



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**FREDERIK MEIJER  
HONORS COLLEGE**



**Graduate Profiles**

**Grand Valley State University**

**Class of Winter 2018 and Summer 2018**

**“Live. Learn. Lead.”** This is the motto of the Frederick Meijer Honors College. It was adopted because it describes what Honors students do. Even a cursory glance through the profiles of the graduates included in this booklet will confirm this. Honors students are accomplished scholars and extraordinary leaders, and they contribute to a remarkable array of fields. They are also global citizens, as is demonstrated by how many of them have studied abroad, have been involved in service activities and organizations, and plan to devote themselves to the public good in their professional and personal lives. Given their successes and contributions, there is no questions that these graduates will go on to do even greater things.

Few of the graduates will say that it has been easy to get to this point – they have been challenged and tested along the way. It takes exceptional motivation, persistence, and achievement to graduate in good standing in the Meijer Honors College.

Graduates, it is with great pleasure and pride that we congratulate and commend you upon your graduation. We are privileged to have played a role in your education, delighted by your triumphs, and eager to hear about your future successes. Please stay in touch and let us know where you go and what you do.

With our esteem and best wishes for your future,



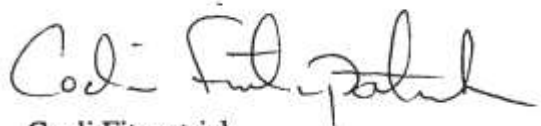
Anne Hiskes, Dean  
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies




Roger Gilles  
Interim Director, Meijer Honors College



Meg Marshall  
Honors Academic & Enrichment Advisor



Coeli Fitzpatrick  
Chair of the Honors Faculty



Kelly McDonell  
Honors Academic & Enrichment Advisor



Robyn Toth  
Meijer Honors College Assistant



### **Congratulations Graduates!**

The Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships part of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, commends you on completing your undergraduate studies at Grand Valley State University. We know you have bright futures and look forward to your many accomplishments in years to come.

Remember that our services are available to alumni!

Competitive scholarships, fellowships and awards support graduate study, language study, public service, research, foreign service, teaching and other opportunities in the US and overseas. These awards reward past performance, recognize future promise, and often serve as springboards to greater opportunities. Begin your search at [www.gvsu.edu/fellowships](http://www.gvsu.edu/fellowships) under "Award Opportunities" and <http://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid/scholarships-list.htm>.

To learn more about inter/nationally competitive awards, visit our homepage, email [fellowships@gvsu.edu](mailto:fellowships@gvsu.edu) or click on the "schedule an appointment" button and select "alumni" under [www.gvsu.edu/fellowships](http://www.gvsu.edu/fellowships).

We look forward to working with you!

Wishing you continued success,

Elizabeth Harrington Lambert  
Director



**Name:** Hannah Nicole Alger

**Major:** Clinical Exercise Science and Dance

**Senior Project title:** Learning Style Patterns of Students Who Possess Numerous Years of Dance Training

**Summary of senior project:** The purpose of this study was to describe the potential difference of dancer's learning style compared to the average non-dancer's learning style through Fleming & Mill's VARK (Verbal, Aural, Read/write, and Kinesthetic sensory) learning style test. It was hypothesized that dancers will possess a kinesthetic learning style compared to a non-dancer.

**Research and presentations:** Grand Valley Dance Department Senior Show Capstone Fall of 2013, Entitled "Of Lipstick and Pearls".

**Leadership Activities:** Student Mentor at American Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive at University of Texas at Austin, Officer for Grand Valley's Student run organization, Momentum.

**Activities/Awards:** Marlene Kenneway Love of Dance Scholarship recipient, Dean's List.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Fieldwork completed with Heather Winia through Positive Vibes, focusing on group exercise, health and wellness promotion, and life coaching. Internship completed with Onsite Wellness, focusing on health promotion through worksite wellness.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Striving and learning to do something today that will make the person I'll be tomorrow proud.

**Plans after graduation:** Working as a full time Account Representative for OnSite Wellness and teaching dance and fitness classes at Lake Michigan Dance Academy.

**Name:** Brandon Angerbrandt

**Major:** Information Systems

**Senior Project title:** Movement Science Website Redesign

**Summary of senior project:** The purpose of my senior project was to redesign the websites owned by the Department of Movement Science at Grand Valley. In total, there were five websites involved with this project that I changed to meet the needs of both users and the faculty/staff that would update the sites in the future. In addition to the website redesign, I created screencasts to accompany the changes that I made so that anyone could recreate the changes if necessary in the future.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Security and Vulnerabilities within Bluetooth Technology and Using Rootkits and Backdoors to Access Windows Machines

**Leadership Activities:** Director of Teaching Through Technology, a GVSU non-profit

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Data Analyst – National Heritage Academies, Web Developer – Grand Valley State University, and Information Security – Owens Corning

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was bringing ADA compliance violations to the attention of Grand Valley's Web Team in order to have those violations resolved. This accomplishment is particularly special to me because over the years I have learned how vital ADA compliance is for web developers because it is what allows people with disabilities to seamlessly access content.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I will be moving to Toledo, Ohio to begin working for Owens Corning, a Fortune 500 manufacturing company. I will be part of their Information Services Development Program (ISDP) for 18 months, rotating between different sectors of IT every 6 months before eventually landing in a semi-permanent role within a sector that I worked in.



**Name:** Taylor Applehof

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Grand Rapids Rescue Race 2017

**Summary of senior project:** For my senior project I directed a 5k-race fundraiser to support Challenging Heights, an NGO based in the Central Region of Ghana that aims to reduce and prevent child trafficking and protect children's rights in Ghana.

**Leadership Activities:** During my sophomore year, I was a small group leader in Campus Ministry. Then throughout my junior and senior years I was elected as the Pre-Physician Assistant Club secretary and I represented the club as a Pre-Professional Council member.

**Awards:** I was recognized as a Phi Kappa Phi freshman honoree in 2015. I was then inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in 2017. Recently, I was selected as the GVSU Phi Kappa Phi fellowship winner and as a Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction.

**Study Abroad experience:** During the summer of 2017, I studied abroad in Winneba, Ghana through the honors college service-learning trip. Throughout the summer, I volunteered with Challenging Heights at their Hovde House rehabilitation shelter for children rescued from labor trafficking in the fishing industry.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was directing the Grand Rapids Rescue Race to raise funds in support of Challenging Heights and to educate people in my community about the issue of child slavery in Ghana and what they can do to join the efforts of Challenging Heights in ending child slavery.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be pursuing my Masters in Physician Assistant Studies at GVSU starting Fall of 2018.



**Name:** Anne Marie Balogh

**Major:** Biomedical Science

**Senior Project title:** The Antimicrobial Properties of Essential Oils in Comparison to Antibiotics

**Summary of senior project:** Essential oil is a natural oil isolated from plants for aromatic and therapeutic purposes. While essential oils have a long history of documented use, there is a lack of science-based evidence to support the medicinal properties of these oils. This experiment investigated the effectiveness of essential oils in inhibiting bacterial growth in a laboratory setting. Tea Tree, Thieves, and Lemon oil were tested against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. The zones of clearing observed for the three essential oils were compared to the zone of clearing by tetracycline, a commonly prescribed

antibiotic. Every plate demonstrated a zone of clearing, however, tetracycline had the largest recorded values. Based on the results from this experiment, with further research to reaffirm the findings, essential oils may potentially be clinically utilized for their antimicrobial activity.

**Leadership Activities:** I held the position of Rho Gamma for the Greek community during the fall recruitment process and I was a TA for BMS 291.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Grand Valley introduced me to the Special Olympics and over the last four years, I was able to volunteer over fifty hours of my time to a great cause.

**Plans after graduation:** I am getting my doctorate of pharmacy at the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in Ann Arbor.



**Name:** Jennifer Barreca

**Major:** Dance Major, General Business Minor

**Senior Project title:** GVSU Dance Program Promotional Video

**Summary of senior project:** A promotional video highlighting the many positive attributes of the Grand Valley State University Dance Program. The process included storyboarding, filming dance classes and rehearsals, conducting student interviews, and video editing. This video illustrates life in the Dance Program in order to give incoming freshman an idea of what the program has to offer. The video has been posted by dance faculty to the GVSU Dance website.

**Leadership Activities:** First Year Leadership Experience (FYLE), Two years as a Transitions Leader

**Activities/Awards:** Upper Division Dance Scholarship, GV Award for Excellence Scholarship, Award of Distinction Faculty Scholarship, Music, Theatre, and Dance Writing Competition Third Place Winner, performances in six GVSU Dance Program concerts, selected by audition to dance in guest artist works by Richard Bowman, Autumn Eckman, Mark Haim, and Simon Thomas-Train

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Successfully producing the 2018 Senior Dance Concert *LINK* and choreographing two original works. One of the works was a solo titled “flawed...”, and the second was a group piece titled “comPULSE” that was selected by dance faculty to perform in the GVSU Spring Dance Concert.

**Plans after graduation:** Teaching dance, auditioning for dance companies, and pursuing a wide variety of opportunities in the dance field



**Name:** Sam Bartelmay

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Summary of Senior Project:** My senior project was the design and build of the Grand Valley State University FSAE racecar. For the car my team and I designed and built a new iteration of the existing model. Our main focus was on improving the overall handling of the vehicle. We optimized the cars intake and exhaust for throttle response using computational fluid dynamic software packages. We also tried to improve handling by lowering the vehicles center of gravity to reduce roll and pitching. The engines oil intake system and

rear packing were redesigned completely to reduce overall weight. We lastly used vehicle dynamic software to design and implement anti-roll bars and new shock absorbers for improved transient response while cornering.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I also had the awesome opportunity my junior year to work on the design and build of an Ottawa Area Center Therapeutic swing.

**Internship experience:** For my internship I got to work at a metal stamping factory in Holland, Michigan. It was an incredibly valuable experience and I can't describe enough how much it helped further my education to learn more practically on the job.

**Plans after graduation:** I hope to find a full-time engineering position in either Grand Rapids or San Francisco.



**Name:** Brandon Beltz

**Major:** Biology

**Senior Project title:** Genetic structure in the bold jumping spider, *Phidippus audax*, despite high dispersal and lack of apparent barriers

**Summary of senior project:** During my undergraduate career, I researched the genetic structure of regional populations of a jumping spider known as *Phidippus audax*. This research began as an exploration of the mechanisms that drive new species formation, but became an example of a more interesting secondary contact in which diverging populations once again become one. The manuscript I completed for my senior project presents the

data, defends conclusions, and discusses implications for broad questions in evolutionary biology.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** As mentioned, the research used for my senior project has been an ongoing project. I have a manuscript in revision that will be sent for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and have presented my work at Student Scholars Day, the Student Summer Scholars Showcase, and the Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference.

**Leadership Activities:** I hold a position with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship as a student ambassador, and, therefore, lead undergraduate students into research paths and mentor them along the way.

**Activities/Awards:** Student Summer Scholars Grant, Dean's List (4), Phi Kappa Phi freshman honoree, Phi Kappa Phi member.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Helping students find a passion for doing research, and mentoring them throughout their involvement with undergraduate research.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be pursuing my Ph.D. in Marine Sciences at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University in New York.



**Name:** Morgan Benjamin

**Major:** Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering

**Minor:** Spanish

**Senior Project title:** AMSECO Project

**Summary of senior project:** Confidential

**Research and presentations:** Esophagectomy surgical device for Mercy Health, labor assist device for Beaumont Health, Herman Miller Interdisciplinary Innovation project, Customer Discovery program, A Foot is Not Always Twelve Inches: The Benefits of Non-Technical Partners in Engineering Projects

**Leadership Activities:** Society of Women Engineers, Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization, Honors Freshmen Mentor Council, Society of Manufacturing Engineers

**Activities/Awards:** Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in PDM Engineering, Tau Beta Pi, I Am Grand Valley Awards

**Study Abroad experience:** University of Deusto – Bilbao, Spain

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Johnson Controls, Yanfeng Automotive Interiors

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Developing a love for travel, trying every donut shop in the Grand Rapids area, and *nearly* getting to the roof of the Eberhard Center.

**Plans after graduation:** “It is essential to our well-being, and to our lives, that we play and enjoy life. Every single day, do something that makes your heart sing.”

— Marcia Wieder



**Name:** Julia Bennett

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Taboo Talks

**Summary of senior project:** Sex education videos that are science-based and peer-presented.

**Research and presentations:** Microbiology Research with Dr. Ian Cleary.

**Leadership Activities:** Worked at Campus Recreation as Competitive Sports Supervisor, Volunteer at Oasis of Hope, Resident Assistant for three years, one of those being in Niemeyer.

**Activities/Awards:** “I am Grand Valley” Awards, “Lead Like a Laker” Awards, Dean’s List. Member of Club Boxing, Club Soccer, Pre-Med Club & Belly Dancing Club.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Meeting and forming some of the strongest bonds with amazing people.

**Plans after graduation:** Attending Graduate School and then plans to continue in Medical School.



**Name:** Weston Michael-Andrew Bernath

**Major:** Music and Education

**Senior Project title:** *A Mountain Man Never Forgotten*

**Summary of senior project:** My goal was to preserve the folk music tradition of Appalachia through my grandfather's performance of tunes and song common to the region. To achieve this goal, my grandfather selected his favorite bluegrass, gospel and old country songs and we practiced them together; he played guitar and sang for the album and I played double bass and contributed some backing vocals. My mother also helped my grandfather and I during the recording process as well as contributed her singing in a couple of the tunes. In the end, we recorded covers of fourteen songs, two versions of one of the songs and bonus content of my grandfather sharing his experiences and improvised playing. The

entire album was published to a compact disk with cover art and a jewel-case insert documenting my grandfather's upbringing and life story.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Composition Recital, Winter 2017; Double Bass Recital, Fall 2017

**Leadership Activities:** GVSU Laker Marching Band Sousaphone Section Leader, 2015-2016

**Activities/Awards:** GVSU Laker Marching Band, 2013-2016; Basketball Pep Band, 2014-2017; Awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the GVSU Composition Contest, 2015; Recipient of the Thomas and Marcia Haas Scholarship, 2016; Received the Best Marcher Award for the Laker Marching Band 2016 Season

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Teacher Assisting at Kenowa Hills Central Elementary, Fall 2017; Student Teaching at Kent City Middle School/Kent City High School, Winter 2018

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Premiering an hour of original music at my composition recital, *Themes and Variations for the Recent-Most Era*, on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I will begin working on a Masters of Arts in Music Theory at Western Michigan University in the Fall of this year (2018). During this time, I will be working via an assistantship in the music education program helping and teaching undergraduates and working with their professors. After I complete my masters degree, I wish to begin working on a Bachelor of Science in Engineering so I may advocate for the protection of the Great Lakes Water Shed. In the end, I hope to earn my Doctorate of Music Theory and teach at the collegiate level



**Name:** Keegan Biegalski

**Major:** Accounting

**Senior Project title:** Death, Intercultural Competence, And Taxes

**Summary of senior project:** Researching the importance of intercultural competence and figuring out how to better implement it into curriculums.

**Leadership Activities:** Once helped a friend with a homework problem

**Activities/Awards:** Intramural Ultimate Frisbee Champion

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Eating 189 shrimp in one sitting.

**Plans after graduation:** Become a professional runner and a T-ball coach. Maybe get a public accounting job.

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**Name:** Emma Branch

**Major:** Nursing

**Senior Project title:** Nursing Student Perspectives of Study Abroad

**Summary of senior project:** I performed a literature review and examined articles relating to students in health professions studying abroad and its impact on their ability to provide culturally sensitive care. I then created my own survey tool to be used to assess (nursing) students who study abroad. I distributed this tool to nursing students who went to Ghana in March 2018. Finally, I consolidated the data and presented it at Student Scholar's Day in April 2018.

**Activities/Awards:** I am a member of GVSU's Belly Dance Club and Student Nurse's Association. Additionally, in December 2017 I was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, an international nursing

honor society.

**Study Abroad experience:** I traveled to Cusco, Peru in April and May 2017. While I was there I volunteered at a local medical and dental clinic. I also did a lot of hiking and exploring the city.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Finishing nursing school!

**Plans after graduation:** Get a job as a floor RN now, then go back to graduate school in 5 years to get my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Ideally, after that I'd practice in the Butterworth Emergency Department.



**Name:** Alexandra Breen

**Major:** Accounting

**Senior Project title:** Hospitality Training in Law Enforcement

**Summary of senior project:** We researched public perception of the police as well as issues in the news for Grand Rapids police. We recommended hospitality training to make law enforcement more relatable and approachable to the public.

**Leadership Activities:** Treasurer/E-board of Circle K (2016-2017 school year)

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Accounting internship at a local real estate company where I got experience dealing with the financials and practices of real estate, construction, property management and restaurants.

**Plans after graduation:** Finally read the shelves of books I've accumulated over the last four years but haven't had time to read.

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**Name:** Sydney Brougham

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Effects of Ammonium Chloride Solutions on Erythrocyte Morphology Across Species

**Summary of senior project:** With the goal of optimizing part of the osmosis experiment performed in the BMS 291 Laboratory in Human Physiology course, the effects of specific salt solutions on red blood cell shape were investigated.

**Activities/Awards:** GVSU Presidential Scholarship, Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction Award

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Remaining dedicated to my originally chosen program, I discovered a unique deviation from medicine that developed into the passion I now pursue.

**Plans after graduation:** In the fall, I will begin a master's program in Data Science and Analytics at GVSU.



**Name:** Travis Brubaker

**Major:** International Relations and German

**Senior Project title:** Two countries, One Internet

**Summary of senior project:** How VPNs are changing the lives of internet users in China, a research design.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** “Transatlantic Relations EU-US: Business, Trade and Values”- **Center for Applied Policy Research, Munich** and “Going Green” why some countries are more environmentally friendly than others.- **Senior IR Capstone GVSU**

**Leadership Activities:** LMU Munich Intercultural Club and Shanghai buddy Program

**Activities/Awards:** Throughout my time at GV, I have been a part of German and backpacking club, as well as Bringing the World together. During my year at LMU Munich, I was a part of the intercultural program, through which I am now “internaturally certified.” During my semester in Shanghai, I was involved in the language buddy program, helping set up events between Chinese and American students.

**Study Abroad experience:** I studied German language, politics and business from September 2016 until July 2017 in Munich, Germany at Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich). I then studied Chinese language, politics and business at Shanghai University (上海大学) during fall 2017.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Student Researcher at the Center for Applied Policy Research Munich, during the research group: “Transatlantic Relations, Business, Trade and Values.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Finding a group of advisors, professors and friends to help me achieve my dream of studying in German at a German University, then those same people supporting my until-then unrealized dream of studying in China.

**Plans after graduation:** Attending the Bavarian School of Public Policy in Munich, Germany, pursuing an interdisciplinary Master in the master program “Politics and Technology,” where I will also continue with my Chinese studies.

**Name:** Elizabeth Bruce

**Major:** Social Work

**Senior Project title:** Nutritional Nonsense

**Summary of senior project:** For our project, we chose to focus on how product packaging can and does disguise foods true nutritional value, particularly those marketed to children. The idea behind product packaging is to increase sales, which often promotes misleading information to distract consumers from the nutritional facts. Our goal was to create new packaging of products to enlighten consumers just what they are consuming.

**Research and presentations:** I have completed several research projects and presentations including the following, Hoarding in the Elderly and Obesity in Children in the US.

**Activities/Awards:** I have been a member of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority for 4 years.

**Study Abroad experience:** I have had the pleasure of traveling to Cape Town, South Africa as well as Ireland with the school of social work to learn about new cultures.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I have completed a yearlong internship at a nonprofit agency in Grand Rapids called Senior Neighbors. We help seniors over the age of 60 retain their independence in the Kent County.

**Plans after graduation:** Work as a case manager at Senior Neighbors while working toward becoming a dietitian and health coach.



**Name:** Brittany Cameron

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Equestrian Manual

**Summary of senior project:** I researched multiple horse breeds and equestrian disciplines for a paper compilation. I painted various anatomical systems (skeletal, muscular, organ) on live horses and photographed them to be put in a manual.

**Leadership Activities:** Vice President of Rho Gammas for Panhellenic Association, Vice President of Academics for Delta Zeta Sorority, Rho Gamma for Panhellenic Association

**Activities/Awards:** I Am Grand Valley Award,

Sustainability Award

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** During my time at Grand Valley, my greatest accomplishment has been my personal growth. My involvement in Delta Zeta allowed me to strengthen both my academic and leadership skills. I am proud to continue to break the sorority stereotype as a Biomedical Sciences major, Honors College student, and simultaneously holding two executive board positions for DZ and Panhel. As a freshman, I lacked time management, involvement, and courage to stand out. Today I am an exemplary student, motivated philanthropist, and loyal sorority sister. Grand Valley has created an environment with an abundance of opportunities for personal growth. I graduate from Grand Valley as a confident woman who is going to change the world.

**Plans after graduation:** I am applying to Physicians Assistant schools this summer and working at the hospital during my gap year.



**Name:** Melissa Campbell

**Major:** Music Education

**Senior Project title:** Breath Management Techniques in Musical Ensembles

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project was a literature review combined with a personal reflection, designed to serve musicians and music educators on the use of breath management techniques. I reviewed a variety of sources and reflected on several of my personal experiences as a performer and teacher of different ensembles. I also included strategies that any type of musical ensemble could integrate into their daily rehearsals to demonstrate how effective breath management can strengthen an ensemble. My advisor, Dr. Charles Norris, was an incredible

inspiration and help to me when completing this paper.

**Leadership Activities:** Section Leader, Laker Marching Band (3 years). President (1 year) and Treasurer (1 year), Mu Kappa chapter of the honorary band fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi. Treasurer, GVSU collegiate chapter of the National Association for Music Education (1 year).

**Activities/Awards:** I was a Marching Band Instructor at Godwin Heights High School for two years, in which they placed 4<sup>th</sup> (2016) and 1<sup>st</sup> (2017) at the state level. I was nominated as an “I am Grand Valley” recipient and have made the Dean’s List every semester since 2014.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I completed my student teaching at Grandville High School. I completed my teacher assisting at Kelloggsville Elementary Schools.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at GV was my Senior Saxophone Recital in March of 2017, where I performed four pieces as a soloist and three shorter pieces with my saxophone quartet, Yavin IV.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I plan to apply for full-time teaching positions, with the intention of being hired by a middle or high school as their band director for the 2018 school year.



**Name:** Christian Carroll

**Major:** B.S., Geography (Urban Planning)

**Senior Project title:** The Mass Mobility of America: A Multimodal Guide

**Summary of senior project:** America's infrastructure is crumbling, and drastic changes need to be made to the way we move as a society. This guide aims to alleviate the pain of finding the ideal form of mass transportation for a city by putting mass transportation options into one cohesive guide, which lays out the background, benefits, and downfalls of each type of transportation.

**Research and presentations:** Belknap Lookout: A Guide to Future Development, presented at the Student Michigan Association of Planning Conference in 2018. Other research includes focuses on environmental justice, sustainability, and compact planning strategies.

**Leadership Activities:** 2017-2018 President of the Urban Planning Association, member of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society and Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographical Honors Society.

**Activities/Awards:** **Activities:** Urban Planning Association, Laker Marching Band. **Awards:** 2018 Sustainability Champion Award, 2018 "I am Grand Valley" Leadership Award.

**Study Abroad experience:** Netherlands – Urban Planning 2017.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Planning Intern for Commerce Township in Summer 2017, 2018 SMAP Committee Member.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Earning various leadership awards and making the Urban Planning Association a much more productive and cohesive group.

**Plans after graduation:** To gain experience in the field of planning for a couple of years and then go to back to school for my master's degree in either Planning, Public Policy, or Public Administration.



**Name:** Gina Cellentani

**Major:** Marketing and Finance

**Senior Project title:** Local Nonprofit Membership Analysis

**Summary of senior project:** To determine member behavior at the local nonprofit to help their organization better forecast the effects of construction on membership activity, through

which I developed skills in data analysis and a better understanding of roadblocks in this analysis

**Leadership Activities:** Vice President of Advertising and PR for the GVSU Waterkski and Wakeboard Club Team and the Director of Finance for the GVSU chapter of American Marketing Association

**Activities/Awards:** Outstanding Senior in Marketing Award

**Study Abroad experience:** Semester in Sydney, Australia at Macquarie University

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Internship at Steelcase in Surface Materials Marketing for the past two years

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Obtaining funding and sending myself and four other executive board members to a collegiate marketing conference in New Orleans, LA.

