



FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY®

Graduate Profiles

Class of

Winter 2026 and Summer 2026



Sophia Ackerson

Major: *Legal Studies*

Minor: *Spanish, Criminal Justice*

Leadership Activities

2024 Freshman Mentor

Godfrey Lee Listeners Business Outreach

Godfrey Gears Biking Group Captain

Activities/Awards

LEX Legal Studies Honors Society

Study Abroad

Buenos Aires, Argentina, February-June 2026

Internship

Stenger & Stenger, Intern and Paralegal

Legal Assistance Center, Volunteer

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

The greatest accomplishment I have had while at Grand Valley was maintaining high grades and a robust resume to earn a full-ride scholarship to Michigan State University for law school.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most memorable part of my time at Grand Valley was my semester spent in Argentina. I experienced a different culture and language while learning things I would not have had the opportunity to learn in classes for my major or minors.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to move to East Lansing to attend MSU Law in the fall of 2026 to complete my JD, while maintaining a remote paralegal position at Stenger & Stenger.



Jerilyn Anderson

Major: *Biomedical Sciences, Pre-Professional Preparation*

Minor: *Business General*

Research

I did a research project on Ovarian Cancer presented at Student's Scholar's Day

Activities/Awards

Does being a part of a non-GVSU related Powderpuff Football team count?

Internship

I have volunteered to work at dentist office, foot clinics, and urgent care network at a Veterans Hospital.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

May sound small, but just the fact of passing my classes and getting my biomedical degree was extremely difficult and thus very rewarding.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Probably my senior project presentation on Ovarian Cancer.

Plans after Graduation

I am going to take a gap year to gather more clinic hours in a hospital E.R before going onto med school.



Lucero Arizaga Jimenez

Major: *Legal Studies*

Minor: *Human Rights*

Research

Honors Senior Project - "Throw a 'Fit: The Political and Social Implications of Fashion"

Legal Studies Capstone - "ICE Arrest and Detention Practices"

Leadership Activities

Founder and President - Monarcas- Ballet Folklorico

Public Relations Chair - Latino Student Union

Peer Mentor - Laker Familia

Activities/Awards

7x Dean's List

Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy Fellow

National Legal Studies Honors Society (LEX)

Outstanding Achievement in Human Rights

GVSU 2026 Outstanding Intern of the Year Nominee

Law Society

Internship

Migrant Legal Aid: Legal Intern (Summer 2024; Winter 2025)

Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates: Asylum Legal Intern (Summer 2025; Fall 2025)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment has been finding and pursuing a career I am extremely passionate about. I am excited to enter the legal profession!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most significant experience was creating Monarcas. It has become a beautiful community for celebrating Mexican culture through dance. This group brought me closer to my heritage. Through Monarcas, I met so many amazing people and grew so much as a leader. I am so proud of what it's becoming!

Plans after Graduation

I plan to apply to work as a paralegal and apply to law school.



Will Bacon

Major: *Group Social Studies, Education*

Leadership Activities

Honors Student Council President – 2023-2024

Welcome Days Committee – 2022-2023

Honors Mentor – 2022-2023

5 Years of Leadership with Campus Ministry – 2021-2026

3 Years as a CM intern – 2023-2026

President of Campus Ministry – 2024-2025

TA in HNR 201 Winter 2024

Activities/Awards

Dean's List Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Winter 2024, Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Fall 2025

Member of Campus Ministry

Internship

Student Teaching Apprentice Fall 25

Student Teaching Internship Winter 26

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Finding my community and being all in on the experiences, leadership, and opportunities college offered.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The adventures, late nights, service trips, side quests, and everyday moments I shared with friends throughout college.

Plans after Graduation

Continuing to pursue meaningful work that allows me to lead, serve, and grow.



Meagan Balenda

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Research

Student Scholars Day research project and poster on nurse-to-patient ratios and mortality rate

Activities/Awards

College of Health Professions Deans List

Study Abroad

Study abroad in Cyprus at the University of Nicosia, Healthcare Management program

Internship

Rehab Tech at Hope Network Neuro Rehabilitation

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My final semester of college, working while also taking 5 classes.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Studying abroad in Cyprus, where I learned a new environment, got to explore the beauty of the country, and make long-lasting friendships.

Plans after Graduation

Applying to PA school in May to start in 2027, and working full-time as a Rehab Tech in the meantime.



Giselle Balivet

Major: *Social Work*

Research

ECWCA (East Central Writing Center Association) Conference in March 2025

Leadership Activities

Book Club Vice President

Ace of Clubs Co-Facilitator

Writing Consultant

SNAPS Committee in Writing Center

Activities/Awards

Book Club

Symphony Orchestra

Writing Center

Origami

Ace of Clubs

Wordsmiths

Study Abroad

Tanzania: Education and Culture

Internship

Well House Volunteer

Grand Rapids Pride Center Intern

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Building relationships and community through my internship, my classwork, my extracurriculars, and my work at the Writing Center.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Forging close connections with my co-workers and peers at the Writing Center.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to get my MSW at GVSU.



Devin Barbier

Major: *Psychology*

Minor: *East Asian Studies, Japanese*

Research

Research Assistant for Doctor Kurby's Event Segmentation Lab Summer 2024 - Winter 2026

Leadership Activities

Japanese and Honors Tutor

Activities/Awards

Puzzle Club

Study Abroad

Faculty Led to Japan Summer 2024

Semester Abroad to Japan Winter 2026

Internship

Research labs + tutoring

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment was condensing my four year program down to three years

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Graduating a year early while also being able to do extensive research

Plans after Graduation

I plan to apply for different grad programs and work in the field as a researcher



Esther Bard

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Minor: *Chemistry*

Research

I have researched retinal cell regrowth in Glaucoma with Dr. David Linn

Leadership Activities

I tutor at the Chemistry success center

Activities/Awards

I've been in orchestra for all four years. I also got the general chemistry award freshman year. I've been in Mu Epsilon Delta for 3 years as well.

Study Abroad

It wasn't through GVSU, but I went to Kenya to shadow doctors and medical students at Tenwick hospital.

Internship

I've worked at a phlebotomy clinic/Butterworth hospital for the duration of my college years.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Passing physics.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being in the GVSU symphony orchestra has had the most impact on my life. The professor has given me so much insight on life through music, even without all the chemistry and physics and biology. I hope after graduating, I can pick my violin up and play again.

Plans after Graduation

I'm going to Croatia two days after graduation. After that I'll be moving to Chicago to take a gap year to apply to a physician assistant or pathology assistant program.



Kaylee Barnes

Major: *Management, Marketing*

Study Abroad

Northern Ireland in June 2024

Internship

Once Upon a Room Grand Rapids

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Internship with Once Upon a Room

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Study Abroad

Plans after Graduation

Stay in Grand Rapids and begin my professional career.



Kaia Barnhardt

Major: *Biomedical Sciences, Behavioral Science*

Leadership Activities

Section Leader for Laker Marching Band

Activities/Awards

Member of Kappa Kappa Psi

Study Abroad

Water in the West Program

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Learning to be independent and finding myself as a person.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being a section leader: I have spent over 500 hours in marching band during my time at GV and it made me excited to come back to school each fall semester.

Plans after Graduation

Starting the second-degree nursing program at GV in May.



Theresa Barrett

Major: *Anthropology*

Minor: *Archaeology*

Leadership Activities

I have been a part of the GVSU Anthropology club since my freshman year (2022). I joined the e-board in the winter of 2023 and have worked my way up the ranks and now lead the club as the president.

Activities/Awards

Eligible for the National Anthropology Honors Society Lambda Alpha: Joined this year.

Study Abroad

In the summer of 2025, I took part in the El Campanario Archaeological Field School in Huarmey, Peru, for five weeks between July and August.

Internship

Same as before: In the summer of 2025, I took part in the El Campanario Archaeological Field School in Huarmey, Peru, for five weeks between July and August.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I was able to do an archaeological field school in my area of interest and share that with other students during a GVSU Anthropology Dept. Brown Bag talk.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The Peru field school experience was the most memorable.

Plans after Graduation

I am planning graduate school after 1-2 gap years of working and living around the area. My dream is after that, to continue onto a PhD and work in higher education.



Cara Borgerson

Major: *Nursing*

Research

Literature Review with Dr. Vander Ark
Community Health Capstone Presentation

Leadership Activities

SNA Mentor

Activities/Awards

Dean's List

Internship

Clinical Immersion at Trinity Health
Nursing School Clinicals

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Meeting my best friends and graduating!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Clinical Immersion

Plans after Graduation

Work as a Registered Nurse!



Hailey Bos

Major: *Advertising & Public Relations*

Leadership Activities

Account Executive of the National Student Advertising Competition Team
President of GVSU's Ski and Snowboard Club (Senior Year)
Financial Officer for GVSU's Ski and Snowboard Club (Junior Year)

Activities/Awards

2024-25 Laker Accelerated Talent Link Cohort
Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network
3rd place in Districts for the National Student Advertising Competition.
Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in Advertising and Public Relations

Internship

Sales and Management internship at Buckle
Project Management internship with REP4 at GVSU
Community Ambassador internship with REP4-FinLit at GVSU
Event Planning internship at Posh Petals

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

As part of GVSU's REP4 initiative in high school, I pitched the FabApp prototype, later funded by a \$1.9 million grant from Fifth Third Bank. I rejoined as a project management intern my junior year and helped launch GVSU's REP4-FinLit nationally this year, empowering students to build lasting money habits.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most memorable experience has been my four years in the Ski and Snowboard Club. I have formed unbreakable bonds, created many lasting memories, and implemented meaningful improvements as President to enhance the overall experience for current and future members.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to continue pursuing my advertising career in Grand Rapids while actively seeking full-time opportunities.



Samantha Brandon

Major: *Wildlife Biology*

Minor: *Natural Resources Management*

Research

With two partners, I created a habitat management plan for three species in the nearby Aman Park.

Alongside two classmates, I compiled research on remedies for arthritis using turmeric, Indian frankincense, and ginger.

My capstone project is a habitat management plan to increase Barred Owl populations in the GVSU Ravines.

Leadership Activities

I was a member of the eBoard for the photography club, where I created social media posts to increase awareness for club meetings.

Activities/Awards

I participated in the sailing club in the crew position on 2-person boats and participated in the New York Regatta on a larger boat.

I was a member of the photography club for two years.

Study Abroad

I participated in the 2025 Water in the West trip, where our group of 20 students, two professors, and one lab coordinator travelled through 12 states and visited 6 national parks over three weeks.

Internship

I had a paid internship with Natural Community Services for one summer season, where I helped restore degraded environments, remove invasive plants, and maintain bioswales.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

While at Grand Valley, I learned self-respect and self-love. I have also learned to prioritize the people that matter in my life, and to discern where I should be spending my energy.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The 2025 Water in the West trip was life-changing for me. I made great friends and learned a lot about water issues in the western USA and the value of wilderness.

Plans after Graduation

I will be moving to Missoula, MT, to work for the Montana Conservation Corps after graduation. I will be working on the Wildland Restoration crew, identifying and inventorying plant species, removing noxious weed species, and working on various other projects.



Sophia Brewer

Major: *Management*

Leadership Activities

Vice President of Community Engagement of GVSU Rotaract Club
Honors Teacher Assistant

Activities/Awards

Being a part of Women in Business

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Completing a bachelor's degree in just three years.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being a part of Women in Business

Plans after Graduation

Getting married next month and starting an entry level job.



Grant Bush

Major: *Integrated Science Secondary*

Leadership Activities

RA for junior and senior year
Club Ultimate Frisbee e-board
Honors 201 TA for a semester

Activities/Awards

RA for my junior and senior year
Led YoungLife from sophomore to 5th year
Played club ultimate frisbee for 5 years.

Internship

Student taught at West Ottawa High School during the 2025 fall semester and Hamilton Middle School for the 2026 winter semester.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Learning from my student teaching placement during the Winter 2026 semester.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

I have enjoyed getting into the classroom at Hamilton Middle School during my student teaching placement.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to teach science in west Michigan in a middle school or high school.



