Graduate Profiles
Grand Valley State University
Class of Winter and Summer 2016
“Live. Learn. Lead.” This is the motto of the Frederik 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 question that these graduates will go on to 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

Jeff Chamberlain ("Dr. J")
Director, Meijer Honors College

Janaan Decker
Student Services Coordinator

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 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 or click on the “schedule an appointment” button and select “alumni” under www.gvsu.edu/fellowships.

We look forward to working with you!

Wishing you continued success,

Elizabeth Harrington Lambert
Director
Senior Project title: Arbuscular mycorrhizal associations in fruit trees at GVSU’s sustainable agriculture project

Summary of senior project: I investigated the symbiotic relationships between arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (which grows within plant roots) and the roots of fruit trees. We studied a small orchard of ten fruit trees at GVSU’s sustainable agriculture project and characterized the diversity of the fungi forming associations with the roots of the trees. We used molecular DNA analysis techniques to construct a phylogeny of the species of fungi that we found and relate them to known species. We also collected morphological data and made slides to calculate the percent of fungal colonization in the different trees. Characterization of fungal diversity could eventually contribute to the development of a beneficial fungal inoculum that would be useful in sustainable farming systems. My senior project was an extension of a Student Summer Scholars (S3) grant that I received for the summer of 2014, and I have been working on this project ever since.

Activities: Member of the Equestrian Club’s hunt seat team for two years and have worked at two different veterinary ER clinics as vet assistant and technician.

Awards: I was a Phi Kappa Phi honor society freshman honoree and I was inducted into the society the next year.

Plans after graduation: Next fall, I will begin attending Michigan State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. I am hoping to end up in some sort of specialty or research position eventually, but I’m open to lots of different options.
Senior Project title: Michigan Wine and Its Future

Summary of senior project: The purpose of this study was to learn about future trends and current views of Michigan’s wine industry. This study briefly examined many different aspects of the industry from Michigan winery and vineyard owners, industry professionals, as well as various industry reports. Ten owners of Michigan wineries from various areas and of various sizes were interviewed in order to gain feedback on their views of the industry and where it is headed.

Activities: I was a part of Grand Valley’s Club Volleyball my freshman year.

Study Abroad experience: Florence University of the Arts in Florence, Italy; Wine and Beverage Management.

Internship/Practicum experience: Management Assistant Intern at Adventure Karts Expedition in Ketchikan, Alaska, Event Management Intern at JA PR Group, and Event Coordinator Intern at Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

My greatest accomplishments while at Grand Valley: The connections and networks I have made throughout my four years; both personal and professional. Also the opportunity to travel, which was the best learning and growing experience.

Plans after graduation: Work as the Marketing Director at The University Club of Grand Rapids, travel and continue my education within the wine industry. Long-term I plan to open my own small business within the hospitality industry.
Senior Project title: What are recruiters looking for when recruiting college graduates?

Summary of senior project: With this project, I selected two majors in five of the colleges at Grand Valley State University. I looked for opportunities for each of these majors in Grand Rapids, Lansing and metro Detroit and reached out to recruiters of these positions to find out their goals and focuses when recruiting recent college graduates. I sent a list of fifteen questions to each recruiter then created brochures with their responses.

Leadership Activities: Cook Leadership Academy Fellow, Student Leadership Executive Development, Seidman Professional Mentorship Program, Omicron Delta Kappa.

Activities/Awards: Grand Valley chapter of SHRM, business manager at Grand Valley Lanthorn for two and a half years.

Study Abroad experience: Will be going to Nice and Paris, France in June.

Internship/Practicum experience: Two summer internships as a human resource intern for Kaufman Financial Group, monthly job shadows with the human resource department at Spectrum.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Establishing the work ethic and organizational skills to manage the schedules of a full time student and part time employee nearly while remaining in the Honors College and on the Dean’s List every semester.

Plans after graduation: Working as a specialist in the Employee Relations Department of Spectrum Health.
Senior Project title: How the Economics of Open Source Software Impacts Diversity of Thought in Software Development

Summary of senior project: Gained insight into the societal impact of current, modern development of open source software projects through social network analysis of organizational and user contributions to popular Github repositories.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Explored Senegal’s migration patterns by analyzing mobile phone records at the Distributed Execution Network at Grand Valley State University. Realized continuous delivery for Platform as a Service deployment at the Institute of Applied Information Technology Cloud Computing Lab at Zurich University of Applied Sciences.

Leaderships Activities: Captained intramural soccer teams for all four years.

Activities/Awards: Received the Presidential Scholarship and Award for Excellence Scholarship from Grand Valley State University, and the Scholarship for Incoming Exchange Students from Zurich University of Applied Sciences School of Engineering. Achieved Dean’s List all four years.

Study Abroad experience: Studied at Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften School of Engineering in Zurich, Switzerland, for a semester.

Internship/Practicum experience: Interned with the Product Configuration team at Herman Miller, interned for the Community Research Institute department at the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, and worked for the Alumni Relations at Grand Valley State University.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Keeping my clothes on while swinging on the bifilar pendulum outside of the Padnos Hall of Science.

Plans after graduation: As a member of the Hacker Fellows 2016 fellowship program, join a Michigan based technology startup as a software engineer.
Elizabeth Beauchamp, Allied Health Science with an emphasis in physical therapy

**Senior Project title:** Volunteer Recruitment for the Young Athletes Program

**Summary of senior project:** Young Athletes is a program that gets individuals, ages 3-7, with cognitive impairments physically active. My project focused on gathering volunteers for this program through the development of a pamphlet specific for GVSU students and a paper about the benefits of Young Athletes. My main focus was to support this program and to connect students to this unique opportunity in Grand Rapids Public Schools.

**Research and presentations:** Researched how vision boards can help with emotional balance across the lifespan and presented at MIPERC 2016 Health Expo. I also researched childhood obesity with fellow honors students and submitted proposal “Eliminating Obesity from the Roots Up” to Students Reinventing Michigan.

**Leadership Activities:** Planned and led a vignette about Food Justice for Tunnel of Oppression, Volunteer with Young Athletes, and was the Co-Fundraising chair for Pre-Physical Therapy club. I have been a Resident Assistant (RA) for South Apartments for 2 years and a Teaching Assistant for Cadaver Lab.

**Activities/Awards:** I have received the Lead Like a Laker Award from GVSU Department of Housing, I am Grand Valley award, and am a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** The friendships that I have made, getting involved, and taking advantage of opportunities that GVSU has to offer.

**Plans after graduation:** I am going to attend graduate school at GVSU and get my Doctorate of Physical Therapy.
Senior Project title: Hypertension: Effects on the Heart and Body in Males Forty Years of Age and Older

Summary of senior project: This was a research based project that aimed to highlight the harmful effects of having high blood pressure chronically. The goal was to present the information in a simple, straightforward manner that is understood easily. To accompany the paper, an informational pamphlet summarizing the key points was created.

Research and presentations: Cardiac and Vascular Case Study Conference: Aortopulmonary Window Presentation, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation in Pediatrics Poster Presentation.

Leadership Activities: Grand Valley Senior Citizens Club; Vice President.

Internship/Practicum experience: Throughout my program I have held internships, provided by Grand Valley, at six different in and outpatient facilities. Those include, Gerber Memorial Hospital, Meijer Heart Center, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, Mercy Health St. Mary’s, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, and Blodgett Hospital.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment has been my acceptance into the Echocardiography program and with that the completion of my registry board examinations (RDCS, (AE) (PE)). Not to mention, meeting some of the most amazing people along the way.

Plans after graduation: I have accepted a full time position as a pediatric sonographer at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. Illinois bound!
Kassie Blok, Allied Health Sciences, Speech Language Pathology emphasis

Senior Project title: Autism and its Effects on Family Members

Summary of senior project: I decided to research more about autism and based my project on the effects of having an older sibling with an autism spectrum disorder.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I have also conducted research involving music and its effectiveness when used as a therapy technique with children with autism, as well as other minor pieces encompassing speech or language disorders.

Activities/Awards: Dean’s List honoree and I have participated in campus ministry organizations and volunteered at an elementary school to provide small group reading intervention services to first graders.

Internship/Practicum experience: Shadowed and interned with various speech-language pathologists.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: The relationships I’ve made and the knowledge that she’s gained from her professors and other experiences.

Plans after graduation: I will attend Western Michigan University to attain my Master’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology in the hopes of the opportunity to work with children in the foster system or who have been abused or neglected.
Senior Project title: A Comparative Analysis of the Center of Mass and Center of Pressure Relationship in a Pirouette Performed by an Amateur and Professional Dancer

Summary of senior project: Performed at GVSU’s Biomechanics and Motor Performance Laboratory, my research focused on the movement of the center of mass relative to the position of the center of pressure throughout a ballet and jazz pirouette. The collected data was compared for a professional dancer to an elite amateur dancer to identify the differences in ability to control balance that may be applicable to dancers and dance instructors.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: My BMS capstone research was focused on a Risk-Benefit Analysis of Off-Label Drug Use. I was specifically focused on three drugs, Bevacizumab (Avastin), Metformin, and Amitriptyline.

Leadership Activities: Leadership is a product of involvement and quality communication. It is in this way that I believe I have acted as a leader during intermural sports, in class/group work, and as a teacher assistant in human anatomy lab. My leadership qualities have been recognized by induction into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society.

Activities/Awards: Throughout my time at GVSU I have been a member of a number of on-campus groups and activities. Outside of campus, I have enjoyed volunteering at Family Health Care and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital and working at Marywood Health Center. For fun, I take advantage of the many events and experiences that Grand Rapids has to offer. Additionally, I have been recognized for my achievements by induction into The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is ongoing. Grand Valley has provided an environment—educational, social, etc.—that has allowed me to grow as an individual and the opportunity to discover my passions, especially in my endeavor to become a Physician Assistant. I cannot limit my greatest accomplishment to any single moment, as all of my accomplishments have led to developing the person I am now.

Plans after graduation: I have decided to continue my education in hopes that the more knowledge I possess, the better I am able to help others achieve optimal health. In the upcoming year, I have been accepted into and have chosen to attend GVSU’s Physician Assistant Studies program in the Class of 2018. Despite acceptance elsewhere, Grand Valley continues to offer the best opportunity for me on my career path.

Summary of senior project: This project sought to determine whether the tunica intima layer of blood vessels was responsible for the increased vascular reactivity seen following exposure to highly concentrated oxygen environments. Our study found there to be no significant role from this layer. Results were presentation at the Experimental Biology Conference 2016 in San Diego, CA.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Prior to my senior project, my partner and I researched the removal the center layer of arteries entitled Physical and Chemical Endothelial Denudation Techniques of Porcine Mesenteric Arteries – Bontekoe, Janardan, Sylvester.

Leadership Activities: During my undergrad, I had the opportunity to serve on the CLAS Student Advisory Committee, as well as help initiate and serve as Vice-President of the GVSU Anscombe Society.

Activities/Awards: Following my freshman year, I was awarded the GVSU General Chemistry Award in 2013. I have also made the Dean’s List every semester for the past four years. Additionally, I was recognized as a Biomedical Sciences Department Graduate of Distinction.

Study Abroad experience: In May 2013 and May 2014, I traveled to Nicaragua with Dr. Paul Lane and the Applied Global Innovation Initiative to teach entrepreneurship to college students and university faculty.

Plans after graduation: Following graduation, I will be attending Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine to earn my medical degree.
Mariah Boulard, Statistics

**Senior Project title:** An Investigation of School Shootings in the United States

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project aimed to find meaningful patterns in US school shooting data. My primary interest was finding evidence to suggest that school shootings can have a copycat effect. In other words, does a highly media-covered shooting result in a higher frequency of school shootings? Within my project, I look at descriptive analysis of this data through SAS mapping procedures. I also discuss the complications and limitations of such research.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Worked with Professor Curtiss on data collected from Union of Automobile Workers (UAW) surveys.

**Leadership Activities:** Statistics Lab Tutor.

**Activities/Awards:** I Am Grand Valley nominee.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishments would include the completion of my senior project and successfully getting accepted into graduate school!

**Plans after graduation:** In the fall, I will begin the University of Michigan Applied Statistics Master’s program.

Derek Camilleri, Mechanical Engineering, B.S.E., Minor in Chemistry

**Senior Project title:** Gentex Orbital Riveter Re-design

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project was a collaborative effort with other engineering students to redesign, build, and debug an outdated riveting machine at Gentex Corporation.

**Leadership Activities:** I was a student employee on campus from 2012-2014. I was also a housing residence assistant in the Pickard living center for the 2013-2014 school year; the first year this was an honors housing building. I was an honors mentor for incoming freshman for two years, and was a member of ANCHOR for one year. I was the team leader for my senior design project.

**Activities/Awards:** I was a recipient on multiple occasions for the “I am Grand Valley” award and the academic Dean’s list. I was involved in the Grand Valley archery club and also participated in several intermural sports.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I have been an intern at Gentex since May 2014. During this time, I worked three semesters as a full time intern in various positions.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Winning the EGR 345, Dynamic System Modeling and Control, semester project competition (by a large margin).

**Plans after graduation:** My immediate plans are to continue working at Gentex as a process support engineer. My future plans are to earn a master’s degree and my professional engineers’ license.
Kaleigh Susan Cammenga, Allied Health Science-Emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology

**Senior Project title:** Evidence-Based Phonics Game

**Summary of senior project:** I developed an original phonics game for preschool-aged children based on current research in phonics education. The game was designed to engage multiple senses with the goal of helping children learn the associations between letters and their sounds. I then completed a study to evaluate child and caregiver opinions of the game following play. The results indicated that the game was a favorable method for practicing letter-sound associations.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I was honored to present my senior project at the Michigan Speech Language Hearing Association Annual Conference in Grand Rapids this April.

**Leadership Activities:** This year I served as the financial officer for the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association.

**Activities/Awards:** I am a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and a recipient of the GVSU Award for Excellence and Faculty Scholarship. I have been recognized on the Dean’s list every semester and was also considered as a finalist for the Frederik Meijer Honors College Outstanding Senior Award.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while attending Grand Valley was developing a strong work ethic. I am proud of my accomplishments, not because of any of the grades or accolades I have received, but because of how hard I worked to achieve them.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be attending Michigan State University in the fall to obtain a Master’s degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders. Following completion of the program, I plan to pursue a career as a speech-language pathologist.

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Stefanie Cesario, Biomedical Sciences

**Leadership Activities:** Chemistry Student Faculty for CHM 109 lab, Anatomy TA, and Pre-PT club executive board member for 2 years.

**Awards:** BMS Graduate of Distinction.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was being accepted into PT school.

**Plans after graduation:** GVSU Doctorate of Physical Therapy program.
Senior Project title: Increasing Breastfeeding Support and Promotion in Kent County Through Web Presence & Social Media

Summary of senior project: The purpose of this project was to increase support and promote breastfeeding rates in Kent County through the use of improved web presence and social media. I worked with two nursing Honors students. The main source of outreach for our project was through the creation of a new website for the Healthy Kent Breastfeeding Coalition. Their previous website was not user friendly, so our goal was to create a completely new site that is more easily accessible to the community with updated information. The website highlights information about where new mothers can find breastfeeding help and support, details events that are happening in the community and provides breastfeeding facts and information in a positive manner. In addition to creating a new website, we created business cards for the Coalition, made a Twitter account, updated their Facebook account, accessed the Coffective breastfeeding app for the county, and updated the Coalition’s current information, resources and brochures.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Student Scholars Day (2015, 2016).


Activities/Awards: I Am Grand Valley, Deans List (7 semesters), Academic Excellence Award in Studio Art (2016), AIGA Grand Valley member.

Internship/Practicum experience: Web design intern at Real Art Design Group in Chicago, IL (Summer 2014), Web design intern at HAUS in Los Angeles, CA (Summer 2015).

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Learning that you have to take control of your education in order to get the most out of it, and realizing that learning never ends.

Plans after graduation: Work in my field as a digital product designer.
**Senior Project title:** Tax Inversion: What is it Good for?

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project took a look at the consequences of companies engaging in tax inversion. Specifically, I used the merger of Burger King and Tim Hortons to illustrate how tax inversion occurs and how countries and companies involved are affected. Additionally, I looked at ways to discourage inversion that is done only for monetary gains.

**Leadership Activities:** I was the VP of Finance (treasurer) for: Phi Chi Theta, Professional Fraternity Council, and The Grand Valley Grilling Society.

**Activities/Awards:** I was a member of Beta Alpha Psi.

**Study Abroad experience:** I will be going on the United Kingdom Business trip in London this summer.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** This winter I completed a tax internship at BDO USA, LLP.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Inventing Swipenomics, the study of how to most effectively allocate the limited number of meal swipes available each week.

**Plans after graduation:** Back to GV for Master of Science in Accounting.
Senior Project title: Nursing Student Stress and Unhealthy Behaviors- Measured Subjectively and Objectively

Summary of senior project: The purpose of my study is to look at nursing student stress and activity, specifically from 14 volunteers in each of the 1st, 3rd, and 5th semester of nursing school. From the measured activity and sleep of 1st, 3rd, and 5th semester nursing students I will compare self-reported behaviors (job status, health, sleep and fatigue, stress, exercise, study habits, and enthusiasm) with the monitor data. The Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) will also be used to gain data regarding the perception of stress. Because this is a small sample size, my study is a pilot research study. Our hope is to identify common stressors, promote healthier lifestyles, and promote a healthier learning environment for nursing students.

Activities/Awards: I have been a participating member of Grand Valley’s Cross Country and Track & Field teams the past 4 years. I have competed in 5 conference meets and have been an All-Conference athlete in the steeplechase 3 times. I have also competed in 4 Division 2 National Championship meets. I have earned Academic All-American honors from my competition in these meets. Being an athlete for this university has been a great experience and I am sad it has to come to an end.

Internship/Practicum experience: I worked on a Neurology and Epilepsy-monitoring unit at a Grand Rapids hospital to complete my clinical immersion practicum.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Being a nursing student and an athlete has been my biggest accomplishment at Grand Valley. It has been my biggest challenge to be able to balance all of this. I will graduate knowing I conquered the challenge of being a student-athlete and earning a very rigorous degree. I cannot thank my family and friends enough for supporting me throughout this process.

Plans after graduation: I plan to stay in the Grand Rapids area upon graduation and work as a Registered Nurse on a progressive care unit in one of the hospitals. Eventually, I would like to pursue a graduate degree for either a Doctor of Nursing Practice or a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist degree.
Adelaide Clock, Music Education, vocal emphasis

Senior Project title: Music Analysis

Summary of senior project: I analyzed thirty choral works with a wide range of vocal parts and teaching content. The analysis criteria includes the title and composer, genre and voice parts, range and tessitura of each vocal part, meter and key, teachable rhythmic and melodic content, and the language/culture of each piece. From this analysis, I then created four lesson plans of four choral works focusing on a specific teachable concept from each piece.

Leadership Activities: I am a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, and was a member of the GVSU a cappella group Euphoria for four years. During my time with the group, I served as secretary, music director, and vice president.

Internship/Practicum experience: Within my last year at Grand Valley, I have had two wonderful teaching practicum experiences. One teacher assisting at Ridgeview Elementary School in Sparta, MI, and another student teaching at Crestwood Middle School in Kentwood, MI.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley would be my senior recital, which completed my vocal study with Dr. Jin in the music department. I shared the recital with a dear friend and colleague of mine, and we had a fantastic performance due to the support of our friends and family, and the preparation and dedication of Dr. Jin and the music department at Grand Valley.

Plans after graduation: My plans after graduation and receiving my K-12 music teaching certificate, are to find an elementary general music teaching position in North Carolina, where I will be starting a new chapter of my life!
Elyse Cloeter, Biomedical Science, Nutritional Sciences Emphasis

Senior Project Title: Effective Modes of Communication for Dietary Behavior Change in the Health Care Setting

Summary of Senior Project: A literature review of verbal and nonverbal methods of communication utilized by a dietitian in order to effectively motivate a change in the patient’s habitual health behavior. The review is written as a call to action for dietitians to acquire the necessary skills for successful practitioner–patient interaction.

Activities: I am a long-term volunteer for the nationwide Share Our Strength’s Cooking Matters program based in Grand Rapids, where we teach low-income persons at risk of hunger how to select, purchase, and prepare healthy low-cost food. I am involved in educating class participants on basic and applicable nutritional information as well as demonstrating food preparation and cooking skills. Some of the sites I have been a volunteer for include local middle schools, retirement homes, and family centers at the YMCA. This volunteer work has shaped my aspiration to serve underserved populations with an emphasis on preventative care through my future work as a health care professional.

Awards: I have received and maintained the Award of Distinction Scholarship and the Award of Excellence Scholarship over the course of my four years here at Grand Valley State University.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I find my greatest accomplishment here at GVSU to be my work with Professor Lorie Jager of the Health Communications Department on my Honors Senior Project. Through the completion of this interdisciplinary project I was able to combine my knowledge of the sciences with the field of communications, which I believe to be very applicable to my future work as a dietitian in the public health sector. My research for this paper shaped my understanding of the importance of being an effective communicator as a health care professional, and I hope to expand upon those skillsets during my time as a graduate student and throughout the course of my future career.