**Plans after graduation:** I'm continuing to look into job opportunities within the office furniture industry, but I'm also considering higher education and consumer goods and am planning a 6-week trip to Southeast Asia in the fall.



**Name:** Olivia Chriss

**Major:** Advertising and Public Relations

**Minor:** Business

**Senior Project Title:** The National Student Advertising Competition Team

**Summary of Senior Project:** I am creating a project to serve as a guide for the National Student Advertising Competition. This guide will show the faculty advisor of the team, the best way to market to college students and provide a handful of elements to use in the future to show Grand Valley students what the team does and all that it has to offer

**Research (other than Senior Project) and Presentations:** I have completed a full marketing campaign for Tropical Smoothie Café. I have actively participated in Grand Valley's National Student Advertising Competition Team where my team and I have spent the last year researching our client and crafting a campaign for them based on the benchmarks they gave us ahead of time.

**Leadership Activities:** I am the Media Planning Director, Fundraising Head, and Presentation Team Alternate for the National Student Advertising Competition team.

**Activities and Awards:** I was awarded the Grand Valley Faculty Scholarship for Academics and the Grand Valley Award for Excellence for Academics.

**Internship/Practicum Experience:** I worked as a Sales and Marketing Intern and as a Communications Specialist at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. I am currently working as a Social Media Intern for Raymond de Steiger, Inc.

**Greatest Accomplishment at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was being accepted onto the National Student Advertising Competition team and being elected as the Media Planning Director.

**Plans After Graduation:** I plan on continuing my professional development within the field of advertising. I would like to acquire a job position where I can expand my skill set and learn as much as I can about all that is involved with the field.



**Name:** Sophia Christie

**Major:** BS in Medical Laboratory Science, Minor in Biology

**Senior project title:** Promotional video for Medical Laboratory Science profession

**Summary of senior project:** We worked with Grand Valley students that are currently enrolled in the Medical Laboratory Science program, along with Spectrum Health employees, to conduct interviews regarding their experiences within the profession. The intent of this video is to bring awareness to the profession and show what it means to work in a clinical laboratory. Since laboratory work is largely behind the scenes, we are hoping this video educates the public on the profession along with undecided students. The video was also submitted to the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science State of Michigan Conference and was awarded first place.

**Research and presentations:** During my education at Grand Valley I completed research in the form of a systematic review that studied Diabetes and the Risk of Developing Vascular Dementia, which I presented the findings at the Art of Science and Aging Conference. I also performed research on the Efficacy of Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate Versus C-Reactive Protein, which was presented at the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science State of Michigan Conference.

**Study Abroad Experience:** I traveled to San Ignacio, Belize for a medical mission trip to provide medical care to underserved communities. We worked alongside physicians to set up clinics in which we assisted in providing general health exams, making patient diagnoses, and administering appropriate medications and treatments.

**Internship/Practicum Experience:** The Grand Valley Medical Laboratory Science program has presented me with the opportunity to complete a clinical internship at Mercy Health Saint Mary's Laboratory in which I have rotated through the various departments of the lab including Hematology, Chemistry, Blood Bank, Microbiology, and Urinalysis. This internship has helped prepare me for my future career within the laboratory by granting me career applicable experiences. Following graduation I plan to be employed within a Grand Rapids hospital laboratory to further my career in Medical Laboratory Science.

**Greatest Accomplishment at Grand Valley:** Throughout my education at Grand Valley, I'm proud to have attended a university that has allowed me to further my skills in healthcare through the use of real world application. Being granted the opportunity to travel to Belize, attend conferences, and conduct a clinical internship while representing Grand Valley has been a great honor and I'm grateful for the ways it has helped me strengthen my skills.



**Name:** Micaela Cole

**Major:** Political Science

**Senior Project title:** CTRL + ALT + Retreat:  
comparing Europe and the United States on the right to privacy in the digital age

**Summary of senior project:** A research paper that explores the right to privacy in the digital age, specifically contrasting personal data protection and collection within Europe and the United States.

**Research and presentations:** As a Freshman, I presented research on the influence of French Enlightenment thought on American

Constitutionalism at both Student Scholars Day and the Mid-East Honors Association Conference.

**Leadership Activities:** I am a Ralph W. Hauenstein Named Fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy. I also worked as a Resident Assistant in the Niemeyer Living Center, as a Peer Adviser in the Padnos International Center, as a Community Mobilizer for MoveOn.org, volunteered with the Mexican nonprofit Consorcio Oaxaca, and represented GVSU as Federica Mogherini at the Midwest Model European Union Simulation.

**Activities/Awards:** I've been fortunate to have received several awards while at GVSU, but I am most proud of receiving the Excellence in a Discipline Award for both Political Science and the Honors College, the Barbara H. Padnos International Scholarship, the Bretzlaff Foundation Scholarship, the Grand Valley Presidential Scholarship, and the Cultural Engagement Study Abroad Scholarship. I'm also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society and Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society.

**Study Abroad experience:** I studied abroad for the Academic Year 2015-2016 in Galway, Ireland, and again during the Fall Semester 2017 in Oaxaca, Mexico. Currently, I am finishing my last semester in Washington, DC.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I've had several internships during my time at GV, but the most impactful is my current full-time internship with the Future Europe Initiative at the Atlantic Council, a foreign policy think tank in DC.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Despite how cliché it sounds, my greatest accomplishment was building relationships that will last a lifetime.

**Plans after graduation:** I am currently applying for jobs and hope to end up working in either foreign affairs or international advocacy in Washington DC, Europe, or Latin America.

**Name:** Kate Counterman

**Major:** Medical Laboratory Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Medical Laboratory Sciences Promotional Video

**Summary of senior project:** Kyle Flannery, Sophia Christie, and myself made a video to promote GVSU's Medical Laboratory Science program as well as the profession of Medical Technology as a whole. We drew in members of the laboratory community including laboratory managers and directors, current students, and staff to interview and appear in the video. Our video was awarded first place in ASCLS-Michigan's first video competition and is currently being judged at the national level by the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

**Research and presentations:** Effectiveness of Loop Size for the Quantification of Urine Cultures: a Comparison Study

**Leadership Activities:** Treasurer- Grand Valley State Women's Rugby (2016-2017), Captain- Grand Valley State Women's Rugby (2017-2018)

**Activities/Awards:** Coach's Award/MVP- Grand Valley State Women's Rugby (2017)

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I am currently interning at Spectrum Health Regional Laboratory.

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**Name:** Brody Cragg

**Major:** Economics

**Senior Project title:** My project was entitled "Sweden vs. America: A Study of the "Better Life Outcomes"

**Summary of senior project:** I did an economic analysis between the indicators of a better life including healthcare, employment, and security between the Scandinavian countries and America.

**Leadership Activities:** I was in both the Student Environmental Coalition and the GVSU Running Club.

**Activities/Awards:** I have received the award for Outstanding Student in Economics B.A./B.S., the Logie Fellowship, the Hauenstein Fellowship, and was a Gilman Recipient

**Study Abroad experience:** In order, I have studied in Norway, Costa Rica, Sweden, and The Netherlands

**Internship/Practicum experience:** My work experience includes working with Christine A. Yared, PLC as a legal assistant, the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County Democrats, working as the GVSU Economics Tutor, and currently at Steelcase as a Sustainability Analyst.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My biggest accomplishment was getting through my honor's sequence.

**Plans after graduation:** I received a job offer for an IT Analyst position at Q2, a financial software company based in Austin, Texas.



Information Science

**Name:** Justine Cucchi

**Major:** Classics

**Senior Project title:** Visual Literacy in the Classics

**Summary of senior project:** Creating a resource pool of images for the Classics Department to use in the classroom.

**Leadership Activities:** GVSU Honors Mentor, Cook Arts Center Volunteer, Secretary of GVSU Classics Society, Secretary of GVSU Eta Sigma Phi

**Activities/Awards:** Barbara Flaschenreim Scholarship, GV Frederick Meijer 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Scholarship, Dean's List, GVSU Award for Excellence

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Helping to make the Classics department one of the greatest on campus!

**Plans after graduation:** Pursuing a Master's in Library and



**Name:** Emily David

**Major:** Cell and Molecular Biology & Dance

**Senior Project title:** c o l l i d e

**Summary of senior project:** A artistic collaboration between choreographer and composer investigating what ballet and music can be together. We aimed to break the boundaries between our respective art forms and encourage others to never stop breaking new ground on the

things that they are passionate about.

**Research and presentations:** I have been conducting research with Dr. Paul Cook since the summer of 2015. I have been investigating the biosynthesis of bacillithiol, a compound responsible for antibiotic resistance. I have had the opportunity to present at the American Crystallographic Association Conference in New Orleans in 2017, the Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference at the University of Chicago in 2016, Student Scholars Day at GVSU in 2016 and 2017, and at the Student Summer Scholars Showcase at GVSU in 2015.

**Leadership Activities:** I was the chair of one of the sessions at the Third Annual Cell and Molecular Biology Symposium. I also was directing, producing, and choreographing works for a production as a part of my dance major capstone.

**Activities/Awards:** I received the Cell and Molecular Biology Outstanding Student Award in 2016 & 2017. I have been on the Dean's List in the Fall of 2014, 2015, 2016 and Winter of 2017. I also received the distinction of Ott-Stiner Scholar with the Ott-Stiner Endowed Fellowship in Chemistry and Natural Science to fund my research in 2015.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment is graduating in four years with a double major in two completely different disciplines.

**Plans after graduation:** I am attending Purdue University's College of Pharmacy Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Program.



**Name:** Kathryn Davis

**Major:** Writing

**Senior Project Title:** “And Terribly Sorry”

**Summary of Senior Project:** It’s a Young Adult story that details the life of a young lower class boy named Wesley Klein as he searches for newly-missing his older brother, Q, and deals with the impact of the death of a local girl, as he accidentally befriends her younger sister. This project is what my (incredible) faculty advisor, Todd Kaneko, calls “the thing I’ve wanted to do this whole time.” It’s written in vignettes (in the style of Nick Flynn’s *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*) through a mixture of flashback and current story and will spend the summer following my graduation being workshopped and revised with the potential of becoming prepared for publication attempts.

**Research and Presentations:** Through multiple different writing courses, including WRT 306, 307, and 308, I’ve had the opportunity to conduct ample research into several different aspects of writing and working with writers, such as developmental editing, acquisitions editing, and creative writing consulting. In addition to these classes, I was able to spend the fall semester of 2017 working with writing professor Amorak Huey in order to provide artifact and archival research for the sake of his sabbatical project, a historical fiction novel called *What is Passed On*.

**Leadership Activities:** I served as a Resident Assistant in the Niemeyer/Calder Learning/Living Centers for my sophomore and junior year.

**Activities/Awards:** Since my junior year, I’ve worked as a writing consultant for the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors. I’ve also spent the past three years working with *fishladder*, Grand Valley’s Student Journal of Art & Writing—most recently as editor-in-chief of the journal. In my time at GV, I’ve been awarded funding to attend the national conference for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). I’ve earned both Third and First Place in the English Department’s Oldenburg Contest’s Fiction category, and I’ve recently been declared a finalist in the Hollins University’s Literary Festival Fiction Contest. I’ve been awarded the Writing Department’s Distinction in Writing Honor, as well as having been named the Writing Department’s nominee for the Venderbush Student Leadership award.

**Greatest Accomplishment at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is likely the ways in which *fishladder* has changed due to my involvement. The journal used to be run in a very totalitarian way, in which the only real opinion that mattered was the one belonging to the editor-in-chief. At my personal request, the journal instituted a series of final picks meetings in order to ensure all editors’ input be heard and considered to the end of the journal. The aesthetic of the journal has, over the course of my involvement (along with our layout designer, Chiara Licari’s), seen a complete overhaul. The content of the journal as a whole has improved greatly, too, in the last two years, as we’ve taken to soliciting work from students and professors in order to publish only the best work GV has to offer. The quality of this year’s 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition, which was unveiled last Friday, is in my opinion, one of the strongest and most collaborative issues in years.

**Plans After Graduation:** Following my graduation, I will continue to write. I’ll revise my novella, revise old stories and write new ones, and begin submitting work for publication. I’ll find work writing for The HOTH, a virtual freelance writing company.



**Name:** Cassandra Diedrich

**Major:** Accounting

**Senior Project title:** Like-Kind Exchanges

**Summary of senior project:** I researched like-kind exchanges and how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has affected them. This paper explains what they are and who uses them and what has changed since the tax reform.

**Leadership Activities:** “I Am Grand Valley” Leadership Recipient, Honors Community Council – Executive Board

**Activities/Awards:** Beta Gamma Sigma – Honor Society – member, Kappa Beta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi – Accounting Honor Society – member

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I interned at Arthur J. Gallagher in Itasca IL for my first two summer after college. The next summer I worked for Meijer at their corporate office as a tax intern. I just finished my first public accounting internship at Plante Moran in the Grand Rapids office as a tax intern.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been receiving an internship with such a great company like Plante Moran.

**Plans after graduation:** My plans after graduation are to stay at Grand Valley to work towards my master’s degree in accounting to have the requirements to sit for the CPA exam, while planning my wedding which will be in January of 2019.

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**Name:** Benjamin Dietlin

**Major:** Political Science with minors in Writing and East Asian Studies

**Senior Project title:** Freedom of Speech on the Internet and the First Amendment

**Summary of senior project:** In this project I attempt to establish a framework to address net neutrality. To accomplish this, I analyze two Supreme Court Cases, *Packingham v. North Carolina* and *Reno v. ACLU*. This project was excellent fit for me as most of my studies while at GVSU have been to prepare me for law school.

**Leadership Activities:** I am a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.

**Activities/Awards:** I volunteered at the Legal Assistance Center. The Legal Assistance Center is a self-help center for those who can’t afford attorneys. The Legal Assistance Center assists with a variety of civil issues including divorce, guardianship, and landlord-tenant issues. I have participated in Grand Valley’s ABA approved Law Society. During my free time I have also enjoyed being part of the fencing club

**Plans after graduation:** This fall I will be attending either Wayne State or Michigan State for law school.



**Name:** Emily Rose Doran

**Major:** Spanish

**Senior Project title:** Factors That Constrain the Production of /r/ (the Trilled ‘r’) Among Second-Language (L2) Spanish Learners

**Summary of senior project:** This study examined the phonetic production of /r/ (the Spanish trill) among second-language (L2) Spanish learners, specifically undergraduate students minoring in Spanish at the 300-level. Since /r/ is not produced in the English language, many native English speakers learning Spanish do not incorporate this sound into their L2 system. This study sought to identify the factors behind this phenomenon, specifically looking to determine if factors beyond physical production barriers (mindset, identity, cultural perceptions, anxiety, etc.) contribute to L2 learners failing to produce the Spanish trill.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I presented my literary paper “El control masculino del cuerpo femenino en La melena de la discordia” at Student Scholars Day 2018. I also presented my short story “Magic 8-Ball” at the unveiling of the fifteenth-anniversary edition of fishladder.

**Leadership Activities:** I worked as the news editor at the Grand Valley Lanthorn for the winter 2017 semester and as the editor-in-chief from spring 2017 through spring 2018.

**Activities/Awards:** I’ve been working at the Lanthorn since my freshman year. I started as a columnist for two years, then worked as a news reporter and news editor for a semester each before leading as the editor-in-chief this academic year. I also served as an editor/copy editor for the Grand Valley Journal of History for the 2016-17 school year. For fun, I participated in the boxing club for three semesters. In March 2015, I was honored with the Freshman Book award by The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, where I was later inducted as a full member in March 2017. I was also inducted into Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, in April 2018. In December 2017, I was named a Michigan Press Association Foundation Scholar in recognition of my work at the Lanthorn. Academically, I was on the dean’s list every semester in which I took a full credit load. Finally, I published my short story “Magic 8-Ball” in the fifteenth-anniversary edition of fishladder.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I came to Grand Valley not knowing a lick of any language other than English, but I decided to use my four years here to achieve a personal goal: becoming fluent in another language. I started with level 101 my freshman year, and now I’m graduating with my Bachelor of Arts in Spanish.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I am planning to take a sabbatical to spend time with family and travel.



**Name:** Jessica Dowty

**Major:** Radiation Therapy

**Senior Project Title:** The Changing Perceptions of Radiation Throughout History and Clinical Applications

**Summary of Senior Project:** My senior project was a paper that researched the historical background of clinical radiation and how this knowledge may help a professional in radiation oncology to better treat their patients.

**Research and Presentations:** Michigan Society of Radiologic Technologist research project on

perirectal spacer efficacy on decreasing radiation side effects

**Leadership Activities:** Radiation Therapy Student Organization Vice President, Campus Ministry Serve Global

**Activities/Awards:** Campus Ministry, Radiation Therapy Student Organization, Michigan Society of Radiologic Technologists

**Internship/ Practicum Experience:** Clinical rotations at McLaren Northern Michigan, Susan P. Wheatlake Regional Cancer Center, and Lemmen-Holton Cancer Pavilion

**Greatest Accomplishment at Grand Valley:** Acceptance into graduate school

**Plans After Graduation:** Attending Grand Valley State University to pursue master's degree in Medical Dosimetry



**Name:** Allysen Dubisky

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** The Effect of Black Raspberries (*Rubus occidentalis*) on Oral and Esophageal Malignancies

**Summary of senior project:** My colleague Alyssa Schutzenhofer and I investigated the chemopreventive effects of black raspberries on oral and esophageal cancer. After conducting a literature review, we identified the historical and ethnobotanical uses of black raspberries and the mechanisms of action against precancerous and cancerous lesions. Multiple studies provided significant evidence that black raspberries are effective as an anticancer agent and has the potential to be used for treatment of the disease.

**Research and presentations:** I performed Research for Dr. Sylvester on the effects of  $\beta$ -methylphenylethylamine (BMPEA) on porcine pulmonary arteries. Presented this research at Student Scholars Day in 2017 and 2018.

**Leadership Activities:** Human Anatomy Lab Teaching Assistant, Human Anatomy Tutor, presented research at Student Scholars Day in 2017 and 2018

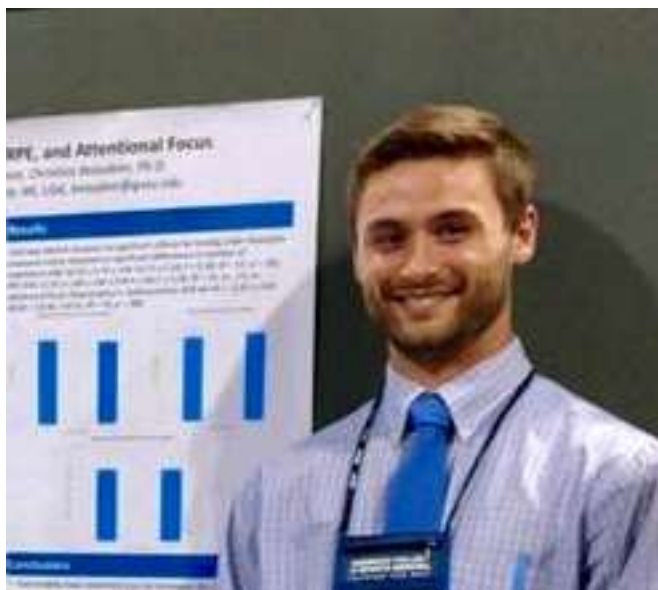
**Activities/Awards:** Kids in Motion Club, Child Life Volunteer at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction Award, Certificate in Medical and Health Humanities

**Study Abroad experience:** I spent two weeks in Panama as a medical volunteer. I assisted a local physician with setting up free clinics in various rural and underserved villages.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Customer Service Intern at Enwork

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Getting accepted into medical school at Michigan State University

**Plans after graduation:** I will be attending Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine starting in August 2018



**Name:** Tyler Dundore

**Major:** Exercise Science

**Senior Project title:** The Benefits of Exercise for Individuals with Concussion

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project includes a review paper on the effect of exercise on concussion recovery, with a mock grant proposal for funding from the NFL.

**Research and presentations:** I was a researcher and co-author of a study titled *Effect of Bench Press Load Knowledge on Repetitions, RPE, and Attentional Focus*

which is published in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*. I presented this at the American College of Sports Medicine's World Conference on Exercise is Medicine in Denver, Colorado in the summer of 2017.

**Leadership Activities:** Vice President of Strength Club for 2 years, president for 1 year

**Activities/Awards:** Strength Club athlete, Exercise Science Club, "I Am Grand Valley" leadership award

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Strength and Conditioning Intern at Grandville High School, West Michigan Muscle, and upcoming internship at Cressey Sports Performance in Massachusetts this summer.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Publishing a research paper

**Plans after graduation:** Master's and PhD in Sports Physiology/Strength and Conditioning



**Name:** Kelly Dykstra

**Major:** Accounting

**Senior Project title:** The Emergence of Female Writers in Heian Japan

**Summary of senior project:** I am doing a study of the emergence of female writers in Heian Japan. I am researching the style and themes with which these women used and how they affected the culture of Japan then and afterwards. In an attempt to truly empathize with these women, I am fully immersing myself in their style and culture and will write an original story using the same style and techniques they used in Heian culture.

**Leadership Activities:** I was the Secretary and Vice President of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) and the Vice President of Information Systems in Beta Alpha Psi, Honors Accounting Fraternity.

**Activities/Awards:** I was a Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree, received the presidential scholarship, the Accounting Alumni Scholarship, and the BDO International Study Abroad Scholarship. I am involved in Beta Alpha Psi, Swing Dance Club, Intervarsity, and IMA.

**Study Abroad experience:** This Summer I will be studying abroad in London.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** During the Summer of 2017 I was a Finance intern at Blue Medora and Winter 2018 I was an audit intern at Rehmann.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been working on the Eboard of Beta Alpha Psi and helping young accounting students learn what path they want to take and make the connections necessary to do it.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I will be working towards obtaining my CPA license. In January 2019 I will be starting as Audit Staff at Rehmann. The following May, I will be getting married to Patrick H. Dishaw.



**Name:** Paulina Dzik

**Major:** Psychology, Spanish and Sociology minor

**Senior Project title:** Evaluating the Importance of the Therapeutic Alliance Within the Online Therapy Context

**Summary of senior project:** Online therapy is a relatively new method of therapy delivery that will be beneficial to various populations. Because the therapeutic alliance is key in positive therapeutic outcomes, my project

focuses on this aspect of the therapeutic relationship within online therapy.

**Research and presentations:** I have done research on prosody awareness within individuals who learned English as a second language, the effect of fixation on groups and individuals, variables that contributed to baiting crowd formation in cases of suicide, and on the mediating variable between happiness and individualism.

**Leadership Activities:** I have helped train new lab members on research protocol.

**Activities/Awards:** I have been on the Dean's List for all of my semesters at GVSU. Also, I won the Psychology Department Student of Distinction Award for Winter 2018.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I worked for the Psychological Consultation Center at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services for a semester. For over a year, I have also worked at Pine Rest with individuals with disabilities as a Psychological Technician.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I have found my home in the psychology department, and am excited to be a part of the field in the future.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be going to graduate school to further my education in counseling psychology.



**Name:** Meghan Fitzgerald

**Major:** Hospitality and Tourism Management, Minors in Business and History

**Senior Project title:** Terrorism and Tourism: The Impact of Attacks on one of the Largest Industries in the World

**Summary of senior project:** After becoming very interested in the ideology behind and impacts of terrorism while learning about it in my freshman sequence, National Security, with Dr. Jonathan White, I noticed that terrorism was a topic covered in most of my HTM classes. As a result, I decided to write a report on the analysis of terrorism and its impact on the tourism industry. My paper details the ideology behind terrorism and why terrorists choose tourism sites, an analysis of past terrorism events, and the impact of those attacks on tourism.

**Leadership Activities:** I was Treasurer and Vice President of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, I am the Distribution Manager of the Grand Valley Lanthorn

**Activities/Awards:** Recipient of the national Tri Sigma Scholarship Award, given to members who earn a 4.0 GPA two semesters in a row, one of six women chosen nationally to be a collegiate mentor at the 2016 Dunham Women of Character Conference in Chicago through Tri Sigma, recipient of the 2017 Lois Searles Unpaid Internship Award, Recipient of the I Am Grand Valley Award.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Completed internships with the Oakland County Parks, Ottawa County Parks, and Haworth Inn and Conference Center

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was not my academic or leadership achievements, but the fact that I can confidently say that I made the best of my four years here. Coming to Grand Valley changed my life as I have made friends that will last a lifetime and memories that I will never forget, and I am forever grateful of my experiences here.

