



Graduate Profiles  
Grand Valley State University  
Class of Winter 2023 and Summer 2023



# Nathaniel Alpers

**Major:** *Biomedical Engineering*

## **Senior Project**

***Senior Engineering Project with Medisurge***

This project is confidential. It involves redesigning a manufacturing process.

## **Leadership Activities**

Tutored freshman engineering classes

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's list fall 2019 and winter 2020

## **Internship and Practicum**

Worked 3 co-op semesters at Inrad as a project engineer helping design medical devices and manufacturing processes.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Meeting lifelong friends

## **Plans after Graduation**

Working in the medical device industry



# Shane Armstrong

**Major:** *Physics*

**Minor:** *Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

***Calculating the Gravitational Constant Using a Replica of the Cavendish Experiment***

An experiment that measures the universal gravitational constant using structures and methods that are similar to those from the Cavendish Experiment.

## **Research and Presentations**

Numerical analysis of the Ising Model using Monte Carlo techniques

## **Activities and Awards**

GVSU Award of Distinction Faculty Scholarship for all 8 semesters

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment was persevering through four long years of college. I'm most proud of the success of my design and construction of a homemade replica of the Cavendish experiment. I'm honored to have worked with many other passionate physics students and teachers.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to learn more about physics, math, and chemistry, and to find a job where my skills are needed.



# Gloria Baker

**Major:** *Cell & Molecular Biology*

## Senior Project

### *The Impact of Absciscic Acid on Ubiquitin Mediated Protein Degradation in Arabidopsis Thaliana*

Selective protein degradation allows the cell to recycle components of proteins that are no longer functioning or necessary for cellular function. This investigation revealed a statistically significant increase in the amount of degradation through CRL3 upon increasing concentrations of Absciscic Acid in plant growth media.

## Research and Presentations

CMB499: The Impact of Abiotic Stresses on Selective Protein Degradation

REU: Investigating the roles of heat shock protein HSP90c in early chloroplast biogenesis in *A. thaliana*

MS-cubed: Impact of phytohormones on selective protein degradation

HNR499: WMRUGS, SSD presentations

## Activities and Awards

2023 Undergraduate Research Scholar

## Internship and Practicum

Plant Genomics Research Experience for Undergraduates at MSU, Summer 2023

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Discovering a novel trend in the ABA-SPD signaling pathway and proving its statistical significance.

## Plans after Graduation

Dual degree PhD/PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology and Molecular Plant Sciences at MSU, starting fall 2023.



# Kassandra Baker

**Majors:** *Biomedical Sciences, Studio Art*

## Senior Project

### *Communicating Science Through Visuals*

This project is a compilation of anatomical drawings and graphics of organ systems, organs, and tissues using both traditional drawing methods and digital media. This portfolio displays the skills I will be using as a future medical illustrator.

## Research and Presentations

Candida albicans research 2021-2022: Explored expression of hyphal proteins in *C. albicans* yeast cells under the supervision of Microbiology faculty. Presented poster at Student Scholars Day at GVSU, April 2022

## Leadership Activities

Tutor- Anatomy Tutor Lab / 2022-2023

GVSU Orchestra section leader / 2021-2022

Membership Officer- Folk Music Club / 2021-2023

Membership Officer- French Club / 2020-2021

## Activities and Awards

BMS Graduate of Distinction

Dean's List / 2019-2023

GVSU Award for Excellence

GVSU Presidential Award

## Internship and Practicum

Graphic Designer- Campus View Housing / 2021-2023

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Completing two degrees in BMS and Studio Art which allowed me to explore human anatomy in-depth, improve my art skills, and discover my passion for medical illustration.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be pursuing a master's degree in biomedical Visualization at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC)



# Lillian Baker

**Majors:** *Hospitality Tourism Management, Marketing*

## Senior Project

### *Campus Activities Board Research Study*

As a member of Campus Activities Board, I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the desires of students regarding campus events. This way, we could better provide them with events they were interested in. I conducted an electronic survey for students at Grand Valley and analyzed the results.

## Research and Presentations

Marketing Senior Project- an analysis of Tata Steel Ltd.

## Leadership Activities

4-year executive board member for Campus Activities Board

## Activities and Awards

3 "I Am GV" awards

"Outstanding Vice President of the Year" from Grand Valley's Office of Student Life (2022)

"Leadership Team Member of the Year" for Campus Activities Board (2022)

"Program of the Year" for Student Small Business Market from National Association of Campus Activities (2022)  
Dean's List (2018-2023)

## Study Abroad

Studied abroad at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy during January-February 2020, and May-June 2022.

## Internship and Practicum

Ticket and Retail Sales Intern for Grand Valley Athletics (2018-2019)

Marketing and Database Intern for Experience Grand Rapids (2021-2022)

Disney College Program at Walt Disney World Resort Orlando (2022)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Receiving the Outstanding Vice President of the Year award from Grand Valley's Office of Student Life, related to my contributions with Campus Activities Board.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be remaining in the west Michigan area, starting my career as Sales Administrator for Experience Grand Rapids.





# Kylie Beaudoin

**Major:** *Nursing*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## Senior Project

***Third Grade Reading Proficiency and Adult Health Outcomes***

This project focused on the potential link between third grade reading proficiency and future health outcomes in adulthood. I also created a framework mapping the connections between the two.

## Leadership Activities

Chapter President, VP of Membership Integrity, and VP of Chapter Development for Alpha Omicron Pi

## Activities and Awards

Vice Provost Student Advisory Board (VSAB)

Student Nurses Association (SNA)

Recognition for exemplary leadership from FSL for term of presidency

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Developing lifelong friendships and finding success in experiences that have led me to find a passion in nursing.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be working as a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit.



# Jillian Beckwell

**Major:** *English*

## Senior Project

***OA and OER in Education and the Knowledge Market.***

This project involved researching and creating a workshop to advocate for the use of OA and OER within education and the Knowledge Market. By giving a presentation at a KM conference and creating educational materials for a workshop, I informed my fellow coworkers about the benefits of these resources.

## Research and Presentations

I presented research at GVSU Peer Mentoring Conference.

## Leadership Activities

I worked as a Lead Research Consultant at the Knowledge Market. I also was a Freshman Honors Mentor for the 2022-2023 school year.

## Activities and Awards

I worked as an Access Services Student at Mary Idema Pew Library. I was also a general member of K-GE and a part of two small groups.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is being able to graduate a year earlier than expected.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be pursuing a Master of Science in Information degree at the University of Michigan to delve further into the library science field.





# Ella Beringer

**Major:** *Social Work*

## Senior Project

*Teaching Assistant for Dr. Cataldo*

I learned the importance of having difficult conversations and developed the skills to facilitate these discussions with large and small groups.

## Research and Presentations

I presented at Student Scholars Day with my research partner, Cameron Lindsay. We conducted research on how an individual's personality interacts with their trauma knowledge and attitudes.

## Leadership Activities

I have served as a Resident Assistant in the Niemeyer/Calder community for two years. I was also the ASLCC Membership Officer and the K-12 Connect Student Organization President.

## Activities and Awards

In my senior year, I ran my first half marathon. I also took a ballroom dancing course at Grand Valley; now, I study at my professor's studio in hopes of becoming a dance instructor. Additionally, I received the Excellence-in-a-Discipline in Social Work Award.

## Internship and Practicum

During my senior year, I completed an internship at Arbor Circle. There, I helped with the Parenting Nurturing program.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment was chasing every opportunity that presented itself to me. With that, a lot of pride stems from having made decisions that will positively impact me for the rest of my life.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be continuing my education at Grand Valley State University pursuing my master's degree in social work. I will also be the graduate assistant for the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center.



# Caroline Berish

**Majors:** *Computer Information Systems and Legal Studies*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

***Website and Network Upgrade for a Local NPO (combined CIS capstone/honors senior project)***

Led a team of students in creating two development websites and improving overall network security for a local NPO in Grand Rapids which specialized in providing services for those with visual impairments. Focused on improving ADA compliance and overall accessibility for easier access and use by clients.

## Leadership Activities

President of Law Society

Honors Mentor

Peer Advisor at Padnos International Center

## Activities and Awards

Member of Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX) Honor Society of Legal Studies

## Study Abroad

Kingston University in Kingston upon Thames, United Kingdom.

## Internship and Practicum

Legal Intern at Viewpointe

Legal Intern at St. Clair County Public Defender

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Realizing my leadership potential and demonstrating it through serving as President of Law Society, an Honors Mentor, and a Peer Advisor at PIC. These experiences and the personal and professional relationships gained at GVSU helped me become confident in my abilities and encouraged me to attend law school this fall.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be attending Michigan State University College of Law to earn my J.D. and become an attorney. I am hoping to use my background in technology to specialize in Intellectual Property (IP) Law in the future.



# Jacob Berkenpas

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

*Teaching Assistant*

I was a teaching assistant for Dr. Cataldo's class during the fall of 2021.

## **Leadership Activities**

I had my leadership rotation for nursing school this winter from January to March at Holland Hospital.

## **Activities and Awards**

I volunteered at The Other Way ministries this year. I also participated in various adaptive sports activities through Mary Free Bed, was a cadet counselor during my freshman and sophomore years and was a nurse tech at Mary Free Bed from sophomore year until senior year.

## **Internship and Practicum**

I had various clinical opportunities throughout my nursing school journey. I had a rotation in obstetrics, the operating room, pediatrics, psychology, nursing leadership, and three separate experiences on a medical/surgical floor.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment while at GV is completing nursing school and having two RN jobs lined up before graduation.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will be working full time as an RN at Saint Mary's on their oncology floor (4 Lacks). I will also be a float RN at Mary Free Bed Rehab Hospital.



# Camryn Blair

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

*Are Anxiety and Depression More Prevalent in Student Athletes versus Non-Student Athletes*

Rates of anxiety and depression were recorded from GVSU student athletes and non-student athletes. Reasons for having feelings of these mental health problems were also taken into consideration.

## **Research and Presentations**

Presented Research at the 2022 GVSU Health Expo - Nursing Burnout from COVID-19

## **Activities and Awards**

Varsity Student Athlete – Swimming

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Being accepted into the 2nd degree accelerated nursing program at GVSU  
Being a student athlete at GVSU

## **Plans after Graduation**

Continue my academic career at GVSU in their second degree accelerated nursing program.



# Andrew Blessed

**Major:** *Mechanical Engineering*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

***Magna OSM TT E&R Tester***

Built a machine that measures the force needed to extend and retract trailer tow mirrors.

## Leadership Activities

Secretary - Pi Kappa Phi

## Internship and Practicum

Product Engineering Intern at Magna Mirrors.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to work in the Defense Industry.



# Haylee Boersen

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

*Analyzing health disparities within the LGBTQ+ community: how simulation can assist student nurses to provide improved health outcomes*

My project aimed to utilize simulation to create a safe environment for nursing students to learn more about LGBTQ+ populations and how to decrease the health disparities they face. This project is meant to fill the gap in the nursing curriculum to assist nurses to be more culturally competent.

## **Activities and Awards**

Herbert F. and Mabel L. Olney Memorial Scholarship

Robert and Ellen Thompson Scholarship

GV Award for Excellence

GV Presidential Scholarship

State Competitive Scholarship

Student Nurses' Association

## **Internship and Practicum**

160 hours clinical immersion nursing assignment at Pine Rest on the Redwood Unit

2 years of experience at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital as a Nurse Technician

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Remaining determined and hard-working through the years, which has allowed me the privilege of receiving many scholarships and the incredible gift of graduating debt free!

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to travel as much as possible during the summer and then begin my job as a Registered Nurse at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital.





# Mari Bones

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

***Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain in Veterans***

This is an exploration of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy as a treatment for chronic pain in Veterans. The paper aims to research optional treatments for chronic pain to combat the opioid crisis.

## **Research and Presentations**

Capstone: How to Cope at Benjamin's Hope

## **Leadership Activities**

Secretary in Grand Valley's Move 2 the Beat.

## **Activities and Awards**

Move 2 the Beat

Bringing Together the World

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Mentoring fellow students future nurses in the Pre-Nurses Association.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Will be starting my career as a Registered Nurse at Corewell Health/Beaumont Royal Oak on the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit.



# Dayna Borregard

**Major:** *Nursing*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

***Food Insecurity and BMI Impact on US and African Children: A Literature Comparison***

Utilizing the PRISMA diagram, I summarized and synthesized selected literature. The poster project

evaluated the issue of food insecurity and its impact on BMI in the United States and Africa. This project brings attention the importance of food insecurity and its associated with modifiable and preventable social and health factors.

## Leadership Activities

Captain of the Varsity Swim and Dive team (2022-2023 Season)

Student Nurses Association Mentor

## Activities and Awards

2019-2023: Dean's List every semester

2019-2023: GVSU Varsity Swim and Dive

2019-2023: Student Athlete Advisory Committee Member

2020-2023: Lakers Listen - Anchor Team

2021-2023: KCON SNA Member and Mentor

## Internship and Practicum

2022: Student Nurse Extern at Trinity Health - Livonia Emergency Department

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Competing on the Varsity Swim and Dive team for all 4 years while also obtaining my BSN.

## Plans after Graduation

After passing the NCLEX, I will be working as a full time Registered Nurse at Beaumont Hospital - Royal Oak in the Emergency Department.



# Bailey Bradford

**Major:** *Health Information Management*

**Minor:** *Healthcare Information Systems*

## Senior Project

### ***Elder Abuse: Management Theory and Practice***

Elder abuse is a widespread societal problem that can have severe medical and social consequences. This is a systemic issue that can be better prevented using management theory. I used research to investigate and uncover how management theory and strategy could prevent elder abuse in clinical settings.

## Research and Presentations

HIM 310: Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act

HIM 320: Business Plan - Cherry Capital Chemotherapy Clinic

HIM 304: Alzheimer's Disease

HNR 280: Creative Project - Disability

## Leadership Activities

Volunteer Work

## Activities and Awards

GV Award for Excellence

State Competitive Scholarship

Magna Cum Laude

## Internship and Practicum

Health Information Management Practicum at North Ottawa Community Health System

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was completing my practicum.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to apply for my master's degree in health administration at GVSU.



# Sarah Brandt

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## Senior Project

### ***Best West Michigan Hiking Trails***

After visiting 45 parks in the West Michigan area, I narrowed them down to the best 20 for hiking in Allegan, Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa County. This project is a resource with everything you need to know to explore them for yourself, including education, honorable mentions, and ADA accessible trails.

## Leadership Activities

I served as the secretary of the Exercise Science Club during my junior year.

## Activities and Awards

I was a recipient of the GV Presidential Scholarship and GV Award for Excellence. I've been on the Dean's List for 6 semesters. I was also a member of the Exercise Science and Pre-Physical Therapy clubs during my time at GVSU.

## Internship and Practicum

I had the opportunity to complete my fieldwork experience with Hulst Jepsen Physical Therapy in Standale. I recently completed my internship at Health Plan Advocate.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was completing my senior project. Inspiring others to get outside has become a passion of mine throughout my time at GVSU and I hope that my project will be a great resource to help people do that.

## Plans after Graduation

I've accepted a full-time position at my internship site, Health Plan Advocate, after graduation.





# Naia Brandt

**Major:** *Biology*

## Senior Project

*Exploration of Classical Music Aesthetics in the East and West through Violin*

I chose to do a little research on one Eastern classical piece, The Butterfly Lovers Concerto, and one Western classical piece, Meditation from the opera Thais. I also learned these songs (or excerpts from them) and had a small violin recital.

## Research and Presentations

Worked with Dr. Ostrow by taking care of sugar gliders.  
Worked with Dr. Valdez by behavior scoring and reviewing literature

## Leadership Activities

Drop-in Math Tutor for 2 school years

## Activities and Awards

Dean's List

## Study Abroad

Two Week Thailand College Veterinary Service

## Internship and Practicum

Vet Assistant Internship at BluePearl Emergency Vet Hospital in Grand Rapids

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Using my senior project to perform violin for my friends and family.

## Plans after Graduation

Take a gap year to work and apply for vet school this fall!



# Braeden Bromley

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

***The importance of Respite Care through the lens of Camp Red Leaf.***

Camp Red Leaf was a respite camp dedicated to serving those with special needs. Unfortunately, Red Leaf was shut down about six months ago. I sought out to create a website on the importance of respite care and the impact of Red Leaf on those who attended.

## Research and Presentations

During completion of my capstone course, AHS 495, I presented a poster entitled 'The Measurement of Patient Outcomes Based on Lower Socioeconomic Factors' during the Health Expo.