Plans after Graduation: Beginning in the Fall of 2016, I will be attending the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health as a student in the Dietetics cohort of their Nutritional Sciences program. I will be completing a Master’s of Public Health over the course of two years, after which I will enter into a Dietetic Internship. Ultimately, I plan to sit for the Registered Dietitian’s Exam in order to be certified as a Registered Dietitian.
Alexis Colligan, Allied Health Sciences – Pre PA

**Senior Project title:** Healthcare differences around the World

**Summary of senior project:** Worked in a hospital in Thailand to compare a universal healthcare system to that of America’s.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Xenotransplantation – using animal tissue in the human body (Student Scholars Day), Juicing and Health (IPE MIPERC Health Expo).

**Leadership Activities:** Vice President of Multicultural Cohort Program (MCP), Team captain for Relay for Life.

**Activities/Awards:** Professional Development Award, Student Leadership Award (MCP), Dean’s List.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Travelling to the other side of the world to experience a new culture and a very different form of healthcare.

**Plans after graduation:** Applying to PA graduate programs, moving to South Carolina to enjoy the sunshine. 😊
Senior Project title: Does BCl₃ Follow the Same Three Cycle Mechanism as BBr₃ When Cleaving Ethers?

Summary of senior project: We had proposed a three cycle mechanism for the way in which BBr₃ cleaves anisole. For this project, we sought to answer the question: Does the demethylation of anisole when facilitated by BCl₃ follow this same three cycle mechanism? Experimental results suggested that BCl₃ does cleave anisole, but complications with the reactions prevented us from concluding if BCl₃ does in fact cleave anisole following the proposed mechanism.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations:
Undergraduate research in chemistry for the 2014/2015 academic year was entitled: “Ether Cleavage Re-Investigated: Elucidating the Mechanism of BBr₃-Facilitated Demethylation of Aryl Methyl Ethers.” This research was presented at The 6th Joint Great Lakes / Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference, and Student Scholars Day. Undergraduate research in chemistry for the 2015/2016 academic year was entitled: “Expanding the Scope: Demethylation Reactions with Boron Trihalides.” This research was presented at Student Scholars Day.

Activities/Awards: Most Outstanding Senior Award in Chemistry and the Organic Chemistry Award.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: The undergraduate research my partner and I conducted during the 2014/2015 academic year was published on October 21, 2015.

Plans after graduation: I plan to work in industry for a few years and then attend graduate school to acquire my PhD.
Karina Cooke, Biomedical Science

**Senior Project title:** Changes to Physician Payment Due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: A Literature Review

**Summary of senior project:** I looked into how the Affordable Care Act has affected the process of physician payment. One of the more interesting things I discovered was that physicians in the U.S. will start to be evaluated on how well they do their jobs, and they will be paid accordingly.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** CMB 440: Drosophila Genomics Research with Dr. Martin Burg in Winter 2015 that included a Student Scholars Day presentation.

**Leadership Activities:** I’ve served as a teaching assistant for Physiology Lab and for Dr. Burg’s Drosophila Genomics Research class.

**Activities/Awards:** I was a member of the pre-med club for four years, and I’ve been a volunteer at Holland Hospital for two years during my time at Grand Valley.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment will be graduating from the Honors College and successfully completing the courses I need to get into medical school.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to attend medical school starting in the fall of 2017.
Senior Project title: Islamophobia: What It Is and What You Can Do To Stop It

Summary of senior project: Throughout the Winter 2016 semester I researched Islamophobia specifically in the United States and summarized my findings in a short paper and a lecture.

Leadership Activities: I have been involved with Model Arab League for three years during my time here at Grand Valley. At my last model in February of 2016 I received an award for chairing the Joint Defense Council.

Activities/Awards: Arab Culture Club; Intramural Soccer; Model Arab League (Feb. 2016 awarded the Distinguished Chair Award for chairship of the Joint Defense Council); Deans List.

Study Abroad experience: I studied abroad in Oman and the United Arab Emirates summer of 2015. I studied Arabic and Arab Business Practices in the Gulf. Most of our time was spent in Oman but we did stay in Dubai, UAE for a short time.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplished here at Grand Valley would have to be my promotion to Traffic Assistant Supervisor while working for the Police Department. I get to work closely with our fantastic officers and help campus functions and everyday activities run smoothly. Through this position I have worked with local police agencies as well as the Michigan State Police and the Secret Service.

Plans after graduation: Right now, I am planning on returning to Oman to continue my Arabic studies. Afterwards, I plan on applying for a government position that deals with the Middle East in some capacity.
Lydia Grace Danikolas, Marketing and Finance, Entrepreneurship Certification

Senior Project title: The Miller Project

Summary of senior project: This project focused on new product development while working in interdisciplinary teams, with professors and Herman Miller professionals acting as mentors. The teams were posed a problem, conducted marketing research, and through design and engineering feasibility came up with furniture items that could solve the problem. A final product was prototyped and presented to Herman Miller.

Leadership Activities: I have been a part of Spotlight Productions (the campus programming board) for the past three years. I have served as the Vice President of Finance for the last two years, helping students to maintain budgets for the events and keeping track of the organizations spending. Additionally, I co-produce a television show for GVTV. The show, Double-Taked, is a hidden camera prank show that strives to involve the campus community in GVTV programming.

Activities/Awards: Phi Kappa Phi honors society, Beta Gamma Sigma honors business society, I am Grand Valley Award for Outstanding Leadership, Student Leadership Executive Development Program through the Seidman College of Business, ACG Cup (Mergers and Acquisitions Competition), MWest Challenge (Business Plan Competition), Honors College Student Assistant (best job ever!)

Internship/Practicum experience: During the summer of 2014 I interned at the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, creating and managing a Mystery Shopper Program. This program was submitted to the FDA and is in consideration to become a nation-wide program so that food banks are able to evaluate the success of their food pantries. In 2015 I was a marketing intern at the Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce, hosting many community events and working closely with local businesses.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My junior year I was able to start a business, Idea Jar Media, which provides media services to small businesses and start-ups. Grand Rapids has a rich start-up environment and I was able to make use of fantastic resources that Grand Valley has to offer to make the business a success. I have made great use of my time at Grand Valley, getting involved in diverse organizations and participating in many once in a lifetime opportunities.

Plans after graduation: I am travelling to Nicaragua for the month of May to participate in the Applied Global Innovation Initiative. During this time I will be facilitating product development in the city of Estelí. I am very excited and thankful to be taking part in this wonderful opportunity. Upon my return I will continue growing my business in the Chicago area.
Summary of senior project: For our senior project, Marcee Wardell and I focused on delving into the complex relationship between writer and editor. We took a short story written by Marcee, and did three rounds of developmental and substantive editing to the piece, explicating our process for the project.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I presented my thesis paper last semester, a rigorous and demanding task required by the English department. My project, titled “Society’s Creation of the Clockwork Orange” analyzed Anthony Burgess’ A Clockwork Orange socially and psychologically.

Study Abroad experience: I studied abroad in both France and Ireland. I went with the Grand Valley Partnership to Angers, France, where I completed my French minor. In Ireland, I lived in Galway, on the west side of the island, and completed courses that fulfilled my Junior seminar and were relevant to my English major.

Internship/Practicum experience: Last semester I started an internship at Heritage Anderson Digital Marketing in Grand Valley, where I now work full time as a digital content writer.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I would say my study abroad experiences, and my internship were my greatest accomplishments. I learned more about myself in six months in France than I had my entire life. My internship in Grand Haven provided me the opportunity to experience life in the professional world, and I now get paid to write, a lifelong dream I never expected to come true.

Plans after graduation: I’m currently applying to graduate schools for Publishing. I also plan on working full time as a digital content writer until I’m accepted into a graduate program.
Senior Project title: A Light in the Dark: The Pedagogy of Unsettling Literature

Summary of senior project: My project explored how authors and educators in the United States and Germany approach dark topics in books for children and young adults. I created a guide for teachers as they consider how they want to select literature for their classrooms and what support structures they will have in place as their students explore difficult or controversial ideas.

Leadership Activities: Treasurer for GVSU Swing Dance Club, Treasurer for GVSU Teachers of Tomorrow.

Activities/Awards: Swing Dance, Teachers of Tomorrow, Belly Dance, CHAARG, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Sigma Tau Delta, Dean’s List every semester.

Study Abroad experience: Germany/Poland 2012, Germany 2013, The Netherlands 2015, Australia 2016.

Internship/Practicum experience: 5th Grade Student Teacher at White Pines Intermediate.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I got to see 4 countries in 4 years!

Plans after graduation: Find a teaching position in the Grand Rapids area and hopefully do more travelling soon.
Senior Project title: Neonatal Mortality in Ghana

Summary of senior project: My project focused on the causes and preventions of neonate death in Ghana. I identified research studies that related to my focus and created a literature review based on these articles. I also traveled to Cape Coast, Ghana on a study abroad where I could observe the health care system at work first-hand.

Activities/Awards: Dean’s list Fall 2012 and Winter 2013.

Study Abroad experience: I studied Community Health Nursing abroad in Cape Coast, Ghana this last semester (Winter 2016) for two weeks. I had the opportunity to learn about the Ghanaian Health System as well as immerse myself in the community health care clinics. My particular assigned site was the Metro clinic which focused on family planning and child welfare. I met with a traditional birth attendant to learn about their childbirth and newborn care practices for my Honor’s Senior Project. It was an amazing experience, and I even managed to pick up a few phrases in the language of Fante.

Internship/Practicum experience: I sought out a nurse externship in the summer between my junior and senior year on a Post-Partum unit in Cleveland, OH at MacDonald Women’s University Hospitals. It was a 10 week program that allowed me to work side-by-side with a preceptor to learn the RN role.

I also had a leadership experience (clinical immersion) at the Butterworth ED. I learned so much in such a short 6 week period! I worked with one preceptor and slowly began to take on her patient load as my own. It was a terrific experience.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment was finishing nursing school in just 4 years as I intended to in the beginning. There were a lot of obstacles and with the help of family and friends I made it to the end!

Plans after graduation: I recently accepted a job at Helen Devos Children’s Hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit! I will begin orientation in June after I pass the NCLEX. I then hope to apply to graduate school to become a Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner after gaining some nursing experience. I would also love to have a family of my own some day!
Kayla Dora, International Relations

**Senior Project title:** Trafficking in El Salvador

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project works in conjunction with the El Salvador portion of my study abroad and has a focus on trafficking and women’s rights as human rights. While in El Salvador I will conduct interviews with organizations such as Flor de Piedra which works with victims of trafficking. I will use the interviews and other research to help inform a presentation paper that will be presented at the Conference on the Americas in October.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I had the privilege of working with a team of four others on a portfolio for ReSTORE, which was published in ScholarWorks.

**Leadership Activities:** During my freshman year at Grand Valley I participated in First Year Leadership Experience where I was really able to start to see myself as a leader.

**Activities/Awards:** I have been blessed to receive the “I am Grand Valley” award and been nominated by both of my internships for GVSU’s “Outstanding Intern of the Year” award. I have also participated in Campus Ministry’s Spring Break mission trip where I had the opportunity to serve in Orlando, FL. This past spring break I served in Biloxi, MS with a public administration class and a student organization called Students Leaving a Mark (SLAM).

**Study Abroad experience:** I will be traveling to El Salvador and Guatemala on a faculty-led study abroad trip from April 30th until May 15th. This program is run through the social work department and will focus on social injustices within the two countries. We will be visiting a women’s cooperative, speaking with human trafficking victims, and observing the Worker’s Day March.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I have done two internships during my time here at Grand Valley State University. My first internship was at a non-profit organization called Women at Risk, International. Their mission is to create circles of protection around at-risk women and children. My other internship is at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites. This is also where I am currently employed.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** One of my greatest accomplishments while at Grand Valley was helping to organize a colloquium for James Kofi Annan. For this colloquium I was also able to help organize the attendance of Women at Risk, International’s president Rebecca McDonald as a panelist. The other accomplishment I am proud of is being a part of the first National Security and Design Thinking classes. These are two classes that have really stood out to me in my college career and I’m blessed to be among the first students for each class.

**Plans after graduation:** My current plans for after April are to embrace as much as I can on my study abroad. I am really hoping and praying that God can speak to me through this experience and reveal what he wants to do through me and my major.
Helen Dukes, Biomedical Sciences, minor in German

**Senior Project title:** Cultural effects on wellness as it applies to society and the individual—an international comparison

**Summary of senior project:** Wellness manifests itself in a variety of ways in our lives, from our mental health to the acceptance of the use of biotechnology in our food. This study exploits the enlightening properties of intercultural study to investigate wellness as a cultural phenomenon in Germany, gain insight, and apply that to the construct of wellness in the United States of America.

**Research and presentations:** Phage therapy research with bacteriophage and susceptible bacilli isolated from soil—presented at Student Scholars Day 2016.

**Activities/Awards:** Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction, Barbara H. Padnos International Scholar.

**Study Abroad experience:** Spent two semesters in Munich, Germany with the Junior Year in Munich program through Wayne State University.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Working closely with insightful and passionate faculty to realize my potential and direct my future.

**Plans after graduation:** Pursing employment in research possibly followed by graduate school in the future.
Kaitlyn Emelander, Natural Resources Management, Biology minor

**Senior Project title:** Persistence of Spotted Knapweed (Centaurea stoebe L.) In Restored Native Plant Communities at the Bass River Recreation Area, Ottawa County, Michigan

**Summary of senior project:** As part of an ongoing research project by Dr. Neil MacDonald of the Biology Department. This project explored the effects of treatments, including hand-pulling, herbicide, and prescribed burning, on reducing the densities of invasive spotted knapweed and restoring native vegetation.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I spent a summer in Alaska doing fisheries-related fieldwork. The next summer I was back in Alaska doing fieldwork as a seasonal assistant, where I collected data to conduct research for my capstone presentation on the migration of juvenile salmon. I also assisted Dr. Neil MacDonald with the fieldwork for his research project with spotted knapweed, and volunteered at the Annis Water Resources Institute helping graduate students with lab work for their research.

**Leadership Activities:** I worked at a local greenhouse throughout my time at GVSU, and took a job at GVSU’s Barbara Kindschi Greenhouse this past semester. I was also a recipient of the “I am Grand Valley” award.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** The life-changing experiences during my time working in Alaska. I am proud to say I survived two months working in the remote Alaskan wilderness with no electricity, running water, internet or phone service, and loved it so much I volunteered to go back the next summer.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be going back to Alaska for the summer to work at a fish hatchery. Then I will be returning to Grand Valley in the fall to take a graduate assistantship position through the Annis Water Resources Institute and pursue a Master’s degree.
Senior Project title: Healthcare Around The World

Summary of senior project: My honors project compares and contrasts the proactive and reactive healthcare systems of the United States, Nicaragua, Japan and Canada. After traveling to Nicaragua I became interested in determining how their healthcare system worked, and my anthropological research interested me in learning more about the healthcare system here in the U.S., and my project only grew from there.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I participated in an Anthropology field school researching health on the West Side of Grand Rapids in May and June 2015. I also was a part of a Drosophila genomics research class with Dr. Burg, which was presented at Student Scholar’s Day 2015.

Leadership Activities: I had the opportunity to become a teaching assistant in the cadaver lab, which has led to me becoming a tutor in the lab.

Activities/Awards: I am a member of the Pre Med Club and a volunteer at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital through the Pediatric Oncology Resource Team.

Study Abroad experience: I completed an International Service Learning Trip to Nicaragua in July of 2015 where I assisted doctors in providing medical care to underserved populations in rural areas.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been finding my purpose and chasing my dream, with all of the amazing things that have happened in doing so included.

Plans after graduation: I plan on applying to medical school this summer and during my gap year I hope to become a Graduate Assistant at Western in their Dissection Lab.
Senior Project title: Curating the GVSU HS Mathematics Wiki Resource Page

Summary of senior project: Worked with Professor John Golden where I organized, discovered and explored a variety of teaching resources. I focused on accumulating knowledge about high school mathematics teaching in all subject areas of the common core mathematics curriculum. Future GVSU teachers can access, build upon, and utilize the rich resources from the site in their careers.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I spent 6 months researching Perceived Support and RRT with Prof. Brian Lakey of the Psychology Department. We developed a questionnaire of everything people like to talk about in an effort to connect people together that would perceive each other as supportive.

Leadership Activities: Grand Valley has provided me the opportunity to take part in the Traffick Stop 5k Run and Walk as a Volunteer, participate in Make a Difference Day where I was able to operate a 100 year old cider press, and Community Outreach Week where we picked up trash out of the Ravines. I was a CRU Community Group Leader and also a Resident Assistant for 2 years working with freshmen to have successful beginnings as Lakers.

Activities/Awards: Awarded 3 times “I Am Grand Valley” award, the “Lead like a Laker” award. I was the Table Tennis Club’s Internal Affairs Officer and played many intramural sports.

Study Abroad experience: Netherlands Spring Break Mission Trip hearing about spiritual perspectives and sharing about Jesus Christ my Savior from a historical and honest perspective.

Practicum experience: Student taught at West Ottawa High School in Algebra 2 and Geometry.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was mentoring three young men to grow in their relationship with God, and teaching them to share their authentic story of how Jesus Christ has changed their lives with others.

Plans after graduation: Finding a Mathematics Teaching job, and moving somewhere near Southeast Michigan or Northwest Ohio to be near Grand Valley graduate Moriah Muscaro.
Dan Frey, Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering, Minor in Mathematics

**Senior Project title:** Miller Project

**Summary of senior project:** I am working with an interdisciplinary team to research and solve a problem posed by Herman Miller, potentially designing a marketable product in the process. By the end of the semester, we will have followed the design process from problem to prototype.

**Other research and presentations:** In fall 2015, I conducted research and analysis to evaluate the potential performance of solar photovoltaic systems on Mars. The analysis focused on the feasibility of the proposed Mars One mission. In winter 2014, I wrote an extensive term paper summarizing current and prospective engineering materials for the various components of bicycle wheels.

**Activities/awards:** I was in the GVSU Laker Marching Band from 2011-2014. In 2014 I won the “Own It” award, which is presented yearly to two members who exhibit leadership, preparedness, and dedication to the band.

**Internship experience:** I completed three semesters of internship/co-op at Herman Miller in Zeeland, MI. I worked on the Machine Design team, which is responsible for all mechanical engineering behind the production line equipment used to manufacture and assemble Herman Miller’s furniture. My job involved testing and using a 3D printer on a regular basis.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** In fall 2014, I was on a team of four students that designed and built a complete sit-to-stand device for ICU patients. The final prototype had almost 200 individual components.

**Plans after graduation:** I hope to remain in the Grand Rapids area and continue working at Herman Miller.
Amanda Fuller, Psychology, Spanish minor

Senior Project title: The Effects of Political Ideology and Permanence of Disability on Reported Helping Behaviors

Summary of senior project: In this research, I found a relationship between students who identified as either conservative or liberal and their attitudes towards disabled confederates who were either in a wheelchair or on crutches. I wanted to find out if one political ideology was more likely to show helping behaviors towards the disabled population. I found that, overall, conservative students were more likely to exhibit helping behaviors towards disabled confederates and that students were overall more likely to help those in wheelchairs as opposed to crutches.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I conducted a study with a group in my psychology 400 level class where we looked at the helping behaviors of individuals towards disabled confederates. I’ve also been part of research experiments in my psychology of language class. In my psychology 300 research methods class, I did research looking at the effects of different kinds of childcare on later development in children’s lives. I have also done research on the effects of bilingual education in Spanish class.

Leadership Activities: I was a bible study leader for three years with Campus Ministry. I was also on the social committee for one year through the Pre-Occupational Therapy club.

Activities/Awards: While at Grand Valley, I received the Berkowitz Scholarship, Grand Valley award for excellence scholarship, and Grand Valley faculty scholarship. I was also on the Dean’s list every semester.

Internship/Practicum experience: I had hands-on practice working with her clients—doing exercises and paraffin hand therapy with them. I also was able to volunteer as an assistant in a summer school program with hearing impaired children. My junior year, I went on a mission trip to Wimauma, Florida, where I got to reach out to the Spanish-speaking migrant workers and their families. I also worked as a Care Provider at a mental hospital and as a nanny.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was getting into their Masters of Science and Occupational Therapy graduate school program. I spent all four years working towards getting into this program.

Plans after graduation: After I graduate, I will be flying out to Managua, Nicaragua for one month to work with and love on the poverty-stricken community there. I will be working in health clinics, running summer camp, and teaching English in the public schools. In the fall, I start the Occupational Therapy graduate program here at GVSU, where I will be for the next two years until I become certified and can work as an OT. I am so excited for what lies ahead in my future as I pursue my dreams and passions. I owe it all to God, my loving family, and to my amazing university.
Lauren Geddes, Social Work major, Psychology minor

**Senior Project title:** Social Stories in the School Setting

**Summary of senior project:** For my senior project, I researched the use of social stories in school settings. Social stories are interventions used to help students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder understand how others feel and how to behave. I focused on students in elementary school. I then wrote a book of social stories that would be helpful in a school setting and used them with students at my internship at Hudsonville Public Schools.