**Plans after graduation:** I am currently still seeking my first post-graduate career, and my plans after graduation are to find a job that helps me work my way towards my dream job of working for Alumni Relations at Grand Valley. I also plan on travelling a lot!



**Name:** Kyle Flannery

**Major:** Bachelor of Science in Film and Video Production with a minor in Advertising and Public Relations.

**Senior project title:** “Medical Laboratory Science Promotional Video”.

**Summary of senior project:** Through various interviews and production shoots at Spectrum Hospitals and Grand Valley State

University locations, the video captured content that not only sought to inform the general public about the field at large but also to encourage undecided student audiences to consider laboratory sciences as an undergraduate study and profession. Upon completion of the project, our team submitted the project to Michigan’s American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Conference and won first place in the video submission contest.

**Leadership Activities:** While at Grand Valley State University, I found employment within the Office of Student Life’s Promotions Office as a Project Manager. In this position, I managed several teams, comprised of student employees skilled in video and photography, throughout the production of University-centered promotional projects.

**Activities/Awards:** I participated in Grand Valley’s Television Organization (GVTV) and the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). I received recognition from the I Am Grand Valley Leadership Award for 2014-2018, as well as Superior Awards in Advertising and Public Relations in 2014 and 2016.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** While at Grand Valley State University, my greatest accomplishment would be developing and honing my skills in film and video production through a Sundance-supported film, 11 senior thesis films, 90+ promotional videos, as well as freelance opportunities for wedding, corporate, and non-profit video productions.

**Plans after graduation:** While waiting to hear back from summer internship opportunities in Seattle, WA and Brooklyn, NY, I plan to work at Nestle Gerber, pursue freelance opportunities in local film productions, and continue to search for employment opportunities at a commercial production studio.



**Name:** Victoria Force

**Major:** Criminal Justice, minor in Applied Statistics

**Senior Project title:** Analysis of CLRG World Irish Dancing Championships Results and Study of Traditional Set Dances

**Summary of senior project:** I researched the history of competitive Irish dancing, from the formation of the Gaelic League in the late 1800's to present day. I compiled a dataset of results from the World Championships between 2011 and 2018 and attempted to identify any trends in results. Dance school, region, and country of origin were variables I compared to recognize where the best dancers came from. My partner and I taught ourselves the seven traditional set dances and two four-hand dances recognized by An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha (The Irish Dancing

Commission). We completed a 20 page paper and videos of all the dances we learned.

**Research and presentations:** Student Scholar's Day 2018

**Leadership Activities:** Irish Dance Club (founding member, Community Relations Officer, President), Alpha Sigma Tau (Director of Academic Success), Freshmen Orientation Leader, Transitions Leader

**Activities/Awards:** Dean's List, Best New Organization Award nominee

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Eight months working at the Legal Assistance Center in Grand Rapids

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Starting the Irish Dance Club, serving as the Community Relations Officer and President, and winning medals at every collegiate competition we attended.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be pursuing my Masters of Science in Biostatistics at GVSU starting in the fall.



**Name:** Miranda Fortier

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** The Effect of Atmospheric Conditions on the Rising Incidence of Seasonal Allergies

**Summary of senior project:** In my senior project I studied the effect of altering environmental conditions on the duration of the pollen producing season, the allergenicity of pollen, and the amount of pollen produced. I found that increased carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone lead to a higher

allergenicity of ragweed pollen. I also found that the duration of the pollen producing season has increased over the past decade leading to higher annual production of pollen.

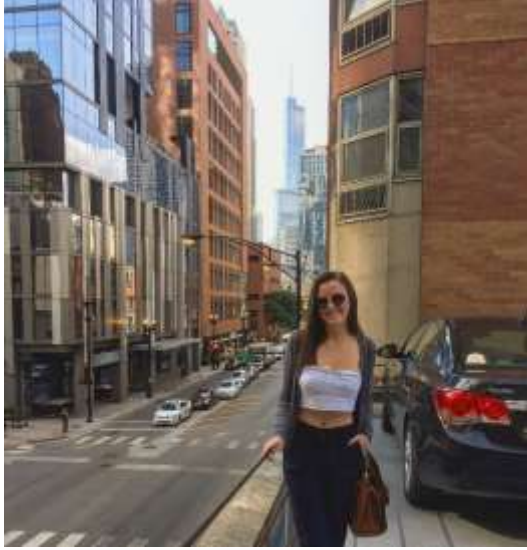
**Leadership Activities:** My leadership activities include being treasurer of the Pre-Pharmacy Association during the 2017 winter and fall semesters and being on the Morale Committee for Grand Valley's Dance Marathon.

**Activities/Awards:** My extracurricular activities include involvement in the rock climbing club Vertical Earth and the Pre-Pharmacy Association. My awards include being on the Dean's List and receiving the GV Award for Excellence, the GV Faculty Scholarship, the Zukaitis Honors Scholarship, and the Grand Finish Grant.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I have been a pharmacy Technician at Walgreens Pharmacy for three years.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been making it into pharmacy school.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan on attending Ferris State University School of Pharmacy in the fall to receive my Doctor of Pharmacy degree.



**Name:** Peyton L. Frank

**Major:** Biomedical Science and Pre-professional medicine

**Senior Project title:** Environmentally Sustainable Practices in Hospitals, an Article Review

**Summary of senior project:** The central focus of this paper is to explore the environmental impacts that hospitals have on the environment. It is essential that hospitals use environmentally sustainable techniques without compromising health outcomes. In researching the ways in which inpatient and outpatient medical services contribute to pollution and climate change, a plan will be formulated that addresses the

current environmental impacts and makes suggestions to alleviate future environmental damage.

**Activities/Awards:** Pre-med club

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Intern to the Office of Energy and Sustainability; Medical Scribe

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Completing the Medical Scribe Program

**Plans after graduation:** Medical School



**Name:** Amanda Fox

**Major:** Exercise Science with an emphasis on Health Fitness Instruction

**Senior project title:** Fitness and Nutrition for Adolescents with Anxiety and Depression in Grand Rapids

**Summary of Senior Project:** Our project focused on creating a website for children, teens, and adolescents in our community of Grand Rapids. We know that more and more teens and children are not eating right or exercising enough, and higher rates of anxiety and depression are being seen as well. We also know that communities with lower average incomes tend to be hit harder in these areas. We created our website in hopes of doing our part to help the community we live in become healthier. In addition to this, we created our content in both spanish and english to help accommodate the large spanish-

speaking community in Grand Rapids. Within our website, we included in-depth exercise programming suited for younger people with little equipment. We included healthy recipes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner that included foods that have nutrients that seem to be lacking in those with anxiety or depression. We also included some of our favorite parks in the Grand Rapids area for kids and teens to play at, and resources if they wish to learn more about healthy eating, working out, and anxiety and depression.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I wrote a research paper about the emphasis put on fitness and exercise during the Third Reich in Germany for my junior seminar. Fitness was seen as a way to unite the nation and give them structured free time. It was seen as a way to further create the “perfect race.” While some of the research could be hard to read at times, it was very interesting to delve into the rationale of Hitler’s Germany. I also enjoyed being able to combine my love of history and the Exercise Science field!

**Activities/Awards:** I have been honored with Award for Excellence scholarship and have been on the Dean’s list for the last three semesters.

**Internships:** I completed my internship at Fit Body Boot Camp. At Fit Body, I was able to work alongside other coaches helping correct, encourage, and challenge clients. It was so much fun to be hands-on and not just watching. I was able to create meaningful connections with clients at my location that have truly made me a better person! I have learned many things in the past four months that I have not learned at Grand Valley. Being able to finally put four years of knowledge into practice has been a very enjoyable experience, and a great way to finish off my college career. My internship has been an invaluable experience and I am so glad I was able to have the opportunity to be at Fit Body.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I think my greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been the person I have become. I have changed so much since beginning here as a freshman. I have found my passion, become more responsible, and grown in ways I couldn’t have imagined. I have become someone who is ready to begin their life and start a career.

**Plans after graduation:** I do not have immediate plans after college. I hope to find a job that is rewarding and allows myself to enable others to become healthier and happier through a healthy lifestyle.



**Name:** Dan Freeman

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Senior Project title:** CAMO Marksman Product Redesign

**Summary of senior project:** The goal of my senior project is to redesign the CAMO Marksman tool for fastening deck boards by combining the five current production models into a single adjustable model.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** One of the more original projects I've participated in at GVSU consisted of designing and building an adjustable and affordable Bocce ball ramp for players without use of either hand.

**Leadership Activities:** I am heavily involved at my church and have preached there twice. I currently am a junior high Sunday school teacher and AWANA Bible club leader.

**Activities/Awards:** Academic Excellence Award in Mechanical Engineering, 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Wooden Shoe Regatta Style Competition

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I spent three semesters working at Koops Inc. through the Co-Op program. While there, I rotated through three engineering departments designing, programming, and debugging automated equipment.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being named the most outstanding undergraduate student in Mechanical Engineering by the faculty.

**Plans after graduation:** I have signed on with Koops as a mechanical designer and I intend to take classes full-time through The Expositors Seminary this fall to pursue a masters of divinity. Thus equipped, I intend to serve and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ who has saved me from my sins in whatever capacity I am able.



**Name:** Rachel Gatica

**Major:** Hospitality and Tourism Management with minor in Spanish

**Senior Project title:** The Proper Parameters and Potential Pitfalls of Social Media in the Workplace

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project was a 29 page paper that includes information for employers, interviewees, and employees regarding the

use of social media in the selection and disciplinary processes within a company. It lists the benefits for an employer to utilize social media, but also warns the employer of litigation chances. It analyzes the potential gains and discretions for applicants in using social media profiles. Additionally, the paper explains reasons for employees to utilize social media and cautions employees to be careful about what is posted on personal social media. Furthermore, recommendations are given for employers, interviewees, and employees on social media use.

**Research and presentations:** I conducted research with a partner in my Hospitality Research Methods class about the use of Airbnbs of college students.

**Leadership Activities:** I was on Campus Ministry leadership for three years on the Well Program Team.

**Study Abroad experience:** None, however, I did go on a trip to Israel through Campus Ministry.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I did a total of three internships. My first internship was at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa as a Front Desk agent. My second internship was at JW Marriott as an At Your Service agent. My final internship was also with JW Marriott as a Human Resources intern.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I received a lot of opportunities to work for Grand Valley in several different departments such as University Communications and Legal, Compliance & Risk Management. My experience in these two offices helped to land me my new full time job for after college as the new Event Planner for the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

**Plans after graduation:** I am getting married on May 11 to my fiancé, whom I met at Grand Valley through Campus Ministry. I will be working on Grand Valley's campus full time as the Event Planner for the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.



**Name:** Francesca Golus

**Major:** Biology, minor in Nonprofit Administration

**Senior Project title:** “A Critical Literature Review of Enrichment Practices with Captive *Felidae* and *Ursidae* in Zoo Environments”

**Summary of senior project:** A critical literature review of enrichment practices of captive individuals in the families *Felidae* and *Ursidae* in zoo environments, its efficacy in those taxonomic groups, and an assessment of the categories and protocols used in enrichment.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I conducted independent research this past summer through the OURS office as the Ott-Stiner Scholar Fellow. It investigated the efficacy of enrichment protocols on five carnivores at the John Ball Zoo by recording the effects of enrichment on stereotypic behaviors. This research was presented at the GVSU OURS Summer Scholars Showcase, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Annual Meeting, the 2017 West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference, and at the 22nd Annual Student Scholars Day in April.

**Leadership Activities:** While employed at the Grand Valley State University Libraries as a Lead Research Consultant, I have had a wide variety of leadership opportunities. I have co-lead Research Consultant Orientation, co-presented a Citations Workshop for Research and Writing consultants, facilitated bi-weekly Mentor Group meetings, and assisted undergraduate and graduate students improving their information literacy skills.

**Activities/Awards:** I was nominated for the Outstanding Graduating Senior Award for 2018 by the Biology Department and was the recipient of “I am Grand Valley.” Last spring, I was awarded a research grant through the GVSU Student Summer Scholar Program of OURS, and the GV Grand Finish Award by Grand Valley. In the past, I have been awarded the Career Center Internship Award (Summer 2016), the GV Award for Excellence academic scholarship (2014-2018), and Dean’s List for Academics (2014, 2016-2018).

**Internship/Practicum experience:** During Summer 2016, I had the opportunity to intern at the Detroit Zoological Society as a Life Science Intern within the Mammal Department. I shadowed zookeepers, completed animal husbandry tasks, observed animals and enhanced animal welfare through enrichment projects, and developed animal interpretation skills.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was the opportunity to present my research at the AZA meeting in September. While at this conference, I meet researchers at the forefront of wildlife conservation and was able to speak with them about future research opportunities.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I’m looking forward to spending the summer at the John Ball Zoo as their Teen Volunteer Coordinator, spending lots of time with family and friends, and attending graduate school in the fall.



**Name:** Alicia Gonzalez

**Major:** Allied Health Sciences with an emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

**Senior Project title:** 3D printing as Assistive Technology for the Visually Impaired: A Systematic Review

**Summary of senior project:** This senior project was a literature review of how 3D printing can be used as an assistive technology for the visually impaired. It primarily examined 3D printing in an educational setting for visually impaired individuals.

**Leadership Activities:** Alicia Gonzalez was a Resident Assistant her final year at Grand Valley in a freshman living center. In this position she was able to be in a role

model position for freshman students. With Campus Ministry Alicia also lead a life group bible study during her final year at Grand Valley.

**Activities/Awards:** As a first-generation college student Alicia was a member of TRiO STEM-HS during her final two years at GV. Her first year at Grand Valley Alicia was a part of the GVSU All-Girl Cheerleading Team. On the cheer team she was a national finalist at the National Cheerleading Association Championship in Daytona Beach Florida. Alicia has also served as a volunteer for the Awards of Distinction Scholarship Competition held in the winter for two years in a row. She was also a volunteer student ambassador with Grand Valley.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Alicia's greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was completing her Bachelor's degree in 3 years opposed to the standard 4. Alicia made this a goal from her first semester at Grand Valley and took a full course load each semester to reach it.

**Plans after graduation:** After applying to graduate schools, the fall of Alicia's 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Grand Valley she was accepted to all 7 of her graduate schools that she applied to. Alicia will be pursuing her Doctorate in Audiology at The Ohio State University.



**Name:** David Goyette

**Major:** Marketing

**Senior Project title:** Grand Rapids Soundscape

**Summary of senior project:** David created a tourism commercial for the city of Grand Rapids, using the sounds of the city to recreate a song and narration to highlight Grand Rapids's best features.

**Leadership Activities:** David was the Vice President of PACE (Planning to Achieve Collegiate Excellence) of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars; David was also the NSCS Relay for Life Captain for 2017 and 2018.

**Activities/Awards:** David was a member of the Professional Sales Association, the American Marketing Association, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. David was a frequent performer at the Spotlight Productions open mics and talent shows.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** David interned for 3 summers with the Thermal Products sales team at TI Automotive, a tier one automotive supplier. He was able to aid the team in developing sales forecasts for North American customers (FCA, Ford, GM, and BMW) for each subsequent year.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** David led his Relay for Life team to raise over \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society.

**Plans after graduation:** David plans to work in marketing in the Grand Rapids area.



Name: Emma Green

Majoring: Therapeutic Recreation with a minor in Dance.

Senior project title: “Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities.”

Summary of senior project: to further develop an adaptive device that I created. I researched devices that were similar to what I had designed, wrote a literature review regarding assistive technology and my created device, and then collaborated with a biomedical engineering student to create blueprints for the device. This device can be used by individuals who are aging, have a physical disability, or have a visual impairment. The goal of this project is to make users’ lives easier and increase functioning and quality of

life in their physical, emotional, social, and cognitive domains. I have plans to put these blueprints into action and build the adaptive device utilizing a 3-D printer.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Some research I have been involved in is a group study entitled “Sex Trafficking and Therapeutic Interventions.” My group presented this research study at Student Scholars Day and at the Great Lakes Recreational Therapy Student Conference both in 2018. When it comes to leadership positions, I have led a Bible study on the Laker Dance Team, taught dance classes to students at Life Stream church, and am currently a Special Needs Ministry Intern at Fairhaven church.

**Activities/Awards:** Some activities I have been involved in throughout my time at Grand Valley are a Christian life group, a mission trip to Las Vegas through Campus Ministry, TRSA, volunteering at Spectrum Health hospital, and the Laker Dance team, which I was on for 3 years. I received the “I am Grand Valley” Leadership Award, the GV Award for Excellence scholarship, and the GV Faculty scholarship.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Some of the practicum experience I have is my fieldwork placement at Springhill Summer camps as a Special Needs Inclusion Counselor in summer 2017 and my internship this upcoming summer at Special Tree in Romulus, where I will be working with pediatrics with Traumatic Brain Injuries.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** One memorable accomplishment throughout my college experience was when I was on the Grand Valley Laker Dance Team and we won the NDA National Championship for hip-hop in 2016.

**Plans after graduation:** My plans after graduation are to complete my internship, take the NCTRC exam this July, and hopefully start graduate school this fall for Occupational Therapy.



**Name:** Shelly Greendyk

**Major:** International Relations

**Senior Project title:** “A Nuisance or a Threat? An Overall Assessment of ISIS and HTS”

**Summary of senior project:** Using open source material found both online and in print, I created an intelligence briefing in the Bottom Line Up Front format. In the briefing, I provided an overall threat assessment of the

terrorist groups ISIS and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) through a summary of their backgrounds, the context, and the outlook.

**Leadership Activities:** Cook Leadership Academy, Assistant Secretary General of the Michigan Model Arab League

**Activities/Awards:** David L. Boren (NSEP) Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi, Dean’s List, Arab Culture Club, Model Arab League

**Study Abroad experience:** I studied Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan during the Fall 2017 semester.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** While in Jordan, I volunteered as an English teacher at a home/school for underprivileged Palestinian boys age 8-18 in East Amman.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Receiving the Boren Scholarship to help fund my study abroad

**Plans after graduation:** Find a job related to Arabic/Middle Eastern Studies in Washington, D.C.



**Name:** Nicole Gustin

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences and Nursing

**Senior Project title:** A Literature Review of Call Light Research in Correlation with Inpatient Falls

**Summary of senior project:** The majority of falls within a hospital result in no injuries, but a fall can greatly increase a hospital's operational costs. In 2013 the Joint Commission reported that a fall could result in a \$13,000 dollar operational cost increase and add at least six days onto the patient's hospital stay. Not much research has been completed that relates call light response time to number of inpatient falls. My project reviewed four studies

completed in Michigan hospitals that look at the correlation between call light response time and number of inpatient falls. I also reviewed a few of the fall prevention programs hospitals currently utilize and reviewed their efficacy in reducing the number of inpatient falls

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** In addition to my senior project, I have conducted research related to the opioid epidemic and focused on educating dental providers about their influence on the opioid epidemic. I have presented posters related to my research at various conferences including; The Art and Science of the Aging (GVSU), The Medical Ethical Conference (GVSU), MIPERC Health Expo (GVSU), Student Scholars Day (GVSU) and 66th Annual National Student Nurses Association Convention (Nashville, TN).

**Leadership Activities:** Throughout my time at Grand Valley I've had the opportunity to be a 4-year member of the marching band, coordinator of Sibs N Kids Weekend, coordinator of the Laker Kickoff Party and a Transitions Leaders. I've also had the opportunity to be a cohort delegate, the create your nursing career coordinator and the student health coordinator for Grand Valley's Student Nurses' Association.

**Activities/Awards:** I have been a member of the Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy, Grand Valley's Student Nurses' Association, Michigan Nurses' Student Association (MNSA), National Student Nurses' Association, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honors Society, Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leaders and Honors Society and the Laker Traditions Team. I've also been a part of New Student Orientation, Supersonic Ministries, Grand Valley Laker Marching Band and Alternative Breaks. I have been the recipient of the Presidential Service Award- Gold Bar Status, a 4 time recipient of the Martin Luther King Day Presidential Service Award and the I am Grand Valley Award, a 2 time recipient of the Grand Valley Thomas M. Seykora Award for Outstanding Contribution, MNSA Outstanding Nursing Student of the Year 2017, MNSA Future Florence Award and MNSA Pure Nursing Award.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was successfully navigating a double major and earning two degrees, two certificates and being able to be involved in various student organizations.

**Plans after graduation:** I will work as a Registered Nurse for Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids and will eventually continue onto graduate school earning a terminal degree in nursing.



**Name:** Emma Hahs

**Major:** Cell and Molecular Biology

**Senior Project title:** microRNA 34b/c and alpha synuclein gene expression in SH-SY5Y cells for Parkinson's disease study

**Summary of senior project:** Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder, affecting 1-2% of adults over the age of 60. The

pathological hallmark of PD is alpha synuclein (aSyn) protein inclusions in the brain. Accumulation of this misfolded protein, especially in the dopaminergic neurons, is thought to cause PD. Thus, developing new drug therapies that block aSyn aggregation could potentially slow or stop the disease progression. MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small RNAs that bind to messenger RNA (mRNA) and regulate their gene expression. miRNA-34b and 34c are predicted to target aSyn and are shown to be down-regulated in PD brains. Here, we aim to establish a cell model to study the effects of miRNAs on aSyn aggregation. Our hypothesis is that miRNA-34b/c gene expression will be down-regulated, whereas the aSyn gene expression will be up-regulated. Using quantitative real-time PCR to measure gene expression, we found miR-34b/c expression down-regulated in rotenone treated SH-SY5Y cells that mimic a PD phenotype when compared with the control. However, aSyn gene expression was not up-regulated in rotenone treated cells, which is unexpected. Our next step is to measure aSyn protein expression because gene expression was not reflective of the PD phenotype. After establishing this PD model, miRNA mimics or inhibitors will be added to investigate their effects on aSyn aggregation to provide valuable information on future miRNA-based therapies for PD.

**Research and presentations:** Molecular Biology Research in Dr. Khoo's Lab with presentations at Neuroscience 2017, Northeast Regional American Physician Scientist Association, Western Michigan's Research for Undergraduate Symposium, Student Scholars' Day, Cell and Molecular Biology Symposium, MID-SURE, etc.

**Leadership Activities:** Cook Leadership Academy Fellow, Student Senator, Vice President of W-STEM, Event Coordinator of Pre-MD/PhD, Head of Volunteers for GVSU Presidents' Ball, First Year Leadership Facilitator and Attendee

**Activities/Awards:** TEDxGVSU, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, Be the Match, Trained Phlebotomist, Beckman Scholars' Program Finalist, Dick and Betsy DeVos Fellow, CMB Catalyst Award, Outstanding CMB Student Award, Best Talk of Session 3 Award, Dean's List, I am Grand Valley Award, Exemplary Leadership Award

**Study Abroad experience:** Accepted an Atlantis Project Fellowship studying in Barcelona this coming July

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being able to finish a Pre-Medical Science degree in Cell and Molecular Biology with a GPA above 3.5 in 3 years

**Plans after graduation:** Attend medical school with a Fall 2019 matriculation date



**Name:** Kyle Hart

**Major:** Natural Resources Management,  
Minor in Geology

**Senior Project Title:** A Spatial Analysis on the Current and Potential Stormwater Management Practices on GVSU's Allendale Campus.

**Summary of senior project:** I evaluated where on campus are current stormwater management efforts such as rain gardens, permeable pavement, and rooftop gardens as well as how additional management practices can be implemented around the freshman living centers on north campus.

**Leadership Activities:** I am the co-president of the Student Environmental Coalition at GVSU. We are an environmentally minded student organization that aims to promote awareness of topics such as sustainability and global issues like climate change and

food security. Check them out next year!

**Activities/Awards:** I will be graduating with a certification in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a minor in Geology. I also have been a camp counselor for the Energizing our World summer camp put on by the Regional Math and Science Center of GVSU which focuses on exploring renewable energy with middle school students.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I was an environmental education intern for the West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC), a non-profit organization in Grand Rapids for the summer of 2016. I led programs such as Teach for the Watershed and Teach for our Energy Future and taught topics relating to stream ecology, pollution, recycling, and reducing our carbon footprints to classes in Grand Rapids Public Schools. I also have been working through the GVSU Office of Sustainability Practices to assist the City of Grand Rapids in evaluating the 2017 Draft of the Sustainability Plan. This past year I have been assigned the Department of Environmental Services and have been completing asset management for the Water Resource Recovery Facility for the City.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I was awarded Intern of the Year for 2015-2016 by WMEAC's board of directors for my work with their education programs.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan on continuing my position with the City of Grand Rapids as well as returning to WMEAC to help pilot some new education events this summer.



