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Message from the Director

The Frederik Meijer Honors College is in transition. Director Jeff Chamberlain—“Dr. J.” to the campus community—left in July 2017 after ten years at the helm. During his tenure, the Honors College thrived. His second year opened with the dedication of the fabulous new Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center, and his third was marked by the naming of the Honors College in recognition of the generous support of Fred and Lena Meijer and the Meijer Foundation—support that includes the Frederik Meijer First Generation Honors College Scholarship, the Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships, the Frederik Meijer Endowed Honors Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and the Frederik Meijer Lecture Series. These developments, along with Jeff’s tremendous recruiting skills and welcoming embrace of entering students, helped the Honors College nearly double in size, from 900 students to over 1,750. The curriculum grew as well, with the addition of a dozen first-year interdisciplinary sequences and the Live. Learn. Lead. course, which introduced

students to life in Honors and provided the Honors College with its motto. And in Fall 2016, a second Honors living center opened, the Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center—this one a freshman-only residence on the north end of campus. For all this, we owe Jeff a tremendous debt of gratitude. His leadership will be missed.



The Niemeyer LLC, which opened in Fall 2008.

During Jeff’s last semester and with an eye toward the future, he and Dean Anne Hiskes of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies invited a team from the National Collegiate Honors Council to conduct a program review of the Honors College. The report, issued in April 2017, spoke highly of the students and faculty in the program, marveled at the learning/living facilities, remarked on the strength and commitment of the Honors alumni community, and complimented the GVSU community as a whole—including Admissions, Brooks College, Development, Financial Aid, Housing, and Student Services—for supporting the Honors College in its overall mission. It also praised the innovative first-year interdisciplinary sequences that form the foundation of the current curriculum.

The report also recommended ways to clarify the governance structure of the College, improve the already-strong curriculum, increase the visibility of the College both on and off campus, strengthen Honors student governance, and enhance alumni relations. With Jeff’s departure, these became the goals of the interim period—and that’s where I come in. A longtime GVSU faculty member with experience in departmental administration and General Education leadership, I agreed to serve as interim director in 2017-18. Just recently I was named director for an initial five-year term. Working with me—and for many years to come, I hope—is Professor Coeli Fitzpatrick, who began a three-year term as Chair of the Honors Faculty in Fall 2017. To learn about some of the steps we’re taking to respond to the NCHC review, please see “A Look Ahead” at the end of this report.

Prospective students and their families often ask, “At GVSU, what makes an Honors course an Honors course?” They often suspect it has to do with increased academic rigor, and I suppose that’s

true. But what does that actually mean? From my first year of observing our students, staff, and faculty in action, I believe what distinguishes Honors courses is the level of *engagement* shown by everyone involved. Honors students are impressively engaged in their studies—they're interested in a wide range of subjects, they complete reading and writing assignments with care and attention, and they enjoy exchanging ideas with others—and that allows Honors faculty to dig deeper into course material than they typically dare. Engaged faculty dig deep, in part, by making connections, sometimes on the fly, between what's happening in class and what's happening in other courses around campus and indeed beyond the university—in politics, in the workplace, and in the culture at large, both here in the US and abroad. Like all university courses, Honors courses are first and foremost about the advertised content of the course description, but ultimately they are about much more than that: they help students develop the skills they need to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies. This year, as I've spoken with prospective students and their families, I've taken to saying that Honors students are simply those who want to make the most of their time at Grand Valley. Our job in Honors is to facilitate that effort.

In the 2017-18 academic year, Honors students certainly did make the most of the rich and diverse opportunities available here on campus and beyond. That's what you'll see in the bulk of this report. There are sections highlighting last year's Meijer lectures, the work of our Meijer Endowed Honors Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and of course key faculty achievements. But most of what you'll see here focuses on the students themselves—their activities on campus, their awards, their scholarships, the fellowships they've earned with the help of our terrific Meijer Office of Fellowships. My initial goal was to make this report short and sweet, but as I reviewed the year, I was overwhelmed by the words and actions of the wonderful Honors students I'm still getting to know. So I hope you'll indulge me and ride along as we celebrate just a small sampling of what those students have done over the past twelve months. Enjoy!



