

BMS Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Program provides a venue for departments to invite outstanding alumni of their undergraduate programs back to campus to share their post-graduation experiences with the GVSU community. Through the program, our distinguished alumni have the opportunity to share their insights about what constitutes strong academic preparation for students.



* indicates GVSU degree

2016 – Ebony Parker-Featherstone, M.D.

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (2002)**

M.D. in Family Medicine (2013)

Dr. Ebony Parker-Featherstone is a 2002 graduate of Grand Valley State University where she earned cum laude honors. She went on to earn her medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 2006, and she completed her residency training with the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Michigan Health System in 2009. Ebony completed a women's health fellowship with the University of Michigan, Department of Obstetrics in 2010. Her research interests are in adolescent health and family planning, and she has published multiple research papers in this area.



Ebony is the current medical director at Briarwood Family Medicine, where she provides the full spectrum of family medicine including prenatal and obstetric care. She also has joint appointments with the Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan as a clinical assistant professor. She now lives in Ann Arbor with her husband, Freddie Featherstone (GVSU class of 2001), and their two children Aiden and Addisyn.

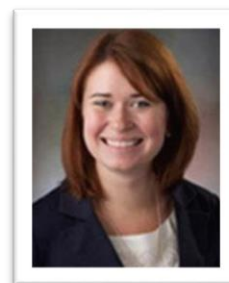
2015 – Michelle LeMieux, D.O.

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences & Classics (2009)**

D.O. in Osteopathic Medicine (2013)

A 2009 GVSU Honors graduate from Brighton, Michigan, Dr. Michelle LeMieux received the B.S. in Biomedical Sciences with a double major in Classics, concentrating on the Classical Tradition—a background that she put to good use while studying at John Cabot University in Rome and completing her Honors Senior Project on Virgil's *Aeneid*. Michelle matriculated at Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and earned the Doctor of

Osteopathic Medicine degree in 2013. She is now Chief Resident in the Integrated Family Practice and Neuromusculoskeletal Residency Program at the Botsford Hospital campus of Beaumont Health in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She anticipates graduation in 2017. Michelle is actively participating in two research projects. The first is investigating an association between cardiac stress test results and Chapman's reflex points—a system of fascial tissue texture abnormalities hypothesized to be reflections of internal dysfunctions or pathologies. The other is seeking to demonstrate a new theory for the mechanism behind a specific osteopathic diagnosis, called an upslipped innominate. Michelle is also working on quality improvement initiatives in her family practice office. Navigating the demanding curricula in Biomedical Sciences, Classics, and Honors while studying abroad (and graduating in four years!) was a challenge that reflects Michelle's commitment to developing herself as a whole, well-rounded person. Similarly, her work in osteopathic medicine approaches medicine in a holistic way, focusing on the whole body and working in partnership with her patients.



2015 – James Rook, D.O.

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1999)**

M.P.H. in International Health (2001)

D.O. in Osteopathic Medicine (2006)

After Dr. Jim Rook, or Jay as he prefers, earned his degree from GVSU, he eagerly departed to balmy southern California where he completed a Master of Public Health in International Health at Loma Linda University and then went on to earn his medical degree from Western University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine. The medical school granted him a one-year sabbatical, which he spent as interim program director for a local non-profit organization with faith-based ties. While there, he became, and continues to be, a board member for another local NPO called Gang Reduction Intervention Team (GRIT) that endeavors to help young at-risk men and women avoid gang affiliation and incarceration. In medical school and subsequently in his residency training, Jay actively collaborated in basic science and clinical research—an ongoing passion fostered originally at GVSU by [John Capodilupo](#). Jay has been a primary and/or co-author on multiple peer-reviewed publications in the fields of pediatrics, hematology/oncology, neurology, emergency medicine and perioperative medicine/anesthesiology. He has also proudly served on the GVSU CLAS Alumni board since 2008. Jay practices Emergency Medicine at the Jerry L Pettis VA Hospital in southern California. He is married to a beautiful Rheumatologist whom he met in residency. Together they are raising his two children, Madison (14) and Owen (11). He aspires to be an



author—with two books in various stages but he really longs to play soccer for a living and ride his mountain bike endlessly in Colorado and Utah.

2012 – Robert R. Burke, M.D.