**Name:** Evan Hausig

**Major:** Biology (Aquatic Sciences)

**Senior Project title:** Seasonal Diets and Feeding Rates of Brown Trout and Mottled Sculpin

**Summary of senior project:** We looked at seasonal feeding rates and prey selectivity of Brown Trout and Mottled Sculpin in Stegman Creek (a tributary of the Rogue River in Rockford). We conducted field studies in the winter and summer across sand and

gravel substrates to observe if there was any impact on feeding of these two species.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I presented my senior project at this year's annual meeting of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

**Leadership Activities:** I was elected as the Logistics Coordinator (Vice President) of A Cappella Groove for this year (2017-2018).

**Activities/Awards:** I performed with A Cappella Groove for three years while attending GVSU.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I spent two years at the Annis Water Resources Institute acting as a technician and intern for Dr. Carl Ruetz III.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment is conducting my independent research and presenting it at the MI AFS conference this year!

**Plans after graduation:** I would like to work in the field for a couple years then return for my Master's Degree in Fisheries Biology.



**Name:** Ava Hoeft

**Major:** Biomedical Science

**Senior Project title:** American Women Physicians through World Wars

**Summary of senior project:** A brief history of female doctors that includes their attempt to enter military medicine and the professional sphere. An analysis of the reasons why success in this endeavor was, and was not, achieved based on societal, cultural, and historical factors.

**Research and presentations:** Research with Dr. Kurjiaka of the Biomedical Science Department

**Leadership Activities:** PALs Student Mentors at GVSU, Teaching Assistant and Tutor in upper level human anatomy labs, Chemistry tutor

**Activities/Awards:** BMS Graduate of Distinction, Patient Advocate Liaison at St. Mary's Mercy Health, Kids in Motion volunteer, Dance Troupe at GVSU, Pre-Med Club, Women in STEM, UAEM

**Plans after graduation:** Attending the Lewis Katz School of Medicine St Luke's at Temple University in pursuit of a medical degree.



**Name:** Elizabeth Hopkins

**Major:** Political Science, B.S. and Economics, B.S.

**Senior Project title:** “The Age of Surveillance: Legal Implications and Analysis”

**Summary of senior project:** After initial exposure in a previous class at Grand Valley, I became increasingly interested in contemporary trade-off between individual privacy and security provided by the federal government. For my senior project, I analyze the legal implications of these trade-offs and the current state of cybersecurity through the lens of the Fourth Amendment. Primarily, the constitutionality of the National Security Agency’s recent actions in the name of cybersecurity are called into question.

**Leadership Activities:** I have served in several different leadership roles throughout my time at Grand Valley. As a member of Alpha Omicron Pi, I have held the offices of *Vice President of Membership Recruitment, Elections Chairwoman, Class Caucus Chair, Panhellenic Delegate, and Assistant House Manager*. In addition, I served on Grand Valley’s Student Senate for two years, serving as *Vice President of Campus Affairs* for my second term. I also served as a Transitions Leader for the Office of Student Life. Finally, my leadership journey concluded this semester as *Greek Week Coordinator* for Greek Life Council.

**Activities/Awards:** During my four years at Grand Valley, I have been a dedicated member of Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity, Student Senate, and Greek Life Council. Through this, I was able to hold several leadership positions, sit on many important university committees, and attend two leadership conferences on scholarships (Alpha Omicron Pi’s Leadership Institute and the Association of Fraternal and Leadership Values West Conference). In 2017, my chapter honored me with the award of AOII Outstanding Junior. Through my extracurricular activities and leadership roles, I have also been honored with several “I am Grand Valley” Awards. For the past four years, I have also worked and volunteered for the Grand Valley State Charter Schools Office in several different roles.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I had two meaningful internship experiences during my time at Grand Valley. I worked as a Legal Intern for Duba & Duba, PLLC, a small, boutique-style law firm, and as a Legal Assistant Intern for Gielow Groom Terpstra & McEvoy, a larger firm, dealing with several different types of litigation.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is my term as Vice President of Membership Recruitment for Alpha Omicron Pi, which culminated in the most successful recruitment period my chapter has seen yet. This experience helped fine-tune my interpersonal, leadership, and problem-solving skills, but most importantly, it is representative of all the ways that I have grown at Grand Valley.

**Plans after graduation:** I was offered and accepted a position working as an Educational Leadership Consultant for Alpha Omicron Pi’s International Organization. I will be spending the next academic year traveling to different AOII chapters around the United States and Canada to provide advice, assistance, and training to chapters in need. While traveling, I will be applying to law schools, and upon my return, I hope to begin pursuit of a J.D. degree.



**Name:** Rebecca Hrit

**Major:** Bachelor of Arts in Spanish; Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Chemistry

**Senior Project title:** *Bacterial Growth Curves-our procedure, progress, and lessons learned*

**Summary of senior project:**

After many hours spent in the lab under the advisement of Dr. Anthony Nieuwkoop, I composed a manual with our procedures, progress, and hopes for the future with

regards to data collection for bacterial growth curves. It is my hope that future undergraduate students will be able to continue this work and that it will be expedited through the avoidance of errors we have made.

**Research and presentations:**

To gain information about the Biomedical Sciences department at Grand Valley, I conducted faculty interviews for Dr. Sheldon Kopperl. As mentioned above, with Dr. Anthony Nieuwkoop, I obtained data to create bacterial growth curves for various bacilli. However, the majority of my undergraduate research experience was with Dr. Cynthia Thompson working on numerous projects relating to primates, thermoregulation, and behavior. One of these projects resulted in a poster that was presented at Student Scholars Day 2017.

**Leadership Activities:**

For the last three years I have been a Resident Assistant for Housing and Residence Life in both Frey and Niemeyer Living Centers.

**Activities/Awards:**

Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree, Lead Like a Laker award, Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society, I am Grand Valley award, Dean's List, and BMS Graduate of Distinction

**Study Abroad experience:**

In the summer of 2016, I studied abroad in Chile for nine weeks. While taking classes, I was able to travel throughout the country and to Peru as well. I also spent two weeks in Panama on a medical mission trip during the same summer. Our group ran triage for medical clinics in 3 rural settings, which included obtaining vital signs and the patient's medical history in Spanish.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:**

My greatest accomplishment was taking risks and stepping out of my comfort zone. Whether spending a summer abroad or asking to be a research assistant for a professor I had never met before, I am proud of my choices while at GV and will look back on them fondly. I'm especially proud of planning my entire trip to Peru while in Chile. It was one of the most spontaneous and rewarding experiences of my life!

**Plans after graduation:**

My plans after graduation involve attending medical school with a current interest in pediatrics and working with Spanish-speaking populations.



**Name:** Haleigh Hunter

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Chemistry

**Senior Project title:** The History of the Biomedical Sciences Department at GVSU

**Summary of senior project:** For my senior project, I worked closely with Dr. Sheldon Kopperl, assisting him in the research and writing of his book on the history of the Biomedical Sciences Department. I mainly

conducted faculty interviews and performed archival research.

**Research and presentations:** During my time at Grand Valley, I worked for one year in the microbiology lab of Dr. Tony Nieuwkoop, working to determine the optimum growth environment for various *Bacillus* bacteria.

**Leadership Activities:** I am a fellow of the Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy, as well as an Honors Freshmen Mentor. Additionally, I served on the Honors Mentor Council for two years, and I was a laboratory assistant for the Physiology 291 laboratory for one semester.

**Activities/Awards:** I am a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, and I work as a writing consultant for GVSU's Writing Center. I have also been on the Dean's List for eight semesters and have earned a Certificate in Medical Health and Humanities.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was getting into medical school. I have worked my entire academic career to reach that goal, and I am very proud to say that I will one day be a doctor.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan on attending the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in August.



**Name:** Hannah Hunter

**Major:** Psychology; Minor: Applied Statistics

**Senior Project Title:** What Good is Evil?: Analyzing Current Theories to Shed Light on the Worst of Human Behavior

**Summary of Senior Project:** This project looks at psychological theories of what causes evil behavior and applies these theories to historical and modern mass tragedies.

**Research and Presentations:** I have been a research assistant for Professor Wolfgang Friedlmeier in the Psychology Department for two years. I was first

author on a poster presented at the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology's regional conference in Poland, and I will be presenting a paper at the same association's upcoming conference in Canada.

**Leadership Activities:** Cook Leadership Academy Fellow

**Activities/Awards:** I am a member of Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honors Society, Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society, Dean's List. I am also a writing consultant at the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors, and an editorial assistant for *Online Readings in Psychology and Culture*.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I was a Summer Intern at Advanced Therapeutic Solutions, gaining hands-on clinical experience in the treatment of selective mutism, an anxiety disorder that primarily affects children.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment has been my involvement in undergraduate research and the relationships I've created through it.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan on taking the GRE in May and then applying to psychology graduate programs in the Fall.



**Name:** Courtney Ingles

**Major:** Clinical Exercise Science

**Senior Project title:** Female Athlete Triad

**Summary of senior project:** A twelve page research paper discussing the Female Athlete Triad and its effect on young female athletes.

**Research and presentations:** I completed a research study on the effect of public service announcements on running performance.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I completed a semester long internship at Functional Athletic Sequence Training.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment is graduating with honors while working, volunteering, and getting accepted into graduate school all while fostering great relationships with faculty and fellow students.

**Plans after graduation:** I have been accepted into Grand Valley's Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program that I will begin in the Fall of 2018.

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**Name:** Ericka Janes

**Major:** Nursing

**Minor:** Spanish

**Senior Project title:** "Spain versus Chile" Study Abroad Pamphlet

**Summary of senior project:** I created a pamphlet for the study abroad office comparing and contrasting my experiences in the two different countries in which I studied abroad: Spain and Chile. I hope that this pamphlet will help future study abroad students decide which Spanish speaking country would be best for them.

**Leadership Activities:** I held many leadership positions during my time as a member of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority.

**Study Abroad experience:** I was fortunate enough to have two study abroad experiences during my time at Grand Valley. First, during the summer of 2014 I studied abroad in Chillan, Chile for nine weeks. Secondly, during the fall semester of 2015 I studied abroad in Granada, Spain for three and a half months. Both were amazing experiences of immersing myself in Spanish culture while living with host families in two very unique countries.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being independent enough to immerse myself in different cultures during my study abroad experiences. Secondly, being accepted into the competitive GVSU Kirkhof College of Nursing, which has given me a degree to be very proud of.

**Plans after graduation:** To work as a nurse at a hospital in the Grand Rapids area. I plan to begin on a medical-surgical floor for a few years to gain experience, and then move onto a position either in Labor and Delivery or the NICU. Graduate school is also on my mind for a few years down the road, either a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).



**Name:** Walter Kleinfeldt

**Major:** Finance and Marketing

**Senior Project title:** WHOJ Housing Shake Up

**Summary of senior project:** Walter noticed the separation between the two floors in freshman housing and wanted to fix it. He worked with the Housing and Residence Life department to completely transform how a freshman building operates. A focus was made on the building as a whole, rather than two separate floors to facilitate interaction between the two floors. This led to a massive increase in the overall community of the building and will impact freshman for many years to come.

**Leadership Activities:** Walter was proud to serve as the Vice President and Treasurer for the Men's Water Polo Club. In addition, he spent three years as a

freshman Resident Assistant in the WHOJ community.

**Activities/Awards:** Walter was a four-year member of the Men's Water Polo Club, helping lead the team back to the National Championship. He was recognized as a three-time All-Conference and two-time All-America team member. He was also a Resident Assistant for three years, receiving four "Lead Like a Laker" and "I Am Grand Valley" awards. Walter also was a member of the professional business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi, a community council advisor, and was named a Homecoming Regent in 2017.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Walter worked as a Data Analytics intern for Swingtide, Inc. for his final two years of school.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Walter's greatest accomplishment was directly impacting almost 200 freshman students' first year at Grand Valley.

**Plans after graduation:** Walter has accepted a position and will work as a consultant for Swingtide, Inc.



**Name:** Samantha Nicole Koch

**Major:** Physics and Math

**Honors Senior Project Title:** Using Superconductivity and Electromagnetism for Physics Outreach and Education

**Summary of Honors Senior Project:** A collaborative project with my fellow Physics major Ross Kunzi. We built a Möbius track of magnets that we could pin a superconductor to and have it travel around the track. Along with construction, we did research into the physics and history behind superconductors and their real-life usefulness and took our track out to multiple events throughout the Winter semester to show it off to the community. These events gave us good opportunities to get kids excited in science and to teach some physics to people of all ages.

**Research and Presentations:** I worked on a Physics Senior Project. For this project, titled *A Study of Students' Understanding of Electrostatics Through Problem Categorization*, I worked with Dr. Brad Ambrose in the Physics department and we looked at how well

students of varying proficiency levels can categorize problems based on solution method without actually solving the problems. We first asked three professors to categorize our set of problems and then compared the students' categorization of the same problems to the professors'. We were looking to see if there was any correlation between the students' understanding of the underlying physics of the problems to how they categorized them. I presented my results at Student Scholars Day here at Grand Valley.

**Leadership Activities:** Physics Club President

**Activities/Awards:** I was elected Physics Club president after having served as treasurer for the last two years. This was a great honor and I had a lot of fun planning events for the club throughout the year. This position, as well as my position as a student worker in the Physics department all four years I've been here as well as a Physics tutor my Junior year, was enough to earn me two nominations for the I Am GV award. I was so touched by the nominations and now display the certificates with pride. I also received the Outstanding Creative Achievement award from the Honors College for my senior project.

**Internships:** The summer before my senior year, I accepted an internship at Dematic in their analytics department. That internship extended through my senior year and acted as a nice transition between school and working after graduation.

**Greatest Accomplishment at GV:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was not any single moment, but everything I did with the Physics department and Physics Club. We participated in countless volunteer and outreach event to try and get kids excited about physics. Specifically, we participated in multiple events that focused on young girls and keeping them interested in STEM fields. Too often, we see young girls discouraged from following a path in science, mathematics, or technology whether explicitly by teachers or inexplicitly by the intimidation of being the only female in the room. I was happy to be someone that encouraged them to take whatever path they wanted regardless of what people said. It also made me realize how lucky I was and how grateful I am that I had people around me growing up and at Grand Valley who encouraged me to stay in Physics and Math, because I can't imagine doing anything else.

**Plans After Graduation:** I have accepted a full time position at Dematic for after graduation.



**Name:** Ashley Koltz

**Major:** Finance and Business Economics

**Senior Project title:** Local Nonprofit Membership Analysis

**Summary of senior project:** To determine member behavior at the local nonprofit to help their organization better forecast the effects of construction on membership activity, through which I developed skills in data analysis and a better understanding of roadblocks in this analysis

**Research and presentations:** Design Thinking (Fall 2017): Purpose of the Holland Satellite Campus

**Leadership Activities:** Vice President of the Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization, Chief Operations Officer of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization, Fellow of the Cook Leadership Academy, past Secretary of the Honors College Mentor Council

**Activities/Awards:** Deans list, Beta Gamma Sigma (top 10% of graduating class)

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Project Management Intern at Herman Miller and Finance Intern at Keller Williams

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Graduating in three out of four years

**Plans after graduation:** Incoming Analyst in the Finance Development Program at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan



**Name:** Allie Lange

**Major:** Psychology

**Senior Project title:** Needs Assessment for Homeless and At-Risk Youth in Grand Rapids

**Summary of senior project:** My partner and I conducted interviews and visits with several organizations that support homeless and at risk youth in Grand Rapids in order to learn about the resources available in the community and to determine

needs that aren't currently being met. Our intention is to pass off the needs assessment to future honors students so that they can use it to set up some kind of system that will meet a current need of homeless and at risk youth.

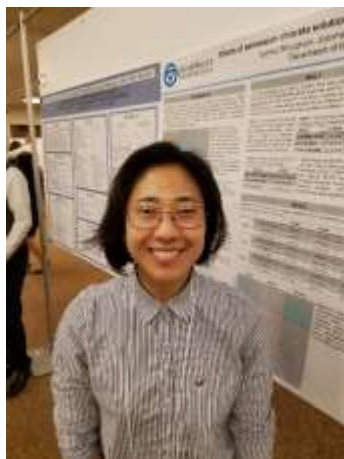
**Leadership Activities:** Co-president of Humans of Grand Valley; Lifegroup and Renewed leader with Campus Ministry

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Undergraduate assistant at the Extended Learning Opportunity toddler program with Dr. Amy Matthews

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Filling my punch card at Spoonlickers. In a distant second: making friends who I like a lot, getting into grad school, and taking a very scary speech class where I learned to not hate public speaking.

**Plans after graduation:** I will begin the Ed.S. program in School Psychology at Ball State University in the fall.

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**Name:** Joanna Lee

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Effects of Ammonium Chloride Solutions on Erythrocyte Morphology Across Species

**Summary of senior project:** Working alongside a fellow honors student, our aim was to observe the different cellular changes that red blood cells undergo in ammonium chloride solutions. This was done in attempt to optimize an experiment performed in the current BMS 291 laboratory course to improve the overall learning experience of future students.

**Leadership Activities:** Secretary of Asian Student Union of 2015-16, Current tutor at the Literacy Center of West Michigan

**Activities/Awards:** GV Award for Excellence, Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction Award

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being able to work and finish my major and minors within four years.

**Plans after graduation:** A gap year and then medical school.



**Name:** Annie Livingston

**Major:** B.A. English Language & Literature, B. A. Writing

**Senior Project title:** *Do you want to know a secret? An essay, manifesto, and collection of poems*

**Summary of senior project:** This project sought to investigate the role of the narrative arc in poetry, both through academic research, writing, and her own collection of poems.

**Leadership Activities:** Annie has looked for any and all opportunities to create community both in her studies and throughout her education. She is proud to have been involved in GVSU's magazine of art and writing,

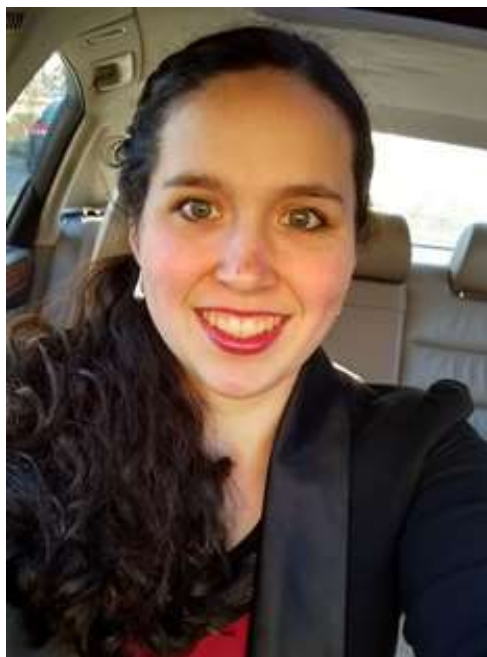
*Fishladder*, as a nonfiction editor in both 2017 and 2018. She also loved her time connecting with honors students across the country as a NCHC Board of Directors student member from November 2016 through November 2017. On campus, Annie has been a P.E.P. Talks Peer Educator from January 2017 through this semester.

**Activities/Awards:** This year Annie was chosen as a GVSU Outstanding in a Discipline Award Recipient for Writing. This is an immense honor as the Writing Department has truly become a home and family throughout her academic career. She feels equally honored to have received this year's Outstanding Leadership & Service award from the Honors College. Most of all, these honors remind Annie how glad she is to have attended such a community-focused school. She feels continuously blessed by the generosity of her professors and peers and the attention they give her. As poet and essayist Mary Oliver wrote, "attention is the beginning of devotion."

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Annie had the coolest internship experience ever at the Grand Rapids Creative Youth Center where she was also lucky to volunteer once a week doing creative writing with middle school girls. She is also so proud to have been a student worker at the Center for Women & Gender Equity (CWGE). Being in the CWGE office led her to pursue her other passions and goals, as well as to connect with other likeminded individuals.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Annie has focused on cultivating her craft and skill as a writer during her time at GVSU and is proud to see it pay off in her entries to the English Department's Oldenburg Contest where she won first place for her poetry and for her analytical essay, as well as third place for her personal essay entry. Annie was also honored to receive an AWP Intro Award this year for her poem "The only reason I unpacked was the insomnia."

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, Annie is thrilled to be moving to Burnsville, North Carolina where she will be living and working at an experimental middle school, Arthur Morgan School, with seventh through ninth graders. She is excited to continue building her poetry portfolio and eventually pursue an MFA in Creative Writing. But most of all she can't wait to harvest tomatoes and go on some good hikes.



**Name:** Khyllian Lowry

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences major; pre-med with certificate in Medical and Health Humanities

**Senior Project Title:** Vaccines: History and Science.

**Summary of senior project:** My goal in creating the document was to explain some of the background of how vaccines were first utilized followed by the basic scientific theory behind vaccine development and use. I tried very hard to keep any bias out of the paper and stick to the facts as a way to persuade individuals about the good of vaccines. I also looked at the polio vaccine and the pertussis vaccine as a type of case study in what can go wrong and how public perception of need for the vaccine changes vaccine compliance.

**Study Abroad experience:** One of the greatest experiences I had since starting Grand Valley was in the summer of 2017. I went on a medical service trip to Belize. It was eye opening, and reaffirmed my career choice of becoming a doctor. I not only was able to travel to a different country and experience the culture for two weeks, I was also able to perform basic nursing tasks and interviews with patients. Taking blood pressure, listening to heart and lungs, and looking in ears and at throats were all common tasks. Seeing how healthcare is conducted in another country was another wonderful aspect of the trip.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** The accomplishment at Grand Valley that I am proudest of has to be making the Dean's list almost every semester. There were a couple semesters (looking at you organic chemistry semesters) that I was sure were going to end me. Being able to succeed in the classes while working a few hours a week and without having to sacrifice my familial obligations makes me think that some other classes (regional anatomy and medical school in general) might actually be doable! Even if that means the family comes to visit me so I have a couple more hours to study instead of dedicating that time to a commute.

**Plans after graduation:** My plans after graduation is hopefully a summer of travelling with some hard earned and saved funds, followed by starting at MSU CHM in the fall! Class of 2022. I was one of the lucky few to get accepted through the Early Assurance Program and have been anxiously awaiting graduation ever since. I could not be more grateful for the opportunities at classes that the Honors College and Grand Valley as a whole has provided me. I am so ready to take the next step on the way to my dream of becoming a primary care physician!!



**Name:** Jeffrey Lueders

**Major:** Double Major in Sociology and Psychology

**Minor:** Applied Statistics

**Senior Project Title:** “Synthesizing the Small Town: Why Conservatism?”

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project reviews several primary field studies (books) on small towns to see how conservatism is developed in rural United States

**Research and presentations:** I have also performed research looking at cultural fears in the

United States which was presented at the 2016 Michigan Sociological Association Conference. I have performed research in cognitive psychology looking at decision-making (no presentation). I created a research-based proposal to integrate housing between elderly adults and younger adults which was presented at the 2017 Art and Science of Aging Conference. And finally, I have performed research with Grand Valley’s former *Director of Intercultural Training Certificate*, which developed a survey to measure different levels of cultural values in college departments.

**Leadership Activities:** I have leadership experiences working as an Honors Mentor, a Tutor in Sociology, and at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy. Furthermore, I am involved in Sociology Club, Honors Statistics Society, Honors Psychology Society, and Honors Sociology Society. Finally, I have served as an executive board member for the Michigan Sociological Association and organized a student presentation session for their 2017 Conference.

**Activities/Awards:** I have received awards from Grand Valley such as the GV Award for Excellence, the Grand Finish Grant, and academic placement on the Dean’s List. Furthermore, I was selected by the Office of Provost to serve as the 2017/18 John Logie Fellow. My experience as a John Logie Fellow led to an internship with the Grand Rapids Public Museum where I developed material for an Augmented Reality Tour of their “Streets of Old Grand Rapids” exhibit.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Right now. Not just with graduation, but also with all of the connections I have made; from students to professors, faculty, professional individuals, and more.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be working towards a doctorate degree in Sociology with focuses on the small town and west/southwest Michigan, and goals to become a professor.



