

2023 Awards Celebration



Welcome

Dan Bergman, Chair,
Biomedical Sciences Department

Awards

Biomedical Sciences Excellence in a Discipline - Undergraduate

Evan Sidebotham

Microbiology Excellence in a Discipline - Undergraduate

Brandon Tower

Biomedical Sciences Excellence in a Discipline - Graduate

Trent Dalm

Steve Hecht Memorial Scholarship

Trey Heliin

Duke Tanaka Jr. Anatomy Scholarship

Garrett Falk and Sydney Payne

Ilene I. Schooley Biomedical Sciences Scholarship

Jared Bengston

Biomedical Sciences Graduates of Distinction

Sydney Addington	Mark Miller
Delaney Andridge	Ava Miller
Kassandra Baker	Kaylynn Moschke
Jefferson Cano	Aaron Norfleet
Catherine Darr	Madilynn Olenick
Marguerite Degen	Elettra Rizzo
Patrick Ervin	Michelle Shane
Judith Essemiah	Emily Sherry
Jacob Fischer	Natalie Shifferd
Miguel Gutierrez	Evan Sidebotham
Abigail Hunt	Derek Tonello
Madeline Johnson	Brandon Tower
Justin Lilley	

Closing Remarks

Cynthia Thompson,
Chair BMS Awards and Scholarships Committee

Acknowledgements

Dan Bergman, Jennifer Drake, Sheri Greene and Katie Haynes
Faculty for their nominations, support of students, and participation
BMS Awards and Scholarship Committee:
Brian Kipp, Carmen Nochera and Eric Ramsson

Biomedical Sciences Excellence in a Discipline - Undergraduate 2023 Awardee:

Evan Sidebotham

Major: Biomedical Sciences

Awards/Scholarships: General Chemistry Award, Dean's list (x4), Thompson Scholar, Graduate of Distinction, Excellence in a Discipline, Perry BS Core Scholarship, GV Pathway Scholarship, Samuel Mckeown Scholarship, HPS Woody Wyngarden Scholarship, Thomas Hamilton Scholarship, TK Teacher Nominated Scholarship, Community West Vern Hyde Scholarship



Research: Candida albicans fungus commonly infects IVs and catheters which can lead to life threatening sepsis. During space flight the expression of certain genes is altered making the microbe more pathogenic. Through the NASA Michigan Space Grant, along with Dr. Cleary and Dr. Thomas, I explored these genes to better understand the proteins whose expression was being altered and their functions within the cells.

Clinical Experience: Since the summer of 2021, I have worked as an EMT and first responder for the Village of Middleville. This experience shaped my desire to pursue an M.D. and is one of the many reasons I hope to someday return to my community.

Service: I tutored and mentored mainly first and second generation African immigrant children in the Grand Rapids area, participated in a Louisiana hurricane relief cleanup, and do yearly caroling with the Middleville fire and emergency services department to raise money for families in need.

Future Plans: I will be attending MSU's M.D. program with the plan to specialize in Emergency Medicine.

Microbiology Excellence in a Discipline - Undergraduate 2023 Awardee:

Brandon Tower

Major: Microbiology

Minor: Chemistry

Awards/Scholarships: Grand Valley Award for Excellence, GVSU Organic Chemistry Student Award, Grand Finish Grant, Dean's List

Research: I had the opportunity to conduct research in Dr. Baxter's laboratory. While under his guidance, I investigated the effects of genetic mutations on bio-film formation in Salmonella enterica.

Service: I volunteered for the Region 12 Science Olympiad Tournament hosted by GVSU and for a food drive in my hometown for families in need during the beginning of the COVID pandemic. While at GVSU, I was also a Teaching Assistant for laboratories in genetics, human anatomy, and microbiology.

Future Plans: In the Fall of 2023 I will be attending George Washington University to pursue a Master's degree in Public Health. I will be focusing on infectious disease epidemiology, and one day I hope to work for the CDC. I also plan to study HIV and its effects on populations.



Biomedical Sciences Excellence in a Discipline - Graduate 2023 Awardee:

Trent Dalm



Majors: Biomedical Sciences (M.H.S.) Biomedical Sciences (B.S.)