Welcome Days, August 2017

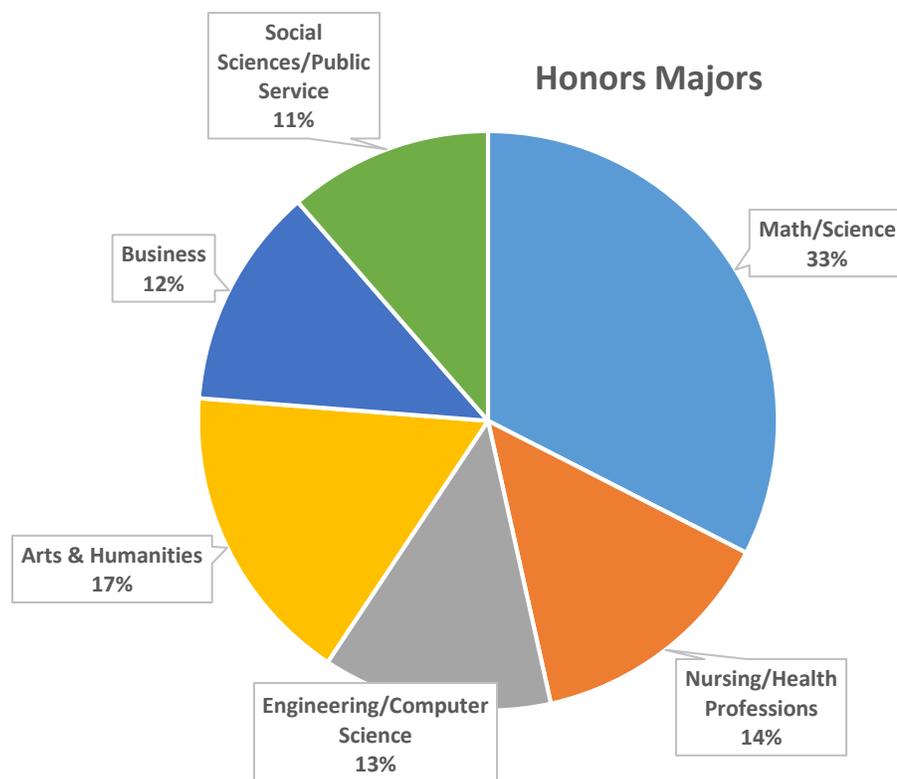
Sincerely,

Roger Gilles, Director

Frederik Meijer Honors College Students

Who We Are. The Honors College consistently draws about 10% of GVSU's entering class. By objective measures, these students are very well prepared academically, with an average high school GPA of 3.93 (compared to the GVSU average of 3.58), an average ACT composite score of 29 (GVSU average = 24), and an average SAT composite score of 1320 (GVSU average = 1140).

Honors majors. The following chart shows the breakdown of the roughly 1,700 student majors in the Honors College.



About 20% of our students pursue double majors, and 46% have a minor. As the chart indicates, 60% of current Honors students major in the STEM disciplines. We are pleased to note that nearly 70% of Honors students in the Math/Science majors are women, compared to just under 60% university-wide. And in Engineering, while the overall percentage of women is just 15%, among Honors students it is 25%.

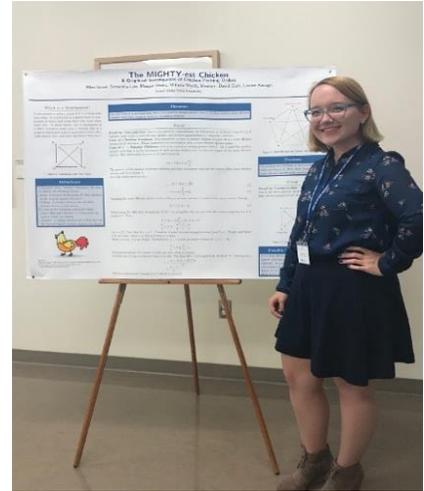
Honors students in the university. Once transfer students are factored in, Honors enrollment stands at roughly 8% of overall undergraduate enrollment. These 8% are extremely well represented as student leaders at the university:

- They were 22% of all presenters at Student Scholars Day (126 of 574)
- They were 26% of all undergraduate outstanding student awards (one award given annually by each academic program) (22 of 85)
- They were 37% of all 2018 Phi Kappa Phi initiates (37 of 101)
- They were 41% of all 2018 Phi Kappa Phi freshman honorees (33 of 80)
- They were 50% of all fellows of the Cook Leadership Academy (34 of 68)

- They were 50% of the Thomas A. Seykora Awards for Outstanding Contribution, given to seniors who make significant contributions to the campus community (4 of 8)
- They were 100% of the Glenn A. Niemeyer Awards for outstanding undergraduate students (2 of 2)

Honors award winners. It's difficult to choose just a handful of award winners to feature here, but let's start with those two winners of the prestigious Niemeyer Award.

Morgan Oneka, a mathematics and computer science double major, with a minor in statistics, has presented her research in both mathematics and computer science here at GVSU, at local conferences, and at national conferences. She served as president of the Women in STEM Fields student organization, and in the fall she'll start her pursuit of a Ph.D. in Bioinformatics at the University of Michigan.



Morgan Oneka



Rachel Travis

Rachel Travis, a double-major in Supply Chain Management and Marketing with a certificate in Intercultural Competence, has held a range of leadership positions at Grand Valley: president of the Seidman Supply Chain Management Association, site leader for Alternative Breaks, co-director of sponsorship for TEDx GVSU, and student representative on the Seidman College of Business Alumni Association Board. During her time here, Rachel interned at Steelcase and served as a fellow at the Cook Leadership Academy. She is now a sourcing analyst for A.T. Kearney in Chicago.

At our Senior Recognition Ceremony on April 27, 2018, we recognized seven graduating seniors who produced what the faculty considered to be the top senior projects of the 2018 graduating class.

Courtney Ingles, a Clinical Exercise Science major, completed a research paper on the female athlete triad (eating disorders, delayed or absent menstruation, and osteoporosis) and its effect on young female athletes. Her mentor for the project was Diane Laughlin from the Biology department. Courtney will begin the doctoral program in Physical Therapy here at Grand Valley in the fall.

Samantha Koch and Ross Kunzi, both Physics majors, researched the history and science of superconductors and their real-life usefulness. Together they built a Möbius track of magnets to which they pinned a superconductor, and they took the track to schools and camps to get kids excited about physics. Professor Brad Ambrose oversaw the project.



Amber Modena receiving her award from Prof. Fitzpatrick

Amber Modena majored in International Relations with a minor in Spanish. As her senior project, she created “The Model Arab League Toolkit” to assist future students in the Model Arab League class. Her mentor was Professor Coeli Fitzpatrick of the Honors College. Besides being very active in the international community on campus, Amber studied abroad in Spain and interned with Bethany Christian Services, helping refugees find jobs here in the US. Not surprisingly, Amber’s immediate plan after graduation is to go abroad, where she plans to teach English for a year or two.

York Times and the *Wall Street Journal*. Estefany plans to attend either law school or graduate school for public policy.

Estefany Paniagua-Pardo majored in Political Science and, under the direction of Professor Erika King, conducted a content analysis of the coverage of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in the *New*

Grace Peterson, a double-major in Biomedical Sciences and Biochemistry, investigated a pharmaceutical called DMP 543 for its possible use as a treatment for glaucoma. Working on a variety of projects under Professor David Linn of the BMS department, Grace presented her research at GVSU’s Student Scholars Day, the Van Andel Institute’s West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference, and the Michigan Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. This fall, she will attend Oakland University’s William Beaumont School of Medicine.