Michelle Buss

Major: *Statistics, Environmental and Sustainability Studies*

Research

Sustainability Showcase (Winter 2024, Winter 2025):
Prediction & Detoxification Tactics on Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms (ENS301)
Sustainability Report on Van Andel Research Institute (ENS305)
Reimagining the Calder Berm through a Sustainable Representative Lens (ENS401)
Student ScholarsDay (Winter 2026):
A Statistical Consulting Experience: Analysis of Students Perceptions on Voyage
Experiential Learning (STA419)

Leadership Activities

President of Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS)

Finance & Scholarships Chair & Site Leader of Alternative Breaks (AB)

Member of the 2023 Cohort University Innovation Fellows (UIF)

Activities/Awards

Dean's List

Best Insight Award - DataFest 2026

Collegiality Award - DataFest 2026

Kappa Alpha Omicron - Honors Society of Environmental Studies

Mu Sigma Rho (Epsilon) - Honors Society of Statistics

Study Abroad

Beaver Island Field School (Summer 2024) (ENS380-01)

Internship

GVSU Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP) - Data Analysis Intern & Farm Crew (Summer 2024)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment was winning both the Best Insight & Collegiality awards at DataFest! It was an honor to collaborate with such incredibly intelligent women on my team, MuMu and to be recognized for our rigorous analysis and exceptional cooperation both within our own team and across others at DataFest.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My study abroad trip to Beaver Island was the most memorable experience. I loved working with the locals and other fellow ENS students to brainstorm how to implement a more sustainable food system based on the unique challenges that come with being an island community.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to go into the field of data analytics, finding latent trends in big datasets to help protect our ecosystems and promote a more sustainable future!



Rosie Caldwell

Major: *Marketing*

Minor: *Nonprofit Administration*

Research

Presented literary analysis at Student Scholar Day called "Ring of the Rainbow Dove"

Activities/Awards

Student Employee of the Month

Digital Marketing Certification

Dean's List Recipient

Study Abroad

Faculty-Led UK Communications Study Abroad Program in London

Internship

Social Media/Marketing Intern at Broadway Grand Rapids

Advancement Intern at the Grand Rapids Art Museum

Digital Service Representative at Consumers Credit Union

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was interning with two incredible organizations: Broadway Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Art Museum. These experiences provided me with valuable hands-on experiences, strengthened my skills, and opened the door to many meaningful opportunities.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Of all the experiences at Grand Valley, studying abroad in London was the most memorable. The opportunity to explore the city and its surrounding areas was an incredible experience that broadened my perspective and created unforgettable memories.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to work full-time at Consumers Credit Union building upon the skills I learned as a student.



Katie Chitwood

Major: *Writing, Film & Video*

Research

Panel Speaker at the Michigan Career Educator & Employer Alliance Conference

Activities/Awards

Dean's List - 8 semesters running

Study Abroad

Summer 2025 - U.K. Communications

Internship

Social Media & Content Strategy Intern at LTrice Marketing and Consulting

Writing & Communications Intern at GVSU Career Center

Central Services Intern at Rhoades McKee P.C.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining a 4.0 GPA while developing my passion for creative media outside of my classes, working numerous part-time jobs, building lifelong friendships, and pursuing professional opportunities through internships and networking events that will propel my career to the next level.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

By far, my time spent abroad in the summer of 2025 on the U.K. Communications trip was the most significant. It's amazing how one's worldview can burst open by simply stepping outside of their comfort zone and experiencing, appreciating, and learning from cultures unlike their own.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to turn my current internship into a full-time role as a Content Specialist at LTrice Marketing & Consulting in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Hailey Chycinski

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Minor: *Psychology*

Research

Honors senior project research paper on the use of AI in occupational therapy

Leadership Activities

Trumpet section leader of the GVSU marching band

Service Chair (2023-2024) and Vice President (2024-2026) of Kappa Kappa Psi

Activities/Awards

Member of the Grand Valley Marching Band

Internship

Volunteered at Mary Free Bed

Job-shadowed at Thrive Pediatric Therapy

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being a section leader of the Laker Marching Band.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being a section leader of the Laker Marching Band.

Plans after Graduation

I plan on going to graduate school at Grand Valley for occupational therapy.



Erika Collier

Major: *Finance, Accounting*

Research

Accounting Independent Research Project: U.S. ESG Reporting Practices What Voluntary Climate Disclosures Reveal About Readiness for the SEC's Proposed Climate Rule

Honors Senior Research Project: The Relationship Between ESG Reporting Quality and Investor Valuation Evidence from U.S. Firms

Leadership Activities

President of GVSU's Chapter of the Aspiras Foundation

Director of Membership for Women in Business

Senior Analyst at Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization

Activities/Awards

Activities: Advanced Return Preparer - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, Stock Pitch Competition Winner - Seidman Investment Portfolio Organization

Awards: Dean's List every semester, Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree, Honors Featured Student Highlight (2024 Annual Report), Faculty Scholarship, Lubbers Honors College Scholarship, Accounting Alumni Scholarship, LV Eberhard Scholarship, and Ascension Lutheran Scholarship.

Internship

Audit and Assurance Intern at Deloitte

Cost Accounting Intern at Dow

Finance Intern at Nexteer Automotive

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Earning a 4.0 while double majoring in Finance and Accounting, receiving over \$15,000 in scholarships each year, gaining admission to the nation's #1 accounting master's program, and securing a full-time position at the largest public accounting firm in the world.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Donating over 200 pieces of soccer clothing and equipment to children in the Dominican Republic during my time as President of the Aspiras Foundation.

Plans after Graduation

Earn my Master's in Professional Accounting from the University of Texas, then join Deloitte in Austin as an Audit Assistant while pursuing the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) credential.



Ella Compau

Major: *Environmental and Sustainability Studies*

Minor: *Political Science, Human Rights*

Research

Time, Solidarity, Strength, and Lessons Learned: The Repeal of Right to Work in Michigan and its Immediate Effects on Unions

Leadership Activities

Steward for United Food and Commercial Workers

Activities/Awards

Canvasser for State Rep Stephen Wooden (D-81)
Fellow at Great Lakes Political Academy
GVSU Democrats

Internship

Our Water Activist at the Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Intern for GR Mayor David LaGrand

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Tying my work as a union steward to my honors education and creating a research paper on unions.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The Right to Work research project.

Plans after Graduation

Law school at MSU for either environmental law or labor law.



Cassandra Conn

Major: *Accounting, General Management*

Leadership Activities

President of the GVSU Stock Equestrian Team (Club Sport Team)

Activities/Awards

Was awarded outstanding senior and leadership award for the equestrian team.

Internship

Tax Internship with Toyoda Gosei

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Stepping outside of my comfort zone and taking on the challenge of being the president of the stock equestrian team. I had never taken on a leadership position like being a president of a club before.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My time on the equestrian team has been my most memorable experience, I created so many amazing memories and have gained amazing friends during my time on the team.

Plans after Graduation

Pursuing a Master's at Walsh College for Accounting and obtain my CPA license.
Upcoming summer internship with BDO as a Core Tax Intern.



Samantha Conn

Major: *Behavioral Neuroscience*

Research

Worked as an assistant in Dr. Valdez's research lab and helped present the project at Student Scholars Days

Leadership Activities

Served on the e-board of Psi Chi

Served as a teaching assistant for Honors 201

Activities/Awards

Thompson Scholar

Dean's list for all semesters

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Graduating a year ahead of time and presenting at Student Scholars Day.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My research experience and presenting at SSD.

Plans after Graduation

Get a job working as a research assistant and apply for PhD programs in the fall.



Kyle Cope

Major: *Product Design & Manufacturing Engineering*

Minor: *Business General*

Research

Varroa Mite Detector for Bees
Bike Safety Device
Additive Manufacturing Multitool Competition
Minimav pediatrics wheelchair
Knee Implant Term Paper
Hip Implant Term Paper
Inverted Pendulum Stabilization
Sword Crafting

Leadership Activities

IFC VP of Programming
Community Service Chair
Fundraising Chair

Internship

Biomedical R&D Co-op at Advanced Medical Device Innovations

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Working on my engineering senior project.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My engineering senior project.

Plans after Graduation

Explore career opportunities in aerospace.



Bridget Cripps

Major: *Criminal justice*

Leadership Activities

Being a TA

Activities/Awards

Honors college, military, member of the National criminal justice honors society

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being a member of the national criminal justice honors society and my GPA

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

National criminal justice honors society



Isaiah Crockett

Major: *Film and Video*

Minor: *Writing*

Internship

Working on film sets as a production assistant

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being able to work with my fellow students on projects.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Working on film sets.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to apply to several different film studios to gain on set experience to one day direct my own films.



Gabriel Dansereau

Major: *Exercise Science*

Leadership Activities

Event coordinator of Campus Cleanup Crew club

Activities/Awards

Dean's List

Study Abroad

Water in the West study away program

Internship

Internship at Grand Valley State University Track and Field team

Fieldwork at David D. Hunting YMCA

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Staying dedicated to my goal of graduating and finding my career of passion. I was not confident in what I wanted to do when I started college, but I maintained my confidence and pushed through. I feel good about my choices and where I am at.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The Water in the West program during the summer was my favorite experience during college. It gave me the opportunity to spend time with friends and meet new people while also exploring new places and learning about them.

Plans after Graduation

I want to pursue a career in exercise physiology with a focus in cardiac rehab.



Lydia Denning

Major: *Legal Studies*

Minor: *Writing, Environmental & Sustainability Studies*

Research

Rutt Williams, S., Qu, P., & Denning, L. (2025). Beyond the Red Pen: Investigating the Formation of Reader and Writer Identity Development in Preservice Teachers. *Reading Horizons: A Journal of Literacy and Language Arts*, 64 (3).

Presented findings at Michigan Conference of Teachers of English and GVSU Student Scholars Day

Leadership Activities

2023 Alternative Breaks VP of Recruitment

2023- Present GVSU Knowledge Market Lead Research Consultant

2023 GVSU Honors College, Teaching Assistant HNR 151: Middle East Beyond the Headlines

Activities/Awards

Lambda Epsilon Chi, National Legal Studies Honors Society

Phi Kappa Phi, International Honors Society

Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Omicron, Environmental Honors Society

GVSU Law Society, Member

Internship

West Michigan Environmental Action Council, WCAG Communications and Policy Intern

Beaver Island Field School, Field Researcher

Legal Assistance Center, Program Assistant

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Volunteering over 300 hours at the Legal Assistance Center to then be hired as the program assistant- this has shaped my love of law and public service, and also helped me become a better teacher to my peers and community members each day.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Beaver Island Field School was incredibly rewarding and an amazing educational opportunity. The most significant part of college has truly been the connections I've made with peers and faculty, especially in the Honors College and Legal Studies department.

Plans after Graduation

I will be attending Marquette University Law School next Fall.



Alaina DeRose

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Minor: *Psychology*

Leadership Activities

Genetic Counseling Org- VP
Honors College Student Council- Overnights Council
STAGE- Technical Director

Activities/Awards

Camp Kesem- Treasurer

Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Northern Ireland.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

The ability to join so many orgs and feel like I made things better than when I came in.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Honors Students Council and STAGE.

Plans after Graduation

Going to Grad School to get my masters in Genetic Counseling.



Alexa Edwards

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Leadership Activities

Vice president of Elite Dance
Teaching assistant for BMS 309
Teaching assistant for HNR 201

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been the preparation for my future. I have had the opportunity to work towards my goals of becoming a Physician Assistant, and GV has been there all of the way, and will be there for two more years.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most memorable moment is working towards my goals.

Plans after Graduation

My plans after graduation are to attend Physician Assistant School at Grand Valley where I will get my masters degree.



Selma EL Jabbouri

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Research

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Grand Valley State University (Dr. Ruijie Liu, Biomedical Sciences). Conducted case series on aplastic anemia in pregnancy with Mayo Clinic hematologist; presented at the American Society of Hematology. Accepted to present at Mayo Clinic Classical Hematology Conference (Nonmalignant Hematology & Bleeding/Thrombotic Disorders). CMB research poster presentation.

Leadership Activities

Trained newly hired medical assistants at Corewell Health in clinical workflow, patient care procedures, and laboratory testing, demonstrating leadership in a healthcare setting.

Activities/Awards

Activities: Research experience (GVSU + Mayo Clinic), Medical Assistant at Corewell Health (4 years), and Shadowing physicians (83 hours)
Awards: The American Society of Hematology Abstract achievement award (2025), Mayo Clinic Classical Hematology Conference Scholarship (2025), GVSU Outstanding CMB Student Certificate (Winter 2024).