Minor: Spanish

Awards/Scholarships: Graduate Excellence in a Discipline from the BMS department, GVSU Laker Marching Band Director's Award (2019)

Research: My thesis research investigates the effects of endocrine disruptors and phytoestrogens on the male reproductive tract and male infertility. This work was done in Dr. Christopher Pearl's lab whose research focuses on better understanding male fertility and hormone signaling in the male reproductive tract.

Future Plans: I plan to further my education and attend a PhD program in physiology or chemical and physical biology. After completing my PhD, my goal is to continue in academia as a full-time professor.

Steve Hecht Memorial Scholarship 2023 Awardee:

Trey Heliin



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Chemistry

Awards/Scholarships: Grand Valley Award For Excellence, GVSU Organic Chemistry Award, Grand Finish Grant, Dean's List

Clinical Experience: I had the opportunity to shadow two primary care physicians at Roscommon Community Health Center. I have also worked as a Direct Care Worker at Green Acres of Allendale, an assisted living facility.

Service: I volunteered at Feeding America West Michigan, a food bank in Comstock Park, MI. I also served at the Elk's Lodge of Grand Rapids. At GVSU, I volunteered with the K12 Connect Program as a tutor and mentor. I also served as the president and treasurer of GVSU's Pre-SOMA club.

Future Plans: I plan to become a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine so I can incorporate osteopathic manipulative treatment into my practice.

Duke Tanaka Jr. Anatomy Scholarship 2023 Awardee:

Garrett Falk



Major: Clinical Exercise Science

Awards/Scholarships: Exercise Science Excellence in Discipline Award, Movement Science Student Excellence Scholarship, Duke Tanaka Jr Anatomy Scholarship, Thompson Working Family Scholarship.

Research: I assisted in researching the effects of sedentary behavior on blood flow in the lower leg within the Sit Less and Move More (SLAMM) Lab led by Dr. Nicholas Lerma. The goal of the research is to determine alternative methods to break up and negate the effects of sedentary behavior.

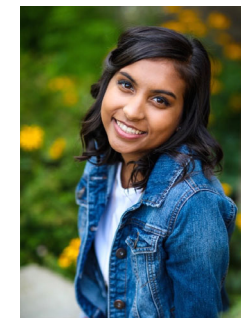
Clinical Experience: I have worked as a certified nursing assistant at two skilled nursing facilities for over a year. Additionally, I job shadowed physician assistants in a variety of specialties including surgery, emergency medicine, cardiology, primary care, urgent care, and more.

Service: I have volunteered for Charlotte Police Department's "Stuff a Cop Car" to collect donations for local food banks, and for the Charlotte Area Recycling Authority, Kentwood's Refugee Education Center, SHE RUNS Grand Rapids, and Kids' Food Basket. I have also served on three mission trips to help refugees and individuals living in impoverished communities in Kentucky.

Future Plans: I have been accepted and will attend Grand Valley's Physician Assistant Program.

Duke Tanaka Jr. Anatomy Scholarship 2023 Awardee:

Sydney Payne



Major: Psychology

Minor: Adult and Aging Life

Awards/Scholarships: Duke Tanaka Jr. Anatomy Scholarship

Clinical Experience: I started my clinical experience at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation hospital as a student volunteer and shadowed various pediatric occupational therapists. I also worked in a nursing home as a hospitality aide where I learned from various geriatric health professionals.

Service: I volunteered at Grand Valley State University's Shape camp where I demonstrated to school aged children the use of adaptive devices such as sock aides, button aides, and dressing rods. I also volunteered at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation hospital for three semesters cleaning rehabilitation equipment and assisting various health professionals. During the COVID era, I volunteered for K12 Connect and tutored elementary aged students via zoom.

Future Plans: I will be attending Western Michigan University's Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program starting this summer 2023.

Ilene I. Schooley Biomedical Sciences Scholarship 2023 Awardee:

Jared Bengston



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Awards/Scholarships: Ott-Stiner Endowed Fellowship in Chemistry and Natural Sciences, Student Summer Scholars Grant

Research: I have done research with genomic annotation of contig13 located in *Drosophila kikkawai*. I have also investigated ADC-73 which is the most prevalent ADC β -lactamase in *Acinetobacter baumannii*.

Clinical Experience: I am a licensed EMT-B and have worked as an ER Tech at Mercy Hospital Muskegon for the past four years

Service: High School Ministry Health Officer, Adult Special Needs Camp Health Officer, High School Adventure Camp Team Lead/ Wilderness First Responder/ EMT-B, and Middle School Adventure Camp Team Lead/ Wilderness First Responder/ EMT-B

Future Plans: After finishing out my years at GVSU, I plan to attend medical school.