Jenna Tefend, a Nursing major, studied the effects of caffeine intake—and the cessation of caffeine—on college students. Nursing professor Amy Manderscheid mentored Jenna on the project and presented the award. While at Grand Valley, Jenna studied in Belize and served in both the Student Nurses Association and the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurses Honor Society.



Dean Anne Hiskes addressing Honors students and families.

Also at the Senior Recognition Ceremony, the Honors College faculty celebrated our two outstanding students of the year.

Annie Livingston, a double-major in Writing and English Language & Literature, was given the Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service. In her time at Grand Valley, Annie served as nonfiction editor of *Fishbladder*, GVSU's literary arts journal, and connected with Honors students across the country as a student member of the Board of Directors of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). She interned at the Grand Rapids Creative Youth Center and worked at the Center for Women & Gender Equity. She also won a prestigious Intro Award from the national Association of Writers and Writing Programs and was named the outstanding student in the Writing department. Next year, Annie will live and teach at the Arthur Morgan School, an experimental middle school in Burnsville, North Carolina.

Micaela Cole, a Political Science major, was named Outstanding Senior of 2017-18. During her four years at Grand Valley, Micaela served as a fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy, a Resident Assistant in the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center, a peer adviser for the Padnos International Center, and a community mobilizer for MoveOn.org. She presented research at Student Scholars Day and the Mid-East Honors Association Conference, and she studied abroad in both Ireland and Mexico. Micaela spent her final semester as a full-time intern with the Future Europe Initiative at the Atlantic Council, a foreign policy think tank in Washington, D.C. In April 2018, she received the Excellence in a Discipline Award from both the Political Science department and the Honors College. She is planning a career in foreign affairs or international advocacy.



Micaela Cole delivering her remarks at the Senior Recognition Ceremony

There are of course many other graduating seniors we could profile here, but let just one more suffice.

Jordan Vanderham, a Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering major, had a truly remarkable senior year, amassing a total of \$93,000 in winnings from five different entrepreneurial competitions. He won \$20,000 at the Miller Lite #TrapTheFuture competition, \$20,000 at the Texas Christian University Neeley School of Business Values & Ventures Competition, \$20,000 at the Schulze Entrepreneurship Challenge in Minneapolis, and \$3,000 at Saint Louis University’s Pitch & Catch Competition. He also won \$30,000 at the Outdoor Weber Competition in Ogden, Utah. With three Engineering colleagues he partnered with Beaumont Health to develop a cough assist device for people with diseases such as cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy. What makes the device special is that it is portable and lightweight and requires no electricity to operate. And with fellow student Jared Seifert, Jordan created the Orindi Mask, which regulates heat and humidity and allows cold weather workers and athletes avoid frostbite and hypothermia. Jordan credits Dr. Paul Lane and the “Design Thinking for Social Product Innovation” first-year Honors sequence for introducing him to the entrepreneurial mindset. This year Jordan founded Orindi Ventures LLC and plans to continue in his entrepreneurial ways after graduation.



Jordan Vanderham

University Innovation Fellowships. A handful of Honors students have over the past several years received University Innovation Fellowships through the Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (the d.school) at Stanford University. This year, for the first time, thanks to the spirit and dedication of Dr. Paul Lane of the Marketing department (and teacher of our Design Thinking for Social Product Innovation first-year sequence) and Professor Kathryn Christopher of the School of Engineering, Honors supported four students who applied to the program as a single team:

- Meredith Filter—sophomore in Comprehensive Science & Art for Teaching
- Dean Geschiere—freshman in Finance and Entrepreneurship
- Haley Jennings—junior in General Management and Entrepreneurship
- Madalyn Slubowski—sophomore in Biology

The UIF program empowers 400 students a year from all over the world to become “agents of change” at their schools and helps them develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed for the economy of the future. After being accepted into the program last fall, Meredith, Dean, Haley, and Madalyn completed a six-week online training module. In March they flew to Palo Alto for a four-day meet-up on the Stanford campus with hundreds of other past and current UIFs, with site visits to Google, Microsoft, and other innovative companies. The campus project they’ve developed focuses on building social structures within the Honors College to further enhance the student experience. We’ll have more to report on their efforts next year!

Senior Assessment. As part of our regular process of assessing the Honors curriculum, this year we asked students in the HNR 499 Senior Project course to look back over their experiences in the Honors College and tell us what they thought. What they had to say was remarkable—a tribute to the fine work of the Housing staff, the Honors office staff, former director Jeff Chamberlain, and of course the Honors faculty. Here is some of what the students had to say.



About the Living/Learning Community

“The living and learning community I have been a part of the last four years has truly been an amazing and nurturing atmosphere. I believe the honors college has provided an experience that will influence me for the rest of my life.”

—Anne Balogh



“I found that the courses and living in the community helped me to make friends and build up the skills to succeed in college.”

—Julia Bennett



“College has been the best four years of my life. Hands down. Living in Niemeyer for two years with like-minded and motivated students was definitely a boon to my education.”

—Evan Hansig

About the Curriculum



“My favorite courses at Grand Valley have been my Honors classes. I definitely think I’ve grown as a learner and a thinker, especially within the interdisciplinary context that Honors offers.”

—*Micaela Cole*



“The courses I took within the Honors College taught me far beyond the content of the course. These courses challenged me to see the world outside of my own perspective.”

—*Sarah Moll*



“The courses I took in the honors college best prepared me for academic interaction by facilitating intellectual class discussions that were open to many ideas, innovations, and perspectives.”

—*Jeffrey Lueders*

About the Faculty



“The Honors College definitely helped me grow as a student and as a person. I wanted to be capable to reach the bar that my honors college professors were setting for me.”

—*Emma Green*



“The faculty that taught these classes were some of the most intelligent and supportive people I have met and have helped me develop further as a person.”