## Leadership Activities

I was a Resident Assistant in Calder Residence, and I was the Vice President of Health and Safety for Theta Chi Fraternity.

## Activities and Awards

During my time at Grand Valley, I participated in club sports on the Water Polo team, Theta Chi Fraternity, and Pre-PA club, I frequented the rec center, the tutor lab, the library, and the dining halls. I received all five micro-credentials from the housing department.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I struggled to come up with my "greatest" accomplishment during my time at Grand Valley. I have had so many moments I am proud of, from making it through my first semester, choosing my major, moving into my first apartment, and being chosen as an RA. Much to appreciate.

## Plans after Graduation

I am currently in the process of applying to Physician Assistant Programs. I will be taking a gap year where I will be working at a respite camp for children and adults with special needs in Colorado, as well as moving back to Illinois and working as a CNA.





# Gordon Brown

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## Senior Project

***Impact of Online and Hybrid Learning on the Use of Disability Support Resources***

Sent surveys to students and instructors, conducted student interviews to create a narrative analysis of student experiences in receiving DSR.

## Leadership Activities

Circle K International leader. Spent 3 years on the E-board of the GVSU CKI. Served as president, service chair, and historian. Last year I also served as the MI district governor.

## Activities and Awards

Laker marching band

## Internship and Practicum

work as a CNA

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Getting through COVID

## Plans after Graduation

Medical school



# Ruby Brown

**Major:** *Nursing*

## Senior Project

### *Understanding Women's Health and Hormonal Contraceptives*

Hormonal contraceptives are a prominent part of life for women, with over 100 million women using birth control worldwide. This paper aims to analyze the physical, cognitive, and behavioral effects of oral contraceptives to educate women about unintended outcomes that impact overall health.

## Research and Presentations

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Encouraging Safe Sleep.  
Ethical Considerations Regarding Pediatric Care and Decision-Making  
Nursing Interventions to Increase COPD Patient's Quality of Life  
Learning at Leonard Terrace Apartments: Promoting Health Literacy and Medication Compliance  
Social Media: On Adolescents and Depression

## Activities and Awards

Student Nurses Association (SNA)

## Internship and Practicum

Leadership clinical on the Medical Critical Care Unit at the Corewell Health Meijer Heart Center.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Feeling prepared and ready to enter my career in the hospital as an ICU nurse and excited to continue my education for nurse anesthesia.

## Plans after Graduation

I have accepted an ICU RN position with Corewell Health that I am excited to start in September!



# Taylor Calkins

**Major:** *Nursing*

## Senior Project

*Teaching Assistant for Dr. Cataldo*

During the course of my senior project, I worked alongside Dr. Cataldo and another TA. As a TA we were responsible for leading one class session, facilitating group discussion with our small group each week, and helping to grade our groups assignments while attending various events on campus.

## Research and Presentations

Nursing Capstone Research Project at the Salvation Army

## Leadership Activities

Led a small group of students as a teaching assistant

Student in Mayor Bliss' leadership and problem solving course

Student Nurses Association mentorship of younger nursing students

## Activities and Awards

I am GV award

Habitat for Humanity

Pre-Student Nurses Association

Student Nurses Association

## Internship and Practicum

Nursing Externship at Lake Huron Medical Center

Many clinical rotations, preceptors, and patients had a profound effect in shaping my nursing practice. A few of these transformative moments occurred at:

Helen Devos Children's Hospital medical-surgical unit

Holland Community Hospital medical-surgical unit

Corewell Health Butterworth Labor and Delivery unit

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Overcoming the challenges of the pandemic while navigating life, obtaining my nursing degree and private pilot license, and making the decision to pursue my passion for natural health.

## Plans after Graduation

Attend Palmer College of Chiropractic in Florida.



# Makenzie Carpenter

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

***Mental Health of University Nursing Students: A Literature Review***

This project explores the ongoing issue of mental health, specifically in nursing students. Through summarizing research and drawing overall conclusions, this project examines the contributing and alleviating factors to poor mental health in this population.

## **Research and Presentations**

Nursing Capstone Project: "Mindfulness and well-being workshop for cancer survivors"

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List

Academic Scholarships

## **Internship and Practicum**

Student Nurse Extern

Leadership rotation at St. Mary's medical/surgical/oncology unit

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Graduating with honors while managing work, school, and meeting new friends.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I will begin my career as an RN at St. Joes Ann Arbor on the ortho/neuro floor.



# Autumn Chorney

**Major:** *Psychology*

**Minor:** *Sociology*

## Senior Project

*Summary of research and professional experience obtained while interning abroad in Australia.*

Summary of research regarding the correlation between trait anger and conspiracy beliefs conducted while interning abroad at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

## Research and Presentations

Research Assistant for Dr. Kristy Dean examining the impact of COVID-19 on faculty scholarship.

Research Assistant for Dr. Joel Stillerman examining the consumption practices of the Chilean middle class.

## Activities and Awards

Excellence in a Discipline Award

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar Award

GV Award for Excellence

## Study Abroad

Internship Abroad in Australia Winter 2023

## Internship and Practicum

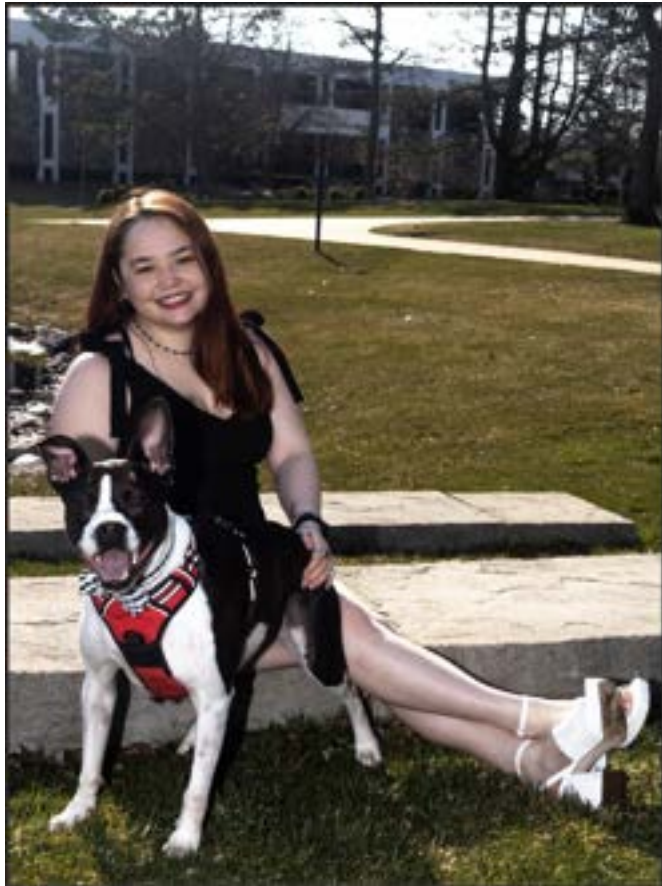
Psychometric Intern specializing in Autism and ADHD

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My work with Dr. Dean culminated in the release of a 60-page professional report to the university faculty, including the president and provost.

## Plans after Graduation

I plan to take a gap year to work and travel before applying to a clinical Ph.D. program.



# Liv Chow

**Major:** *Photography*

## Senior Project

### *Artchitecture*

Artchitecture; a combination of the words art and architecture - It may seem corny, but life can be corny sometimes - In your entire life, art can be found everywhere you look.

## Research and Presentations

Communications: Ethnography of Race in Commercials

Honors: Biology

Honors: Big History

Photography: Photography History 2 Research Paper

Photography: Senior Thesis Culminating Paper

## Leadership Activities

Production Support Resources Assistant

Student Photographer

## Activities and Awards

Artwork displayed in multiple exhibitions on campus

Artwork displayed in art gallery

Images posted on official GVSU Instagram

## Internship and Practicum

GVSU on-campus jobs: Intramural Sports Photographer, Student Photographer, PSR Assistant

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Having a collection of my images displayed in an art gallery.

## Plans after Graduation

Possibly becoming a professor of photography, if not, furthering my photography career.





# Abdulcasiis Ciise

**Major:** *Psychology and Business General*

## **Senior Project**

***5 Factors To Develop Academic Self-Concept and Self-Efficacy In College Students***

Describe the five factors that can help college students achieve success through self-concept improvement.

## **Research and Presentations**

How To Build Winning Beliefs w/ Digital Trades Club

The Secret To Focus; How To Pass College With Less Stress W/ Student Academic Success Center

## **Leadership Activities**

Mindset Coach Digital Trades Club

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Having fun and getting things done.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Obtain a Master's degree in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership



# Lydia Cooper

**Major:** *Nursing*

**Minor:** *Biology*

## Senior Project

***Children's Ministry Intern Handbook: The Chapel EFC***

Integrated learned skills and knowledge to create a handbook for all future Children's Ministry interns at The Chapel. The handbook now serves as a guideline for future intern responsibilities and provides tools to overcome challenges and difficulties faced in the role.

## Research and Presentations

Resilience: How we S.H.A.P.E. Ourselves to be More Resilient Leaders

## Leadership Activities

Cook Leadership Academy- Lead Fellow  
Student Nurses' Association- President  
Sigma Theta Tau (Kappa Epsilon)

## Activities and Awards

Dick & Betsy DeVos Leadership Fellow  
I Am Grand Valley Student Leadership Award  
Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree  
Sigma Theta Tau (Kappa Epsilon)- Outstanding Student Performance Award  
Emergency Nurses' Association  
National Student Nurses Association Convention Delegate

## Study Abroad

Medical Missions in Togo, West Africa

## Internship and Practicum

Clinical Immersion & Leadership Placement at Holland Hospital Float Pool

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was completing 500+ hours of Community Service and Volunteering, while holding leadership positions and maintaining academic excellence.

## Plans after Graduation

Corewell Health New Grad Emergency RN Float Pool, starting at Butterworth Emergency Dept in GR



# Ian Curtis

**Majors:** *French and Statistics*

**Minors:** *Mathematics and Psychology*

## Senior Project

***The Quest for New Music: A Recommendation Algorithm for Spotify Users***

Focusing on the major streaming service Spotify, we build a K-Means clustering algorithm to recommend a playlist. The algorithm uses various distance metrics, variable types, and user control (given through random assignment) in an attempt to analyze differences in user satisfaction with the recommended playlist.

## Research and Presentations

Collecting the Encyclopédie: An Annotated Bibliography of English Sources (Summer 2020)

Plagiarism of the Plates? The Validity of Accusations Against Diderot's Encyclopédie (1751-1772) (Summer 2021)

Helped Dr. David Eick update the bibliography for, add new characters to, and finish his RTTP role-playing game on the French Enlightenment

## Leadership Activities

President of the French Club

Honors Tour Guide and First-Year Mentor

Member of the CLAS Dean's Student Advisory Committee

## Activities and Awards

I am GV Award

Excellence in a Discipline Award: French, Statistics

Nominated: Glenn A. Niemeyer Award

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was publishing a paper on an accusation of plagiarism against the French "Encyclopédie" (1751-1772). I spent an entire summer researching the scandal and writing a paper and that essay is now published online.

## Plans after Graduation

I will be heading back to Grand Valley to pursue a Master's degree in Data Science and Analytics.



# Rebecca Damuth

**Major:** *Writing*

**Minors:** *Digital Studies and Advertising & Public Relations*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Effectiveness of Communication Regarding Alcohol Addiction Resources***

GVSU'S Alcohol and Other Drugs Services' resources are designed to combat alcohol addiction in college students. Improved communication to students increases awareness about resources, making reducing alcohol addiction more effective. This project examines current communication tactics used by AOD in order to inform more effective communication methods for future consideration.

## **Leadership Activities**

Circle K International Michigan District Events Chair

## **Activities and Awards**

I am Grand Valley (2021, 2022)

## **Internship and Practicum**

Completed two internships as the Social Media and Graphic Design Intern at GVSU AOD and the Writer and Communications Coordinator at GVSU Development.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was being able to make the community a better place through my internships and role as an AOD peer educator.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I am still looking for a job!



# Dustin Danckaert

**Major:** *Mathematics and Education*

**Minor:** *History - Teaching*

## **Senior Project**

***Teacher Assistant***

I was a teacher assistant in HNR 201 during the Winter 2022 semester.

## **Research and Presentations**

Research paper on the mindset of preservice math teachers

Research paper on school safety"

## **Leadership Activities**

President of the Quadball (aka Quidditch) Club

## **Activities and Awards**

Department Senior Award in Mathematics

## **Internship and Practicum**

Teacher Apprenticeship at Grandville Middle School

Student Internship at Hudsonville High School

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Academic research that is likely to be published

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to stay in the area and get a math teaching job at the secondary (6th-12th grade) level.





# Jack Darnell

**Major:** *Computer Science*

## **Senior Project**

### ***NOTICE Skin Tracking App***

Designing and building a gamified skin condition tracking app to encourage consistent use of P&G products for skin conditions.

## **Leadership Activities**

Leadership and Problem-Solving Junior Seminar.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Intern at Launch Kit as a web developer.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Writing the code to pull in menu options on Hopcat's menu page while at Launch Kit.

## **Plans after Graduation**

Working in the computer science field as a software engineer.





# Hunter DeBoer

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

### ***The Viability of Psilocybin as a Treatment for Depression***

A review of the past, present, and future of research regarding psilocybin's efficacy as a treatment for major depressive disorder as well as speculation into the feasibility of its adoption. A review of the past, present, and future of research regarding psilocybin's efficacy as a treatment for major depressive disorder as well as speculation into the feasibility of its adoption.

## **Research and Presentations**

A presentation on burnout in nursing students for the 2023 Allied Health Sciences Expo.

A systematic review of the effects of regular exercise on breast cancer recovery.

## **Activities and Awards**

Undergraduate Certificate in Medical and Health Humanities.  
GVSU Award for Excellence Scholarship recipient.  
College of Health Professions Dean's List.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Successfully earning my degree as a first-generation college student.

## **Plans after Graduation**

I plan to continue gaining experience in my field while preparing for physician assistant school.



# Marguerite Degen

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## Senior Project

***Making Waves Campus to Campus Cleanup 2022 and Water in a Changing World Project Analysis***

My senior project was broken up into two parts. During the fall semester, I served as an intern for the Campus-to-Campus river cleanup, as well as working with a freshmen sequence class. My final project included an analysis of both the river cleanup and the freshmen sequence.

## Leadership Activities

I have been able to serve as a Young Life leader at Allendale High School throughout all four years at GVSU. As a Young Life leader, I have been able to walk alongside the high school students at AHS and teach them about the love Jesus has for them!

## Activities and Awards

Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction (Winter 2023)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I am very proud of the event we hosted for the 2022 Campus to Campus River cleanup. We collected over 3,000 pounds of garbage from the Grand River over the course of one week.

## Plans After Graduation

I am currently in the process of applying to osteopathic medical school. I hope to one day become a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO).



# Alexis DeMaar

**Major:** *Nursing*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

### *End of Life Care*

I created a PowerPoint presentation which could be used to educate caregivers about end-of-life care. The 4 main aspects included are: physical symptoms, emotional care, spiritual care, and practical tasks. I also created a supplemental quick reference guide with a summary of this information for caregivers' use.

## Leadership Activities

Various leadership within Campus Ministry

## Activities and Awards

Involved in: Campus Ministry @ GVSU, National Student Nurses Association, Greek Life, served on mission trip to Mexico through CM

## Internship and Practicum

Completed several clinical rotations among Grand Rapids hospitals as well as Clinical Immersion at Corewell Blodgett 1D-Acute Care of the Elderly

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is overall seeing the growth in myself, both personally and professionally. I came in a very different person than I am leaving, and I attribute this to all of the experiences and people I have met along the way.

## Plans After Graduation

After graduation, I will be studying for the NCLEX exam and then working as an RN at Trinity Health Grand Rapids on 3 Lacks - Senior Adult Care Unit.



# Hailey Deptula

**Majors:** *Communication Science & Disorders and Medical & Health Humanities*

**Minors:** *Spanish and Aging & Adult Life*

## Senior Project

**Teacher Assistant for HNR 201 "Live Learn Lead" course with Dr. Peter Wampler**

I was a TA for the "Live, Learn, Lead" course under the adventurous, involved, and exciting leadership of Dr. Peter Wampler. With other TA's, I led small group sessions, contributed to engaging conversation topics, and visited local spots to promote thought-provoking community engagement for students in the course.