Sydney Addington



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Awards/Scholarships: I have made the Dean's List every semester and was awarded the Laker Scholarship my freshman year.

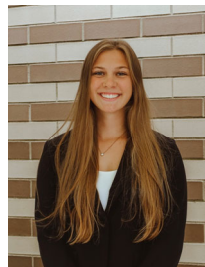
Research: I participated in research with Dr. Kristin Renkema. We worked with the company CellSonics developing protocols for their new machines. Also with Dr. Renkema, I participated in researching the effects of cancer on "clean" and "dirty" mice. I also participated in research with Karina White which included looking at invasive species in the Grand Ravines.

Clinical Experience: I worked as a Pharmacy Technician at Walgreens during my junior year. I recently applied for a Nurse Technician position at Corewell Health and I am hoping to start in early May.

Service: I currently volunteer at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), a nonprofit which inspires hope and healing for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. I also volunteer as a K-12 tutor through Grand Valley, specifically to help K-6th graders with reading and math.

Future Plans: I plan on applying to medical schools in the Spring of 2024 and hope to start in the Fall of 2025. During my gap year, I plan on volunteering around Grand Rapids and plan to gain more patient care hours. My overall goal is to become a pediatrician and practice in the state of Michigan.

Delaney Andridge



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: General Business

Awards/Scholarships: GV Award for Excellence, State Competitive Scholarship, Kulesza Family Pathway Scholarship, Malinoski Pre-Dental Scholarship, I Am Grand Valley Award, Grand Finish Grant, and Dean's List

Research: During my time at GV, I participated in microbiology research under Dr. Cleary focusing on regulating stress responses in *Candida albicans*. I worked on altering surface protein components and the contributions of different genes to the control of the yeast to hypha morphological transition. I monitored the effects of different adhesion proteins on yeast and hyphae formation through test prep tubes, biofilm density, and plate spotting.

Clinical Experience: I had the opportunity to be a sterilization technician and dental assistant at a general dentistry office during my first year of college. I have worked as a surgical assistant at an oral surgery office for the past three years. I also shadowed several dental doctors and residents at the University of Michigan hospital dentistry clinic.

Service: I volunteered at Holland Free Dental Clinic, John Ball Zoo, Haslett Community Church, the University of Michigan hospital and was part of the GV Pre-Dental Club. I also tutored fellow chemistry students and helped out at the CLAS Dean's Office as a front desk associate.

Future Plans: I will be attending The University of Michigan School of Dentistry this upcoming school year to obtain my Doctor of Dental Surgery degree.

Kassandra Baker



Majors: Biomedical Sciences, Studio Art

Awards/Scholarships: Award for Excellence Scholarship, GV Presidential Scholarship, Dean's List, I am GV award

Research: Under the supervision of microbiology faculty, I have been a part of *C. albicans* research during which we explored expression of hyphal proteins in *C. albicans* yeast cells. I also have been putting together my Honors research project on the importance of medical illustration, its history, and different visualization methods.

Service: I have volunteered extra hours to help complete cadaver dissections for future classroom use. I spent many hours in the microbiology research lab doing wet lab work. I also frequently volunteer to play my violin for church services.

Future Plans: I will be attending graduate school at the University of Illinois-Chicago for a master's degree in Biomedical Visualization.

Jefferson Cano



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Chemistry

Awards/Scholarships: Laker Connection Engagement Scholarship, MS3, Dean's List (5) and Frederik Meijer Honors College.

Research: I helped Dr. Liu research ERK1/2 proteins in a Hyperglycemic environment using the H9c2 rat cardiac cell line during the summer of 2022.

Clinical Experience: I've worked as a direct care worker at a living assisted facility for a year and a half. I'm currently working at Verdier Eye Center as an ophthalmic technician.

Service: I was a mentor for the WMU Healthcare Pipeline Program helping underrepresented high school students in the Grand Rapids Area. I was also an E-board member for the Latino Student Union at Grand Valley. I've participated in Laker Familia and LSU all four years.

Future Plans: I plan to attend medical school, keep on rock climbing, open up a business, and travel the world more often.