**Name:** Danielle Mackey

**Major:** Nursing

**Senior Project title:** Healthcare Inequalities: A Historical and Contemporary Review and the Nurse's Role

**Summary of senior project:** This project was a student scholars' day presentation of a literature review studying the history of healthcare inequalities between black and white people, to examine how they persist today, and to understand how nurses may inspire change. Areas of research included differences in life expectancy, medical research disparities, environmental injustice, and nursing interventions.

**Leadership Activities:** Student Nurses Association

**Activities/Awards:** National Society of Collegiate Scholars

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Helping people throughout my clinical experience during the nursing program

**Plans after graduation:** Beginning my career as a nurse in the ICU.



**Name:** Joslyn Mara

**Major:** Writing and a minor in Advertising & Public Relations.

**Senior Project title/summary:** She dedicated her senior honors project to Powerfully Diverse Young Adult Literature: Understanding the Current & Historical Implications of Canon, which centered around understanding and fixing the gaps in diverse race, gender, sexuality, mental health, disabilities, and trauma representation in contemporary young adult literature that were created by the exclusionary history of literary canon, with a focus on promoting books to the literary gatekeepers of young readers.

**Activities/Awards:** Along with being on the Dean's List since her freshman year, Joslyn has also enjoyed being a reader, and then Co-Director, for the Student Reading Series, getting a chance to enjoy the creative works of GVSU's budding authors, as well contributing as a reader to Fishladder: GVSU's Student Literary Journal.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** She has had a lot of opportunities to become familiar with all of GV's student writing in her three brilliant years with the Fred Meijer Center for Writing & Michigan Authors and as the Assistant-Editor-in-Chief of the Grand Valley Journal of History, enhanced by a familiarity with professional creative writing as an editorial intern for Dzanc Books.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Even with all these written stories fluttering through her time at GVSU, the real impact and greatest personal accomplishment, is discovering the stories of the people she has met and worked with. Each student's, co-worker's, and friend's successes, failures, struggles, and victories not only personally broadened how she experienced the world, but also solidified her philosophy that real – genuine – complex human stories can influence individuals and society in stunning, optimistic ways.

**Plans after graduation:** This is a philosophy that she will take with her into her pursuit of becoming a nonfiction or young adult editor as the chapter of her life with the Grand Valley community reaches its final page and the invigorating unknown lays of the other side.



**Name:** Madison Martin

**Major:** Nursing

**Senior Project title:** Women, Children, and Health Practices in Ghana

**Summary of senior project:** After studying in Ghana for seven weeks, I used my observations of the health care system and an in-depth literature review to identify factors that influence maternal and child health and how these factors affect health outcomes for this vulnerable population.

**Leadership Activities:** Delegate for Student Nurses Association and Honors College Mentor for Freshman Orientation

**Activities/Awards:** Student Nurses Association, Honors Mentor Council, Kids in Motion, ANCHOR, and Campus Ministry

**Study Abroad experience:** Ghana: Honors Summer 2016

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Leadership Clinical in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Helen Devos Children's Hospital

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was studying abroad in Ghana. The seven-week experience helped me to develop as a leader and a student and provided me with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that I will forever be grateful for.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to pursue a career as a neonatal nurse in the NICU at Helen Devos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids.



**Name:** Jordan McCroskey

**Major:** Advertising and Public Relations

**Senior Project title:** Integrated Marketing Campaign for Arbor Wild Bridal Boutique

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project was step one of fulfilling a life goal of mine- owning a bridal boutique that services trendy brides in the East Michigan area. Through a handful of one-on-one interviews and in depth research of East Michigan demographic, I created an integrated marketing campaign for my future business- Arbor Wild Bridal Boutique. This work beautifully molds my heart's

passion with logical advertising tactics and research to bring a dream to fruition!

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Sprouted- A little footstep with a big impact. This piece of work was created to fulfill the need of the Holland GVSU Campus. This campus was designed to cater to the nontraditional student but was left empty and lacking to meet any real need. Our solution was to make this campus into a thriving agricultural space, housing honey bees, cooking courses, a community garden, gardening courses, etc. The Holland community is proud of where they are from, what better way to integrate a needed service to a willing community?

**Activities/Awards:** Dean's List

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I was given a beautiful experience to spend the summer in Nashville, TN as the Integrated Digital Marketing Intern for LifeWay Christian Resources. I couldn't have dreamt up a better opportunity as it meshed so many of my passions into one, while offering me real-time training. I met amazing people that turned into lifelong friends and left feeling prepared to take on advertising in the real world.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was learning to let go of the unrealistic standards I set for myself and that the world set for me. I entered Grand Valley as a wide eyed freshman, with goals of being successful at absolutely every challenge that was placed before me. When I didn't overcome them with valiance, I crumbled. When I learned to embrace what I loved and let go of what I didn't, I experience a season of personal growth and freedom that compares to nothing else. I'm so grateful for what Grand Valley has given me, experience that goes far beyond a degree.

**Plans after graduation:** Life is moving full swing ahead. I get to marry my best friend in May, and then start my first full-time position as a Marketing Coordinator on the east side of the state. I am so excited to put roots down in one place and begin making new traditions with the people that I love the most. I plan to jump into ministry headfirst with my (almost) husband and bring glory to God through it all.



**Name:** Jordan Meyer

**Major:** International Business and Marketing

**Senior Project title:** Center for Ludic Education and Research (Project CLEAR)

**Summary of senior project:** Created the foundation for a new educational center at Grand Valley for game-based learning.

**Leadership Activities:** Executive officer of French club Les Francophiles, 2016-2018

**Activities/Awards:** Accepted Campus Engagement Award on behalf of Les Francophiles; member of French club, swing dance club.

**Study Abroad experience:** Angers, France, Winter 2016.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being asked to represent the International Business department in a video promoting study abroad.

**Plans after graduation:** Remaining in the Grand Rapids area to pursue a career in multinational marketing.



**Name:** Noelle Milad

**Major:** Human Resource Management,  
minor in Psychology

**Senior Project title:** Performance Review  
for Student Employees in the Office of  
Student Life

**Summary of senior project:** I developed a  
performance review process for the student  
employees in the Office of Student Life.

These performance reviews will be used in

the future for the Office of Student Life student employees to be evaluated on their work  
performance, help them set goals, and gain skills for their futures.

**Leadership Activities:** I was a member of Student Senate my freshman and sophomore years,  
and Vice President of Public Relations for Student Senate during my Junior year. Throughout my  
sophomore year, I participated on the Laker Traditions Team and had the opportunity to plan  
Intercultural Festival. I was also an active member of the Society of Human Resource  
Management and served as secretary my senior year.

**Study Abroad experience:** EUSA Internship Experience in Prague, Czech Republic

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I was a Research & Recruiting Intern at Bright HR in  
Prague, Czech Republic during the summer of 2016 during my study abroad experience. I  
interned at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles as a Human Resource Intern during the summer of 2017,  
in an engine plant and working with the UAW.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand  
Valley is my work experience. Working for three years in the Office of Student Life and having  
the opportunity to be a part of planning 10 Commencement ceremonies. This experience taught  
me more than I could have ever imagined from a student job.

**Plans after graduation:** Human Resource Generalist for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles



**Name:** Gloria Mileva

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Humans of Ghana

**Summary of senior project:** Reading through much of Brandon Stanton's (2013, 2015) "Humans of New York" stories, inspired me to create my own mock series called Humans of Ghana. I was motivated by the way people's stories were portrayed in their own words. His work let people look into the humanity of others and realize that everyone has their own unique story to tell. In my two months in Ghana, predominately in the Accra area, I befriended many people, some of whom kindly obliged to allow me to interview them. I collected 15 stories to share about the Ghanaian people.

**Research and presentations:** I do research predominately with Dr. Danielle Lake. Our work revolves around implementing service learning courses and the impact of Engaged Department

Initiatives being held in the Grand Rapids area. This work has yielded an academic article and book chapter that are both currently published. Additionally, I have been able to present this work at eight different academic conferences across the United States.

**Leadership Activities:** On GVSU's campus, I am currently the President of Pre-MD/PhD Club as well as a site leader for Alternative Breaks.

**Activities/Awards:** This year, I have been given the honor to receive the Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction Award.

**Study Abroad experience:** During my time at GVSU, I was able to study abroad in Ghana for 9 weeks the summer between my junior and senior year.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Last year, I got the unique opportunity to be a Peace Corps Campus Ambassador for GVSU.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU was being able to study abroad in Ghana and compile stories about my Ghanaian friends that I will be able to hold onto and cherish forever.

**Plans after graduation:** This fall, I have been accepted by Teach for America to teach High School Science to children growing up in Indianapolis. This unique opportunity has afforded me the ability to let children blossom in their community and future endeavors while allowing me to pursue my Master's in Education.



**Name:** Amber Miller

**Major:** BBA in Marketing and BS in Advertising & Public Relations

**Senior Project title:** Nutritional Nonsense

**Summary of senior project:** For this project Lizzie and I looked at popular children's foods and the nutritional claims made by the products packaging. We then analyzed the product's ingredients for inconsistencies and misconceptions and then created parody packaging for said products in order to convey their true nutritional values to consumers.

**Leadership Activities:** my experience at Grand Valley would not have been the same without the support from my sisters in Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority. As a part of this organization, I had the opportunity to serve as both their parliamentarian and

risk manager for the 2016 calendar year, as well as serve on multiple committees, all of which helped me grow as a leader.

**Activities/Awards:** This past year I also had the amazing opportunity to volunteer as a marketing intern at Alternatives in Motion. AIM is a local nonprofit, which focuses on enhancing independence through providing access to mobility equipment to those who would otherwise be unable to afford it. I loved being able to expand not only my professional skills, but also my personal ones, as I spent over 300 hours volunteering with this amazing organization.

**Study Abroad experience:** One of my favorite experiences as a Laker was studying abroad. During my six-week program in London, I focused my studies on advertisements on the London Underground and how it has evolved from simply political public service announcements to one of London's largest advertising venues.

**Plans after graduation:** I am currently looking for an Advertising job back home in the Chicago area, as I plan to move back to be closer to my biggest supporters, my family.



**Name:** Kristen Miller

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences with a Nutrition Science Emphasis

**Senior Project title:** International Service Learning: An Opportunity for Partnership with the Padnos International Center

**Summary of senior project:** I am exploring the benefits of international service learning trips and partnering the nonprofit organization, ISL, with the Padnos International Center to give more students the opportunity to go on these trips.

**Research and presentations:** I work with a BMS professor, Dr. Bergman, doing research on nonylphenol effects on crayfish. As part of my freshman sequence, I presented at Student Scholar's Day on my groups project of installing a rainwater harvesting system at GSVU's Sustainable Agriculture Project, saving them over 80,000 gallons of water a year.

**Leadership Activities:** I was the Recruitment Advisor for my honor fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi. I also was the team leader of Young Athletes (part of Special Olympics).

**Activities/Awards:** I've been awarded the I Am Grand Valley award and the BMS Graduate of Distinction Award

**Study Abroad experience:** I have gone on two medical mission trips with ISL to Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Getting accepted to medical school

**Plans after graduation:** I will attend medical school at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine starting in the fall.



**Name:** Amber Modena

**Major:** International Relations

**Minor:** Spanish

**Senior Project Title:** “The Model Arab League Toolkit”

**Summary of senior project:** I created “The Model Arab League Toolkit” to assist students in the Model Arab League class. Students have six weeks to become knowledgeable about a country in the Arab League enough to represent it at a statewide conference. This is unsettling to some

students but its reward is worthwhile. In order to encourage students to persevere, I created short instructional videos for Professor Fitzpatrick to use in her future classes. It was enjoyable having creative freedom and working closely with Coeli to do so.

**Leadership Activities:** While being at GV, I found myself becoming increasingly involved on campus, especially in culturally-focused activities and organizations. I worked at the International House as a Peer Mentor, was the Historian of African Student Council, was involved in the International Small Group through InterVarsity, and helped to found and lead Bringing Together the World (BTW), a new organization which put on Sexy Accent Night this year. I also worked as the Assistant Outreach Coordinator of the Padnos International Center where I frequently led presentations and helped plan events which inspire students to study abroad.

**Study Abroad:** I studied abroad in Sevilla, Spain for one semester of my junior year. It was an incredible experience. Not only did it broaden my horizons through cultural and language immersion, it taught me about myself and my desire to explore the world and everything it has to offer.

**Activities/Awards:** I interned for one semester at Bethany Christian Services assisting the employment department to find jobs for refugees resettled in the Grand Rapids area. It was a neat experience to see the internal side of refugee resettlement agencies and gain a better understanding of what a refugee goes through upon entering the United States.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad and having the opportunity to start BTW, an organization which connects international and domestic students while increasing cultural competency. Both provided me great opportunities to grow and make friends around the world.

**Plans after Graduation:** To not make serious plans. I do not want to jump into a career path immediately, so I will most likely teach English abroad for at least one year. I am looking at many countries but would ideally go somewhere warm with a coastline. Thailand, Panama, and Oman all seem very tempting!



**Name:** Sarah Moll

**Major:** Nursing (Spanish Minor)

**Senior Project title:** Counteracting Homelessness in Grand Rapids Youth

**Summary of senior project:** In collaboration with Allie Lange, I performed a needs assessment of at-risk and homeless youth as means to understand the struggles currently faced by youth in the community and suggest avenues for change.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:**

Eye-Tracking research with Dr. Rebecca Davis and MiCAPABLE Research with Dr. Sandra Spoelstra.

Presentations: SSD 2016 Wayfinding in Cognitively Impaired Populations within Virtual Environments, SSD 2017 + Sigma

Theta Tau Rising Stars of Research *Wayfinding Abilities in Persons with Alzheimer's Disease: An Eye-tracking Study*, and SSD 2018 + Midwest Nursing Research Society 2018 *Wayfinding Abilities in Person's with Alzheimers' Disease: An Eye-Tracking Study*.

**Leadership Activities:** Executive Board and Delegate for Student Nurses Association, Life Group Leader for Campus Ministry, and Transitions Leader

**Activities/Awards:** Campus Ministry, Kids in Motion, Swing Dance Club, and Student Nurses Association.

**Study Abroad experience:** Chile Summer 2017 Universidad de BioBio

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Leadership Clinical on 4West-Adult Medical Surgical Unit at Spectrum Butterworth

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was the family I formed while I was here. The awards will sit on a shelf and collect dust while the GV family and memories I made while here will live in my heart forever.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to pursue a career as a pediatric or neonatal nurse at Mott's Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.



**Name:** John Mroz

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** The Scribe Experience

**Summary of senior project:** Being a GVSU medical scribe solidified my choice to pursue a career as a physician. I wanted to give back to a program that gave me so much. I surveyed GVSU scribes about their experience, how it impacted their career, and how it helped them pursue graduate education. This material was given to the GVSU Scribe Academy to use as future recruitment material and continue to improve the program.

**Leadership Activities:** I was an active volunteer with Emmanuel Hospice where I visited hospice patient in a local nursing home and performed bereavement calls to patient families. I was also a GVSU Cadaver Lab teaching assistant and then went on to tutor students in the cadaver lab for another semester.

**Activities/Awards:** While at GVSU I was a member of the GVSU Laker Marching Band, an inaugural member of the GVSU Laker Marching Band Council, a member of the GVSU Pre-Med Club, the GVSU Beekeeping Club and GVSU Alternative Breaks. I also received the Certified Medical Scribe certification and an award for special services to the Butterworth Emergency Department while helping to implement a new electronic medical record system.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My pre-med interest and experience as a GVSU scribe launched my undergraduate clinical career as a Senior Scribe then a Site Lead Scribe at our first regional hospital location in Zeeland. This allowed me to vastly expand my professional network and gave me both the clinical and leadership experience to get into medical school.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be attending Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine in the coming fall as a member of the class of 2022.



**Name:** Erin Mulder

**Major:** Medical Laboratory Science

**Senior Project title:** *Palliative Care – Increasing Awareness and Educating the Public*

**Summary of senior project:** My project involved creating a brochure that would educate the West Michigan population about the benefits that palliative care can provide. This involved visiting various facilities as well as interviewing medical

providers about the need for palliative care education. After presenting my research, the brochure is now implemented at the LifeCircles PACE program in Muskegon where it is used as a tool to bring awareness of palliative care working within modern healthcare.

**Research and presentations:** My freshman to junior year, I worked with Dr. McFarland to study ways to improve methodology for studying children's food choices and childhood obesity research. I also recently presented research titled *Improving Parameters for Urinalysis with Reflex to Culture* at the ASCLS conference that focused on quality improvement in the laboratory setting for urinalysis.

**Leadership Activities:** Throughout my time at Grand Valley, I have held various roles in the Honors Mentor Council. I started as a mentor, became secretary, and then was elected chair where I was able to lead the council as a whole. I also was scholarship chair of Alpha Sigma Alpha and Secretary of the Microbiology Club.

**Activities/Awards:** Outside of academics, I have been a phlebotomist and laboratory assistant at Metro Health Hospital the past three years. I also have been a member of the Pre-PA Club, Honors Mentor Council, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Microbiology Club, IM Volleyball, and a Physiology Lab Assistant. I have been honored to receive the I Am Grand Valley Award, Highest GPA Award in Alpha Sigma Alpha, as well as be a Freshman Honoree for Phi Kappa Phi.

**Study Abroad experience:** Through International Service Learning, I took a medical mission trip to Peru in 2015 where I worked with a team to provide healthcare to the underserved communities there.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** This past year I was a Medical Laboratory Science intern at Metro Health Hospital.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was growing as a leader through the honors college and mentoring. I started as a mentee my freshman year and my passions lead me to become chair of the council, where I was truly able to make an impact on the newest honors students at Grand Valley. As much fun as I had planning our Welcome Days, what I love best is seeing everyone grow into leaders themselves and make an impact on their community.

**Plans after graduation:** This fall I will be returning to Grand Valley to continue my education in Physician Assistant Studies. My goal is to continue to grow as a leader in healthcare and eventually work in Emergency Medicine in my home of Grand Rapids.



**Name:** Michelle Murphy

**Major:** Mathematics and Statistics with an Actuarial Emphasis

**Senior Project title:** Predicting Customer Buying Patterns through Survival Analysis

**Summary of senior project:** The business question we had in mind was: How might we leverage data to better understand when a customer will make another purchase? I was delighted to learn that survival analysis has greater application outside of a medical setting. We modeled customer purchasing patterns to determine the probability of individual clients making a purchase after

a given time. This project was done under the mentorship of Jorge Lozano, and with help from Dr. Frobish.

**Research and presentations:** I am currently conducting statistical research under Dr. Zeitler to better understand how to use data for marketing purposes.

**Leadership Activities:** Former Treasurer in my Sorority, Alpha Sigma Alpha

**Activities/Awards:** Deans List all semesters

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Global Financial Planning and Analysis Internship – Steelcase, Advanced Analytics Internship- Steelcase

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was volunteering with groups like Women in STEM. We were able to inspire elementary and middle school girls, and show them just how much fun STEM fields can be.

**Plans after graduation:** Pass the Actuary exams and do risk management for Non-Profits



**Name:** Shannon Napier

**Major:** Mathematics and Statistics, Minor: Business

**Senior Project title:** Cross Configurations and their Corresponding Integer Sequences

**Summary of senior project:** The purpose of the project is to explore variations of configurations and their corresponding sequences. A configuration is a special type of arrangement of finite sets and, furthermore, configurations of sets can be used to generate interesting examples of sequences of integers. The focus is on identifying a family of string configurations that we call crosses. The focus is then on proving what their corresponding integer sequences will be, and confirming if these known - or previously unknown - sequences have any interesting connections to other branches

of mathematics.

**Research and presentations:** The Lights Out Game as it applies to Complete Multipartite Graphs

**Leadership Activities:** E-Board Position for the GVSU Math and Stats Club, Freshman Academy Mathematics Leader

**Activities/Awards:** Phi Sigma Sigma member, GVSU Mathematics Tutor for the past 3 years, GVSU Faculty Scholarship, Cynthia Kay Pidd Scholarship

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Claim Analytics Intern at AF Group

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Completion of two mathematics research projects

**Plans after graduation:** I will be working as a Data Configuration Analyst at Ally in Detroit.



**Name:** Andrew Newton

**Major:** English Language & Literature and Philosophy

**Senior Project title:** Collaborative for Ludic Education And Research (CLEAR) Proposal and Business Plan

**Summary of senior project:** I worked on this project with my colleague Jordan Meyer. Together with our mentor, Dr.

David Eick, we developed a proposal and business plan for a collaborative to promote and support game-based pedagogies such as Reacting to the Past (RttP), and the use of video games in teaching history, to improve student engagement and knowledge retention.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** My research at GVSU has included the writings of Enlightenment philosophe Denis Diderot, eighteenth century French novelist Françoise de Graffigny, and the stories of H. P. Lovecraft and current authors' revisions of his work. I have presented my research at Student Scholars day, both in 2015 and 2017. In addition, I presented my work on Diderot at the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (SEASECS) 2017 conference, the 2017 Great Lakes History Conference, and the South Central American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (SCSECS) 2018 conference. I am currently pursuing publication of an article about my research on H. P. Lovecraft.

**Activities/Awards:** I have won the 2015 Freshman essay category and the 2017 general essay category of the Oldenburg writing contest. I am a member of the GVSU chapters of Phi Kappa Phi honors society and Sigma Tau Delta English honors society, in addition to being a Freshman honoree of Phi Kappa Phi. I received Dean's List honors each semester, and I am an undergraduate research scholar for 2018 with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS).

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I was able to meet Dr. Mark C. Carnes, Professor of History at Barnard College, author of *Minds on Fire: How Role-Immersion Games Transform College*, and creator of the RttP pedagogy.

**Plans after graduation:** I have been accepted to the University of Chicago's Master of Arts Program in the Humanities for the fall, and I plan to pursue my graduate studies in English with the goal of earning my Ph.D.



**Name:** Kole Niemi

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences,  
Classics

**Senior Project title:** “Give me a word, any word, and I show you that the root of that word is Greek.” – Gus Portokalos, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project integrated my majors in BMS and Classics to research and analyze the Classical origins of

medical terminology. My project looked at the prominence of Greek and Latin terminology in medical language, asking why this prominence was continued through history, and the effectiveness of Classical languages for medical use today.

**Leadership Activities:** At Grand Valley I put my heart into many clubs, namely Alpha Tau Omega, where I served at Philanthropy Chairman, Risk Management Chairman, and President, GVSU Campus Lions Club, where I served as Treasurer and Vice President, and Eta Sigma Phi, where I served at the Social Chairman.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was directing and participating in a 160 mile walk from Traverse City to Allendale, raising over \$45,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

**Plans after graduation:** My current plans after graduation are to work for Meridian Healthplan in Detroit, MI in their summer internship program, then to take a year to work and possibly study abroad before attending medical school Fall 2019.



**Name:** Rachael Ann Noteboom

**Major:** Biology

**Senior Project title:** A Glimpse into the Ecological Communities of Camp Greenwood

**Summary of senior project:** My project examined the ecology of Camp Greenwood, a Christian summer camp near Greenville, MI. It is surrounded by big housing development areas and runs the risk of being sold to be developed itself, but is home to some very ecologically important wetland areas. I catalogued many plant species that I found, and created digital maps of the area with ArcGIS technology.

**Research and presentations:** I partnered with Cory Highway on a GIS project about Eastern Hemlock trees and their potential distribution in the state of Michigan, and presented this at Student Scholars Day in 2017.

**Leadership Activities:** I have been the GVSU Biology Club Treasurer, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society Vice President, GVSU Belly Dancing Fundraising Chair and Pod Leader, a campus Biology tutor, and an Honors Mentor.

**Activities/Awards:** I was awarded the Phi Gamma Phi book award, the Nichols Sustainability Scholarship, have earned a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) certificate, and am S130, S190, and S290 Wildfire Suppression Certified.

**Study Abroad experience:** In 2016, I took the Biology Plants & Islands class with Dr. Tim Evans to study tropical plants in the Bahamas, and I also volunteered in the summer of 2017 in Ecuador through VESA to build bathrooms and teach English to children.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I have interned at the MDEQ in Lansing.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment has probably been the relationships I've made with fellow students and professors. This has helped me become the person that I am and learn the skills I've developed to help guide me as I move forward with my adult life.

**Plans after graduation:** I will stay in GR for another year or so to work, using the skills I've acquired to weigh my options and see what related opportunities I find near or far - either with the government, greenhouses, local gardens, labs, firefighting crews, etc.



