Graduate Profiles
Grand Valley State University
Class of Fall 2019
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
“Live. Learn. Lead.” This is the motto of the Frederick Meijer Honors College. It was adopted because it describes what Honors students do. Even a cursory glance through the profiles of the graduates included in this booklet will confirm this. Honors students are accomplished scholars and extraordinary leaders, and they contribute to a remarkable array of fields. They are also global citizens, as is demonstrated by how many of them have studied abroad, have been involved in service activities and organizations, and plan to devote themselves to the public good in their professional and personal lives. Given their successes and contributions, there is no questions that these graduates will go on to do even greater things.

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

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

With our esteem and best wishes for your future,

Mark Schaub, Interim Dean
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Meg Marshall
Honors Academic & Enrichment Advisor

Kelly McDonell
Honors Academic & Enrichment Advisor

Roger Gilles
Interim Director, Meijer Honors College

Coeli Fitzpatrick
Chair of the Honors Faculty

Robyn Toth
Meijer Honors College Assistant
Meijer Honors College Graduates of 2019

Jessica Alvarez
Adam Anderson
Rachel Andrud
Keegan Bauer
Nicole Burch
Loredana Cunningham
Allison Egrin
Ryan Eisenbarth
Bethany Fink
Blake Fisher
Luke Geierman
Jenna Gibbons
Thomas Harkema
Hailey Hepfner
Nicole Herman
Kari Johnson
Matthew Kaliszak
Charissa Kashian
Stephanie Kelly
Noelle Kessler
Rio Lopez-Wild

Máire MacMaster
Ariana Martineau
Stephanie Nauta
Randy Nguyen
Alyssa Palumbo
Michelina Partipilo
Paula Prost
Kara Rickenberg
Cecelia Roehm
Harmony Roome
Ben Scott-Brandt
Allison Sederlund
Madalyn Slubowski
Hunter Streling
Michelle Svilpe
Oluwadamilola Taiwo
Michael Tanis
Alexandra Troia
Shelby Wallace
Sydney Walters
Brooklyn Wilson
Jessica Alvarez

**Major:** Education (Minor: Spanish – Teaching Elementary)

**Senior Project Title:** Being Colored in a Black and White Society – A Diverse United States History

**Senior Project Summary:** I created a website detailing the histories of Latinx, Asian-Pacific, and Natives in the United States from 1492 until now.

**Activities and Awards:** Member of Latino Student Union, Niara, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Laker Traditions

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Student Teaching at University Prep Art and Design in Detroit & Teacher Assisting at Grandview Elementary in Grandville

**Study Abroad Experience:** Studied Spanish at the Universidad de Granada in the Fall of 2017

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was overcoming a childhood history of abuse and start living for myself. I became a mental health advocate and in turn, was able to work on achieving my goal of studying abroad which was my primary goal going into college.

**Plans after Graduation:** My plan after graduation is to work in the Grand Valley funded charter schools that I am currently working in, in Detroit. I will teach and work on getting my masters in social work to be a school social worker.
Adam Anderson

**Majors:** Finance & Accounting

**Senior Project Title:** Medical Biotechnology in 2019

**Senior Project Summary:** A comprehensive look at the public medical biotechnology sector including industry composition, competitive environment analysis, FDA approval overview, industry threats & opportunities, and M&A activity overview and determinants.

**Research and Presentations:** Creating a Fresh Start for the GV Honors Experience - 2017

**Leadership Activities:** Income Tax Preparation for VITA

**Activities and Awards:** Design Thinking Academy Fellow; Deans List - 6x

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Accounting Internship - Berkshire Hathaway Home Services; Finance Internship - Nucraft Furniture; Wealth Management Internship - Schwallier Wealth Management; Private Equity Internship - Blackford Capital

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I was able to grow as a person and find a career trajectory that suits me.

**Plans after Graduation:** I plan on pursuing a career in M&A as an investment banker or buy-side analyst.
Rachel Andrud

Major: Biomedical Sciences (Minor: Women, Gender & Sexuality Study)

Senior Project Title: LGBT+ Inclusion in Healthcare

Senior Project Summary: I will be reviewing the inclusivity of West Michigan’s healthcare field to the LGBT+ community, along with analyzing what resources are available to these students at Division II universities in Michigan.

Research and Presentations: I studied drug use in pregnant patients with Dr. Chang of University of Pittsburgh medical school and the correlation between phytoestrogens and breast cancer risk.

Leadership Activities: Academic chair of GVSU rowing club; VP/co-founder of GVSU nutrition club; Site leader for GVSU alternative breaks club

Activities and Awards: ACRA All Academic Award 2017

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Created two newsletters regarding reproductive justice and abortion within my WGS 491 practicum class and then held a “Call Your Senator” event to help further advocate for women’s rights.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Spreading information and educating other students about women’s rights, gender equality, LGBT+ inclusion, and reproductive justice.

Plans after Graduation: Medical School or Graduate School
Keegan Bauer

Major: Advertising & Public Relations (Minor: Writing)

Senior Project Title: The Importance of Professional Global Experience in the field of Public Relations

Senior Project Summary: The central focus of this senior project was to draw upon my experiences interning abroad in Dublin, Ireland during the summer of 2019 through a blog and post-reflection paper which addressed the importance that international experience has for students studying public relations due to a globalizing economy.