Catherine Darr



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Chemistry

Awards/Scholarships: GV Award for Excellence

Service: During 2022's winter semester I took on the role of laboratory assistant in microbiology, where I assisted in the running of microbiology laboratory courses and further honed my techniques within the lab through guiding fellow undergraduates.

Future Plans: Upon graduating I plan on finding experience within a clinical research setting where I can apply the skills I have cultivated over my four years attending GVSU. I also plan on applying to medical schools in hopes of pursuing a specialty in infectious disease.

Marguerite Degen



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Clinical Experience: I have worked on the Labor and Delivery Unit at Butterworth Hospital for three years as a nursing technician.

Service: During my four years at Grand Valley I have had the amazing opportunity to volunteer as a Young Life leader at Allendale High School. Young Life is a relationship based ministry for local students.

Future Plans: I am currently in the application cycle for admission to osteopathic medical school. I hope to pursue a career as a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).

Patrick Ervin



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Awards/Scholarships: GVSU Award for Excellence, GVSU Presidential Scholarship, Fr. Robert G. Navarre Scholarship

Clinical Experience: I have worked in downtown Grand Rapids as a medical scribe at Butterworth and Helen Devos for the past year and a half. I was also a phlebotomist at a local hospital near my hometown this past summer.

Service: I have volunteered at the community soup kitchen and at the assisted living facility in my hometown.

Future Plans: After graduation, I plan on returning to my phlebotomy position and continuing my volunteering with the hope of being able to attend medical school in the near future.

Judith Essemiah

Majors: Biomedical Sciences, Neurobiology and Behavior

Minor: Health Ethics

Awards/Scholarships: Track and Field Scholarship and International Student Scholarship

Research: During my research at the Van Andel Institute, I assessed the nociceptive thresholds in two mouse models of parkinsonism: The 6-OHDA model and MitoPark model. I used a battery of behavior assays and also ran a locomotion test on the ANY-maze computer program to analyze and compare any motor deficits in the two mouse models.

Clinical Experience: During the Covid pandemic I was part of the covid testing team.

Service: Being the president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee allowed me to organize and participate in volunteering events that raised money for The Boys and Girls Club and I knitted Christmas blankets for the sick children residing at DeVos Children's Hospital. Recently, we hosted a blood drive for our own Laker, Jaden Blake, who sadly passed away last semester.

Future Plans: I accepted a researcher tech job at MIT. I will use this opportunity as a steppingstone on my path to a PhD in neuroscience.



Jacob Fischer

Majors: Biomedical Sciences

Awards/Scholarships: Dean's List every semester, Grand Valley State University Award for Excellence, Michigan Residents State Competitive School Award, and Kaplan Scholarship for promising future students

Research: I worked with Dr. Kathryn Haley for a semester researching how bacteria find nutrients during infection in the host, specifically through obtaining various metals. I also have worked with Dr. Chris Reed for over a year researching how dura mater in nonhuman primates affects craniofacial suture closings. I am currently working on my senior honors project with Dr. Reed where I am characterizing spinal cord axon fibers of Macaca Mulatta monkeys.

Clinical Experience: I worked as a patient care assistant for a year during the pandemic in Holland Hospital's ICU and Telemetry. I have also been working as a caregiver through Great Lakes Home Health Care for 4 years.

Service: I volunteered at Holland Hospital for a year where I would deliver lab specimens, discharge patients, deliver food trays, and escort people around the hospital. I also volunteered at Kids' Food Basket in Holland where I helped provide lunches for underserved children.

Future Plans: I plan to continue working as a caregiver and I will be attending Grand Valley State University's Physician Assistant program in August.



Miguel Gutierrez



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Awards/Scholarships: Dean's List (6 semesters)

Research: I have done research within Dr. Aaron Baxter's microbiology lab, performing comparative competition assays with Salmonella to determine the influence of different fimH variations on bacterial adherence and biofilm formation along with various cell culture experiments.

Clinical Experience: I have shadowed multiple doctors in various specialties including orthopedic surgery, emergency medicine, internal medicine, and ophthalmology.

Service: For the last five semesters I have been an anatomy tutor for the GV Anatomy Cadaver Labs. I am a volunteer counselor for Camp Quality of Michigan, a non-profit organization that holds camps throughout the summer for children whose lives have been affected by cancer, offering them the opportunity to be able to enjoy time away from whatever everyday hardships they may be enduring. I have also served as the treasurer for the GVSU Kids in Motion club.