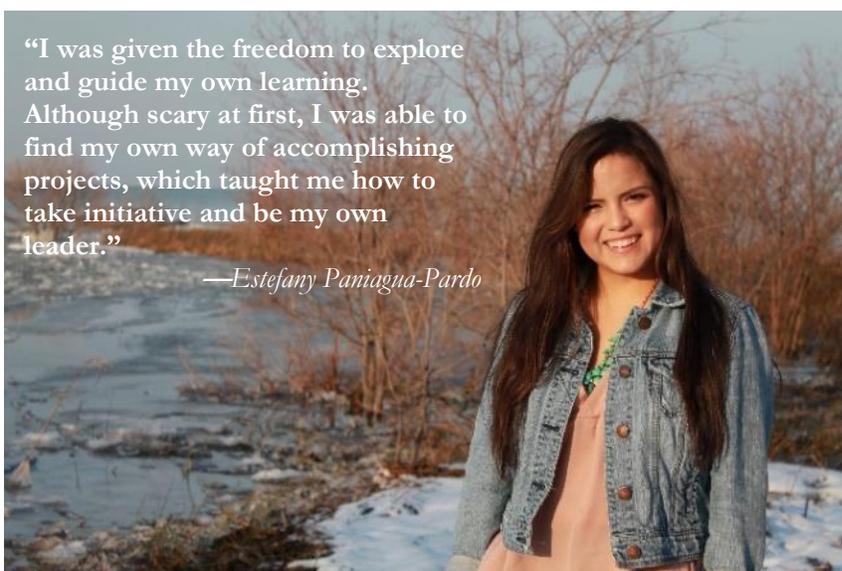
—*Mackenzie Shannon*

About Skills Developed in the Program



“I really like the discussion environment that was promoted and all the presentations I had to do. Communication was a weak point for me, and the Honors College really helped me start to turn it into a strength.”

—*Tyler Dundore*



“I was given the freedom to explore and guide my own learning. Although scary at first, I was able to find my own way of accomplishing projects, which taught me how to take initiative and be my own leader.”

—*Estefany Paniagua-Pardo*

“I have become more confident and happy with myself. I also believe that I have become a better, smarter, more determined version of myself. I feel more open to others’ opinions and beliefs while still holding strong to my own.”

—*Erica Oriol*



The Frederik Meijer Lecture Series

Twice annually the Frederik Meijer Honors College hosts a lecture endowed by the Meijer Foundation. The lectures focus on the importance of cross-disciplinary and liberal arts learning to a successful career. Lecturers focus on issues of leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship from the perspective of students, faculty, and participants in business throughout the region.

Fall 2017 Lecture. After majoring in English and minoring in Psychology at GVSU, Dusty Duistermars forged an unlikely path from teaching high school to working in commercial real estate. He's now Senior Managing Director of Global Corporate Services for Newmark Knight Frank, a global leader in the field.



Fall lecturer Dusty Duistermars

On September 27, 2017, Dusty entertained students, faculty, and community members with vivid examples of new technology-enabled models of “doing work.” He spoke of smart desks that not only adjust to individual preferences, but also monitor how long employees sit and how much work they get done. Dusty explained that managers use this kind of information to decide where, how, and even whether to house individual workers in an office space. After all, some people are more productive from home; in fact, he said that advances in virtual office programs are rapidly replacing the need for real offices.

In just fifteen years in the field, Dusty has already seen incredible changes in commercial real estate. Did you know that the largest hotel chain in the world, Airbnb, owns not a single building? His message to students was simple: the world is changing fast, so expect to “pivot” repeatedly. The good news is that today’s most successful companies are using work spaces—real and virtual—to attract and retain top talent. Graduates who are ready will thrive.



Fall lecturer Dusty Duistermars addressing the crowd.

Winter 2018 Lecture. In one stool sat Barb Hiemstra, the privacy engineer at Steelcase. Her job is to make sure the company's Industrial Internet of Things and Smart+Connected product offerings are safe from prying eyes. In the other sat Jared DeMott, an information security expert and vulnerability analyst whose job it is to find the peepholes that have got us all so worried.

Barb described what happened after a recent vacation during which she'd used the map function on her phone to find an address. Later, she realized that she'd never turned off the GPS—and discovered that virtually all her movements of the past several weeks had been duly recorded and even mapped out for easy review. Did she really want that information to be “out there” in the virtual cloud?



Moderator Linda Chamberlain wondering about the security of her cell phone while lecturers Barb Hiemstra and Jared DeMott look on.



Audience members in the Seidman Forum, March 20, 2018.

Meijer Endowed Chair Linda Chamberlain moderated a lively point/counterpoint between the relatively worried Barb Hiemstra and the relatively confident Jared DeMott. Toward the end Linda asked the audience if, after hearing what the two speakers had to say, they were now feeling *better* or *worse* about their personal or professional cybersecurity. To no one's surprise, the crowd was just about evenly split.

The Frederik Meijer Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Dr. Linda Chamberlain completed her third very busy year with the Honors College in 2017-18. In addition to mentoring students in their Senior Projects, supervising student internships, writing letters of support for students applying for scholarships and graduate school, judging business-plan competitions, guest lecturing around campus, and reaching out to community partners of all kinds, Linda maintains an active schedule of teaching, grant writing, and pushing the “Laker Effect” in every way she can.

HNR 313: Design Thinking to Meet Real-World Needs. In response to the NCHC report Honors received in April 2017 and at the request of the interim director, Linda focused her fall and winter courses on design challenges related to the Honors College itself. In fall, the question was “What could make the Honors College experience even more distinctive?” And in winter, she narrowed the scope to “How can we reimagine the Honors College curriculum?”

The fall group produced reports in three areas: the curriculum, the marketing of the Honors College, and diversity in the Honors College. All three winter reports focused specifically on curricular ideas. All six reports can be accessed at Scholarworks@GVSU. Type in the search term “Design Portfolio 313” to access these and other reports from Linda’s classes.