Research and Presentations: National Student Advertising Team Campaign

Leadership Activities: GVSU Circle K - Public Relations Officer and Secretary; Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity - Initiate Adviser and Web Master

Activities and Awards: Murray Scholarship Recipient 2019; Frederick A Chapman Memorial Public Relations Scholarship Recipient 2019; School of Communications Superior Award – 2017; GVSU National Student Advertising Team Member - 1st in District, 15th Nationally

Study Abroad Experience: EUSA Dublin, Ireland Internship abroad program

Internships and Practicum Experiences: GVSU Career Center - Marketing & Social Media Intern; COM 616 - Public Relations Intern; The Irish Academy of Public Relations – Intern; Lambert & Co. - Public Relations Intern

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Being a part of the National Student Advertising Team and winning 1st place at districts and 15th nationally for our proposed campaign for national client, Wienerschnitzel.

Plans after Graduation: Stay in the Grand Rapids area and work in the field of public relations.
Nicole Burch

**Major:** Advertising & Public Relations  
*(Minor: Management)*

**Senior Project Title:** HOW Persuasive Persuasive Speech Actually is, with a Concentration on Nestle Waters.

**Senior Project Summary:** Using work done for Nestle Waters previously, that focused on improving their brand image, it brings the information straight to people to see if the writing convinces them to change their outlook on the company as a whole.

**Activities and Awards:** Sigma Sigma Sigma member

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Marketing Intern - Commercial Tool & Die, Inc.; Social Media Intern - Moersch Hospitality Group; Social Media and Digital Marketing Intern - Studio C (Celebration Cinema's Parent Company)

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley, was honestly was graduating early. I worked hard in order to be able to graduate a semester early, and it's great to see my efforts paying off.

**Plans after Graduation:** After graduation, I plan on either staying in Grand Rapids, or moving out to Orlando, FL to work a full-time job in Digital Media.
Loredana Cunningham

**Majors:** Psychology & Criminal Justice

**Senior Project Title:** Analysis of Michigan Juvenile Detention Facilities

**Senior Project Summary:** The purpose of this research is to explore the different routes that juvenile detention facilities are using to achieve goals, and if there are any patterns among juvenile these detention centers that may indicate a common shift in how the juvenile detention centers focus their goals.

**Research and Presentations:** Effects of Motivational Material On Heart Rate and Chosen Speed on a Stationary Bike: Purpose was to determine a measurable difference in performance between viewing positively motivating material and those viewing negatively motivational material, as compared to their exercise performance while viewing neutral material in a control trial.

**Leadership Activities:** First Year Leadership Seminar

**Activities and Awards:** Dean's List all through college; Phi Kappa Phi Honoree for 4.0 Freshman Year

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Dean's List every semester

**Plans after Graduation:** Continue pursuing my desire to help people in any way possible
Allison Egrin

**Majors:** Dance & Marketing (Minor: French)

**Senior Project Title:** Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Teacher Training for In-Service Teachers  
**Senior Project Summary:** Mitchell Frederick and I helped bring The Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, to GVSU's College of Education for their workshops on teaching the Holocaust and Armenian Genocide.

**Leadership Activities:** President of Hillel at GVSU 2018-2019

**Study Abroad Experiences:** Fashion Marketing and Merchandising at Florence University of the Arts in Florence, Italy. (May-August 2017)

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** JOIN Intern at University of Michigan Hillel

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Helping grow Hillel from 6 members to over 125.

**Plans after Graduation:** Traveling around Europe for 7 weeks before taking a full-time position at the Kaufman Interfaith Institute as their Programming Assistant focusing on Arts and Culture Programming and Communications.
Ryan Eisenbarth

**Major:** Computer Science *(Minor: Mathematics)*

**Senior Project Title:** Voice Commanded Choose Your Own Adventure Game

**Senior Project Summary:** This is a choose your own adventure game where each decision is made with your voice. The intent is to improve accessibility in video games and not force the use of a controller or keyboard.

**Leadership Activities:** Computing Club treasurer (Junior year)

**Activities and Awards:** Dean's List all three and half years of college

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Software Development Internship at Meijer over the 2019 Summer.

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was having the opportunity to meet some of the most influential people in my life. The liberal arts education has given me the ability to look beyond the computer screen and be human.

**Plans after Graduation:** I plan to continue my employment at Meijer as a backend web developer.
Leigha Filips

Major: *Exercise Science*

Senior Project Title: Exercise Matters: The Physical and Mental Health Benefits of Exercise

Senior Project Summary: My senior project was creating a website that presented the physical and mental health benefits for aerobic training, resistance training, and yoga. It was made to inform people who are interested in the subject and for people new to exercise.

**Research and Presentations:** I researched the relationship between an acute bout of aerobic exercise and short term memory recall in Lab Practicum for Exercise Science and presented it at Student Scholars Day.

**Leadership Activities:** I am a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** I am currently doing an Internship with Heather Winia helping to lead FIT classes at GV and participate in her GROOVE fitness dance classes while learning about holistic health care.

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at GV was being a part of a service learning trip to Costa Rica with the pre physical therapy club. We provided physical therapy services for those in need and got to experience the culture.

**Plans after Graduation:** My plans after graduation are to work in the health and fitness industry, and then go to grad school for Public Health and work with food insecurity by creating healthier communities.
Bethany Fink

Major: Political Science (Minors: Philosophy & Writing)

Senior Project Title: Void

Senior Project Summary: A fiction story exploring themes of mental illness and how they can affect relationships with friends and family.

