the research is that no one has examined the effectiveness of neck cooling before and during exercise, which may provide a low-cost solution for people with MS. The research may also offer further insight into the physiological mechanisms underpinning MS-related fatigue.

Professor Leads Research to Test Cure for Parkinson’s Disease

A team of researchers from Grand Valley, Van Andel Institute, and Rush University received a $500,000 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health, to test a possible cure for Parkinson’s disease.

The main targets of neuronal loss in Parkinson’s disease are dopamine neurons, and this research project will test if the introduction of a modified protein, known as PM-Nato3, will protect those neurons from the toxicity of the disease.

The patent-pending technology to be used in the research was developed by Grand Valley alumni Nicholas Huisingh, Jordan Straight, Daniel Doyle, and Douglas Peterson while they were undergraduate students.

Merritt DeLano-Taylor, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical sciences, will serve as one of three principal investigators for the research. The research proposes that delivering PM-Nato3 into the affected area of the brain of a person with Parkinson’s disease will activate certain factors that will protect dopamine neurons. To test that hypothesis, the team will use human cells and animal models to study the effects of PM-Nato3.

Delano-Taylor said his team ultimately hopes that the results will assess the technology’s potential for translation into a product for further research and eventually clinical intervention.

The Silent Killer!

The applied Medical Device Institute (aMDI) is working with Sterilogy, a local Michigan company, to help reduce and eliminate hospital associated infections (HAs). As noted by Brent Nowak, executive director of aMDI, HAs kill more than 100,000 patients every year and cost U.S. hospitals well over $30 billion in unnecessary costs. Additionally, in the United States, there are 2,000,000 more nonfatal incidences of HAs annually.

Hal Zaima, CEO of Sterilogy, pointed out that, “The patient fatality is similar to a Boeing 767 crashing every day!”

Sterilogy has patented a compact body-worn, hand-hygiene system that alerts the user at the appropriate time to dispense and use the hand sanitizer, and then automatically records the dispensing event into Sterilogy’s cloud, allowing hospital executives to see
compliance rates in real time. To enhance the capabilities of Sterilogy’s system, Sterilogy has engaged aMDI to develop a wireless, automated, zone control system.

GVSU Professor Karl Brakora, Ph.D., principal investigator and graduate engineering students Jon Vinsko and Trevor Ekin are designing, developing, fabricating, testing, and demonstrating a high radio frequency-based system. This novel system identifies and differentiates between patient zones, signals the health care provider, and records sanitation events. This program provides the students real-world experience while the faculty leads an industry-driven program to bring a solution to the health care industry.

Food Policy Impact on Food Pantries

Debbie Lown, Ph.D., R.D., associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences; her graduate student, Eva Andrews; and Lown’s undergraduate students are investigating the impact of a new healthy food policy on client satisfaction, pantry food environment, and food distribution at five Kent County Health Department’s (KCHD) food pantries. This is a collaborative research project with the KCHD and Access of West Michigan, which is funded by an MDHHS/KCHD: Health and Wellness 4 x 4 Plane Grant Evaluation.

Hospital-associated infections kill more than 100,000 patients every year.

This hand hygiene system alerts user and records information to aid in organization compliance rates.
In 2016, food insecurity affected 12.3 percent or 15.5 million U.S. households.

Faculty member Debbie Lown (fourth from left) along with Grand Valley students Michael Bommarito, Eva Andrews, Kenny Urena-Gonzalez, and Megan Jecks are participating in research related to food pantry utilization and user satisfaction.

Food insecurity is defined as the limited access to adequate food due to a lack of money and other resources. The USDA Economic Research Service reported that food insecurity affected 12.3 percent or 15.5 million U.S. households in 2016. Food pantries provide groceries, usually once a month, to food insecure individuals. The number of clients utilizing food pantries has increased steadily in recent years. These services are generally considered emergency or short-term assistance. However, according to research published in The Journal of Consumer Affairs it appears that more households have come to depend on food pantries for long-term assistance with up to 28 percent of food pantry clients utilizing services eight months or more. Also, up to 40 percent of clients frequented more than one food pantry a month. These findings indicate there is a stable population with long-term dependence on food pantries.