Future Plans: I will apply to medical schools this summer and hope to start in the fall of 2024. During my gap year, I will be focusing on earning more volunteer hours and furthering my clinical experience.

Abigail Hunt



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Awards/Scholarships: GVSU Award for Excellence Scholarship, Polish Heritage Society Scholarship, and the Dean's List all semesters during my undergraduate studies.

Research: I conducted research with Dr. Ian Cleary on Candida albicans since summer of 2022.

Clinical Experience: I have worked as an optician/technician for Family & Pediatric Eye Care and Allendale Eye Care for over two years.

Service: I am the Vice President of Optometry Club, a member of Euchre club, and I serve at Engedi Church on the Greeter Team. Additionally, I enjoy volunteering for Indian Trails Camp over the summer, the Science Olympiad competition hosted by GVSU, Ottawa County's full scale mass casualty training exercises, a Lion's Club program of holiday shopping with visually impaired children, Zoo Goes Boo events at John Ball Zoo, and Michigan Ski for Light Camp. I also tutor for K-12 Connect.

Future Plans: I will be applying for optometry school in the summer of 2023. After I graduate from GVSU in December of 2023, I will begin optometry school in the fall 2024. After graduation from optometry school I hope to work in a VA and specialize in either low vision or ocular disease to directly give back to our Veterans.

Madeline Johnson



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Biology

Awards/Scholarships: GVSU Dean's List, Sun Unity Scholarship, GV Laker Scholarship

Research: I participated in research in Dr. Sylvester's lab in the BMS department. We investigated the effect of red beetroot extract (a supplement that is suspected to decrease blood pressure) on the vascular reactivity of porcine renal arteries we dissected.

Clinical Experience: I worked as a resident aide at Waterford Place Assisted Living in the Memory Care Unit assisting residents who had severe dementia or Alzheimer's disease with daily living activities. I am currently patient care technician at Mercy Health Saint Mary's in the emergency department, where I complete a variety of patient care related tasks including capturing EKGs, completing blood draws, transporting patients, and assisting nurses and physicians in trauma and stroke cases.

Service: I volunteer through a Grand Rapids area organization called MomsBloom providing in-home support to mothers experiencing postpartum depression. I also tutor at the Literacy Center of West Michigan where I work one-on-one with adult learners from all backgrounds who want to become more confident speaking, listening, reading and writing in English.

Future Plans: After graduation, I plan to take a gap year and apply to medical schools for the Fall of 2024. Currently, my passion is for orthopedics, but I will keep an open mind while exploring all specialties in medical school.

Justin Lilley



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Awards/Scholarships: Dean's List

Research: I have been a member of Dr. Martin Burg's research lab since winter of 2020. My research focused on the effect of histamine deficiency on accessory gland secondary cell differentiation, persistence, and post-mating responses in *Drosophila melanogaster*.

Clinical Experience: I have worked at RiverTown Ridge as a Care Partner since the start of the pandemic in 2020. Prior to that, I worked at HomeTown Pharmacy delivering medications to various nursing homes for four years.

Service: I assisted in meal service at MelTrotter Ministries, which unfortunately was cut short due to covid restrictions. Subsequent to that, I worked with the preservation of park grounds at local parks around Grand Rapids. I also am the Membership Officer for Kids in Motion, a service and advocacy organization that promotes physical activity and mentorship among youth in our community.

Future Plans: I plan on attending medical school after graduation and pursuing a career in emergency medicine.

Mark Miller



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Chemistry

Awards/Scholarships: I am GV Award, International Merit Scholarship, Dean's List (for every semester attended)

Clinical Experience: GVSU COVID Testing Assistant

Service: Student President for Cru (21-22), Pre-Pharmacy Club, Resident Assistant (20-22)

Future Plans: I will be working towards my PharmD at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center this fall and plan to graduate spring of 2027

Ava Miller



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Spanish

Awards/Scholarships: GV Award for Excellence, GV Urban Schools Scholarship, Grand Finish Grant, Heartwell TCTC Scholarship, Deans List, Frederik Meijer Honors College

Research: Poster and presentation at Student Scholars Day 2023 about CAR-T cell therapy as a treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Clinical Experience: I was an inpatient phlebotomist at Trinity Health Saint Mary's for almost 2 years and am a volunteer at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. I have also shadowed multiple physicians at Helen Devos Children's Hospital and Butterworth Hospital which has allowed me to gain exposure to a clinical setting.