Internship

I am Certified Clinical Medical Assistant at Corewell Health.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley State University was having my research accepted for presentation at the Mayo Clinic Classical Hematology Conference and the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting. Receiving an Abstract Achievement Award made this very meaningful, reflecting my growth as a researcher and future physician.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most memorable experiences were shadowing in gynecologic oncology and labor and delivery. The most significant accomplishment was presenting my research at the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting 2025.

Plans after Graduation

After graduating from Grand Valley State University, I plan to take one to two gap years to prepare for the MCAT while continuing to work in healthcare and research. I intend to apply to MDPH programs, with the goal of becoming an OB-GYN physician-scientist focused on advancing women's health research.



Meagan Frania

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Research

Completed research on water quality in the Grand River and presented this at the Reach Higher Showcase in 2023.

Leadership Activities

Vice President of the Alzheimer's Awareness Club
Vice President of Membership of Mu Epsilon Delta
Membership Officer of Pre-Dental Club
Honors Sequence and 201 Teaching Assistant

Activities/Awards

Organic Chemistry Award
The Malinoski Family Pre-Dental Scholarship
Dean's List all semesters
Volunteering at a low-income dental clinic

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Helping plan and coordinate the GVSU Walk to End Alzheimer's last spring that raised over \$6,000 for Alzheimer's research.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Volunteering at a low-income dental clinic has been significant in shaping my desire to pursue public health work in the future.

Plans after Graduation

I will be attending dental school at the University of Pittsburgh!



Hayden Freed

Major: *Statistics*

Minor: *Business General*

Research

Senior Project with a client who was Girl Scouts of Michigan
Honors Statistics senior project on College Mental Health

Leadership Activities

Honors Student Council- Overnights Committee
Aspiras Foundation- Financial Officer

Activities/Awards

Dean's List (All Semesters)
DataFest Best Insight Honorable Mention
Women In Business

Internship

Procurement Intern: Acrisure
Financial Investments Intern: GLP & Associates

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment is the relationships that I had both in and out of the classroom. I met a ton of people through honors, my dorm, and my major.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most significant moment for my career was joining the Talent Link program and receiving my internship with Acrisure and hopefully a career afterward.

Plans after Graduation

I am planning to prepare and take Actuarial Exams and work on the Procurement team for Acrisure.



Elizabeth Garwood

Major: *Pedagogical Content Knowledge PreK-3rd, Special Education*

Research

Increasing Student Engagement with a Check-In, Check-Out (CICO) Plan

Leadership Activities

Former President of GVSU Student Council for Exceptional Children

Activities/Awards

2 PCKET Awards

Dean's List all throughout my time at GVSU

Attending the MCEC Conference 3 years in a row

Internship

4 semester-long student teaching internships

Teacher Apprenticeship: Sibley Elementary, Grand Rapids

Teacher Internship (General Education): Knapp Forest, Forest Hills

Teacher Internship (Cognitive Impairments): Oakestown Intermediate, Grandville

Teacher Internship (Autism Spectrum Disorder): Lincoln School, Kent ISD

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Staying on the Dean's list throughout my time at Grand Valley!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Completing 4 unique internship experiences to help me prepare for a classroom of my own.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to take an elementary special education teaching position in the greater West Michigan area!



Jenna Gill

Major: *Biology, Pre-Professional Preparation*

Research

Honors Senior Project - Hidden Helpers: Understanding the Wildlife in Our Community
Organic Chemistry II Research Project

Leadership Activities

Pre-Veterinary Club member my first year and then served on E-Board over the next 3 years as Webmaster, Vice President, and President.
FMHC Mentorship Program my Sophomore & Junior year

Activities/Awards

Volunteered at Crash's Landing Cat Sanctuary
Thompson Working Family Scholarship all 4 years
CPR and First Aid Certified
Dean's List first two semesters

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Throughout my time at GV I went through the loss of both my Grandfathers, my uncle & dealt with some mental health issues on top of those losses. Nonetheless, I was able to stay dedicated to my studies & remain in good academic standing which I'm very proud of!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most memorable memories are from my time in leadership roles such as being on the Pre-Vet Club E-Board, mentoring Honors college freshman and working with a team at Crash's Landing Cat Sanctuary. All of these experiences have allowed me to create bonds with others that I will never forget!

Plans after Graduation

To attend Veterinary Nursing School at Purdue University!



Karis Gillen

Major: *Behavioral Neuroscience, Psychology*

Minor: *Applied Statistics*

Research

Research assistant at Vanderbilt University, Yale University, Weill Cornell, and GVSU. I presented my research at Student Scholars Day, the Leadership Alliance National Symposium, and the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists. Research assistant in Dr. Elizabeth Flandreau and Dr. Mario Fific's labs.

Leadership Activities

Vice President of Psi Chi
YoungLife Capernaum Leader for Ottawa County

Activities/Awards

Excellence-in-a-Discipline (Behavioral Neuroscience)
Student of Distinction (Psi Chi)
Best Insight and Collegiality Awards for DataFest 2026
Psi Chi and Mu Sigma Rho member

Internship

Developmental Science Summer Intern at Yale University
ACCESS Summer Scholar at Weill Cornell Medicine
Autism Summer Internship at Vanderbilt University

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Completing summer research internships at Vanderbilt University, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Yale University. I also received the Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award for Behavioral Neuroscience.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most memorable experience for me was living in New York City for a summer research internship at Weill Cornell Medicine. I found my passion for autism research and truly enjoyed living in NYC. The experience created a newfound joy for life and my future.

Plans after Graduation

I will be a full-time research assistant before applying to a PhD program.



Margaret Gonzalez

Major: *Psychology*

Minor: *Spanish*

Research

Assisted in Dr. Swalve's psychopharmacology lab, studying the effects of monoamine oxidase inhibitors on the reward-enhancement effect of nicotine.

Leadership Activities

Event coordinator for Community Cares student volunteering club

Omicron Kappa Delta: Leadership honors society

Activities/Awards

Psi Chi: International Honor Society in Psychology

Internship

Practicum as an education interventionist at Boys & Girls Club in Holland with the school psychology department.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Learning more about myself and my place in the world through my classes, practicum, and research experience.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The practicum.

Plans after Graduation

Will attend grad school at Loyola University Chicago for School Psychology.



Grace Groothuis

Major: *Public and Nonprofit Administration*

Minor: *Psychology*

Research

Gun Violence and School Shootings in the United States

Leadership Activities

President, Cru

Activities/Awards

Dean's List
Cru

Internship

Community Engagement Intern, Bethany Christian Services

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is expanding my world view through classes, clubs, and mission trips.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most significant take away from Grand Valley is my expanded perspective of the world and what I can do to help it.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation I am attending graduate school at Grand Valley for Health Administration.



Justin Hahs

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Leadership Activities

Cook Leadership Academy
GVSU Men's Club Soccer Vice President
Camp Kesem Coordinator

Activities/Awards

Dean's List 2022-2024
I am Grand Valley 2023
Club Soccer Regional Champions 2024

Study Abroad

2023 Water in the West

Internship

Patient Care Technician at U of M Health-West

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Cook Leadership Academy Fellow and Dean's List

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Water in the West and Club Soccer Nationals

Plans after Graduation

Nursing School



Andreas Hardgrave

Major: *Environmental and Sustainability Studies*

Minor: *French, Natural Resources Management*

Research

Presented a poster at the Sustainability Showcase for Starbucks' sustainability and social responsibility reporting.

Presented to GVSU classes on sustainability in campus dining.

Leadership Activities

RA in Niemeyer, South Apartments, and in the Back 4.

Student Senator on the Policy Committee

Led the Green Team through Sustainability Internship with Laker Food Co.

Activities/Awards

Lobby Manager for Citizens' Climate Lobby

Advocacy and Community Outreach Chair for Student Environmental Coalition

Founding Membership Chair for the Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Omicron

Competed with the Soil Judging Team

Study Abroad

Completed a French Intensive in Dakar, Senegal at the Institut Supérieur de Management for the Summer of 2024.

Internship

Sustainability Intern with Laker Food Company for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Completing an Olympic-distance triathlon

Finished a Half Marathon

Partnered on passing a bill with student for a bottle return on campus

Coordinated the first Zero Waste Basketball Games

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Meeting with Congresswomen Hillary Scholten in D.C. for Citizens' Climate Lobby the summer of 2025.

Plans after Graduation

I am still seeking a career position in sustainability advocacy, policy, or reporting. My LinkedIn is @AndreasHardgrave! Until then, I will be gracing my parents by living at home and volunteering outdoors as much as possible!



Emma Hartley

Major: *Marketing*

Minor: *Advertising & Public Relations*

Leadership Activities

FMHC Mentor and HNR 201 TA

Activities/Awards

Circle K Club, Dean's List all 8 semesters

Internship

GVSU Athletics Marketing Internship, Paragon Properties Marketing Internship, Social Media Coordinator/Student Office Assistant in Honors office

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU has been balancing three jobs and a full class load while getting good grades and having fun!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being a Marketing Intern with GVSU Athletics and working all of our home sporting events!

Plans after Graduation

I will be working full-time as a Marketing Specialist with Paragon Properties.



Haarika Hebbur

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Minor: *Chemistry*

Leadership Activities

Peer Mentor at Tutoring and Reading Center at GVSU

Teaching Assistant for Honors course

Graduate Research Assistant for Molecular Monitoring Lab

Research

Student Scholar's Day 2024

Reach Higher Showcase 2024

Two research projects under Dr. Sarah Hamsher, to study diatom growth rates

Research under Dr. Eric Synder and Dr. Peter Wampler to study stream ecology

Masters thesis under Dr. Kristin Renkema, measuring gene expression in mouse tumors using Bulk RNA Sequencing to understand anti-tumor immune responses

Activities/Awards

Dean's List for all semesters at GVSU

Biomedical Sciences Graduate of Distinction Award

Student Research Spotlight in AWRI: A Year in Review 2024

Literature Review published on Scholar Works

Volunteer for Science Olympiad

Duke Tanaka Jr. Anatomy Scholarship

Georgette "Tete" Zainea Memorial Scholarship

Internship

Volunteer at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Clinic

Tutor at Tutoring and Reading Center at GVSU

Phlebotomist at University of Michigan Health West Hospital

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been accelerating my academic journey by completing my undergraduate degree in two years and planning to complete my graduate degree in one year, all while actively engaging in research and leadership which are preparing me for advanced study in medicine.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most significant part of my time at Grand Valley has been working closely with dedicated professors and peers. Their mentorship, support, and collaboration have expanded my knowledge and strengthened my confidence to pursue my aspirations.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will continue in the Cell and Molecular Biology thesis masters program at GVSU and complete a graduate certificate in Bioinformatics and Genomics. Building on this foundation, I intend to pursue an MD and PhD specializing in oncology.



Kayla Helferich

Major: *Behavioral Neuroscience, Psychology*

Research

Participated in research investigating the effects of caffeine on Parkinson's-related behaviors in rats.

Leadership Activities

Honors Society of Psi Chi member and secretary

Activities/Awards

Psychology Department's Excellence in Academics award

Study Abroad

Studied in Northern Ireland in the summer of 2025 for PSY 386: Conflict, Peace, and Reconciliation

Internship

Registered Behavior Technician at Acorn Health

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Applied my psychological and behavioral neuroscience experience to create meaningful community impact for individuals with disabilities through my work as a Registered Behavior Technician, my leadership in Special Olympics inclusion initiatives, and my involvement in campus organizations.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most memorable experience was advancing inclusion through my work with Special Olympics. Serving as a U.S. Youth Ambassador and a member of the Michigan Youth Activation Committee allowed me to apply what I've learned in the classroom to real community settings, where I helped create meaningful change.

Plans after Graduation

I will be attending the Florida Institute of Technology to pursue a Master's degree in Behavior Analysis Professional Practice to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.



Paris Henderson

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Research

Researched in social media and mental health

Leadership Activities

Vice President of Helping Hands Club

Served as a TA for the past two years at the honors college

Tutored K-12 students

Activities/Awards

Dean's List

Internship

Worked as an ER assistant for the past two summers

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was when I adopted a family during Christmas time. I was able to raise money to purchase gifts alongside the Helping Hands Club.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Working in the emergency room, I was able to recognize that not only scientific knowledge is required to save a patient's life but also human connection and trust.

Plans after Graduation

Apply to graduate school and pursue a master's in anesthesia.