**Activities:** For the past two years I have been a mentor through Pals Student Mentors to children in the Grand Rapids community. I am also a member of Phi Alpha Chi Epsilon (social work honors society) and Psi Chi (psychology honor society).

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I completed an internship at Hudsonville Public Schools doing school social work in an elementary school.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment is the work I’ve been able to do in my internship. I’ve gotten to help make significant changes in children’s lives and see their growth and accomplishments throughout the school year.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I am attending University of Michigan in the fall to get my masters in social work. My goal is to be a school social worker.
Amanda Genereaux, Secondary Education with a Humanities and Social Sciences emphasis

Title of Senior Project: A Toast to Desires Never Guessed

Summary of Senior Project: I wrote my honors senior project as a multiple viewpoint historical fiction narrative on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The project’s goal is to generate public perception of the complexity of this conflict. To educate Americans regarding the humanitarian crimes committed against the Palestinian people by Israel. To recognize US government sponsorship of these atrocities, and to guide Americans towards the delicate boundaries within which they have the power to affect the outcome of this conflict.

Internship/Practicum Experience: Education practicum experience with Mrs. Nawara – 9th Grade Union High School (Grand Rapids, MI), Mrs. Spaak – 7th & 8th Grade Wyoming Junior High (Wyoming, MI), Ms. Meyer – 8th Grade, Geisler Middle School (Walled Lake, MI), Mr. Webster – 8th, 9th, & 11th Grade, Fundación Colegio Americano (Quito, Ecuador).

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been taking the time to individually meet with all fifty-three professors I have had over my four years, along with many other advisors and staff. The faculty at Grand Valley are all uniquely passionate and gifted, it was my greatest privilege to be privy to some of their wisdom.

Plans After Graduation: After graduating, I am committed to lifelong involvement in the development of US foreign and domestic policy – particularly in regards to humanitarian efforts. The skills I have developed in my undergraduate program have prepared me to assist in the betterment of humankind through the fields of research, journalism, teaching, non-profit organizations, and governmental work. In our globalized world, I expect to have the opportunity to work in many of these fields simultaneously in the pursuit and passion of advancing the human condition.

“You cannot afford to think of yourself as being here to receive an education; you would do much better to think of yourself as being here to claim one.” - Adrienne Rich
Lora Gleghorn, Nursing

**Senior Project title:** Health Improvement of Children under Five in Ghana: Examination of Rotavirus Gastroenteritis

**Summary of senior project:** After studying abroad in Ghana, I wrote a paper about public health through the analysis of rotavirus gastroenteritis, a common cause of death for children in Ghana. As an example of a public health intervention, I also raised money to donate a hospital bed to Challenging Heights, who use it to medically rehabilitate children rescued from slavery in the fishing industry.

**Leadership Activities:** I am the Director of the Rescue Race, an annual 5k run/walk to support children who are victims or at risk of child slavery in Ghana. Over the past two years, the Rescue Race has raised nearly $15,000 for the rehabilitation and education of children in Ghana. This year, our goal is $13,500!

**Activities/Awards:** Member of Phi Kappa Phi and SNA. Recipient of the GV Award for Excellence.

**Study Abroad experience:** Honors Ghana Program.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Without my experience at GVSU, I may not have studied abroad, been placed in the ICU as a student nurse, or expanded my horizons in ways I never expected.

**Plans after graduation:** I have accepted a position as an RN in the ICU at Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital.
Senior Project title: Taste and Travel

Summary of senior project: In my project I learned about the taste and culture surrounding wine. A big part of wine studies is learning to discern flavors and characteristic nuances of the different wines. I started this in the fall by learning how to taste and distinguish flavors and quality, using chocolate. By using a variety of chocolate from dollar store chocolate to high end chocolate I hoped to train myself to notice things about chocolate such as consistency, undertones, and richness which in turn will allow me to recognize high end chocolate from lower end chocolate. In the winter my studies took me to Australia where I took a wine studies course. Here I used my knowledge gained in the fall and apply in to tasting wine. I also learned about the history and culture of wine in Australia and compared it to American culture. The culture, history, and tasting of wine is not the same from country to country. Learning how and why they differ is fascinating and by learning about this, I was able to bridge the typical disconnect between the wine I am sampling and the viticulture that surrounds it and makes it taste the way it does.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Research and Antibiotic Resistance in Agriculture and presented at Student Scholars Day.

Leadership Activities: Apparel Chair for AST, South Community Chair for ANCHOR.

Activities/Awards: I am Grand Valley Award, Dean List.

Study Abroad experience: Study Abroad in Australia.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment was doing research on antibiotic resistance with my group and then getting to present that on student scholars day.

Plans after graduation: Since I am graduating a year early I am planning on working as a CNA before applying to PA school where I hope to become a pediatric physician assistant.
Senior Project title: Phrasebook

Summary of senior project: A series of lyric essays exploring my time living in Turkey and the limits of nationality, language and belonging.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: A computational analysis of the bacillithiol enzyme BshC.” I would like to thank Dr. Beth Peterson and Dr. Mary Karpen for their mentorship on these projects respectively, and especially Dr. Karpen for making tea every day. I swear I’ll index those files someday.

Leadership Activities: Students Against Sweatshops.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Driving a 16-passenger van for 24 hours straight in freezing rain, in roughly three-quarters of a lane coming home from a conference in Texas for Students Against Sweatshops.

Plans after graduation: My five year plan is to learn the accordion, attend a Master’s of Fine Arts program in Nonfiction Writing, drop some wicked truth bombs and bring about the swift demise of capitalism.

Summary of senior project: Since the discovery of the fungal disease white-nose syndrome (WNS), millions of North American bats have been killed. To understand pathogen dispersal, population structure and connectivity are used as proxies. Much has been learned about little brown bats in North America since the emergence of WNS, however there is little known about M. lucifugus in Alaska. This current lack of knowledge presents a serious obstacle to its conservation in the face of WNS. My project focuses on patterns of diversity and population structure of the M. lucifugus sampled from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I have been doing research with my Genetics professor, Amy Russell since my sophomore year at Grand Valley. I have worked on two other projects, Are Little Brown Bats Ingesting the Liver Toxin Microcystin through Hexagenia Mayflies? my sophomore year and Patterns of Neutral Genetic Variation in the Virginia Big-eared Bat as a Student Summer Scholars (S3) project the summer of 2015. I presented my S3 research as a poster at the North American Symposium on Bat Research (NASBR) as well as a talk at this year’s Student Scholars Day (SSD). I have also presented a poster for my first research project as well as my Honors Junior Seminar project at SSD.

Leadership Activities: For the past three years, I have been a member of Alternative Breaks a service organization that sends out weeklong service learning trips across the country. I have been a site leader for the past two years, leading groups of 10-12 over Spring Break. I have gone on six weeklong trips: Community Cooperation, Water Restoration, HIV/AIDS Awareness, LGBTQ Awareness, Family Affairs, and Human Trafficking.

Activities/Awards: I have received several awards at Grand Valley. My freshman year I received the Outstanding General Chemistry student award as well as being recognized as Freshman Honoree by the honors society Phi Kappa Phi. My sophomore year I was awarded the Outstanding Organic Chemistry student award and my junior year I received the “I am Grand Valley” leadership recognition. I have received the Outstanding Cell and Molecular Biology student award all four years, and received the Excellence in a Discipline Award for Cell and Molecular Biology. I have been inducted into the honors society Phi Kappa Phi and the leadership honor society Omicron Delta Kappa.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, I will attend the University of Pittsburgh’s Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program to earn my PhD in either Immunology or Molecular Virology and Microbiology.
Lauren Hamelink, International Relations; Minors in Middle East Studies and Arabic

Senior Project title: Democracy, Terrorism, and the Middle East: U.S. – Egypt Relations 2011 to the Present

Summary of senior project: In the Middle East and elsewhere, the United States has a strong reputation for supporting dictatorships and suppressing democratic movements. I am researching U.S. foreign policy towards Egypt after the 2011 Arab Spring, and my paper argues that American support for dictators like Egyptian president Al-Sisi, usually done for security or strategic reasons, actually serves to increase long-term security concerns.

Leadership Activities: I have served as President of Model Arab League, Vice President of Membership for the national leadership honors fraternity Omicron Delta Kappa, Social Media Chair for Peace M.E.ans, and Secretary of Arab Culture Club.

Study Abroad experience: In the summer of 2014 I studied abroad at Al-Ahliyya Amman University in Amman, Jordan for six weeks. I studied Arabic language and politics and our group toured sites throughout Jordan, including Petra and the Dead Sea.

Internship experience: I was the Research and Development Internship at the West Michigan Refugee Education and Cultural Center during the Winter 2015 semester. I researched five refugee crises worldwide and compiled that data into lesson plans which were to be used to educate professionals in the Grand Rapids area working with refugees and their families.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment has been my participation in four Model Arab League conferences, including two in Washington D.C. In the Model we are presented with contemporary issues facing the Middle East, and through collaboration with other states we propose solutions.

Plans after graduation: I am staying at Grand Valley for the next year to complete my Arabic translation certificate. After that I plan to attend graduate school to get my Master’s degree in International Conflict Resolution, and I aim to work with refugee communities.
Stephanie Hamilton, Hospitality & Tourism Management

**Senior Project title:** Helping Others to Keep Hope, Take Action, and Gain Control of Generalized Anxiety Disorder

**Summary of senior project:** My project is a review of the many factors which are involved with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and serves as an educational piece for those who may be struggling with this disorder, or know someone who is. I also focused in on treatment options and coping methods in order to encourage those who are struggling to seek help and gain control of their life.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Completed a Strategic Analysis Organizational Report on SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. for my Capstone and for my Hospitality and Tourism Research class I built upon my Honors Senior Project by using the knowledge I gained from my research on anxiety disorders and did further research to find how this was related to non-travel in the Tourism industry.

**Leadership Activities:** CHAARG Executive Event Coordinator.

**Activities/Awards:** A few of my activities/awards include the Dean’s List all four years at Grand Valley, being on the executive board for a new health and fitness organization on campus called CHAARG (Changing Health Attitudes and Actions to Recreate Girls), and Intramural Volleyball.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** My first internship was for Experience Grand Rapids at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport as an Airport Ambassador. For my second internship, I was a Tour and Event Planning Intern with Live Eventfully, LLC. My final internship is with Worklab by Custer as a Membership and Meeting Coordinator.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Becoming the confident and independent adult I am today.

**Plans after graduation:** I have been offered a full-time position in Grand Rapids, starting May 9, at Worklab by Custer as their Membership Director.
Jessica Lynn Hamlin, Communications, Advertising & Public Relations

**Senior Project title:** Increasing Involvement for Student Life at Grand Valley State University

**Summary of senior project:** Megan Maher and I will be working on a way to keep students on campus during the weekends. This will include visual art on campus and increasing student life involvement through mobile technology.

**Leadership Activities:** First Year Leadership Experience Facilitator, Honors College Transitions Mentor, Transitions Leader.

**Activities/Awards:** Alternative Breaks (Texas & North Carolina), Student Senate (Senate Resources & Public Relations Committee). I am Grand Valley (4 years).

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Communications intern at Cedar Point, America’s Rockin’ Roller Coast!

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Making a lot of great friends I hope to have for a lifetime!

**Plans after graduation:** Continue working with the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids and the John Ball Zoo.

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Brieanne Hancock, Psychology

**Senior project title:** Acute Versus Chronic Ostracism: Effects on Social Engagement

**Summary of senior project:** Looking at the differences between acute and chronic ostracism, specifically in the area of social engagement. Also looking to see if there are any differences between chronic and acute ostracism for mood and coping strategies.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Research with Christine Smith in the psychology department looking at how well groups and individuals escape fixation while working on a creative idea or generation task.

**Leadership activities:** Treasurer of Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology.

**Plans after graduation:** I really would like to get into the school psychology program at Grand Valley and after that I would love to get a job as a school psychologist.
Scott Hancox, International Business and Marketing

**Senior Project title:** National Cultural Differences and the Management of U.S. and French Cross-National Teams

**Summary of senior project:** I conducted a study examining how culture affects the management of cross-national teams comprised of French and U.S. citizens. In my research I used Trompenaars’ foundations of culture to structure interviews with four top-level executives in the area, two French, and two American. Through the interviews combined with the existing literature a set of recommendations can be provided for the better management of French and U.S. teams.

**Activities/Awards:** Member of Phi Chi Theta the national co-ed business fraternity.

**Study Abroad experience:** I have spent three semesters studying in France, one semester was spent in Nice and Paris studying language and culture, and two semesters were spent in Grenoble studying international business and marketing.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Completing my Senior Thesis!

**Plans after graduation:** Plan to work in marketing.
Senior Project title: "Troubled Minds of the Gifted: An Investigation of the Psychological Well-Being of Grand Valley State University Undergraduate Students"

Summary of senior project: I designed and executed a study examining the psychological well-being of undergraduate students in order to identify potential support systems for students in areas of increased psychological distress.


Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was realizing what I truly want from life.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, I will continue my research on the psychological profile of university undergraduate students. I will also begin applying to graduate schools in order to become a Physician Assistant.
Senior Project title: The Hipster ABCs

Summary of senior project: For my senior project, I wrote and illustrated a parodic alphabet book utilizing modern slang and contemporary terms that could be categorized as “hipster”. I also created an integrated marketing campaign and creative brief that would advertise my book if it is published.


Internship/Practicum experience: I was the Community Outreach and Event Planning intern with Artists Creating Together for two semesters. ACT is a small, local non-profit that empowers individuals with disabilities to learn, grow, and celebrate through the arts.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Placing third in Grand Valley’s Last Laker Standing competition.

Plans after graduation: My plans after graduation are to work as a copywriter at a large advertising firm.
Hannah Healey, Biology

**Senior Project title:** Effect of Preservation Method on Specimen Weight Measurements from the Mississippi Sound

**Summary of senior project:** I designed, wrote and presented an experimental research proposal, independently conducted an experiment through completion & collaborated with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory on a thesis. The thesis focused on the effect of four preservation method solutions across a wide variety of forage fish frequently found in the Mississippi Sound. This work provides the grounds for future studies to be able to calculate live/wet weight of specimens, allowing for improvements in ecosystem management for the Mississippi Sound.

**Leadership Activities:** I was Gamma Phi Beta’s Fidelity Chairwoman & Social Media Chairwoman, a GVSU Transition Leader, and GVSU Ambassador.

**Activities/Awards:** The Academic Excellence Award in Biology.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I worked as a Dolphin & Sea Turtle research intern at the Institute of Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, MS and volunteered aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s research vessel during the Groundfish Trawl Surveys.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment as a student was utilizing the resources GVSU had to offer in order to take control of my education and gain field and work experience in the field of marine biology.

**Plans after graduation:** I have accepted an Orca Naturalist position and I will move to San Juan Island, Washington immediately after graduation.

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Christina Hehl, Allied Health Sciences, Biology minor

**Senior Project Title:** Learning the Rules of Food Safety

**Summary of Senior Project:** There are changing food safety laws in the United States that affect many people who grow and produce the food that we eat. This project explores those new laws and has a practical application through the training and national certification of HACCP - Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points. Under the new FDA Food Safety Modernization Act that comes into effect this year, production facilities, farms, orchards, and manufacturing plants have to pass a HACCP program audit. This ensures that the focus of food safety is on the prevention of contamination rather than the more traditional response to contamination after it has occurred. Upon completion of this senior project, certification in performing a HACCP audit will be accomplished as well as the knowledge to create and edit existing HACCP plans.

**Plans after Graduation:** Working at a food and product safety laboratory while also working closely with area produce growers to meet the demands of the new food safety law as it affects them directly.
Robert Heidelberg, Psychology, Minors in Applied Statistics and Management

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project studied the causal attributions that people made to the outcomes of the Detroit Red Wings hockey games as a function of their loyalty to the team and the outcome of the game. The attribution dimensions included questions asking how much luck, skill, and effort affected the game outcome. This project expanded on the vast social psychological literature involving causal attributions.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I spent two years working in the lab of Dr. Christine Smith studying group conformity. Senior year I presented our findings at the psychology department colloquium, and after graduation I will be presenting the research again at the 2016 meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association conference in Chicago.

**Leadership Activities:** I joined the international honor’s society in psychology, Psi Chi, during my junior year, and became president of Grand Valley’s chapter during my senior year.

**Activities/Awards:** I was a member of Grand Valley’s chapter of Colleges against Cancer and helped plan the Relay for Life event on campus.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was discovering and cultivating my passion for research and statistics. I did not come to GVSU with the intention of pursuing a career using either of these disciplines, but now I am going to graduate school to study both of them.

**Plans after graduation:** After I graduate I am returning to Grand Valley to pursue my Master’s in Biostatistics. This program will further train me to pursue my passion for research.
Senior Project title: Wrongful Conviction: Leading Factors and Compensation Policies

Summary of senior project: My project consisted of studying the effect that interrogation techniques and false confessions have on resulting in a wrongful conviction. I examined the various interrogation tactics used by law enforcement and the impact those techniques have on generating false confessions. I also analyzed the correlating causes and factors of false confessions. I reviewed case law plus current policy regarding interrogations and confessions, as well as recommended reforms. Additionally, I examined negative effects a wrongful conviction has on an individual and compensation policies in place to help the exoneree.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I presented at the 2016 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference in Denver, Colorado and at Student Scholars Day this semester.

Leadership Activities: Secretary for the Criminal Justice Students’ Association for two years, Honors College Mentor for two years, Ritual Chairman for Sigma Sigma Sigma, and First Year Leadership Experience Graduate.

Activities/Awards: Member of the Criminal Justice Students’ Association, Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honor Society), Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the Grand Valley Swim Club. I was on the Dean’s List each semester, awarded “I Am Grand Valley” two times, and received the Upper-class Honors Scholarship, Jonathan and Marcia White Honors College Scholarship, and The Justice and Society Scholarship.


Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was obtaining an internship with the federal government.

Plans after graduation: I plan to obtain a job working in the investigations field for the federal or state government.
Michael Hurley, Information Systems

Senior Project title: apf-illinois.com and chicagopowerlifting.com

Summary of senior project: Redesigned apf-illinois.com and chicagopowerlifting.com to fit current web standards and allow for easy updating.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Developed a powerlifting web application and presented it for Student Scholars Day 2016.

Leadership Activities: Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity webmaster, Upsilon Pi epsilon Vice President, GV Strength Club powerlifting mentor.

Activities/Awards: GV Strength club, Phi Sigma Pi, Fresh Food Company Best Customer Award.

Internship/Practicum experience: Fruition Partners summer 2013 and 2014 managed services intern, 3M summer 2015 master data management intern, GVSU web team student developer, powerlifting mentor.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Mentoring three novice powerlifters by writing training plans, coaching exercise form, and shaping their mentalities.

Plans after graduation: Pursue a career in web development, continue to compete in powerlifting, and mentor fellow lifters.
David Inda, Economics and Political Science

**Senior Project title:** Nothing Mere About Christianity

**Summary of senior project:** I framed C.S. Lewis’ Broadcast Talks during WWII in the context of the ongoing debate regarding a utopian society on earth.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** For PLS 300: Political Analysis, I wrote a research paper about the different factors that influenced people’s voting behaviors in the 2012 Presidential Election.

**Leaderships Activities:** I worked as a Student Ambassador for the Admissions Office as well as a Student Orientation Assistant. Additionally I served as the Treasurer for the Grand Valley Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi and was on the leadership team for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

**Activities/Awards:** Recipient of the I Am Grand Valley Award.

**Study Abroad experience:** I went on a six week mission trip during the summer after my Sophomore year to Xining, China.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** During my Senior year I worked as a Sales Support Intern at Custom Sales and Marketing in Belmont, MI.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was helping the homeless population in Portland, OR during my Senior year spring break.

**Plans after graduation:** On May 9th I start my job as an Underwriter at United Shore Financial Services in Troy, MI.
Senior Project title: Case Study on Co-operative Education: Disher Design & Development

Summary of senior project: I created a tool for use by GVSU’s Career Center to explain to students and employers both the importance of a Co-Op, and how to plan an effective Co-Op for students, using Disher as a case study.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I participated in the Seventh Annual Intercollegiate Honors Conference with a presentation and essay Vietnamese revolution leaders. Additionally, I took the Special Topics in Public Administration course, in which my classmates and I presented our ideas of how to attract and retain young talent in Grand Rapids to the City Commission.

Leadership Activities: I had the pleasure to work as a student ambassador for the University and for the Honors College, for which I gave tours to prospective students.

Activities/Awards: I was part of the Rock Climbing Club and the Swing Dance Club, and enjoyed both for pushing me to exercise.

