

Frederik Meijer Honors College Annual Report

Executive Summary

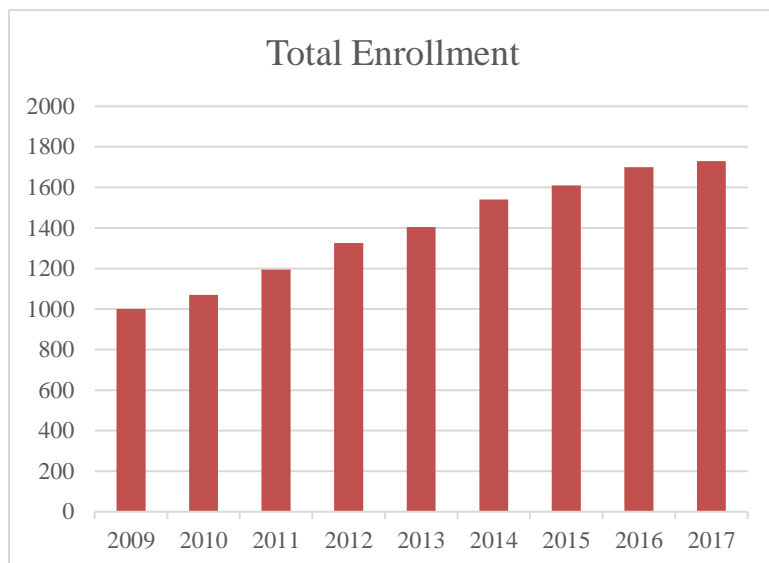
July 2017

I. Enrollment and Composition of Student Body

The Meijer Honors College has a very strong incoming class of first-year students for Fall 2017. The number is smaller than the previous year (last year's incoming class spiked much higher than anticipated), but 420 highly-qualified freshmen puts us on par with desired enrollment in the program. The number of students in the Meijer Honors College will climb above 1700 in Fall 2017. See chart on right.

The average high school GPA of students in our incoming class is 3.957, which is higher than previous years. Standardized test scores have stayed high on average and have even risen a bit—they equate to over a 29 ACT composite score. Honors students have many excellent choices for college, and the vast majority of them come to Grand Valley as their first choice. We surveyed our first-year students this past year, and found that almost half of them had been accepted at Michigan State, University of Michigan, or both. Other options for honors students who came to Grand Valley (i.e., universities at which they were accepted) included

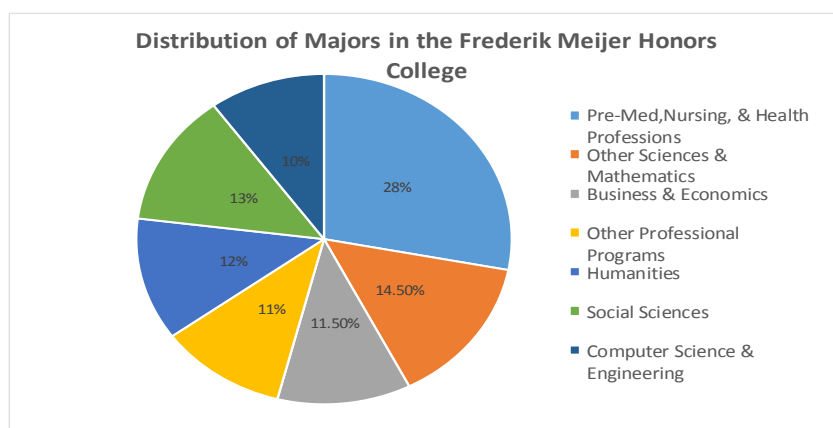
Princeton, Purdue, Marquette, Ohio State, Miami University of Ohio, Kettering, Case Western, Indiana University, Penn State, etc. Over 50% of the respondents said that the Meijer Honors College was either a pivotal or very important reason that they came to GVSU. Students came to Honors at Grand Valley for three main reasons: the program (with its unique curriculum and exceptional faculty), the friendly and nurturing environment, and the outstanding facilities.



Honors has an outstanding graduation rate, as well. As you can see in the chart below, honors students graduate at a much higher rate than even students who were eligible to participate in Honors, but declined to do so.

Cohort	GVSU 4-yr	Hon elig 4-yr	Hon 4 -yr	GVSU 5-yr	Hon elig 5-yr	Hon 5-yr	GVSU 6-yr	Hon elig 6-yr	Hon 6-yr
2012	~37%	47.0%	60.7%						
2011	35.7%	50.4%	62.6%	~60%	72.4%	81.7%			
2010	34.1%	39.4%	59.7%	60.2%	68.9%	87.3%	~67%	73.9%	90.9%
2009	36.7%	48.0%	65.4%	60.0%	64.9%	85.1%	66.6%	71.7%	87.6%

Honors students have a wide range of interests. Consequently, there are honors students in every major in the university. Below is a representation of the distribution of majors of honors students.