Proposal Awards. In August 2017, Linda received funding (\$11,000) from Grand Rapids-based Talent 2025 to complete a systems analysis on workforce development services (spanning basic literacy to professional degree) included in the 13-county region that Talent 2025 serves. She was able to hire one Graduate Assistant for this work, Honors alumna Cassandra Skinner (Master of Public Administration). They completed the project in March 2018.

Linda then joined forces with Fred Keller and Talent 2025 to prepare and submit a grant proposal to the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) of Grand Rapids to extend the project beyond collection/analysis of data to problem solving. This proposal reconstituted a “design thinking” methodology they had prototyped in the early 2000’s, referred to as *Future Center* (which won the national Edison Award in 2007), and aimed to address the impact artificial intelligence could have on workforce development and determine how local leaders can better prepare the region for the Conceptual Age. They’re calling the process *Future State*. The proposal was funded (\$100,000), and the team is now developing the project plan, hiring students (six Honors students for Fall 2018!) and the project Graduate Assistant, and establishing the project working group.

Linda also helped prepare the proposal “A Collaborative Model for Accelerating Healthcare Innovation in Grand Rapids,” in collaboration with Spectrum Health Innovations, Kendall College of Art & Design, and GVSU Engineering. This was also funded (\$833,000 over three years). She will be providing project administration services through the GVSU Technology Commercialization Office.

In December 2018, Linda facilitated two grant awards through the Technology Transfer Network for GVSU faculty member Merritt Taylor (Advanced Research grant \$25,000, and Postdoc support \$25,000), as well as through the Michigan Corporate Relations Network (MCRN: \$25,000). The latter is to support the specific development of STEM internships, and is administered through career services.

École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France. Linda completed three trips as visiting professor with ENS, where she worked on the design and development of interdisciplinary and design

thinking pedagogy. She also expanded her role at the ENS, through collaboration with Kristine Lund, by teaching systems thinking and how it can support creating truly collaborative teams. She and Kristine are currently drafting a paper summarizing their hypothesis and the work methods and plan on presenting at the Science of Team Science meeting in May 2019.

Linda reports that her ENS colleagues have a great interest in engaging with the *Future State* project being funded through the City of Grand Rapids. They see this as a possible research object for collaborative processes, and are defining scope and protocols for GVSU approvals. Such an international connection could be highly advantageous for the *Future State* model.

Another positive corollary effort through the ENS visiting professor work was a visit to the University of Warwick, U.K., to meet Cathia Jenainati, creator of a new interdisciplinary degree called Global Sustainable Development. This cutting-edge curriculum finely balances academic and professional skill development for preparing students to tackle real world problems. It most certainly has applicability to curriculum and degree development in Honors and the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

GVSU Laker Effect. In both December 2017 and April 2018, Linda led implementation of GVSU's "Laker Effect" Challenge competition, including all event details and management of the LEC Committee (with representatives from all of the colleges). The Laker Effect Challenge is essentially a pitch competition for community-based projects focused on social justice issues. Winning pitches can receive up to \$5,000. Each event drew roughly 30 submissions, and over 200 people attended. The next event is targeted for December 2018, with event leadership being handed off to the Office of Community Engagement.



Honors Scholarship Updates

Many Honors students earn scholarships to attend Grand Valley. All entering students who meet the GPA and ACT/SAT thresholds and who participate in a scholarship competition are eligible for either the Laker Scholarship, the Award for Excellence Scholarship, the Faculty Scholarship, or the Presidential Scholarship—as well as other more narrowly defined scholarships. In addition, we have a handful of Honors-specific scholarships. As you can see here, these Honors-specific scholarships helped some of this year’s graduating seniors accomplish great things.

The Frederik Meijer First Generation Honors College Scholarship

Brody Cragg graduated this April with an Economics degree. Brody was a member of the Student Environmental Coalition, the Grand Rapids Economics Advisory Club, and the Running Club, and he was a fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy. He received a Logie Fellowship to work in the city of Grand Rapids and a Gilman Fellowship to study abroad. He also interned at Steelcase. In his time at Grand Valley, Brody studied abroad in no fewer than four countries: Norway, Costa Rica, Sweden, and the Netherlands. He is now working as an IT Analyst for Q2, a financial software firm based in Austin, Texas.



Brody Cragg

Justine Cucchi graduated in April with a degree in Classics. In addition to the Meijer First Generation Scholarship, Justine earned the Barbara L. Flaschenriem Classics Scholarship. In her time on campus, Justine served as an Honors peer mentor, a volunteer at the Cook Arts Center, secretary of the Classics Society, and secretary of the Eta Sigma Phi Honor Society. She plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science.

Makayla Sanchez graduated in April with a double-major in Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychology. She was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the Psi Chi Honor Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She also participated in the GVSU Dance Troupe and worked as a psychology tutor. Her plan is to pursue a master’s degree in Physician Assistant Studies.

The Arend D. and Nancy Lubbers University Honors College Scholarship



Hannah Hunter

Hannah Hunter graduated in April in Psychology, where she served for two years as a research assistant to Professor Wolfgang Friedlmeier. She presented her own research at the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology conference in Poland, and she also served as a fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy, a writing consultant in the Frederik Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors, and an editorial assistant for *Online Readings in Psychology and Culture*. Hannah interned at Advanced Therapeutic Solutions, gaining hands-on clinical experience in the treatment of selective mutism, an anxiety disorder that primarily affects children. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in psychology.

Faith Platz graduated in April with degrees in Statistics and Economics. A member of the Mu Sigma Rho Statistics Honor Society, she worked as a student research assistant and SAS programmer in the GVSU Johnson Center for Philanthropy and interned at Behler-Young in Grand Rapids, where she implemented a new business analytics software structure. In her time at GVSU, Faith also served as president and team captain of the Grand Valley Rowing Club. In 2016, she competed with the team in England’s Henley Women’s Regatta, and this summer the team is returning to Henley-on-Thames to compete in the Henley Royal Regatta—one of the oldest sporting events in history. In Fall 2018, Faith will attend Villanova University for her master’s degree in Applied Statistics.