## Research and Presentations

"Celebrations in The Mitten State: Potential Lexical Differences Within Regions at a State Level" presented at MidSURE Conference 2022 as a REU Student Researcher.

"Collaborative Professional Voice Labs for Graduate Students in Speech-Language Pathology and Acting: A Pilot Study" presented at MSHA 2023 Conference.

Collaborative Dysphagia IPE Labs 2021, 2022

## Leadership Activities

GVSU Chapter of NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association) - Executive Board: Social Media Coordinator 2022-2023; General Member 2019-2022

Meijer Honors College Student Council - Programming President 2020-2022

Honors College Curriculum Development Committee Student Ambassador 2021-2022

Meijer Honors College Welcome Days - Mentor Program 2020-2022

NSSLHA Peer Mentorship Program

Frederik Meijer Honors College TA

## Activities and Awards

Undergraduate Research Assistant to the Voice and Swallowing Lab 2021-2023

Research Consultant for Knowledge Market at GVSU Libraries 2021-2023

GVSU Disability Support Resources Campus Links Mentor 2020-2023

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Volunteering

Delight Ministries

I AM GV Award x 2

Dean's List x 8

GR Polish Heritage Society Award

Jack Demmer & George Lawton Memorial Scholarships

## Internship and Practicum

National Science Foundation Summer REU Internship with the Michigan State University Sociolinguistics Lab working on MI Diaries project - Summer 2022

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Though my commitments helped me to solidify my passions for speech-language pathology and rehabilitation, my proudest take-aways are the connections I made during my time here. Whether peers, mentors, or both, they've helped me to live, learn, and lead with intention, intelligence, and friendship: the best gift of all.

## Plans After Graduation

My time as a Laker isn't over yet! I'll be attending Grand Valley's Accelerated Master's program for Speech-Language Pathology starting August 2023.



# Makenna Dietz

**Major:** *Communication Science & Disorders*

## Senior Project

### ***Sociolinguistic Perceptions and Expectations of Gay Speech***

My senior project looks into the sociolinguistic expectations people have for gay speakers. The differences between the speech of self-identified heterosexual and homosexual speakers allows us to see measurable differences, and what expectations or stereotypes are not proven through speech analysis.

## Research and Presentations

Defining Autism Throughout History – research paper that I presented at the Mid-East Honors Association Conference April 2023

## Leadership Activities

Honors College Mentor

Vice President and Choreographer for Euphoria Acapella

## Activities and Awards

National Student Speech Language Hearing Association

Professional Society for Minorities in Honors

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being recognized in a Target for singing at convocation. I have really appreciated all the experiences I have had working at GVSU and am glad I took advantage of those opportunities to connect with campus.

## Plans After Graduation

I am taking a little time off of school to work before getting my masters in speech-language pathology. I also hope to obtain my Ph.D. in the future to become a professor and conduct research.





# Diego Dionne

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

***How Did the COVID-19 Pandemic Change Job Perception in Healthcare?***

My goal for this project was to survey students here at GVSU who were interested in healthcare professions and see how the pandemic impacted their outlook on their future careers.

## **Leadership Activities**

Vice president of Kids in Motion Club during Fall 2021 and Winter 2022.

## **Activities and Awards**

Member of Latino Student Union

Member of Laker Familia

Member of Kids in Motion

## **Internship and Practicum**

Employment at Medstar Ambulance Co. (2020-21)

Employment at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (2022-present)

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Maintaining a 3.95 cumulative GPA while also juggling work and extracurricular activities.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Plan to attend PA school after taking a gap year to obtain more patient contact hours and exposure in the medical field.



# Genevieve Doctor

**Major:** *Biochemistry*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

***Embryonic Gene Editing Technology is Almost Ready- Are We?***

A paper discussing the ethical implications of altering the genetic material of human embryos, thus impacting the genetics of that person as well as all future generations. The paper explains the scientific process of germline gene editing on the molecular level, the relevant regulations, and describes the ethical considerations.

## Research and Presentations

Research paper on the landlord and tenant dispute.

## Activities and Awards

Dean's Lists

## Internship and Practicum

Worked as an Assistant Property Manager at American Realty Property Management and later as a clerk at Bloom Sluggett, PC.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Completing my degree in three years while working.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan to attend law school and use my biochemistry degree to practice patent law.



# Zack DuCharme

**Majors:** *Accounting and Finance*

## **Internship and Practicum**

Internship with HT Hackney

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Being a TA for HNR 251 with Professor Fitzpatrick

## **Plans After Graduation**

Continue Working at HT Hackney as a Pricing Analyst



# Claire Dunselman

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

**Minor:** *Marketing*

## Senior Project

### *Personalized Fitness Intervention-Wellness Coordinator*

Over the past 7 weeks, I have been collaborating directly with 10 participants to help them achieve their health-related goals. I worked to coordinate personalized fitness plans to help assist them, while also tracking their progress throughout the intervention.

## Research and Presentations

Exercise Science 420- Impact of Music Tempo on 2k Time Trial Performance

Marketing Research 352- GVSU Admissions Research (Collected data on students and their reasons for choosing GV)

Internship in EXS 490- Shape Corporation: Wellness Coordination Intern Presentation

## Leadership Activities

Throughout my time at Grand Valley, I have assumed many leadership roles such as: Vice President of the Exercise Science Club, Activities Chair for Phi Mu Sorority, Captain of Intramural Volleyball, member of National Leadership Fraternity, active Tour Guide for GVSU's Admissions Department and member of the Seidman Business School.

## Activities and Awards

Dean's List for 8 consecutive semesters,

VIP Admissions Tour Guide for Grand Valley Admissions Department, Tennis Pro at LifeTime Fitness, Assistant to Varsity Women's Head Volleyball Coach at Grand Valley, played various Intramural Sports, Coaching Certificate.

## Study Abroad

Lived abroad in the Netherlands for 2.5 years and attended an International School (Middle School).

## Internship and Practicum

Winter 2023: Shape Corporation, Corporate Wellness Coordinator Intern. (Senior Internship)

Summer 2022: Lifetime, Tennis Pro. (Coaching Practicum)

Winter 2022: GVSU, Assistant to Women's Varsity Volleyball Head Coach. (Fieldwork Internship)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being extremely involved in the Laker community by attending GVSU athletic, social, and academic events, while maintaining a 3.94 GPA and Honors status. While at GVSU, I was an active member/leader of 8 major clubs, teams, and associations. Achieved all of this within 4 years of college attendance.

## Plans After Graduation

After Graduation, I look forward to securing a full-time job in Corporate Wellness Coordination, where I hope to assist professionals in the achievement of their health-related goals. This position includes creating personalized fitness plans, evaluating clients, managing, and coordinating workplace wellness programs and incentives.



# Abigail Edmonson

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Teacher Assisting***

I was a TA for HNR 201. I was able to grow a lot in my ability to lead conversations, especially those surrounding controversial subjects.

## **Study Abroad**

Ghana - Nursing 2023

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was getting into the nursing program and finishing in four years.

## **Plans After Graduation**

After graduation I will be beginning my job as a registered nurse in the Birthing Center at Mercy Health Grand Rapids.





# Kendra Erickson

**Major:** *Writing*

## **Senior Project**

### ***GVSU Recycles Website***

GVSU Recycles is an informative website regarding proper recycling and composting practices, specifically for the GVSU and Allendale communities.

## **Leadership Activities**

Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the Grand Valley Journal of History.

## **Activities and Awards**

2023 Pride Prom Committee, 2023 Fishladder Non-fiction reader, Fall 2020-Present Dean's List

## **Internship and Practicum**

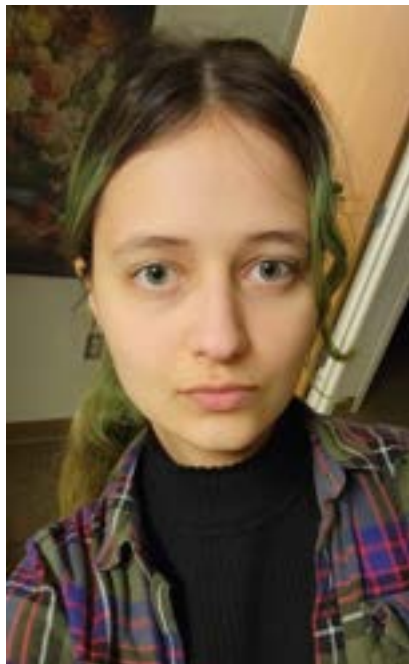
Internship with the Grand Valley Journal of History

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment is being able to graduate a year early.

## **Plans After Graduation**

I plan on looking for career opportunities within the copyediting, technical writing, or user experience fields.



# Margaret Evele

**Major:** *Biology*

## Senior Project

### *Investigating the Influences of Species and Size on Invasive Mussel Reproduction*

I spent the summer and fall researching the Reproductive habits of Zebra and Quagga mussels in Lake Michigan. I performed serotonin tests to encourage spawning and dissected them to determine the size of their gonads.

## Research and Presentations

I presented my Senior Project results to the staff of AWRI.

## Leadership Activities

Worship assistant at Christ Lutheran Church

## Activities and Awards

Biology club member

## Internship and Practicum

I interned at AWRI from the summer of 2022 to the end of the Winter 2023 semester.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Getting my internship at AWRI and getting real experience in a lab. Through this experience and many others, I've grown greatly as a person and as a Biologist.

## Plans After Graduation

I'm going to take a year off school to explore the workforce of the Marine Sciences then I'll return to school to get my master's degree.



# Matthew Fekaris

**Majors:** *Accounting and Supply Chain Management*

## **Senior Project**

*An Uneven University: How a New Student Hub Can Mend the Inconsistencies of Pew Campus*

I have developed a new concept building alongside the GV facilities planning department to serve as a new anchor/hub for the Pew Campus.

## **Study Abroad**

I'm going abroad this summer with the program: Music in Austria and the Czech Republic.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Two internships the first as a Web App Development Intern at Fekaris Engineering, and an Audit and Assurance Intern at Deloitte.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Graduating in four years with a full-time job lined up.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Work full time in Grand Rapids as An Audit Associate at Deloitte.



# Nina Fernandez

**Majors:** *Biology and Psychology*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

### ***Patient Education, Understanding, and Comprehension in Medical Settings and the Role of Genetic Counseling***

A research project completed while at an internship with Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Department of Medical Genetics and Genomics. Resulted in completion of a series of informational pamphlets for patients using accessible language and a presentation for providers on patient education and comprehension.

## Research and Presentations

Research Assistant - Dr. Timothy Evans lab

## Leadership Activities

Genetic Counseling Organization President

## Internship and Practicum

Internship with Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Department of Medical Genetics and Genomics

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to work my internship in the medical genetics department. I was able to complete a meaningful thesis that furthered my work in my desired future career field.

## Plans After Graduation

A year of advocacy work and apply to genetic counseling graduate school in the fall.



# Kathryn Fulton

**Majors:** *Education and English*

**Minor:** *History - Teaching*

## Senior Project

***Oppositional vs. Cooperative Stance: Why a Teacher's Attitude Towards their Students Matters***

I synthesized research about different components of autonomy-supportive teaching and how it affects overall performance and experience for a child in the

classroom. Then, I designed an evaluative tool for teachers to use in their classroom in order to gauge whether they were successful in implementing those techniques.

## Research and Presentations

Round table presentation about the Honors College Student Council at the 2022 Mid East Honors Association Conference

## Leadership Activities

Honors Mentor (2020), Welcome Days Committee (2021), and President (2022) for the Honors College Student Council.

Life Group Leader (2020-2021), Celevitationality Intern (2021-2023), Spring Break student staff (2022-2023), President (2022-2023) for Campus Ministry.

## Activities and Awards

Founding officer of Coffee Club

## Study Abroad

2-week study trip to Israel and Palestine

## Internship and Practicum

Teacher Assisting: 6th Grade ELA at Walker Charter Academy

Teaching Internship: 11th Grade English at Wyoming High School.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

During my time at Grand Valley, a friend and I founded an annual event that we've coined "The Gala." In the most recent 3rd installment, 40 people dressed in formal attire, participated in a cabaret performance, reflected on quality friendships, and raised money for a local organization.

## Plans After Graduation

Next year, I will be working for Campus Ministry here at GVSU planning all of the spring break service trips while also taking courses through Calvin Theological Seminary.





# Amy Gharra

**Major:** *Communication Science & Disorders*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Therapy Abroad in Belize***

I researched how patients are evaluated through speaking, learning, sensory, and fine & gross motor skills.

## **Activities and Awards**

100 Community service hours

Foundational American Sign Language Undergraduate Badge

Dean's list

## **Study Abroad**

I studied abroad in Belize for two weeks and created my honors senior project from this life changing experience. I was able to create new friendships and volunteer by helping children with special needs find their voice.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is becoming a well-rounded person as I have come out of my comfort zone by taking new risks and opportunities.

## **Plans After Graduation**

I will attend grad school at Wayne State University for Audiology.



# Owen Gibson

**Major:** *Computer Engineering*

**Minor:** *Mathematics*

## Senior Project

### ***Doom/Pendulum seL4 Demonstration***

We demonstrate the stability of the seL4 Hypervisor, which can run multiple Operating Systems without one interfering with the other. One OS runs Doom, and the other controls an inverted pendulum. When the Doom OS is reset, the inverted pendulum continues to work, unaffected.

## Activities and Awards

3x Dean's List

Honors College

EGR326 Project Day Presenter

## Internship and Practicum

Controls Engineer Co-op internship at JR Automation

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Passed all my classes during Quarantine.

## Plans After Graduation

Consistently sleep 8-9 hours a night



# Maddie Gilbert

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## Senior Project

### *Placebo and Sports Performance*

An investigation into the topic of placebo and how it can objectively and subjectively influence athletic performance.

## Research and Presentations

Student Assistant: Detection of Time-Loss Musculoskeletal Injuries in NCAA Division 2 Athletes: MRI vs Segmental Multi-Frequency BIA

## Leadership Activities

Campus Ministry @ GVSU Lifegroup Leader (2020-2021)

Campus Ministry @ GVSU Intern (2021-2023)

GV Rowing Team Trustee (2020-2021)

GV Rowing Team Fundraising Coordinator (2021-2022)

## Activities and Awards

Grand Valley Rowing Team

Campus Ministry @ GVSU

GV Rowing Team Varsity Letter Award (2022, 2023)

GV Rowing Team Million Meter Athlete (2020)

## Internship and Practicum

Fieldwork at UofM Health-West Hospital

Internship with GVSU Exercise Science (Dr. Sherman and Dr. Hatzel)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU has been successfully earning while degree while making time for my other interests. My favorite memories include winning the ACRA National Championships (Rowing), going on a mission trip with Campus Ministry, and creating lifelong friendships.

## Plans After Graduation

Ultimately, I desire to become a physical therapist. In the meantime, I will be earning my NSCA-CPT, working in a fitness setting, and getting married at the end of the year. Overall, I hope to glorify God in all that I do!



# Isabella Griesmaier

**Major:** *Psychology*

**Minor:** *Juvenile Justice*

## **Senior Project**

***Being a Live, Learn, Lead TA for Dr. Cataldo in the Fall of 2021.***

I am grateful for the opportunity to mentor younger Honors members and engage with the GVSU community more deeply through an events-based curriculum!

## **Research and Presentations**

Wild Wombs: The Pathologization of Hysteria and its Enduring Legacy

Co-leading the 1Cademy Health Psychology research community and developing the literature on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS).

## **Leadership Activities**

Membership officer for the Mental Health Awareness Initiative, established in 2022.

## **Activities and Awards**

Member of TRIO and Psi Chi.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Peer Educator for the University Counseling Center from 2021-2023.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Securing a research position with the University of Michigan and beginning my work in PCOS advocacy with 1Cademy!

## **Plans After Graduation**

Pursuing an MPH in Chicago and developing fitness and nutrition programs for women with PCOS.



# Jacob Griessel

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## **Senior Project**

***Knee Osteoarthritis - A Review of the Disease, Current Treatments, Long Term Effects, and Prevention Strategies***

A comprehensive review on the literature surrounding knee osteoarthritis.

## **Research and Presentations**

Review of Literature regarding youth sports injuries

## **Leadership Activities**

Pi Kappa Phi Philanthropy Chair

## **Activities and Awards**

Pi Kappa Phi EC

## **Internship and Practicum**

Testing in the exercise testing lab, fieldwork done at advent physical therapy, currently interning at ETS.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Working and completing school in four years.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Gap year before PT school.