Research and Presentations: A research project on opinions of the LGBT community from conservatives vs. liberals; A research project on whether race is a factor in who buys lottery tickets

Leadership Activities: Secretary of GVSU’s STAGE

Activities and Awards: Dean’s list, GVSU’s STAGE

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Research and Administrative Intern with Women at Risk International

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley State University was my growth as a person, both personally and academically.

Plans after Graduation: I am moving to Florida to do the Disney College Program before attending law school in the fall.
Blake Fisher

Major: Management

Senior Project Title: The Compounding Effects felt from the Automotive Salvage Industry.

Senior Project Summary: It is an examination of the auto salvage Industry that dives deeper into the economic and environmental impacts it has on society. Most people view this industry as the "junkyard" but this project studied how the industry is beneficial to all.

Leadership Activities: Middle school football coach for 2 years while in college.

Activities and Awards: Dean's List every semester at Grand Valley.

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Part-time Manager at J&R Truck Parts while in college.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Graduating early while also staying on the Dean's list every semester

Plans after Graduation: Find a management position until I can start my own business.
Luke Geierman

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Senior Project Title:** Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia - A Review

**Senior Project Summary:** My project is a review article of the background, incidence, risk stratification, genetics, treatment, and future research of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

**Awards:** BMS Graduate of Distinction Award, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society Lifetime Member, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society Freshman Honoree, National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

**Activities:** Kids in Motion Club Volunteer, Anatomy and Physiology Student Tutor

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Receiving the Biomedical Sciences Department Graduate of Distinction Award for "an outstanding level of accomplishment in academic efforts" in addition to "excellence in contributions to the university and community."

**Plans after Graduation:** Attend medical school beginning in the fall of 2020.
Jenna Gibbons

Major: Statistics (Minors: Mathematics & Business General)

Senior Project Title: The Fibonacci Sequence and the Golden Ratio in Nature

Senior Project Summary: My senior project explores the beauty of the Fibonacci Sequence, and how it connects to the Golden Ratio, which makes up the most irrational number and a very important angle for growth in nature.

Research and Presentations: Statistical Analysis of Phone Records for Law Enforcement

Activities and Awards: Mu Sigma Rho

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Data Analytics Internship at Byrne Electrical-Summer '19

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is graduating in 3.5 years while also working the entire time I have been in school.

Plans after Graduation: I have accepted an offer to work at Ford as a financial analyst starting in January.
Thomas Harkema

Major: *Exercise Science*

**Senior Project Title:** Dissection and plastination of the human back

**Senior Project Summary:** I dissected and plastinated a human back.

**Research and Presentations:** 3D estimators study in the biomechanics and motor learning lab; Ballet study in the biomechanics and motor learn lab.

**Leadership Activities:** Campus ministry at GVSU care team leader.

**Activities and Awards:** Stressing out about school.

**Study Abroad Experiences:** I never studied abroad but I have traveled to Canada, Malawi, and Iceland.

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Internship- Biomechanics and Motor Learn Lab; Fieldwork- Metro Hospital

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Surviving BMS 460 - Regional Human Anatomy where a group of four people dissected a full human body and took a difficult lecture-based class.

**Plans after Graduation:** Getting my doctorate in physical therapy.
Hailey Hepfner

Major: Exercise Science

Senior Project Title: A Literature Review of the Treatment of Lateral Patellar Instability With Regard to the Medial Patellofemoral Ligament and the Lateral Retinaculum

Senior Project Summary: The goal of my project was to determine what the cause of lateral patellar instability is, give an overview of the anatomy of the knee, provide different treatment options and determine the most successful option, and analyze what the proper rehabilitation is for the different surgical procedures.

Research and Presentations: In my EXS 420 class, my group researched what effects dynamic, static, and no stretching have on sprint performance.

Leadership Activities: Honors College Mentor

Activities and Awards: GVSU Award for Excellence; GVSU Faculty Scholarship; Phi Kappa Phi Freshmen Honoree; Phi Kappa Phi Member; Dean's List every semester; Pre-Physical Therapy Club

Study Abroad Experience: Rome, Italy

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Intern for the GVSU Track and Field: Sprints/Hurdles Team

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Being honored as a freshmen by Phi Kappa Phi was very rewarding, however, being invited to join the honor society the following year was even more rewarding, knowing that my hard work has paid off and that I was able to accomplish my academic goals.

Plans after Graduation: Beginning in May 2020 I will be attending Central Michigan University to earn my Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy, and continue to pursue my passion to help people feel their best.
Nicole Herman

**Majors:** Studio Art & Music

**Senior Project Title:** *collide*

**Senior Project Summary:** Interdisciplinary improvisation and collaborative video piece between music and dance featuring Nicole Herman, Makenzie Mattis, Emily David, and dancers.

**Research and Presentations:**
Art exhibition: *Let.* Two week exhibition of interactive visual art and music at the Padnos Gallery
Music senior project: research and presentation on Composer/Choreographer Collaboration

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was putting together and maintaining my art show: *Let.*

**Plans after Graduation:** Post graduation I will take one of the best naps of my life. After that, I plan to keep connecting, making, growing, and learning.
Kari Johnson

Major: Statistics (Minors: Business General & Mathematics)

Senior Project Title: A Deeper Dive into the Mental Health of Today's College Students

Senior Project Summary: Data from the 2018 BRFSS was used in order to identify what characteristics or habits can help predict the likelihood of depression among 18 to 24 year-olds. A user friendly survey and logistic regression model were developed as a result of my research.

Research and Presentations: I developed a multiple linear regression model for Grand Valley's PA program which predicts the entitlement of PA students based on their characteristics.