The long-term dependence on food pantries has resulted in a focus on the nutritional quality of food provided by pantries. Studies published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association have found that premade food bags for pantry clients contained sufficient protein, fiber, iron, and folate, but inadequate vitamins A and C, calcium, fruit, and dairy. Furthermore, food pantries can provide nutritionally adequate food packets but need help to become effective referral units for public assistance programs.

The research team found that at a three-month, post-healthy food policy implementation time point, pantry users were very satisfied with the new healthy food policy, and this remains high at one year. The pantries were found to have a greater variety of fruits and vegetables at both three months and one year. There was an increased score in the pantry food environment at four of the five pantries due to displaying the fruits/vegetables abundantly or increasing access to healthy eating materials or nutrition labels. The clients increased their fruit and vegetable intake at three months and one year from baseline, however intake was still below the USDA recommendations. Access of West Michigan will use this information to adjust their healthy food policy to improve the nutrition knowledge and intake of pantry users.
Implementation of Telemedicine in Physician Assistant Education

To meet the demands of educating physician assistant students in an evolving medical environment, Grand Valley’s physician assistant studies (PAS) program and Munson Medical Center in Traverse City collaborated on a Rural Utilities Services (RUS) grant, which funds the Rural Education and Access to Community Health (REACH) Telemedicine Project.

The REACH Telemedicine Project is an innovative project that includes education of physician assistant students in telemedicine principles and connects 19 rural end user sites to a robust telemedicine network providing increased access to care in northern Michigan. The project has the capacity to provide services to approximately 400,000 persons living in the 14 targeted rural counties.

The funding from the grant was received in 2017 and implementation of the REACH project is currently taking place. During the first year of the grant, PAS students at the Grand Rapids and Traverse City campuses received formal education on telemedicine principles; the students in Grand Rapids were subsequently partnered with a telemedicine provider.

Preliminary, thematic analysis of students’ reflection papers on their experience with telemedicine providers was positive with three themes identified: 1) knowledge gained in the practice of telemedicine, 2) high impact on patient care using telemedicine, and 3) positive view on the use of telemedicine in their future practice. The next phase of the grant is to develop simulation experiences for students and to operationalize the northern Michigan end user sites that will provide students at the Traverse City location with rural clinical experiences in telemedicine.
From policy creation to patient intake to finding ways to help people live healthier lives, Grand Valley alumni are making a difference in health care. They are carrying out what Grand Valley strives to instill in graduates: Be a force for positive change through leadership and continued learning. Read on for stories about the career paths taken by some Lakers.
Insurance reform to properly cover those with autism has long made sense to Brian Calley, who started serving as Michigan’s lieutenant governor in 2011 after a stint in the state House. He saw the reform as an investment that made sense for the public good because the right treatment, especially early intervention, could help individuals with autism lead self-determined lives and reduce overall costs of care, as well as provide assistance and support.

In one of life’s twists, the concept of sound public policy took on a personal note when Calley’s daughter was diagnosed with autism. The possibility that she had the disorder dawned on him while he listened to testimony about autism during a House committee hearing. Her bewildering struggles — “everything was so hard” — seemed to now have an explanation, but Calley and his family still went down a familiar road for those encountering a brain health disorder: denial, hiding, and worries about stigma. They eventually reached the conclusion that they would not hide anymore, even though challenges remained.

“You want things to be predictable and you want things to turn out the way you expected them to turn out,” Calley said. “If a journey is different, it doesn’t have to be worse. It’s just different.”

Brian Calley, ’00, Michigan Lieutenant Governor
“We have to overcome the mindset that somehow health care needed for the brain is something to be embarrassed about when, if it was for your heart health, you wouldn’t be embarrassed about seeking treatment.”