# Sierra Gulli

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## Senior Project

***Beyond Borders: A Comprehensive Comparison of the Healthcare Systems in the United States and Costa Rica***

While studying abroad in Costa Rica, I formed this project comparing the healthcare systems of the United States and Costa Rica, analyzing access, quality, cost, and effectiveness. It aims to identify areas for improvement and provide insights for policymakers in both countries.

## Research and Presentations

Exploring the Dual Nature of Staphylococcus epidermidis: Its Role in Skin Health and Disease

## Leadership Activities

Executive Founder and President of Mu Epsilon Delta (March 2022-April 2023)

President of the Arab Culture Club (April 2021-April 2023)

Meijer Honors College Student Council Officer (October 2021-April 2023)

Meijer Honors College Mentor (May 2021-April 2023)

## Activities and Awards

Member of the Pre-PA Club (September 2021-April 2023)

Member of the Red Cross Club (September 2020-April 2023)

Member of the MSU West Michigan Pipeline Program (September 2020-April 2021)

GVSU Transitions Mentor (May 2021-April 2022)

Dean's List Recipient

## Study Abroad

Study Abroad in San Jose, Costa Rica during the Summer of 2022.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley would be instating GVSU's first and only pre-professional co-ed pre-healthcare fraternity that aids and helps students who plan to go into the healthcare field while promoting service and brotherhood.

## Plans After Graduation

I have been accepted into Butler University's Master's of Physician Assistant Studies in Indianapolis and will be a part of the Class of 2025.



# Isabelle Hammond

**Major:** *Biology*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Limnological Assessment of Lake 16, Allegan, MI***

An exploratory study of the entirely privately owned 56-acre lake in Allegan to determine bathymetry and health status for future management plans. The lake was found to have max depths of 80 feet and relatively healthy conditions.

## **Research and Presentations**

"Using an In-situ Sand Filter and a Schmutzdecke to Remove Coliforms from Ground Water" - Under Dr. Rod Morgan.  
Presented research at SSD and WMRUGS 2022.

## **Leadership Activities**

Giving a presentation at the Indiana Tech University Life Sciences Seminar this May in Fort Wayne on research under Dr. Morgan and other professional experiences and mentorship.

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List all 8 enrolled semesters.

Thompson Scholar all 4 enrolled years.

Soil and Water Conservation Society Scholarships in Conservation Award.

GV Award for Excellence.

Battle Creek Community Foundation: William G. & Marion E. Stuckle Scholarship.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Watershed Management Intern at Outdoor Discovery Center in Holland, MI, under Project Clarity on the Macatawa watershed.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Graduating debt free with experience and a love of the natural & scientific world I am entering.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Accepted a chemist position out of Portage, MI, in pharmaceutical lab testing with Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories Inc.



# Holly Hibma

**Major:** *Education and Mathematics*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

*Let's Fix these "Tricks"*

Based on my experience in Student Teaching, I made a presentation on what math tricks we should not teach the students due to confusion in later math classes.

## Research and Presentations

Math in Action Presentation in 2023

## Leadership Activities

I was a tutor at GVSU for three years.

## Activities and Awards

Senior Math Award

Dean's List

Thompson Scholar

## Internship and Practicum

Student Teaching at Kenowa Hills High School

Teacher Assisting at East Grand Rapids High School

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Getting the Senior Math Award at Grand Valley from one of my favorite professors.

## Plans After Graduation

Getting a job as a middle school or preferably high school math teacher!



# Evan Hodson

**Major:** *Geography*

**Minor:** *Philosophy*

## Senior Project

***Enriched Ecolabels: A Solution for Raising Consumer Awareness of and Promoting Planetary Health***

By utilizing ecolabels and Recommended Daily Resource Allowance (RDRA), consumers can be empowered to make informed choices that positively impact both their health and the environment. This has the potential to not only improve public health but also promote a sustainable food system that benefits the planet and future generations.

## Research and Presentations

Spatial Analysis of Antibiotic Prescription Rates in a West Michigan Health System (presented and awarded 2nd place at ELDAAG)

Binge Drinking and Antibiotic Use: Exploring Socioeconomic Determinants in West Michigan

Economic Sustainability and Missing Middle Housing: Associations between Housing Stock Diversity and Unemployment in Mid-Size U.S. Cities

## Leadership Activities

Lead GIS Technician and Analyst - GVSU Planning Studio

## Activities and Awards

Excellence in Geography Award

Gamma Theta Upsilon Honors Society

Jazz Combo and Orchestra Percussionist

YDSA

## Study Abroad

Water in the West Program

Virtual Study Abroad Netherlands

## Internship and Practicum

Plainsong Farm and Ministry Mapping Intern

Geography Lab Assistant

Geography Research Assistant

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I take great pride in my role in advancing community engagement in urban planning in Grand Rapids through the development of educational resources and toolkits.

## Plans After Graduation

I am excited to start my urban planning career with a specialization in sustainability. I intend to gain experience, explore various subfields, and assess where I can make the most significant impact. After this, I plan to pursue a graduate degree.



# Isabelle Hoffman

**Major:** *Political Science and French*

**Minor:** *International Relations*

## Senior Project

***Teaching Assistant for HON 201: Live, Learn, Lead***

I was a teaching assistant for an honors course: Live, Learn, Lead, which focused on community engagement and leadership. I led small group discussions and attended extracurricular events with my group.

## Leadership Activities

Student Manager at GVSU Laker Store

Vice President of GVSU Law Society

## Activities and Awards

Excellence in a Discipline- French

I am Grand Valley Award

Member of GVSU Law Society

Member of Pi Delta Phi: French Honors Society

## Internship and Practicum

Intern at Ionia County Public Defender's Office

Volunteer at Legal Assistance Center

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining a 4.0 GPA through all 4 years.

## Plans After Graduation

After graduation, I am taking a year off to go to France and teach English with the Teacher's Assistant Program in France.

After that, I will be returning to Michigan to attend law school at the University of Michigan.





# Noah Holkeboer

**Majors:** *Biology and Cell & Molecular Biology*

## Senior Project

*Assessment of tree architecture and optimization using simple photographic methods.*

Worked on data analysis and manuscript writing for the tree architecture project I worked on since my freshman year with Dr. Gary Greer. Basically, we took pictures of trees to learn about how they support their branches and transport water.

## Research and Presentations

Tree Geometry

(Fall 2019-Winter 2023)

Mentor: Dr. Greer

Presentations: GVSU SSD, GVSU Chalk Art, MASAL, WMRUGS, National Botany Conference

Paid Positions: S3 Grants for 2 summers

Tree Branching Genetics

(Winter 2022-Winter 2023)

Mentor: Dr. Dietrich

Presentations: GVSU SSD, GVSU CMB Symposium

## Leadership Activities

AOD Peer Educator

Resident Assistant in Niemeyer

## Activities and Awards

Dean's List

## Internship and Practicum

Controls Engineer Co-op internship at JR Automation

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Gaining a better understanding of who I am and where I fit in the world. I did a lot of cool research and developed professionally as an RA, but at the end of the day, I'm most proud of how I grew as a person and in my faith.

## Plans After Graduation

Professionally: Continue my education at GRCC with the aim of becoming an MRI technician.

Personally: Put down literal and metaphorical roots by planting a garden and sharing the food I grow with others!



# Jarod Jeffery

**Major:** *Music*

**Minor:** *Mathematical Statistics*

## Senior Project

### *Music as a Means of Communication*

For my senior vocal recital, I performed three sets of songs focusing on themes of relationships, social issues, and mental health. My honors senior project informed these performances as I researched the composers behind the works and the context for their creation to analyze and present to my audience.

## Activities and Awards

Performed at the IMC Tenor-Bass Consortium with GVSU's Varsity Glee Club

Performed as Ford in GVSU Theatre Department's Production of "The Merry Wives of Windsor"

Tied for 2nd Place in the Research Paper Category of the Department of Music, Theatre, & Dance's 2022 Writing Competition for paper titled "A Fish Imprisoned"

Dean's List

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Been recognized in public for my role in GVSU Opera Theatre's production of "Side by Side by Sondheim"

## Plans After Graduation

Applying for theatre and music related internships and apprenticeships at regional professional theatre companies.



# Jodilyn Jenkins

**Majors:** *Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience*

**Minor:** *Writing*

## Senior Project

### ***Individual Boldness in Black Capped Chickadees***

This project studied Black Capped Chickadee's individual behavior at both a feeder setting and in cage trials. The researchers assessed whether an individual's level of boldness in caged environments is predictive of risk-taking behaviors at the feeders during winter foraging.

## Research and Presentations

I completed a literature review on exercise addiction and presented my findings at Student Summer Scholars Research Day in 2021.

## Leadership Activities

I was on the executive board for the Grand Valley Cross Country and Track and Field Club for one year as the PR and Events coordinator.

## Activities and Awards

Activity: Participated in GVSU XCTF Club for 4 years.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was getting the opportunity to work with students in all different fields while working in the writing center.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan to attend Seattle University and earn my Education Specialist Degree in School Psychology.



# Faith Kidd

**Majors:** *Political Science*

**Minor:** *International Business*

## Senior Project

***Teaching Assistantship with Dr. Ellen Adams***

Taught course sessions, led small group discussions, graded assignments and reflections, and attended community events to engage further with the GVSU community.

## Leadership Activities

Student Senate President

Mentor for FMHC

TA for FMHC

Cook Leadership Academy

President of Model EU Club

## Activities and Awards

Dean's List for CLAS, High Honors, every semester

I am GV award 2021/2022/2023

Thomas Sekorya Award for Outstanding Contribution

Glenn A. Niemeyer Award Nominee

## Internship and Practicum

Political Internship in downtown Grand Rapids

Student Employee at the Hauenstein Center

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My Student Senate Presidency! I met the most amazing people and was able to give back to GVSU every day!

## Plans After Graduation

Currently applying for international teaching fellowships

In 2-3 years, law school :)



# Molly Kleinfeldt

**Majors:** *Finance and Mathematics*

## Senior Project

***Valuation Report: Microsoft Corporation***

I performed an in-depth valuation analysis of Microsoft Corporation and determined if buying Microsoft stock was recommended.

## Leadership Activities

President - Women in Business (2022-2023)

Vice President - Women in Business (2021-2022)

## Activities and Awards

Research Analyst at Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization (2021-2023)

## Internship and Practicum

Data Analytics Intern at Swingtide, Inc. (June 2020-April 2023)

Middle Market Banking Analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. (June - August 2022)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Double majoring in two different fields of study and graduating in 4 years.

## Plans After Graduation

Work at a private equity investment firm in Grand Rapids.





# Josef Kleitch

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

***Food Insecurity and BMI Impact on US and African Children***

I worked with Dayna Borregard to compare the effects of Food Insecurity and its impact on BMI in children throughout the US and several African countries.

## **Leadership Activities**

Senior Nursing Capstone on Activities to Improve Mental Health in Older Adults in the Community

## **Internship and Practicum**

Completed Clinical rotations at various hospitals and nursing units such as the Holland Hospital Emergency Room, Helen Devos Children's Hospital, NICU, PICU, and Med-Surg units.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is graduating from the Nursing program.

## **Plans After Graduation**

I plan to work at the Farmington Hills Beaumont Emergency Department as a Registered Nurse.



# Talon Knauf

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## Senior Project

### ***Breaking 1:50 Series***

Created a video series following the coaching and training of a former GVSU Track and Field member, with the goal of attempting to break 1:50 in the 800m run. With only one race in December, he finished within the top 30 times nationally for the 2023 NCAA indoor season.

## Research and Presentations

Authored: "Parkinson's and Exercise as Treatment" "Lactate Threshold"

Research in Progress: "Blood flow during seated video game play and light intensity seated pedaling interruptions"

## Leadership Activities

High School Assistant Cross Country Coach

## Activities and Awards

Student-Athlete Tutor

Physical Therapy Technician

Former GVSU Track and Field and Cross-Country Member

## Study Abroad

Netherlands Study Abroad Experience

## Internship and Practicum

Strength and Conditioning Internship at TNT Ignite, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.

Cardiac Rehab Internship at Advocate Condell Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Libertyville, IL.

Research Assistant in: "Blood flow during seated video game play and light intensity seated pedaling interruptions"

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Discovering more about myself and my values while forming a lifelong community of friends here at Grand Valley State University

## Plans After Graduation

Work as a Cardiac Rehabilitation Assistant and as a Physical Therapy Technician during gap year. Plans to attend Northwestern University to obtain a Doctorate in Physical Therapy and a Master's Degree in Public Health.



# Lilia Kostanko

**Major:** *Environ and Sustain Studies*

**Minor:** *Biology and Spanish*

## Senior Project

### ***Stewardship-based Education Programs: Their Effectiveness, History, and Future***

This project offers an analysis of the benefits of environmental education to both people and the planet, as well as the history of stewardship-based education, which includes its rise and influence on generations of schoolchildren. There is also an examination of existing stewardship-based education programs' efforts and their goals.

## Leadership Activities

Vice President of Farm Club.

## Activities and Awards

I am GV Award. Worked as a User Experience Student Assistant at Mary Idema Pew Library since Winter 2020.

## Internship and Practicum

Summer Internship at Grand Valley's Sustainable Agriculture Project.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being a part of Grand Valley's first ever field school to Beaver Island.



# Kristen Kukla

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Psychology*

## Senior Project

***The Impacts of Different Living Environments on Air Pollution Exposure and How Those Impacts Affect Respiratory Health in Children***

A literature review on how different factors such as socioeconomic status and geographic location impact the rate of air pollution exposure in children around the world, how this exposure impacts their respiratory health, and what can be done to mitigate these effects.

## Leadership Activities

Fundraising Chair- Women's Club Rugby Team

Philanthropy Chair- Gamma Phi Beta Sorority

Academics Chair- Gamma Phi Beta Sorority

## Activities and Awards

Women's Club Rugby Team- 2 years

Gamma Phi Beta Sorority- 4 years

## Internship and Practicum

Nursing Technician at Blodgett Hospital - 2 years

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was learning to love myself for who I am and accepting that I deserve to be surrounded by people that push me to be happy and who I am.

## Plans After Graduation

I hope to attend the accelerated nursing program at Grand Valley and go on to be a nurse!



# Emma Lanning

**Major:** *Finance and Economics*

**Minor:** *Information Technology*

## **Senior Project**

*Leadership Differences Between Men and Women and Their Effect on Employee Productivity*

This project entails a literature review of various

leadership theories and the different leadership characteristics between men and women. The effects of these theories are then examined in relation to employee productivity in the workplace.

## **Leadership Activities**

Alpha Sigma Tau - Vice President of Organizational Development

Alpha Sigma Tau - Director of Membership Selection

## **Activities and Awards**

University Libraries - User Experience Student Assistant

## **Internship and Practicum**

Finance Internship at Fifth Wheel Freight

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Executive Board leadership experience in Greek Life.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Accounts Receivable Coordinator at Fifth Wheel Freight





# Kayla Lett

**Major:** *Product Design & Manufacturing Engineering*

**Minor:** *Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

***CNC Automated Part Mover***

Automate a currently manual part transfer process between 4 operation stations contained within a grinding Haas machine.

## **Leadership Activities**

President of Society of Women Engineers

Vice President of Innovation Fellows

Recording Secretary of Tau Beta Pi

## **Activities and Awards**

Climbing Club member

## **Internship and Practicum**

Co-op with TGW Living Logistics for 3 semesters

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Finding what I love.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Pursue a career in the consumer product engineering field, ideally for outdoor gear.



# Emma Loveland

**Major:** *Statistics*

**Minors:** *Spanish and Criminal Justice*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Our Local Crime Outlook***

Using R programming to analyze data on the GRPD website on crime rates in GR, as well as research done on the other factors that increase crimes (poverty, race, inequality), to examine why crime occurs in Grand Rapids.

## **Research and Presentations**

SSD-ST419

Data was collected by a survey sent to visitors of the harbors under MI-DNR. Analysis to find factors that are conducive to positive experiences for harbor visitors was performed. The findings assisted the DNR in developing factors resulting in satisfied visitors, helping create generations of boaters to enjoy everything the MI-Harbors have.