Leadership Activities: Member of Mu Sigma Rho

Activities and Awards: I was awarded the Statistics Scholarship Award in 2019. I am a member of Mu Sigma Rho and was recognized with "The Department of Statistics Outstanding Undergraduate Award" in 2019. I have received the award for excellence and been named to the Dean's List every semester.

Internships and Practicum Experiences: In the winter semester of 2019, I was a Data Analytics Intern at Crystal Flash. In the summer of 2019, I was a Predictive Analytics Intern at Farmers Insurance.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Making the Dean's List each semester while working 2-3 jobs.

Plans after Graduation: I will be continuing my work at Farmers Insurance as a Predictive Analyst.
Matthew Kaliszak

Major: Nursing

Senior Project Title: Clinical Synopsis on Delirium

Senior Project Summary: The clinical progression of delirium in an inpatient hospital setting and treatment options/strategies

Leadership Activities: Community Volunteering
Charissa Kashian

**Majors:** Chemistry and Education (Minor: Biology-Teaching)

**Senior Project Title:** Exploring Differences in Partial Credit Among Chemistry Faculty

**Senior Project Summary:** This research project explored how chemistry professors assigned partial credit to short answer exams. Overall, I found that communication must be improved, and professors must be conscious of biases when grading.

**Research and Presentations:** The partial credit research was expanded to include chemistry and biology professors from other colleges and universities and the pilot study was presented at the 25th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education in 2018.

**Leadership Activities:** Vice President and Treasurer of Swing Dance Club, Treasurer of Chemistry Club

**Activities and Awards:** Excellence in Chemistry Award 2019, Swing Dance Club, Chemistry Club, Equestrian Club

**Study Abroad Experiences:** Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching - Trieste, Italy, Winter 2020

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Teacher Assisting at Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy Fall 2019, Student Teaching at Forest Hills Northern High School Winter 2020, Student Teaching at International School of Trieste Winter 2020

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment was receiving the Excellence in Chemistry Award. Being recognized by the faculty and staff I have worked with for the past five years was very humbling.

**Plans after Graduation:** I plan to teach chemistry and biology at a local high school.
Stephanie Kelly

Major: Nursing

Senior Project Title: Paid Parental Leave: Benefits to Fathers, Mothers, Children, and Society

Senior Project Summary: Early childhood sees the most rapid cognitive and physical development of the human lifetime and parental presence greatly effects children during this time. My project explores how paid parental leave benefits families and our society with the goal of educating institutions and employers on why they should offer paid leave.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Working in a group of Nursing Students, I worked to create a Disaster Preparedness themed haunted house. Through this project I educated community members about food storage, communication, shelters, emergency plans, and emergency safety during a disaster. I want to continue to work with community outreach programs in the future.

Plans after Graduation: My aim is to be a critical care registered nurse and work in Grand Rapids. After a few years, I would like to become a travel nurse to explore the U.S. doing what I love. In the future I wish to volunteer with an international aid organization to work abroad.
Noelle Kessler

**Majors:** Accounting and Finance

**Senior Project Title:** Officer Transitions in Student Organizations

**Senior Project Summary:** I gave a presentation at the Beta Alpha Psi national conference in Chicago on effective officer transitioning within student organizations.

**Leadership Activities:** Current Chapter President of the international honor society for accounting, finance, and information systems, Beta Alpha Psi.

**Activities and Awards:** BDO International Accounting Scholarship, GVSU Accounting Alumni Scholarship, Financial Executive International Scholarship, GVSU Presidential Scholarship

**Study Abroad Experiences:** Studied abroad in London during Summer 2018

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** I interned at the Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations in Summer of 2017. I also interned in Sales Finance at Steelcase from May 2019-October 2019. I will be interning in tax at BDO beginning in January 2020.

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Completing my undergraduate degrees in 2.5 years.

**Plans after Graduation:** Plan to intern at BDO in tax in Winter 2020, then begin graduate school at GVSU to get my MSA.
Rio Lopez-Wild

Major: Film and Video

Senior Project Title: Fever Dream

Senior Project Summary: A feature-length screenplay about a high school student who undergoes a psychotic breakdown after becoming obsessed with a classmate.

Research and Presentations: Research project on music relating to motor skills for HON 244; Presentation on the history of British cinema for FVP 375

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Internship with Stone Hut Studios in Traverse City during Summer 2019; Post Production Practicum class (FVP 429)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Writing two feature-length screenplays for a class and my senior project.

Plans after Graduation: Join my friends in starting our own production company in Grand Rapids
Máire MacMaster

Major: Biomedical Sciences (Minor: Anthropology)

Senior Project Title: With My Hands: A Review of Osteopathic Manual Therapy

Senior Project Summary: In my project, I explored the history of osteopathic medicine and the practical applications of osteopathic manual therapy.

Leadership Activities: Honors Mentor Council (2 years), Honors Mentor (3 years), Honors Curriculum Development Committee, Anatomy tutor and TA

Activities and Awards: I am Grand Valley award

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: The honors college helped me realize the professional I want to be and for that, I will be forever grateful.

Plans after Graduation: I hope to attend medical school
**Ariana Martineau**

**Majors:** History and Education (Minor: English)

**Senior Project Title:** Tatyana Markus: Hero of Ukraine

**Senior Project Summary:** Wrote a research-based play about a young Jewish woman who was about 20 years old when the Nazis occupied Ukraine.

**Research and Presentations:** Finnish immigration to the U.P., coupled with a short documentary; Mental Health Stigma in the 1890s; How European Imperialism created conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia; and the difficult relationship between Queen Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots.