– BRIAN CALLEY, ’00

His personal experiences have reinforced his belief that government, the health care industry, and all of society need to do better handling what he calls “health care from the neck up.”

“We have to overcome the mindset that somehow health care needed for the brain is something to be embarrassed about when, if it was for your heart health, you wouldn’t be embarrassed about seeking treatment.”

Calley’s work with state government has included signing into law measures to improve brain health treatment, such as autism insurance reform, legislation to professionally license autism therapists (leading to an influx of these crucial professionals), and a package of bills to fight opioid addiction.

His political career before state government — where he served as a state representative from 2007 to 2011 — started with the Ionia County Board of Commissioners. His work at all levels in politics has often dealt with financial issues, which is fitting given his early career in the banking industry. After graduating from Michigan State University, Calley worked as an assistant vice president for commercial lending for an Ionia County bank. It was during this time that he earned his Master of Business Administration degree from Grand Valley. He would go on to other executive positions in the commercial lending sector before his election to the state House.

“Earning my M.B.A. from Grand Valley provided me with relevant, real-world skills that made me a better leader, helping me navigate the challenges and opportunities that arise in both the private and public sectors,” Calley said.

One significant challenge where Calley led from a public policy standpoint is on efforts to stem the opioid addiction epidemic in Michigan. Among the legislative changes: an improved tracking system so doctors can see patients’ prescription history and guard against over-prescribing; assurance that health care providers have a bona fide relationship with patients before prescribing painkillers; and requirement that physicians explain to patients the risks associated with taking medications, such as the potential for addiction.

These changes show how building a health care system around people rather than the “artificial constructs of government” produce better results, Calley said. Such approaches allow for meaningful partnerships and innovation.

And nowhere are person-focused approaches more important than in the mental health system, which, through public policy and other forces, has become detached from the general health care system, Calley said. The result is a lack of coordination that produces unsatisfactory outcomes. He advocates an approach where public policy provides integrative opportunities. For instance, “Our primary care system needs to be better equipped to be the medical home for brain care.”

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Every day the Albanian minister for urban development, Eglantina Gjermeni, uses her Grand Valley education, as well as the lessons that she learned outside the classroom 20 years ago while earning her master’s degree in social work.

A longtime professor, Gjermeni became a member of Albania’s parliament in 2009, working with the Commission on Health and Social Issues. In her current role, Gjermeni works on matters including urban planning and development, as well as housing. Her work also involves strong advocacy through publishing, training, and other means for women’s health and empowerment while addressing some of the most pressing issues facing women, such as equity, gender violence, and trafficking. For 10 years, she led the Gender Alliance for Development Center, a nongovernmental organization that promotes gender equity in Albania.

Expanding her knowledge through a master’s degree at Grand Valley had multiple benefits for her professional goals, but the move to the United States for a year was a daunting one, and not just because of the geography. Gjermeni left her husband behind in Albania, traveling to West Michigan with their then five-year-old son. But to hear her describe the U.S. — “the land of dreams and prosperity” — is to understand one of the primary reasons she embarked on this journey.

She is grateful for the opportunity to expand her education in a democratic country, as her homeland at that time was going through social, economic, and political changes. The added bonus, she said, was her living arrangement. “I was blessed to have been given this wonderful opportunity to experience the American life to its full dimension by living with an American family,” she said.

Gjermeni’s appreciation for experiencing the “full dimension” of the American life meshes with her dedication throughout her professional life to being a social researcher. The bookends to her master’s degree as an international student at Grand Valley are a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Tirana, Albania, and a doctorate in social work from the same school. She also has served on the faculty of that university’s Department of Social Work.

She was eager to incorporate what she learned at Grand Valley into her instruction as well as into all aspects of her life. Gjermeni came away cherishing values including teamwork, open-mindedness, communication, accepting differences, and an emphasis on motivation and raising self-esteem, all of which were relatively new concepts to her, she admitted.