Service: I have been a tutor through K-12 Connect Virtual Tutoring for 2 years. I volunteer at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital where I help physical therapists with patients during their therapy sessions. I also have volunteered with the GVSU Padnos International Center at study abroad events, and at various blood drives throughout my time as an undergraduate student.

Future Plans: I am taking the MCAT and applying to medical school this May and planning to begin medical school in fall of 2024. During my gap year I am hoping to continue volunteering locally and plan to work in the Emergency Department at Butterworth Hospital.

Kaylynn Moschke



Majors: Biomedical Sciences, Psychology

Minor: Spanish

Awards/Scholarships:

Amos Nordman Scholarship, GV Award for Excellence, State Competitive Scholarship, Muskegon County Community Foundation Scholarship, Thompson Working Family Scholarship, General Chemistry Award, Organic Chemistry Award, Dean's List (all 8 semesters of attendance)

Research: I have conducted research and written a review article considering the therapeutic benefits of psilocybin as mental health treatment.

Clinical Experience: I have worked with a family physician as a medical scribe since August 2021. I have also worked as community living support (CLS) for Ottawa and Kent county since May 2022.

Service: I have volunteered with Ripple Effect, United Way, Kids' Food Basket, Kent District Library, West Grand Neighborhood Association, Family Futures, and Science Olympiad at various times throughout my 4 years at Grand Valley. I also donate blood through Versiti on a regular basis.

Future Plans: I plan to matriculate into medical school (M.D.) and later apply for residency to become a psychiatrist.

Aaron Norfleet



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Awards: Grand Valley Presidential Scholarship, Grand Valley Award for Excellence, Dean's List, Fredrik Meijer Honors College

Service: My volunteer experiences include working with Furnishing Friends of Bay City, coaching football at my alma mater of Bay City Western High School, acting as event manager of TEDxGVSU, WalkMS, Community Food Club Grand Rapids, and Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation.

Future Plans: I will be attending the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in June.

Madilynn Olenick



Major: Biomedical Science

Minor: Spanish

Awards/Scholarships: Dean's List, GV Award for Excellence, GV Faculty Scholarship, GV Summer Scholarship, OURS Modified Student Summer Scholars Grant, Lakers Go Abroad Scholarship

Research: I participated in research with Dr. Ruijie Liu examining the potential role of extracellular signal-regulated kinases 1 and 2 (ERK1/2) in diabetes-induced heart disease.

Clinical Experience: I have one year of experience working as a resident aide at Sunset Senior Communities. I currently work as a float nursing technician at Corewell Health, which has given me the opportunity to work with a variety of patient populations. Additionally, I have shadowed physicians in pediatrics and emergency medicine.

Service: I have volunteered for Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue, Harbor Humane Society, and have participated in the light up nights at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. I also founded Queued Up club where I served as Vice President for one year.

Future Plans: I look forward to a gap year, during which I plan to serve the community, earn more patient care hours, and shadow physicians and physician assistants with the ultimate goal of attending either medical or physician assistant school. My current interests include orthopedics, neonatology, dermatology, and obstetrics and gynecology.

Elettra Rizzo



Majors: Biomedical Sciences, Classics

Awards/Scholarships: Dean's List, International Merit Award, Outstanding International Scholarship

Research: During this past summer, I had the privilege of being part of Dr. Shabani's research group that conducted an experiment studying the effect of a TAAR1 agonist drug and morphine on drug addiction and body temperature in a mouse model.

Clinical Experience: I have been a volunteer at a dental clinic in my home country since 2017, where I mainly assist with oral surgeries, and I have shadowed the Michigan Pathology Specialists at Spectrum Health.

Service: I volunteered as part of the PEEPS program for two semesters, and I have been part of the student organization called Bringing Together the World (BTW), as a member, Student Connecting Liaison, and, during my last year, as Vice-President. I also received the Lakers Without Borders certificate twice for volunteering and being involved in programs created by the International Student Services (ISS) and by BTW.

Future Plans: Following graduation, I plan on taking a gap year, focusing on working and volunteering, and then will return to my studies afterwards.