**Name:** Morgan Oneka

**Major:** Mathematics and Computer Science, minor in Mathematical Statistics

**Senior Project title:** Computational Biology Bootcamp

**Summary of senior project:** For my senior project, I conducted a review of modern research in the field of computational biology. I read five papers in different research areas, then for each paper I explored the relevant software and datasets in an attempt to replicate the paper's results.

**Research and presentations:** I have conducted research at Grand Valley in both mathematics and computer science, and I participated in the BioMath Research Experience for Undergraduates at Florida Institute of Technology. My research has been presented at local conferences as well as the 2018 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego, CA.

**Leadership Activities:** President of the Women in STEM Fields Club, treasurer of the Women in Computing club, mathematics and statistics tutor.

**Activities/Awards:** Glenn A. Niemeyer Award, member of Pi Mu Epsilon and Upsilon Pi Epsilon honors societies.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I interned at Atomic Object as a software developer during the summer of 2016.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment is gaining admission to several of my top choice graduate school programs.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be pursuing my PhD in Bioinformatics at the University of Michigan.

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**Name:** Erica Oriel

**Major:** Clinical Exercise Science

**Senior Project title:** Hormonal Birth Control Brochures

**Summary of senior project:** I designed two informational brochures about hormonal birth control options for females. These two brochures are now published in the Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity.

**Activities/Awards:** I was a member of Grand Valley Dance Troupe all four years at Gar

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I completed my internship at Shape Family Wellness, working as a health coach and a group exercise instructor.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley would be that I made many friendships that will last a lifetime.

**Plans after graduation:** I have accepted a position at a physical therapy clinic and will be working there before attending graduate school to further my education in Exercise Science.



**Name:** Estefany Paniagua-Pardo

**Major:** Political Science

**Senior Project title:** New York Times' and Wall Street Journal's Coverage of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): A Content Analysis

**Summary of senior project:** This research paper's main focus is to investigate how DACA is being depicted in the U.S specifically by examining the media's coverage of immigration

during the Obama and Trump presidencies in two elite newspapers, the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*. This research paper uses qualitative as well as quantitative analysis to investigate the media's portrayal of DACA. Using the time period beginning on June 15, 2012 to October 22, 2017, three news articles were selected from all sixty-four sampling months that focused strictly on DACA. The paper investigates the key frames, and tones of media's coverage, as well as the narratives that the media employ to depict this very contentious, divisive, and timely issue.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:**

**Title:** Content Analysis: *New York Times* Coverage of Immigration during the Trump Presidency. This paper investigated *New York Times* coverage of immigration during the early months of the Trump presidency.

**Leadership Activities:** My leadership activities include being a member of the Cook Leadership Academy, and volunteering at American Civil Liberties Union, and the Michigan Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

**Activities/Awards:** My awards include the Grand Valley State University Political Science/International Relations Outstanding Paper Award. My activities include the Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, Latino Student Union, and Laker Familia.

**Study Abroad experience:** N/A

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey, PLC; Pre-Law Student Intern, Immigrant Connection; Legal Intern

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was winning the Grand Valley State University Political Science/International Relations Outstanding Paper Award, and being selected out of 10 highly qualified students for the Miller Johnson Pre-Law student internship.

**Plans after graduation:** My plans after graduation include taking a gap year to work as a paralegal, go hiking and backpacking, and travel. After the gap year, I plan to attend law school or graduate school for public policy.



**Name:** Jessica Pankey

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Herman Miller Project

**Summary of senior project:** I worked with an integrated team of business, engineering, design, and honors students to create innovative solutions to problems presented by the Herman Miller team. After conducting field research to identify problems that existed in various work environments, my team focused on designs that would allow users to manipulate and change their workspace with ease. My team then presented a final prototype solution and business model to the Herman Miller team.

**Leadership Activities:** President of Pre-Pharmacy Club, Chair of Pre-Professional Council, Founder of GVSU Be The Match on Campus, Fundraising Chair and Activities Chair of Alpha Omicron Pi

**Activities/Awards:** I Am Grand Valley, Dean's list, Honors College mentor, Scholarship Competition student guide

**Study Abroad experience:** I travelled to Nicaragua to complete my junior seminar

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I began new organization at GVSU called Be The Match on Campus. I encouraged and trained new club members to take on leadership roles. Through the club's cheek-swab drives, we have added a record number of students to the national bone marrow registry.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be attending the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy



**Name:** Hannah Patrick

**Majors:** Political Science and Economics

**Senior Project title:** The Impact of Economic and Public Health Distress on 2016 Michigan County Level Presidential Voting

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project relates the impact of public health and economic distress on the 2016 Presidential election, and how this differs from previous election (dating back to the 2000 election).

**Research and presentations:** Presented Senior Project at the Midwest Political Science Association, completed research on the effect the legalization of marijuana has on crime for my Honors Economics Capstone

**Leadership Activities:** WyldLife Leader (Youth Group), VP Pi Sigma Alpha

**Activities/Awards:** Pi Sigma Alpha, Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), Presenter at the Chicago FED Challenge

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Interned at Karp, Wigodsky, Norwind, Kudel, & Gold, PA over the summer with The Washington Center in the DC area

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was being able to intern in the DC area at a law firm for the summer semester.

**Plans after graduation:** Law School at the University of Iowa



**Name:** Austin Paul

**Major:** Film and Video/Minor in Business

**Senior Project title:** Eye'll Getcha

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project is a short animation, focused on storytelling through action. It's based off of 1950's Looney Tunes animations.

**Research and presentations:** I will be presenting at Pecha Kucha.

**Activities/Awards:** Participated in animation club, assisted teaching stop motion at North Park, and made the dean's list.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Grand Rapids Film Festival

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Creating a short animation in 24 hours with other Grand Valley Animators.

**Plans after graduation:** Obtain an entry level animation job



**Name:** Alex Pavey

**Major:** Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Senior Project title:** Internet of Things Rapid Prototyping Platform

**Summary of senior project:** As part of a team of Electrical and Computer Engineering students, we designed electrical hardware and software for quick prototyping of Internet of Things connected devices. This system provides developers with a base hardware and software design on which they can configure develop on top of. This reduces the time required to bring up their products as they can focus their efforts on the custom design rather than spending time getting the general functions up and running that all connected devices require. The base device has the ability to connect wirelessly through 4G LTE cellular, WiFi, GPS, and

Bluetooth and has a multitude of other hard interfaces that can be configured to the developers need.

**Leadership Activities:** I have been a part of many organizations where I have held leadership roles. I am a member of Tau Beta Pi engineering honors society and Sigma Pi Fraternity both of which I have held executive board positions as Treasurer.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** The summer after my freshman year I had interned for Performance Software. There I worked on a project for GE Avionics, writing automated tests for the flight management system that runs within the Boeing 737. The next summer I started an internship with DornerWorks as part of the engineering Co-Op program. I was there for a total of three semesters and worked on embedded system design and testing for a multitude of companies in safety critical industries.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** It is hard to name one great accomplishment while at Grand Valley because in reality I have had many small accomplishments that have shaped my experience here at Grand Valley and has lead me graduation which in and of itself is a great accomplishment. However, if I had to name one specific project, I would say my senior project has been my greatest accomplishment. The ability to bring an idea from concept to a viable product has proven to my team members and I that our education has paid off and is quite an accomplishment to start our careers as engineers.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation I plan to work for DornerWorks as a full time Embedded Engineer. Eventually, I would also like to pursue a masters degree, however, I am still deciding whether I want to pursue an MSE or an MBA.



**Name:** Grace Peterson

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences and Biochemistry

**Senior Project title:** Potential for DMP 543, a potassium channel blocker, to increase acetylcholine release and provide neuroprotective effects for retinal ganglion cells in glaucoma

**Summary of senior project:** This paper was a culmination of all the research that I have completed in the lab of Dr. David Linn in the Biomedical Sciences department. I investigated a pharmaceutical called DMP 543 for its possible use as a treatment for glaucoma and found that it enhanced retinal cell survival in a culture containing mixed retinal cells. Additionally, I investigated the activity of cells within a retinal slice (i.e. with cellular communications intact)

visualized on a confocal microscope in order to see how the addition of DMP 543 affected the activation of these cells in real time. This work on the confocal microscope was conducted as a Student Summer Scholars project in 2017

**Research and presentations:** I have presented my work from the Linn lab at GVSU Student Scholars Day, Van Andel Institute West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference, and the Michigan Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting

**Leadership Activities:** As a member of the GVSU Women's Track and Field team, I am an active member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. This group acts as a council for GV student athletes and discusses solutions to issues encountered by student athletes, as well as fundraising activities to support the NCAA DII nonprofit partner, the Make-A-Wish Foundation. After acting as the Women's Track and Field Team Representative in the 2016-2017 school year, I was elected to the Executive Board position of Community Service Representative for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Activities/Awards:** I was named a GVSU Research Scholar in Fall of 2017. During my time at GVSU, I have also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, where I help build homes for families in need throughout Grand Rapids. I have worked as a reading tutor at Cesar Chavez Elementary school through Homework House and Schools of Hope, where I am able to utilize my seven years of Spanish language studies to converse with Spanish-speaking students and their parents

**Study abroad experience:** I traveled on a service trip with International Service Learning in 2016 to work at free medical clinics for low-income citizens near San José, Costa Rica.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I was selected by my coaches to attend the GVSU Laker Leadership Development Program in order to step into a leadership position on the team in my senior year. As a member of the team, I compete in the pentathlon and the heptathlon, and currently hold the GVSU school record in the pentathlon. I consider this achievement, along with receiving the recognition for Excellence in a Discipline award from the BMS faculty members, to be the two things of which I am most proud from my time here at Grand Valley.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I plan on attending Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. I plan on earning my M.D., and ultimately specializing in some form of internal medicine.



**Name:** Alycia M Pipe

**Major:** Nursing

**Senior Project title:** The Effects of a Patient-centered Communication Disability Educational Intervention on Nursing Students' Knowledge: A Pilot Study

**Summary of senior project:** In most settings, individuals with communication disabilities face a number of difficulties, and nurses are in a unique position to help. The purpose of this project was to provide education to nursing students about working with this population and to measure the effectiveness of the teaching through paper and pencil testing. Literature was gathered from the CINAHL database using the search terms "communication disability\*" or "communication disorder\*" and "nursing". Including only articles from academic journals within the past 10 years and other respectable sources, and excluding any duplicative articles, a total of 12 sources were selected. The literature review was presented to members of the Student Nurses' Association, which consists of 1st to 5th semester nursing students. To determine the effectiveness of

the educational intervention, a pre- and post-test was administered to consenting participants. Results were evaluated using paired sample t-test analysis, and it was concluded that intervention had been effective in improving students' overall knowledge and confidence.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** currently working to finish community health capstone project on addressing the opioid epidemic in Kent County

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** completing my Honors Senior Project!

**Plans after graduation:** start my career as a registered nurse (RN) at Metro Health hospital, hopefully someday working in their post-anesthesia care unit (PACU).

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**Name:** Sarah Pitt

**Major:** Human Resources and Entrepreneurship

**Senior Project title:** Bears in Myth and Ritual

**Summary of senior project:** An analysis on the symbolism of bears in mythology and ritual, along with various methods of analysis, with regards to what they can impart about their societies.

**Activities/Awards:** Swing Dance Club

**Plans after graduation:** Undecided



**Name:** Faith Platz

**Major:** Statistics/Economics (Minor: Data Science)

**Senior Project title:** “Business Students and Mathematics Proficiency: Relationships between demographic indicators and performance”

**Summary of senior project:** Working with Dr. Nancy Levenburg of the GVSU Management department, fellow Statistics major Jordan Grochola and I analyzed mathematics competency among Seidman College of Business students at GVSU, implementing chi-square and factor analysis. We found that poor performance in numbers-driven courses may be due to insufficient math

prerequisites, and also found gender and major-based relationships with quantitative literacy.

**Leadership Activities:** President & Team Captain for the Grand Valley Rowing Club

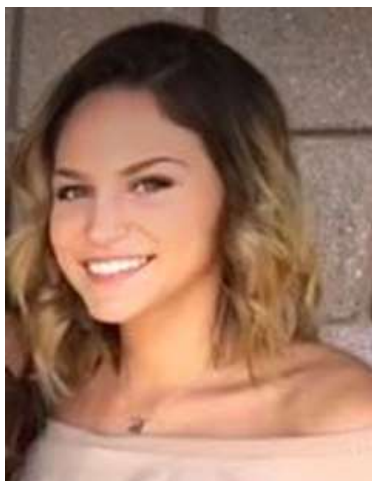
**Activities/Awards:** Mu Sigma Rho Statistics Honors Society

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I worked for the GVSU Johnson Center for Philanthropy as a Student Research Assistant and SAS Programmer during my Sophomore and Junior years. I also interned last summer at Behler-Young Company in Grand Rapids, MI, where I implemented a new business analytics software structure.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** During the summer of 2016, I got the opportunity to represent the GVSU Rowing Club in England, where we competed in the Henley Women’s Regatta. This summer, we’re returning to Europe to train in Kastoria, Greece, then head to England to race in the Henley Royal Regatta on the River Thames, one of the oldest sporting events in history.

**Plans after graduation:** I will continue my education at the graduate level, attending Villanova University to earn a Master’s degree in Applied Statistics.

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**Name:** Jessica Poland

**Major:** I am a double major in Clinical Exercise Science and Psychology

**Senior Project title:** Major Depressive Disorder and Altered Perception

**Summary of senior project:** A literature review focusing on Major Depressive Disorder and how it affects the perception of social support, facial expressions, objects in the physical world, and characteristics of the self and others.

**Activities/Awards:** I choreographed for Grand Valley Dance Troupe, a dance club that hosted recitals for a different charity/foundation each semester. As a part of my Exercise Science major, I have volunteered at i’Move in group exercise instruction.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I have completed a semester of fieldwork in Physical Therapy at Physiotherapy Associates, and will be completing an internship in Cardiac Rehabilitation this summer at the Detroit Medical Center.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduating and finishing my summer internship, I plan to continue my career in Cardiac Rehabilitation and eventually attend graduate school for Physical Therapy.



**Name:** Brenna Powers

**Major:** Biomedical Science

**Senior Project title:** Differences in Food Store Environment in Low-Income Grand Rapids Neighborhoods Composed of Different Ethnicities.

**Summary of senior project:** I did my senior project with Dr. Lown. I looked at two neighborhoods in the Grand Rapids area that are both low-income but are of different ethnic mix in order to determine if there is a difference in food store types and food store environment, availability, quality, and price.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to apply to physician assistant schools this summer. I will continue to work at Spectrum Health as a CNA as well as volunteer at Grand Rapids Children's Museum and Gilda's Club.

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**Name:** Alyssa Poyer

**Major:** I am a double major in Biomedical Science and Psychology.

**Senior Project title:** The Effects of Source Similarity on Inadvertent Plagiarism

**Summary of senior project:** My project was a research experiment investigating the memory illusion inadvertent plagiarism. Inadvertent plagiarism occurs when people falsely believe they generated an idea, when in reality someone else created it. I specifically looked at whether the person who plagiarized had higher rates of plagiarism if they perceived themselves as being similar to the source of the original information.

**Research and presentations:** I worked on research with Professor Joel Quamme that investigated memory of sentence fragments. Additionally, I did a research project and presentation on the psilocybin and its potential to treat depression.

**Leadership Activities:** I have been a member of the Executive Board in the Honor Fraternity Phi Sigma Pi for two years. I have also been the head of a committee in the fraternity for one year and helped plan events and activities for the brothers to attend.

**Activities/Awards:** I have been a member of the Honor Fraternity Phi Sigma Pi for three years. I have also been a member of the Pre-Pharmacy Association at Grand Valley for two years. I have also been on the Dean's List at Grand Valley every semester.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I worked as a chemistry tutor for the Student Success Center at Grand Valley for one year.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was getting accepted at every pharmacy school that I applied to.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be attending the University of Michigan's College of Pharmacy after I graduate from Grand Valley. I will start pharmacy school in Fall 2018, with plans to graduate with a PharmD in Spring 2022.



**Name:** Amelia Quardokus

**Major:** International Business and Marketing

**Senior Project title:** Fitness and Nutrition for Adolescents with Depression and Anxiety in Grand Rapids

**Summary of senior project:** My project partner, Amanda Fox, and I created a website designed for the youth of Grand Rapids who may be experiencing symptoms of depression or anxiety. Healthy recipes and workout programs were included in the website to help reduce their symptoms. Due to the large Hispanic community of Grand Rapids, everything was also translated into Spanish.

**Leadership Activities:** I was the President of La Tertulia-GVSU's Spanish Club and a Student Manager at Classic Fare Catering

**Activities/Awards:** I was recognized on the Dean's List for all four years, an executive board member of La Tertulia for three years, and member of Beta Gamma Sigma.

**Study Abroad experience:** I studied abroad at one of GVSU's partner schools, the University of the Bio Bio, in Concepcion, Chile, from March to August of 2017.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Making some fantastic friends (and earning my degree, of course!)

**Plans after graduation:** I will be working as a Paralegal and Office Manager at an immigration law firm in Grand Rapids, and in a few years plan to continue my education by attending law school.

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**Name:** Rayann Reid

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences and Psychology

**Senior Project title:** Assessing Mental Health Diagnosis and Treatment in Various Cultures

**Summary of senior project:** Researching rates and treatment of mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, depression, and bipolar disorder

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Research in Drosophila Genomics

**Leadership Activities:** Lab assistant in physiology lab

**Activities/Awards:** Alternative Breaks, Volunteer at Spectrum Health, Kids in Motion

**Internship/Practicum experience:** MSU Rural Premedical Internship

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Getting endorsed for the early assurance program to get into medical school

**Plans after graduation:** Medical School



**Name:** Liah Renaud

**Major:** Mathematics and Statistics with an Actuarial Emphasis

**Senior Project title:** Cross Configurations and Their Corresponding Integer Sequences

**Summary of senior project:** The purpose of the project is to explore variations of configurations and their corresponding sequences. A configuration is a special type of arrangement of finite sets and, furthermore, configurations of sets can be used to generate interesting examples of sequences of integers. The focus is on identifying a family of string configurations that we call crosses. The focus is then on proving what their corresponding integer sequences will be, and confirming if these known - or previously unknown - sequences have any interesting connections to other branches of mathematics.

**Research and presentations:** Lights Out! Game on Wheel Graphs

**Leadership Activities:** E-Board Positions held for the Math and Stats Club for 3 years, including Presidents, lifetime member of Girl Scouts

**Activities/Awards:** Paul and Dianna Johnson STEM Pathway Scholarship, Statistics Department Scholarship, GV Award for Excellence, GV Faculty Scholarship, Girl Scouts Silver Award

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Risk Intern at Ally Financial

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Mathematics Department Senior Award

**Plans after graduation:** Risk Analyst at Ally Financial



**Name:** Olivia Risko

**Major:** Clinical Exercise Science

**Senior Project title:** Racial Inequality in Medicine: A Comprehensive Examination of the History and Prevalence of Medical Experimentation and its Implications

**Summary of senior project:** The history of medical experimentation on African Americans from colonial times to the present was explored in a thorough study. Current literature, articles, and research revealed how the medical industry has been shaped over the course of time into an institution rife with racism. Various practical solutions for necessary medical reform were advanced and discussed.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:**

In the winter semester of 2017, I assisted on research in the Movement Science department with Dr. Glass and fellow students. We measured the effects of increased resistance on muscle activation when using the Core Stix Fitness System. In the fall semester of 2017, I conducted research in the Movement Science Lab measuring the effects of coconut water, pure water, and Gatorade on the rate of rehydration following exercise induced heat stress. In the winter semester of 2018, I conducted a research project in MOV 480 analyzing the key performance indicators in women's volleyball to determine which had the biggest influence in determining game outcome based on the location of the match. All three research studies were presented at Student Scholars Day.

**Activities/Awards:** I was a student volunteer for three semesters at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in the Spinal Cord and Sub-Acute units and conducted my fieldwork at Good Life Physical Therapy Clinic in Eastown. I also participated as an acquisitions reader in the Spring 2017 issue of GVSU's Fishladder student journal of art and writing

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I will be an intern during this coming Spring/Summer semester at Metro Health Hospital in their Community Outreach Wellness and Sustainability program.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to attend Physical Therapy school in the fall.



**Name:** Aaron Robert

**Major:** Advertising & Public Relations; Minor in Writing

**Senior Project title:** *Pals Student Mentors: Connected Campus Public Relations Campaign*

**Summary of senior project:** I am creating a public relations campaign for GVSU Pals Student Mentors—a student organization that mentors at-risk youth in Grand Rapids area. They rely on donations to bring at-risk youth fun events and resources and are constrained by a tight budget. This campaign is designed to create and maintain partnerships with existing GVSU student organizations so that Pals can offer more affordable resources and events for the youth.

**Leadership Activities:** VP of Public Relations of GV PRSSA

**Activities/Awards:** Third prize in the national public relations case study competition conducted by the Arthur W. Page Society and Institute for public Relations; two published poems in *Brainchild* (the Mid-East Honors Association art & literature magazine; poems titled “Mediterranean Man” and “Home for the Holidays”); selected as one of 13 students nationally to report on the 2017 North American International Auto Show through General Motors’ student journalism experience. Contributed in creating a video highlighting automotive tech trends, which was published by *Inc.* Awarded an APR departmental Superior Award for my LGBTQ Peace Corps campaign

**Study Abroad experience:** United Kingdom (spring/summer 2017), communications theory and research

**Internship/Practicum experience:** public relations intern at COM 616

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** To grow personally and professionally with a vibrant and motivated group of young professionals in the Advertising & Public Relations program.

**Plans after graduation:** Interning at the Wayne County Treasurer’s Office in the communications department.



**Name:** Grace Robinson

**Major:** Geology

**Senior Project title:** Varying Prevalence Rates of Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnoses Around the World: An HNR 499 Independent Study

**Summary of senior project:** My literature review investigates whether ASD diagnoses vary around the world due to inadequate health infrastructure, underreporting due to cultural stigmas, or differing social and

behavioral expectations.

**Research and presentations:** Using Soluble Aggregate to Create Permeable Concrete (Geology Seminar project), Eagle Sulfide Mining and the UP (Allendale High School Presentation), Exploring the Possible Controls of Cyclic Fossiliferous Limestone and Shale Beds in the Kope Formation (Student Scholars Day)

**Activities/Awards:** Volunteer at Blandford Nature Center, participate in Kaufman Interfaith activities

**Study Abroad experience:** Universidad Veritas in San Jose, Costa Rica through Cultural Experiences Abroad (January-April, 2017), University of Saint Andrews in St Andrews, Scotland (June-July, 2018)

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Earning a BS degree in 4 years

**Plans after graduation:** Field Camp in Scotland, job, normal life. I am not considering postgraduate education at the moment.



**Name:** Allison Rogutich

**Major:** Computer Engineering B.S.E, Biomedical Engineering M.S.E. (Articulated Master's Program)

**Thesis title:** Identification of the Seizure Onset Zone in iEEG of Patients with Refractory Epilepsy using Auto-Regressive Model Residual Modulation (ARRm)

**Summary of Thesis:** Epilepsy patients who have not become seizure free after multiple trials of antiepileptic drugs seek treatment through epilepsy surgery. Cortical electrodes are implanted directly on the cerebral cortex, then intracranial electroencephalogram (iEEG) is collected. Physicians manually review iEEG signals to determine the Seizure Onset Zone and areas of the brain to resect. In recent research, High Frequency Oscillations (HFOs) in iEEG have shown strong relations to epileptic tissue. The ARRm method uses linear AR modeling to quantify nonharmonic events such as HFOs. Initial results of my study have shown that high values of

non-harmonicity correlate with epileptic HFO activity and the seizure onset zone. This method shows promise in partially automating the process of reviewing iEEG signals and has potential for implementation in a real-time analysis system. This research is conducted in partnership with physicians at Spectrum Health.

**Leadership Activities:** University Innovation Fellows, Professional Association of Graduate Engineering Students

**Activities/Awards:** I competed on GVSU Women's Track & Field team for 4 Indoor/Outdoor seasons and was 3x All-Conference in the triple jump. I received the Award for Excellence in Engineering M.S.E., nominated by faculty.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I completed 3 co-op internships and worked as a contractor at Stryker Instruments in Portage, MI. I started as a Computer/Software Engineering intern in Advanced Quality Engineering, then moved to Research & Design in the Neuro, Spine, and ENT Division.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment has been discovering a new passion for embedded software/systems design, while also developing into a stronger athlete and competitor.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to start my career as an Embedded Software Design Engineer in the medical device industry. I hope to develop new technologies that will help advance clinical practices in neurosurgery.