An experience in fieldwork while at Grand Valley helped reinforce some of those values for Gjermeni, as well as helping her learn more about supervising skills in social work, empathy, and assertiveness.

To Gjermeni, enlightenment and awareness hold the keys to furthering not only the future of women but also the social and economic development of the country. She values the team she works with and strives to bring what she believes is a different approach to politics, specifically, achievement is best attained through communication, not bullying. In addition, beyond her work in her
“Being on the cusp of the millennial market, it’s very important for me to have a purpose to what I do every day. Our mission is about improving the health and lives of the people we serve. To me that is compelling.”

– MARTI LOLLI, ’07

own country, working with women during the 1999 Kosovo refugee crisis has given her a well-rounded background for helping women.

“The global experience taught us that the only way to put women’s issues on the agenda at the national and international levels is by enhancing women’s participation in politics and decision-making,” she said.

Marti Lolli, ’07, Senior Vice President for Consumer and Government Markets and Chief Marketing Officer, Priority Health

A produce farmer’s remarks at one of the hundreds of presentations Marti Lolli of Priority Health has given on health savings accounts sticks with her to this day when she thinks about developing effective and affordable health coverage options. As the daughter of small business owners, she understands that others in the same situation just want to run their businesses well and reduce the costs that make it hard to compete and survive. And they want to eliminate the noise about confusing health coverage options.

“The farmer said, ‘I just want to farm. I want to be a good custodian of this business and I want to be a good employer, but I have all of these other pressures,’” said Lolli, the senior vice president for consumer and government markets and chief marketing officer. “It motivated me to think through programs to provide high-quality, affordable health care options.”

Lolli’s drive to tackle complex business problems and new challenges meshes well with the ever-changing needs in the health care industry. At Priority Health, she is able to match that drive with a mission that she appreciates and a culture that she prizes for its emphasis on creating high-performing teams and empowering women to be leaders. “Being on the cusp of the millennial market, it’s very important for me to have a purpose to what I do every day. Our mission is about improving the health and lives of the people we serve. To me that is compelling. It’s not just about driving sales and marketing.”

While all of those elements make her work personally satisfying, they also help create an atmosphere that produces favorable outcomes for members and the community, she said. In turn, Lolli is grateful for the trust and loyalty from members who recognize the efforts of Priority Health to help with behavioral change or see them through a health issue they faced. She has essentially spent her entire career at Priority Health in an almost dizzying number of roles, first on an information technology track and then, playing a hunch that ran counter to advice she received and conventional thinking, on a product development track.

That move launched Lolli on a trajectory that has had her leading product development and business strategy amid health care reform, as well as working closely on efforts to influence policy at the state and federal levels. She now oversees $2.4 billion in annual revenue and three business units. Her journey embodies a notion that she likes: A career path is a lattice, not a ladder.

Her work along that lattice started with a liberal education at Hillsdale College that helped teach her how to think. She had worked at Priority Health for a bit when she decided to continue her education at Grand Valley, receiving her Master of Business
administration, notably missing only one week of classes to have a baby. She returned to applause.

Lolli values the breadth of knowledge she absorbed while receiving her M.B.A. Some information was immediately applicable to her work, while she has been surprised by some of the other areas that she has drawn upon in subsequent years. She enjoyed the theory education she received as well as the fact that some currently practicing faculty members walked into classes with case studies from their days at work. "It was a nice blend of faculty members."

She also credits her degree with helping to expand her thinking agility, a trait that she uses as she ponders what she considers the most pressing challenges in her industry. "The holy grail is affordability and getting customers involved in health care as well. We need people to ask questions about their health care to help contain costs."

