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Class of 2018

We are excited to welcome the 2018 cohort! In February of 2016, 76 candidates applied for graduate assistantships. On August 1st, 31 first-year graduate assistants joined 27 second-year graduate assistants for orientation. We also have 11 students in the CSAL program that are not in GA roles. Thank you to all of our current students and alumni for promoting GVSU as a great place for learning and professional preparation!

Be sure we have your contact information so you don't miss out on any of the information by updating our database at:

<http://www.gvsu.edu/cs/alumdirectory-aluminfo.htm>.

Pass It On

Know anyone who might be interested in our newsletter? Forward this e-mail to up to 5 friends at once.

Alumni Updates

Class of 2016 Updates

In April of 2016, we proudly added 33 graduates to our list of CSAL alumni. Please find their names and undergraduate institutions below:

- **Leila Abdel** – Grand Valley State University
- **Nathan Axdorff** – Hope College
- **Ashleigh Begres** – University of Michigan
- **Scott Burden** – Calvin College
- **Samuel Cho** – Grand Valley State University
- **Amber DePree** – Western Michigan University
- **Jeremy Dewar** – Grand Valley State University
- **Dawn Drazba** – Grand Valley State University
- **Alex Dudek** – Bowling Green State University
- **Megan Ellinger** – Central Michigan University
- **Jakia Fuller** – Grand Valley State University
- **Brendan Gallagher** – University of Michigan – Dearborn
- **Gwendolyn Higgins** – Madonna University
- **Liz Jorgensen** – Michigan State University
- **Laura Klinger** – Michigan State University
- **Kumail Lassi** – University of Michigan – Flint
- **Suh Joon “Joshua” Lee** – Central Michigan University
- **Kaitlin Lozon** – Grand Valley State University
- **Kaelee Macklin** – Grand Valley State University
- **Cheyenne Marlin** – Northern Michigan University
- **Carolyn McLean** – Michigan State University
- **Mariana Naddaf** – Michigan State University
- **RaeShawn Nichols** – West Virginia State University
- **Marina Okopnaia** – Grand Valley State University
- **Gabriel Pena** – University of Michigan
- **Alan Peterson** – Grand Valley State University
- **Hannah Peterson** – Ball State University
- **Haley Spencer** – University of Michigan
- **Lindsay Spitzley** – Central Michigan University
- **Tiffany Steele** – University of Michigan

- **Jacob Stodgel** – University of Illinois –Springfield
- **Kathryn Timm** – Central Michigan University
- **Nicole Wilson** – Calvin College

Faculty Updates

Bart Merkle Named Distinguished Professor of Education

The Higher Education program faculty is pleased to welcome Dr. Bart Merkle to the faculty this fall as a Distinguished Professor of Education. As you may know, Bart served as Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Grand Valley for the past thirty-two (32) years. Prior to his service as CSAO at GVSU, he served in student affairs leadership roles at Tulane University, Kalamazoo College, and Hope College. Bart was instrumental in working with faculty and staff colleagues to develop the College Student Affairs Leadership (CSAL) program which began in 1995 with an initial cohort of eleven (11) graduate students. Today the program has evolved into the Higher Education graduate program which has two emphasis areas in the M.Ed. degree – College Student Affairs Leadership (CSAL) and Adult and Higher Education (ADHE) with over 450 alumni serving in administrative roles at colleges and universities across the country. Bart participated in the Fulbright Program for Administrators – Germany in 1995 and he received the Outstanding Performance as a Dean Award from NASPA Region IV-East in 1997. Bart's course load for fall includes EDH 658 Critical Issues in Higher Education, EDH 685/686 Practicum/Graduate Field Experience I & II, and ED 693 Master's Project. During the winter he is scheduled to teach EDH 653 Administration of Student Affairs Programs, EDH 685/686 Practicum/Graduate Field Experience I & II, and ED 693 Master's Project. His research interests include design thinking, leadership and supervision, and bias behavior. Please join us in welcoming Bart to the faculty.

Staying Connected Seeking CSAL Alumni Who Are Pursuing or Have Completed Doctoral Studies

We in the College Student Affairs Leadership (CSAL) program are looking to recognize CSAL alumni who are pursuing or have completed doctoral studies. We also want to help build your networks by encouraging you to stay in touch with CSAL alumni who are pursuing similar endeavors. In order to do so, we need your help! Please click [here](#) and provide the requested information.

Our goal is to begin featuring alumni in future newsletters. Submissions are due by **Friday, December 16th**. Please feel free to contact Student Services Assistant, Keesha Hardiman, at hardimak@gvsu.edu with questions or concerns.

Awards and Recognition

2015-2016 CSAL Awardees

National Awards

2016 NACADA Student Research Award Winner in the Master's Category

Theresa Lyon '15

ACPA's Commission for Academic Support in Higher Education 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Kathryn Timm '16

ACPA's Commission for Student Involvement 2016 Outstanding Master's Level Graduate Student Award

Ashleigh Begres '16

ACPAs Coalition for Graduate Students and New Professionals 2016 Outstanding Dedication to Professional Service Award

Alex Dudek '16

2015 NASPA Region IV-East New Professional of the Year

John Gipson '13

ACPA Coalition of Graduate Students and New Professionals' 2015-2016 "The Freshmaker" Award

John Gipson '13

University Awards

2016 Glenn A. Niemeyer Graduate Student Award

Scott Burden '16

2016 Outstanding Student in Higher Education

Scott Burden '16

Fall 2015 Graduate Dean's Citation for Academic Excellence for Outstanding Thesis

Theresa Lyon '15

Fall 2015 Graduate Dean's Citation for Academic Excellence for Outstanding Master's Project

Kate Thome '15

Winter 2016 Graduate Dean's Citation for Academic Excellence for Service to the Community/Profession

Ashleigh Begres '16

Winter 2016 Graduate Dean's Citation for Academic Excellence for Outstanding Thesis

Mariana Naddaf '16

Winter 2016 Graduate Dean's Citation for Academic Excellence In the Degree Program

Tiffany Steele '16

Winter 2016 Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence in Leadership/Service to GVSU

Jakia Fuller '16

2014-2015 College of Education Dean's Outstanding Master's Project Award

Kate Thome '15

2014-2015 College of Education Dean's Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

Theresa Lyon '15

2nd Place, Grand Valley State University 2016 Three Minute Thesis Competition

Jakia Fuller '16

Phi Kappa Phi

Tiffany Steele '16

CSAL Fund

Do you want to give to CSAL? The Student Affairs Grad Fund provides scholarship and professional development opportunities to students in the College Student Affairs Leadership program. Give by clicking [here](#).

College Student Affairs Leadership

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