**Name:** Makayla Rosekrans

**Major:** Allied Health Sciences, Pre-Physician Assistant (PA)

**Senior Project title:** Cadaveric Dissection, Plastination, and Literature Review: Lesser Trochanter Detachment and Intertrochanteric Crest Fractures in the Elderly

**Summary of senior project:** Hip fractures of unknown etiology and origin were investigated through cadaveric dissection, leading to discovery of two fractures, both of which are unique and uncommon in elderly individuals. The model was then plastinated (preserved in silicone) to be used for future anatomy lab reference, and a literature review was conducted on such fractures. This research was presented at Student Scholars Day 2018.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Research on the “Prevalence of Burnout in Healthcare and Proposed Interventions” was conducted in 2017, while research on the “Effects of Deep Pressure Therapy on Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders” was conducted in 2016 and presented at Student Scholars Day 2017.

**Activities/Awards:** *fishladder* Publication Journal, Pre-PA Club, Michigan Blood volunteer

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Establishing meaningful connections with faculty and other individuals who have guided me immensely in my pursuit of graduate school and future career.

**Plans after graduation:** Attend PA school



**Name:** Brianna Kay Routt

**Major:** English, Literature and Language

**Senior Project Title:** Out of the Woods: "Little Red-Cap" reimagined by Carol Ann Duff

**Senior Project Summary:** I analyzed the poem "Little Red-Cap" by Carol Ann Duffy from the perspective of it being a retelling of a popular children's fairytale. Drawing on the philosophy and psychology behind children's literature from Bruno Bettelheim's *The Uses of Enchantment*, I looked at the poem to see where Duffy's

rendering meets and differs from the Brother's Grimm version, and how the manipulation Duffy employs of the common elements of children's literature impact the fairytale structure and thus its relationship to the reader within its evolution. In addition, I produced a Duffy-esque poem portfolio where I took my favorite female characters from literature of my childhood and wrote a poem from their perspective to shed light on a different aspect of their story not popularly associated with their characterization.

**Activities/Awards:** For the past year and a half I was an editor and copy editor for the Grand Valley Journal of History and this past fall I was inducted into the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society. I've also been fortunate to be the recipient of 3 different English Department scholarships over the years.

**Study Abroad:** Last summer, I studied abroad in England, and the experience was easily the highlight of my academic career at Grand Valley. My favorite part of the trip, however, was spending a long weekend in Paris where I got to visit the bookstore Shakespeare and Company. The semester before, in the honors course "Lost Generation," I studied the store's history and influence in Paris in the 1920s and fell in love with everything it stood for. Making the pilgrimage to this bookstore and melding scholarship and experience together was really satisfying, and it prompted me to continue exploring it. By the end of the summer, I produced a 39-page research paper centered around the famous bookstore and finding artistic expression in exile. Paris was so beautiful and rich with culture and my heart continues to yearn for it. Now I suppose I know why Hemingway said, "Wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast."

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I plan to take a gap year to explore job opportunities in publishing. These past two years at Grand Valley, I've considered going on for my Masters, most likely in Library Science or English, or maybe both! Since it's a big commitment and I'm still contemplating whether that path is for me, a gap year seemed the best way to go. I guess we'll see what the future has in store!



**Name:** Makayla Sanchez

**Major:** Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychology

**Senior Project title:** An Evaluation of Traditional and Non-Tradition Psychopharmacological Treatments for Major Depression

**Summary of senior project:** My project evaluated the use and effectiveness of clinical mainstream anti-depressants, as well as more experimental treatments including psychedelics, such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and cannabinoids, such as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). I focused on analyzing each drug class's mechanism of action, how it affects neurotransmitter

function, and thus, how it intends to alter behavior. My goal for this project was to increase awareness of psychopharmacological treatments for major depression, traditional and non-traditional, conventional and experimental, to provide a concise outlook on the present and future pathways of this intriguing research.

**Leadership Activities:** Psi Chi Tutor

**Activities/Awards:** GVSU Dance Troupe, active member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Psi Chi Honor Society, and National Society of Collegiate Scholars

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was pushing myself outside my comfort zone and opening my mind to new ideas!

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to continue my education after graduation and pursue an advanced degree in healthcare, most likely a Master's of Physician Assistant Studies.



**Name:** Emily Sartorius

**Major:** Comprehensive Science and Arts for Teaching (CSAT), and German

**Senior Project title:** Undergraduate Teaching Assistants within the Frederik Meijer

Honors College: A Guide for Professors and Students

**Summary of senior project:** Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UTAs) are a new project taken on by GVSU's Honors College. Under the shadow of Frederik Meijer Honors College mission statement, and through research and my own UTA experience, I further clarify and develop the roles of the UTA as well as identify possible stressors and areas of growth that the position fosters.

**Research and presentations:** Presenting "Extending the Library Community" at the Michigan American Library Association

Annual Conference in May 2018

**Leadership Activities:** Research Consultant for GVSU Libraries since August 2015, volunteer at Grand Rapids Public Schools, member and choreographer for Grand Valley Dance Troupe

**Activities/Awards:** Member of Phi Kappa Phi, and the GVSU chapter of the national German honor society Delta Phi Alpha, recipient of the national 2017 Spring/Summer Delta Phi Alpha Study Abroad Scholarship, second ever Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for the Frederik Meijer Honors College, recipient of GVSU's Excellence-in-a-Discipline Awards in CSAT and German

**Study Abroad experience:** Spring/Summer Semester 2017 at the University of Education Schwäbisch Gmünd in Germany to integrate teaching and German.

**Internship experience:** Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Studying abroad in Germany, taking all of my classes in a foreign language, and living in a foreign country

**Plans after graduation:** Attending graduate school in the fall to study Library and Information Science.



**Name:** Erin Sartorius

**Major:** Nursing

**Senior Project title:** “Mindfulness’s Effects on Undergraduate Nursing Students’ Negative Mental Health Symptoms: A Systematic Review”

**Summary of senior project:** The aim of this systematic review is to explore research related to mindfulness’s effects on undergraduate nursing students in order to understand the mental health benefits that mindfulness provides. These findings

are then applied to the Kirkhof College of Nursing to examine how mindfulness could benefit nursing students at Grand Valley.

**Leadership Activities:** Leadership activities I have been involved in include being a choreographer for Grand Valley Dance Troupe, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade catechist at Holy Spirit Church, and a Counselor at Pine Hills Girls’ Camp.

**Activities/Awards:** During my time at Grand Valley, I have been involved in University of Christian Outreach, Grand Valley Dance Troupe, Ratio Christi, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Student Nurses’ Association.

**Internship experience:** I was a nurse extern at Holland Hospital on the Spine & Orthopedic Unit.

**Greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been discovering my passion for nursing.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to work as a Registered Nurse at Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor on the Transplant, Urology, and Abdominal Unit after graduation.



**Name:** Madison Schmidtman

**Major:** Cell and Molecular Biology

Senior Project title: A Graduate School Tell All

**Summary of senior project:** Madison developed a fully encompassing guide for Lakers on how to prepare for graduate programs beginning as early as their first year of college.

**Research and presentations:** Madison was selected for a competitive fellowship supported through NSF RUI #1157997 with Dr. Dawn Hart that focused on protein localization in *S.*

*pombe* during mitosis. She presented this work at both the Western Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference at Van Andel Institute, and Student Scholars Day at Grand Valley. She was also selected for a summer research fellowship through partnership with Wayne State University and the Karmanos Cancer Institute. She worked with Dr. Xiaohong Zhang to study histone deacetylase expression in lung cancer cells and presented this work at Wayne State University.

**Leadership Activities:** Madison was an RA for WISE, involved in Campus Ministries, and a choreographer for Dance Troupe.

**Plans after graduation:** Madison will attend Notre Dame University to begin her PhD in Biological Sciences with plans of running her own lab in the future.



**Name:** Nichole M Schlueter

**Major:** Management Information Systems and Finance

**Senior Project title:** “A System Comparison of SAP ERP (R3) and SAP HANA (S/4)”

**Summary of senior project:** SAP has released their newest iteration of ERP software, S4, that incorporates cloud computing and an improved database structure, HANA, to aide faster data retrieval. This has caused some changes to the processes SAP users have become accustom to with the old release, R3. By focusing on the changes that affect the core business processes of financial and management accounting, procurement, fulfillment and production, I created concise documentation of the changes in a PowerPoint presentation, and

12 hands-on exercises demonstrating these changes. The intent for these materials is for them to be used as a reference by management information systems professors around the United States as they switch to SAP S/4HANA in the classroom.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Deloitte/SAP 2017 Co-Innovation Event

**Leadership Activities:** Enterprise Systems Student Union President, Phi Sigma Sigma 2017 Executive Board

**Activities/Awards:** Windstream TERP10 Scholarship, GVSU Award for Excellence, GVSU Faculty Scholarship, Phi Sigma Sigma Academic Excellence Award, SAP Young Thinkers ERP Simulation mentor

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Cargill Inc. Global Information Technology Intern, ERP Program Intern, TERP10 Certified Associate

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Becoming a TERP10 certified associate is my greatest accomplishment. With the pass rate being around 50%, this certification is the pinnacle of the Management Information Systems Program at GVSU. It is a 10 day intensive course that teaches students and business professionals the “best practices” for numerous business processes.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I will begin working for Deloitte Consulting as a Business Technology Analyst out of their Denver, CO office. I will also be taking a couple weeks to travel Europe.



**Name:** Jessica Schulte

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Evolutionary Discordance and Chronic Disease in the Western World

**Summary of senior project:** A research paper exploring whether digression from the evolutionary history of hominids has contributed to increasing prevalence of chronic disease

**Activities/Awards:** Pre-Medical Club, Pre-PA Club, CHAARG, Pals Student Mentors, Meditation and Mindfulness Club, Dean's List

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Attending an International Service Learning medical mission trip to Costa Rica

**Plans after graduation:** Working as a medical tech at an assisted living facility, then physician assistant school



**Name:** Alyssa Schutzenhofer

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences and Minor in Environmental Studies

**Senior Project title:** The effect of black raspberries (*Rubus occidentalis*) on oral and esophageal malignancies.

**Summary of senior project:** We researched the chemopreventive effects of black raspberries on oral and esophageal cancer. Black raspberry's anticancer activity is due to anti-oxidative, anti-inflammatory, and anti-proliferative properties, as well as the ability to reactivate tumor suppressor genes. These results indicate that black raspberries could provide effective oral and esophageal cancer treatment.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I worked with Professor Frank Sylvester researching the effects of  $\beta$ -methylphenylethylamine (BMPEA) on porcine pulmonary arteries. Also, at Student Scholars Day 2017 I presented research on the impacts of climate change on almond production in California.

**Leadership Activities:** I was secretary on the Eboard for the club Kids in Motion on campus. It is a club that volunteers with kids at after school programs in underserved areas around Grand Rapids. After stepping down from eboard I maintained a position as Site Leader for the club, leading fellow volunteers and the elementary students in after school activities.

**Activities/Awards:** Earned a certificate in Sustainable Food Systems, the GV Award for Excellence, the Nichols Sustainability Scholarship, and the Biomedical Science Department's Graduate of Distinction Award.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I have worked as a sterilization technician, records technician and orthodontic assistant in an orthodontic office in grandville during the summers.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Helping to grow the club Kids in Motion, allowing grand valley students to become role models for children in 12 different schools in underserved areas around Grand Rapids.

**Plans after graduation:** Apply to dental school this June and hopefully attend in the fall of 2019.



**Name:** Jennifer Scieszka

**Major:** I am a double major in Allied Health Sciences with a pre-physical therapy emphasis and Psychology.

**Senior Project title:** Resources for Helping Pediatric Amputees

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project consisted of informational fliers on three major areas of concerns for children going through amputations. I focused on pain management, rebuilding self-esteem, and social re-integration. My goal of this project was to give parents, doctors, and therapists more information and resources on how to help a child cope with an amputation.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I have recently participated in the Health Expo at GVSU. With a group of five other student, I researched and presented about the positive effects that therapy animals can have on college students.

**Leadership Activities:** During my senior year I was the secretary of the Habitat for Humanity club chapter at GVSU.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Although I have been very successful throughout my career at Grand Valley, my greatest accomplishment is being accepted into their Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation I plan to enjoy my summer before beginning the physical therapy program at Grand Valley in August. Ultimately, I hope to become a pediatric physical therapist.



**Name:** Simone Shama

**Major:** Behavioral Neuroscience

**Senior Project title:** Alcohol Use and its Effects Among College Students

**Summary of senior project:** One of my favorite courses at GV was psychopharmacology. The basis of this course was understanding drugs and how they can affect the mind, body and behavior. My senior project was an extension of what was originally a term paper about the basic effects of alcohol on the body. I expanded on this original topic by relating it to college students. The gist of my research looked into the drinking habits of students who went away to college versus students who lived at home, when students were more likely to drink, where on campus students were more likely to drink, on average how much alcohol students consumed, as well as the short and long term effects alcohol consumption can have on students. Having discovered that students drink far more excessively than they should, the overall goal of my research was to educate and warn students about the effects of heavy alcohol consumption.

**Leadership Activities:** Secretary for The Voices of GVSU (Fall 2015- Winter 2018).

**Activities/Awards:** In addition to being a member of the Voices choir for three and a half years, I also sang at several on campus events for the Black Student Union and iSalute.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment, second to getting my degree, was getting over my own personal fear of singing in front of multiple people. Even when I had first joined the Voices, I would never sing loud enough for others to hear me, so being able to outgrow that fear has really changed my life.

**Plans after graduation:** With the goals of becoming a school psychologist, I plan on pursuing a career working specifically with underprivileged children. I believe that everyone has the right to an education, but obtaining an equal education begins with helping those who are most desperately in need.



**Name:** Mackenzie Shannon

**Major:** Biology with an emphasis on Pre-Veterinary Medicine

**Senior Project title:** The West Michigan Regional APVMA Symposium Transition Project

**Summary of senior project:** In 2016, the first annual West Michigan Regional American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) symposium was hosted at GVSU in collaboration with Hope College. This is an event for students interested in veterinary medicine to obtain information and an opportunity to gain hands-on experience. This project is a collection of guidelines and helpful information on how a school can host their own regional symposium, along with transition information for the next students at GVSU to continue hosting the West Michigan Regional APVMA symposium.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:**

Mackenzie has also been involved in research at Hope College, with Dr. Greg Fraley, working on a project with poster titled GnIH-ir and decreased reproductive behaviors in an inbred line of Single Comb White Leghorn egg-layers, GHs6. She has also performed research at Maple Leaf Farms working with different management practices in raising ducks. She has presented research at the Maple Leaf Farms Annual Duck Research Symposium, the West MI Regional Undergraduate Science Symposium, and the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting.

**Leadership Activities:** Mackenzie was the treasurer of the GVSU Pre-Vet club during her sophomore year and the President of the GVSU Pre-Vet club during her senior year. She was the national treasurer of the APVMA during the 2016-2017 term. She is also a 4-H Leader in Ottawa county.

**Activities/Awards:** Mackenzie was awarded the APVMA Outstanding Senior award and the APVMA Scholarship Award for the 2017-2018 term.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Mackenzie was a Hope College Biology research assistant in the summer of 2015 where she performed neuroscience and poultry welfare research. She was also a Maple Leaf Farms intern where she performed a research experiment for the company on a flock of ducklings to determine different management procedures on how to best raise the ducks to increase their performance.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Volunteering at Headin' Home Pet Rescue and finding rescue dogs the fur-ever homes they need and deserve.

**Plans after graduation:** Mackenzie will be attending veterinary medical school in the fall.



**Name:** Rachel Shippy

**Major:** Clinical Exercise Science

**Senior Project title:** Perceived Back Pain Due to Backpack Usage on a D2 Midwestern University

**Summary of senior project:** I created a 16-question survey that was distributed to 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students at GVSU. The survey results allowed me to describe how backpacks are used and worn by college-age students, describe self-reported back pain due to backpack usage, and then evaluate the relationship between self-reported back pain and backpack usage. Our findings: Most students carried double strapped backpacks over both

shoulders using padded shoulder straps. Over half of the sample, 52.8%, self-reported pain from backpack usage. The most common type of pain was muscle soreness, upper back pain, low back pain, and neck pain. Factors that may be associated with back pain include gender, student status, backpack weight, time spent standing straight with a backpack, and one's posture while carrying a backpack.

**Research and presentations:** Student Scholars Day 2017 "Best Warm-Up for Vertical Jump for College-Aged Students"

**Leadership Activities:** Honors College Mentor Council Member (serving on Welcome Days Committee), Honors College Freshmen Mentor (3 years)

**Activities/Awards:** Intramural sports participant, Pre-Physical Therapy Club, "I am Grand Valley" 2018, Member of Sigma Alpha Lambda Honors Fraternity

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Intern at AgeWell Services in Muskegon

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Taken advantage of nearly every free t-shirt opportunity Grand Valley has to offer

**Plans after graduation:** Begin Doctorate of Physical Therapy program at Oakland University in Fall 2018



**Name:** Lindsey Short

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title and Summary of senior project:** I worked at updating the information on the honors college Ghana Study Abroad program to relevant and current information and helped further the understanding of the various internship programs for future accepted members of the program.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I have done research with Dr. Daniel Bergman for the past two years.

During the time in the lab I have researched the effects of alarm pheromones on the behavior of crayfish. I was able to present this research and results at Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters during spring break this year as well as at Student Scholars Day.

**Activities/Awards:** I have been a member of the club Colleges Against Cancer as well as a coach for Science Olympiad at Allendale High School.

**Study abroad experience and Internship/Practicum experience:** I also had the opportunity to study abroad in Ghana this past summer where I interned at local hospitals, health clinics, and a nonprofit that involved visiting schools and testing water supply in different villages. During this time, I was able to experience a health care system and culture different from our own.

**Plans after graduation:** I intend to take a gap year before I apply for medical school in the summer of 2019. During this gap year I intend to continue my research in Dr. Bergman's lab as well as increasing my clinical and health care experiences.

Name: Jordan Sickrey

Major: Writing

Senior Project title: "Look to the Stars"

Summary of senior project: For my senior project, I did a lot of work on my novel. I wrote four new chapters, and I revised every chapter (some of them multiple times) to get them up to the same standard of writing and utilize the writing skills that I have learned in my major. I focused strongly on character in my novel, and I tried to make each chapter function as a short story that had its own arc while supporting the larger arc of the overall novel. I now have a Prologue + 10 Chapters completed, and they are all over 3000 words, putting the novel at over 33,000 words and over 100 pages.

Research and presentations: I did research that I presented at Student Scholars Day 2018, titled "Building Worlds: An In-Depth Look at Worldbuilding in Fiction". It analyzed published novels, and my partner and I came up with categories for the ways that authors worldbuild.

Activities/Awards: I was in the Renaissance Club all four years of Grand Valley, and I was a large part of the club. I was Merchant Director for two years, and I was Secretary for a year. It was an amazing experience that allowed me to learn many new skills and really find a family.

Internship/Practicum experience: I did my internship with Dzanc Books in Ann Arbor, an independent publishing house that focuses on experimental literary fiction. I had many responsibilities, including submission evaluations (both agent submissions and contest submissions), copyediting, developmental edits, interviewing bookstores for the newsletter, proofreading of e-books, and other minor assignments. I did this beginning the end of December, and I will continue it into May.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is definitely my novel. I began work on my novel after my first semester at Grand Valley. My Intro to Cultural Anthropology class inspired me to create the culture of faeries featured in my novel. I spent the next year and a half, until my fourth semester and Intro to Creative Writing, worldbuilding. Intro to Creative Writing gave me the format that I wanted to use to think about writing my novel, and I went home and started writing it. The following semester, I had Professor Chris Haven in Intermediate Fiction Workshop, and he let me use the prologue of my novel, and then I wrote Chapter 5 in his class. I then continued this over my last fall semester and this semester for my senior project.

Plans after graduation: I am moving up to full-time at the Standale Goodwill, and I will be staying in the Greater Grand Rapids area. I plan to look into freelance editing, as I thoroughly enjoyed all the work I did for Dzanc this semester. I also plan to focus much more on my novel, and I hope to have a first draft of the entire first book done in a year.



**Name:** Waverly Sisson

**Majors:** Spanish and Religious Studies

**Senior Project title:** Imagining Exile: A Literary Perspective of the Palestinian Experience

**Summary of senior project:** Waverly has fused her freshmen sequence on the Islamic Middle East and her Religious Studies major into a project that surveys the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish, the literature of Liana Badr and the political essays of Edward Said to attempt an understanding of the Palestinian exilic experience.

**Research and presentations:**

2018, Tiritiya Prakriti: Queering Religious Studies,  
*Grand Rapids Area Honors Conference, Aquinas College*

2018, Hinduism and Queer Identities: Mapping the Field and Research Trajectories,

*American Academy of Religion Midwest Region, Ball State University*

2017, Yoga in the West: the (mis)adventures of an idea

*American Academy of Religion Midwest Region, Ball State University*

2017, Imagining Yoga

*Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters, Western Michigan University*

**Leadership Activities:** Vice President of be nice. and Vice President of Peace M.E.ans

**Awards:** Mark A. Murray Study Abroad Scholarship

**Study Abroad experience:** Fall 2017, Barcelona, España.

**Plans after graduation:** Waverly will be attending the University of Oxford this fall in order to complete her MSt in Religious Studies where she will focus on the South Asian traditions.



**Name:** Kendra Smith

**Major:** Studio Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design

Senior Project title: Pennello Artist Supplies

**Summary of senior project:** I created the brand and packaging for a fictional art supply company, targeted toward student artists. This project was featured in the Student Scholars Day (SSD) 2018 Art Exhibition.

**Research and presentations:** Graphic Design senior project presented at the GVSU Art Gallery, Helsinki Accords presentation for SSD 2015, Learn the Terms

Branding Panel for SSD 2018

**Leadership Activities:** I have served as AIGA: GVSU President and Treasurer. Throughout the last two years, I served on the Bridge, Alpha, Life Group, and Image leadership teams through Campus Ministry. I also served as the Graphic Designer for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

**Activities/Awards:** AIGA: GVSU, Campus Ministry, NSCS, Swing Dance Club, AIGA Weekend for Good participant, Dean's List, I Am Grand Valley Award, SSD Abstract Book Cover Design Winner 2017, GVSU VMA Juried Show 2018 artist, GVSU Purchase Award, Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award for Studio Art

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I interned at Porter Corporation as a Graphic Design intern and I interned at Thoughtfull Design as a Design and User Experience Intern. For two years, I worked with GVSU's University Communications as the Student Designer for GVSU Social Media.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My artwork, *End the World Water Crisis Poster Series*, received the GVSU Purchase Award, which means it will become a part of GVSU's permanent art collection for display in Finkelstein Hall.

**Plans after graduation:** I'm still figuring that out, but I would prefer to stay in West Michigan and work for a design studio.



**Name:** Tessa Stapleton

**Major:** Marketing and Business Economics.

**Senior Project title:** “Utilizing GVSU Libraries Social Media Accounts to Create and Maintain a Connection”

**Summary of senior project:** I am completing this project for the use of the Grand Valley State University Libraries in order to guide them through the use of social media accounts that are currently underutilized. The goal of my project is to help the GVSU Libraries create a better connection with users by extending the services offered in the physical library to the online platforms of Twitter and Instagram.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** In the fall of 2017, my classmates and I partnered with a Grand Rapids based nonprofit organization to help the organization understand their current customer usage situation and create a system to help them predict future trends. We analyzed data, created reports, and presented our findings to the nonprofit as part of our Senior Economic Capstone, where we used methods learned in preceding economics classes to help the nonprofit so the organization did not have to pay an outside company to help.

**Internship experience:** During the summer of 2017 I interned at the National Cherry Festival as an Event Planning Intern. I am beyond thankful for what I was able to learn about the nonprofit sector and how much goes into pulling off a week-long festival that appears flawless to customers, regardless of what is going on behind the scenes. I specialized in the Box Office and Ticketing for the festival, and I was also able to work on social media campaigns to help raise awareness of events and concerts that happened throughout the festival. I took things that I have learned in my marketing and management classes at GVSU and applied them to real world problems, which was really valuable coming back for my last year of school. I am so proud of being able to contribute to the Traverse City community in such a positive way and the knowledge I learned during my internship will carry me through my career.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation I will be pursuing a career in marketing that involves analyzing data, trends, and using the skills I learned between my marketing classes and my economics classes to help companies market their products and services.