Michelle Troseth, '83 and '97, Co-founder of MissingLogic, LLC, West Michigan

As an undergraduate Grand Valley nursing student, Michelle Troseth was tasked with creating a care plan for a patient with a complicated medical history that included a bilateral amputation and significant pain. Knowing the work also needed to meet the high standards of nursing instructor Bonnie Wesorick, Troseth stayed up all night developing a detailed 20-page plan that she was sure covered every aspect of treatment. She eagerly anticipated Wesorick's approval. Wesorick scarcely looked at the plan. She set it aside and asked Troseth: "What can you tell me about the patient?"

Troseth can recall minute details about that clinical case because, in that moment, she learned a valuable lesson that was a key part of setting her career path toward patient-centered care — the kind Wesorick has pioneered and championed. Once Troseth learned more about the patient, she understood the pros and cons of pain management for that individual and discovered that positive imagery could play a holistic, beyond-medicine, role in that case. "Bonnie made such an impact on me as a clinical instructor in how she treated students and patients. I was in awe of her," Troseth said. "If Bonnie taught me anything it was the human connection. We can lose sight of it in the clinical setting."

Troseth’s commitment to evidence-based care was rooted in her experiences as a student and then subsequently informed her through different clinical settings and professional evolvement. For instance, the need for high-quality collaboration between physicians and nurses was burnished for Troseth when she had a frustrating interaction with a doctor while she worked as a critical care nurse. That experience formed the basis for her thesis researching doctor/nurse relationships and the resulting effect on nursing job satisfaction when she pursued her master’s degree from Grand Valley.

Troseth has gone on to a busy, distinguished career that is anchored not only in nursing but also in advancing the evidence-based, patient-centered model to create thriving health work cultures and practice environments. Her most recent ventures have included a trifecta of addressing challenges in health care through an emphasis

“In health care, it’s easy to be unipolar in your thinking. A hospital board may make a decision that the only thing we’re going to focus on is patient satisfaction, but if they don’t put equal emphasis on staff satisfaction, eventually patient satisfaction will be in the tank again.”

– MICHIELLE TROSETH, ’83 AND’97
on informatics and interprofessional collaboration. She co-founded MissingLogic, LLC, which helps health care organizations manage issues in such areas as patient care and clinician well-being by using a strategy that encourages leaders to look beyond the problem of the moment to study the entire picture. She took a position as clinical effectiveness officer for EBSCO Health. And she is currently president of the National Academies of Practice (NAP), which espouses the benefit of interprofessional collaboration in health care.

Even with that full schedule, Troseth is quick to point out that the lessons of balance are not lost on her when it comes to family. She credits the support of her husband for helping with her professional goals and has always made a point to carve out time with him and their three sons.

Indeed, managing both sides of a polarity is a central part of her life. She steadfastly believes that polarity thinking will transform the health care industry. The notion — one that is also incorporated into the Kirkhof College of Nursing framework — boils down to understanding that polarities are sets of values that appear to be opposite but actually are connected, yin and yang.

An example: “In health care, it’s easy to be unipolar in your thinking. A hospital board may make a decision that the only thing we’re going to focus on is patient satisfaction, but if they don’t put equal emphasis on staff satisfaction, eventually patient satisfaction will be in the tank again. I believe that we suffer as a nation because we look at health care with either/or thinking, and do not supplement with and/both thinking.”

Through her career, Wesorick has been an integral part of Troseth’s professional journey. Troseth took a job with what is now Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids and while there worked with Wesorick to develop the clinical practice model (CPM). Troseth eventually assumed a leadership role with the CPM Resource Center, which then became part of information and analytics company Elsevier.

Fittingly, Troseth’s desire to give back to Grand Valley, where she earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing, led to forming a committee to raise money for The Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation.

Troseth’s passion for transforming the clinical setting has only deepened over the decades. She believes establishing polarity thinking as a core competency in health care is crucial, and she thinks there is no better place to foster that movement than the Wesorick Center.

“I am very motivated to put it on the map for Grand Valley,” she said.