## **Leadership Activities**

A member of the Cook Leadership Academy, as well as Mu Sigma Rho (statistic Honors society), internship at 52-1 District court

## **Activities and Awards**

A member of the GV Varsity softball team from 2019-2022, and the club softball team from 2022-2023. A member of GV Groove acapella from 2022-2023, multiple Dean's List appearances

## **Internship and Practicum**

Internship at 52-1 District Court as a probation office intern. I worked with the probation officers interviewing defendants, writing reports, recommending sentencing, drug testing, etc.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Learning to do things that make me happy, not what society wants me to do.

## **Plans After Graduation**

I plan to attend U of M Dearborn to receive my Master's in Data Science and Analytics.



# Samuel Macchiarolo

**Major:** *Business Economics*

**Minors:** *History*

## Senior Project

***Innovation in the Economy: An Examination of the Role of Innovation on Economic Growth***

This project examines factors that contributed to economic recessions by looking at changing levels of financial and physical innovation, why those changes in innovation occur, and what can be done to eliminate the variation of innovation levels to help stabilize economic output.

## Research and Presentations

For my Economics Capstone, we researched the present-day value of a college degree.

## Leadership Activities

Executive Board Member for the GVSU Bowling Team

## Activities and Awards

GVSU Varsity Bowling Team  
Dean's List

## Internship and Practicum

I completed an internship at Pop Daddy Snacks during the Summer of 2022.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was maintaining a high level of excellence and success, both in athletics and academics, even if everything was going against us in the past 4 years.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan on working at the family business, Town Peddler Craft and Antique Mall in Livonia, MI.



# Jeremy Marciniak

**Major:** *Supply Chain Management*

## Senior Project

*Reflections on my study abroad in Germany*

Immersion into German and other European cultures. I grew academically during my coursework there. I gained professional skills and experience during the Internship.

## Research and Presentations

Process improvement at Benteler Automotive and completed research on retail marketing strategies.

## Leadership Activities

While Interning for Knowunity in Berlin, Germany I led a team implementing the expansion of a product into the United States.

## Activities and Awards

1st place overall in the USCSA Michigan and Ohio division for the GVSU Snowboard team in Slolam and Giant Slolam.

## Study Abroad

Berlin Germany, Summer of 2022

## Internship and Practicum

Project management and expansion intern at Knowunity in Berlin.  
Supply Chain Intern at Benteler Automotive in Grand Rapids.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining a spot on the Dean's List every semester.

## Plans After Graduation

I have accepted a position as a Commodity Buyer at Benteler Automotive in Auburn Hills Michigan. I have already begun my training for the position.



# Jenna Marshall

**Major:** *Nursing*

## Senior Project

### *What Nursing Practice Might You Pursue*

My project entails compiling a resource guide about the various roles in which nurses can practice in with a bachelors level degree in nursing. Both admitted and prospective nursing students can use this guide as a resource to explore the great variety of opportunities a nursing career has to offer.

## Leadership Activities

Honors college mentor

2020 LIFT club president

Student Nurses Association (SNA) mentor

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Remaining active in various activities in both the honors college and the college of nursing to broaden my perspectives throughout all four years of my undergraduate degree.

## Plans After Graduation

While I am still navigating where life will take me after graduation, as of right now I will be practicing on an oncology medical-surgical unit in a hospital and shortly after pursuing a doctorate level degree as a family nurse practitioner.





# Anna Merlington

**Major:** *Nursing*

## **Senior Project**

***HNR 201 TA***

Guiding group discussions, teaching a class, attending community events with students, and evaluating student assignments.

## **Research and Presentations**

Presentation at Gilda's Club about mindfulness practices and their benefits.

## **Leadership Activities**

Was an SNA mentor for newer members of the KCON nursing program and volunteered with MomsBloom to help postpartum mothers transition back into life after birth.

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List 2019-2023

Academic scholarships

## **Internship and Practicum**

Clinical Leadership rotation in a medical-surgical/ICU stepdown unit in Muskegon.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Graduating from the Kirkhof College of Nursing with honors and a smile.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Take a few deep breaths and then begin my career as a NICU nurse.



# Allie Messer

**Major:** *Environmental and Sustainability Studies*

**Minor:** *Sustainable Urban & Regional Planning*

## Senior Project

***Creating a Relationship Between Campus Dining and Local Agriculture***

This project looked at how the Sustainable Agriculture Project could provide our campus dining locations with food, specifically the Blue Connection.

## Activities and Awards

Sustainability Champion Award

## Internship and Practicum

SAP Intern

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment during my time here is my senior project.

## Plans After Graduation

After graduation I plan to work within sustainability planning.



# Ava Miller

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

***TA for HNR 201: Live. Learn. Lead.***

I led small group discussions with students in the class, developed questions to ask my small group about the readings from class. I went to community events on campus with students in my class and discussed these events in our small groups.

## Research and Presentations

Senior Capstone research: poster and presentation at Student Scholars Day 2023. I have been researching CAR T-cell therapy as a treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

## Leadership Activities

TA for BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy  
Tutoring in the cadaver lab

## Activities and Awards

BMS Graduates of Distinction Award  
Dean's List  
Volunteering at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital  
Tutor with K-12 Connect  
Shadowing various physicians  
Phlebotomy at Trinity Health Saint Mary's Hospital

## Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Chile during the summer semester of 2022 to complete my Spanish minor.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

This semester I had the opportunity to take the dissection lab (BMS 460) at Grand Valley. This has been an incredible learning experience which I have been very passionate about. The knowledge from this class will benefit me significantly when I enter into the medical field.

## Plans After Graduation

I am taking the MCAT and applying to medical school, hoping to matriculate in fall of 2024. I will be working at a hospital this summer to gain more clinical experience before medical school.



# Bradyn Mills

**Major:** *Advertising and Public Relations and Public and Nonprofit Administration*

**Minor:** *French*

## Senior Project

***The "College Experience": An Exposé of Challenges Faced by Indigenous University Students in Nicaragua***

This published and presented examination of equity through the eyes of Indigenous students at two major Nicaraguan universities was a compilation of in-country, qualitative research in which students from various autonomous populations in Nicaragua shared their experiences of encountering their country's dominant culture and the challenges associated with it.

## Research and Presentations

Panels Going International Without Leaving the Campus, INTED

Creativity, Culture, and Construction: Bringing Design Thinking to Indigenous Preschools, END

Cross-cultural Design Thinking: a Workshopped Exploration of Creative Preschools, MEHA

Indigenous Perspectives: Is Equity Unfair to the Mayangna of Nicaragua?, INTED Equity Explored: The Sacrifice of Indigenous Students, EDULEARN

Re-igniting Creative Cultural Schools, EDULEARN

## Leadership Activities

FMHC Student Council - Welcome Events Chair

Public Relations Student Society of America - Podcast Director

GrandPR Integrated Communications - Visual Media Coordinator

Campus Ministry - Small Group Leader

GVSU Forensics Team - Founding Member

## Activities and Awards

Stanford University Innovation Fellows

Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy

WMPRSA 2022 Gold Award for Podcasting

## Study Abroad

Certificate in French Language; Université Catholique de l'Ouest (CIDEF); Angers, France

## Internship and Practicum

Sales Resource Development Intern, Steelcase

Marketing and Advancement Intern, Wedgwood Christian Services

Marketing and Events Intern, GEMINI Media

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I'm proud of the relational energy I helped infuse into the Honors Mentor Program. Our Honors Student Council revamped Welcome Days and Overnight Orientation Activities experiences to be focused primarily on developing personal relationships with incoming students and leveraging this to inform engaging programming.

## Plans After Graduation

I will spend the summer in Estelí, Nicaragua, where I will shadow and support professors from UNAN-Managua in the design of creative preschool education in the village of Isiquí. Then, I'll be returning to Grand Rapids to pursue a career, rejoin family, and invest in friendships.



# Kyle Mishanec

**Major:** *Computer Science*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Workload Hosting Cost Transparency***

Completed for Corewell Health, the project consisted of creating a unified tool to provide cost transparency for various compute resources. This full-stack application features a web interface with multiple ways to view total cost of ownership and other vital asset information in both on-premises data centers and cloud platforms.

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List (Fall 2019 - present)

Grand Finish Grant (2022)

## **Internship and Practicum**

Platform Engineer intern at Little Caesar Enterprises

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Personal growth and following my passion for computer science.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Working full-time as a Platform Engineer at Little Caesars in Detroit.





# Bradley Monarch

**Majors:** *Mathematics and Statistics*

## **Senior Project**

### *Applied Math Club*

I founded the Applied Math Club with the goal of helping other math enthusiasts along their journey from education to a career. It was created to help answer questions regarding the uncertainties of being a math major.

## **Research and Presentations**

Counting edge covers of chorded cycles, presented at GRCC and SSD 2023

## **Leadership Activities**

President of Club Tennis, President/Founder of the Applied Math Club

## **Activities and Awards**

Excellence-in-a-Discipline award from the math department, I am Grand Valley Award, Summa Cum Laude

## **Internship and Practicum**

Regional operations analytics intern at Charter Communications, passed SOA Exam P

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Creating a fun and welcoming environment for the students on the club tennis team

## **Plans After Graduation**

I plan on pursuing a career as an actuary in Florida.



# Colleen Morris

**Majors:** *French and Education*

**Minor:** *English - Teaching*

## Senior Project

*Reflection on experiences studying abroad in Nice, France*

For my senior project, I wrote an essay in which I reflected on my incredible experience of studying abroad in southern France and on how that experience shaped my language acquisition, my developing teaching practice, and myself as a whole.

## Activities and Awards

Grand Valley's Excellence-in-a-Discipline award for French (2023)  
Dean's List (2019-2023)

## Study Abroad

Studied abroad in Nice, France (Summer 2022)

## Internship and Practicum

Teaching internship at Rockford Freshman Center in Rockford, MI (2023)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Achieving placement on the Dean's List for all 8 semesters at GVSU

## Plans After Graduation

After I graduate, I plan to participate in the TAPIF program where I will live and teach in France for two years before finding a more permanent teaching position either in France or in the US.



# Emily Morrison

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## Senior Project

***Barriers to Implementing Discipline-Based Education Research (DBER) into STEM Classes at Grand Valley State University***

This paper defines Discipline-Based Education Research (DBER) and breaks down how its use is affected by university and department leadership, reward systems, culture, faculty values and beliefs, and students. It is informed by previous research as well as one-on-one interviews with STEM faculty at Grand Valley State University.

## Research and Presentations

In the summer of 2022, I worked with Dr. McCloud as an undergraduate research assistant supporting her work in multicultural student affairs and we published "Right Where You Are: Unexpected Lessons about Undergraduate Research for Higher Education and Student Affairs Faculty" in the spring 2023 ACPA Developments publication.

## Leadership Activities

Honors Mentor (2 years)

Orientation Leader (1 year)

Member of Vice President Student Advisory Board (VSAB) (1 year)

## Activities and Awards

Pre-Med Club (1 year)

Pre-PA Club (1 year)

Stars Make-A-Wish (1 year)

I am GV nominee 2023

Dean's List (4 years)

Ron Ward Scholarship

Wanda Dover Educational Scholarship Recipient

Welch Foundation Scholarship Recipient

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been learning how to find joy in small moments while juggling school and work.

## Plans After Graduation

I am taking a gap year and then will be going to PA school!



# Sheila Mwanda

**Major:** *Allied Health Sciences*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

***Role Of Health Policy in Achieving the Healthy People 2030 Health Care Access & Quality Objectives***

For my senior project, I analyzed how income and type of health insurance influence people's access to healthcare & researched how to utilize health policy to create better health outcomes.

## Research and Presentations

Presented Senior Project at Student Scholars Day - April 2023

## Leadership Activities

Resident Assistant  
Cook Leadership Academy

## Activities and Awards

Dean's List  
Honors Mentor  
Transitions Leader  
Career Connector-GVSU Career Center  
Volunteer Tutor with GVSU K-12 Connect  
Volunteer COVID-19 Contact Tracer with Kent County Health Department

## Internship and Practicum

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services: HIV/STI Communications Intern  
Grand Rapids African American Health Institute: Marketing & Programming Intern

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My biggest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been having the opportunity to develop my career and passions both inside and outside of the classroom and being able to serve my community in various ways.

## Plans After Graduation

Participating in the Stanford AHEaD Program this summer and seeking full-time employment afterward.



# Bruna Ngassa

**Major:** *Writing*

**Minor:** *Advertising & Public Relations*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Diversity in Advertising***

An analysis of the representation of African Americans in advertising through historical context, visual media, and societal influences.

## **Research and Presentations**

Provided authorship for the ACRL's Inclusive Leadership Annotated Bibliography for the Dean of the Library.

## **Leadership Activities**

President of Book Club

Editor in Chief of Fishladder, the Writing Department's Student Journal of Art & Writing

## **Activities and Awards**

Recipient of the Thomas M. Seykora Award (2023)

## **Internship and Practicum**

Editorial Assistant Internship at Dzanc Books

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Spending the year working on Fishladder Journal: hiring staff, setting up meetings, reading submissions, and putting the journal together

## **Plans After Graduation**

Attending the Summer Publishing Institute at New York University





# Aaron Norfleet

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

***Analyzing the Patient-Provider Relationship and Assessing Shortages in Oral Healthcare in Arenac County, Michigan***

This prospective study will assess the patient-provider relationship in Arenac County, Michigan, analyze barriers to treatment for rural patients, and develop a meaningful plan to improve upon these categories.

## **Leadership Activities**

PASS Facilitator CHM 115/116  
Tutor (CHM, BIO, BMS)

## **Activities and Awards**

Presidential Scholarship  
Award for Excellence Scholarship  
Dean's List 2020, 2021, 2022  
Member of Pre-Dental Club

## **Study Abroad**

Netherlands: Geography & Planning

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Completing my degree in three years while maintaining a high level of academic excellence and growing as an individual.

## **Plans After Graduation**

With much gratitude, I will be attending the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in June.



# Mary Novak

**Major:** *Education and Mathematics*

**Minor:** *Psychology - Teaching*

## Senior Project

### ***Metropolis: A Stage Production***

Script for a stage musical based upon the 1999 progressive rock concept album "Metropolis, Pt. 2: Scenes from a Memory" by the band Dream Theater. (To be completed Spring 2023)

## Leadership Activities

Secretary for Grand Valley Swing Dance Club: 2020-22

Financial Officer for Grand Valley Quidditch Team: 2022-23

## Activities and Awards

I Am Grand Valley Award: 2022

Dean's List

Active Member of GVSU Physics Club: 2019-20

Active Member of GVSU Protect Life: 2019-22

Active Member of GVSU Swing Dance Club: 2018-22

Active Member of GVSU Quidditch Team: 2021-23

## Internship and Practicum

Teacher Assisting/Teacher Apprenticeship: Fall 22

Student Teaching/Teacher Internship: Winter 23

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Earned a 3.33 GPA after taking an 18-credit semester course load, whilst simultaneously working part-time and running two clubs/organizations on campus.

## Plans After Graduation

Teaching in either a middle school or high school mathematics classroom.

# Stella Omilian

**Major:** *Communication Science and Disorders*

## **Senior Project**

***Cultural Competency in Practicing Audiologists Serving LGBTQIA+ Clients***

This project is an assessment of cultural competency and practices of audiologists when working with LGBTQIA+ clients and areas where improvement can stand to be made. Areas of deficit and areas of excellence are examined.

## **Leadership Activities**

Vice President of GVSU Renaissance Festival

Secretary of GVSU Renaissance Festival

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Developing professional relationships with professors and developing an honors study.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Application to Graduate School for Audiological degree.



# Priscila Ontiveros Chucatin

**Major:** *Computer Science*

**Minor:** *Mathematics*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Corewell Hand Washing***

Me and my team designed a computer model to recognize if a medical staff used a hand sanitation station. Additionally, it keeps track of number of uses.

## **Leadership Activities**

Resident Assistant

## **Study Abroad**

This is my study abroad! I am an international student from Bolivia!

## **Internship and Practicum**

Steelcase: 1 year as an intern and hired full time after graduation.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Being a resident assistant

## **Plans After Graduation**

Working full time!



# Madison Opre

**Major:** *Management and Marketing*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

### *The Affects Culture Has on Marketing*

I wrote an extensive paper highlighting the impacts of culture on international marketing. The paper is an outline for understanding the ways culture can affect global companies in regard to successfully growing their team and building relationships with suppliers and customers to create an effective marketing strategy.

## Research and Presentations

Presentation for Marketing Capstone - Developed a Marketing Plan for a Start-Up called CityZ.  
Presentation and completion of Cesim Simulation for Capstone.  
Consumer Behavior presentation.