Alison Hosinski

Major: *Marketing, Human Resources Management*

Minor: *Nonprofit Administration*

Activities/Awards

Fostering Futures Featured Scholar

Study Abroad

Sydney, Australia Fall 2025

Internship

Hope Network Leadership Center 1yr

Young Entrepreneurs Across America 2 yrs

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Developing confidence, independence, and leadership through study abroad, internships, and academic challenges that shaped my goals and direction.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My study abroad semester in Sydney was the most memorable. Meeting new friends, exploring Australia, and gaining a global perspective that changed how I see myself and my future.

Plans after Graduation

Continue my employment with YEAA, mentoring other college students to successfully run their own business.



Avery Howe

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Minor: *Psychology*

Research

In my time abroad in the Netherlands, I conducted research on the overlap between Schizophrenia and Behavioral Frontotemporal Dementia with a focus on shared characteristics and their implications for clinical diagnosis and treatment.

Leadership Activities

Over the 2025-2026 academic year, I have worked as a Resident Assistant in Calder Residence on campus. In this role, I have learned to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for residents through community engagement, social wellness, relationship-building, and campus involvement!

Activities/Awards

Dean's List

GV Award for Excellence

Study Abroad

In the summer of 2025, I studied abroad at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, completing *Unlocking the Mysteries of Neurodegenerative Diseases: Advances on Research, Diagnosis, and Treatment*. In my program, I examined innovative developments in research for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Frontotemporal Dementia, and related disorders through world-renowned lecturers, discussions, and site visits.

Internship

While studying full-time and serving as a Resident Assistant, I worked as a Nurse Technician in the Orthopedic Progressive Med/Surg Care Unit at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, gaining hands-on clinical experience in patient care, interdisciplinary teamwork, and post-surgical recovery management in a fast-paced hospital setting.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was earning my Allied Health Sciences (Pre-PA) degree in just three years! Through the Honors College, I learned to balance rigorous coursework, leadership roles, and clinical experience, strengthening my discipline, resilience, and commitment in both my personal life and future career as a PA.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most significant moment of my college career was studying abroad in Amsterdam. This life-changing experience strengthened my worldview and independence while deepening my appreciation for global healthcare perspectives. It allowed me to grow tremendously, form lifelong friendships, and create lasting memories that continue to shape who I am today.

Plans after Graduation

After graduating, I plan to take a gap year as I continue to gain patient care experience and work at my Nurse Technician job at Butterworth Hospital. I plan to attend an Accelerated Nursing Program in the Fall of 2027!



Luke Hulsman

Major: *Psychology*

Minor: *Sociology*

Research

Parent's Experiences and Perceptions of their Toddler's Use of the Explorer Mini - With Dr. Naomi Aldrich and Dr. Lisa Kenyon.

Presented a poster on this topic for Student Scholars Day 2026

Activities/Awards

Received Dean's List Award for 6/6 Semesters

Study Abroad

Japanese Spirituality and the Supernatural Faculty-Led Program (Spring/Summer 2025)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I am very proud of the research work I have been able to accomplish with Dr. Aldrich and Dr. Kenyon.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My study abroad program in Japan was my most memorable experience.

Plans after Graduation

I will work in the Psychology field for one year, then go to Graduate School for Mental Health Counseling.



Evan Jackson

Major: *Finance, Economics*

Minor: *English*

Research

Pondering the Ethics of AI: A Faculty

Leadership Activities

Student Senate President
Chief of Staff, Student Senate
Teaching Assistant, Honors 201

Activities/Awards

Thomas M. Seykora Award for Outstanding Contribution
Omicron Delta Epsilon (Economics Honor Society)
Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership Honor Society)

Internship

AIS Construction Equipment (2 years)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Passed two major pieces of Student Senate legislation--one advancing digital student IDs and another strengthening long-term support for 400+ student organizations--and launched a fund that directly invests in student programming and campus experience.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Representing Grand Valley in Washington, D.C. twice, advocating with Michigan's congressional delegation on behalf of our students and the broader higher education community.

Plans after Graduation

Pursuing a career in mergers and acquisitions in finance.



Annika Johnson

Major: *Chemistry*

Research

'Structural and functional studies of bacilliredoxins: Enzymes involved in redox homeostasis in gram-positive bacteria'
Undergraduate research assistant to Dr. Paul Cook, research in enzymes involved in redox homeostasis and cellular detoxification.

Presentations: Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference (2024), American Chemical Society Spring Conference (2025), Student Scholars Day (2025). Honors Capstone Project.

Leadership Activities

Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity VP Fellowship (2023-2024), President (2024-2025), VP Service (2025-2026)

Frederik Meijer Honors College Mentor (2023-2025)

Ambassador to the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (2024-2026)

Activities/Awards

Biochemistry and General Chemistry tutor for the Tutoring and Reading Center (2024-2026)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was staying on track to graduate with 2 full course-load semesters remaining after giving birth.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most significant experience at Grand Valley was my biomedical research. My mentor helped me greatly improve my scientific writing and presentation skills, as well as my confidence as a researcher.

Plans after Graduation

Work as a biochemist in the field before applying to graduate programs in hopes of obtaining a Ph.D.



Gabriella Jungwirth

Major: *Ped Cont Know PreK-6th, Special Education*

Leadership Activities

Throughout my time at Grand Valley I have been the President of Catholic Student Ministries, a FOCUS Student Bible Study and Discipleship Leader, a Saint Luke University Parish Apostolate Leadership Team Member, the Vice President of the Belly Dancing Club, and Intramural Sports Supervisor, and a Resident Assistant.

Activities/Awards

I have been on the Dean's List each semester, have had a lesson published on Innovation Classroom, attended mission trips to Tanzania and Chattanooga, Tennessee, member of Catholic Student Ministries, Recreation and Wellness Employee of the Year for the 2022-2023 school year for the front office department.

Internship

I have completed teaching internships at Harrison Park Academy (GRPS), Vanguard Charter Academy (NHA) as part of the GVSU Charter Public Schools Clinical Field Experience program, Kenowa Hills High School (KHPS), and Zeeland West High School (ZPS).

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been learning how to put Christ Jesus at the center of my life, pursuing Him each day, and leading other women to do the same. Intentionally working with others towards God has been the greatest gift of college.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most memorable experience of college has been being an active member of Saint Luke's University Parish. Through pursuing Truth and a relationship with God, my entire life has been transformed and given meaning in a way it hadn't before coming to college.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation I plan to pursue a life of missionary discipleship throughout whatever career path the Lord calls me on. I intend to live intentionally for the Gospel either in explicit missionary work or through being a dedicated teacher.



Elise Kahle

Major: *Studio Art*

Minor: *Art History*

Research

Organization and production of work for a Bachelor of Fine Arts group exhibition in the Padnos Student Gallery.

Leadership Activities

Co-edited art and photography for “Fishladder” 2026 and was Assistant editor of art and photography for the 2025 issue.

Activities/Awards

Showed work in “Junk Drawer,” a 2025 art show presented by the Senior Seminar class. Work published in the 2026 issue of “Fishladder.”

Study Abroad

Studied Studio Art abroad in London.

Internship

Interned with the Grand Valley Art Museum as a collections assistant and gallery attendant.

Worked as a shop technician at the GVSU Print Shop.

Hired by the VMA office to print original designs on promotional material. Worked with engineering students to design a visualized CE Microcontroller display.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Creating a body of artwork that is reflective of my values and personality in a way that was genuine and, at times, critical of social issues.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Studying abroad was the most significant in pushing me towards Art History as a minor. I went from being passively interested in history to someone who could look at it critically through artifacts that do history’s work.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to follow my passion for food and creating as an artist and cook in Detroit, Michigan.



Ashpreet Kaur

Major: *Biochemistry*

Minor: *Biology*

Research

Chemistry junior and senior seminar
Research with Dr. Powers
Presented at SSD

Leadership Activities

Part of an org Eboard

Activities/Awards

Dean's List
I am Grand Valley Award
Worked at student life at front desk

Internship

MSP forensic science lab winter internship

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Working two jobs on campus and doing research

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

MSP internship

Plans after Graduation

Masters in CMB or biological sciences



Parker Kennedy

Major: *Behavioral Neuroscience, Psychology*

Leadership Activities

Alpha Phi Omega Executive Board – Public Relations and Sergeant at Arms

Activities/Awards

Grand Valley Dance Troupe

Alpha Phi Omega

Dean's List

Study Abroad

Summer 1 2025 – John Cabot University in Rome, Italy

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Volunteering at Mary Free Bed in the Outpatient Peds unit

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Volunteering at Mary Free Bed

Plans after Graduation

GVSU MSOT Traditional Program



Angelina Kietzer

Major: *Nursing*

Research

For my honor's project I completed a research paper on the educational needs and barriers for new parents. I also created an education brochure highlighting those needs for new parents to access.

Nursing Community Health Capstone: Community health fair at the United Methodist Community House for older adults.

Leadership Activities

Student Nurses Association Student Mentor

Choreographer for Grand Valley Dance Troupe

Activities/Awards

Grand Valley Dance Troupe

Dean's List

Internship

Clinical immersion at the U of M-Health West ICU as well as clinicals in med-surg, psychiatry, pediatrics, obstetrics, community health, older adult care, and intensive care.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was getting into the Kirkhof College of Nursing.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most memorable moment is making life-long friends through the Honors College and Kirkhof College of Nursing.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation I plan on working as an oncology nurse at Butterworth in Grand Rapids.



Nathan King

Major: *Advertising and Public Relations*

Minor: *Marketing, Digital Studies*

Leadership Activities

President: Euphoria A Cappella

Activities/Awards

Euphoria A Cappella, Elite Dance

Internship

Alumni Student Social Media Assistant, Grand Valley State University; Social Media Intern, tastytrade; Social Media Intern, Xeris Pharmaceuticals

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Getting to produce really cool art with my a cappella group and dance team.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Winning competitions with both my a cappella group and dance team.

Plans after Graduation

Move to Chicago and find a job in marketing.



Arash Kordbacheh

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Research

Synucleinopathy Decreases Expression of the Complement Regulator CD55 in Nigral Dopamine Neurons Prior To Neurodegeneration - Presented at SSD 2024/2026, WMRUGS 2024/2025

Leadership Activities

Volunteer at Corewell Health

Volunteer for VIDA doing street medicine in Costa Rica

Volunteer tutor at Forest Hills Central

Activities/Awards

Intramural basketball

Internship

Work experience at Corewell Health as a nurse technician

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Starting an MCAT tutoring business

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Volunteering at the hospital and in Costa Rica were very special.

Plans after Graduation

Attending medical school!



Ryleigh Krise

Major: *Exercise Science, Pre-Physical Therapy*

Research

Scapular Stability Muscle Activation CoreStix Research Study

Exercise Science Internship Exposition for Special Olympics Health and Wellness Internship

Leadership Activities

YoungLife Capernaum Leader

Resident Assistant

Teaching Assistant for Human Anatomy Lab

Activities/Awards

GVSU Alternative Breaks

Pre-Physical Therapy Club

Foundational American Sign Language Badge

Internship

Special Olympics Health and Wellness Internship

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment is the friendships and support system I have made. Not only impactful networking and relationships with classmates, professors, and future employers, but also friendships that will last a lifetime. Special shoutout to the Mitt and the Dog.

Plans after Graduation

I will continue my journey as a Laker in Grand Valley's Doctorate of Physical Therapy program. My goal is to become a neurological rehabilitation physical therapist, but I am keeping an open mind to all the exciting opportunities ahead.



Briley Laurell

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Research

Honors senior project – study on the knowledge that an average college-aged female has on reproductive and sexual health

Leadership Activities

TA for HNR 201 in Fall 2025

Activities/Awards

Dean's List Fall 2022

Dean's List Winter 2025

Internship

GVSU Scribe Academy – Helix Scribes Solutions

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Completing a student-led research project and providing resources and information for reproductive wellness.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Completing my senior project

Plans after Graduation

Continue my education by completing a secondary nursing degree and gaining more experience in healthcare as a whole.



Caitlyn Leach

Major: *Nursing*

Activities/Awards

Corewell Health Nurse Scholar

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishments at Grand Valley were getting into the nursing program and becoming a Corewell Health Nurse Scholar.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most memorable time at Grand Valley was forming lifelong friendships, thanks to the Honors College and the nursing program. Along with that, I am grateful to have gotten into a competitive program that started my nursing journey.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to start my nursing career with Corewell Health in their Emergency Department after graduation. Then, I plan to start travel nursing.



