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## Former BMS Student Named One of *Forbes* “30 Under 30” in Science Category

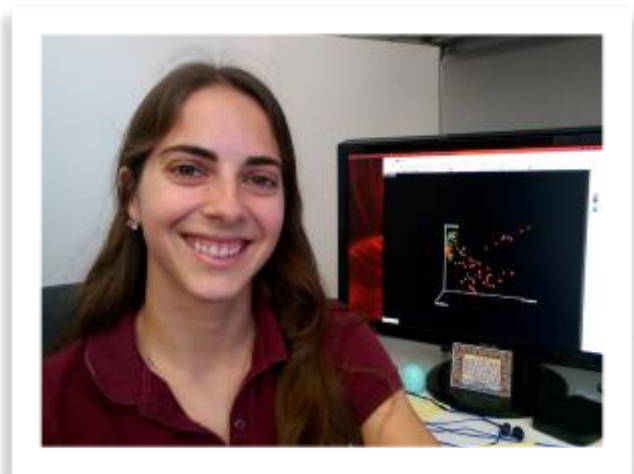
Former **Biomedical Sciences** student **Embriette Hyde** was recently selected as one of *Forbes* “30 Under 30” in the publication’s science category. “30 Under 30” is annual list compiled by *Forbes* of “America’s most important young entrepreneurs, creative leaders and brightest stars.”

Hyde graduated from GVSU in 2010 with a double major in Biomedical Sciences with a microbiology emphasis, and Spanish. Raised in Wayland, Hyde says that she knew she wanted to pursue a PhD even in elementary school—with an interest in trying to find out why yawns are contagious. But it wasn’t until her work in the Biomedical Sciences Department and her work with [Martin Burg](#), BMS Professor, that Hyde found her love for combining genetics and microbiology.

While at Grand Valley, Hyde was a participant in the [Student Summer Scholars Program](#) where she worked under Dr. Martin Burg to create a presentation titled, “Identification of the role that the 3’UTR plays in regulation of Hdc expression in *Drosophila*.” She also was able to present her research at the 51st Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference in Washington DC.

After graduating from GVSU, Hyde went on to get her PhD at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and did postdoctoral research in the laboratory of microbiome researcher Dr. Rob Knight. From there, Hyde moved on to become Project Manager for the American Gut Project—the largest crowd-sourced citizen science project in existence.

To see the complete list of *Forbes* “30 Under 30” visit [the Forbes website](#). To find out more about Embriette Hyde and her research, visit her site at [www.drhydenotjeckyll.com](http://www.drhydenotjeckyll.com).



Embriette Hyde was recently selected as one of *Forbes* “30 Under 30” for her microbiome research.

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## Cara Ocobock Receives Women's Community Impact Award

[Cara Ocobock](#), Assistant Professor, was awarded the Women's Commission Women's Community Impact Award at the Celebrating Women Awards Ceremony held at Grand Valley on March 29.

The award honors employees that make outstanding contributions for the advancement of women within the GVSU community. Award winners often advocate for gender equality beyond their job responsibilities, commit to improving the lives of women within the community, act as inspiration and a source of empowerment as a mentor or friend, and demonstrate positive contributions to the lives of women.

You can learn more about the Women's Commission and the Women's Community Impact Award on the web at [www.gvsu.edu/wcommission](http://www.gvsu.edu/wcommission).



Cara Ocobock award Women's Community Impact Award.

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## Justin Tran Named Outstanding BMS Graduate Student

The Biomedical Sciences Department is pleased to announce that **Justin Tran** was named Outstanding BMS Graduate Student at the 2016 Graduate Showcase. Congratulations Justin! Justin worked in the lab of [Dr. Dan Bergman](#) and his thesis work was entitled 'Categorization of Food Value via Crayfish Aggression.'



Justin Tran receives the award for Outstanding BMS Graduate Student from Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of the Graduate School.

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## Cyndie Thompson Interview on WGVU News

As part of WGVU's ongoing series on what is happening inside Grand Valley, [Cynthia Thompson](#), Assistant Professor, represented the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in a recent radio interview for WGVU News. During the interview, **Thompson** discussed teaching

in the **Biomedical Sciences Department** and her research with primates with host **Shelly Irwin**. You can hear full the full interview online at [wgvunews.org](http://wgvunews.org).

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## **BMS Faculty Published Research**

Three BMS faculty have recently published research in various journals.

[Christopher Pearl](#), Assistant Professor, recently published an article in [Parasitology Research](#) with a group of collaborators that argues that body condition is a more important predictor of immunity and worm burden in *Eptesicus fuscus*—big brown bats—than host sex.

[Carmen Nochera](#), Professor, published an article in *Foods*. The article, titled “[Preparation of a Breadfruit Flour Bar](#),” examines the use of breadfruit in the creation of an appealing and inexpensive food bar that is gluten-free and comes from locally available food sources within Micronesia.

[Melissa Tallman](#), Assistant Professor, had an article published in the journal *PLoS One* entitled, “[Shape Ontogeny in the Distal Femur in the Hominidae with Implications for the Evolution of Bipedality](#).” She also had an article published in the [American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics](#), where she and a group of collaborators examined a tool for 3-dimensional evaluation of the temporomandibular joint.