*B.S. in Biomedical Science (1996)**

M.D. in Internal Medicine (2000)

M.S. in Public Health (2007)

Dr. Robert Burke earned his B.S. degree in Biomedical Sciences from GVSU in 1996. While at GVSU he did microbial research for 2 years in the lab of [Anthony Nieuwkoop](#). In the winter of 1996, he spent a semester abroad at Kingston University in London. Upon graduation he began his medical training at Wayne State University completing his M.D. degree in 2000. From there he completed his post-graduate residency training in Internal Medicine (2000-2003), Chief Medical Resident (2003-2004), and his Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship (2004-2007) at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, while earning a MS degree in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. From 2007 to 2011, Rob was a Senior Staff Physician at Henry Ford Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine. During this period he focused his care on critically ill ICU patients and patients with advanced Sarcoidosis. He has published in and spoken nationally on the management, vitamin D metabolism, regulatory t-cell activity, and pulmonary function testing of patients with Sarcoidosis. Since 2011 Rob has entered into private practice and is currently a Pulmonary /Critical Care Physician within the Pulmonary Medical Associates group in Warren, Michigan. He is the Director of Respiratory Care Services St. Johns-Macomb Hospital and Medical Director of the Macomb Community College Respiratory Therapy Program.

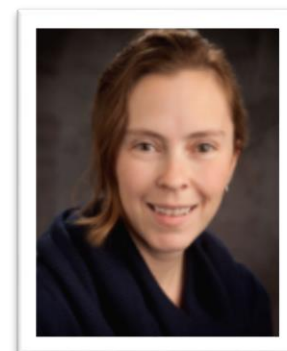


2010 - Sarah C. (Hull) Mulder, M.D.

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (2000)**

M.D. in Human Medicine (2004)

Dr. Sarah Mulder graduated from the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in 2004 and completed her residency training at Cleveland Clinic in 2007. She works in Traverse City, MI and specializes in Pediatrics. Dr. Mulder is affiliated with Munson Medical Center. She has a special interest in rural medicine as well as breastfeeding and the care of infants, autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, depression, and adolescent medicine including gynecology. Outside of medicine Dr. Mulder enjoys running, gardening, reading, and her two children Adeline and Elliott. She and her husband Joel have an organic farm outside of Traverse City.



2008 - Heather Fox

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1984)**

*B.S. in English (1984)**

M.S. in Organizational Development

Heather's career has encompassed twenty-three years of user-centered process design, usability/human factors, consulting, and organizational development experience in the high-tech and chemical/life sciences industries. In all her experience to date, she has focused on how people engage effectively—with other people, with programs, with systems, with applications, with experiences of all sorts—and she has singularly focused on the design of these engagements to meet specific business objectives while never losing sight of how people individually and collectively want/need/expect to interact with the situation/people/systems in question. At a leadership level, Heather has directed two Internet start-ups (one within a Fortune 500 company, the other a dot com organization) and most recently has designed, launched, and led an IT strategy consulting start-up.

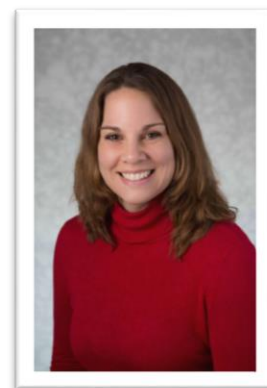
2007 - Shannon Biros, Ph.D.

*B.A. in Chemistry (2001)**

*B.S. in Biomedical Science (2001)**

Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry

Dr. Shannon Biros earned her B.A. and B.S. degrees from GVSU in 2001 as a dual major in Chemistry and Biomedical Sciences. During that time she distinguished herself as an excellent student, earning the Chemistry Department's Outstanding Junior and Senior awards. While an undergraduate, she spent one summer in an internship at Trace Analytical Labs in Muskegon and another summer as an NSF/REU scholar at Columbia University. After graduating from GVSU, she went to graduate school at The Scripps Research Institute, earning a Ph.D. in 2006 working with Dr. Julius Rebek on the design and synthesis of alpha-helix peptidomimetics. She then went to The University of California at Berkeley to do post-doctoral research working with Dr. Kenneth Raymond on supramolecular metal-ligand clusters. She has now returned to GVSU to pursue her interest in undergraduate teaching as a Assistant Professor in the Chemistry Department.