II. The Frederik Meijer Lecture Series.

The Meijer Lecture Series was very successful this past year.

Fall 2016 Lecture. On Tuesday, September 20th, **Brian Bordainick**, Head of Innovation Ventures at Hudson's Bay Company and former CEO of Dinner Lab, spoke on the theme "The Start-Up Secret Sauce: Building an Organization from the Ground Up." He spoke about developing Dinner Lab, but also concentrated a lot of his talk on the issues he faces in reinventing retail. He regaled a full auditorium of students, faculty, and staff with stories of his efforts—both successes and failures—to lead innovative ventures. He was down to earth and approachable, and gave excellent advice to all who listened.

Winter 2017 Lecture. Our lecturer on Monday, March 20th, was **Nate Young**, Vice President of Newell Brands, spoke on "Why I Love Designing Everyday Things." His talk emphasized that real creativity comes when one iterates within constraints—one has to be more innovative when there are limitations imposed. He also shared the "Design Five"—a set of rules about innovation that he derived from Leonardo da Vinci. These included careful observation, connecting disparate things, discerning the appeal, synthesizing, and influencing (persuasion).

III. The Frederik Meijer First Generation Scholarship.

Four more recipients of the Meijer First Generation Scholarship graduated—and all completed their rigorous programs in the span of four years. Furthermore, each one of them received prestigious departmental awards! **Gloria LaCourse** was selected both as the Meijer Honors College Outstanding Senior of the Year and the Accounting Departmental Award recipient. She completed four public accounting internships, presented a paper at a professional conference in Rome, and completed an impressive senior project that, as she put it, "created models for family-owned businesses [in five different countries] to follow in order to gain the greatest tax benefit while making charitable contributions." Gloria will attend The Ohio State University on full scholarship to get her masters in Accounting, and already has a job waiting for her at Plante Moran when she completes it.



Dayne Martinez was a Biomedical Sciences major, and he won the departmental award this year from Biomedical Sciences. He worked in Prof. Merritt Taylor's lab, and did two summer research programs—the UM-SMART program at the University of Michigan and the SENS Summer Scholars Program at the Scripps Research Institute. He plans to do a dual M.D./Ph.D. degree.

Roxana Dumitrache was a Biomedical Sciences major who won the Chemistry Department Award in 2014. She presented research about the Target Inquiry Program at the American Chemical Society in San Diego in 2016. Roxana will be attending the College of Pharmacy at the University of Michigan.

Rachael Vrugink majored in Advertising and Public Relations, and received the departmental award in her major this past Spring. Rachael was president of the GVSU Advertising Club, and completed three internships. She also was a leader of the GVSU National Student Advertising Competition Team, which took first place in the district competition, beating out MSU, U of M, Purdue, and many other schools, and then went on to the national finals in New Orleans. Rachael will be working at Our Full Attention, LLC, a boutique advertising and engagement agency in Grand Rapids.

IV. The Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships. Please see attached report.

V. The Frederik Meijer Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Please see attached report from Linda Chamberlain.

VI. Student Accomplishments.

The mission of the Honors College is "to inspire and empower motivated students to be intellectually curious lifelong learners to serve as capable leaders who will think broadly and critically as they engage in the issues in their community and the world," hence our motto "Live, Learn, Lead." Our students clearly manifest these traits. When considering the following, it is important to keep in mind that fewer than 8% of Grand Valley's undergraduates are Honors students.