Andraya Wells, ’08, Interim Director of Patient Access for Mercy Health Saint Mary’s

The health care team that Andraya Wells oversees plays an important role in setting the tone of patients’ visits to Mercy Health Saint Mary’s facilities. Her approximately 120 colleagues work at the front end of the system from preregistration for procedures to greeting those who arrive at urgent care or the emergency department. They verify information about patients and also handle insurance matters, identifying patient payment liabilities and communicating what is and isn’t covered.

Wells uniquely understands the responsibility embedded in the point-of-access system because she has worked in every aspect of it. She has gone from working right out of school as a per diem employee who would take any shift to now directing the services delivered to patients in more than 40 areas. The deep well of knowledge she developed by working her way up through that system serves her well in a supervisory role. “I’ve worked it and done it, so I can speak to every process,” Wells said.
Andraya Wells, ‘08

The professional niche she found has fulfilled her goal of working in the dynamic field of health care. Interestingly, the certainty she feels now about her role, her skills, and aptitude contrasts with the student who came to Grand Valley having no idea about her future and then struggled to find a field that spoke to her. She knew she wanted to help people. She came to realize the growing, changing field of health care held promise. But she knew she wasn’t suited for a clinical setting.

Grand Valley’s liberal education helped set the foundation for her direction. A class on grant-writing piqued her interest and helped her see some of the behind-the-scenes options to working in health care. And then the internship required for her bachelor’s degree in public administration opened the crucial door. She worked for the Mercy Health Saint Mary’s Human Resources Department and eventually found her way to working within the system she oversees today at an institution that she values for its mission and guiding behaviors.

Wells notes that the work of her team not only affects the patient experience but also the duties of others in the health care system. So much of their work is simply trying to keep people happy to ensure a smooth process — and she relishes the challenge. “I really like the problem-solving,” Wells said. “I like being able to figure out the problem and to have those ‘aha’ moments, to find out the root cause and how do we educate and not have that happen again. I also like building relationships with people so I can pick up the phone and take care of something.”

Making connections for the long term or for the few moments interacting with a patient is at the heart of what Wells and her team do. Perhaps nowhere was that skill put to the test more acutely than when she worked in the emergency department. People would swear at her or beg for help. She remembers the urgency of helping a woman carrying a baby rushing toward her, frantic, unable to speak English. Wells was able to determine that the baby wasn’t breathing — a scenario that resonates even more now that she is a mother.

She learned the necessity of managing her emotions and the desire to help someone within a limited pocket of influence. Those customer service skills with people at their most vulnerable will become increasingly important for Wells and her team as the health insurance landscape continues to evolve and coverages shift. “The difficult conversations will continue to increase, and patients may not get the services they desperately need because they aren’t covered,” she said.
2017 PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, AND FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Grand Valley health professions faculty members in 2017–2018 produced a wide array of writings and presentations to help illuminate topics or research and provide information for the ongoing scholarship in the field. A compilation of this important work, as well as recognitions earned, follows.
Refereed Journal Articles and Manuscripts


Books and Book Chapters


Presentations – Regional, National, and International


Biddanda, B. (2017, September). The Muskegon Lake Observatory Project. Presentation at the CIGLR Annual Partners Meeting, Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Biddanda, B. (2017, May). Finding the “Goldilocks Zone” for carbon cycling in a Great Lakes watershed. Presentation at the CIGLR Seminars, Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.


Elrod, G. B. (2017, May). The needs of older adults recently diagnosed with cancer. Presentation at the ONS Congress, Oncology Nursing Society, Denver, CO.


Guida, T., & Khoo, S. K. (2017, March). Investigation of TNFRSF1A (tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 1A) gene expression in children with typhoid fever. Presentation at the 2nd Annual Cell & Molecular Biology Research Symposium, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.