**Leadership Activities:** Honors College Mentor for incoming Freshmen, ELL and refugee tutor at Hudsonville High School, Editor of Grand Valley Journal of History

**Activities and Awards:** Participant in GVSU Theatre; Leader and choreographer of a belly dance group in GVSU's Belly Dance Club; First Place Winner in Critical Writing in Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Student Competition; Honorable Mention for GVSU History Department's Breen Prize for research paper "Mental Health in the 1890s"

**Study Abroad Experience:** Traveled in the summer of 2016 through the Holocaust Educational Foundation and visited important Holocaust sites and camps in Ukraine, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Pre-student teaching internship at Union High School in Grand Rapids, and student teaching internship at University Prep Academy High School in Detroit.

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** I'm most proud of my Senior Project. It took so much time, and re-editing, but I had so much fun with it. I continued to work on it even after I officially turned it in, I was still too excited and full of ideas.

**Plans after Graduation:** Moving to St. Louis, Missouri to teach high school history in St. Louis Public Schools.
Stephanie Nauta

**Majors:** Social Work and Spanish (Minor: Latin American Studies)

**Senior Project Title:** Mental Health Supports for Latinx Students at Grand Valley

**Senior Project Summary:** My project seeks to offer context for factors that may influence Grand Valley Latinx students’ mental health which informs potential solutions and interventions to increase access to services and provide support to this population. I surveyed GV counseling center staff to understand the existing supports and perceived need.

**Research and Presentations:** Sustainable Development in Latin America - presented at Great Lakes History Conference

**Leadership Activities:** Co-founder and leader of Latino Fellowship; Cook Leadership Academy Candidate; Student Leader of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship; Lead Consultant at GV Frederick Meijer Writing Center

**Study Abroad Experiences:** I studied abroad in Chile (Valparaiso and Vina del Mar) for one semester

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Interned at Samaritas in their Match Grant, refugee resettlement program for 2 semesters through the Social Work Program and at The Other Way Ministries as a Children's ministries assistant for 2 summers

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** The greatest gift GV has given me is connection with people (students, faculty, community members) and an awareness of how nuanced, expansive, broken, and beautiful the world is. I understand my privileges and experience with a broader context and I have learned how to learn.

**Plans after Graduation:** Immediately after graduation, I will lead a 2-month service learning/mission trip to Guatemala, applying what I have learned about empowerment, sustainability, and racial reconciliation.
Randy Nguyen

**Major:** Computer Science

**Senior Project Title:** Machine Learning Mandolin

**Senior Project Summary:** To create a machine learning application that will be trained from samples of mandolin music and compose its own version of Vietnamese folk music.

**Research and Presentations:** Future State Project Researcher Assistant

**Leadership Activities:** Honors Mentor

**Activities and Awards:** Dean's List since enrollment, I Am Grand Valley Award

**Study Abroad Experiences:** Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland in July 2019

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Interned at Gentex Corporation in IT Analytics starting January 2019 working with data visualization, mapping, and machine learning.

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** Collaborated with three German students from Hochschule Hannover on a project for a bird banding association. Our project included a mobile app, server, and database. I've gained very valuable technical experience and enjoyed working on an international team.

**Plans after Graduation:** Start my full time career at Gentex and continue my education at Grand Valley with the Masters of Data Science
Alyssa Palumbo

Major: Behavioral Neuroscience (Minors: Applied Statistics & Biology)

Senior Project Title: Historical Outline of Parkinson's Disease

Senior Project Summary: A historical perspective on the genetics of Parkinson's disease as well as environmental factors that have played a roll in the development of the illness.

Activities and Awards: ChemoCare, Italian Club, Dean’s list

Study Abroad Experiences: One summer spent in Florence, Italy studying Italian art, history, and culture.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Growing to be a stronger, more independent person

Plans after Graduation: Graduate school for Genetic Counseling
Michelina Partiplio

Major: *International Relations* (Minor: *French*)

Senior Project Title: L'Égalité des Sexes au Rwanda

Senior Project Summary: A paper, written in French, examining gender equality in post-genocide Rwanda

Leadership Activities: Co-founder and co-president of Clean-up Cause We Care, Member of the Appropriations Committee, Honors mentor

Study Abroad Experiences: I studied at the Insitut Catholique de Paris in Paris, France during the Winter/Spring 2019 Semester.

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Intern for State Representative Darrin Camilleri

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Creating a club

Plans after Graduation: Potentially spend a gap year teaching English in France and then law school
Paula Prost

Major: Nursing

Senior Project Title: Dipeptidyl Peptiase IV Inhibitors Effectiveness in Decreasing the Advancement of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A Systematic Review

Senior Project Summary: Non-Alcoholic Liver Disease (NAFLD) affects approximately 30% of the population, and can result in end stage liver disease and eventual premature death. Interesting, 70% of those with diabetes have co-morbid NAFLD. This systematic review looks at what evidence is available regarding Dipeptidyl Peptiase IV Inhibitors (DPP-IV) in the improvement of NAFLD.

Leadership Activities: Student Nurses Association Communications Director and Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Coordinator, Secretary on the Pre-Nursing Association

Activities and Awards: I am Grand Valley Award, Sigma Theta Tau International

Study Abroad Experiences: Kirkhof College of Nursing Study Abroad to Cape Coast, Ghana

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Making a difference in my patient's lives, such as them telling me I they feel more comfortable with me as their student nurse then with other (practicing) nurses.