Nikhil Watsa graduated in April with a Physics degree. He served as a fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy, a University Innovation Fellow at Stanford University’s Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, Vice-President of External Relations in the Student Senate, founder and director of TEDxGVSU, and Resident Assistant in the Housing Office. He earned both the “I Am Grand Valley” and “Lead Like a Laker” designations and served as the 2018 Homecoming Regent. For three summers, Nikhil interned at Dassault Systèmes DELMIA R&D in Auburn Hills, where he worked on robot modeling and kinematics programming. In spring 2018, he presented his Physics capstone project, “Electric Fields of 2D Current Carrying Surfaces,” at the American Physical Society meeting in East Lansing. He is now attending flight school to train as a Naval Aviator. Later, he plans to earn his Ph.D. and ultimately become a NASA astronaut.



Nikhil Watsa

The Jonathan and Marcia White Honors College Scholarship

Shelly Greendyk graduated in April with an International Relations major. In Fall 2017, with the help of a Boren Scholarship, she studied Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Jordan in Amman, where she also taught English at a home/school for Palestinian boys. Here on campus, Shelly participated in the Arab Culture Club and the Model Arab League—serving as Assistant Secretary General of the Michigan chapter. She was also a member of Phi Kappa Phi and a fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy. Her plan is to move to Washington, D.C., and find work related to her interests in the Middle East.

Briana Turner-Gilmore graduated in December 2017 with a major in Criminal Justice. She was a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and worked during school as a supervisor in the parking enforcement division for the GVPD. She earned the “I Am Grand Valley” designation in 2016. In summer 2017, she procured a spot in the FBI Honors Internship Program, and she hopes to find full-time work with the FBI, preferably in counterterrorism and counterintelligence.



Briana Turner-Gilmore

The Zukaitis Honors Scholarship

Miranda Fortier graduated in April with a degree in Biomedical Sciences. She participated in the Rock Climbing Club and served on the Morale Committee for Grand Valley's Dance Marathon. She was also treasurer of the Pre-Pharmacy Association. For three years during school, Miranda worked as a pharmacy technician at Walgreens. In the fall, she'll be working toward her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Ferris State University.



Miranda Fortier

Incoming 2018-19 Scholarship Recipients

Given the impressive profiles of these nine graduating seniors, we can expect great things from the seven first-year students who will join us in Fall 2018:

Serena Kerkstra of Kentwood was awarded the Frederik Meijer First Generation Honors College Scholarship. She plans to major in Cell and Molecular Biology and/or Physics. She's enrolled in the new Culture, Power, & Inequality first-year interdisciplinary Honors sequence, which will be taught by Joel Stillerman (Sociology, Faculty-in-Residence in the Honors College) and Heather Van Wormer (Anthropology).

Paige Berman and **Lewis Hartsig** were awarded the Arend D. and Nancy Lubbers University Honors College Scholarship. Paige, from Novi, plans to major in Nursing. She's taking the Food for Thought first-year sequence taught by Amy McFarland (Honors College) and Jody Vogelzang (Clinical Dietetics). Lewis, from Dowagiac, plans to major in Statistics, and he's taking the East Asia & the World first-year sequence taught by Craig Benjamin (Honors College) and Yan Liang (Modern Languages and Literatures)

Stephanie Bueche and **Nicolas Fernandez** were awarded the Donna K. Brooks Presidential Scholarship. Stephanie, from Byron Center, plans to study music. Nicolas, from White Lake, plans to decide on a major once he tests the waters here on campus. Both students are enrolled in the Urbanism first-year sequence taught by Matthew Daley (History) and Melissa Morison (Classics).

Micah Fernando and **Emilie Seibert** were awarded the Zukaitis Honors Scholarship. Micah, from Kentwood, plans to major in Cell and Molecular Biology and/or Biochemistry. He's taking the History of Science first-year sequence taught by David Crane (Classics) and Andrew Spear (Philosophy). Emilie, from Auburn, plans to major in Therapeutic Recreation and is taking the Theory & Practice of Rights first-year sequence taught by Pamela Galbraith (Anthropology) and Karen Zivi (Honors College).

The Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships

The Meijer Office of Fellowships serves all GVSU students and alumni, not just Honors students. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our director, Dr. Elizabeth Lambert, 2017-18 was a standout year. Among other distinctions, GVSU has been designated a Fulbright Development Initiative Campus in recognition of our burgeoning success and ongoing efforts to develop pipeline programs linking undergraduate State Department study abroad alumni with highly competitive post-graduate fellowship placements. Here we've listed only Honors student awards. For the full list, visit the Office of Fellowships [website](#).

International Awards

Boren Fellowship. GVSU is consistently a top producer of the National Security Education Program/David L. Boren Scholars to support study in world regions critical to US national security interests. This year's Honors recipients include:

- Shelly Greendyk ('18), International Relations and Middle East Studies, to Jordan in Fall 2017.
- Sophia Hall ('19), International Relations and Arabic, alternate to Israel for Spring 2019.

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship. Participants of this scholarship, which is jointly sponsored by the US Department of State and the German Parliament, intern and study in Germany for a full academic year.

- Cullin Flynn ('17), Spanish, is currently studying at Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen, Germany.

Critical Language Scholarship. The CLS supports 12-week immersive language programs in Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian/Farsi, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu. GVSU's first recipient since 2014 is:

- Bethany Mazurek ('19), Chinese Studies and East Asian Studies, is studying Korean during Summer 2018 on the American Councils program in Busan.