## Leadership Activities

Women in Business Club

## Activities and Awards

Dean's List Recipient  
Lakers Go Abroad Scholarship  
GVSU Ski and Snowboard (1 year)  
YoungLife Leader (1 year)  
Spring break mission trip

## Study Abroad

Winter semester 2022 in Madrid, Spain.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining my grades while taking advantage of numerous work opportunities and experiences. Ski team and studying abroad were the highlights of my time as a student.

## Plans After Graduation

Work in sales for a marketing agency.





# Dylan Parker

**Major:** *Cell & Molecular Biology*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

***Investigating The Role of Septin Proteins as GTPases and Their Locomotive and Neurological Influence in Schmidtea Mediterranea***

This research project summarized my findings during my time conducting research under Dr. Hart. The study focuses on the knockdown of septin proteins in planaria, a flatworm capable of regeneration. This study highlights the role of septins in neurodegenerative disease and its potential as a therapeutic target.

## Research and Presentations

My senior project is an extension of my research under Dr. Hart. We focused on septin proteins and their role in neurodegenerative disease using planaria as an animal model.

## Leadership Activities

GVSU Cross Country and Track E-board member-3 years (distance coordinator, financial officer, and vice president)

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being a part of a research project that focused on genes that were novel in this realm of science and uncovering new ideas.

## Plans After Graduation

Obtain a job in industry or a research-related career.



# Emma Peake

**Major:** *Recreational Therapy*

## **Senior Project**

***Respect for Recreational Therapy: Changing Perceptions and Gaining Recognition***

This project researched past and present perceptions of the field of Recreational Therapy. The aim of this project was to determine marketing and advocacy strategies which could promote increased awareness and use of Recreational Therapy.

## **Research and Presentations**

Presented at Student Scholars Day: Developing Coping Skills in Youth-At-Risk

Presented on Leisure Education & Wellness at GVSU's 17th annual Art and Science of Aging Conference

## **Leadership Activities**

Laker Marching Band Section Leader

Undergraduate representative for the College of Health Professions Student Empowerment & Success Council

## **Activities and Awards**

Laker Marching Band

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity

Michigan Therapeutic Recreation Association

## **Internship and Practicum**

Fieldwork completed at David's House Ministries

Internship to be completed at Stoney Lake Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center

## **Greatest Accomplishment**

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley would be completing my fieldwork at David's House Ministries. I grew so much during my fieldwork, and I feel that I really discovered my passion during this time. It was so fulfilling getting to make an impact on the lives of the residents.

## **Plans After Graduation**

After graduation I will complete my internship at Stoney Lake Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center. Upon completion of my internship, I hope to find a position as a Recreational Therapist and work with individuals with disabilities. I will be pursuing my master's degree in Recreational Therapy in the coming years.



# Rachel Pease

**Major:** *Public and Nonprofit Administration*

## Senior Project

***Emotional Support Animals on College Campuses***

I looked at policies regarding emotional support animals at all colleges and universities in Michigan in order to examine the accessibility of individuals with disabilities.

## Leadership Activities

Leader and Intern with Campus Ministry at GVSU

## Activities and Awards

Pre-Med Club at GVSU

Campus Ministry at GVSU

## Internship and Practicum

Intern with Women At Risk, International

## Greatest Accomplishment

My greatest accomplishment is graduating in four years despite the COVID pandemic and battling my own mental health.

## Plans After Graduation

I will be working in ministry.



# Antonia Picard

**Major:** *Finance*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Income Inequality and Right-To-Work Laws***

Using research and data, I analyzed the impact that Right-to-Work laws have on income inequality in Michigan and Indiana looking at the wage gap change throughout the years before, during, and after the enactment. The project was presented at the "Great Lakes Academy of Legal Studies in Business" conference.

## **Study Abroad**

Internship in Germany

## **Internship and Practicum**

C.A. Picard International

## **Plans After Graduation**

Moving to Cologne, Germany to either do my masters or get a job in the finance field.



# Aaron Pope

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## Senior Project

*The title of my senior project is meniscal tear treatments and outlooks for the future.*

My senior project is built upon finding information surrounding meniscal tear treatment options that are currently proven scientifically to be beneficial. I am taking previous research as well as my own experience to create a medically backed plan of care for various meniscal tears.

## Research and Presentations

Hydration testing research on the effectiveness of Gatorade and other sports drinks for exercise. (2023)

## Activities and Awards

Player on GVSU's club dodgeball team  
Multiple semesters on the dean's list

## Internship and Practicum

Intern at Ivy rehab Sparta Physical Therapy where I taught a senior fitness class to locals  
Student learner at Apogee therapy center  
Student learner at Ivy rehab pediatric occupational therapy in grand haven

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU has been my ability to make myself and family proud through my work. Reaching this point in my education with more to come has been a long coming goal that feels great to accomplish.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan to continue my education at GVSU by entering the Master of Occupational Therapy program this fall.





# Clare Quirin

**Majors:** *Advertising & Public Relations and Film & Video*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

***How Sustainable Businesses Develop Stronger Relationships With Their Publics***

As someone who prefers purchasing from sustainable businesses instead of unsustainable businesses, I want to research if this is a common preference among the public as a whole.

## Research and Presentations

Through my freshmen year sequence, I did research on civil rights and social movements, intersectionality, and pivotal moments in history.

## Leadership Activities

CEO of GVSU's student-run integrated communications firm, GrandPR (and previously Account Executive and Account Associate)

On the e-board (as the CEO, and previously as Social Media Director) of GV's chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America

On the Creative Team and Research Team for the National Student Society of America

## Activities and Awards

Digital Marketing Competition 2021:

Third place prize and the What's Trending award

National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) 2021-2022:

Received first place prize in our district for our campaign.

Received a Bronze Honorable Mention, a Judges Choice Award, and a Gold Addy from the American Advertising Awards for one of our videos tactics.

## Internship and Practicum

Student Strategist at Piper & Gold Public Relations

Multimedia Journalist at Grand Rapids Public Schools

Marketing Associate at Senior Living Experts

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Receiving third place prize for the Digital Marketing Competition, an international marketing competition for students.

## Plans After Graduation

I am hoping to work in public relations for an environmentally friendly and impact-driven company.



# Madison Raymond

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## **Senior Project**

### ***The Plant-Based Eating Pattern for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease***

The goal of this project was to inform the younger patient population about the prevalence of cardiovascular disease and what measures can be taken to reduce the risk. Adopting a plant-based eating pattern that is high in fruits, vegetables, and legumes reduces arterial plaque and improves heart health.

## **Research and Presentations**

Botulinum Toxin A for the Treatment of Migraine Headaches

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List

Academic Scholarship

## **Internship and Practicum**

Volunteered as an at-home aide for amputee patient.

Shadowed several healthcare professionals, witnessing open heart surgeries, lung biopsies, cesarian births, and routine office visits.

Worked as a Direct Care Worker and Patient Coordinator

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Completing a degree that allows me to expand my scientific expertise, while discovering a passion for patient care and a desire to serve the pediatric population.

## **Plans After Graduation**

I will be working as a Nurse Technician at Corewell Health and applying to graduate programs in hopes of becoming a Physician Assistant someday.



# Ashley Reithel

**Majors:** *Psychology and Criminal Justice*

## Senior Project

***HNR 201: Live. Learn. Lead. TA***

I was a teacher's assistant for a Fall 2021 course with Dr. Gilles. In this role, I led small group discussions, assisted students with writing assignments, and attended community events.

## Research and Presentations

Psychology Capstone: Obstacles for Students Attending Predominately Low-Income Schools

Criminal Justice Capstone: Ethical Issues with Lack of Impartiality Among Criminal Justice Professionals

Honors Freshman Sequence: Untested Rape Kits, Forgotten Crimes

## Leadership Activities

Honors Mentor

## Activities and Awards

Excellence in a Discipline Award for Criminal Justice

Dean's List

Psi Chi- Psychology Honors Society

Orchestra

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment would be the friends I made and how much I grew as a person during my four years at Grand Valley.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan to take a gap year to work before going to graduate school for psychology.



# Morgan Rice

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

***Cross-Cultural Analysis of Food Systems in Spain vs. The U.S.***

The central focus of my project was to explore the food system and Mediterranean diet consumed in the country of Spain based on my study abroad trip to Barcelona. This project compares and contrasts the food system and diet of this country with that of the United States.

## Leadership Activities

Secretary of the Pre-Pharmacy Association

## Activities and Awards

Pre-Pharmacy Association Secretary

Habitat for Humanity Club member

Women in Business Club member

## Study Abroad

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

6 credits earned in Spanish Language and Barcelona City Planning and Architecture

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain during the summer of 2022. I had the opportunity to study Spanish Language and Spanish architecture here while also traveling through Europe to a total of seven countries.

## Plans After Graduation

My plans after graduation include taking a gap year to work while applying to graduate school and hopefully traveling more.



# Zachary Richardson

**Major:** *Political Science*

**Minor:** *Criminal Justice*

## **Senior Project**

***The Broken Market: How Social Media Companies Have Disrupted the Marketplace of Ideas***

An examination of the operation of social media companies through the lens of the marketplace of ideas.

## **Leadership Activities**

GVSU E-Sports Club: Division Leader

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's List in 3 consecutive semesters

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Being the first in my family to attain a four-year degree.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Law School at University of Detroit Mercy





# Jennifer Ryan

**Majors:** *Music and Education*

**Minor:** *English - Teaching*

## Senior Project

### *Musical and Social Objectives of Summer Music Camps*

I used a survey to gather data from music educators regarding the musical and social benefits of students attending summer music camp, specifically since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The final product of the project is a qualitative research paper.

## Research and Presentations

Knowledge Market conference presentation: "If You Can't Ban it, Use it: Academically Honest Use of A.I." (March 2023)

Research paper: "Sibelius Symphony II: An Analysis in Historical Context" (April 2021)

## Leadership Activities

American String Teachers Association, Grand Valley Chapter President (2022)

## Activities and Awards

Department of Music, Theater and Dance Writing Competition 2021: 2nd place for paper "Sibelius Symphony II: An Analysis in Historical Context"

## Internship and Practicum

Teacher Apprenticeship: Allendale Public Schools, kindergarten music

Teacher Internship: City Middle High, grades 7-12 orchestra and Diploma Programme Music

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

During my teacher internship, I conducted a full concert program for two of my school's orchestras during several of our Festival season performances.

## Plans After Graduation

I will be working for Grand Rapids Public Schools as a K-5 Suzuki strings teacher and a 6th grade orchestra teacher.



# Evan Sander

**Majors:** *Education and Mathematics*

**Minor:** *Economics - Teaching*

## Senior Project

*Implementing Strategies to Increase Perceived Engagement and Efficacy Within Urban Secondary Education Mathematics Students: A Student Teacher's Perspective*

The study examined 4 strategies used by a student teacher to increase perceived engagement and

efficacy. Using data from 96 Algebra II students, it was found that the collective strategies were not successful at increasing perceived engagement but were successful at increasing perceived efficacy.

## Research and Presentations

Math in Action Conference Presenter - Routines for Establishing Productive Collaboration in Middle School Math Lessons

## Leadership Activities

Member of Student Senate and the Educational Affairs Committee

## Activities and Awards

Recipient of the I Am Grand Valley Award

## Internship and Practicum

Teacher Assistant at East Grand Rapids Middle School

Student Teacher at Godwin Heights High School & Rockford High School

Donor Recognition and Experience Intern at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Evan's greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley State University was being as involved as he could be during his undergraduate studies. Evan has enjoyed giving back to the university that has shaped him take on a global perspective towards his future academic and professional pursuits.

## Plans After Graduation

While Evan has not selected his career path after graduation, he has committed to following his motivation of inspiring others to achieve their personal and professional aspirations.



# Lindsey Schmidt

**Majors:** *Biochemistry and Psychology*

## Senior Project

### *The Effect of Instructor Feedback on Student Motivation in Undergraduate Chemistry*

I conducted a qualitative research project during which I interviewed chemistry students in order to assess how various types of feedback from instructors impacts their motivation to persist in their chemistry courses.

## Research and Presentations

I presented posters at Student Scholars Day 2022, Summer Scholars Showcase 2022, Student Scholars Day 2023, and the Spring 2023 ACS Conference.

## Leadership Activities

I serve as the Vice President of Comic Book Club.

## Activities and Awards

I write blog posts for the Organization for Professional Writers.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was being able to present my research at the American Chemical Society conference in Indianapolis, IN in March 2023.

## Plans After Graduation

After graduation, I am planning on working as a science or medical writer.



# Amanda Schoudt

**Major:** *Behavioral Neuroscience*

**Minors:** *Cell & Molecular Biology and Psychology*

## Senior Project

### ***The Changing Role of Nondirectiveness in Genetic Counseling***

I shadowed a genetic counselor at Corewell Health Medical Genetics every week and wrote a paper on the counseling ideology of nondirectiveness and shared decision making, incorporating my clinical experience. I also wrote an information sheet on a genetic condition called a smart phrase that is dispersed to patients.

## Research and Presentations

Nutrition and Genetically Modified Organism Influence on Neurodegenerative Diseases  
Effect of Cyclin B2 Knockdown on Regeneration in Planarians  
Predation Preference Behavior in Bold Jumping Spiders  
Intracellular Transport of Chara corallina Cells: The Role of Calcium on Cytoplasmic Streaming  
Dictyostelium discoideum Development: Experiments on the Effect of cAR1 Gene Mutant

## Leadership Activities

Genetics Lab Teaching Assistant  
Genetic Counseling Co-President

## Activities and Awards

Laker Marching Band 2019 & 2021  
Genetic Counseling Organization  
Intramural Volleyball

## Internship and Practicum

Internship in Medical Genetics at Corewell (Spectrum) Health

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment has to be how my perspectives have widened and I am able to see multiple sides to every situation, as many things are nuanced. Also, I am glad I tried new things, and did not feel the need to stick with what no longer served me.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan to apply to Genetic Counseling Master's programs or another graduate program in the fall. In my gap year I would like to get a new full-time job related to my major in healthcare or a laboratory.



# Montana Schrader

**Majors:** *Studio Art*

**Minor:** *Advertising & Public Relations*

## **Senior Project**

***Behind the Symptoms: An Examination of OCD Portrayals in Media***

The misrepresentation and trivialization of OCD in media contributes to misunderstanding, mockery, and skepticism toward its complex nature and patients' experiences. By intersecting mental health conversations with entertainment, this project is an informational resource analyzing OCD's portrayal in TV, film, and literature, combatting common misconceptions and lack of OCD education.

## **Research and Presentations**

Nicholas Galanin: Artistic Voice for Indigenous Peoples  
The Usages and Cultural Significance of Eye Liner Through History

## **Leadership Activities**

AIGA Student Chapter President  
2022 AIGA Design Conference Volunteer at Seattle, WA

## **Activities and Awards**

1st place winner in 2023 Oldenburg Writing Contest category for Analytical or Persuasive Essay Written by a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior  
Selected nominee to represent Studio Arts in Calder Honor Scholarship Competition  
Dean's List  
Grand Valley Symphony Orchestra  
Women in Cinema

## **Internship and Practicum**

Graphic Design Internship at Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Working as the graphic designer for the 2022 Fall Concert and 2023 Presidents' Ball

## **Plans After Graduation**

Currently applying for graphic designer positions at design and advertising studios, Freelance work





# Carly Segar

**Major:** *Marketing*

**Minor:** *Digital Studies*

## **Senior Project**

***Marketing Strategies Taking the Internet by Storm***

An overview of how today's marketing strategies and tactics have infiltrated the internet and social media platforms.

## **Activities and Awards**

Dean's list

Thompson Scholar

## **Internship and Practicum**

Interned at Lily Ann Cabinets

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Receiving Dean's list multiple semesters

## **Plans After Graduation**

To continue in the field of marketing



# Michelle Shane

**Majors:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Sociology*

## Senior Project

### *Anastomosis*

A chapbook of 10 poems with a short forward that considered themes of endings and beginnings, death, and relationships both between and within humans.

## Research and Presentations

I have worked as Dr. Anna Hammersmith's sociology research assistant for the last 2.5 years. We worked on many projects, but our primary focus was on intergenerational relationships between parents and their adult children- specifically, the flow of support between them.