Study Abroad experience: For six weeks during the summer of 2012, I traveled to Germany and Poland with six other Honors students. We studied post WWII through the monuments, memorials, and museums of Berlin, Warsaw, and Krakow.

Internship/Practicum experience: From February of 2015 to April 2016 I interned at Disher on the Talent Attraction Team.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Studying abroad!

Plans after graduation: Immediately after graduation, I am excited to travel abroad with my mother to Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic (THANK YOU, Mom). Upon my return home, I will work full time at Disher in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
Veena Janardan, Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project title:** The Role of the Endothelium in Altering Vascular Reactivity Following Acute Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment

**Summary of senior project:** Acute hyperbaric oxygen treatment (HBOT) alters vascular reactivity, yet the underlying mechanism requires further clarification. As Furchgott and Zawadzki previously demonstrated the obligatory role of the endothelium in regulating blood vessel tone, Dr. Francis Sylvester’s lab sought to determine if the tunica intima mediates the observed changes in vascular reactivity. Comparison of the intact arteries to the denuded arteries following HBOT indicated that the endothelium did not account for the changes in vascular reactivity. We presented these results at the Experimental Biology conference April 2016.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I conducted research with Dr. Suganthi Sridhar on the role of CD82 and c-MET on prostate cancer metastasis for two years. We presented at the American Society for Cell Biology conference in December 2014.

**Activities/Awards:** Over my time here at Grand Valley, I have volunteered at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, Holland Hospital, Rays of Hope International, and the Boy’s and Girls Club in Holland. I have received the following awards/honors: BMS Graduate of Distinction, Organic Chemistry Award, Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree and Membership, Presidential and Lubbers Scholarships, Dean’s List, and National Merit Finalist.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** In the summer 2015 I conducted research at New York University Musculoskeletal Center.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** In Winter 2015 I worked three on-campus jobs while maintaining my grades and extracurricular activities.

**Plans after graduation:** I am attending the University of Michigan Medical School starting August. I would like to specialize in the pediatrics field.
Abram Jensen, Allied Health Science, Pre-Physician Assistant Studies

**Senior Project title:** Sustainable Eating Habits

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project is about sustainability and food. Specifically the sustainability of various foods and diets, and the environmental impact of animal agriculture. I also researched the sustainability of the restaurant industry and analyzed a survey of Grand Valley students regarding their diet habits.

**Leadership Activities:** My undergraduate leadership activities include serving as a Resident Assistant in the Niemeyer and Calder community for 3 years. I have also worked as a tutor for biology and chemistry, and as a student advisor for Janaan Anderson in the Honors College. My off campus activities include working as a Certified Nursing Assistant at various nursing and rehabilitation centers, as well as a server at Olive Garden. I am also an active member of the Lisa Kerr chapter of National Residence Hall Honorary, an honor society composed of student leaders who live on campus. I also played for Grand Valley’s Club Tennis team for 2 years.

**Activities/Awards:** During my undergraduate career I have been nominated for Lead Like a Laker and I Am Grand Valley for my work as a Resident Assistant.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is becoming a more mature and independent individual. I have become the adult that I hoped I would be when I entered college.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation, I will be continuing my education at Grand Valley through the Masters of Physician Assistant Studies program. I hope to practice in an underserved area in West Michigan.
Senior Project title: How we Make Decisions, an Analysis of Decision Trees and matrices

Summary of senior project: This project analyzes how we go about making decisions through the use of decision trees/matrices. It goes over various methods of valuation as well as their use in games and other contests.

Leadership Activities: I attended the Laker Leadership Development Program which is put on by Laker athletics. I also have taken leadership roles in numerous organizations including Varsity Tennis, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, and Beta Alpha Psi.

Activities/Awards: I am a member of the varsity tennis team and have achieved the ALL-GLIAC Academic Excellence Team award. I also served on the board of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee for our school. I am a board member of the accounting honors society Beta Alpha Psi and have been on the dean's list most semesters.

Internship/Practicum experience: For the Summer of 2016 I will be a Tax intern at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is receiving my internship to PwC. This is one of the best CPA firms in the world and is a great starting point for my career. I am confident that my education at grand valley has prepared me for this opportunity.

Plans after graduation: After Graduation I will be interning at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Following that I will be attending the University of Michigan to get a Masters in Accounting degree. This will allow me to get my CPA.
Ryan King, Film and Video & Broadcasting

Senior Project title: The Social Scientific Perspective of the Effectiveness of Christianity in West Michigan

Summary of senior project: An investigation of whether extant ecclesiastical structures and institutions best fit the needs of people in America and, specifically, West Michigan. The project utilizes the social scientific perspective to understand how churches function as a social group that have a belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who is the progenitor of the religion.

Leadership Activities: Ryan’s leadership activities include being the Music, Promotions, and Program Director of Whale Radio over the course of 4 years. He also is a camp counselor and program director at the Spring Camp in Gladwin, Michigan. Ryan currently works as the Assistant Director of Youth Ministry at Keystone Community Church as well as teaching during Sunday kids’ church.

Activities/Awards: Over his 4-years at GVSU Ryan has been the host of Ryan the Lion on WCKS - Grand Valley’s Student-Run Radio. He also was the writer and director of the 16mm short film, Scarlet Screwtape. Ryan was a Production Intern at WGHN Radio in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: If I had to identify a greatest accomplishment or moment it would be writing and directing the short film, Scarlet Screwtape with an amazing cast and crew. But what I am the most proud of is growing in my faith in Christ throughout my years at GVSU, whether that growth happened at camp, at the churches I attended, through good friends, or even personal pursuit, if I hadn’t attended GVSU I wouldn’t have met the people or experienced the things that made me realize that the most important thing in the world is my personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, Ryan is heading to the Springs Camp to direct camp programming and counsel high school. He plan’s on continuing to work and serve at Keystone Community Church.
**Senior Project Title:** Developing Automated T1 Analysis Software for the MRI System Phantom

**Summary of Senior Project:** Over the summer of 2015, I worked at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and I developed automated T1 analysis software for the MRI System Phantom. The purpose of this work was to evaluate the utility of using a phantom devised by a committee of the ISMRM in concert with NIST to assess the absolute correctness of T1 measurements with different RF and gradient sequences. I presented this work at St. Louis University School of Medicine in October 2015, WMRUGS Research Conference at the Van Andel Institute in November 2015, and at The Ohio State University in January 2016.

**Other Research and Presentations:** From August 2013 – April 2014, I worked on computational research in infection dynamics of the H3N2 Influenza A virus and the effects of interferon. Over the summer of 2014, I performed experimental research at the University of Michigan with the goal of determining the mechanism behind nucleosome formation. This work was presented at Argonne National Laboratory in November 2014. Since August 2015, I have been working on computational involving the infection dynamics of HIV.

**Leadership Activities:** During the 2013-2014 school year, I was the Co-Treasurer of the Physics Club at Grand Valley State University. For the 2014-2015 school year, I was the Treasurer of the Physics Club, the Pre-MD/PhD Club, and the Women in STEM Club at Grand Valley State University. 2015-2016 I was the President of Physics Club, and the Treasurer of the Pre-MD/PhD Club and the Women in STEM Club. I also was a mentor for the incoming Honors freshman in 2013, 2014, and 2015.

**Activities/Awards:** I won the Frederik Meijer First Generation Honors College Student Scholarship, Grand Valley Faculty Scholarship, and the Grand Valley Award for Excellence. I have also won the General Chemistry Award in April 2013 and the Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in April 2016 for outstanding performance in physics.

**Greatest Accomplishment While at Grand Valley:** By attending Grand Valley State University, my mind has been opened to a world of ideas. I have discovered that every subject is interconnected, and that I am genuinely curious about learning more about the world through research. If I had not come to Grand Valley, I may not have been a Physics major and discovered my love for the subject. As such, my biggest accomplishment since I have come to Grand Valley State University is not the good grades I have received or the recognition I have gotten for my work, but that I have discovered what interests me and topics that I have intrinsic motivation to learn more about.

**Plans After Graduation:** After graduation, I am going to work at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a year doing research on the physiology of synaptic transmission and the function of neural circuits. I am then planning on attending medical school to obtain an MD, specializing in Neurology and probably a PhD in Biomedical Engineering.
Senior Project title: Synthesis and structural analysis of a carbamoylmethylphosphine oxide-isobutyl ligand and the importance of its aryl carbonyl group

Summary of senior project: Through the organic synthesis of new derivatives of carbamoylmethylphosphine oxide (CMPO) ligands, my research group has successfully sensitized the luminescence of lanthanide ions. Over the past two years we have investigated how the placement and composition of aromatic groups on the CMPO moiety make a difference in the efficiency of the sensitization process.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Alyssa has presented at Student Scholars Day, at the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference at Van Andel, and at the 250th ACS National Meeting in Boston Massachusetts. She has had the honor of being published twice in the scientific journal, Acta Crystallographica.

Leadership Activities: Alyssa was an Honors College Mentor for three years and was a member of the Honors Mentor Council for two.

Activities/Awards: While at GVSU, Alyssa was part of the swing dance club, the ballroom dancing club, and Grand Valley’s Dance Troupe. Her awards include the Dean’s List, being a Phi Kappa Phi Honoree as a freshman and an inductee as a junior, as well as receiving the Honors Excellence in Collaborative Research Award for her senior project last year.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Alyssa’s greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley would have to be her dissection work on the cadavers in BMS 460 and her research publications!

Plans after graduation: Alyssa has been accepted into the Michigan State College of Human Medicine’s 2016 entering class.
Sarah Katherine Lamar, Biology

Senior Project title: Compassion Fatigue in Veterinarians: A Case Study

Summary of senior project: My senior project was a comprehensive case study of existing literature on the links between compassion fatigue, suicidality, drug use, and demographic factors on the high rate of suicide and mental health issues in the veterinary profession. Prominent influencing factors were found to be: number of years practicing, socio-economic area of practice, and poorly regulated access to controlled drugs.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I drafted and presented a proposal presentation on the importance of understanding mycorrhizal seasonality in agricultural relationships in the face of climate change.

Activities/Awards: I am a member of both Phi Kappa Phi national honors fraternity and Sigma Alpha Lambda leadership organization. Additionally, I am involved with the Student Agricultural Project and Beekeeping Club. I have been fortunate enough to receive the Michigan State Competitive Scholarship, GV Award for Excellence, and the Faculty Scholarship. I have made the Dean's List during all of my semesters at GVSU, and was a nominee for the Outstanding Biology Student of the Year in 2016.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at GVSU is twofold: both my high academic performance and the forging of truly inspiring, creative, and adventurous relationships that have made my time here the best four years of my life.

Plans after graduation: I plan to obtain my PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, hoping to focus my studies on either entomology or population genetics.
Susanna Lange, Mathematics with a minor in Mathematical Statistics

**Senior Project title:** Gridline Graphs in Three and Higher Dimensions

**Summary of senior project:** Graph Theory is a field of mathematics dealing with vertices, lines and the relationship between them. My research focused on gridline graphs, which are graphs whose vertices can be labeled with xy coordinates. The concentration was on graphs that do not have this characteristic, specifically the smallest graphs that cannot be labeled with coordinates, called forbidden gridline graphs. My research generalized the definitions of two-dimensional gridline graphs to three dimensions and higher and investigated families of forbidden graphs in higher dimensions.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** In addition to research for my honor’s senior project, I have done research in the following two areas: Analysis of a Sudoku Variation using Combinatorial Techniques and Local Minimal Forbidden Induced Subgraphs of Three Dimensional Gridline Graphs. Research on these projects was presented at Mathfest in Washington D.C. and Seattle Washington respectively.

**Activities/Awards:** The awards I have received while at Grand Valley include the Department Senior Award in Mathematics, Grand Valley Award for Excellence, and the Mathematics Department Scholarship. Additionally, I am a member of Pi Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honors Society, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Mathematical Association of America.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being able to travel to the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Seattle Washington to present my research!

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to go to graduate school and get my PhD in Mathematics at the University of Kentucky.

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Cameron Lewis, Accounting & Finance

**Senior Project title:** Sarbanes-Oxley and the Future of Accounting

**Summary of senior project:** Taking a look at the past effects of the Sarbanes-Oxley act of 2002, and the future implications of the law on the accounting field as a whole.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Assurance Intern at Plante Moran, summer of 2015.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Completed Scholars Week 2012. Never Forget!

**Plans after graduation:** Accepted full time offer at Plante Moran.
Alonna Liabenow, English and Elementary Education

Senior Project title: “The Significance of the Numbers Three, Four, and Seven in Fairy Tales, Folklore, and Mythology.”

Summary of senior project: As the title suggests, I focused on the numerology of certain ‘magic numbers’ that appear commonly throughout various kinds of literature in order to draw a connection between them.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: My English capstone focused on using literature circles to prevent and solve potential problems in the classroom. My Education capstone focuses on how classroom environment can affect the success of English Language Learners. I also applied for and was selected to take part in the year-long co-teaching pilot program at Alpine Elementary, which has proven successful and will be continued next year.

Activities/Awards: I was selected to receive the Academic Excellence Award in Elementary Education.

Internship/Practicum experience: I have been at Alpine Elementary for the entire 2015-2016 school year thus far as a teacher assistant and then as a student teacher in Kristin Brinks’ 2nd grade classroom.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley thus far has been my student teaching experience, where I started the year with 23 students and am currently working with 19. Those students and my Cooperating Teacher Kristin have made this my best college experience.

Plans after graduation: I plan to return home to Manton and find a job teaching in the area. If possible, I hope to eventually get a job at the school I grew up attending, Manton Consolidated School.
**Kayla Lockmiller, Geology**

**Senior Project title:** Presence and Distribution of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) in Sediment Contaminated with Tar Sands Crude Oil

**Summary of senior project:** The goal of this project was to answer two questions: Firstly, are poly-cyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH’s) from the 2010 Athabasca tar sands oil spill still present in Kalamazoo River floodplain sediments following remediation? And secondly, are they concentrated in particular sediment size fractions? Results show a total of seven PAH still present at the spill site, including five compounds that can be used as biomarkers for the Athabasca tar sands. The correlation between PAH concentration and grain size is enigmatic and it is difficult to make a definitive connection with current data.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I recently presented my senior project research at the North Central Section of the Geological Society of America (GSA) conference. My first research project, TOC, C/N, δ¹³C, and δ¹⁵N of Shales from the Mississippian Michigan Formation, Western Michigan, was presented in 2013 at the national GSA meeting in Denver, and was funded by the OURS modified Student Summer Scholars program. I’ve presented numerous smaller projects at GVSU’s annual Student Scholars Day.

**Leadership Activities:** This year, I was the GVSU Geology Club Secretary, following my term as Vice President in the 2014-2015 school year.

**Activities/Awards:** Most recently, I was awarded the Excellence-in-a-discipline award for Geology. I have also been awarded the MAS4 STEMS Scholarship through the National Science Foundation, the Outstanding Student Award from the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club, and GVSU’s Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship’s modified Student Summer Scholars grant.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Completing two independent research projects!

**Plans after graduation:** I will be attending Saint Louis University to complete a Master of Science in Geoscience, Geology Concentration. My work will focus on surface water/groundwater interaction and geochemistry with Dr. Elizabeth Hasenmueller. My ultimate goal is to receive my Ph.D. in Hydrogeology and become a professor.
Erin Dalton Long, Business Economics and Marketing

Senior Project Title: Off Campus Student Housing Preferences.

Summary of Senior Project: My senior project involved research into the trends in off campus student housing that are occurring around both of Grand Valley’s campuses. I researched current trends around the country as well as distributed a survey to Grand Valley students. My results focused on the difference in preferences between demographics and different items that are commonly found in student housing today such as swimming pools, private bathrooms, and luxury standards.

Activities/Awards: I am a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Omicron Delta Epsilon, and the American Marketing Association. I have been on the Dean’s List all four years of college.

Internship experience: I have interned at Yazaki North America as a Sales Intern and NAI Wisinski of West Michigan as the Marketing Intern.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I was chosen as the Business Economics Outstanding Student.

Plans after graduation: I plan to work at Service First Logistics in Auburn Hills, MI as their Marketing Coordinator.
Nicole Lorenz, Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering, Spanish minor

Senior Project title: The Miller Project

Summary of senior project: An interdisciplinary product design project with Herman Miller where I worked on a team consisting of business, industrial design, and engineering students. We designed a product for Herman Miller from a general concept to a finished prototype, which was presented to Herman Miller. This summer, I will be working with other engineering students to ensure that the products that we designed are viable for manufacture and use in the marketplace.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I worked on an analysis of the application of the Principles of Operations Management within the engineering departments of Grand Rapids companies. This study analyzed their quality of communication and their ability to make short term and long term improvements within their teams. The results were then compared across industries, department types, and team sizes to determine which excelled in each category. Another interesting research project I performed consisted of studying the methods and materials used in gun barrel manufacture.

Leadership Activities: While at Grand Valley, I had the pleasure of participating in a variety of clubs, most notably Capoeira. This club helped give me an increased sense of self-confidence, become physically fit, and meet many people from diverse backgrounds. I met my closest friends at fencing, rock climbing, and karate. I served as the Secretary of the Kenpo Karate Club and Treasurer of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

Study Abroad experience: Costa Rica.

Internship/Practicum experience: I worked as a co-op student at Herman Miller with their Manufacturing Engineering team for four semesters. I learned about new product introduction to the manufacturing floor, process improvement, plant layouts, and new machinery purchases. I also worked with other interns to provide suggestions for their training program for new hires for their in-house sales teams.

Plans after graduation: I will be working at Herman Miller as a Manufacturing Engineer upon graduation. I am excited for this next phase of my life and I treasure the time that I have spent at Grand Valley. I cherish both the people I met and experiences I had, which have helped make me the person that I am today.
Kelly Patricia Loughlin, Bachelor of Arts in Film/Video Production

**Senior project title:** Caligula

**Summary of senior project:** A film production pitch package used to pitch ideas for television shows for potential investors. It includes pre-production designs and other formative documents for creating a television series. The series is intended to be an adult-audience animation about the reign of Roman emperor Caligula.

**Activities/Awards:** Produced her own fiction comedy show for Grand Valley Television, worked as an art assistant on the 2014 Grand Valley Summer Film “Lucky jay” web series, GV Award for Excellence Scholarship, Dirk Koning Film/Video School Scholarship, scholarship through the Ohio Wholesale marketers Association for her essay on Michigan’s film tax incentives.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Senior film theses, “The Nuclear Family!”, a science-fiction narrative short film. Her previous short film, “Interference”, has been nominated for an Eclipse Award for Best narrative Short through the West Michigan Film/Video Alliance.

**Plans after graduation:** Work as a producer and showrunner for film and television productions.

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Autumn Lytle, Communications

**Senior Project title:** The Runners of Grand Rapids

**Summary of senior project:** Blog of stories of local GR runners, research paper on the running community in GR.

**Leadership Activities:** President of GVSU Running Club.

**Activities/Awards:** Corky Meneckie Scholarship Recipient, School of Communications Scholarship.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Internship with Girls on the Run.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Running/training for several marathons while balancing school and work.

**Plans after graduation:** Work as an assistant Web tech at Gazelle Sports.
Senior Project title: Pedagogical Approaches to the Clarinet’s Register Break

Summary of senior project: Research-based thesis that examines the specific problems that beginning clarinetists can face with regards to one of the most difficult note ranges on the instrument and proposes solutions to the existing approach to help overcome the challenges of the register break and promote a sound pedagogical approach to teaching the register break to beginning clarinet players.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Solo Clarinet Recital, April 2014.

Leadership Activities: Four Year Member of the Laker Marching Band, Clarinet Section Leader and Secretary of the National Association for Music Education.

Activities/Awards: Played Saxophone in the Laker Basketball Pep Band, Tom and Marcia Haas Laker Marching Band Scholarship, Book Industry Charitable Foundation Scholar, Mildred E. Troske Music Scholarship, Guy D. & Mary Edith Halladay Music Scholarship.

Study Abroad Experience: Teacher Assisting in Spain - 6 weeks teaching English and music abroad in Ourense, Spain.

Internship/Practicum experience: Teacher Assistant at Grandville District Elementary Music and Student Teacher at Sparta Middle and High School Music.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Graduating magna cum laude and 100% debt free!

Plans after graduation: I hope to secure a position teaching abroad in Spain for a few years minimum. My goal is to teach some combination of English and music, but also to travel and experience more of the world. I really enjoy working with beginning musicians and conducting, so my long term goals include a Master’s in Education or Music.
Senior Project title: Increasing Involvement for Student Life at Grand Valley State University

Summary of senior project: For my project, I am working with Jessica Hamlin to create a campaign with the goal to increase involvement in Student Life through various methods. These methods include advertisements on t-shirts, assemblies, and a mobile application. The mobile app will allow students a new way to connect to Org Sync and find student organizations they are interested in.

Leadership Activities: Throughout my time at GVSU, I have held several officer positions in various student organizations such as the Computer Science Ethics Club and the Cyber Collegiate Defense Competition Team.

Activities/Awards: I was a member in several GVSU clubs such as Women in Computing, CS Ethics Club, and the CCDC Team.