Fulbright Award. The Institute of International Education and State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has designated GVSU a Fulbright Top Producing Institution for both the US Student and Scholar Programs. This recognition is made on the basis of 2016-17 applicants and recipients for all Fulbright programs. Here are this year's Honors awardees:

- Sarah Cullip ('17), English/German/Education, English Teaching Assistant (ETA) award and Mentor/PAD Fellow to Nürnberg, Germany. Sarah has also been offered a placement with United World College in Maastricht, the Netherlands.
- Michael Dykstra ('15), Physics, has been awarded a Research/Study US Student Program Fulbright to Botswana. He also received an International Clinical Research Fellowship from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Harvard Medical School and Sinclair Kennedy Fellowship from Harvard Graduate School to support mentored clinical research abroad.
- Shannon Theis ('18), Spanish Education, ETA to Rioja, Spain.

Gilman Scholarship. With nearly 150 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholars, GVSU is consistently a national top producer. During 2017-18, we topped a half-million dollars in Gilman Scholarships awarded to GVSU undergraduates, with the current total standing at \$537,000. This year's Honors recipients include:

- Shannon Theis ('18), Spanish Education, ETA to Rioja, Spain.
- Daniel Arnold ('19), Business, to Ukraine in Summer 2018.
- Nicklas Bara ('20), Biomedical Sciences, to Madagascar in Summer 2018.
- Clara Bernal ('20), Biomedical Sciences, to Ghana in Summer 2018.
- AJ Carter ('21), Computer Science, to Ghana in Summer 2018.
- Ashley Godin ('19), Linguistics and Human Rights, to Morocco in Fall 2017 with a Critical Need Language Enhancement Award.
- Bailey Webb ('20), Accounting, to Ghana in Summer 2018.

Major Awards for International Study

Britlynn Hastings ('16), Asian Studies, received the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme) award, funded by the Japanese government, which places ETAs in Japanese primary and secondary schools for two years. She also earned a fellowship from the EPIK Program (English Program in Korea), funded by the Korean government, which places fellows in elementary, secondary and higher education settings across South Korea for 1-5 years.

Stephanie Tanis ('17), German/Chemistry, received a scholarship from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), the preeminent German funding body, to support graduate study. DAAD support, together with funding from Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel, will support her studies and research towards a two-year M.Sc. in Molecular Biology and Evolution program jointly administered by Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel and the Max-Planck-Institute (MPI) of Evolutionary Biology in Plön during 2017-2019.

Major Domestic Awards

Rachel Kalusniak ('19), Economics, was named GVSU's first semi-finalist for the Mount Vernon Leadership Fellow Pre-eminent leadership development/internship program for rising college juniors.

Thuy-Thuong Nguyen ('20), Geology, was named GVSU's inaugural Doris Duke Conservation Scholar. The Duke Scholars program provides two years of fully funded summer research, a scholarship stipend to support tuition, structured graduate school preparation, professional development and mentoring.

Community and Public Service Awards

Dozens of GVSU alumni have served as Teach for America Fellows (a two-year commitment) throughout the United States. To date, this year's Honors recipients include:

- Gloria Mileva ('18), Biomedical Sciences, to Indiana
- Michael Michalski ('18), Cell and Molecular Biology (declined)

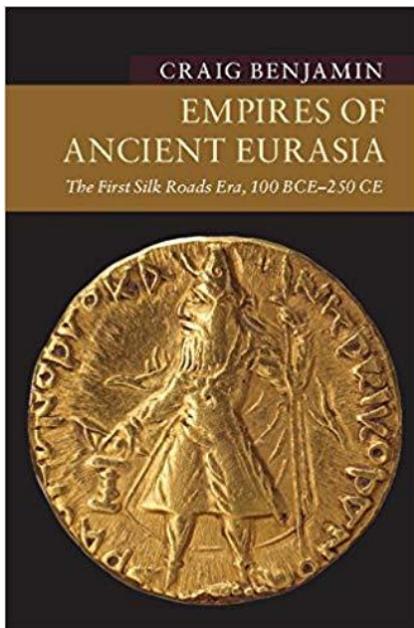
Recent alumni have been awarded fully funded Internships with the CIA, European Union/European Parliament, United Nations, World Health Organization (Germany, Jordan, Turkey, Switzerland) and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Turkey and Jordan).

- Leah Beaulac ('17), Biology/Middle East Studies, to the UNHCR.
- Christy Bectel ('17), International Relations, placed with the Amman Center for Human Rights in Jordan.
- Sarah Cullip ('17), German/English/Education, placed with Daraja Academy (Kenya).

Faculty News

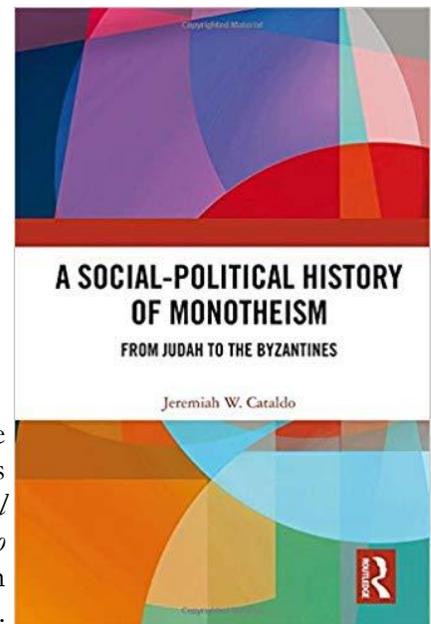
Ellen Adams, Assistant Professor of Art History in the Honors College, was presented with a Pew Teaching Excellence Award at GVSU's Faculty Awards Convocation on February 1, 2018. Ellen earned her Ph.D. at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University and began teaching full-time in Honors in 2014. She teaches the Europe: The Center and the Margins first-year sequence as well as Art & Money and Modern Art and Modernity.