Plans after Graduation: Be a Registered Nurse hopefully at Butterworth Hospital
Kara Rickenberg

**Major:** Allied Health Sciences *(Minor: Psychology)*

**Senior Project Title:** Prototyping a More Accessible DIY Functional Movement Screening Kit

**Senior Project Summary:** I decided to create a website detailing how to make a DIY Functional Movement Screening Kit, making FMS more accessible and affordable in hopes of increasing rates of preventative care.


**Leadership Activities:** House Manager, Elected Class Standards Representative, Standards At-Large Representative, Honors College Mentor

**Activities and Awards:** Alpha Omicron Pi (Outstanding Junior Award, Ritual Award), Heritage Homes Social Recreation Program, Pre-OT Club, STARS for Make a Wish, The Thirst Project, Artists Creating Together volunteer, FMHC Student Mentor, Night to Shine Escort

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** Mary Free Bed College Program

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** The greatest accomplishment that I have achieved at Grand Valley has been my self-discovery. Reflecting at the person that I was when I first came to Grand Valley has made me appreciate the growth I have made and the person I have become.

**Plans after Graduation:** I plan to pursue an education in occupational therapy so that I can become a pediatric OT.
Cecelia Roehm

Major: Anthropology (Minor: Archaeology)

Senior Project Title: Assessing Age and Sex of Non-Adult Humans from Umm-el-Jimal, Jordan

Senior Project Summary: This project looks at aging and sexing techniques for juvenile remains from Umm el-Jimal. This paper determines the minimum number of individuals in the sample, the ages, and reliability of the methods for examining the petrous portion of the temporal bone and pars lateralis and basilar portion of the occipital.

Research and Presentations: Archaeological Isotopic Investigations of Animal Resources at Early Urban Centers in the Southern Levant; Stable Isotope Analysis on Neolithic Remains from Greek Populations

Leadership Activities: Anthropology Club Vice President; Archaeological Society General Manager

Activities and Awards: Outstanding Senior Award in Anthropology Lambda Alpha Member

Study Abroad Experiences: Tell es-Safi, Israel

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Anthropology Lab Assistant; Isotopic Lab Research Assistant; Teaching Assistant-Human Osteology

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I believe that my greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was earning the Outstanding Senior in Anthropology Award.

Plans after Graduation: I plan on continuing my education at graduate school to earn a PhD in bioarchaeology and conduct stable isotopic research on human remains from Neolithic Greece.
Harmony Roome

Major: Biomedical Sciences

Senior Project Title: Pituitary Contribution to Altered Serum Gonadotropin Levels in Obese Male Mice

Senior Project Summary: The goal of this senior project was to determine whether the altered reproductive status in obese mice can be attributed to altered pituitary production or release of gonadotropic hormones.

Research and Presentations: Undergraduate research with Dr. Christopher Pearl, with a focus in male reproductive endocrinology

Leadership Activities: For nearly two years, I have served on the e-board of a campus-based club, Hearts for Heroes, as Event Coordinator.

Activities and Awards: Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars; nominated for BMS Graduate of Distinction award

Internships and Practicum Experiences: I have had the amazing opportunity to acquire clinical work experience as a Resident Aide at an assisted living center. I also have practicum experience shadowing a primary care physician.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: One of my greatest accomplishments while at Grand Valley has been learning the art of balance. Rigorous classes, research, club events, work, family and friends all commanded my attention, but I learned how to stretch myself realistically, set boundaries, schedule and prioritize my time, and experience joy in the process.

Plans after Graduation: After graduation, my plan is to attend medical school.
Ben Scott-Brandt

Major: Integrative Studies

Senior Project Title: Denis Diderot: A Secular Hero.

Senior Project Summary: I wrote a children's song as a biography of Denis Diderot, the French Enlightenment philosopher and secular thinker from the 18th century. My song showcases how Diderot's mind and abilities impacted society and religion during a period of great historical change.

Research and Presentations: As the Training and Assessment Student Assistant at Campus Interfaith Resources, I co-lead training sessions for students, faculty, and staff on interfaith issues. These presentations include a program designed for residence halls, Cultivate, Teach-In, Interfaith 101 sessions, Made In Michigan Interfaith Lab, and a presentation at Ferris State.

Leadership Activities: I have been a leader behind the scenes in my role with Campus Interfaith Resources.

Activities and Awards: Glenn A. Niemeyer Award, April 2019. Outstanding Adult Learner Award, Grand Rapids Area Higher Education Network, April 2019. First place, Honors Student Essay Competition, April 2015.

Study Abroad Experiences: 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions, Toronto, ON, Canada. (REL 280)

Internships and Practicum Experiences: Summer 2018 Spiritual Retreat Center Internship at GilChrist Retreat Center and the Hermitage Community. 2018-2019 Interfaith Internship with Campus Interfaith Resources at GVSU.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: I consider graduation, and all the hard work and diligence behind it, to be my greatest accomplishment during my time here at Grand Valley. I am so thankful for my family, my mentors and my supportive colleagues who have helped me see this through!

Plans after Graduation: I plan to work in the field of spiritual retreats, connecting my West Michigan community with resources to support people of all spiritual, secular, and religious identities.
Allison Sederlund

**Majors:** Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience (Minor: Biology)

**Senior Project Title:** The link between procrastination and perfectionism

**Senior Project Summary:** I worked with Dr. Lawrence Burns to evaluate a cohesive model potentially linking adaptive and maladaptive procrastination with positive and negative perfectionism. We identified aspects of each of these constructs and evaluated plausible associations between each that may allow for a better conceptual explanation linking them.