## Leadership Activities

Cadaver Lab TA, CHM and BMS Tutor

## Activities and Awards

BMS Graduate of Distinction Award

General Chemistry Award

I am GV Award

## Internship and Practicum

I am working at the Helen Devos Children's Emergency Department and Butterworth Emergency Department as a Medical Scribe.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment is the relationships I have formed here with my professors and other students, some of which who are now my closest friends. I am excited to continue to grow and see how these friendships develop with time.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan to go to medical school and then work in pediatric primary care. Specifically, I would like to partner with the public health officials in my community to promote health and ensure access to resources both on an individual and on a larger scale.



# Allison Shattuck

**Major:** *Communication Science & Disorders*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

### *Attitudes Toward Stuttering Within a University: Honors Senior Project*

This study explored differences between faculty, students, and colleges at GVSU related to their attitudes toward people who stutter. Findings indicate the importance of more education and awareness to culminate more positive attitudes, beliefs, and reactions to improve the quality of life for people who stutter.

## Research and Presentations

Research projects involving stuttering, implicit biases, and people who stutter within the CSD department. Presented at Student Scholar's Day 2022, Michigan Speech Language and Hearing Association Conference (MSHA) 2023, and American Speech Language and Hearing Association Conference (ASHA) 2022.

## Leadership Activities

Volunteer Coordinator for GVSU's National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter for all three years.

Thompson Working Family Scholar, completed over 20 hours of community service each year.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Presenting at the ASHA conference with a poster presentation regarding awareness and education surrounding stuttering and people who stutter.

## Plans After Graduation

Attending GVSU's Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program



# Emily Sherry

**Majors:** *Cell & Molecular Biology and Biomedical Sciences*

## Senior Project

*The complex, dynamic SpliceOme of the small GTPase transcripts altered by technique, sex, genetics, tissue specificity, and RNA base editing.*

I got my research that I did with Michigan State University published in Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology. For this research I worked in the Prokop Lab at the Michigan State University Research Center in Grand Rapids. The paper investigates the small GTPase family and alternative splicing.

## Research and Presentations

Michigan State Research Center (Grand Rapids): rare pediatric blood cancers and the small GTPase family using bioinformatics.

GVSU: collagen fiber arrangement of primate dura mater in relation to the closure of sutures.

COVID-19 Literature Review Analyst Manager

Presented at Student Scholars Day Winter 2021

## Leadership Activities

Study Abroad Mentor

COVID-19 Literature Review Analyst Manager

Personal Relations Representative for Cell and Molecular Biology Club

## Activities and Awards

GVSU 2023 Undergraduate Research Scholar

Biomedical Science Graduate of Distinction-Winter 2023

Outstanding Cell and Molecular Biology Student Award-Winter 2022

GVSU Outstanding Intern of the Year Award Nomination-Winter 2021

General Chemistry Award from the GVSU Chemistry Department-Winter 2020

Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree

Cell and Molecular Biology Club

Chemocare Club

National Society of Leadership and Success

## Study Abroad

Cyprus during Fall 2022

## Internship and Practicum

Summer Bioinformatics Research Intern in the Prokop Lab at the Michigan State University Research Center in Grand Rapids

COVID-19 Literature Review Analyst Manager with the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Patient and Community Outreach Intern with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My biggest accomplishment since being at GV is getting some of my research published as a first co-author!

## Plans After Graduation

I will be applying to an M.D./Ph.D. program to study pediatric hematology oncology while I work in a clinical setting.



# Natalie Shifferd

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

### ***GVSU Partners in Health Engage Team***

PIHE is a support team for the larger PIH organization. We advocate, community-build, and fundraise for their mission to create quality/accessible healthcare globally. I'm the founder of the GVSU team and current team coordinator. We've raised over \$1000, met with MOC staff, and hosted educational meetings.

## Research and Presentations

BMS 495 (capstone) research paper and presentation on Porphyromonas Gingivalis in Periodontitis.

## Leadership Activities

Founder and current team coordinator for GVSU PIH Engage Team.

## Activities and Awards

BMS department Award

PIHE nominated for Care For Community Award and Outstanding Educational Program

Dean's list for 7 semesters

## Internship and Practicum

Dental assisting and shadowing full-time for a summer. Volunteered as a dental assistant at free dental clinic. Have shadowed other general dentists and orthodontists.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Founding the GVSU PIH Engage team. I'm really excited to see how it grows after I graduate.

## Plans After Graduation

Gap year from now-summer 2024 where I'll apply and interview for dental schools, work full-time, and travel internationally.





# Evan Sidebotham

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

## Senior Project

*TA for Professor Ellen Adams for a section of Live Lead Learn*

Helping the professor with lectures and leading frequent small group discussions with groups of students over the course of the semester.

## Research and Presentations

2.5 years of *C. albicans* research with Dr. Thomas and Dr. Cleary, which culminated into the following presentations: WRUGS presentation, NASA Michigan Space Grant Consortium presentation, S3 Summer Scholars presentation, Student Scholars Day presentation.

## Leadership Activities

I have held multiple E-board positions, and I now am the Club's current president of Pre-Med Club. I also am the Risk Manager for the Club Tennis team.

## Activities and Awards

Department of Chemistry: General Chemistry Award  
Graduate of Distinction  
Biomedical Sciences Excellence in a Discipline Award  
GVSU's Dean's list for 4 years  
Thompson Scholar

## Internship and Practicum

2022 S3 research program

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU would probably be receiving the excellence in a discipline award. This is because this holistic award, which is given to only a single graduate, represents my dedication to my education as well as acknowledges my engagement in on-campus activities and research.

## Plans After Graduation

I will be attending MSU's M.D. program this Fall and have current plans to become an Emergency Medicine Physician.



# Madison Simon

**Major:** *Nursing*

**Minor:** *Spanish*

## Senior Project

***The Importance of Translation in the Clinical Setting: Spanish and Nursing***

My senior project was creating a simulation for nursing students to practice their nursing skills in Spanish. It was intended to give students who study both nursing and Spanish a chance to learn vocabulary, practice the educational role of a nurse, and gain confidence in Spanish.

## Leadership Activities

I lead a Bible study through Laker Catholic.

## Activities and Awards

I am a member of the Student Nurses Association and Laker Catholic.

## Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Granada, Spain in 2022.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is pushing my comfort zone, especially during my study abroad in Spain and in my leadership immersion nursing clinical at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Emergency Department.

## Plans After Graduation

I accepted a job as a registered nurse at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Emergency Department. I am also marrying the love of my life in October!



# Talia Simons

**Major:** *Nursing*

**Minor:** *Biology*

**Senior Project**  
*Honors TA*

**Research and Presentations**  
Research Assistant for Professor Pearl

## Leadership Activities

Secretary of Grand Valley State University STARS for Make-A-Wish, 2019-2021  
Secretary for Grand Valley State University Students for Food Sovereignty, 2021  
Grand Valley State University Student Nurses Association Member, 2021- Present  
Grand Valley State University Student Nurses Association Health Coordinator, 2022

## Activities and Awards

I am GV Recipient

## Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Costa Rica focusing on Spanish, tropical diseases and the Costa Rican health care system. Additionally, I studied in Ghana focusing on Community Health nursing and provided medical care for patients in the local communities.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment was making connections with people all around the globe while advancing my education and professional career.

## Plans After Graduation

I have accepted a job as an RN at Corewell Health in the Comprehensive Breast Care Clinic.



# Olivia Skown

**Majors:** *Behavioral Neuroscience and Pre-Professional Preparation*

## Senior Project

**TBD**

A personal reflection about my life/time at GVSU and what I will be taking with me.

## Leadership Activities

Pre-Students of Osteopathic Medicine (SOMA)

Membership officer (2021-2022)

Pre-Students of Osteopathic Medicine (SOMA) Vice

President (2022-Present)

National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH)

## Activities and Awards

Received the Mary Egan Award for Seniors from Alpha

Omicron Pi Sorority (2023)

I Am GV Award Recipient (2021 and 2022)

## Internship and Practicum

Nursing Technician at Corewell Health Hospitals

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I am proud of the amazing people I have met and developed relationships with throughout my four years here.

For my senior project, I wrote an honest reflection about my time here and my thoughts about leaving/moving on. I am excited about what I learned about myself in this process.

## Plans After Graduation

Attending Midwestern University in Glendale, AZ to get a Health Science Master's degree in Cardiovascular Perfusion to become a Perfusionist.





# Madison Smith

**Major:** *Biochemistry*

**Minors:** *Chemistry and Writing*

## **Senior Project**

***Unidentified Homicide Victims of Detroit: A Literature Review Exploring Identification Methods for Unknown Decedents and a Statistical Analysis of Operation UNITED Cases***

I performed a literature review that explored DNA analysis and the estimation of age and sex via a skeleton as these are methods utilized to confirm an identification. The FBI/ DPD joint project Operation UNITED works to identify unknown homicide victims of Detroit and this report summarizes the case statistics.

## **Research and Presentations**

Biochemistry Literature Review (2023): ""Estimating the Age of a Bloodstain through the Establishment of Metabolic Marker Levels Over Time Using Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry

FBI (2022): Domestic Terrorism Threat Assessment for Resource and Effort Distribution

Writing Center Conference (2021): Evaluation of the impact of interdisciplinarity on the effectiveness of a peer consultation

## **Leadership Activities**

GVSU Chemistry Club: President (2022-2023); Secretary (2021-2022)

Chemistry Success Center Tutor (2021-2023)

Writing Center Consultant (2020-2023)

PASS Facilitator (2023)

Circle K: Bulletin editor (2020-2023)

## **Activities and Awards**

Excellence in a Discipline for Biochemistry (2023)

GVSU Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Nominee (2023)

I am Grand Valley (2022, 2023)

GVSU Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree (2020)

Dean's List (2019-2022)

Scholarships: Kyle Grant '12 Memorial Scholarship, Aaron Desrocher Memorial Chem Scholarship, Grand Finish Grant, Warren Memorial Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship, Award for Excellence

## **Internship and Practicum**

I worked as an intern with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Specifically, I worked in the counterterrorism division, focusing on domestic terrorism. I analyzed a year's worth of threat reports which I then presented for my superiors. I also compiled SRO information for three counties and aided agents where needed.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment was developing friendships that helped me become more confident, self-assured, and engaged. These relationships encouraged me to facilitate many projects, big and small, over the years and have offered endless support toward achieving my goals. After 4 years, I've increased my knowledge of biochemistry, myself, and eucre.

## **Plans After Graduation**

I will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University to gain a Master's in Forensic Chemistry: Trace Analysis.





# Kaylee Spencer

**Major:** *Biomedical Sciences*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

### ***Plant-based Eating to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease***

Analyzed health benefits of a plant-based eating pattern in comparison to the traditional American diet. Focused on health issues that arise from one's diet. Used research on relevant topics to create educational materials in an attempt to inform others on cardiovascular disease prevention.

## Leadership Activities

I lead a Bible study through Laker Catholic.

## Activities and Awards

Executive Board Member of American Marketing Association.  
Club member of Women in Medicine and Science.  
Worked as a Direct Care Worker at Legacies Assisted Living.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is successfully planning and executing multiple fundraising events for American Marketing Association.

## Plans After Graduation

After graduation, I will be starting my career at Meijer as a business analyst.



# Hannah Stevens

**Majors:** *Human Resources Management and Marketing*

## Senior Project

### *Diving Into The Culture of Spain*

Knowing no one, traveled around the world alone, and studied/lived in the heart of Spain for 3 months in the summer of 2022. Being fully immersed in the rich culture, beautiful language, and wonderful people.

## Research and Presentations

Research on the culture of Spain and the effects of the pandemic.  
Research on marketing practices and strategies for local businesses in the Grand Rapids area.

## Leadership Activities

Marketing Chair for the GVSU Women In Business Organization  
Part of the Seidman Mentorship Program

## Activities and Awards

Dean's List 2020-2023  
Member of Laker Familia Club for Hispanic Students

## Study Abroad

Studied abroad in Madrid, Spain

## Internship and Practicum

HR Intern for Hungerford Nichols CPAs + Advisors

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Studying abroad, the wonderful friendships made at GV that will last a lifetime, and the growth, hard work, and determination displayed all four years of college.

## Plans After Graduation

Celebrating my educational accomplishments and looking excitedly at the future while starting my career in the HR/Marketing field.



# Emily Terwilliger

**Majors:** *Human Resources  
Management and Spanish*

## Senior Project

*TA for Professor Wampler*

Helped lead a group of students in Professor Wampler's Honors 201 class.

## Leadership Activities

Honors Mentorship  
Seidman Mentorship  
Captain - Relay for Life

## Activities and Awards

Relay for Life Captain  
Modern Languages & Literatures Outstanding Student in Spanish Award

## Study Abroad

Universidad de Deusto Bilbao, Spain

## Internship and Practicum

Human Resource Internship at St. Ann's Home

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Making the Dean's list every semester while at GVSU!

## Plans After Graduation

Production Support Engineer at Gentex in Zeeland!



# Abbey Trach

**Majors:** *Music and Education*

## Senior Project

### *Rudiments for Rookies*

My senior project is a website that serves as a resource for music educators who are not primarily percussionists to re-arrange stock marching percussion parts to fit their group. Not every school can afford to hire someone to do this, so it can be a useful skill to learn.

## Leadership Activities

Drum Major of Laker Marching Band (2018), Cymbal Section Leader (2021)  
Vice President of National Association for Music Education (2018-2019)  
Drumline Captain at River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corps (2021)

## Activities and Awards

National Association for Music Education  
Laker Marching Band, Genesis Percussion, Redline Percussion  
River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corps

## Internship and Practicum

Student Teacher of 7-12th grade band at Forest Hills Central High and Middle School  
Teacher Assistant of general music at Bursley and El Puente Elementary schools

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was achieving my dream of marching with Drum Corps International, and I exceeded that dream by landing a teaching job at River City Rhythm!

## Plans After Graduation

My plan after graduation is to move to Texas in pursuit of a band director job. I will also continue teaching drum corps and indoor percussion.



# Joey Turpin

**Majors:** *Supply Chain Management and Marketing*

## **Senior Project**

*Artificial intelligence and its implications on business*

An analysis of current and future trends in the business world with emerging artificial intelligence technologies.

## **Research and Presentations**

Restoration of the Grand River and its rapids  
Robotic process automation in supply chain

## **Activities and Awards**

Theta Chi fraternity

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Fulfilling my academic goals while meeting great people in the process

## **Plans After Graduation**

Enter the business world and gain experience to grow my future.





# Zachary Van Dyke

**Majors:** *Electrical Engineering*

## **Senior Project**

### ***Panel Drilling Machine***

The Panel Drilling Machine will increase efficiency for workers at Koops Automation Systems in Holland. The machine automates certain Koops processes and standardizes other Koops practices with automated solutions. My team and I have designed the machine from scratch, and a specific area I designed was the electrical panel.

## **Internship and Practicum**

The engineering program at GVSU includes a co-op program where participants complete three semesters working at a company full time. For my three co-op semesters I worked at Koops Automation Systems in Holland. During the three different semesters I worked as a project engineer, mechanical engineer, and controls engineer.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Although I learned many things while studying electrical engineering at GVSU, my most memorable accomplishment was becoming the ruler of Athens in my Worlds of Greece and Rome class. After several weeks of preparation, including papers and speeches, my plan succeeded and my character, Lithicles, became the ruler of Athens.

## **Plans After Graduation**

After graduation I will be working for Koops Automation Systems as a controls engineer. I will also be getting married to my fiancé Sara and we will be staying in the West Michigan area.



# Eva VanWyck

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## **Senior Project**

*The Freshmen 15: The Who, What, and How it Harms Us*

My project is a publicly posted podcast on the harm of the phrase "The Freshman 15" to student health. This 3-episode series focuses on the truth behind the phrase, the fatphobia it is rooted in, and what we can do to minimize its harm.

## **Leadership Activities**

I was a leader with the RecWell WIT Peer education team and in my role as the Health Promotion Assistant.

I hired over five peer educators and aided in training them.

I was a member of two search committees that hired a graduate assistant and a senior leader in student affairs.

## **Activities and Awards**

Received the 2022 Recreation & Wellness Director's Award.

Received the 2023 Leadership Excellence Award through the Department of Movement Science.

## **Internship and Practicum**

I completed a semester-long internship for University of Michigan Health-West in the Offices of Health Equity and Professional Well-Being. Prior to that, I was an intern on campus through Recreation & Wellness, serving as the Health Promotions Assistant.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

My greatest accomplishment was helping to build and grow the Recreation & Wellness Peer Education Program. It was a joy to learn and grow as the program expanded. It was through this work I discovered my passion for health education, a passion I will be utilizing in my career.