Shel Kopperl, Professor of Biomedical Sciences, first taught in the Honors program when it was still housed in the old College of Arts & Sciences back in the 1970s. This year, after more than 48 years at Grand Valley, Shel taught his last section of the History of Science first-year sequence and retired. At the February 1 Faculty Awards Convocation, he was presented with the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award “for excellence, enthusiasm, and loyalty to teaching, scholarship, and service”—words that fit Shel perfectly. He will be missed!



Craig Benjamin, Professor of History in the Honors College, published *Empires of Ancient Eurasia: The First Silk Roads Era, 100 BCE–250 CE* with Cambridge University Press in May 2018.

Jeremiah Cataldo, Associate Professor of History in the Honors College, published *A Social-Political History of Monotheism: From Judah to the Byzantines* with Routledge in January 2018.



Jane Toot, Professor of Physical Therapy in the Honors College, was featured in the Winter 2018 *Grand Valley Magazine* for the partnership she has built between her HNR 201 Live. Learn. Lead. class for first-year students and the residents Porter Hills, a retirement community in Grand Rapids.

Karen Zivi, Associate Professor of Political Science in the Honors College, was named editor of *Contemporary Political Theory*, an international peer-reviewed journal that publishes cutting-edge works in political theory and philosophy.

A Look Ahead

The April 2017 NCHC program review reminded us of the strong foundation we have here in the Honors College: a thriving university, a supportive administration, an important partnership with the Meijer Foundation, wonderful facilities, a strong interdisciplinary curriculum, excellent faculty, and fabulous students. The review also reminded us that we can always improve, and it suggests possible improvements in a number of areas. Some improvements we've already made, beginning last fall when we formed a stronger partnership between the chair of the Honors faculty and the director and also reorganized the personnel and curriculum committee work to ensure broad representation from around campus in the approval of courses and the overall direction of the curriculum.

This coming year, we'll be working particularly hard to forge stronger connections between our current students and some of the exceptional Honors alumni who are making a difference here in Michigan, throughout the United States, and around the world. Here's a brief preview of some of the events we're planning—check our website for more details:

September 18: 10-year Anniversary Celebration of the Niemeyer LLC. “With its state-of-the-art classroom technology, premium housing, convenient suite of faculty offices, and meeting and study areas, the new center is a great environment for student living and learning, a place that nurtures a genuine academic community.” That's what Honors Director Jeff Chamberlain had to say following the September 2008 dedication of the Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center. This year, we'll take some time on the afternoon of September 18 to welcome former Provost Niemeyer back to campus and reflect on how well the Niemeyer LLC has lived up to its promise. We'll be joined by Honors alumni from that 2008-09 academic year, some of whom carried into the new building the “We Are the Niemeyer Legacy” banner that still graces our main office. We'll also provide tours of the building and hear from some current residents.

October 6: Homecoming Alumni Brunch. Before the homecoming game against Dixie State, we'll host a student/alumni brunch in the Multipurpose Room of Niemeyer. Check the Honors College website for details as the date draws nearer.

October 15: Meijer Lecture Series with Honors Alumni. Last year one of the Meijer lecturers, Dusty Duistermars, was a GVSU alum, but not an Honors alum—and that got us to thinking: Why not invite back some exceptional Honors alumni to talk about how they've leveraged their strong liberal arts interdisciplinary education into successful careers involving leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship? Not surprisingly, we found many such alumni, and we've lined up four Honors alumni to serve as panelists on October 15:

- Juanita (Flores) Bocanegra ('97) majored in International Relations at GVSU and then earned her J.D. from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. With more than 20 years of combined experience in the legal field, including private practice with Rhodes McKee, PC in Grand Rapids, Juanita now serves as assistant prosecuting attorney with the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office. Her Spanish/English bilingual skills and bicultural experiences have been an important asset for her employers and the communities she serves. She lives in Holland, MI.
- Rachael (Voorhees) Orose ('04) earned her bachelor's degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration at GVSU and her master's degree in the same field at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. She currently serves as Vice President of Network and Business Development for the Molina Foundation, where she has coordinated the distribution of

more than 15 million new books and educational materials to children from low-income families. She and her family reside in San Diego, CA.

- Lisa (Sharp) Patel ('89) studied Biopsychology at GVSU before going on to earn an M.S. in Molecular Biology and Genetics from Wayne State University's School of Medicine and a Master's Certificate in International Food Law from Michigan State. She is now Executive Director of Global Regulatory Compliance at Kalsec®, a leading global producer of natural flavors, colors, antioxidants, and hop products for the food and beverage industry. She lives in Portage, MI.
- Ryan LaPrairie ('05) graduated with a degree in Anthropology from GVSU and spent two years in West Africa with the Peace Corps. After earning a Master's degree in Public Administration from George Washington University, he started Mission Critical Development, Inc., a global social sector development consulting company that he continues to operate while also serving as Senior Change Management & Learning Consultant for IBM. He lives in Silver Spring, MD.

In addition to these three fall events, our University Innovation Fellows (see p. 8) Meredith, Dean, Haley, and Madalyn will be organizing a number of social and intellectual exchanges between current students and Honors alumni. And in March, we'll again have a panel of Honors alumni as speakers in the Meijer Lecture Series.

This summer, we've begun steps toward a full curriculum revision that we hope to have in place by Fall 2020. Our aim is to retain what works best in the current curriculum—the team-taught first-year sequences, the interdisciplinary focus, the emphasis on active learning, the preparation of students for local and global citizenship—while investigating new possibilities and engaging the university in a conversation about Honors education and its place at Grand Valley. We'll enter the fall semester with several draft curricular models to get that conversation going. It's too early to say where the discussions will lead, but we hope to have a concrete plan in place by the time you read next year's annual report.

Whatever we do, we'll keep the students firmly at the center of our vision. The range of their accomplishments is truly stunning, and this report only scratches the surface of the wonderful things going on here in the Meijer Honors College. We're grateful to have the endorsement and support of the Meijer Foundation, and we look forward to continuing the partnership into the future.