**Research and Presentations:** I participated in research that investigated why the proportion of head to mirror is rendered unrealistically large in self-portraits and presented at Student Scholar's Day. I also participated in research that assessed potential predictors of the termination of parental rights and how parent Adverse Childhood Experiences may impact child outcomes.

**Activities and Awards:** Volunteer at the Scholarship Competition for the Honors College; Honors College Freshman Mentor; Dean's List for all semesters; Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree; Grand Valley Award for Excellence

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** I was an intern at Pine Rest in the Psychological Consultation Center where I observed and helped administer psychological assessments for those being evaluated for ADHD and ASD.

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been meeting wonderful people and creating lifelong friendships, all while discovering and pursuing a career I love.

**Plans after Graduation:** I plan to pursue a PhD in clinical or counseling psychology after taking a gap year.
Madalyn Slubowksi

Major: Biology

Senior Project Title: Students For Haiti Executive Board Guide

Senior Project Summary: As the founding President of Students for Haiti, I want to ensure that the organization has a strong foundation for future growth. To assure the incoming Executive Board has a successful start to their year, I've compiled club records into a practical guide they can build upon.

Research and Presentations: Environmental Sustainability Showcase: Heartside Gleaning Initiative Logo Redesign

Leadership Activities: Students for Haiti Founding President; Alternative Breaks President and Site Leader; Niemeyer Resident Assistant; Honors College Student Ambassador and Freshman Mentor; CHAARG Secretary; Laker Traditions Team Family Weekend Coordinator; Make A Difference Day two-time Site Leader; Transitions Leader

Activities and Awards: Omicron Delta Kappa, I am Grand Valley Award recipient, Leadershape Program Graduate

Study Abroad Experiences: Haiti: Water, Environmental Issues, and Service Learning Honors Study Abroad 2017

Internships and Practicum Experiences: HealthBridge: Finance and HR Intern, Kids Food Basket: Sack Supper and Volunteer Program Intern

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: The breadth of my experience, in that I became involved in many clubs and programs on campus. These experiences exposed me to new people and ideas, pushed me out of my comfort zone, and granted me opportunities to polish my leadership skills.

Plans after Graduation: I have accepted a full-time position at HealthBridge and will be working as an associate in the finance and human resource departments. I am also exploring master's of Public Health programs.
Hunter Streling

**Major:** International Relations (Minors: Arabic & Criminal Justice)

**Senior Project Title:** An Analysis of Modern Islamic Art and Arabic Poetry in Jordan and Palestine

**Senior Project Summary:** During my time abroad in Amman, Jordan during the summer of 2019, I researched art within the region while also finding connections between the art and the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza.

**Research and Presentations:** I completed a "Leader Lab" through the Cook Leadership Academy regarding emotional intelligence and stepping out of your comfort zone.

**Leadership Activities:** Fellow Candidate in the Cook Leadership Academy; Secretary and Health and Safety Officer for Alpha Tau Omega; 2 years as president of the Arab Culture Club; honors college mentor for 3 years.

**Activities and Awards:** I am a member of Alpha Tau Omega, Phi Kappa Phi, The Cook Leadership Academy, Arab Culture Club, and I serve as a volunteer for International Student Orientation. I also have worked in positions within GVSU Campus Recreation and as a campus tour guide.

**Study Abroad Experiences:** I completed a summer study abroad program for two and a half months in Amman, Jordan for the Summer 2019 term. I studied Modern Standard and Colloquial Arabic through the Qasid Arabic Institute and visited sites such as Petra, Wadi Mujib and the Wadi Rum Desert!

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** I completed the Washington Center's National Security Seminar and the Washington Campus program. Both of these allowed me to network with leaders in Washington, DC in various career fields including lobbyists, press, State Department, Department of Defense and the US Intelligence Community.

**Greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was completing ATO Walks Hard, an annual event in which 20 brothers in my fraternity including myself, give up our spring breaks and walk 160 miles to raise money and awareness for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

**Plans after Graduation:** Currently I am looking to work within the US Foreign Service or Department of Defense as a policy analyst while also applying for fellowships to continue to study Arabic abroad through programs such as Harvard's CASA Program and the Critical Language Scholarship.
Michelle Svilpe

**Major:** Political Science (Minor: Writing)

**Senior Project Title:** Analyzing Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association 138 S. Ct. 1461 (2018): Constitutionality, Reasoning, and Implications

**Senior Project Summary:** The senior project is an essay that analyzes the Supreme Court case Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association 138 S. Ct. 1461 (2018) by explaining the case, its reasonings, and the decision held by the justices. The essay also considers the further implications of sports betting on society.

**Leadership Activities:** Recruitment Advisor for the Epsilon Psi Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was receiving a job at the Fred Meijer Center for Writing & Michigan Authors as an incoming freshman student. I have enjoyed my job beyond what words can describe and am so grateful for working at the writing center my entire college career.

**Plans after Graduation:** I plan to attend Law School in the Fall and focus my studies in the area of Sports Law.
Oluwadamilola Taiwo

Major: Nursing

Senior Project Title: Pregnancy While Incarcerated

Senior Project Summary: Prison is a population that is often overlooked. I always thought it was interesting how maternity occurred and the nursing care provided in prison. Are these inmates experiencing a pregnancy that is patient-centered and all their holistic needs met?