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## **Pre-Professional Council’s Bean Bag Toss Charity Tournament**

The Pre-Professional Council hosted a successful bean bag toss tournament to raise money for the American Cancer Society event on March 14. The inaugural event paired one faculty member with one pre-professional student to create teams that played and competed for their chance at bean-bag-toss glory.

GVSU’s Pre-Professional Council is a student organization consisting of students from all pre-professional groups across campus including the Pre-Dental Club, Pre-Med Club, Pre-MD/PhD Club, Pre-Pharmacy Club, and more. Their mission is to drive collaboration between member organizations to come together to support great causes and a strong community.



**BMS faculty, Tony Nieuwkoop and Aaron Baxter, along with students participating in the tournament.**

Thanks to all BMS faculty and students who participated in this event. Re-match next year?

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### 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Science Olympiad

Over 1,500 local students took part in [GVSU's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Science Olympiad](#) on March 19 coming from 45 middle schools and 25 high schools from all across West Michigan. Students took place in events that highlighted their knowledge across the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields in a variety of contests.

Science Olympiad is an organization devoted to improving the quality of science education and to increasing student interest in the field. It also seeks to recognize teachers and students for outstanding achievements in science and science education.

The middle school event, “Anatomy and Physiology”, was a large success, with 34 different schools participating in the event. Several of the volunteers for the event were from the BMS department including:

- [Mary Fournier](#), Visiting Professor—event co-supervisor
- [Dawn Richiert](#), Associate Professor—event co-supervisor
- [John Capodilupo](#), Professor—event co-supervisor
- [David Linn](#), Associate Professor—scorer
- [Michelle Dawes](#), Visiting Professor—scorer
- [Samantha Mackey](#), Part-Time Faculty—scorer

In addition, [Cara Ocobock](#), Assistant Professor, and [Cynthia Thompson](#), Assistant Professor, were responsible for organizing the Anatomy and Physiology event for high school students.

Thanks to all our faculty and staff volunteers who helped the event run smoothly. As well as the parent and student volunteers who participated.

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### BMS Faculty Spotlight: Carmen Nochera

Before coming to GVSU's **Biomedical Sciences Department**, [Carmen Nochera](#), Professor, received a B.A. in Biological Sciences, a M.A. in Science Education, and a Ph.D. in Food Science and Nutrition. Also a Registered Dietitian, **Nochera's** primary field is nutrition, where she researches food product development. One of her current research interests involves breadfruit, a carbohydrate-rich fruit that is found abundantly in tropical regions. **Nochera** is interested in developing alternative and functional food products that not only make use of the fruit but also provide economic and agricultural opportunities for areas where the fruit grows.



Outside of her research in the department, **Nochera's** favorite course to teach is the introductory nutrition course BMS 105, which allows her both the opportunity to guide students and to see students go on to have a productive future. As an instructor she enjoys the chance to work with and mentor students as they move through GVSU. One piece of guidance she has for students—regardless of major or emphasis—is to “take full advantage of opportunities offered at GVSU.”

When not at GVSU, you can find **Nochera** volunteering with local health care providers and exploring the Lake Michigan shoreline.

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## mLive Article on Previous BMS Faculty Member's Research into Alzheimer's Disease

**Michael Fossel**, former lecturer in the **Biomedical Sciences Department**, was the subject of a recent mLive article.

**Fossel**, a former emergency room physician at Mercy Health St Mary's, is the co-founder of Telocyte, a bio-tech company that he started from his 180-year-old farmhouse near Ada. His goal with the company is to develop a cure for Alzheimer's Disease. “It looks like we can finally begin to address age-related diseases and do something about them,” he says in the article. “I think what we can do is finally show it's not a matter of perhaps slowing and treating the symptoms, but we can do something to reverse the problems of Alzheimer's Disease.”



**Michael Fossel has gained recent attention for his Alzheimer's research.**

Photo: Mitch Ranger Photography

Telocyte is currently in the process of raising money to help support research into an approach that will not just modify the course of the disease, but instead will target the cells that trigger the disease directly. It is also raising money to fund drug trials and to get permission from the FDA for human trials.

You can read the full article online at [mLive.com](http://mLive.com) as well as see a short interview. You can also explore **Fossel's** research further in his recently released book, [The Telomerase Revolution](#), which was named one of 2015's five best books for science lovers by [The Wall Street Journal](#).

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## Former and Current Student News

- **Shelby Owens** was accepted into medical school at Michigan State University
- **Veena Janardan** was accepted into the University of Michigan medical school
- **Kate Page**, recent graduate student, was featured on [Women of STEM](#)

- **Lisa S. Middleton** teaches in the Biology Department at Eastern Kentucky University
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### **Interesting and Significant Items to Share**

The [BMS Department](#) would love to hear what you have been doing since leaving **Grand Valley** (i.e. internships, professional school matriculation, employment, etc...). Please send us your news, announcements, and photos to [biomeddept@gvsu.edu](mailto:biomeddept@gvsu.edu) or share on social media at our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) pages. You can also send [Dr. Dan Bergman](#), Chair and Associate Professor, a message at [mbergmand@gvsu.edu](mailto:mbergmand@gvsu.edu).

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