Austin Lincoln

Major: *Behavioral Neuroscience*

Research

Stroke Sign Awareness on Campus: Knowledge and Impact of Visual Interventions at GVSU SSD.

Medical device research through University of Michigan's FFMI FastPACE.

Leadership Activities

Resident Assistant at Grand Valley State University; Founder and Director of SpotStrokes (spotstrokes.org), a nonprofit focused on stroke awareness and detection; Teaching Assistant for Honors course; Tutor (and supervisor) for chemistry, physiology, statistics, organic chemistry, and biochemistry.

Activities/Awards

EMT certification & work through Life EMS; Clinical work at Trinity Health Grand Rapids; Volunteer at Holland Free Health Clinic developing a patient-retention tool; 150+ physician shadowing hours across specialties; medical device and neurology research experience.

Internship

Clinical care experience as a nurse technician at Trinity Health Grand Rapids and EMT training. Research experience in medical devices and stroke detection through collaboration with clinicians and researchers. Volunteer clinical work at Holland Free Health Clinic improving patient follow-up systems.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining a 3.9+ GPA in Behavioral Neuroscience while working clinically at Trinity Health and serving as a Resident Assistant. These experiences strengthened my leadership, time management, and commitment to pursuing medicine.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Working with neurologically ill patients at Trinity Health Grand Rapids while studying neuroscience connected my coursework to real patient care and solidified my commitment to becoming a physician.

Plans after Graduation

Take a gap year working clinically in the emergency department while conducting neurology research with residents. Apply to medical school and continue developing initiatives that improve stroke awareness and patient outcomes.



Sofia Magan

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Minor: *Chemistry, Music*

Research

Honors senior project: Creating a transitional framework for college club leadership board
Capstone: Impact of minority status on ADHD diagnosis and treatment

Leadership Activities

Kesem gala planner
Kesem volunteer coordinator
Honors Mentor for 2 years

Activities/Awards

Kesem at GVSU
Honors curriculum and development committee
GVSU bands

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Making it to graduation!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Helping freshmen settle into life at GV

Plans after Graduation

Pursue potential career choices (move in with my mom)



Benjamin Maletta

Major: *Exercise Science*

Research

I partnered with Dr. Steve Glass for product testing for CoreStix. We assessed the products effectiveness as well as the potential for rehab clinic use. I also did a separate study looking at the kinematics of salsa dance in order to assess its effectiveness in regaining balance and coordination (geriatrics).

Leadership Activities

I am a proud leader of a men's life group through Campus Ministry. Was recently a mentor for study abroad at GVSU.

Activities/Awards

Dean's List for 6+ semesters

Grand Valley Men's club volleyball player

Study abroad mentor

Study Abroad

Sevilla, Spain study abroad trip in Summer 2025

Internship

Internship at Hulst Jepsen EGR and Center for Physical Rehabilitation Byron Center

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Finding God and a community of people who support me.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Finding a good community.

Plans after Graduation

Attending Grand Valley for PT school starting in the fall.



Eleanor Martin

Major: *Business General*

Research

Lecture on my work in Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation presented to audience of 70 Honors students Fall '25

Water quality research on the Water in the West trip Summer '25

Activities/Awards

Toastmasters Participant

Seidman Mentorship Program Mentor/Mentee

Leadership Activities

Cook Leadership Academy Fellow 25-26

Seidman Mentorship Program Mentor

The Hope Project Mentor

Study Abroad

Studied away in Water in the West program

Internship

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Technician at Mental Health Clinic

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment during my time at Grand Valley was sharing a presentation on mental health and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation therapy with an audience of 70 Honors students. I am deeply grateful to our FMHC Director Roger Gilles for helping bring the event to life!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most memorable GVSU experience was going on the Water in the West trip. We hiked the national parks, trekked caves, and got in trouble for eating spaghetti in the hot tub. It truly felt like we were all family by the end of the trip!

Plans after Graduation

This fall, I will begin my Master of Healthcare Administration at the University of Michigan. After the program, I hope to complete an administrative fellowship and secure a position as the administrator of a nursing home.



Annika Mattson

Major: *Mechanical Engineering*

Minor: *Mathematics*

Research

FSAE LR25 Vehicle, FSAE LR22 Vehicle

Leadership Activities

Aerodynamics and Composites Lead - FSAE

President – FSAE

Activities/Awards

FSAE

Glenn A. Niemeyer Award

Internship

Three semesters at Nissan North America

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Bringing the FSAE team through an entire competition where we were able to achieve our best results to date!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most memorable thing for me was every competition I went to with the FSAE team; working alongside my peers was one of the most rewarding experiences of being at GV.

Plans after Graduation

I plan on attending Michigan Tech to pursue a doctorate in Mechanical Engineering.



Ian McGuckin

Major: *Education and English Secondary Education*

Minor: *History – Teaching and French*

Research

"Religious Syncretism in Spanish Latin America" presented at Great Lakes History Conference 2022 and SSD 2023

"Redefining Violence in 'Night Sky With Exit Wounds'" presented at English Senior Thesis Exhibition

The Olive Tree Collection presented at GVSU Teach In 2024 and SSD 2025

"Authentic Authoritarianism" presented at ISA Midwest 2025

Leadership Activities

Founded and published The Olive Tree Collection

Founded and led the GVSU Chapter of Amnesty International

Served on the 23/24 and 24/25 CLAS Student Advisory Board

Cook Leadership Academy Fellow

Activities/Awards

GVSU Oldenburg Writing Contest – 1st Place Analytical Essay

GVSU English Department Book Award 2025

Dean's List 2021-2026

GVSU Stiner Scholar

Study Abroad

GVSU Faculty Led Study Abroad to Bordeaux/Paris in the summer of 2023 to study the French language

Internship

Project Faulu Intern at the Refugee Education Center

GED and ESL Intern at Partners Relief and Development in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Teacher Assistant at Northview High School

Teacher Intern at Allendale Middle School

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Founding and publishing a cross-cultural journal with 30+ artists/poets, including a Pulitzer Prize winning illustrator, advocating for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Teaching English abroad to Shan refugees and migrant students in Thailand

Plans after Graduation

I plan to pursue positions in the non-profit, non-governmental, and humanitarian sectors and leveraging my experience in education to uplift marginalized communities and populations



Benjamin McKim

Major: *Advertising & Public Relations*

Minor: *Marketing*

Leadership Activities

Cook Leadership Academy Fellow
Honors Mentor (3 years)
Social Media Manager for Euphoria A Cappella, E-Board Member

Activities/Awards

Euphoria A Cappella (all 4 years)
Recorded EP "All That's Left" and released in 2024 with Euphoria A Cappella.
Outstanding Soloist at VoiceJam Festival 2026 for "Harder to Breathe" by Adam Levine

Study Abroad

CIEE - Summer Abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark

Internship

Leasing Community Intern at Locale Student Housing for three years

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Facilitating a community of people that uplift each other and continue to grow, understand, and empathize with the world we are creating.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being in Euphoria A Cappella and creating music together and making lifelong friends.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to work as a Leasing and Marketing Manager at Locale Student Housing in Allendale, MI. Though, I plan to write and record my own music as well.



Ashlyn Mendelsohn

Major: *Film & Video*

Minor: *Advertising & Public Relations*

Leadership Activities

TA for honors college and hosted an interview for the alumni GVSU film and video podcast

Activities/Awards

Campus Ministry, Summa cum laude, Sound Design chosen for summer film at GVSU, and Dean's list all 4 years

Internship

I was a Digital Production Intern for the Grand Rapids Griffins and Grand Rapids Rise, a Digital Marketing Intern for the West Michigan Whitecaps, and a Video and Social Media Intern for the City of Holland.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Interning for professional hockey, volleyball, and baseball teams while being a full-time student.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most memorable was my internships where I was a Digital Production Intern for the Grand Rapids Griffins and Grand Rapids Rise, a Digital Marketing Intern for the West Michigan Whitecaps, and a Video and Social Media Intern for the City of Holland.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation I will be a Digital Marketing intern for the West Michigan Whitecaps while seeking full-time jobs in sports videography, editing, and media.



Allison Miller

Major: *Medical Laboratory Science*

Research

Water in the West Program

SSD Literature Review: The Impact of PCR on Weak and Variant Blood Group Antigen Identification: A Literature Review

Leadership Activities

Laker Lab Scientists President

FOCUS bible study leader

Honors TA

Activities/Awards

Laker Catholic

Laker Lab Scientists

GVSU Club Track

Internship

Clinical Laboratory Intern at Trinity Health

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Achieving all A's in my Medical Lab Sciences program

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Meeting the community at St. Lukes and helping others grow closer to God!

Plans after Graduation

Working as a medical laboratory scientist at Trinity Health in Grand Rapids!



Emilee Miller

Major: *Exercise Science*

Research

Presentations:

Cardiovascular Exercise and its Ability to Increase Cognitive Function

Gait Abnormalities with Age and how to Maintain Mobility

Leadership Activities

President of Community Cares Volunteering Club

Activities/Awards

Dean's List (2022-2026)

Internship

Internship with D1 Grand Rapids, Strength and Conditioning Coach

Internship with Covenant Living of the Great Lakes, Wellness Coordinator

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Contributing to over 200 service hours for GVSU students while building connections with 26 different Non-Profits.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My greatest accomplishment as the friendships made and communities aided was very fulfilling during my time at GV

Plans after Graduation

Attend GVSU's DPT in the Fall



Anastasia Misson

Major: *Exercise Science*

Research

Conducted research with Dr. Stephen Glass analyzing muscle activation during Core Stix exercises.

Presented findings at the Student Research Fair and created a professional research poster with professors.

Leadership Activities

Vice President, Exercise Science Club (2023-Present)

Lead meetings and coordinate professional development events for Exercise Science students.

Activities/Awards

Dean's List

Internship

Holland Hospital - Cardiac Rehab Fieldwork (2025)

Holland Aquatic Center - Exercise Science Internship (2026-Present)

Hulst Jepsen Physical Therapy - Technician (2023-Present)

The Recovery Project - Neurological Rehabilitation (2024-2025)

GVSU Injury Care Clinic - Student Assistant (2024-Present)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment has been gaining acceptance to graduate school while balancing coursework, clinical experiences, and maintaining meaningful friendships.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Presenting research at the Student Research Fair and creating a professional poster with professors has been my most memorable experience. Equally meaningful have been the friendships I built with classmates, which made my time at Grand Valley both rewarding and enjoyable.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will begin a Doctor of Physical Therapy program in May 2026 and continue gaining clinical experience in rehabilitation settings.



Mitzi Morgan

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Research

Does Baby Aspirin Help or Harm?: A Review of Reproductive Outcomes presented at Student Scholars Day 2026

Leadership Activities

Vice President of Fellowship, Secretary of Alpha Phi Omega

Honors Mentor

Padnos International Center Mentor

Activities/Awards

Pre-PA Club Member

Women in Medicine and Science Club Member

Puzzle Club Member

Dean's List every semester!

Study Abroad

I studied at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus during the summer of 2025 studying Health Management.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Graduating a year early while making meaningful connections and furthering my passion for healthcare.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My study abroad experience in Cyprus meant so much to me. I was able to travel the island and observe their healthcare systems while making connections with my peers.

Plans after Graduation

Work as a medical assistant during my gap year before Physician Assistant school.



Delaney Morrin

Major: *Wildlife Biology*

Minor: *Natural Resources & Environmental Management*

Research

Opossum telemetry research in GVSU Ravines (2 years)

Honors project - Habitat Suitability Index Analysis of the Grand River Watershed, MI for North American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

Senior capstone - Adaptive Management of Grand River Park for North American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) - presented poster at Student Scholars Day April 2026

Leadership Activities

Secretary ('23-'24), Membership Officer ('24-'25), and Vice President ('25-'26) of Animators Guild
Financial Officer ('23-'24), Co-Public Relations Officer, and Risk Manager ('24-'25) of Club Bowling

Activities/Awards

Animators Guild (3.5 years)

Club Bowling (3 years)

Soil Judging Team (1 year)

Tabletop Gaming Club (3.5 years)

John Ball Zoo Guide (1 summer - returning)

Knowledge Market Research Consultant at GVSU Library (3 years)

GIS Applications in Natural Resources Certificate

Dean's List

NCBCA Collegiate Scholar Athlete Award

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I'm proud to be graduating college completely debt-free with zero loans taken!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most memorable experience at GVSU was presenting my senior capstone poster at Student Scholars Day 2026. I've wanted to participate since I volunteered at it as a freshman, and it was rewarding talking to people both inside and outside my discipline about something I worked so hard on.