Internship/Practicum experience: During Winter 2015, I held an internship position at a signage company called 40 Visuals. I worked as a web developer and helped redesign a company website with a team of developers.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I am very proud of being able to take a full class load and also work full time during my time at GVSU. I managed to get satisfactory grades and also perform well at my job.

Plans after graduation: I am currently applying for a full time position at various West Michigan companies.
Kaitlin Mae Markstrom, Nursing

**Senior Project title:** A Perspective of Nursing Environments Around the World

**Summary of senior project:** A fellow honors college student and I traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to volunteer at the Chulalongkorn Memorial Pediatric Hospital. There we immersed ourselves in the heart of Thailand’s healthcare culture. Specifically, I studied the current issues surrounding the nursing shortage, afterwards comparing Thailand’s interventions to those being used to address the nursing shortage in the U.S.

**Leadership Activities:** Participant and winner of the 2012 Summer Scholars Institute.

**Activities/Awards:** Member of the Student Nurses Association.

**Study Abroad experience:** Volunteered in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being accepted to their excellent nursing school. It took a great deal of hard work and dedication, but now I feel incredibly prepared to enter the healthcare world with invaluable experience and life long friends.

**Plans after graduation:** Attending the University of Illinois at Chicago. There I will start their Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner program this fall!
Kelsey May, Writing

**Senior Project title:** Candide: A Modern Rewrite

**Summary of senior project:** I am adapting Voltaire’s famous Candide as a modern adventure set in current events for the 21st century.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** The V-Card Series; “Ima College Student Too” presentation at NCHC 2015 and ECWCA 2015; Awash with Color, Student Scholars Day 2015; T.S. Eliot’s Relationship Between Aging and Death in “Gerontion” and “The Long Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” presented at T.S. Eliot Annual Meeting 2015

**Leadership Activities:** My main leadership activity is through my poetry collective, The Diatribe.

**Activities/Awards:** Nominee for 2016 Pushcart Prize; Nominee for The Rapidian Community Reporter award; recipient of several research opportunities and grants.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I interned at Exodus Place, the City of Grand Rapids Office of Energy & Sustainability, Grand Valley State University’s Study Abroad Office, and A Father’s Walk.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment has been growing as a poet and beginning to tour out of state, impacting hundreds of students every month and raising awareness and starting conversations about issues such as sexual assault, domestic violence, racism, systemic and institutional discrimination, and an appreciation and love for all cultures.

**Plans after graduation:** I’ll be writing, researching, performing poetry, and continuing to seek publication opportunities.
Senior Project title: Importance of Occupational Therapy Early Intervention Services

Summary of senior project: I composed a Literature Review discussing the current research regarding the subject of early intervention services and the importance of providing these services to not only children with diagnosed disabilities, but for those children that are at-risk for developing a disability.

Leadership Activities: I have been a worship leader at quite a few ministries both on and off campus for four years. I have also been a mentor/big sister through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Activities/Awards: I made the Dean’s List eight semesters in a row, was awarded the Laker Scholarship every year of my undergraduate career, and I have been a part of the Pre-OT Club and volunteered at many events that it has put on.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while attending Grand Valley was completing the research I did for my honors project, and contributing to the field of Occupational Therapy research regarding the importance of early intervention services.

Plans after graduation: I am taking the year off to work and take a few prerequisite classes, and then I will be going to Graduate School to get my Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy.
Todd McGuire, Marketing and Economics

**Senior Project title:** LibraryQuest: Using Customer Discovery Process to Determine Product-Market Fit

**Summary of senior project:** I was the entrepreneurial lead on a tech start-up team in the I Corps Program at Grand Valley in partnership with University of Michigan.

**Leadership Activities:** Vice President of Phi Chi Theta, a Professional Development Fraternity, for two years.

**Activities/Awards:** Omicron Delta Epsilon, Dean’s List, I am Grand Valley Award, SLED Program, Completion of I Corps Program.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Product Marketing intern at Steelcase since Fall 2013. Financial Analyst intern at Blackford Capital since January 2016.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** As a double-major honors student, in a business fraternity, and working throughout college, my major accomplishment is growing in an environment that has shaped me into the gentleman I have become and still providing me room for constant growth.

**Plans after graduation:** Valuation Consultant at Plante Moran in the Grand Rapids office.
Adam McMillan, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry and Music Minors

Senior Project title: “Seeking sunlight: rapid phototactic motility of filamentous mat-forming cyanobacteria optimize photosynthesis and enhance carbon burial in Lake Huron’s submerged sinkholes”

Summary of senior project: The project was the first draft of a research paper covering research I had done at the Annis Water Resources Institute in 2013 with Dr. Bopaiah Biddanda. The paper was finished by Dr. Biddanda and published in the journal “Frontiers”, and I was the second author on the paper. The research was also presented at the Van Andel Institute, Student Scholars Day, and featured in the Grand Valley Magazine.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I did a research internship at the Van Andel Institute in the lab of Skeletal Biology under the direction of Dr. Tao Yang.

Leadership Activities: In 2015 I started and became president of two clubs, the Historical European Martial Arts Club and the Anscombe Society. I had the pleasure to grow the HEMA club to 12-15 active members, and bring two internationally known speakers to campus through the Anscombe Society. I was also part of a professional Celtic band, “Crossbow”, as a pennywhistle/clarinet player and vocalist. We had the opportunity to play at President’s Ball 3 years in a row, the Michigan Irish Music Festival 4 years in a row, and gigs throughout the state of Michigan. Through a studio in Grand Rapids we also recorded our first CD, titled “Crossbow”.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Getting married.

Plans after graduation: Next year I will be attending Wayne State University School of Medicine. I am currently looking forward to spending a week in Haiti on a medical mission’s trip.
Drew McWilliams, Biomedical Science with Chemistry & Theatre minors

**Senior Project title:** Genetic Amplification: Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction and Its Problems and Uses

**Summary of senior project:** An in-depth look at a molecular diagnostic technique that is becoming more prominent in the realm of public health. Preliminary research findings of the qPCR method implemented during an internship at the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:**
Presenter at the 2015 West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference.

**Activities/Awards:** Member of the Microbiology club (2013-2016) and Laker Marching Band (2012). Active member of the GV Theatre Department and cast member of Restoration Comedy, Shakespeare’s All’s Well That Ends Well, and 6 Characters in Search of an Author.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute Summer 2015 Intern.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I think my greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is finding the right balance of activities I love. In high school, you can dabble in pretty much everything. At Grand Valley, I really found what I can and cannot live without, and thus could devote my time to the things that really matter.

**Plans after graduation:** Don’t become homeless. Gain experience and save money, and eventually head to graduate school to continue my education!
Senior Project title: The Effects of Osteoclast-Specific TGF-β Signaling in Lung Cancer-Induced Bone Lesion Development

Summary of senior project: Lung cancer currently has highest cancer mortality, more than the next three leading cancer categories combined: breast/prostate, colorectal, and pancreatic. As a result, research in lung cancer is in high demand. Specifically, bone metastases are the most devastating complication of lung cancer, causing a high percentage of patient deaths. Our focus is on studying the signaling pathway of a highly versatile growth factor TGF-β which interacts with cancerous tumors. By exploring the role of TGF-β within the tumor microenvironment and its effect on bone metastasis, we further understanding of bone lesion development and potential mediators involved that could be used for clinical targeting.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Beginning freshman year, I began to participate in undergraduate research with Dr. Frank Sylvester. During this time, we researched the effects of alkylphenols on heart function, which eventually became a poster two years in a row for GVSU’s Student Scholars’ Day. I also participated in the Lena and Fredrick Meijer Summer Research Internship Program at the Van Andel Research Institute during the summer of 2015. Throughout this internship, I worked in Dr. Xiaohong Li’s Laboratory of Tumor Microenvironment and Bone Metastasis. I collaborated and assisted alongside his post-doc and mentor Dr. Paul Daft in researching bone metastasis in non-small cell lung cancer. Eventually, my summer research experience fused with my senior project in becoming an academic year long internship.

Study Abroad experience: Chile, Fall 2015.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley would be my study abroad experience to Chile during the fall of 2015. Throughout that semester, I lived in Viña del Mar while attending La Universidad Católica del Valparaíso in downtown Valparaíso where I continued my studies in Spanish Language. Additionally, I participated in a fully inclusive medical internship within a local health clinic called El Consultorio Barón which gave me the opportunity to shadow and assist Chilean physicians in many different practices and specialties. I spent much of my remaining time exploring all dimensions of the country as well as volunteering at a local daycare/preschool complex.

Plans after graduation: I will have a gap year during which I will work full time as a research assistant lab technician within my current lab at the Van Andel Research Institute. During this time, I hope to further along my research project towards publication in a highly esteemed scientific journal such as Oncogene. Alongside this, I hope to find a position teaching Spanish as a second language within Grand Rapids. Throughout the gap year, I will be working through the yearlong application process for medical school. By the end, I hope to be enrolled as a medical school student in 2017, thus continuing my passion for medical science.
Kelsey Meints, Allied Health Science, Emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology

**Senior Project title:** The Lonely Robin: A Children’s Book to Target Liquid Speech Sounds

**Summary of senior project:** The purpose of the project was to write and illustrate a children’s book for readers aged 8-10 years old. The plot was meant to engage children so that they can relate to the characters, and learn about significant real-life themes. Words were selected very carefully for the story. The book primarily focuses on words with the /l/ (e.g. lake) and /r/ (e.g. red) English phonemes. An appendix at the end of the book classifies target words according sound and syllable position. The author’s goal is that this book can be used as a tool for joint reading and independent practice in conjunction with speech-language therapy.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Kelsey presented her senior project at the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Conference with Courtney Karasinski, Ph.D., CCC-SLP on April 22, 2016.

**Activities/Awards:** Dean’s List, GVSU Alternative Breaks, National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Member.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Upcoming Summer 2016 Internship at Island Dolphin Care in Key Largo, FL.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Graduating with Honors. ;)

**Plans after graduation:** Kelsey plans to attend Western Michigan University to complete her Master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology.
**Megan Meiste, Nursing**

**Senior Project title:** Increasing Breastfeeding Support and Promotion in Kent County through Web Presence and Social Media

**Summary of senior project:** The purpose of this project was to increase support and promote breastfeeding rates in Kent County through the use of improved web presence and social media. The main source of outreach for our project was through the creation of a new website for the Healthy Kent Breastfeeding Coalition. Their previous website was not user friendly, so our goal was to create a completely new site that is more easily accessible to the community with updated information. The website highlights information about where new mothers can find breastfeeding help and support, details events that are happening in the community and provides breastfeeding facts and information in a positive manner. In addition to creating a new website, we created business cards for the Coalition, made a Twitter account, updated their Facebook account, accessed the Coffective breastfeeding app for the county, and updated the Coalition’s current information, resources and brochures.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** As a part of my capstone for nursing, a group of peers and I researched fall prevention in the elderly population and created a fall tracking tool for implementation at home with participants of an adult day center. The goal of our project was to increase accuracy of fall reporting and promote collaboration of care between patient, family, the day center, and physicians.

**Leadership Activities:** I am a member of GVSU Student Nurses Association and a new inductee into Sigma Theta Tau.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** My clinical leadership rotation was with Spectrum Health Visiting Nurse Association, completing home visits for patients and case managing their care.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment has been successfully completing nursing school! It has been the most challenging yet rewarding experience of my life!

**Plans after graduation:** I have accepted a position at Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital as a registered nurse.
Senior Project Title: To Sustain a Continent: An Exploration of South African Resource Management

Summary of senior project: Upon returning from my study abroad experience in South Africa and Mozambique during the summer of 2015, I created a photographic gallery with the help of the Gallery Support Center that was displayed in the Blue Wall Gallery space on the Pew Campus. The gallery was accompanied by a research paper detailing the resource management issues faced by South Africa, and related them back to the issues we face here in the United States.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Senior Capstone - “The Projected Environmental Impact of Residential Resource Use in Grand Rapids, MI.” This is a modeling project based around the concept of urban sprawl. The project takes a look at how population will change in the Grand Rapids area over the next fifty years, and how those changes will in turn affect natural resource consumption. Regional policy changes were modeled as well to determine effective ways of decreasing the environmental impact of the city.

Leadership Activities: President of Cage Free (service and advocacy student org.).


Study Abroad experience: South Africa (Summer 2015).


Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Working up the nerve to study abroad in South Africa, and the senior project gallery that came to fruition because of that experience.

Plans after graduation: In August I will be applying to the University of Michigan to complete a dual-Masters in Urban Planning and Natural Resource and Environmental Science, through the United States Peace Corps. During my gap year I will be working in Grand Rapids and seeking internship opportunities.
Annabelle Miller, Dual Major — Writing and English Literature

**Senior Project title:** “A Recital” — short fiction revisions in practicum

**Summary of senior project:** In order to prepare for publishing outside of undergraduate studies, this project focuses on the constant writing and revising process necessary in short fiction. The project consists of writing and heavily revising one short story between 10 and 30 pages.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I presented at the East Central Writing Center Association Conference, 2016: “Practice, Practice, Practice: Working Multimodal Texts” with Teresa Williams. I also conducted a linguistic study on Standard* American Academic English titled: “What is American Academic English? Helping ELL students overcome SAEE as a barrier.”

**Leadership Activities:** I have been the president of the Organization for Professional Writers since Fall 2014, the co-director of the Student Reading Series since Fall 2015, and the Poetry editor of *Fishladder* since Fall 2015.

**Activities/Awards:** I have been involved with the Organization for Professional Writers, the Student Reading Series (both as a director and a reader), *Fishladder*, the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors, the *Grand Valley Journal of History*, and the LGBTQ Resource Center.

**Study Abroad experience:** In the summer of 2015, I studied English Literature in Context at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk, UK.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Winter 2016, I was the Writing and Public Relations Intern at Artists Creating Together, a nonprofit arts organization in Grand Rapids for people with disabilities. At this internship, I published work in the *Rapidian* and worked on general professional writing.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My poem, “214 miles away, another introduction” has been published in the February 2016 issue of *GV Magazine*. My short nonfiction piece, “Seven Lost Sisters” has been published in the Spring 2016 issue of *Fishladder*. I have also been a winner of GVSU’s AWP Intro Awards, and was able to attend the conference in Minneapolis in April 2015.

**Plans after graduation:** This summer, I will be interning at SDI Consulting as a Marketing Communications Intern. I will also be pursuing my MA in English Literature at Grand Valley this fall. Immediately following this degree, I intend to get my MFA in Poetry and a PhD in English Literature.
Senior Project title: Dignity Jurisprudence, Justice Anthony Kennedy, and Marriage Equality

Summary of senior project: I worked with Karen Zivi to explore the jurisprudence of dignity in the Supreme Court of the United States. We used this to trace Justice Kennedy’s usage with emphasis on his arguments in US v Windsor. I end with a prediction on how he would swing during Obergefell v Hodges.

Other research: I conducted research with Dean Anne Hiskes, Vice President Jesse Bernal, and Director of the Intercultural Training Certificate Regina McClinton related to hostility towards diversity among Honors students.

Leadership Activities: Honors mentor for 3 years, on the Mentor Council for 2, President of American Civil Liberties Union – GV, Head of Student Affairs of ACLU-GV, and Board member of ACLU-West Michigan.

Activities/Awards: Pre-Baccalaureate in Intercultural Training, lobbied with Planned Parenthood during their 2015 Lobby Days in Washington DC, and four times nominated “I Am GV.”

Study Abroad: South Africa with the Women & Gender Studies program.

Internship/Practicum experience: Developed a proposal to send to Grand Rapids Public School to have them be in compliance with Title IX, and support the inclusion for transgender students.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I was in personal correspondence with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in an attempt to bring her to Grand Valley to speak. Though she had to decline, she complimented me on my efforts to “speak out for rights that all humankind should enjoy.”

Plans after graduation: Ideally a law school so South that I will never have to see snow again, but a law program related to civil rights, human rights, women’s rights, gay rights, or constitutional rights.
Brianna Miskowski, Biomedical Sciences

Senior Project title: Changes in Christian Ethics

Summary of senior project: Looking at the differences in the 3 branches of Christianity, specifically with their ethics about sex and the family.

Leadership Activities: Alpha Omicron Pi Asst. Treasurer and Asst. House Manager.

Activities/Awards: Alpha Omicron Pi, Pre-Optometry Club.

Internship/Practicum experience: Pre-Optometry Internships in Northville, MI and Rochester Hills, MI.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Being accepted to all 4 optometry schools that I interviewed at.

Plans after graduation: Attending the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN
Aleksander Mizikar, Marketing, Sociology minor

Senior Project title: New Product Development with Herman Miller, Inc.

Summary of senior project: This project was comprised of students from GVSU and the Kendal College of Art and Design. There were six teams of four people each, with each group having one business student, one engineering student, one student of any discipline, and one Kendal design student. We worked closely with executives from Herman Miller as they guided us through their process of innovation and development. At the end of the semester, my team presented our idea for a new product to the Herman Miller executives.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: While attending the Applied Global Innovation Initiative in Estelí, Nicaragua I gave a presentation on the business canvas and the “4-P’s” of marketing; the presentation was in both English and Spanish.

Leadership Activities: Since my first semester at GVSU I have been a brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. With this organization I served as academic chair, sound mind chair, and on the executive board as Chaplain. Through Sigma Phi Epsilon, and partners Eyes Wide Open and Sigma Kappa, I was able to help organize our annual sexual assault awareness event, “Rock Against Rape”, in which I was VP of entertainment. My first two years at GVSU I was selected and voted onto the student senate, where I was on the finance committee and the chairman for the Greek Life Council and Professional Fraternity Council’s funding board. At the beginning of my junior year I was selected to be a Transitions Leader for incoming freshmen.

Activities/Awards: From Sigma Phi Epsilon I was awarded a scholarship through their Balanced Man program. I was also awarded the outstanding freshman, sophomore, and junior award. I gained acceptance into the National Sociological Honors Society, Alpha Kappa Delta. I was awarded certificates for my participation and facilitation at the Applied Global Innovation Initiative in Estelí, Nicaragua.

Study Abroad experience: After my junior year, I traveled to Nicaragua for the month of May to attend/facilitate the Applied Global Innovation Initiative workshop in the city of Estelí. The workshop was put together by Grand Valley professor Paul Lane and professors from UNAN Managua. During this trip I got to travel to many different cities, landscapes, and historical sites.

Internship/Practicum experience: The past three summers I interned with Siemens, Inc. in West Chicago, IL.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: For me, my greatest accomplishment didn’t come in the form of a certificate, award, or specific moment. But rather, in the way that I think now compared to how I used to think when I first arrived. I am extremely grateful that Grand Valley has given me the opportunity to open my mind and expand my horizons. I am forever thankful.

Plans after graduation: To bring positive change wherever I may travel.
Brad Mueller, Spanish and Communication Studies Major

**Senior Project title:** First Year Honors Students and Academic Probation: What Went Wrong?

**Summary of senior project:** I am deciphering why some first year Honors students end up on academic probation from the Honors College after their first semester and others do not.

**Leadership Activities:** 3 year Resident Assistant, New Student Orientation Leader, 2 year Peer Minister with Catholic Campus Ministries.

**Activities/Awards:** 4 time recipient of I am GV Award, 4 mission and service trips through Campus Ministry & Alternative Breaks.

**Study Abroad experience:** Summer 2015 in Salamanca, Spain.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment is that I have had a myriad of incredible experiences and took advantage of my opportunities, especially being a Resident Assistant for 3 years.

**Plans after graduation:** This summer I will be interning with Orientation at Indiana State University. This fall I will enroll in the Masters of Higher Education Administration and Student Personnel at Kent State University, with my graduate assistantship in their College of Arts and Sciences Office of International Programs and Education Abroad.
Senior Project title: Understanding Food Labels

Summary of senior project: The NLEA was passed in the 1990s to provide consumers with nutrient information. This act only affected packaged goods leaving gaps in many other foods. In 2015, the FDA required restaurants to post caloric amounts on menus and other nutritional information must be available upon request. Nutritional facts are now more readily available, but many consumers do not understand the information. The terminology can be confusing and the health statements are poorly regulated. With many leading health problems directly related to obesity, consuming healthier food has an important role in preventing disease. A sample of Grand Valley students took a quiz about nutrition facts to assess knowledge of food labels. The answers were used to find common misunderstandings and create a guide to reading food labels. In addition to the guide, this project addresses how the information should relate to the Dietary Guidelines of Americans as well as the proposed changes to improve user comprehension.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I presented “IVF, ART, and OMA (Other Misunderstood Acronyms)” at Student Scholars Day 2014.

Leadership Activities: I have been an Honors College Student Ambassador throughout college. I also volunteered giving tours to parent and student groups during several Honors College Scholarship Competitions. In Fall 2014, I worked as a Transitions Leader and was a teaching assistant for a physiology lab.