Hahs, E., & Khoo, S. K. (2017, November). Effects of microRNA 34b/c in SH-SY5Y cells for Parkinson’s disease study. Presentation at the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Conference, Van Andel Institute, Grand Valley State University, Aquinas College, Calvin College, Hope College, Grand Rapids, MI.

Harrah, A., Armistead, B., & Khoo, S. K. (2017, November). microRNA 34b/c as disease progression biomarkers for Parkinson’s disease. Presentation at the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Conference, Van Andel Institute, Grand Valley State University, Aquinas College, Calvin College, Hope College, Grand Rapids, MI.


Harrington, S. A., & Keep, S. (2017, September). Intercollegiate alliance of health and wellness to improve health outcomes among individuals with a low socioeconomic status and limited access to health care. Presentation at the ACHNE Annual Institute, Association of Community Health Nurse Educators, New Orleans, LA.


Johnson, J., & Walker, E. (2017, October). Building physically literate students through TGFU. Presented at Shape Michigan, the Society of Physical Health Educators, Lansing, MI.


Jones-Rikkers, C., & Sanford, J. (2017). Triple bottom line (3BL) and sustainability: A major change in corporate management. Presented at the Decision Sciences Institute Midwest Region, Decision Sciences Institute, Grand Rapids, MI.


Keider, R. C. (2017, September). A case for re-optimization of radiation therapy dose to the prostate and organs at risk. Presented at the Michigan Society of Radiologic Technologists General Meeting, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Bay City, MI.


Knapp, K., & Biddanda, B. (2017, September). Dynamics of water, carbon and oxygen in Muskegon Lake. Presented at the CIGLR Annual Partners Meeting, Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Kovacs, D., & Cannon, A. (2017, August). Toxicology for chemists: Connecting toxicology and chemistry topics for the design of chemical products that have reduced human and environmental impacts. Presented at the 10th World Congress - Alternative and Animal Use in Life Sciences, American Society of Toxicology, Seattle, WA.


Lohr, K. (2017, September). Late preterm infants. Presented at the In-service, Mercy Health Muskegon, Women and Children’s Services/Hackley Hospital, Muskegon, MI.


Pelon, S. B. (2017, November). Thriving in hospice social work: Combatting compassion fatigue. Presented at the NHPCO Annual Conference, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), New Orleans, LA.


Rinker, D. (2017, October). Adolescent risk behavior screening in primary care. Presented at the MICNP Traverse City Chapter, Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP), Traverse City, MI.


Robertson, S., Armistead, B., & Khoo, S. K. (2017, November). AIM2 (Absent in melanoma 2) gene as diagnostic biomarker for typhoid fever. Presented at the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Conference, jointly hosted by Van Andel Institute, Grand Valley State University, Aquinas College, Calvin College, Hope College, Grand Rapids, MI.


Strouse, S. M. (2017, October). Thinking of nursing through the prism of culture: Reflections on the profession. Presented at the Fall Research Event, Sigma Theta Tau International Kappa Epsilon, Zeeland, MI.


Thomas, P. L. (2017, July). Clinical nurse leader education, partnerships, and simulation. Presented at the International Graduate Faculty and Student Symposium, Tsukuba University School of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Tsukuba, Japan.


Thomas, P. L. (2017, June). Transformational leadership and change theory. Presented at the Tsukuba University International Seminar, Tsukuba University School of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Tsukuba, Japan.


Thomas, P. L. (2017, February). Domestic and international practice and academic partnerships: Mentorship and collaboration of international clinical nurse leader faculty, Students, and Health System Leaders. Presented at the Clinical Nurse Leader Summit, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Atlanta, GA.

Thomas, P. L. (2017, February). Embedding CNLs in healthcare systems through the lens of implementation science. Presented at the Clinical Nurse Leader Summit, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Atlanta, GA.

Usoro, J., Kenyon, L. K., Farris, J., & Rhodes, S. S. (2017, April). Changes in EEG spectrum and mutual information during power mobility training. Presented at the IEEE Great Lakes Biomedical Conference, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Milwaukee, WI.