**Name:** Morgan Sundblad

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Omega 3 Fish Oils Protect Endothelial Cells From Damage

**Summary of senior project:** The health of endothelial cells is important in the formation and progression of atherosclerotic plaques. These cells respond to factors circulating in the blood including free fatty acids (FFA). These FFA are linked to altered risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD): saturated FFA increase whereas Omega 3 polyunsaturated FFA decrease CVD risk. Omega 3 FFA bind to the Free fatty acid receptors. As damage to the endothelium is important in plaque formation, we were interested in characterizing the impact of Omega 3 fatty acid docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) on endothelial cell inflammatory responses. Connexin 43 expression was evaluated as a marker of inflammation. The role of the FFAR1 and FFAR4 were assessed through antagonist and agonist experiments. Data showed that DHA had the greatest effect (reduction in EC damage) at 12 to 24 hours. In addition, our research proposes that neither the FFAR1 nor the FFAR4 are involved in mediating the positive effects of DHA on the endothelium. Further research directions could include the assessment of the role of DHAs conversion to prostacyclin or resolvins by cyclooxygenase enzymes.

**Leadership Activities:** I have loved all of the great opportunities that Grand Valley offers to get involved and give back. I have focused most of my time in leadership with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, serving both as a Bible Study leader and Leader of Leader for the past few years. In addition i have volunteered and Lead with Alternative breaks,

**Study Abroad experience:** I studied abroad in China the summer of 2016. I was so fortunate to be with a great group of americans as we dove into the culture and language. I learned so much about the many different ethnicities and religions that are in China. I quickly fell in love with China, and have been back once since, with plans to go back in the near future.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I can confidently say that my greatest accomplishment at GV is becoming a more mature, open minded, and culturally aware individual. In the past four years I come to love learning about many different people and develop a passion for continued learning and serving in diverse communities.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation I will continue to work at Pine Rest, and then go to Michigan State Medical School in the fall.



**Name:** Bekah Suttner

**Major:** Computer Science

**Senior Project title:** WorkoutBuddy Apple Watch Project

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project was a safety-minded Apple Watch application which provided location updates to trusted friends during a workout. The application allows the user to set a course for their workout, then sends out warning messages to friends if you go off of that course during your workout.

**Research and presentations:** Published an iPhone application in the Apple App Store while working in the Mobile Applications and Services Lab.

**Leadership Activities:** President of the GVSU Women's Club Lacrosse team from 2016-2018.

**Activities/Awards:** Received a Computer Science Outstanding Senior Award as well as the Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in Computer Science.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Interned at Blue Medora, Inc. during the summers of 2015 and 2016 and interned at 3M during the summer of 2017.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be working at Atomic Object, a software consultancy in East Grand Rapids, after graduation.



**Name:** Jenna Tefend

**Major:** Nursing

**Senior Project title:** College Without Caffeine?

**Summary of senior project:** One thing that many college students have in common is the regular intake of caffeine to cope with busy schedules and early mornings. What caffeine users do not always consider, however, are the effects that caffeine has on various aspects of one's health. This study focuses on how caffeine impacts sleep quality, sleep duration, and daytime alertness, using myself as the subject. The results suggest that sleep duration and sleep quality improve quickly after the cessation of caffeine intake. Although correlations between caffeine intake and daytime alertness were not found, an increase in daytime alertness toward the end of the study suggests the possible presence of an adjustment period where the body must get used to the absence of caffeine.

**Activities/Awards:** Member of Student Nurses

Association, member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honors Society

**Study Abroad experience:** International Service Learning trip to Belize

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** getting into the Kirkhof College of Nursing and realizing my passion for this profession.

**Plans after graduation:** Work in a hospital as a Registered Nurse



**Name:** Shannon Theis

**Major:** Comprehensive Science and Arts for Teaching –K-8 Spanish with a minor in Latin American Studies

**Senior Project title:** Audiovisual tools and Attention in the Chilean School Context

**Summary of senior project:** While studying pedagogy and educational politics in Valparaiso, Chile, I worked in a local school teaching English to native Chileans. In the classroom I researched student behavior and teacher strategies and used that information to explain a relationship between audiovisual tools and attention. The study's conclusions identified audiovisual tools such as YouTube videos and animations, as well as visuals like flashcards and manipulatives, as positive tools in improving student

attention to content.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Bilingual Education, Transculturation, and Equity

**Leadership Activities:** InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Event Planner and Leader

**Activities/Awards:** InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, ESL tutor, outreach to Migrant workers

**Study Abroad experience:** Semester of Winter 2016 in Granada, Spain and Summer of 2017 in Valparaiso, Chile

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Student teacher at Ada Vista Elementary Spanish Immersion

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Taking risks to adventure around the world that advanced my fluency in Spanish

**Plans after graduation:** Fulbright ETA in Spain



**Name:** Rachel Travis

**Major:** Supply Chain Management and Marketing

**Senior Project Title:** Supply Chain Management Big Data Analytics

**Summary of Senior Project:** A research project on supply chain analytics was conducted by comparing the national best practices to the practices of six West Michigan companies. Insights were drawn that provide value to other companies interested in improving their analytics. This research was presented at the 2018 Midwest Decision Sciences Institute Conference.

**Research and presentations:** A research project on supplier diversity was conducted to develop a framework to help companies increase their supplier diversity spend. This research was presented at the 2016 APICS National Conference and 2017 Midwest Decision Sciences Institute Conference.

**Leadership Activities:** I have been a part of the Student Senate and served two years as a student senator and one year as the Vice President of Finance. I have also been the Co-Director of Sponsorship for TEDxGVSU, an Alternative Breaks Site Leader, a student representative on the Seidman College of Business Alumni Association Board, the President of the Seidman Supply Chain Management Association, and a Named Fellow in the Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy.

**Activities/Awards:** In 2016 my team was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Michigan State University Bowersox Supply Chain Challenge. In 2017 my team was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Western Michigan University Whirlpool Supply Chain Challenge. In 2017 I also received the GVSU Outstanding Supply Chain Management Student Award and received the R. Gene Richter National Supply Chain Scholarship. In 2018 I received the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award. In all four years of college, I have also received the I Am Grand Valley Leadership Award.

**Study Abroad Experience:** In May 2015 I studied abroad in Estelí, Nicaragua for three weeks with the GVSU Applied Global Innovative Initiative. From June - August 2018 I will be studying abroad in Winneba, Ghana for six weeks with the GVSU Honors College.

**Internship/Practicum Experience:** For the past two and a half years, I have worked at Steelcase as an intern in the procurement department.

**Greatest Accomplishment While at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is receiving the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award in April 2018. This award is the most prestigious academic award presented by the University.

**Plans After Graduation:** After graduation I will be working at A.T. Kearney as a Sourcing Analyst in Chicago, IL.



**Name:** Haley Lynn Tolitsky

**Major:** Finance

**Senior Project title:** Studying Abroad in Costa Rica: A Blog about My Experience Abroad

**Summary of senior project:** Haley wrote a blog in both Spanish and English about her experience in San José, Costa Rica to encourage other students to study abroad.

**Leadership Activities:** She served as the Vice President of Community Service for her professional business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, and coached the varsity dance team at Byron Center High School. She also mentors a Spanish-speaking teen from Honduras.

**Activities/Awards:** Haley was selected for the “I am Grand Valley” leadership award and nominated for Outstanding Intern of the Year by her supervisor. She spent two seasons as a NBA Semiprofessional Dancer for the Grand Rapids Drive and currently dances for the Grand Rapids Danger. She is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honors Society, The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Women in Insurance and Financial Planning, and the Financial Planning Association. She also participated in the Finance Mentorship Program and the Seidman Student Leadership Development Program at Grand Valley.

**Study Abroad experience:** Universidad Veritas in San José, Costa Rica

**Internship/Practicum experience:** She has interned for an independent financial advisor at Denison Financial for the past two years.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Haley’s greatest accomplishment has been making the Dean’s List every semester while remaining highly involved on campus and in the community. She has already obtained her life, health, and accident insurance license and is pursuing her Series 7 and 66 to establish her career while still in school.

**Plans after graduation:** Haley will be pursuing a career as an independent financial advisor while working to obtain her CFP designation through GVSU.



**Name:** Adam Vande Kerkhoff

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** Greek Conference Survey

**Summary of senior project:** In Greek life at GVSU, there is a group called Greek Intervarsity. We are a group of Christians that spread God's word through Greek Life. We attend Greek Conference in Indianapolis, and it provides students an opportunity to commit their life to Christ. This survey asks them in depth questions about their faith and how they feel about their decision.

**Research and presentations:** Explored the effects of pre-workout powder on humans for my BMS 495 capstone class.

**Leadership Activities:** Served as Executive Vice President of Delta Sigma Phi, Housing Manager,

Academic Chair, and Public Relations chair for Delta Sigma Phi.

**Activities/Awards:** Various volunteer opportunities through Delta Sigma Phi, and raising funds for the American Red Cross, American Brain Tumor Association, and Fleece and Thank You.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Becoming a Better Man through GVSU Greek life and having a positive impact on not just the Grand Valley community, but everywhere I go.

**Plans after graduation:** Working in Health Administration in the city of Detroit.



**Name:** Monica Vandebil

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** The C.A.R.E.S. Project

**Summary of senior project:** The acronym C.A.R.E.S. stands for compassion, awareness, resiliency, empathy, and story. For my senior project, I facilitated a group of students that met once a week during the Fall semester in order share stories of overcoming obstacles in an effort to normalize struggle. During the meetings, personal narratives were developed in order to foster compassion and empathy for one's self and others, to bring awareness to the myriad backgrounds of those around us, and to celebrate resiliency through storytelling.

**Leadership Activities:** The academic leadership roles I have held include serving as a chemistry tutor for the past two years as well as being a TA for the human anatomy cadaver lab. Outside of the classroom, I had the opportunity to be a college mentor for local high school students through the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Health Careers Pipeline Program.

**Activities/Awards:** Many of my extracurricular activities have involved volunteering in my hometown of Holland, Michigan. This included volunteering at Holland Hospital, working with the elementary students at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holland, preparing sack suppers through Kids Food Basket, and serving at therapeutic riding center called Renew.

**Plans after graduation:** I will take a gap year before attending medical school beginning Fall of 2019.



**Name:** Anna Vander Boon

**Major:** Bachelor of Arts in Music, flute and piano

**Senior Project title:** “Musical Experiences in Haiti and Costa Rica”

**Summary of senior project:** Last summer she volunteered in Haiti and Costa Rica, teaching music lessons and directing a music workshop, and then wrote a paper and gave a presentation on her experiences. Performed at the presentation was a choral arrangement that Anna composed based on two folk songs she heard and recorded while on a sunrise hike in Haiti.

**Research and presentations:** With two fellow Honors students, she has conducted scientific research entitled, “Effects of Motivational Material – Positive vs. Negative – On Heart Rate and Chosen Speed on a Stationary Bike.”

**Leadership Activities:** Anna was Vice President of Music Teacher’s National Association Collegiate Chapter at GVSU, and travelled with six other piano students to the 2018 MTNA National Conference, where they performed in a showcase by The FJH Music Company.

**Activities/Awards:** Among Anna’s awards are: Global Artist Scholarship from Performing Arts Abroad; Upper Division Music Scholarship; 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the 2018 writing competition of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance; and Honorable Mention in the PicPics Study Abroad Photo Contest.

**Study Abroad experience:** As hinted at in the description of the senior project, she studied abroad in Haiti for one month through the Honors College, and for two weeks in Costa Rica, volunteering and taking Spanish classes with a scholarship from Performing Arts Abroad.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Anna completed Dr. Helen Marlais’ Piano Pedagogy Certificate while earning her degree at GVSU, which included a significant amount of valuable practicum experience with one of the foremost pedagogues in the field of independent music teaching.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Her greatest accomplishment here at Grand Valley was giving two successful recitals, one on flute and one on piano, within two weeks of each other.

**Plans after graduation:** Anna plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy with a full-tuition assistantship at University of Louisville.



**Name:** Jordan Vanderham

**Major:** Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering

**Senior Project title:** ODL Smart Fresh Air

**Summary of senior project:** Confidential

**Leadership Activities:** Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization

**Activities/Awards:** Regional and National Business Plan Competitions, GVSU Co-op Student of the Year, and Holland Young Professionals Development Matters Award

**Study Abroad experience:** Innovation and Solar Panel Workshops in Nicaragua

**Internship/Practicum experience:** DISHER, New Product Development

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I discovered my passion for entrepreneurship and the positive difference I can make in the world.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation I will be growing the company Orindi Ventures that I started at GVSU full time. We are empowering asthmatics and industrial workers to breathe comfortably and not be disabled by the cold.

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**Name:** Gabriella Voza

**Major:** I am an international business and marketing double major with a Spanish minor.

**Senior Project title:** The title of my Senior Project is *What to Know about Using Google AdWords*.

**Summary of senior project:** My Honor's Senior Project is a paper designed to teach the fundamentals of Google AdWords

which was based off of my experience running a non-profit organization's AdWords account.

**Leadership Activities:** During my time at Grand Valley, I participated in Student Senate and served as the President of Grand Valley's Italian club, Il Geranio.

**Study Abroad experience:** In the summer of 2016, I participated in the Honors service learning trip to Ghana, West Africa, where I took a non-profit management course.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** While studying in Ghana, I also interned at Challenging Height's Hovde House, which is a local non-profit organization that rescues children from slavery in the surrounding areas.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been finishing two degrees in four years.

**Plans after graduation:** My plans after graduation are to travel Europe for a month before returning back to Michigan to start working!



**Name:** Tara Wallen

**Major:** Hospitality and Tourism Management

**Senior Project title:** Carpe Roma

**Summary of senior project:** Carpe Roma is a blog I created using my experiences studying abroad and what I have learned as a hospitality and tourism student to help future undergraduates planning on or thinking of studying abroad.

**Research and presentations:** My freshman year I got to present at the Student Showcase on Sustainability regarding my research on hospitality sustainability for my freshman sequence. I also completed research on the relationships between corporate social responsibility and employee retention and recruitment in west Michigan hospitality, among other research.

**Leadership Activities:** I was the Vice President of Education for my sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi as well as a choreographer and dancer for Grand Valley Dance Troupe.

**Study Abroad experience:** I was fortunate enough to spend the Winter semester of 2017 abroad in Rome, Italy. This was easily the highlight of my collegiate career.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I had three amazing internships during my time at Grand Valley: I was a Guest Service Agent at Cedar Point, the Assistant Innkeeper at Market Street Inn of Mackinac Island, and a Management Intern at Boyne Mountain Resort.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Receiving and maintaining the Frederik Meijer Honors College First Generation Student Scholarship.

**Plans after graduation:** I have accepted a position at Walt Disney World and will be moving to Florida the first week of September. Working for Disney has been my lifelong dream, and I cannot wait for this adventure to begin.



**Name:** Nikhil Watsa

**Major:** Physics with minors in Chemistry and Mathematics

**Senior Project:** *Speaking with Wonderment*  
– Authored Book on Speaking and Presentation Skills

With my honors senior project, I studied and practiced speaking skills by reading informative books written by experienced

orators. I attended a professional speaking workshop and delivered / recorded a speech to track my progress. To share what I learned with other college students who seek to better their speaking / presentation skills, I wrote a short book that summarized the most important items for an orator to know in a creative presentation.

**Research and presentations:** For my Physics capstone project, I studied “Electric fields of 2D current carrying surfaces” and presented my research at the APS OSAPS conference at MSU

**Leadership Activities:** I am a fellow of the Cook Leadership Academy in the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, University Innovation Fellows at the d.School at Stanford University, and the Design Thinking Academy at GVSU. I am a Founder / Co-Curator / Director of TEDxGVSU, and a resident assistant in GVSU’s Housing and Residence Life. The organizations I have been involved in are Sigma Pi Sigma Society of Physics Students, Phi Gamma Delta as a founding brother, Student Senate as the 2016-17 Vice President of External Relations, and Laker Traditions Team Presidents’ Ball Coordinator (2017 – Uncharted Color). I presented at Leadership Summit 2018 and the GVSU Teach-In (2016 and 2017).

**Activities / Awards:** I am an “I am Grand Valley” 12-time nominee, and a “Lead Like a Laker” (RA) nominee, and 2018 GVSU Homecoming Regent. I also received a Commitment to Service Award from Michigan Campus Compact in 2017.

**Internship/Practicum Experience:** For three consecutive summers (2015 / 2016 / 2017), I was an Intern at Dassault Systèmes DELMIA R&D in Auburn Hills, MI, working on robot modeling and kinematics programming within a software engineering scope.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was hosting two successful TEDxGVSU events (x = independently hosted TED event) with an incredibly talented team, a budget comprised of academic and corporate sponsors, and a full program of skilled speakers.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I will be joining the US Navy as a pilot. I will attend flight school for two years to train as a Naval Aviator. After serving my commission, I aspire to obtain a PhD and apply to be a NASA Astronaut.



**Name:** Melanie Watson

**Major:** Hospitality and Tourism Management, emphasis in Meeting and Event Management; Minor in French

**Senior Project Title:** Cannes Visitor Guide

**Summary of senior project:** A visitor's guide to the city of Cannes, France,

**Activities/Awards:** Member of Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) and Meeting Professionals International (MPI). Received the AH&LEF Annual Scholarship Grant.

**Study Abroad Experience:** I studied French at the Institut Catholique de Paris during a summer program.

**Internship/Practicum Experience:** I interned at Visit Grand Haven as a Festival Intern,

Destination Consultants as an Event Specialist, and the Cannes Film Festival as a PR/Social Media Intern.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Graduating magna cum laude in 3 years with a job offer.

**Plans after graduation:** Working for Conference Managers Inc. in the DC area within their registration department.



**Name:** Sabrina Williams

**Major:** I am majoring in Biomedical Science and minoring in Women and Gender Studies.

**Senior Project title:** “An Analysis of the Factors that Contribute to High HIV Rates in the Southern United States”

**Summary of senior project:** A thirty-three page research examining how factors such as poverty, homophobia, religion, and stigma play a role in the South’s high HIV diagnosis rates.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I had the pleasure to work in Dr. Kurjiaka’s research lab for two years studying whether oleic acid and palmitic acid affect the expression of connexin 43 protein in the gap junctions of b.End epithelial cells. I also presented at the Mid-East Honors

Conference (MEHA) twice, once my freshman year and once this past March. I presented at Student Scholar’s Day twice, as well.

**Leadership Activities:** I was a part of the Michigan State Medical School Pipeline Program in 2017 in which I mentored a high school student who was interested in pursuing a health career in her future. My cross country team also has a tradition of mentorship through which I have mentored my teammate, Madi, who is also has ambitions to be a doctor.

**Activities/Awards:** I am a varsity member of the Grand Valley State Cross Country and Track Teams. I am also a volunteer at the Grand Rapids Food Club, Catherine’s Health Clinic, and the Grand Rapids Red Project. I also spent a year as the secretary of GVSU’s Habitat for Humanity Club. I was awarded the BMS Graduate of Distinction Award and have been on the Dean’s List every semester of my collegiate career. I was also a Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was my determination on the cross country and track teams. I persevered through five stress fractures and two torn hip labrums that required surgery and a lot of time in the pool!

**Plans after graduation:** I plan on applying to medical school this spring with the hopes to become an infectious disease doctor.



**Name:** Alec Willison

**Major:** Computer Engineering

**Senior Project title:** UAV Wildlife Tracking System

**Summary of senior project:** A professor in the GVSU Biology department has requested my senior project team to develop an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Tracking system for use on American Martens in the Manistee Forest. The goal is to use a commercial drone and build a tracking system that mounts to this drone. The tracking system is required to locate the direction of a transmitted signal from a collar attached to an animal. This requires knowledge of wireless communication, embedded systems, and computer science. The project is ongoing, and will be finished in the Summer of 2018.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Gentex Corporation in Zeeland, MI for three semesters.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Growing from a raw student into a professional engineer, as well as growing socially and becoming more aware in social issues.

**Plans after graduation:** Continuing my career at Gentex Corporation and living in the Grand Rapids area.



**Name:** Sabrina Wing

**Major:** Psychology and Criminal Justice, double major

**Senior Project title:** “History of the Juvenile Justice System”

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project is writing a chapter for a book in collaboration with Kathleen Bailey, the head of Grand Valley’s Criminal Justice Department. I have been studying the roots of Juvenile Justice, all the way up to present time, and compiling my research into a comprehensive book chapter.

**Leadership Activities:** I was President of the North C, Hills, and Pickard Residence Halls’ Community Council 2014-2015. Because of this, I was also an *I am Grand Valley* nominee.

**Activities/Awards:** I am a certified substitute teacher and was an *I am Grand Valley* nominee (2014/2015 school year). I also have 8.5 hours of alcohol sting experience and 24 hours of police ride-along experience.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I worked as a police cadet for the Holland Department of Public Safety for a year, and I am currently working for the Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center, where I have been for almost a year.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is getting experience in my field, thanks to the help of GVSU professors. I got to try out different aspects of the criminal justice field, and it helped me find my passion. Kathy Bailey also presented me with the opportunity to get my research on my senior project published, which I am very excited and grateful for.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I will continue working at the Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center and strive to progress in the field. Eventually, I would like to get enough experience to become a probation officer.



**Name:** Nathaniel (Han) Vos

**Major:** History and International Relations

**Senior Project title:** Australians were involved in Vietnam?

**Summary of senior project:** The paper looked at the role of the Australians in the Vietnam War, their impact on the war, and why there was little information on their interactions from Americans.

**Research and presentations:** I have presented at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference on my honors paper.

**Leadership Activities:** I have been involved in the Swing Dance Club since my First year at GVSU, and I was secretary of the club this school year. I am also involved in the Phi Alpha Theta History club as a

member and a secretary.

**Study Abroad experience:** I studied abroad Fall 2016 at Macquarie University in Australia for a full semester. Macquarie is a short train ride from CBD (downtown) Sydney. I was able to explore Sydney and also visit the capital, Canberra, where I visited the Parliament House and the War Memorial. It was there that I discovered the Australian's role and participation in the Vietnam War and sparked my future honors project.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while being at Grand Valley was being able to use all of the resources available to me via the University, Staff, Professors, and other students, and also be able to give back to the university through student groups and volunteer opportunities like the Scholarship competition.

**Plans after graduation:** I am planning on going to the University of North Texas in Denton Texas. I will be studying Diplomatic and Military History so that I can be a professor after I obtain my doctorate.



**Name:** Samuel Yocca

**Major:** International Relations

**Senior Project title:** International Student Leadership Development Program

**Summary of senior project:** Collaborated with the Padnos International Center to develop a one-day program that focuses on enhancing the leadership skills of GVSU's international student body academically, personally, and professionally.

**Research/presentations:** Presented "Engaging International

Residents through a Living Learning Community" at the Michigan RA conference in 2016

**Leadership Activities:** Resident Assistant, Cook Leadership Academy, Orientation Leader, International Student Peer Mentor

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Interned at the Padnos International Center for two semesters following the completion of my senior project.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being nominated and selected to be fully funded to participate on the Israel Uncovered: Campus Leaders Trip through the David Project in 2015

**Plans after graduation:** Pursuing a Master's Degree in Higher Education & Student Personnel at Kent State University. While at KSU, I will be the graduate assistant for the Office of International Programs and Education Abroad with the College of Arts and Sciences.

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**Name:** Amelia Zann

**Major:** Allied Health Sciences with an Emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology

**Senior Project title:** Influence of the College Campus on Student Sense of Belonging

**Summary of senior project:** This project considers how the images and language used in media around campus can influence student sense of belonging. The project focuses on gender, and its inclusion and portrayal in posters, advertisements, and the student run newspaper on campus.

**Leadership Activities:** I have been elected as the Promotions Manager for Grand Valley's Swing Dance Club for two years.

**Activities/Awards:** I am a member of the GVSU Chapter of NSSLHA and the GVSU Swing Dance Club. As a member of the Swing Dance E-Board, I have been nominated for the 'I Am Grand Valley' Award for the past two years. I have been on the Dean's List every semester since my freshman year. As a freshman, I was awarded the GV Award for Excellence and the GV Presidential Scholarship.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** While attending Grand Valley, I was elected to the E-Board for Swing Dance Club. It has been an honor to work beside my fellow E-Board members and give back to a club that has given me so much.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I will be attending Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo where I will earn my M.A. in Speech-Pathology. I plan on returning to school in the future to earn a PhD.