Activities/Awards: I was awarded the GV Award of Excellence and the GV Faculty Scholarship. In Winter 2013, the Chemistry Department granted me the General Chemistry Award and this semester the Biomedical Science Department has granted me the Graduate of Distinction award.

Internship/Practicum experience: I worked to gain patient care experience with Sunset Communities (Brookcrest Rehab and Life Center, Waterford Rehab Center) as a certified nurse aide.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Maintaining my academic standing while working several jobs extensively throughout my college career.

Plans after graduation: Physician Assistant Studies, will be attending the University of Detroit Mercy in the fall.
Senior Project title: “The meaning of Career and Personal Success: An Objective and Subjective Perspective”

Summary of senior project: The purpose of this project was intended to research the meaning of what success looks like in different contexts. There are many ways in which to perceive success, and no one definition can encompass success in all of its senses. This project was intended to find a healthy balance between what success looks like from a career and personal perspective, and how to find a balance between the two from an objective and subjective perspective.

Leadership Activities: President of the GVSU’s Pre-Optometry Club.

Internship/Practicum experience: Technician at Allendale Eye Care.

Plans after graduation: Study at the New England College of Optometry in Boston, Massachusetts. Graduate in 2020 as an Optometrist.
Nyra Naheedy, Legal Studies, Criminal Justice minor

Senior Project Title: Campaign Finance Reform: A Proposed Policy Change from an Ethical Standpoint

Summary of Senior Project: Even before Citizens United, policies applicable to campaign finance have been inadequate in terms of promoting a truly representative government. Starting with filing fees, some of which cost absurd amounts (such as the $10,440 fee required of Senate pursuers in Florida), our current system enables a Green Primary to dictate who can run for office, regardless of qualifications or public support. Citizens United further introduced a loophole in the form of 501(c)s, or non-profit organizations, including social welfare groups, a classification that is now being abused by funneling millions of dollars from the wealthy elite into the campaign system. Within this thesis I devised a proposal for campaign reform, one that is reliant on public approval and public funding, while also taking into account the ethical dilemmas our current system faces.


Leadership Activities: Vice President of Grand Valley’s American Civil Liberties Union chapter. Event Coordinating Director of Grand Valley’s Mock Trial Association.

Internship Experience: Served as a deputy to the Will County Circuit Court of Illinois in the Civil/Family Division. Served as an intern in the Will County Justice Access Corps; assisting self-represented litigants with court related matters.

Greatest Accomplishment While at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment in the last four years would have to be my senior project. I dedicated a grand amount of my time and energy in researching campaign finance, and ended up with a finished product that was twenty pages over what I had set out to do when submitting my proposal. With well over thirty sources, my senior project became my senior thesis.

Plans after Graduation: I plan on attending law school in Illinois at either Northwestern’s Pritzker School of Law, Loyola University, or DePaul University.
Shelby Owens, Biomedical Science; Anthropology & Biology Minor

Senior Project title: “Detection and Analysis of Aphanomyces astaci via PCR in North American Crayfish Species Orconectes propinquus from the Little Rio Grande Creek”

Summary of senior project: As a partnership project with her friend Brittne Swanson in the lab of Dr. Daniel Bergman and with the assistance of Brett Talley and Dr. Derek Thomas; the project involved the attempt to isolate a culture of Aphanomyces astaci (crayfish plague) from local species of crayfish by using a lab technique called PCR, or polymerase chain reaction.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: In October of 2015 and early April 2016 I traveled to Boston College and Central Michigan University for UAEM Conferences.

Leadership Activities: Freshman mentor and advisor for the Honors College, and a student and parent guide for Scholarship Competitions.

Activities/Awards: Active member of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, an international nonprofit dedicated to advocating for increased access to healthcare, globally, and Alternative Breaks. Three time nominee for “I Am Grand Valley” leadership award, recipient of the Biomedical Sciences Department’s Graduates of Distinction Award.

Study Abroad experience: Last May I traveled to Nicaragua with Dr. Paul Lane and other GV and Kendall students for a three week trip and the chance to participate in the Applied Global Innovation Initiative. This week-long conference held in Estelí, Nicaragua and the all-around trip was a truly unforgettable experience, and I will be flying back to Nicaragua on May 2nd to return as a student.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Tied between my happiness and sense of belonging in the Honors College and GVSU and admission to medical school.

Plans after graduation: Will matriculate in the fall of 2016 at Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine.
**Senior Project title:** Music in the Operating Room: A Literature Review on Safe Practices

**Summary of senior project:** I have an observation class in the operating room, and I noticed that a lot of surgeons liked to play music during cases. I wanted to determine if this was a safe practice and if it could be relaxing to staff, or if the music could be distracting and result in poor communication. The results of my literature review indicated that music, when agreed upon by the entire OR staff and played at a low volume, can be relaxing and can improve efficiency during cases.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I briefly served as a research assistant for the Bonnie Wesorick Center, researching the impact of floorplans and building layouts on the efficiency of health care facility staff. I also presented a clinical project at the GV Partnership Showcase, along with 2 of my group members. Our presentation was on a free foot clinic that we held at the Other Way Ministries in the Grand Rapids Westside community.

**Leadership Activities:** GVSU Student Nurses’ Association – Communications Director.

**Activities/Awards:** I Am Grand Valley Leadership Award.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Nursing technician at Spectrum Health Butterworth, Blodgett, and Helen DeVos, and a daycare teacher.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Aiding the Student Nurses’ Association in winning 4 national awards for our work.

**Plans after graduation:** I will be working as a Registered Nurse on the Neurological Intensive Care Unit at Butterworth Hospital, and my ultimate goal is to be a flight nurse for AeroMed or U of M Survival Flight.
Liana Periard, Liberal Studies with an emphasis in International Human Resource Management

Senior Project Title: Ambition Architects, LLC (www.ambitionarchitects.com)

Summary of Senior Project: Created a small, web-based career consulting business specializing in résumé and cover letter construction.

Leadership Activities: Professional Development Chair of Phi Chi Theta

Activities/Awards: The Mark A. & Elizabeth C. Murray Scholarship for Study Abroad; Frederik Meijer First Generation Scholarship.

Study Abroad Experience: A semester abroad in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Internship/Practicum Experience: Human Resources Intern at Kellogg, Training and Development Intern at Nissan, Recruiting Intern at MarshBerry, Human Capital Planning and Employee Relations Intern at Amway, Human Resources Intern at Grand Rapids Community College, Career Connector at Grand Valley State University Career Center.

Greatest Accomplishment While at Grand Valley: Stepped outside of my comfort zone to study abroad in Cyprus for a semester, which was my first international experience and first time flying on a plane.

Plans After Graduation: Accepted a position as a Human Resources Business Partner (HRBP) and Internship/Co-Op Program Coordinator at the Nissan Technical Center in Farmington Hills, MI.
Kate Perry, Marketing, French minor

**Senior Project title:** Marketing Across Cultures: France and the United States

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project is a cross cultural comparison of France and the United States within the context of marketing. In class I had learned about the challenges of international marketing, and I wanted to take a deeper look into the different marketing approaches of these two countries.

**Leadership Activities:** I served as the Vice President of Euphoria Co-Ed A Cappella Group for two semesters, as well as a music director during my last semester at Grand Valley.

**Activities/Awards:** Member of Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity, Awards of Distinction Scholarship Recipient, Faculty Scholarship Recipient.

**Study Abroad experience:** I did not study abroad, however I had the experience to host an intern from France and learn about the culture through that experience.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I worked as an intern in Project Management at U.S. Fabrication & Design every summer of my career at Grand Valley.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I created so many lasting friendships and memories throughout my time here, all while spending six consecutive semesters on the Dean’s List. I really feel like I took advantage of everything Grand Valley had to offer, and more.

**Plans after graduation:** After graduation I plan to take a year to work and gain experience in my field, with an intention to return to school again in pursuit of a second Bachelor’s Degree in Graphic Design.
Bailey Pogliano, Biomedical Sciences with a Minor in Psychology.

Senior Project title: The Portrayal of Medical Personnel in American Holocaust Film.

Summary of senior project: A study of the way that directors choose to depict Nazi doctors in films about the holocaust.

Leadership Activities: I was in the Lambda Eta chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi, and served a semester as Activities Chair.

Internship/Practicum experience: I have volunteered in Patient Transport at Mercy Health St. Mary’s for the past year.

Plans after graduation: I plan to take a gap year then move on to medical school in 2017.

Colleen Potter, Biology

Senior Project title: Passion and Pigs: A Reflection on the Ottawa County 4-H Program

Summary of senior project: I have been involved with the Ottawa County 4-H Program since the age of 10 and it has shaped me into who I am today and played a huge role in my dream of becoming a veterinarian. I have been surrounded by many other members, leaders and parents who have also been impacted by the program and through a survey I was able to hear about their experiences and combine them with my story. This has helped me to understand what areas of the program are doing well and what areas need to be improved.

Research and presentations: From April 2014 to April 2015 I assisted Dr. Michael Lombardo in his tree swallow research and presented a poster at Student Scholars Day.

Leadership Activities: I was the president of the Hilltop Gang 4-H club from 2014-2015 and I am now an adult leader in this club.

Activities/Awards: I have been involved with the Pre-veterinary club for the 3 years I have been at Grand Valley. I was also on the Dean’s list every semester I have been here.

Study Abroad experience: In the summer of 2015 I was able to study abroad with the Center for Engaged Learning Abroad in Belize taking a class on Large Animal Veterinary Practices in the Tropics.

Internship/Practicum experience: I was able to ride with a large animal veterinarian at West Michigan Veterinary Service throughout my first 2 years in school and gained a lot of practical experience on the farm learning about large animal medicine.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment was succeeding in my classes and gaining enough veterinary experience so that I could gain acceptance into veterinary school, something I have wanted since I was in middle school.

Plans after graduation: I will be attending the Michigan State University Veterinary School in the fall.
Senior Project title: For Want of a Nail

Summary of senior project: An original composition for concert band named after the proverbial rhyme that inspired this work.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I have performed at the Michigan Music Conference, International Trumpet Guild, and am a featured Piccolo soloist of GVSU’s Premiere Trumpet Works Recording Project.

Leadership Activities: I assisted in the creation of, and am featured in, the Laker Marching Band Marching Fundamental Series which is available online for new members to watch and be instructed on the fundamentals of marching. I have served as Flute/Piccolo Section Leader of the Laker Marching Band, Drum Major of the Laker Marching Band, President of the Mu Kappa Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, Band Staff Manager, and a member of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble for four years.

Activities/Awards: Section of the Year, Grand Valley Award for Excellence, Thomas and Marcia Haas Marching Band Scholarship, Margaret Ward Music Education Scholarship, Upper Division Scholarship, and I Am Grand Valley.

Internship/Practicum experience: Student Assisted at Kelloggsville East, West, and Southeast Elementary and Student Taught at Reeths-Puffer Intermediate, Middle, and High School.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: When Mu Kappa won the Governor’s Cup for being the chapter that best embodied service, leadership, and musicianship in the North Central District. This happened at the end of my first senior year and was the last event of my two year Presidency.

Plans after graduation: I hope to land a band director job in West Michigan and to teach 5th-12th grade band including both marching band and concert band.
Michael Prins, Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering, Minoring in Biomedical Engineering, and Math

**Senior Project:** My senior project is the development of an automated Stow-and-Deploy system for a MotorGuide trolling motor. The scope of the project was to take the existing manual model and reduce the user involvement to the push of a button. This project began in January and will culminate in mid-July.

**Research Presentations:** I have given design presentations on projects for Spectrum Health Innovations, Irwin Seating, Atwood Marine, as well as to faculty researchers at Grand Valley. Keynote research studies that I have performed include optimal material selection for dental crowns, as well as another material study for performance car chassis.

**Activities/Awards:** I played on the Indoor Club Lacrosse team for 3 years, in addition to participation in intramural sports. I was also a member and proud supporter of the Society of Women Engineers. This was an excellent networking opportunity, especially in light of the male-dominated population of the engineering school. I also took part in the MAS4 scholarship program for my final two years at Grand Valley.

**Internship Experience:** I spent over 45 weeks working at Koops Inc. in Holland, MI through the engineering Co-Op program. I learned a high standard of professionalism and worked with engineers who were both passionate and exemplar in their discipline. While at Koops, I designed factory automation and machines to assist in manufacturing with the responsibility of a hired engineer.

**Greatest Accomplishment:** A draw between proving my materials professor, the legendary and formidable Dr. Anyalebechi, that it was possible to get an ‘A’ in his class and, in a combined effort, smashing all of the pumpkins of my apartment complex sophomore year. (It was like a week after Halloween, at that point a public service)

**Plans for the Future:** This summer I plan to answer the call of Manifest Destiny and head west on a cultural, spiritual, and all-around perspective enhancing quest to the Golden Coast. I have accepted a position with my former Co-Op employer, Koops Inc., as a machine designer and will start in the fall. Provided I haven’t opened a surf shop in Santa Monica by then.
Hailie Roblyer, English and Secondary Education, Spanish minor

Senior Project title: Accommodations in the Classroom: Practical Methods for a Variety of Needs in Secondary Education

Summary of senior project: Emerging teachers are expected to differentiate lessons to provide adequate accommodations for an incredibly diverse array of students, the aim of this project was to identify some best advice and practices based on observations, interviews and research of current literature to create a practical guide for how to best accommodate for the needs of all learners.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I have also done research for my English capstone on the efficacy of using critical approaches to literature applied to young adult literature in secondary classrooms to build literacy skills.

Activities/Awards: During my time at Grand Valley, I have earned a place on the Dean’s list each semester. For several years I was a member of the University Arts Chorale, and I am currently a member of the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society.

Internship/Practicum experience: My current teaching experiences include teacher assisting at Wyoming Junior High School and student teaching at Forest Hills Central High School. I also volunteered to teach English as a second or other language for a non-profit organization, establishing a course curriculum and schedule.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been learning how to turn theoretical knowledge about teaching into real, meaningful interactions with students. I am proud of my excellent academics and my ability to bring my content knowledge into the classroom during my undergraduate career.

Plans after graduation: I recently found my first teaching job as a long term substitute teacher in an English classroom, and I hope to secure a permanent teaching position soon. Eventually, I would love to further my education and be qualified to teach English as a second or other language.
Megan Rodawold, Writing (double minor in Applied Linguistics and International Relations)

Senior project title: Back-and-Forth Across the Pond: A Critical Examination of the Language of Foreign Policy

Summary of senior project: For my senior project, I examined American and British foreign policy discourse to determine if there are differences in how the United States and the United Kingdom discuss the rise of China as an emerging global power, and if these potential differences are influenced by issue salience and national narrative.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: During my time at GVSU, I’ve given four conference presentations as a writing consultant with the GVSU writing center: two presentations at the East Central Writing Centers Association conference (2014 & 2015), one presentation at the Michigan Writing Centers Association conference (2015), and one presentation at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (2015). Additionally, I delivered the author introduction for visiting author Rubén Martínez in February 2016.

Leadership activities: I was a Lead Writing Consultant at the GVSU writing center for two years, the vice president of the Organization for Professional Writers for two years, and a Cook Leadership Fellow during my last year at GVSU.

Activities/Awards: Over the course of the past four years, I have received two “I Am Grand Valley” Leadership Recognition Awards, the Ruth Chamberlain Global Leaders Scholarship, a Distinguished Performance in Linguistics Award, the GVSU Award for Excellence, and have also been on the Dean’s List for seven (hopefully eight!) consecutive semesters. Most of my activities are in the form of intramural sports or commitments with the Writing Center.

Internship/practicum experience: For my internship experience, I worked as a Human Resources intern with Steelcase, assisting in the development of employee and external communications.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is my time as a consultant at the writing center, where I was able to help students (and sometimes even staff!) accomplish and exceed their writing goals, and where I experienced immeasurable personal and professional growth.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, I am accepting a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award to spend 10 months in the Czech Republic teaching English and U.S. culture. Upon my return to the U.S., I plan to attend graduate school while continuing to expand my abilities as a writer.
Justin Rohr, Computer Science & Computer Engineering Minor

Senior Project title: Atom Action Android Application

Summary of senior project: I teamed up with an existing honors project Katie Mulder is undertaking. The purpose of Atom Action is to help chemistry students visualize molecular interactions by using molecular force equations and an open graphics library (OpenGL) to display the interactions. My part in the project is to expand it to a mobile Android application based on the current desktop version.

Leadership Activities: President of Car Club, Vice President of Cycling Club, Resident Assistant.

Activities/Awards: Deans List.

Internship/Practicum experience: Information Systems Co-op for two years at Alcoa Howmet.

Plans after graduation: Accepted an offer as a Technology Analyst at Alcoa Howmet.
Senior Project title: A Multimodal Approach to Teaching Poetry

Summary of senior project: My senior project encompasses a multimodal three week unit plan for teaching poetry to AP Literature students. I utilized a multimodal approach as the scholarship indicated the rising prevalence and practicality incorporating multimodality into one’s pedagogy. Each lesson plan incorporates multimodality, critical thinking and analysis, and collaboration to empower the students’ growth as individuals in our increasingly technological and connected global society.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: For one project, I collaborated with two of my colleagues at the Knowledge Market and we presented a roundtable session on the “Ethics of Efficiency in the Knowledge Market”. I also presented a poster at the Mid-East Honors Association Conference explaining the innovative design of the Knowledge Market. I also researched teacher preparation programs to illuminate the necessity for teacher preparation programs to explicitly incorporate and address social justice advocacy. I extensively researched how English teachers can empower students to become agents of social change by incorporating critical theory in the classroom.

Leadership Activities: For my first two years at GV, I was the secretary and then academic chair for the Honors Community Council (ANCHOR). Within my first year, I also attended the six-week-long First Year Leadership Experience. I also was an Honors Mentor for two years. Lastly, my junior and senior year, I was a Lead Research Consultant.

Activities/Awards: Frederick Meijer First Generation Honors Student, GV Award for Excellence, GV Faculty Scholarship, Graduating English Senior of Distinction, FYLE “Exemplary Leadership” Award, I am GV Leadership Award. Activities include intramural co-ed soccer, ANCHOR (for two years), Research Consulting, tutoring, and teaching.

Study Abroad experience: I studied abroad and taught in the Netherlands for four weeks.

Internship/Practicum experience: I completed my teacher assisting semester in Grand Rapids Public School District at Alger and Westwood Middle schools. For my student teaching semester, I had the amazing opportunity to give back to the community that raised me by teaching at the high school I graduated from – Sparta High School.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I think my greatest accomplishment is that I maintained a 3.9 GPA while working two jobs to put myself through school.

Plans after graduation: I will start teaching in the fall and intend to go back for a Master’s Degree in Literature. My end-goal is to become a professor either teaching English courses or English teacher preparation courses.
Amanda P. Sackett, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, minor in Woman’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

**Senior Project title:** My senior project is entitled- Behind the Veil: A Feminist Analysis of Christianity and Islam in Relation to Historical and Cultural Forces of Gender

**Summary of senior project:** The focus of this research is to explore Islam and Christianity from a feminist perspective; examining the overlaps between the two religions, as well as the cultural divergences. I will explore how these religions ideologically create feminism within their cultures; examining this feminism through a gendered genealogical analysis of religion, tracing ways that feminist scholarship has morphed over time. Readers will gain a sense of feminist cross-cultural insight into the interconnected complexity of religion and culture. In turn, readers will comprehend that Islam and Christianity, through their similarities and differences, are not intrinsically oppositional to one another, as they gain a deeper understanding of the historical and modern contexts and interpretations of religious feminism.

**Research/presentations:** My other research endeavors include- HNR 311- Biotechnology Honors Research Project, PSY 300- Self Esteem and Gender Correlation Research Project, WGS 492- Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Domestic Violence Research Project, PSY 400- Handwriting Grading Subjectivity Study.

**Activities/Awards:** Throughout my college career my activities have included- Phi Theta Kappa Honors Fraternity- Alpha Omicron Xi Chapter (Secretary), Oakland Community College Science Club (Founding Member, Secretary), Oakland Community College International Club, Fredrik Meijer Honors College Member, PSI CHI Honors Psychology Fraternity Member, TRIOTA Women’s Studies Honors Sorority, Grand Valley State University College Democrats, Grand Valley State University Cognitive Neuroscience Club.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Last summer, I was a clinical health intern at Planned Parenthood- Grand Rapids. I graded statewide exams and worked with the data to generate comprehensive health education plans for the State of Michigan.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being on GVSU’s Dean’s List every semester.

**Plans after graduation:** Upon graduation, I will be moving back to the east side of the state; working as a hospital mental health technician, and attending Wayne State University for my Master’s in Public Health. I plan to specialize and continue research in the psychology behind various health behaviors, and their implications in overall wellbeing. Hopefully, a PhD in Clinical Health Psychology will be in my future.
Senior Project Title: The Church in Western Michigan

Summary of Senior Project: Because some national trends in Christianity showed an overall decrease in attendance, especially in younger generations, I wanted to see if these trends (among others) were present in the church culture found in Western Michigan. I created and distributed a survey in Qualtrics in order to collect data from churchgoers in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan Counties. I then analyzed the results to determine the extent to which those national trends were present in Western Michigan churches.