Plans after Graduation

I'll be returning to work as a guide at John Ball Zoo over the summer through the fall while applying for a full-time position related to mapping and/or wildlife research.



Lily Nykamp

Major: *Nursing*

Leadership Activities

I have served on Asian Student Union's eboard for two terms (Activities Coordinator and Public Relations Officer). Was a Cook Leadership Candidate Fellow for two years and serve as a current Asian Student Achievement Program Mentor.

Activities/Awards

Emerging Leader Award

Outstanding Cultural Program (for Asian Lunar New Year Festival)

Internship

Nurse Extern at Corewell Health the summer of 2025

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Planning and producing Asian New Year Festival for GVSUs Asian Student Union, Year of the Dragon! Also planning the first ever Lunar New year Chicago trip for our Asian Student Achievement Program. Lastly, completing a nurse externship through Corewell Health!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Most memorable is the Lunar New Year Festival. I made the most incredible friendships, found cultural pride and felt more confident in becoming a leader!

Plans after Graduation

Working as a nurse at Butterworth Hospital on their Ortho Trauma Burn unit.



Ava Politi

Major: *History*

Minor: *Psychology*

Research

OURS Summer Scholar Program

Trial & Error: Urban Redevelopment in Grand Rapids Downtown and Neighborhoods 1970 - 2000

Student Scholars Day

Trial & Error: Urban Redevelopment in Grand Rapids Downtown and Neighborhoods 1970 - 2000

Mass Rocks, Regional Landscape, and Memory in Penal-era Ireland: A Comparative Study of Ulster and County Cork, 1695-1750

Activities/Awards

Received the History High Merit Award

Member of GVSU Alternative Breaks

Member of GVSU History Club

Foundational American Sign Language Badge

Member of Phi Alpha Theta

Received Kathleen Underwood Endowed S3 Fellowship

Lakers Go Abroad! Scholarship

Study Abroad

Vietnam: Country, Culture, People (2023)

- HST 380 The Vietnam War in Vietnam

- EAS 333 Vietnam: History, Culture, and Society

Internship

Grand Rapids Public Library – Digital History Project Intern

City Archives and Records Center – Summer Intern

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Making friendships over the years that will last a lifetime. Also, conducting research with professors during my undergraduate studies.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

I would say one of the most significant moments in my undergrad at GVSU was my internship at the City Archives and Records Center in downtown Grand Rapids, where I discovered my passion for the field and confirmed my decision to pursue graduate school.

Plans after Graduation

I will attend grad school at the University of Michigan to pursue a Master of Science in Information (MSI) with a focus in Libraries, Archives, and Knowledge Environments in Society (LAKES) pathway.



Brittany Pomierski

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Minor: *Chemistry*

Leadership Activities

President of Mu Epsilon Delta (MED), the only pre-healthcare fraternity at GVSU, and I served on the MED national board.

South Korea study abroad mentor

Activities/Awards

Pre-PA Club

Freeman-Asia Scholar

Critical Language Scholarship recipient for Korean

Microbiology Lab Teaching Assistant

Certified Nursing Assistant at Sunset Senior Communities in Jenison

Study Abroad

Fall 2023 study abroad in Seoul, South Korea at Korea University

Returned Summer 2025 to study Korean with the U.S. Department of State (CLS Program)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Going through with the goal written on my cloud paper from the honors freshmen orientation-- "I want to have studied abroad and been accepted into PA school by the end of my four years"

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being able to return to South Korea this past summer and meet wonderful people from all over the country who are studying Korean for various reasons. I made lifelong friends and have contacts across the entire country now.

Plans after Graduation

I am attending Eastern Michigan University's Physician Assistant Program this Fall in Ypsilanti, MI.



Haley Powers

Major: *Cell & Molecular Biology*

Minor: *Criminal Justice, Chemistry*

Research

"Development of a Cost-Effective Multiplex ddPCR Assay for Pathogen Detection in Wastewater Surveillance"

Poster presentation at WMRUGS 2025

Oral presentation at SSD 2026

"Effects of Dietary Sodium Butyrate on \pm -Synuclein Aggregation in Enteric Neurons in a Drosophila Model of Parkinson's Disease"

Poster presentation at SSD 2026

Leadership Activities

Honors College Mentor (2023), Honors College HNR201 TA (2023), CMB156 TA (2023), Honors Student Council, Overnights Committee (2023-2024), BIO376 Genetics Laboratory TA (2024), Peer-Assisted Learning Facilitator for, CMB156 (2024), Honors Student Council President (2024-2025), Young PIs Summer Scholar Program Mentor (2025), CMB156 TA (2025), Tutoring & Reading Center Tutor (2026), Cook Leadership Academy Fellow Candidate (2025-2026), and Chemistry Success Center Tutor (2023-2026)

Activities/Awards

Department of Chemistry General Chemistry Award (2023)

Department of Chemistry Organic Chemistry Award (2024)

Department of CMB Outstanding Student Award (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)

Department of CMB Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award for Academic Excellence (2026)

Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award for Cell & Molecular Biology (2026)

Frederik Meijer Honors College Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service (2026)

Internship

Michigan State Police Sixth District Headquarters Crime Laboratory Intern (2024)

GVSU Molecular Monitoring for Environment and Health Laboratory Analyst (2024-2025)

GVSU Cold Case Investigation Team (2025-2026)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being involved with student organizations and leadership activities on campus, holding multiple student employment jobs, being a student commuter, and conducting research while still maintaining a 4.0 in my major!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being Student Council President was an amazing experience. At first, I hesitated to apply for this position, but it has been one of the most rewarding experiences during my time at Grand Valley. I was able to work with an amazing group of people and have so many fun memories!

Plans after Graduation

I aspire to work as a forensic scientist in a crime laboratory and be a part of a crime scene response team one day.



Dennis Rennells

Major: *Radiation Therapy*

Leadership Activities

Social Media Manager - GVSU Club Ultimate Frisbee

Activities/Awards

Dean's List Fall 2022 - Winter 2026

Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award - Radiation Therapy

Ultimate Frisbee Club

Study Abroad

Netherlands - Geography/Urban Planning - Summer 2024

Internship

Radiation Therapy Clinical Rotations at:

MHP Radiation Oncology, Farmington Hills

UM Health Sparrow, Lansing

Lemmen Holton Cancer Pavilion, Grand Rapids

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Receiving the excellence-in-a-discipline award for my major, Radiation Therapy

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Studying abroad in the Netherlands

Plans after Graduation

I have accepted two PRN Radiation Therapist positions at Lemmen Holton Cancer Pavilion and Trinity Health St. Mary's, both in Grand Rapids.



Sarah Salisbury

Major: *Psychology*

Minor: *Sociology*

Leadership Activities

Member of Psi Chi

Activities/Awards

I am Grand Valley award
Deans list all four years

Internship

Internship at Pondera Advisors

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

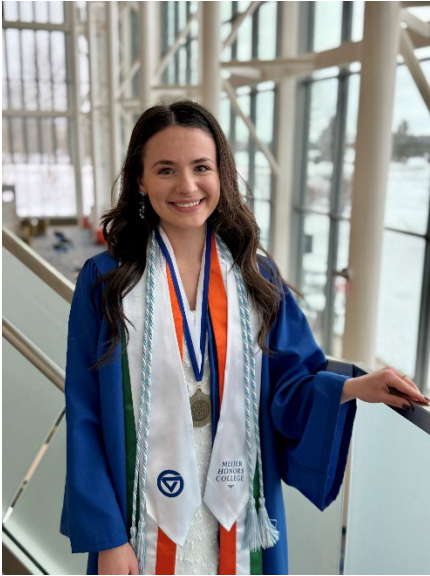
Maintaining a 3.9 GPA and the relationships I've built with professors and classmates.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Connections with professors

Plans after Graduation

Work for Pondera Advisors and Rep-Lite and apply for grad school programs



Ashlynn Scafidi

Major: *History, Education*

Minor: *Psychology – Teaching*

Research

I presented my research on the televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker, situating her within the rise of the Christian Right and 20th-century American culture, at the Great Lakes History Conference. I also co-developed and led the presentation "Peer Learning in the Classroom" at the 2025 Learn the Library Conference.

Leadership Activities

President & financial officer of Self Care on Campus
Peer mentor for FMHC and TRIO Teacher Preparation Support Services

Activities/Awards

2025 & 2026 History Department High Merit Award
2024-2026 Niemeyer History Scholarship
2023 & 2025 Oldenburg Contest
2025 Quirinus Breen Prize
2024 Saginaw Community Foundation Scholarship

Study Abroad

I will be studying abroad in Killarney, Ireland (Spring 2026), apprenticing in an international school.

Internship

Apprenticeship: 9th-12th grade World History & Podcasting at Godwin Heights High School
Internship: 8th grade U.S. History at Creekside Middle School

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being the first in my family to pursue a college degree!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My student teaching experience has been most rewarding. Forming connections with students, colleagues, and growing as a professional has been both challenging and fulfilling!

Plans after Graduation

I plan to pursue a teaching position in the GR area. In the future, I hope to attend graduate school and continue my research, seeking an interdisciplinary program that integrates my interests of social science, art, and teaching.



Sierra Schneider

Major: *Exercise Science*

Research

Literature Review of Knee Ligament Injuries

Leadership Activities

Laker Catholic Bible Study Leader

Laker Catholic Discipleship Leader

Activities/Awards

Dean's List

Laker Catholic

Women's Club Volleyball

Internship

Physical Wellness Intern at Evergreen Commons

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Balancing my faith, school, work, and friends while graduating in 3 years.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Drawing others closer to the Lord!

Plans after Graduation

I will attend GVSU's Physical Therapy Program in the fall.



Olivia Shown

Major: *Information Technology*

Research

Presented a capstone project developing a mobile healthcare application with database design, security features, and AI chatbot integration. Also delivered presentations on system design, technical implementation, and project progress throughout the development lifecycle.

Leadership Activities

Demonstrated leadership through coordinating group meetings, contributing to project planning and decision-making, and supporting groupmates during capstone and coursework projects. Led discussions, organized tasks, and helped ensure project milestones were met on time.

Activities/Awards

IM Volleyball

Internship

Business Systems Analyst Intern

IT Intern

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Creating meaningful friendships and memories I will remember forever while working toward my degree and gaining valuable knowledge and experience.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Gaining valuable experience and knowledge that I will carry with me for the rest of my career.

Plans after Graduation

Complete IT Internship at City of Jackson



Sara Sietsema

Major: *Cell & Molecular Biology*

Minor: *Chemistry, Biology*

Research

The Bug Stops Here: Development of a Molecular Assay for Detecting West Nile Virus in Local Mosquito Populations (Conducted at MoM Lab)

Poster Presentation at WMRUGS 2025

Oral Presentation at SSD 2026

Leadership Activities

Teacher Assistant (TA) for genetics lab (BIO376) Winter 2026

Tutor at the Chemistry Success Center (CSC) Fall 2024 - Present

Activities/Awards

Work at the GVSU Molecular Monitoring Laboratory for Health and Environment

Received the Undergraduate Catalyst Award for Scholarly Excellence (CMB Department Award)

GVSU Dean's List Fall 2022 - Present

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was the development of a protocol for quantifying West Nile Virus in mosquito populations with Dr. Sheila Blackman. This project has helped me grow in so many ways, was very fun, and will provide ongoing research opportunities for future MoM lab students.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most significant and memorable thing about my time at GVSU is working in the MoM Lab. This experience has helped me grow as a scientist and a person, and has led to so many amazing friendships!

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to continue at GVSU in earning my Master's in Cell and Molecular Biology



Autumn Simms

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Minor: *Chemistry*

Research

I have conducted research that examined the effects of pH on arterial response to cardiovascular drugs. I presented these findings at Student Scholars Day 2026. My Capstone research examined the role of gut microbial metabolites in the development of Cardiorenal Syndrome.