Michelle Shane



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Sociology

Awards: General Chemistry Award, GV Award for Excellence

Research: I have been Dr. Anna Hammersmith's research assistant for sociological research since the summer of 2021. We focused on a range of different projects, but spent the most time looking at intergenerational support between parents and their children.

Clinical Experience: I work as a medical scribe at the Butterworth Emergency Department and the Helen Devos Children's Emergency Center in downtown Grand Rapids.

Service: I volunteer as a Cadaver Lab TA, and I volunteer at the Sustainable Agriculture Project

Future Plans: I will continue to work as a scribe for two years. Following this, I plan to attend medical school. Currently, I am passionate about pediatric care and would like to partner with health educators in my community to share resources and promote health on both a small and large scale.

Emily Sherry



Majors: Biomedical Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology

Awards/Scholarships: GV Award of Excellence, GV Faculty Scholarship, Lakers Go Abroad Scholarship, Outstanding Cell and Molecular Biology Student Award, Grand Valley State University's Outstanding Intern of the Year Award Nomination, General Chemistry Award from the GVSU Chemistry Department, Phi Kappa Phi Freshman Honoree, Frederik Meijer Honors College

Research: I have been investigating the collagen fiber arrangement of primate dura mater as it pertains to the closure of sutures for the last 3 1/2 years with Dr. Reed in the BMS Department. Outside of Grand Valley, I have experience working as a COVID-19 literature review analyst manager for U. of M. and I had a summer research internship with MSU's Research Center in Grand Rapids during which I worked in the Prokop Lab investigating genes and biomarkers that play a role in the development of rare pediatric blood cancers. While working in the Prokop Lab, I was also published as a first co-first author on a paper in Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology.

Service: I volunteered for Leukemia and Lymphoma since June of 2021. I took charge of the Myeloma Link Program in Detroit, MI and worked to spread the word about Multiple Myeloma, a blood cancer that disproportionately impacts African Americans

Future Plans: I will be applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs this summer while I take a year to work in a clinical setting. I hope to be a pediatric hematology oncologist.

Natalie Shifferd



Major: Biomedical Science, Pre-dental emphasis

Minor: Chemistry

Awards/Scholarships: Thomson Family Scholarship, GV Award for Excellence, Michigan Competitive Scholarship, Frederick Meijer Honor's College.

I'm also the founder of GVSU's Partners in Health Engage Team which was nominated for GV's Student Life Awards including Care for Community Award and Outstanding Educational Program Award.

Research: My capstone research paper is on the bacteria Porphyromonas Gingivalis

Clinical Experience: I worked as a dental assistant summer of 2021. I have shadowed general dentists and orthodontists. I volunteered as a dental assistant at Love in Action's free dental clinic.

Service: I am the founder and current team coordinator for GVSU's Partners in Health (PIH) Engage Team where we volunteer our time to advocate, community-build, and fundraise towards the PIH organization's mission of creating quality and accessible health care globally. I have volunteered as a dental assistant at Love in Action's free dental clinic as well as their food truck. I have volunteered multiple times at Kids Food Basket.

Future Plans: I plan to take a gap year during which I plan to work, attend dental school interviews, and travel. I will attend dental school beginning fall of 2024 with the long-term goal of becoming an orthodontist.

Derek Tonello



Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Chemistry

Awards/Scholarships: Presidential Scholarship, Award for Excellence Scholarship, General Chemistry Award, Organic Chemistry Award, DNR Quality of Life Scholarship

Research: I completed a S3 project in the summer of 2021 with Dr. Zeni Shabani. Our research investigated the role of the TAAR1 receptor in methamphetamine use disorders. Specifically, we tested for aversion to a receptor specific agonist in mice whose genomes had been edited with the CRISPR/Cas9 method.

Clinical Experience: I have over 600 hours of experience working as a personal care assistant in the surgery department of the Cadillac Hospital. I also have nearly 100 hours of physician shadowing experience across seven different medical specialties.

Service: I have volunteered at the Versiti Blood Center and Community Food Club. I also volunteered to help implement a new physiology lab at GVSU, where I tested much of the equipment and software intended for use in the lab.

Future Plans: I am planning on attending medical school after I graduate. I have currently applied and interviewed at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine.

Congratulations

from the

Biomedical Sciences

Department

on your accomplishments!

**Best of luck in your
future endeavors!**

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