Leadership Activities: I served as Business Manager and President for GV GrooVe in my sophomore and junior year respectively. In those leadership roles, I learned a lot about being an effective leader for others and how to motivate, relate to, and cooperate with members of not only GrooVe but with people in general. GV GrooVe placed third in ICCA in the Winter Semester of 2015, which was the first and only time an A-cappela group from Grand Valley had done so in the ICCA competition. GrooVe created an excellent and encouraging environment for my growth as a human being and as a leader.

Activities/Awards: Throughout my college career, I have been extremely involved in my church in many ways. This has involved volunteering in community outreach, setting up and tearing down for services, leading children’s ministries small and large groups, helping run the tech booth, and helping with college ministry programs. My time at Rock Harbor was extremely impactful and easily one of the most important parts of my college experience. Through my experiences at Rock Harbor, I made great friendships and connections with college students and other adults in the community.

Internship Experience: I had an internship in the summer of 2014 at Shift Digital, a company in Birmingham, MI. During my time there, I was a part of a lot of projects, including one where I was able to create a reporting program that is still used today. I returned for Winter Break in 2014-15 and 2015-16 and I was able to earn a full-time position starting this summer as a Digital Marketing Analyst, working in Dealer Support.

Greatest Accomplishment at Grand Valley: I cannot really peg one moment or achievement as my “greatest one.” The growth and maturation I have experienced over the past four years at Grand Valley State University has been truly incredible. I have made great, lasting relationships and connections in the professional, private, and spiritual realm and my faith in God has grown in ways I never would have imagined when I graduated from High School. These past four years have made a remarkable impact on my life, and the lasting relationships I have made are ones that I greatly treasure and appreciate.
**Senior Project Title:** Energetics Among Collegiate Ice Hockey Players

**Summary of Senior Project:** Studied players from GVSU’s Mens and Womens Ice Hockey teams to determine their energy expenditure during a regular-season game. 10 females and 10 males wore heart-rate monitors during a game while their shift durations were recorded. The players’ body compositions were measured, and that data was included with the heart rate & shift data to calculate and compare/contrast the energy expenditure differences between sexes, hockey positions (Forwards vs. Defensemen) and time-of-game (1st period vs. 2nd period vs. 3rd period).

**Leadership:** GVSU Women’s Ice Hockey Executive Board - Risk Management Officer (3 years); named GVSU Women’s Hockey Captain for 2016/17 season; Athletes in Action Bible Study Leader 2013-2014.

**Practicum Experience:** Human Physiology Lab Teacher Assistant 2014; Human Cadaver Lab Teacher Assistant 2015; Human Anatomy Tutor 2015 & 2016.

**Activities/Awards:** GV Women’s ACHA Division-1 Ice Hockey Team; GV Womens Hockey “Laker Leadership and Dedication Award” (2-time winner 2015 & 2016); Athletes in Action Christian Club; Campus Ministry; Oasis of Hope Volunteer; 3 Mile Project Volunteer; Artists Creating Together Volunteer; “I am Grand Valley” Award Recipient.

**Greatest Accomplishment While at Grand Valley:** In 2016, being part of the first GV Womens Hockey team to win the CCWHA Championship, and being part of the first GV Womens team to advance to the National Championship Game.

**Plans After Graduation:** Attend Grand Valley State University’s Occupational Therapy Masters Program beginning in August.
Senior Project title: “Differences in Education: Domestic and Abroad”

Summary of senior project: Last fall, I was able to complete the final six weeks of my semester of teacher assisting in Ourense, Spain. While in Spain, I chose to analyze the differences between the American and Spanish education systems. I examined the daily school structures, country-wide school structures, salaries, ease of finding a job, the levels of respect towards teachers, and the qualifications for teacher preparation in each country. Finally, I compared my research with my personal experiences.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: During Winter semester of 2015, I completed my English Capstone class and wrote my Capstone paper on how to teach reading to gifted students. I spent the whole semester researching and writing the paper and was finally able to present it last April.

Leadership Activities: I was nominated for an “I Am Grand Valley” student leadership award my Freshman year (2012-2013). I also held the Treasurer position for Grand Valley’s chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children for one semester before moving back to Traverse City to complete my semester of student teaching.

Activities/Awards: While at Grand Valley I was awarded the Faculty Scholarship and I have been a member of Sigma Tau Delta, Phi Kappa Phi, the GVSU chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children, and a member of the Dean’s List every semester.

Study Abroad experience: I studied abroad in Ourense, Spain for six weeks during the fall of 2015.

Internship/Practicum experience: I completed the first 10 weeks of my teacher assisting in a 6th grade class at Highlands Middle School in Grand Rapids and spent my last semester student teaching in a Kindergarten class at Eastern Elementary in Traverse City.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I graduated from what is normally a four and a half year program in four years with no debt.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, for the remaining six weeks of the 2015-2016 school year, I will be a long-term Spanish substitute at Willow Hill Elementary in Traverse City and this summer I will be a day camp counselor at Pathfinder Summer Camp in Traverse City. Although I have already been offered a few teaching positions around the country, I have yet to officially decide anything, but will hopefully be teaching in a classroom of my own in the fall.
Senior Project title: Perceptions and Knowledge of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) in Physician Assistant Practice

Summary of senior project: The premise of my research is to assess the current Physician Assistants (PA) students attending Grand Valley State University’s PA program and examine their perceptions of CAM as well as CAM education. The study provides the following research questions:

1) Is there a difference between males and females in the knowledge of CAM
2) Is there a difference between the number of years of PA education and the knowledge of CAM

Based on these results, further discussions can be made as to how important the knowledge of CAM is for practicing PAs in assisting their patients, and also whether CAM courses should be incorporated into PA graduate programs.

Leadership Activities: In the summer of 2015, I was a camp counselor for GVSU’s annual S.H.A.P.E camp (summer health activities and professions exploration camp). This one-week day camp introduces students entering the 7th and 8th grades to different health professions such as occupational therapy, physician assistant, recreational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, etc. I helped facilitate the kids in different activities throughout the week and showed them how much fun different positions in the health care field can be.

Activities/Awards: I’ve been an active member of GVSU’s prePA club for the past 3 years, in both attending biweekly meetings and volunteering at the Renucci House in Grand Rapids.

Study Abroad experience: In the summer of 2014, I had the privilege of working with both kids and teens in Costa Rica on a 10 day medical mission trip I took with GVSU’s pre physician assistant club. While there, we worked with doctors to set up free healthcare clinics for the residents of worn down neighborhoods and learned valuable skills (both cultural and clinical) on how to diagnose and work with patients.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I think keeping my sanity (mostly) through the duration of college was a huge accomplishment in and of itself. In addition, the amount of information I’ve learned and both research and life skills I’ve obtained through the support and encouragement of wonderful professors at GV has been a huge achievement.
Rachel Shamoun, Biomedical Sciences, minor in Spanish

**Senior Project title:** A Closer Look into the Evolution of the Health Care System of Nicaragua

**Summary of senior project:** Comparison between the health care systems of the United States and Nicaragua intertwining personal experience I gained during my mission trip with research done both prior to and upon returning.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Nutrition research concerning food deserts with Dr. Deborah Lown.

**Leadership Activities:** Transitions, Teaching CHM 230 lab courses.

**Activities/Awards:** Dean’s List, Cadaver lab coordinator, Colleges against Cancer, Relay for life.

**Study Abroad experience:** Two weeks in Nicaragua Summer 2015.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Spectrum Health Butterworth and Blodgett, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Receiving multiple acceptances to attend medical school.

**Plans after graduation:** Start medical school in the Fall of 2016 at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.
Rebekah Shippy, Allied Health Sciences

Senior Project title: Peer Support and Inclusion for Individuals with Disabilities: Benefits for Everyone

Summary of senior project: My senior project used literature reviews, interviews of local centers and self-experience to discuss the value and importance of peer supports for individuals with disabilities. This project examined the benefits for not only the individuals with disabilities, but also for the peer mentors. This project was extremely enlightening to the benefits enjoyed by all individuals when working together and mentoring one another.

Leadership Activities: I was a mentor for three years as well as the secretary for the mentor council.

Activities/Awards: I received the I Am Grand Valley award. I have also been recognized for being on the Dean’s List all four years at GV.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been the growth and development of myself as a young adult. While I know I have much more growing to do, Grand Valley has allowed me the opportunity to find my passions, expand my intellect and form lifelong friendships.

Plans after graduation: I have decided to completely switch gears and pursue secondary education. I will be attending the Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Education program at Oakland University starting Fall 2016.
Hilary Skalski, Diagnostic Medical Sonography

**Senior Project title:** Bilateral Ovarian Dermoid Cysts’ Treatment

**Summary of senior project:** Ovarian dermoid cysts are the most commonly removed ovarian neoplasm, though there is little research on bilateral dermoid treatment. This is important due to an increased likelihood of complications. A meta-analysis was performed to compile an optimal treatment for bilateral dermoids. The results found that a bilateral laparoscopic cystectomy was the optimal treatment when management was desired. There was an equal chance of complications from ovarian dermoids with or without surgery.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Presentation at the MEHA conference on “Holocaust Awareness in Service Learning Projects”. I additionally had an SDMS poster presentation on “The Effect of Transducer Angle on the Accuracy of Ultrasound Depth and Tissue Thickness Measurements”.

**Leadership Activities:** I was the 2012 Scholar’s Institute Student Co-Director. I was also ritual chair for the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and Activities Chair before that. Moreover, I was both a Dance Troupe and Honors Community Council Homecoming choreographer.

**Activities/Awards:** I am in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Student Organization and an Honors College Student Mentor. I am also in the Order of Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa fraternity and Gamma Phi Beta sorority. Additionally, I was in Dance Troupe and an Honors ambassador. Awards I have received were: the Gamma Phi Beta Scholarship pin, two “I am GV” awards and 2nd place in the 2011 Honors College Scholar’s Institute.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Four semesters of sonography clinicals (South Bend Memorial, Spectrum ICCB, and Metro Health).

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Completing all five of my national sonography certification exams (Physics, Abdomen, Breast, OBGYN, and Vascular).

**Plans after graduation:** Working at South Bend Memorial Hospital as a sonographer.
Ann Louise Smit, Therapeutic Recreation, Minor in Psychology

**Senior Project title:** Case Study for Individual with Tetrasomy 18p

**Summary of senior project:** Studied the symptomology and etiology of tetrasomy 18p. Conducted assessments concerning one adolescent with that diagnosis about her family history, interventions used to assist her, and how one program affected her symptoms.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Outcomes of Wilderness Therapy for Adolescents with Mental Health Diagnoses (paper) and presentation of those findings at Student Scholars Day 4/13/16.

**Leadership Activities:** Internship with Campus Ministry at GVSU. Led a mission trip to Black Mesa, Arizona with 20 GV students for Spring Break 2016.

**Activities/Awards:** GV Award for Excellence, I Am Grand Valley Award, Grand Finish Award.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** 300 hour fieldwork experience with Colorado Springs Therapeutic Recreation Program.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Being accepted into the Honors College and accepted into the Therapeutic Recreation Program.

**Plans after graduation:** Interning with Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Scott St. Louis, History

**Senior Project title:** “Disruptive Knowledge: Diderot’s Encyclopedia and Why It Still Matters.”

**Summary of senior project:** Served as Principal Curator and Grant Writer for an exhibition on one of the most influential texts of the French Enlightenment. Exhibition displayed at the Mary Idema Pew Library on March 14-31, 2016.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Over twenty individual and group presentations at the meetings of many scholarly associations, including the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

**Leadership Activities:** Student Senate Vice President for Educational Affairs; John D. Wardrop Endowed Fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

**Activities/Awards:** Glenn A. Niemeyer Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award; Thomas M. Seykora Award; 2015 History Department Student of the Year.

**Study Abroad experience:** Attended conferences on research communication in Budapest (2013) and Brussels (2015).

**Internship/Practicum experience:** National Museum of American History (Smithsonian Institution); Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition; many other organizations.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Representing the student body on the Educational Affairs Committee of the Student Senate.

**Plans after graduation:** Working in Grand Rapids for several years, then graduate school.
Senior Project title: The effectiveness of interviews and their impact on an undergraduate student

Summary of senior project: My senior project looks at different types of interviews and their reliability in predicting success in a job or in an educational setting. The project takes an in depth look at graduate school interviews, as well as the learning experience behind interviews. The personality traits that are most impactful during an interview were also researched to provide a look into what traits interviewers tend to appreciate most.

Leadership Activities: I have been a Resident Assistant for honors students in Niemeyer for three years, as well as an acting member on the RA mentorship committees of both Academic and Citizenship. I was given the opportunity this semester to act as a Student Assistant in the Honors advising office. In 2014, I was elected president of GVSU’s National Residence Hall Honorary and have held that role for two and a half years. I have been on the executive board of the Pre-Physical Therapy club for two years, and an active member of the club for three years.

Activities/Awards: This semester, I was named the Frederik Meijer Honors College Outstanding Senior. I have also been given the “Lead like a Laker” and the “I am Grand Valley” award for the past three years. In 2013, I was given an Honorable Mention for my scholarship entry to the Ryder Roundtable. In 2014, I was given the fourth place award for the scholarship, and in 2015, I was named the Grand Prize Winner of the Ryder Roundtable Scholarship.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been seeing all of my hard work throughout the last four years pay off. Getting into GVSU’s Doctorate of Physical Therapy program, and being named the Honors Outstanding Senior are two tangible accomplishments that demonstrate my hard work during my undergraduate experience.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, I will be starting the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program at GVSU.
Senior Project title: Fatty Acid Receptors Regulate Endothelial Cell Cx43 Expression

Summary of senior project: I worked with Dr. Dave Kurjiaka in his endothelial cell lab. We exposed mouse blood vessel cells to oleic acid, an unsaturated fatty acid, and looked at the expression of a particular protein called connexin 43. Higher expression of the protein is indicative of inflammation. We found that exposure to the cis form of the fatty acid led to lower expression of connexin 43, promoting the health of the vascular tissue.

Leadership Activities: I was the president of Chinese Language and Culture Club (CLCC) for one year and the secretary of CLCC for one year. It is a club devoted to teaching students about Chinese language and cultural practices through educational activities.

Activities/Awards: Dean’s List.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was developing independence and a strong enough work ethic to carry me to med school and through my professional life.

Plans after graduation: I am taking a year off to work at a hospital or nursing home and gaining clinical experience. After that, I will be applying to medical and osteopathic schools.
Skylar Grace Thompson, Biology

**Senior Project title:** *Phragmites australis* haplotypes present in two populations on San Salvador Island, Bahamas

**Summary of senior project:** Through sampling and DNA analysis, I investigated the different haplotypes of the invasive species, *Phragmites australis*, present on the island of San Salvador. The results were used to determine if *Phragmites* populations there consisted of the native or invasive forms.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I participated in data collection for a study on *Microcystis* distribution in Little Traverse Lake in Leelanau County. I also helped with data analysis on a Primate Fruit Anatomy study.

**Leadership Activities:** I am the Vice President of the Pre-Veterinary Club and a twice-appointed officer of the Future Alumni Association.

**Activities/Awards:** I am an officer of the PreVet Club and the Future Alumni Association, a Lions Club member and a player on the Women’s Club Rugby team. I have been on the Dean’s list each of my semesters at Grand Valley and am an inducted member of The Honors Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society. I also received the Exemplary Leadership Award through FYLE (First Year Leadership Experience), and an *I Am Grand Valley* nomination.

**Study Abroad experience:** I spent seven weeks on the Honors Service Learning study abroad trip to Ghana, Africa. I worked mostly with ISHEW, a non-profit focused on providing access to health, clean water and education. I also spent my Senior Spring Break in the Bahamas studying vegetation on the island of San Salvador.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I spent my summers interning with various veterinary clinics, including Northern Michigan Equine Wellness, Bay Area Animal Clinic and Long Lake Animal Hospital. During the school year I volunteer weekly at Big Sid’s Sanctuary Cat Shelter.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I met my goal of graduating in three years and being accepted to Veterinary School at Michigan State University.

**Plans after graduation:** I am joining the class of 2020 at The Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. I hope to eventually operate my own veterinary practice in my hometown of Traverse City, Michigan.
Sarah Thornton, Nursing

**Senior Project title:** Creating Breastfeeding Education Materials for Prenatal Patients in Winneba, Ghana

**Summary of senior project:** I researched breastfeeding topics including maternal and newborn benefits, the importance of skin-to-skin contact, latching techniques, and possible complications with treatments. I then worked with three Ghanaian translators and a fellow Honors student to create a three brochure series written in the local dialect, Fante, with illustrations.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I presented at the Mid-East Honors Association Conferences in 2013 and 2014 as well as the National Mentor Symposium in 2013. I also presented at Student Scholars’ Day about Ebola virus treatments and my Senior Project in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

**Leadership Activities:** I served as Niemeyer Ambassador and President of ANCHOR Community Council, a Co-Chair to the Mentor Council of Advisors for the Honors College, and as the Vice President, and most recently the President, of the Student Nurses’ Association. I also led a group of student nurses to the National Student Nurses’ Association Annual Convention in Orlando, FL this past April.

**Activities/Awards:** I have been awarded the I Am Grand Valley Leadership Award from 2013 to 2016.

**Study Abroad experience:** I traveled to Ghana in the summer of 2015.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** I had my leadership clinical in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My senior project is my greatest accomplishment because I worked very hard on it, and it is making a real impact!

**Plans after graduation:** I will be working as an RN on the orthopedic unit at Spectrum Health-Blodgett beginning this summer. I hope to start grad school next fall to become a Clinical Nurse Specialist.
Senior Project title: Blueprint for Alumni Engagement within the Frederik Meijer Honors College

Summary of senior project: My project aims to briefly disconnect Meijer Honors College alumni from the chaos of their daily lives and remind them what it means to be lifelong learners. By planning, designing, and producing an alumni focused event, (but not an official reunion) this project outlines and prepares all necessary elements that would be required to bring alumni back together in an event that commemorates their achievements and lets them be eager students once again.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Heartside Neighborhood Collaboration Project.

Leadership Activities: Outreach Director for Global Leadership Organization, Education and Advocacy committee chair with Colleges Against Cancer.

Activities/Awards: Omicron Delta Kappa, Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Economics Honors Society), Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honors Society), “I Am Grand Valley”, Dean’s List, Honors College Student Assistant (Best job ever!).

Study Abroad experience: Buenos Aires, Argentina Fall 2014.

Internship/Practicum experience: State Representative Campaign Intern & Marketing & Communications Intern with Van Andel Global Trade Center.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Testing the borders of my comfort zone and exploring new places and subjects that I never thought I would delve into.

Plans after graduation: Read something other than a textbook, take a road trip out West and devote free time to hobbies and interests, new and old.
Ryan Timmerman, Computer Engineering

**Senior Project title:** GE Aviation Cockpit Display System Simulator

**Summary of senior project:** Design and build a software application to allow GE Aviation to more easily test the applications that draw information on cockpit displays.

**Leadership Activities:** Currently leading the GE Aviation Senior Project Team. Served as Corresponding Secretary for Tau Beta Pi. Volunteered in both Music and Productions teams for Campus Ministry at GVSU.

**Activities/Awards:** Grand Rapids River Bank Run 25K.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Three semesters at Active Inspection as part of the Engineering Co-op program.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Four years ago, I would never have taken on the responsibility of leading a senior project team. This position has pushed me well out of my comfort zone and as a result I have learned a lot from it.

**Plans after graduation:** I don’t have specific plans for after graduation at this point, but I plan on finding a software engineering position.
John Tunisi, Computer Science

Senior Project title: iOS Social Athletics Application

Summary of senior project: Developed an iOS application that brings local athletes together for casual and competitive play.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: I wrote a software simulation of the spread of a mock virus through Grand Rapids. I presented and demonstrated this software in the library with visual heat maps of the day-to-day infections.

Internship/Practicum experience: Software Engineer at Gordon Food Service for 1 year.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: For a week, the majority of the team I worked with at Gordon Food Service was on-site at a new warehouse installing software while I was back at the office. I received a call from one of them telling me that they needed a new feature to our software very urgently, and that there was no time for testing even. I quickly went to work and wrote software faster than I had ever written it before. When I was finished, I pushed the update and it executed flawlessly. I received many compliments for the work I had done, and felt as though it was a culminating moment in the education Grand Valley has provided me.

Plans after graduation: Working at General Motors in Detroit as a Software Developer.
Thomas S. Vachon, B.B.A. in Marketing, Mathematics minor

Senior project title: The Next Step for All-Phase Electric.

Summary of senior project: The focus of my project was to develop a growth strategy for the company I work for, All-Phase Electrical Supply. The company utilizes a decentralized business model. Each location serves as an independent profit center which means there is little corporate guidance. All-Phase is rapidly growing and it is crucial to utilize a proper growth strategy. As a result, I spoke with successful profit center managers that experienced growth similar to ours. The work of business minded authors, such as Jim Collins, were read to gain further insight into companies that succeeded when faced with a lack of information regarding their next step. I also analyzed financials of competitors in an effort to have a well-informed idea of the next step for our company to take. The information was compiled and then adapted to the Grand Rapids market resulting in a growth strategy proposal.