Activities/Awards

Active member of Mu Epsilon Delta, Pre-Med club, and Pickleball club. Served as a lab assistant in the Human Physiology lab and as a tutor at the Chemistry Success Center, supporting General, Organic, Analytical, and Biochemistry students. Deans List for all semesters. Graduate of Distinction 2025-2026 for the BMS department.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My research experience has been the most significant, as it reflects the culmination of my undergraduate education and aligns closely with my future career goals in medicine

Plans after Graduation

I intend to gain clinical experience and pursue medical school, with the goal of specializing in cardiology and nephrology.



Faith Simon

Major: *Nursing*

Leadership Activities

Filipinx American Student Association Co-President 2023-2025

Activities/Awards

State Competitive Scholarship and Thompson Work Family Achiever Recipient

Fall 2025 Kirkhof College of Nursing Dean's List

College of Health Professions Dean's List 2021-2023

Internship

Trinity Health Nurse Extern

Henry Ford Nurse Extern

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Getting accepted in the KCON program and being Filipinx American Student Association co-president.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Working as a nurse intern over the past year and also getting to travel and host events through the Filipinx American Student Association.

Plans after Graduation

Working as a mother baby nurse either in the Metro-Detroit area or Grand Rapids.



Ashley Sligh

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Research

Biomedical Science Research: Understanding Bicuspid Aortic Valve: Global Prevalence, Genetic Factors, Long-Term Outcomes, Treatment Approaches, and Knowledge Gaps
Organic Chemistry Research: 4-chloro-4-fluorobutyrophenone and benzaldehyde
WMRUGS Poster presenter- 2024
Student Scholar Day- 2025

Leadership Activities

Pre-med Club: volunteer Chair
Biology Club: vice-president
Tri-Beta: president
AMSA: co-president
Honors mentor
Pre-med mentor

Activities/Awards

MSU CHM Pathways Program student.

Internship

I have worked at Corewell Health, in radiation oncology as a PCCT/ MA for 3 years.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU was being pregnant during the first semester of my senior year and completing my degree while also caring for a newborn.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan on taking a gap year to be a stay-at-home mom and then start medical school in 2027.



Alyssa Sniegowski

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Minor: *Psychology*

Leadership Activities

Vice President of the Welcome Days Committee on the Honors Student Council
Honors College Welcome Days Mentor in 2023
Secretary of the GVSU Circle K club
Pre-PA club Member for 7 semesters
Honors 201 TA
Rhetoric with a heart TA

Activities/Awards

Deans list Recipient for 6 semesters
Honorable performance recognition for my job as a Patient Care Aide
Job Shadowed a PA over the summer
Earned my Pharmacy Technician License while in school

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Successfully maintaining my status on The Dean's list while working 20 hours weekly and being a part of three different organizations on campus.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Having the experience on the honors student council. I met and became great friends with some of my favorite people from this group. It's like we're a small family. We continue to cheer on each other's success and check in on each other.

Plans after Graduation

After a gap year to enhance my experience and prior knowledge on healthcare, I will attend a Physician Assistant Schooling program where I will become a certified PA!



Lizette Solorio

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Research

'Synthesis, Purification and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing of (2E)-3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-propen-1-one (4-methoxy-4-hydroxychalcone)' Presented at Student Scholars day

Leadership Activities

Public Relations Chair of the Alzheimer's Awareness club
Student Leader in Campus Ministry
Spring Break trip leader in Campus Ministry

Activities/Awards

Mu Epsilon Delta
Alzheimer's Awareness Club
Campus Ministry Service Trips (3)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being among the first group of researchers to test organic chalcones in the microbiology lab here at GVSU.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Leading a team of 27 students on a Campus Ministry spring break service trip to Windsor, NC. Our group was able to help with home improvement projects in poorer communities in Eastern North Carolina.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to take a gap year where I will work to save up money and spend time with my family and friends traveling. After my gap year, I will be attending Michigan State College of Human Medicine to obtain my MD and practice Medicine as a physician.



Franklin Specter

Major: *Environmental & Sustainability Studies*

Minor: *Public Administration*

Research

Making Waves with MiCorps

Leadership Activities

Student Senate

Activities/Awards

Weekly recreational volleyball

Study Abroad

University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia

Internship

Personalizing Sustainability: A White Paper to Michigan

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Discovering my passions and their career applications

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Discovering my passions and their career applications

Plans after Graduation

Start managing the Fulton Street Market



Cayden Steinebach

Major: *Biomedical Sciences, Cell & Molecular Biology*

Minor: *Biology, Chemistry*

Research

Received the Kindschi Fellowship to do research in gut E. Coli engineering to breakdown cellulose. Presented accumulating data over multiple years at Student Scholars Day

Internship

Van Andel Institute Summer Fellowship

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Graduating with 2 undergrad degrees with 2 minors

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My internship at Van Andel Institute

Plans after Graduation

Become a research technician to strengthen my resume and reapply for the Van Andel Institute Graduate School



Jackson Tamialis

Major: *Marketing*

Leadership Activities

Delta Tau Delta, Iota Upsilon Chapter, Director of Academic Affairs 2024
Laker Racing Formula SAE Business Lead 2024
Delta Tau Delta, Iota Upsilon Chapter, Director of Risk Management 2025

Activities/Awards

GVSU Ski and Snowboard team since 2022
Laker Racing Formula SAE since 2022
Delta Tau Delta, Iota Upsilon chapter since 2023
Deans List 2024-2026
I am Grand Valley award 2024 and 2025

Internship

Sales and Management Intern at the Buckle.
Increased sales of Sullen t-shirts placing the store in the top 100 Buckle stores for Sullen t-shirt sales.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Switching from Mechanical Engineering to Marketing and thus allowing me to make some lifelong friends.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My greatest accomplishment here at GV.

Plans after Graduation

Get a full-time job and spend a couple years out here in West Michigan and then maybe move back out west.



Grayce Tappy

Major: *Wildlife Biology*

Minor: *Natural Resources & Environmental Management*

Research

Some projects and research I worked on during my time includes tree inventorying in Grand Haven parks, opossum tagging and tracking through radio telemetry in the Grand Ravines, and fence installation around Marula trees in South Africa to prevent destruction by elephants.

Leadership Activities

I was a student building supervisor at the GVSU Recreation Center. I had a great time managing my staff!

Activities/Awards

I will be receiving a Certification in Applied GIS for Natural Resource Management in addition to my degree. I was also recognized as a part of the Dean's list for all eight of my semesters.

Study Abroad

I participated in the wildlife biology, faculty-led South Africa study abroad with professors Joe Jacquot and Paul Keenlance as well as nine other students.

Internship

I participated in an internship at Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, where I was a part of their research team for nesting sea turtles. I worked with three species: Loggerhead, Green, and Leatherback sea turtles.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley would have to be having a great time and meeting so many people!

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My South Africa study abroad was a life changing experience that really broadened my world view and ignited my love for travel. I plan to take the things I learned in my time abroad through the rest of my life.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I have accepted a seasonal position in West Palm Beach, Florida to perform sea turtle nesting research with Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center. This will be my third time working with them, my second time being employed by them. Excited to see some baby turtles!



Allyson Telck

Major: *Electrical Engineering*

Minor: *English*

Research

Collaborated with E3 Compliance employees and GVSU faculty to conduct and publish research on how printed circuit board routing topographies affect EMC performance

Leadership Activities

GVSU STAGE - E-Board (Social Media & Promotional Manager)

GVSU STAGE - Production Team (Vocal Coach)

Activities/Awards

Laker Marching Band

Anima Vocal Ensemble

GVSU STAGE

Combined Degree Scholarship Program (National Science Foundation)

Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society

Dean's List

Internship

Engineering Co-Op with E3 Compliance

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining both my grades and my extracurricular participation in music and theatre throughout my academic career

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Working with the Laker Marching Band and GVSU STAGE

Plans after Graduation

Pursue a master's degree in biomedical engineering



Rebecca Terryberry

Major: *Wildlife Biology*

Minor: *Environmental & Sustainability Studies*

Research

Presented at Student Scholars Day for an Honors Project.

Presented at the sustainability showcase on projects about plastic waste on campus and my group capstone project on food accessibility at the SAP.

Leadership Activities

Site leader for a volunteering trip to Hungry Mother State Park, a part of Alternative Breaks.

Activities/Awards

Went to the Beaver Island Field School, created a project on composting efforts on the Island.

Internship

Internship at Blandford Nature Center as a Land Stewardship Intern.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Spending spring breaks volunteering out of state for communities in need.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Interning at Blandford Nature Center was a great opportunity to get hands on experience. I was able to work with the stewardship team to remove invasive species and work with volunteers.

Plans after Graduation

Working at John Ball Zoo as a zoo guide hoping to work my way up into zoo keeping. Then hopefully going into wildlife conservation work.



Preston Thomas

Major: *Computer Science*

Minor: *Mathematics*

Leadership Activities

Teacher's Assistant for Professor Fitzpatrick.

Activities/Awards

College of Computing First Year Endowed Scholarship.

Internship

I am a Data Engineer Intern at Mutually Human, a position I have held for nearly two years while completing my education. I also had an IT Intern position for about 6 months.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Balancing full-time academic work with 2.5 years of internship experience and securing a job in my field of study.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My internship experience has shaped me into an industry ready professional.

Plans after Graduation

To start my full-time job as a Data Engineer.



Paige Traboulay

Major: *Communication Science & Disorders, Pre-Professional Preparation*

Research

/I/ Unlocked: Cracking the Code of Lateral Articulation - Changes in the Production of the /I/ Sound From Ages 3, 5, and 7
by: Dora Crawford, Grace Dorman, Paige Traboulay, and Chloe Witter

Leadership Activities

Resident Assistant
Event Coordinator of ChemoCare Club
Honors 201 TA

Activities/Awards

Dean's List
GVSU Mental Health Ambassador

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I was Event Coordinator in the ChemoCare club here at Grand Valley, and I had such a great experience. We were able to go into schools and educate Elementary school students on pediatric cancer while making blankets to donate to the pediatric wing of local hospitals.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My most memorable time at GVSU has been being a Resident Assistant these past three years. I have met so many amazing people through this experience, and experienced so much growth along the way.

Plans after Graduation

I am attending Grand Valley's Doctor of Audiology Graduate Program in the Fall! I hope to work with Veterans someday, and help the older generation implement assistive hearing technology in their life.



Brian Tran

Major: *Behavioral Neuroscience*

Minor: *Psychology*

Research

PSY Capstone: Neuroplasticity Treatments in Stroke Rehabilitation

Senior Project: The Truth Unfolded: Navigating College

Animal Behavior: Color and Light Preferences in *Phidippus audax* Interactions

Leadership Activities

Asian Student Union: Co-Cultural Engagement Coordinator

Vietnamese Student Association: Intern & Media Chair

Activities/Awards

Dean's list every semester

Thompson Scholar

Award for Excellence Scholarship

Pham Dinh Tham Dominic Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Crisis Text Line: Crisis Counseling Volunteer

K-12 Connect: Math, Reading, and High School Mentoring Tutor

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Dedicating time and energy to being on the executive boards of the Asian Student Union and the Vietnamese Student Association, and getting accepted into GVSU's radiation therapy program.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Planning the Asian Student Union's biggest event: Asian New Year Festival, which fell on my birthday, and meeting all of my lifelong friends.

Plans after Graduation

This Fall, I will be starting GVSU's radiation therapy program to become a radiation therapist.



Kylie VanDenBerge

Major: *Psychology, Environmental & Sustainability Studies*

Research

Food insecurity research for wicked problems class. Presented research at GVSU

Leadership Activities

Choreographer for grand valley dance troupe.

Activities/Awards

Dean's list

Was involved in Grand Valley Dance Troupe

Study Abroad

Northern Ireland. Peace, conflict, and reconciliation (psychology)

Internship

Internship at the GVSU SAP. Worked at the farm and did social media.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being on the dean's list every semester. Keeping above a 3.7 GPA. Sharing my experiences while studying abroad with others. I got to teach a high school psychology class about my experience and the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Studying abroad. I learned and got to experience so much. It made me more eager to travel to world and learn about different cultures.

Plans after Graduation

Go to Western Michigan University to get my masters in clinical mental health counseling. I hope to become a therapist!