## **Plans After Graduation**

I will be serving as the Community Outreach & Wellness Education Coordinator at University of Michigan Health-West.



# Natalie VeCasey

**Major:** *Nursing*

## Senior Project

### *Proposed Improvements to Emergency Psychiatric Care in a Local Hospital System*

A paper summarizing common problems with the current system of psychiatric care in emergency departments in a local hospital system and proposing changes that can better the experiences and improve outcomes for patients seeking emergency psychiatric care.

## Research and Presentations

Researched for a now published book on Chilean middle-class consumerism.

## Leadership Activities

Honors mentor

## Activities and Awards

Glenn A. Niemeyer Outstanding Undergraduate Award

## Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Ghana for nursing.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been winning the Glenn A. Niemeyer award.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan to begin an RN job in the emergency department after passing my nursing certification licensure exam.



# Rachel Velderman

**Majors:** *Education and English*

**Minor:** *Elementary Certification*

## Senior Project

### *Exploration of Biases and Stereotypes in Children's Literature*

Through Teach For Justice, a co-authored blog with GVSU alum Anisa Everett, I examined the stereotypes in children's literature and personal biases that impact my interpretation of the text. The intent is for future educators to understand the role books play in how students perceive themselves and the world.

## Leadership Activities

Section leader, GVSU Laker Marching band  
Band Day and Service Chair, Kappa Kappa Psi

## Activities and Awards

English Department Excellence in a Discipline Award 2022  
Kappa Kappa Psi (5 years)  
Laker Marching Band (4 years)  
PALs (1 year)  
Sigma Tau Delta  
Dean's list 10/10 semesters

## Internship and Practicum

Alpine Cohort- Teacher Apprenticeship and Teacher Internship at Alpine Elementary  
Memphis Teacher Residency Internship- Memphis, Tennessee

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Making the most of my college experience and maintaining my grades while simultaneously working 3 jobs.

## Plans After Graduation

I am moving to Memphis, Tennessee to pursue a Master's in Education through the Memphis Teacher Residency program and serve as an educator in the Shelby County school district.



# Gillian Vendittelli

**Majors:** *General Management and Entrepreneurship*

**Minors:** *Hospitality Tourism Management and Spanish*

## Senior Project

***TA for Honors 201 Class***

Being a TA for an honors class was extremely fulfilling and a great learning experience. I developed many leadership skills and better learned how to manage a team.

## Leadership Activities

Director of Membership and Recruitment for the HTM Club (2021-2022)

President of HTM Club (2022-2023)

Mentor for the Seidman Mentorship Program (2021-2023)

Advisory Board member for the Seidman Mentorship Program (2022-2023)

## Activities and Awards

Seidman Excellence-in-a Discipline Award for major(s) General Management/Entrepreneurship

## Internship and Practicum

LDT Events: Day-of Wedding Intern

The Buckle: Sales & Management Intern

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was starting my own business, Grand and Wells Events.

## Plans After Graduation

Post-graduation I plan on continuing to build my business, Grand and Wells Events, LLC , while pursuing a business development role at WynHouse: An Innovation Firm and continuing my love of dance through teaching at my dance studio, 2nd Street Studio of Dance.





# Jaclyn Voyt

**Major:** *Exercise Science*

## **Senior Project**

*Effect of Exercise Training Intensity on Cognition.*

My project examined randomized controlled trials to see how exercise intensity and modality impacted cognitive performance.

## **Research and Presentations**

Assisted with faculty-led research as part of a study that measured the muscle activation and adaptation of participants doing different exercises. Conducted a research study examining the effects of exercise on mood and cognition.

## **Leadership Activities**

Campus Ministry Leader

## **Activities and Awards**

Involved with campus ministry, physical therapy club, and assisted with faculty research.

## **Internship and Practicum**

Internship at Fit Body Boot Camp, fieldwork at Apogee Physical Therapy.

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Completing my degree while being intentional with relationships and being accepted into physical therapy school.

## **Plans After Graduation**

Will attend physical therapy school at the University of Iowa.



# Sarra Watkins

**Major:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

### *Depression and Anxiety in Female College Students in Abusive Relationships*

I wrote a 15-20 page paper and researched depression and anxiety in female college students in abusive relationships. The focus of my research was on mental health, physical and emotional abuse in relationships, and gender differences.

## Research and Presentations

I completed a Personal Branding project where I developed and built a website for my personal brand and drafted about sections and blog posts. I also organized information in order to promote strengths and pertinent skills to employers. I developed a brand guide consisting of theme colors and fonts.

## Leadership Activities

I have been the Chief Operations Officer for the Collegiate Entrepreneur's Organization for the past 3 years. In this role, I help our president with day-to-day operations and meeting duties to ensure the smooth running of processes and help recruit new members.

## Activities and Awards

I have been a member of the co-ed professional business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi since the Fall of 2020. In DSP I have had many experiences volunteering in the community, attending professional events such as the LEAD Provincial Conference in Chicago, and attending social events.

## Internship and Practicum

I interned in the summer of 2022 at Kohls Department Store for their Management Internship. There I led the Juniors department by assessing sales and determining which products to promote. I also learned about store management systems and how they facilitate daily activities.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Attending the LEAD Provincial Conference in Chicago with my fraternity.

## Plans After Graduation

I am currently seeking full-time employment in Grand Rapids after graduation. I am pursuing multiple opportunities in logistics, finance, and marketing.



# Jessie Webb

**Majors:** *Education and English*

**Minor:** *Elementary Certification*

## Senior Project

***Let's get Back to Moving; Time to Rebuke the Sedentary Lifestyle that our Educational System is Reinforcing***

My research details the necessity for including physical movement daily throughout all levels in K-12. I discovered how movement improves an individual's mental health, ability to focus in the classroom, academic performance, attitude towards school, as well as overall benefits for all students.

## Research and Presentations

I have also conducted research with McNair's Scholars on impact of student debt on marginalized students, as well as research with a professor in the English department on benefits of technology for teaching ESL students in the mainstream classroom.

## Leadership Activities

I am attending the MEHA conference to speak on benefits of physical movement, and another conference this summer in New York to improve my knowledge of bringing history alive. In addition, I am going to Washington D.C. with the Leadership Cook Academy to expand my knowledge of governmental functions.

## Activities and Awards

I now have two publications, one co-written research article, as well as a research manuscript from my McNair Scholars program. Other achievements I have had is completing the Leadership Cook Academy, completing my student teaching, and now being a McNair Scholar. Lastly, I am proud to be first gen.

## Internship and Practicum

I have been a part of a yearlong cohort at Alpine Elementary where I have completed my student assisting, and now my student teaching. I am grateful to have gotten to know my amazing 5th graders, and excited to now be certified to teach and have my own classroom.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Publishing my first piece of work. Writing a nearly 30-page manuscript and being able to share my research and work with the world was amazing. I am grateful to have had some great mentors as well, and those relationships made everything else possible.

## Plans After Graduation

After graduation I'm taking a gap year while I begin teaching. I'm currently interviewing and hoping to teach in a 5th grade classroom or middle school English. I'd also love to coach. After a year I will start grad school classes to study social justice, need for inclusivity and diversity.



# Audrey Whitaker

**Majors:** *Multimedia Journalism and Environmental & Sustainability Studies*

**Minor:** *Advertising & Public Relations*

## Senior Project

*Exploring the Zero Waste Movement*

I wrote a series of blogs that took a critical look at the zero-waste movement and individual environmental responsibility.

## Research and Presentations

Contributing, USA Today "Dying for Care"  
Global Civil Discourse Map, CMJ editor, consultant  
Documentary on Grand Rapids' local music scene and artists

## Leadership Activities

The Lantern- News Editor (2021), Associate Editor (2022-23)  
GVSU Club sailing- Commodore

## Activities and Awards

GVSU Club Sailing, The Lantern  
Awards: GVSU Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree  
'Wind in the Sails' Superior Student Award for Excellence in Academic Achievement and Community Spirit  
Excellence in a Discipline CMJ  
Robert Nelson Scholar

## Internship and Practicum

Circle of Blue - Editorial intern  
Annis Water Resources Institute - Outreach/education intern, Rediske Lab intern

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Contributing to USA Today reporting with Professor Kelly Lowenstein, working on my documentary with Sabrina Edwards and Professor Ford and getting to be a part of an amazing community of student and future journalists at the Lantern and in my CMJ classes.

## Plans After Graduation

This spring and summer I will be interning with Inland Seas Education Association in Sutton's Bay, combining my love of sailing and the environment with my communication skills to teach students about the Great Lakes. I'll also continue working at WGVSU as a production assistant in the fall.





# Claire Whittle

**Majors:** *Biochemistry and Mathematics*

**Minor:** *Chemistry*

## Senior Project

***Understanding the BRCA1 Gene: A Mathematical and Biochemical Approach***

My senior project investigating the implications of a rare gene mutation called the BReast CAncer gene 1 (BRCA1). The project included research into implications of BRCA1, the biochemical processes of the gene mutation, and potential mathematical approaches to predict future diagnoses.

## Leadership Activities

Small Group Leader - Campus Ministry @ GVSU

Political Director - GVSU College Republicans

Chairwoman - GVSU College Republicans

## Activities and Awards

Campus Ministry @ GVSU

GVSU College Republicans

Outstanding Senior Award in Mathematics

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is graduating with two bachelor's degrees and being accepted into PA school.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan on attending Physician Assistant (PA) school at Trine University in Fort Wayne, IN.





# Julia Wintermantel

**Majors:** *Communication Science & Disorders*

## Senior Project

***Language Regard of Michiganders from Lower Michigan Through the Lens of a Local Mental Map Task***

People's beliefs and attitudes about language, known as language regard, can and do shape how they use language in a geographical region. I analyzed language regard of speech communities located on the east- and west-side of Lower Michigan. Findings revealed language regard differences between the eastern and western residents.

## Research and Presentations

US Mental Maps of Yoopers and Lower Michiganders: Revisiting northern attitudes and beliefs of the US South  
Linguistic Society of America: 97th Annual Meeting (Denver, Colorado) - American Dialect Society Session  
Linguistic Society of America: 97th Annual Meeting (Denver, Colorado) - Linguistic Society of America Session  
Student Scholars Day 2023

## Leadership Activities

National Student Speech, Language, and Hearing Association of Grand Valley State University Mentor  
Delta Zeta Executive Board: Academic Officer  
Student Researcher in Sociolinguistics

## Activities and Awards

Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Academic Conference Fund  
Grand Finish Grant  
GV Award for Excellence Scholarship  
GV Faculty Scholarship  
Dean's List (Every Fall and Winter Semester 2019-2023)  
Highest GVSU Delta Zeta GPA (2021 School Year)  
Medical and Educational SLP Observation  
NSSLHA Member and Mentor  
Sorority Member and Executive Board  
Community Volunteer  
Queued Up Club  
GVSU Belly Dance Club  
Pre-PT and Pre-PA Club

## Internship and Practicum

Clinical Practice in August 2022 at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center: I took part in performing equine-assisted therapeutic speech services over the course of a week. Here I assisted in safe treatment activities with the patient on the horse, while also evaluating and setting goals for the patient each day.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment was either being elected by the faculty from my major to be the one undergraduate student to receive the Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in Communication Sciences and Disorders or presenting two research projects at the Linguistic Society of America: 97th Annual Meeting National Conference in Denver, Colorado.

## Plans After Graduation

After graduation, I will be moving to Seattle and attending the Master of Science Program in Medical Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Washington.



# CJ Witherell

**Major:** *Product Design & Manufacturing Engineering*

**Minor:** *Philosophy*

## **Senior Project**

***Toggle Mechanism Design for Gentex's Entry Level Full Display Mirror***

I designed a toggle mechanism for Gentex's Entry Level Full Display Mirror that allows it to transition between two modes. Principles of design for manufacturing and assembly were applied, and the design was validated through analysis and prototyping. The proposed design satisfies customer, OEM, and Gentex requirements.

## **Research and Presentations**

I submitted two papers for publication entitled "Ethical Implications of COBOT Implementation" and "Reflection and Goal Setting: Methods for Improved Performance and Engagement in Engineering Courses." I was also a co-presenter of "Flutter Mode vs. Resonance" at MathFest 2019.

## **Leadership Activities**

President of the Tau Beta Pi, Michigan Lambda Chapter  
PCEC Dean's Advisory Council Member  
President of the GVSU Swing Dance Club  
Vice President/Co-Founder of the GVSU QSTEM Club  
Financial Officer of the GVSU Capoeira Club

## **Activities and Awards**

Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in Master of Science in Engineering  
Excellence in Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU Award  
Wisner Fellow for New Product Development  
Tau Beta Pi Scholarship  
GVSU Presidential Scholarship  
First Place in the Fall 2018 GVSU RoboSockey Competition  
Second Place in the 2018 GVSU SIMIODE Challenge Using Differential Equations Modeling

## **Internship and Practicum**

Mechanical Engineering Co-op at Gentex Corporation (Jan. 2022 - April 2023)  
Process Engineering Co-op at Gentex Corporation (June 2020 - Dec. 2021)

## **Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley**

Honestly, the thing I'm most proud of is how much I've grown over the past few years. I've become a much better and more authentic version of myself.

## **Plans After Graduation**

I will be pursuing my Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Pennsylvania State University.



# Natalie Woodland

**Majors:** *Cell & Molecular Biology and Pre-Professional Preparation*

## Senior Project

***A Deep Dive into the American and Italian Healthcare Systems - What Can We Learn?***

I wrote an in-depth manuscript breaking down and comparing/contrasting the American and Italian healthcare systems. I pointed out the strengths and weaknesses in each country and drew on them to propose improvements to the healthcare system in America.

## Research and Presentations

Computational Chemistry research - exploring the aziridination reactivity of a Manganese(II) Nitrene  
Presented at Midwest Undergraduate Computational Chemistry Consortium (3x) and Van Andel Institute

## Leadership Activities

Pre-Med Club President, Secretary, and Volunteer/Event Coordinator  
Pre-Med Mentor  
Cell and Molecular Biology Club PR Representative  
Campus Ministry Life Group Leader  
Honors College Mentor

## Activities and Awards

Excellence in a Discipline Award, Cell & Molecular Biology (2023)  
Co-authored publication in scientific journal (2022)  
Outstanding CMB Student Award (2022)  
General Chemistry Award (2020)  
Dean's List (2019-2023)  
Certified Wilderness First Responder (2021)  
Responsible Conduct of Research Certification (2021)  
Rio Grande Valley, TX service trip (2020)  
Nurse Technician @ Corewell Health  
Pre-Med Club  
Boys and Girls Club Volunteer  
Vertical Earth

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Managing to excel at school, in research, and balancing other commitments while working night shift as a nurse technician in the hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Plans After Graduation

I plan to attend medical school at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in the fall.



# Riley Wroblewski

**Major:** *Environmental & Sustainability Studies*

**Minor:** *Middle East Studies*

## Senior Project

### *An Analysis of Breaking Bread*

I analyzed the documentary Breaking Bread, which is about a food festival held in Haifa, Israel that celebrates food from across the Levant region. I sought to analyze the overly optimistic documentary because it lacked context regarding the sociopolitical dynamic between Arabs and Israelis.

## Research and Presentations

Worked with the Grand Haven Energy and Sustainability

Commission for capstone project

Research project on canopy coverage in Grand Rapids using GIS

## Leadership Activities

Took Leadership and Problem solving with Mayor Bliss

## Activities and Awards

Outstanding Academic Achievement in Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Distinguished Delegation award at Michigan Model Arab League

## Study Abroad

studied conservation biology in Krabi, Thailand for 3 weeks.

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Developing my passions for both sustainable farming and Middle Eastern studies and meeting some rad people and professors along the way

## Plans After Graduation

I am working as a farm manager for a small-scale organic farm in Fenton, MI.



# Shauntia Young

**Major:** *Hospitality Tourism Management*

**Minor:** *Business General*

## Senior Project

***Food Culture in The Dominican Republic***

This project is to pursue my hunger for intercultural experiences and for world travel by writing about the native food of the Dominican Republic.

## Leadership Activities

Service chair for the Michigan district of Circle K.

## Activities and Awards

Certificate of Appreciation from the governor of Michigan district Kiwanis

## Internship and Practicum

Interned at Towneplace Suites by Marriott  
Interned at Pinktail Poke

## Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been making friends and building relationships and connections with others.

## Plans After Graduation

Step into a management role in the hospitality industry