Leadership Activities: Phi Chi Theta is a professional business and economics co-ed fraternity. I joined as a freshman and was my pledge class president. Once initiated, I was the alumni relations chair for one semester. When executive board positions were up for vote next I was elected president and remained in the role for 2 years. This position gave me the greatest knowledge of being a leader and I attribute a large portion of my professional development to Phi Chi Theta.

Activities/Awards: I have been on the Dean’s List every semester of my collegiate career. I also won Brother of the Month within Phi Chi Theta for my contributions to the chapter. Our indoor flag football team, GVSU Marching Band, has led a successful dynasty each year.

Internship/Practicum experience: In the summer of 2014 I joined the team at Fastenal at their Grand Haven location. In the fall, I joined the All-Phase family and have interned there since. I began, like all new hires, as a warehouse employee. I worked my way up to counter sales. Now my role is split between counter sales and outside sales. I gained unrivaled sales experience at both companies.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Finding where I belong in this world. I realized my network of friends and family is crucial to happiness. I also realized the key when I cannot be with those people, is having a job I love with coworkers I consider family.

Plans after graduation: After graduation I will begin working full time at All-Phase Electric where I will transition into primary outside sales role.
Tyler VandenAvond, Business Economics

**Senior Project Title:** University’s Impact on Housing Prices: Correlating the Growth of University’s Student Populations and the Relative Changes in Housing Prices

**Research Projects and Presentations:** University Economic Assessment with Paul Isley, Associate Dean of Seidman Business School, and Elena Szost, fellow GVSU student. Along with my Honors Research Paper, I conducted many other research projects and presentations throughout my time at GVSU.

**Leadership Activities:** Honors mentor during my Sophomore year, University tutor from Sophomore to Senior year, Campus Intramural referee for floor hockey from Sophomore to Junior year, Director of Student Relations for ACLU.

**Activities/Awards:** Merit Scholarship throughout my entire GVSU career, awarded Dean’s List status after the end of my Fall 2014 year.

**Internship/Practicum Experience:** Human Resources Intern at Grand Valley State University & Recruiting Intern at MarshBerry.

**Greatest Accomplishment While at Grand Valley:** I was lucky enough to join an organization on campus called Team Web Project with a few other students, under the supervision of Professor Star Swift. The goal of Team Web Project is to educate the populous on arbitration and mediation, which are methods used instead of litigation. I was in charge of designing and running a specific section of our website, which later on we presented in Boston at a Google Summit.

**Plans After Graduation:** Attending law school at Michigan State University and awarded a Trustees scholarship worth 25% of tuition for three years plus an extra $10,000 my 1L year.
Alison VanDine, Cell and Molecular Biology

**Senior Project title:** Structural characterization of Y150F-antibiotic complex in the class C β-lactamase ADC-7

**Summary of senior project:** Characterization of a ADC-7 Y150F mutant, which slows the breakdown of antibiotics enough to potentially capture the substrate in the active site; a structure containing the substrate bound to the active site of ADC-7 has never before been published.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:**
- Structural/functional analysis of competitive Boronic Acid Transition State Inhibitors (BATSIs) in response to antibiotic resistance in Acinetobacter baumannii;
- Characterization of novel boronic acid inhibitor to combat antibiotic resistance in Acinetobacter baumannii;
- Altered PP2C transcript levels in response to extracellular aluminum stress in soybeans;
- The influence of varying [Ca2+] on the somatic embryogenesis of Daucus carota;
- Comparison of Class C beta-lactamase ADC-7 AND Class B beta-lactamase VIM-2 Active Sites.

**Leadership Activities:** Lead Research Consultant, University Libraries; Cook Leadership Academy; Lead 365 Conference Attendee.

**Activities/Awards:** Omicron Delta Kappa Member, “I Am Grand Valley” Award of distinction for student leaders, Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship grant recipient, Frederik Meijer Honors College grant recipient, Frederik Meijer Honors College Dean’s List, Frederik Meijer Honors College Scholars Institute: Individual Finalist, third place out of seventy competitors, Lubbers Honors College Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship, Michigan Award for Excellence, Lubbers Honors College Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship, Michigan Award for Excellence; Scholars Community Garden Project.

**Study Abroad experience:** Westminster University – London, UK; Barcelona International College – Barcelona, Spain.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Student Summer Scholar, Grand Valley State University.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Three years of undergraduate research through the Biochemistry department studying antibiotic resistance and building a passion for a career in medical research.

**Plans after graduation:** Work in Research & Development at a biotechnology company to gain industry experience before pursuing a PhD.
Heather VanOss, Nursing

**Senior Project title:** Increasing awareness and promotion of breastfeeding in Kent County through social media

**Summary of senior project:** We worked with the Healthy Kent Breastfeeding Coalition to promote breastfeeding in Kent County. We made them a new website as well as a Twitter account and Coeffective profile. We also updated their Facebook page and made sure all of their information was up-to-date.

**Activities/Awards:** Sigma Theta Tau member, Student Nurses Association Member.

**Study Abroad experience:** Ghana, Nursing.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** being invited to be a Sigma Theta Tau member.

**Plans after graduation:** Work in a hospital in Labor and Delivery.
Roslyn (Roz) Vashon, Biomedical Science, Chemistry minor

Senior Project Title: The Effects of Osteoarthritis on Gait Evaluated Through a Biomechanical Model.

Summary of senior project: For my senior project, I spent a spring semester interning in the Biomechanics and Motor Performance Lab with Professor Gordy Alderink. At the end of my internship in the lab, I was able to bring my grandfather in and test his gait. My grandpa has severe osteoarthritis in his hips, ankles, and knees. I was then able to compare the data collected on my grandfather to a data base I helped compile of the healthy elderly.

Study Abroad Experience: After my freshman year in the Honors College taking Social Product Innovation as my sequence, I went on the AGII trip to Nicaragua for three weeks.

Awards: I have been nominated for I am Grand Valley during both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. I was a Teacher’s Assistant for BMS 291 Human Physiology lab with Professor Merritt Taylor.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I have been a member of Delta Zeta sorority throughout my time at Grand Valley. With this organization, I was able to travel to California and Volunteer at The Painted Turtle Camp. The camp was designed for children with chronic illnesses to have a fun, care-free, normal summer camp experience. The week I spent working with the children was life changing. I believe they made as much of an impact on me as I did on them.

Plans after graduation: I enjoyed my experience with biomechanics and physical therapy so much that I made the decision to switch to be a pre-physical therapy student at Grand Valley. I applied to the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program at GVSU and plan to start in the fall of 2016.
Sarah Veldman, Clinical Exercise Science

**Senior Project title:** Walking the Land: Exploring the Cultural, Geographical, & Historical Context of the Bible

**Summary of senior project:** After completing a study trip to Israel in May of 2015, I used the information I learned and my experiences to dive deeper into the context of the Bible. Studying the Patriarchal, First Temple, and Second Temple time periods with new understanding of the land, its people, and their customs brought the Bible to life in new ways.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I conducted research and presented on “The Effects of a Paleolithic Diet on Cardiovascular Risk Markers,” “Limb Displacements within a Prosthetic Socket for Below the Knee Amputees.”

**Leadership Activities:** Throughout my time at Grand Valley I was involved in the Laker Leadership Programs, was a mentor for the Honors College, served as a student leader for Campus Ministry, and was a volunteer Young Life leader at Coopersville High School.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** During the Fall 2015 semester, I completed a fieldwork experience at Advent Physical Therapy. I recently completed a semester as a Gait Lab Intern for Mary Free Bed’s Motion Analysis Center.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was being able to develop and grow personally and professionally despite many obstacles.

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to continue my education at Grand Valley in the Fall in the Physical Therapy program.
**Jamie Vetterli, Clinical Exercise Science**

**Senior Project title:** Low Back Pain: Clinical Practice Guideline Examining Aquatic Therapy’s Potential

**Summary of senior project:** I looked at clinical practice guidelines focusing on back pain and adapted them using literature and interviews with aquatic therapists to see how aquatic therapy could fit into the multifaceted treatment needed to help patients with low back pain break the pain cycle and recover. It summarized what research has been done and what treatment durations are chosen, and what outcome measurements the researchers looked at. I also looked at limitations and gave a recommendation for the direction future research should take.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** Student scholars’ day presentation on “The Effect of Low-intensity Exercise 12 Hours before Breakfast on Postprandial Lipidemia in College Aged Individuals”

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Working at Mary Free Bed YMCA in the aquatics department, observing some aquatic therapy and teaching swim lessons to young children.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I got to help open up the Mary Free Bed YMCA. I was able to give tours and see how my major now can help people with different physical abilities. I was also able to interview an aquatic therapist which helped give me more insight into my future studies.

**Plans after graduation:** Taking a year off, doing more observation and working before going to Graduate School for my Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree.
Matt Wagenheim, English Language and Literature

**Senior Project title:** Moving Words: Visual Novels as a Natural Evolution of Narrative

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project was an effort to try to publish and/or present my senior English thesis.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:**
Presented at Mid-East Honors Association Conference 2016, Presented at English Capstone Conference 2015, Scheduled to present at Play Me a Story Symposium in Lancaster, UK.

**Leadership Activities:** I spent the last two years at Grand Valley as the president of the After School Special men’s a cappella group.

**Activities/Awards:** After School Special A Cappella, Euphoria A Cappella, Grand Valley Journal of History.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Marketing intern at Thermotron Industries in 2014.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Discovering a love for research and scholarship.

**Plans after graduation:** Earn an assistantship and attend grad school for communication or English. Afterward I plan to pursue a PhD and then teach at the university level so I can continue pursuing my research interests.

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Marcee Wardell, Writing

**Summary of senior project:** For our senior thesis, Mackenzie Deater and I did an editing project; we took a short story that had written for a 400-level fiction workshop and did three rounds of developmental and substantive editing to the piece.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I presented "State Atheism as a Conflict between Religion and Society in Soviet Russia," in 2013 at the Seventh Annual Grand Rapids Area Intercollegiate Honors Conference at Grand Valley State University. I also gave a reading of "Indulgences" at the 2015 MEHA Conference.

**Leadership Activities:** I served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Grand Valley Journal of History during the 2013-2014 academic year.

**Awards:** In 2015 I received the Writing Department Scholarship; in 2016 I was a finalist for the Fredrik Meijer Honors College Outstanding Senior Award, and I was nominated by the Writing Department for the Venderbusch Student Leadership Award.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** "Indulgences," a piece of creative nonfiction that I wrote was published by the literary magazine Brainchild.
**Senior Project title:** Exploring the Potential of Boronic Acids as Inhibitors of OXA-24/40 β-lactamase

**Summary of senior project:** Due to overuse and misuse of antibiotics, such as penicillin, bacterial resistance has developed, threatening their efficacy. Through the expression of β-lactamase enzymes, bacteria garner resistance to some of our “last resort” antibiotics. One way to overcome β-lactamase-mediated resistance is through the use of β-lactamase inhibitors. We tested eighteen unique boronic acid inhibitors against the Class D β-lactamase, OXA-24, in order to characterize this class of inhibitors against OXA-24 and potentially discover the first non-β-lactam-based inhibitor for Class D β-lactamases. My senior project involved writing and disseminating our results in the form of a peer-reviewed research publication.

**Research (other than senior project) and presentations:** I applied for and received a Modified Student Summer Scholars (MS3) grant to conduct biochemistry research for Dr. Rachel Powers following my freshman year. To disseminate my results from the summer, I presented a poster titled, “Antibiotic Resistance Enzyme OXA-24 β-lactamase: Expression, Purification, and Optimization of Crystallization Conditions,” at the 2014 GVSU Student Scholars Day. I continued my research with a full time position the following summer, after which I presented my results in a poster titled, “Exploring the Potential of Arylboronic Acids as OXA-24 β-lactamase Inhibitors,” at both the 28th annual Symposium of the Protein Society in San Diego, CA and the 2015 GVSU Student Scholars Day.

**Leadership Activities:** I was a tutor for the LAKER Academic Success Center, and was a facilitator for a Structured Learning Assistance (SLA) biochemistry class where I prepared material and taught a 200-level discussion section.

**Activities/Awards:** I had the opportunity to play on the GVSU varsity volleyball team where I was on the GLIAC All Academic Excellence Team (2012, 2013, 2014) and received the Division II Athletics Directors Association Academic Achievement Award (2014). I also volunteered at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital and the 3 Mile Project. I enjoy riding horses and oil painting. Due to my passion for art, I took two art classes at GVSU, where I discovered my love of ceramics and jewelry/metalsmithing.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was being a successful student-athlete during my undergraduate career as well as being accepted into my top-choice medical school.

**Plans after graduation:** I am traveling to go explore Ireland in May, and will be attending the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University, beginning in June, with a desire to specialize in primary care medicine.
Duncan White, Finance

**Senior Project title:** Student Perceptions of Retirement

**Summary of senior project:** Grand Valley students were surveyed to determine whether the average university age individual has an accurate perception of their future retirement needs.

**Internship/Practicum experience:** Duncan spent the spring of 2015 being mentored by Accredited Wealth Management Advisor Fred Iacovoni. He also interned at The Judson Group for the summer of 2015 learning valuable negotiation, recruitment, and networking techniques.

**Plans after graduation:** Duncan is traveling to Italy, Sicily, and Scotland for one month to work and explore. Upon return to Grand Rapids he will start working full time for The Judson Group as an executive recruiter focused in wealth management.
Senior Project Title: The Identification and Characterization of Inhibitors of BshA, the First Enzyme in the Biosynthesis of Bacillithiol

Senior Project Summary: Antibiotic resistance is a relevant issue in today's medical world. By understanding mechanisms of resistance and the compounds involved, enzymes responsible for these processes can be targeted with inhibitory compounds with the end result of restored antibiotic sensitivity. The enzyme BshA is used by many gram negative bacteria as the committed step of bacillithiol synthesis as a method of antibacterial resistance to fosfomycin. Using knowledge gained in the Cook lab over the past year through X-ray crystallographic structures of BshA with various ligands, the proposed research will identify and confirm potential inhibitors for the enzyme crucial to bacillithiol production. This work is potentially useful to the design of an antibiotic-inhibitor “cocktail” that might be administered for infections currently untreatable by fosfomycin.

Additional Research/Presentations: In addition to my honor’s senior project, I have been involved to a greater extent in the lab of Dr. Paul Cook in the Chemistry department here at GVSU exploring many functional and structural aspects of BshA. In my time in the Cook lab I have been able to present at GVSU’s Student Scholar’s Day, the Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference, and the regional ACS chapter meeting. Supplemental to my research experience at Grand Valley, I was able to participate in a Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign last summer working in the lab of Dr. Jonathan Sweedler. There I was able to work on a completely different project involving the optical and mass spectrometry imaging of dorsal root ganglion neurons taken from rats. I have presented the work I did while in Illinois at a national conference for REU students in Arlington, VA.

Activities/Awards: Participating in and presenting my research has been one of my favorite and most prided experiences while I have been at GVSU. Over and above these achievements I was honored with receiving an honorable mention in the Barry H. Goldwater Fellowship Competition last spring.

Greatest Accomplishment at GVSU: While I have accomplished much during my time here at GVSU, one triumph stands out among the rest and that is having been accepted to a top-ranking Biochemistry PhD program.

Plans after Graduation: My journey will continue this fall at the University of Wisconsin as I pursue a doctorate degree from their Integrated Program in Biochemistry.
Senior Project title: Research Dynamics: A Student Guide to Collaboration and Professionalism

Summary of senior project: I wrote an autoethnography of how students can become successful student researchers by maintaining a balance between power and authority in institutional and disciplinary contexts, emphasizing responsible conduct on research, and developing knowledge, skills, and abilities that construct a foundation of professionalism in conducting research. I invite aspiring student researchers to explore how to establish goals, develop professional communication skills, interact with academics and practitioners in a professional setting, and conduct research and interpersonal communication with professionals and community partners in an ethical and professional manner.

Research (other than senior project) and presentations: Michigan Continuum of (Juvenile Justice) Services Initiative in partnership with Dr. Christine Yalda and Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20; Presenter at 2016 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference.

Leadership Activities: 2 year executive board member of the Criminal Justice Students’ Association; executive board member of Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honors Society); Delta Phi Alpha German Honors Society member; National Society of Collegiate Scholars member.

Activities/Awards: Two time “I am Grand Valley” Award Recipient; Active volunteer for the 3 Mile Project (a Grand Rapids- based youth community center); Kent County Parks Volunteer; Junior Achievement of the Great Lakes Service-Learning Volunteer; Member of Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 Action Team 2; on the Dean’s for 7 semesters.

Internship/Practicum experience: Intern at Ottawa County Juvenile Detention.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Attending and presenting at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual conference.

Plans after graduation: I will be attending graduate school at Grand Valley State University as a Masters of Social Work Student.
Senior Project title: “Rome-ing Around” – Travel Blog

Summary of senior project: I went abroad in Europe for 5 weeks in the summer of 2015; I studied in Rome and visited other Italian cities for the first 4 weeks, and spent my remaining week travelling to other European countries with friends. I wrote a travel blog where I share my most significant experiences and lessons learned abroad, as well as photos of all the beautiful places I visited. My main goal in creating this project was to convince students who are hesitant about studying abroad to do it! It was by far the best experience of my life – I hope that my stories, pictures, and lessons learned will persuade students to go out of their comfort zones and take the plunge in immersing themselves in a new culture.


Study Abroad experience: Rome, Italy – 4-week semester in June 2015.

Internship/Practicum experience: Intern with the Restorative Justice Coalition of West Michigan through LaGrand and Lowery PLLC in Winter 2014, and intern with the United States Marshal Service Grand Rapids Division in Winter 2015.

Plans after graduation: I plan on working with the state or federal government for 1-2 years after graduation, and then returning to school to obtain my Doctorate in Forensic Psychology.
Senior Project title: Bilingual English-Spanish Narratives in Second and Third Grade Students

Summary of senior project: The study explored differences in storytelling between bilingual English-Spanish speakers and monolingual English Speakers, differences between Spanish and English storytelling in bilingual speakers, and the relation between language ability used in storytelling and language ability used on a structured measure of language ability.

Presentations: I presented my study on bilingual narratives at the Illinois Speech Language Hearing Association Convention and the Michigan Speech Language Hearing Association Conference.

Leadership Activities: President of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association.

Activities/Awards: Murray Scholarship to study abroad and Dean’s List all semesters.

Study Abroad experience: I studied abroad in Chile last summer for nine weeks. During this time, I stayed with two homestay families, took 13 credits, and traveled throughout the country every weekend. Luckily, I made many Chilean friends while I was there and I have maintained these connections since. It was an experience of a lifetime!

Internship/Practicum experience: 40 hours of observation, 20 hours of practicum.

Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley: During my time at Grand Valley, I have grown and learned to communicate more effectively, enhanced my critical thinking skills, and developed meaningful connections with my peers.

Plans after graduation: Next fall, I will begin pursuing my Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Purdue University.
**Chloe Zdybel, International Business and Marketing major, Spanish minor**

**Senior Project Title:** Cultural Differences between Spain and the United States in both everyday Life and Business.

**Summary of senior project:** My senior project is both a research and a reflection paper summarizing and analyzing the cultural differences I personally noticed during my time studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain. I am taking the everyday differences that I encountered and expanding on them and why they are present between our cultures, and I am also researching the cultural differences in the business world and how business is done differently in the respective countries.

**Activities/Awards:** For all four years I have been a member of the Grand Valley Women’s Varsity Lacrosse team, where we have achieved 3 GLIAC championships (so far) and have also achieved a top-ten ranking in the country for Division 2 lacrosse for the first time as a program. As a member I have received two All-Academic achievement awards for lacrosse. I also volunteer through Athletes Who Care and have greatly enjoyed my experiences visiting local Grand Rapids charter schools weekly to assist teachers in the classroom of both elementary and middle school children.

**Study Abroad:** During the summer of 2015 I studied abroad in Barcelona, Spain, where I studied international business and Spanish. My three-month program was filled with travel excursions along the eastern coast of Spain, and I greatly increased my confidence and ability in speaking Spanish from my experience living in a home-stay. I also gained knowledge about travelling, and interacting with different cultures in places I was not always comfortable in, which has only made me want to travel more since I have been back in the U.S. Studying abroad opened my eyes to the fact that there is so much out there that you can’t learn about/begin to understand about different cultures and countries without being there yourself.

**Greatest Accomplishment at Grand Valley:** Maintaining my GPA while handling full course loads every semester, playing a varsity sport, working on campus, and also volunteering. I’m proud to say that I had a college career filled with a variety of different activities that shaped me into the person I am today.

**Plans after graduation:** As of right now I am currently applying for positions, but am also taking time to research and figure out exactly what area of business I would like to go into after graduation.