Wampler, P. (2017, October). *Potholes and pitfalls along the road to research and studying abroad in Haiti.* Presented at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Geological Society of America, Seattle, WA.


Washburn, J. E. (2017, September). *Hidden in plain sight: When human trafficking victims are our patients too.* Presented at the Continuing Education Offering for RNs, St. Joseph Mercy Health and Sigma Theta Tau Chapter at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

Weinke, A., & Biddanda, Bopaiah, B. (2017, September). *Tracking stratification and mixing, and its ecological consequences.* Presented at the CIGLR Annual Partners Meeting, Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Weiland, M., Armistead, B., & Khoo, S. K. (2017, November). *Evaluation of leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2)-related microRNAs as biomarkers for Parkinson’s disease.* Presented at the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Conference, jointly hosted by Van Andel Institute, Grand Valley State University, Aquinas College, Calvin College, and Hope College, Grand Rapids, MI.


Wessels, D., & Snyder, E. (2017, September). *Evaluating the potential impacts of rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) farming on aquatic macroinvertebrates and glassfrogs in neotropical cloud forest streams.* Presented at the Michigan Space Science Grant Consortium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.


Faculty Awards and Honors

Grand Valley’s Occupational Safety and Health Management (OSHM) program was awarded Graduate Safety Practitioner® (GSP®) Qualified Academic Program (QAP) status by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP). BCSP supports OSH graduates by providing them opportunities to apply for the GSP designation, a pathway to the Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®) designation. The CSP, accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under the ISO 17024 standard, has a reputation as the “gold standard” of safety certification. The GSP designation will demonstrate OSH graduates’ level of preparation and commitment to the safety profession to established practitioners and potential employers. Additionally, being a GSP QAP program distinguishes Grand Valley’s OSH program from other programs because our students do not need to sit for the ASP certification exam prior to taking the CSP exam.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital and Grand Valley State University Neurologic Residency received full accreditation by the American Physical Therapy Association as a post-professional residency program for physical therapists in Neurologic Clinical Practice.
**SHaPe Camp** is a 2018 Hometown Health Heroes award recipient, given by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to protect and improve their community’s health. Hometown Health Hero awards are presented at the Capitol Rotunda annually in April as part of Michigan’s official Public Health Week celebration. Camp co-director, Ranelle Brew, Ed.D., M.S., CHES., accepted the award, as well as a Special Tribute Award, from Senator David Hildenbrand and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon.

**Denise Ludwig**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, FNAP, associate professor of speech language at Grand Valley along with Nick Carlson of Goodwill Industries of Grand Rapids were appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to the Michigan Board of Speech-Language Pathology. This is an 11-member board that assists the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs with regulating the licensure and practice of speech-language pathologists. Governor Snyder was quoted as saying: “Nick and Denise both have great experience and I am confident they will serve this board well.” Members serve four-year terms.

**Dan Halling**, Ph.D., CCC-A, professor of communications sciences and disorders was recognized by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) as a Fellow of the Association, one of the highest honors awarded by the association. The awards ceremony took place on November 10, 2017. Dan was one of 15 individuals recognized by ASHA, which represents over 185,000 speech/language/hearing professionals.

**Meri Goehring**, PT, Ph.D., was awarded the 2018 Presidents Award from the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy. Goehring served as editor for *GeriNotes* for two consecutive three-year terms. *GeriNotes* is a clinical magazine published by the organization six times a year. The Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy is a special interest section of the American Physical Therapy Association. It fosters clinical excellence and the professional and career development of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants working with older adults by providing members with continuing education and assistance in the areas of practice, research, and advocacy.

**Cathy Harro**, PT, D.P.T., M.S., NCS, was inducted into the National Academy of Practice in Physical Therapy.
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HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS
### College of Community and Public Service

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### College of Health Professions

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Kirkhof College of Nursing

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Office of the Vice Provost for Health

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