2005 – Nicolette Baumgartner, M.D.

*B.S. in Biomedical Science (1983)**

M.A in Exercise Physiology

M.D. in Pediatrics

After graduating with a BS from Grand Valley, Dr. Nicolette Baumgartner went on to MSU for graduate school and completed her M.A. in Exercise Physiology. She then returned to Grand Valley as an adjunct instructor in 1985 teaching Human Anatomy and Physiology for the next five years. In 1990, she returned to MSU to pursue a medical degree. Once completed, she accepted a position in Kalamazoo, Michigan where she is currently full partner in a large pediatric group and serves on the Board of Directors for ProMed Health Care.



2004 – Deb (Joseph) Dell, D.O.

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1985)**

D.O. in Osteopathic Medicine

Following graduation from GVSU in 1985 with a BS in Biomedical Sciences, Dr. Deb Dell earned her D.O. at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and performed her 3-year Family Medicine residence at Metropolitan Hospital. She was the first family physician employed by Blodgett Hospital in Family Practice Clinic System, where she assisted in the design of the first clinic and composition of the first practice guidelines for these clinics. Deb worked in the ER of Zeeland Hospital until 1996, when she decided to try country medicine. She was the town doctor in Nashville, MI from 1996 until 2002. Deb started her own practice, Dell Family Medicine, in Battle Creek in June of 2002.

2003 – Kristofer Cooper, P.T.

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1997)**

*M.S. in Physical Therapy (1999)**

When Kris Cooper completed his B.S. in Biomedical Health Sciences at GVSU in 1997, he was recognized as the "Outstanding Graduate" in Health Sciences. He then continued his education at GVSU, earning his M.S. in Physical Therapy in 1999. Following graduation, he was employed with HealthSouth in the Chicago area and later assigned to Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Kris completed the rigorous requirements of the American Physical Therapy Association to become a Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedics in 2001; he also earned a certificate of competency in Vestibular Rehabilitation from Emory University in 2002. His practice and teaching interests center around mechanical diagnosis and interventions for lumbar spine problems. Kris was the keynote speaker for the Illinois Physical Therapy Association Student Conclave in February 2003. His enthusiasm, competence, and passion for teaching and learning made him the PT faculty choice for 2003 Alumni-in-Residence recognition.

2003 – David Harris, P.T.

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1983)**

*M.S. in Physical Therapy (1985)**

David Harris began his student career at GVSU thinking that he wanted to play football and study to be a physician. So he did both . . . he majored in Biomedical Sciences and played on the football team. However, his career path changed after he volunteered in the physical therapy department at Detroit's Rehabilitation Institute. When GVSU began its new M.S. program in Physical Therapy in 1983, David was admitted to the pioneer class. After completing his M.S. in Physical Therapy degree in 1985, David returned to the Detroit area, where he began working in sports medicine at Harper Hospital. From there he moved into private practice at Dwight Orthopedic, where he is currently the clinical director of the company's northeast Detroit facility.



2002 – Rick Williams

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1998)**

Following his graduation from Grand Valley in 1998, Rick worked as a researcher in the field of computer simulation. His NIH and NSF funded research projects included cardiac balloon angioplasty, surgical approach planning for aneurism and tumor removal, development of decision-making procedures for cardiologists and neurosurgeons, and optimizing craniotomy planning in neurosurgical procedures. He was also part of a private R&D firm working to commercialize intellectual property developed by faculty of Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Singapore. Rick is currently a law student at Detroit College of Law; he intends to practice in Grand Rapids while continuing his study of Business and Non-profit Administration. He is also quite active in philanthropic organizations.

2001 – Stephen Mills, P.A.

*B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1983)**

*M.H.S. in Biomedical Sciences (1985)**

P.A. in Medicine (1997)

As his masters project at Grand Valley, Mr. Mills produced a series of basic first aid and home health care videos which were used to educate Togolese natives. Mr. Mills and his wife have been medical missionaries in Togo, West Africa, since July, 1989, working through the Baptists for World Evangelism organization. Since completing his physician assistant training in 1997,

Mr. Mills has been involved in all aspects of medical treatment typically provided by physicians in Togo. He and his family are currently on a one-year furlough, living in Grand Haven.