- **Phi Kappa Phi** is one of the most prestigious Honors Societies in the country. More honors students than ever before were recognized in a ceremony in late March: 62 first-year honors students—compared with 51 last year—were honored (57% of the total) and 54 upper-class honors students—compared to 33 last year—were inducted into the Society (46.5%).
- Twenty-nine honors seniors were **recipients of departmental awards** at the annual Grand Valley State Awards Celebration in early April. This means that Honors students were given the highest academic award in 29 of the 85 departments that give the award—or 34%. Students won awards in almost every college. This year Honors students won the top award in Hospitality and Tourism Management; Medical Laboratory Science; Anthropology; Advertising and Public Relations; Biochemistry; Biology; Biomedical Sciences; Cell and Molecular Biology; Multimedia Journalism; Comprehensive Science and Arts for Teaching; English; Film and Video Production; German; International Relation; Music; Physics; Sociology; Statistics; Theatre; Writing; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Nursing; Mechanical Engineering; Computer Science; Accounting, Economics; Finance; and Supply Chain Management. Further it should be noted that Skylar Wolfe won **both** a departmental award **and** the university-wide **Thomas M. Seykora Award for Outstanding Contribution**, and two honors students—Ella Fritzemeier and Nikolaus Schroeder—won **both** departmental awards **and** the most prestigious academic award that Grand Valley confers: **The Glenn A. Niemeyer Award**. Only two of those are bestowed a year. It should be added that Ella Fritzemeier won a third university-wide award, the **Venderbush Leadership Award**.
- At **Student Scholars Day** in April, 133 honors students presented, and many presented multiple times. There was a total of 634 student presenters, which means that Honors students made up over 20% of all student participants—more honors students than ever and a higher percentage of the total than ever
- 159 Honors students received “**I am Grand Valley Award**” this year, and many of them were nominated multiple times. This represents over 15% of the total, and was an increase of 20 honors students over the previous year.
- Nine of the 24 students (37.5%) selected as **Student Summer Scholars**, a very competitive program run by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, this year are honors students.
- The **Cook Leadership Academy** is a very selective leadership program sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and Leadership. Honors students comprised nearly half of the student Fellows this past year (32 out of 68). This represents a significant increase over previous years.
- The vast majority of honors students present original research or give public performances, and dozens every year present off-campus at prestigious conferences and venues, such as the American Chemical Society, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the National Student Advertising Competition, the Interscience Conference of Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, the Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, etc. Not a few students even presented abroad (Denmark, Rome, Nicaragua, etc.). Not a few honors students are published authors, both as first or second authors in scientific journals as well as in history and literature (this year four alone in *Brainchild: A Literary and Arts Magazine*).
- Nearly 40% of this year’s graduating class **studied abroad**, and they could be found on every continent across the globe, save Antarctica. Countries represented include Austria, Bangladesh, Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, El Salvador, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, Poland, Scotland, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, and Tanzania.
- A few more student illustrations:
 - **Irada Choudhuri**. Irada (right) was a Biomedical Sciences student who took concepts from her first year honors sequence (Middle East Beyond the Headlines) and tested them out in addiction clinics. She also received a Critical Language Scholarship to study for a semester in Bangladesh. Irada received admission to multiple medical schools, and decided to accept the offer of a sizable scholarship at the University of Michigan College of Medicine, where she will attend in the Fall.



- **Joel Francis.** Joel graduated with a degree in Cell and Molecular Biology. He participated in the Honors student organization, ANCHOR, was an RA in Honors housing, and worked at Meijer as a Pharmacy Technician. Joel also participated in a prestigious NSF-sponsored Innovation Corps program. Joel so distinguished himself, that he was accepted at eight Ph.D. programs in Molecular Biology: Michigan State, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Northwestern, Notre Dame, UC Berkeley, Yale, and Stanford. He had so many offers that he even declined offers to interview at Columbia. Joel chose to go to Stanford.
- **Jonathan Cook.** Jonathan (right) was a Finance and Accounting Major. He got involved in leadership by becoming an officer of the Mid-East Honors Association and planning conferences. From there he took every opportunity he could get and worked closely with Linda Chamberlain, the Meijer Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Jonathan founded several organizations, became a University Innovation Fellow, and interned at Haworth and then Google. His senior project involved introducing Design Thinking to incoming Honors first-year students. Jonathan took a job at Google upon graduation.
- **Jennifer Lee.** Jenn was a Biomedical Science major and was heavily involved in Honors activities. In particular, she was chair of the Honors Mentor Council in her senior year. Jenn applied to dental schools and was accepted at six of them: Detroit Mercy and University of Nebraska with scholarships, and the University of Minnesota, UCLA, University of Michigan, and Harvard. Jenn will be attending the Harvard University School of Dentistry.



VII. Final note.

We continue to be amazed and gratified by the accomplishments of Honors students. For more detail on the achievements of our graduating seniors, see the profiles we compiled that accompany this report.

The Frederik Meijer Honors College is grateful to have the endorsement and support of The Meijer Foundation. The endowment enables us to provide extraordinary opportunities for extraordinary students.

This will be my last report. I am stepping down as director of the Meijer Honors College and moving on to the University of North Florida. The staff and faculty team in Honors is what make the environment so rich for students, and they will continue to do so under the leadership of Roger Gilles, who will be Interim Director for the next couple of Years. Dr. Gilles is a Professor of Writing who has headed key offices and initiatives around the university. The Meijer Honors College will thrive under his leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Chamberlain, Director, Frederik Meijer Honors College