Elise Van Meurs

Major: *English Secondary Education*

Minor: *Applied Linguistics - Teaching*

Activities/Awards

Dean's List 2022-2026

Study Abroad

English Teaching in Maastricht, Netherlands

Internship

Teacher Apprentice at Burton Middle School, Teacher Intern at Grandville High School

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU was how I was able to do Gods will on campus. Throughout my time at Grand Valley, I was able to lead a bible study, share the gospel, meet many people who love God, disciple several people and grow in intimacy with God.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My study abroad trip blessed me in many ways personally and professionally. I am so grateful for that experience and the people that I am still friends with because of it.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I hope to simply follow Gods path wherever he may take me. My hope is to move to another country and teach English, so that I can tell others who don't know about Jesus and how he has changed my life.



Kaley VanSuch

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Minor: *Chemistry*

Research

Poster presentations at the Autumn Immunology Conference and Student Summer Scholars Showcase 2025 for research under Dr. Kristin Renkema titled, "Developing an open access immunology lab manual." Oral presentation at Student Scholars Day 2026. Presentation at Reach Higher Showcase 2024 under Dr. Wampler titled, "Water quality of the lower Grand River."

Leadership Activities

SLA Facilitator in math, psychology, and anatomy 2024-2026 and OWS tutor summer 2024.
FMHC mentor 2024 (for student orientation and honor's overnights)
Pre-Med mentor 2024-2025
Campus Ministry life group leader 2025-2026 (weekly bible study host)

Activities/Awards

Awards: BMS Graduate of Distinction, GVSU Presidential Scholarship, Dean's list, Academic Conference fund, Student Summer Scholar 2025.
Activities: Club Swim and Dive, Club Ultimate Frisbee, Pre-Med Club, 4 time Triathlete.

Study Abroad

Spring break service trips with Campus Ministry to Windsor North Carolina and Knockpatrick Jamaica. Restoring homes of impoverished families in North Carolina through World Renew. Hurricane relief and maintenance assistance at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Jamaica.

Internship

Medical Scribe at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Corsocare Hospice Volunteer, Home InStead caregiver, Sunset Senior Communities resident aid, Certified Phlebotomy Technician in 2024, YMCA swim instructor.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU has been the experience I have had through researching in the field of immunology. I'm so grateful to have attended a national conference in Chicago this year, completed an S3 project and manuscript, and that we will be publishing an open access resource within the year.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The most memorable experience I have had has been traveling to Jamaica on a service trip. I stayed in a school for deaf children and learned so much sign language while restoring their space. I will always have a home in Jamaica.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to apply to medical school in the next year and take the next year to gain more clinical experience. I want to pursue a career as an allergy and immunology doctor.



Amelia VanWyck

Major: *Studio Art*

Research

Speculative: The dark history of gynecological tools
Li Xiaofeng: Fragments of Adornment

Leadership Activities

Vice president of vertical Earth Rock climbing club Fall 25
president of vertical Earth Rock climbing club Winter 26
Body Adorned teachers assistant 2024-2026

Activities/Awards

2024 SNAG conference
2026 ECU Materials Topic symposium
2023 Dress to Protest: Fashion Activism Exhibition
2024 Hot Topics: Art Exhibition
2023-25 Student Scholars Day
2024 Space Studio Exhibit GVSU Sustainable Agriculture Project
2024 494 Fashion Show/Magazine launch
2025 LACA October Featured Artist,
2025 Outside/Myself ART 392 Curatorial exhibit
2025 494 x Art of Now Gallery Fashion Show

Internship

MACV Studio Arts Fellowship 2024
Fiber arts assistant to Katya Grokhovsky 2025
Teaching Assistant, Art 348 The Body Adorned: Constructed Identity course 2024-2026

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

This year I was able to have a completely self-curated art show at Roastery's coffee in Grand Rapids, Michigan. These last couple years, I've had a lot of opportunities to showcase my art, fashion, design, and music.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

The 494x Art of now fashion show I had the opportunity to showcase 5 different looks designed and created by myself. It was incredible to see my designs on other people and get to model one myself.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to take a year to travel to further pursue rock climbing and fashion design outside of a school setting. I'm going to apply to art residency programs to continue working on my Metal smithing. I'm very interested in grad school for metals or fashion design.



Layne Weatherwax

Major: *Philosophy*

Minor: *Ethics, Culture, & Society, History*

Research

Philosophy Capstone: "Masculinity Under Fire: The Gender of School Shootings" Faculty Advisor: David Vessey
Student Scholars Day 2026: "A Woman's Place in (West Michigan) Law" with Liam Magin, Hope DuBois, Grace Sullivan, Adam Walsworth. Faculty Advisor: Nora Salas

Leadership Activities

Philosophy Club Membership Officer - 2022-2025
Philosophy Club Vice President - Fall 2025
Philosophy Club President - Winter 2026
Minorities In Philosophy Club President - 2023-2025
Honors College Teaching Assistant - Winter 2026

Activities/Awards

Philosophy Club
Minorities in Philosophy Club
GVSU Law Society
Dean's List Every Semester
Phi Alpha Theta - History Honor's Society
Cum Laude
Honors College Teaching Assistant

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I was able to grow the philosophy club membership by double its numbers from the beginning of the semester to create a lasting club.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

I have met some lifelong friends through the philosophy department that I will always have been grateful to have met.

Plans after Graduation

I will be taking a gap year to study for the LSAT and put together applications for Law School.



Adam Weber

Major: *Radiation Therapy*

Research

Created an audio podcast with a traveling radiation therapist to discuss modern radiation cancer treatments and advancements.

Leadership Activities

Preceptor as a behavioral health technician at a previous employment.

Activities/Awards

Volunteered at the University of Michigan Health-West in the surgical prep and recovery department. Was recognized for completing over 150 hours of service.

Internship

Completed student internships for radiation therapy at West Michigan Cancer Center in Kalamazoo, University of Michigan Health-West Cancer Center in Wyoming, and Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital in St. Joseph.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Partaking in my student internships while meeting and getting to know many patients over the past year.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being enrolled in GVSU's radiation therapy program and completing it with my peers.

Plans after Graduation

Taking the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists examination to become a certified radiation therapist. I will be working as a radiation therapist at both Lemmen Holton Cancer Pavilion and West Michigan Cancer Center.



Anna Whipple

Major: *Nursing*

Research

Presented findings from a literature review on the topic of waterbirth outcomes and nursing implications.

Leadership Activities

Member of the Campus Ministry student leadership team for three years.

Activities/Awards

Earned the Excellence-in-a-Discipline Award in the Honors College.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout my college career.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

I have lots of great memories and valuable friendships from my time in Campus Ministry!

Plans after Graduation

I plan to work as a nurse here in Grand Rapids after graduation.



Sophie Wildemann

Major: *Biochemistry*

Research

I was able to present my research on a μ -lactamase variant (ADC-172) involved in antibiotic resistance as a poster at three conferences. Two were regional: The Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference (Sept 2025) and CASE VA CARES (Nov 2025), and one was national: the ASBMB conference (Mar 2026).

Leadership Activities

I was involved in leadership on the Chemistry Club (2023-present), the Honors Student Council (2024-2025), and the Rifle & Pistol Club (2023-2024).

Activities/Awards

Honorable Mention Poster Award at the Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference

Royal Society of Chemistry - Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence Award

ACS Outstanding Achievement in Organic Chemistry Award

Deans list every semester

Internship

I pursued a summer internship with Dr. Wallar where I worked on Acinetobacter-derived cephalosporinase, variant number 172 (ADC-172 for short). I worked on purifying and characterizing this enzyme through kinetic analyses and solved a crystal structure to discover why ADC-172 exhibits increased resistance to antibiotics.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment is finishing up my undergraduate degree in three years while actively pursuing a research project where I got to work on a protein all the way from the prep to determining the interactions it can make at the molecular level by solving and analyzing a crystal structure.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

As part of my research project, my lab got to travel down to Argonne National Laboratory and use their Advanced Photon Source facility to collect diffraction data of our crystals, which was one of my favorite memories from this summer with my lab mates and mentor!

Plans after Graduation

I plan to attend The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for graduate studies in their Molecular and Cellular Biology PhD program!



Isabelle Williams

Major: *Sociology, Criminal Justice*

Research

Research on retail fraud and its socio-economic consequences and prevention/detection strategies.

Leadership Activities

Vice President of Sociology Club

Activities/Awards

Undergraduate Student Excellence Award in Criminal Justice

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being able to travel to the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference twice as part of the Criminal Justice Honor Society

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Winning the Undergraduate Student Excellence Award in Criminal Justice

Plans after Graduation

I am becoming a correctional officer at a county jail



Brenna Williams

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Research

Research on caregiver burnout and the psychological, physical, and emotional consequences associated with burnout as well as exploration of evidence-based interventions to promote resilience and sustainable caregiving practices.

Leadership Activities

Vice President of Recruitment - Alpha Sigma Tau sorority
Director of New Member Education - Alpha Sigma Tau sorority

Activities/Awards

Alpha Sigma Tau sorority
Alzheimers Awareness Club
I am Grand Valley: Winter 2024

Internship

CNA at Resthaven Care Center

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment was serving in the Vice President of Growth position within my sorority where I directed recruitment initiatives and ensured member engagement. Through this position, I was able to give back to the organization that gave me so much, while contributing to its continued development.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Serving on the executive board of my sorority was a meaningful experience during my time at GSVU. It challenged me to grow beyond my comfort zone and lead with intention. From managing recruitment to supporting the members of my chapter, I learned what it takes to be a strong leader.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I intend to continue my academic journey in an accelerated BSN program and eventually obtain my DNP.



Hannah Wilson

Major: *Psychology*

Minor: *Early Childhood Education*

Leadership Activities

Mentor Residential Assistant

Teaching Assistant for Honors College

E-Board for University Christian Outreach

Lead Navigator for the Division of K-12 Education Innovation and Scholar Success

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Getting accepted into the graduate assistant role at the Division of K-12 Education Innovation and Scholar Success.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Being a Resident Assistant for 2 years on campus as a resource for others.

Plans after Graduation

I will be attending GVSU's Master of Social Work program in the fall while also working as the graduate assistant for DEISS.



Paige Winkler

Major: *Psychology*

Minor: *Human Rights*

Research

Researched the factors that influence a child's engagement during lessons and stress and campus resource information interactions for student mental health help-seeking likelihood

Leadership Activities

Led Winter Guard as President and Secretary; Treasurer for Winter Guard (3 yrs), Laker Marching Band (1 yr), and Kappa Kappa Psi (2 yrs); Social Events Chair and Section Leader (3 yrs) for Laker Marching Band; Public Relations for Kappa Kappa Psi.

Activities/Awards

Laker Marching Band
Winter Guard
Kappa Kappa Psi
K-pop Group Evolution

Study Abroad

Ireland: Peace, Conflict, and Resolution

Internship

Crisis Text Line

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Graduating with a Psychology degree while meeting some amazing people during my time is my proudest achievement. College introduced me to incredible people who enriched my journey and have helped me throughout my undergraduate. I'm very proud of the experiences I have gained.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

I think my most memorable experience was my time in Winter Guard, where I built close friendships while working together to create a new show each year. The teamwork and shared passion made it truly unforgettable.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to return to GV for a Master's in Social Work, work as a mental health counselor, and then later pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology



Callie Wynne

Major: *Film & Video*

Leadership Activities

President of women in cinema 25-26

Study Abroad

Ireland - Summer 2025

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

All of the films I have got to work on, and how much I've grown from that.

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Getting to study abroad

Plans after Graduation

Move back to the east side of the state and start working on sets



Elizabeth Yamine

Major: *Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences*

Research

I was a research assistant in Dr. Brad Wallar's lab where I conducted research on Class B and C²-lactamase variants involved in antibiotic resistance.

Leadership Activities

GVSU Alternative Breaks Executive Board
FMHC Mentor

Activities/Awards

Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference Best Poster Award 2025
BMS Graduate of Distinction
Robert and Ellen Thompson Scholarship

Study Abroad

Tanzania Teaching Study Abroad 2024

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Fostering the amazing friendships I have made at GV

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

Furthering my education in a subject I find so fascinating

Plans after Graduation

Take time away from school before going to PA school to become a physician assistant



Ethan Zaborowski

Major: *Finance*

Leadership Activities

Housing Manager for Alpha Tau Omega

Activities/Awards

Member of Alpha Tau Omega

Member of Siedman Sustainability Association

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

How many connections I have made

Most Significant or Memorable Experience

My time at my fraternity and the friends/connections I have made

Plans after Graduation

Work in the finance industry

Obtain my CFP