Research and Presentations: Kirkhof College of Nursing Capstone at Bethany Christian Services Refugee and Immigration Services

Leadership Activities: Previous Campus Ministry Lifegroup Leader

Activities and Awards: Thompson Working Family Scholarship, Spectrum Health Diversity Scholarship, Member of the Student Nurses' Association

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Academically, completing the Kirkhof College of Nursing Program! However, overall, my greatest accomplishment was growing and experiencing as much as I could during my undergraduate years at GV. I made amazing, lifelong friends, and became a better version of myself, and expanded my knowledge! What more could I ask for?

Plans after Graduation: I have accepted a Registered Nurse position at Spectrum Health's Butterworth Hospital to work nights on the Neuroscience Unit. I am excited to be a new graduate nurse and grow my nursing skills and capabilities. I will always be a Laker for a Lifetime!
Michael Tanis

**Major:** Political Science (Minors: Human Rights & International Relations)

**Senior Project Title:** Social Media Use and Political Engagement at Grand Valley State University

**Senior Project Summary:** This senior project examined the use of social media by Miami University in Ohio to encourage student political engagement in the 2018 midterm election and recommended improvements that can be implemented by Grand Valley State University to increase their overall voting rate to 75 percent in the 2020 election.

**Research and Presentations:** In my PLS 300 course, I researched the impact of state-sponsored lotteries on low-income counties in Michigan. I determined that lottery sales negatively affected low-income players at the economic advantage of high-income players.

**Leadership Activities:** I was a member of the GVSU Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition.

**Activities and Awards:** I received the "I Am Grand Valley" award, the Grand Finish Grant, and the GV Award for Excellence.

**Internships and Practicum Experiences:** In the fall of 2018, I interned for U.S. Senator Gary Peters and the U.S. Department of State through the Virtual Student Federal Service program. In the summer of 2019, I interned for Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope and his office.

**Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley:** My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was having the opportunity to engage hundreds of students in the democratic process during the 2018 midterm election through my position at the Community Service Learning Center.

**Plans after Graduation:** I plan to attend graduate school in the fall of 2020 to study public policy.
Alexandra Troia

Major: Allied Health Sciences (Minor: Biology)

Senior Project Title: A First-Hand Account of Taking ART 380 Learning to See: Visual Observation for the Health Professional

Senior Project Summary: The central focus of this project was to explore the advantages, for health professionals, in bridging the gap between visual arts and medical sciences.

Activities and Awards: Pre-PA Club member, GVSU Student Ambassador

Study Abroad Experiences: I shadowed physicians abroad in Pula, Croatia.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment was my senior project. It greatly deepened my knowledge and understanding of the ways the visual arts can impact and affect performance, thinking, and communication in the medical field.

Plans after Graduation: After graduation, I hope to gain admission to graduate school in pursuit of becoming a physician assistant.
Shelby Wallace

Major: Nursing

Senior Project Title: Major Depressive Disorder in Midwest College Students

Senior Project Summary: This literature review examines major depressive disorder in college students in the Midwest. It explores risk factors, comorbidities, and treatment options with a nursing perspective.

Leadership Activities: Member of Student Nurses Association; Vice President of Sigma Alpha Lambda Honors Society

Activities and Awards: Volunteer at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital (2017)

Internships and Practicum Experiences: I have had clinical placements in geriatric, medical/surgical, obstetric, pediatric, and mental health units in the Grand Rapids area. I completed my 160 hour clinical immersion in an acute rehabilitation unit.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: Performing in World Class Drumlines while keeping up with my studies.

Plans after Graduation: I will be studying for the nursing licensing exam. I plan to continue exploring nursing and nonprofit employment opportunities in West Michigan.
Sydney Walters

Major: *Criminal Justice (Minor: Spanish)*

Senior Project Title: The Use of Jails/Prisons as the “New Asylums”: A Criminal Justice and Psychological Perspective

Senior Project Summary: This project focuses on the use of jails and prisons as mental health asylums and the impact this policy has on the Criminal Justice System, society, and mentally ill inmates.

Leadership Activities: Initiate Advisor and Fundraising Chair - Phi Sigma Pi

Activities and Awards: Dean's List; Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was having the opportunity to be a student employee at the Grand Valley Police Department as a police cadet. This created many wonderful opportunities for my future career path.

Plans after Graduation: My plan is to become a police officer for a department in the State of Michigan through either sponsorship from a department or the GVSU police academy.
Brooklyn Willaon

Major: Advertising & Public Relations
(Minor: Business General)

Senior Project Title: PRoactive

Senior Project Summary: I created a website and blog on the trends in the marketing industry. The idea was to help PR and communication professionals be ahead of the game by being aware of these upcoming trends and learn ways to implement them into future strategies or campaigns.

Research and Presentations: GVSU Campus Dining Communication; Sports fans as crisis communicators on social media; Narrative paradigm through public relations

Leadership Activities: Event and Programming Director for GrandPR, the student-run PR firm at GVSU; Vice President of Public Relations for the Grand Valley chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA); Account Executive for GrandPR

Activities and Awards: PRSSA member; GrandPR member; Quiet Influence Award - GVSU PRSSA; Third Place in the 2018 Arthur W. Page Case Study Competition

Internships and Practicum Experiences: PR intern at COM 616; PR intern at Priority Health

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley: My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is getting involved in PRSSA and holding a leadership position within the organization. I was one of the rare individuals who joined as a freshman can't imagine my college experience without it. The relationships I've made and the skills I've gained are invaluable.

Plans after Graduation: I will be moving into a full-time role at Priority Health, where I currently intern, upon graduation.