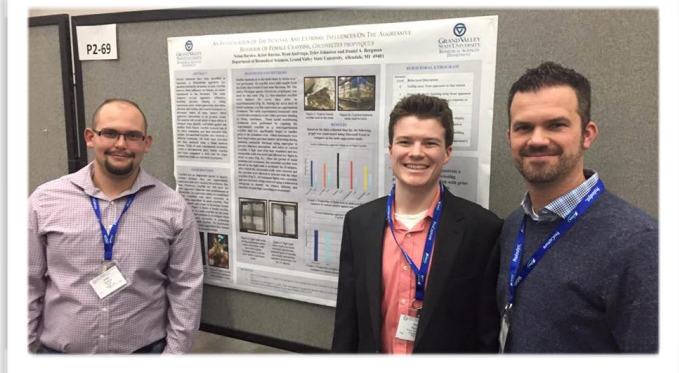


Biomedical Sciences Undergraduates Present Research at a Meeting in Portland, Oregon

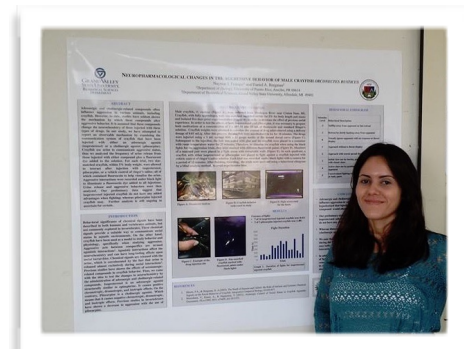
Two undergraduate students from the **Biomedical Sciences Department** ventured to Portland, Oregon in early January for the annual meeting conducted by the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB). At the meeting, both students presented their work conducted in the research lab of **Dr. Dan Bergman**, associate professor and chair of **Biomedical Sciences**.



Kristi Ruvina, Nolan Hayden, and Dr. Dan Bergman (L-R) at one of the poster presentation session at the SICB meeting in Portland, OR.

At SICB, **Nolan Hayden** presented a poster at the meeting on his research, *An investigation of the intrinsic and extrinsic influences on the aggressive behavior of crayfish, Orconectes*

propinquus. Additional authors on his poster included **Kristi Ruvina**, **Ryan Andringa** and **Tyler Johnston**, all **Grand Valley** undergraduates. **Kristi Ruvina** also gave a talk at the meeting on his research, *Neuropharmacological alterations of the aggressive behavior of crayfish*. The other authors of his talk included **Nolan Hayden** and **Tyler Johnston**, both Grand Valley State University undergraduate students, and **Naymar Franqui-Diaz**, a University of Puerto Rico student that was funded by a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates in **Dr. Bergman's** lab. Naymar recently presented her research at a meeting of the Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students held in Seattle, WA.



Naymar Franqui-Diaz at her poster presentation in Seattle, WA.

The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) fosters research, education, public awareness and understanding of living organisms from molecules and cells to ecology and evolution. SICB encourages interdisciplinary cooperative research that integrates across scales and new models and methodologies to enhance research and education.

New Assistant Unit Head of Student Affairs

[Dr. Deb Burg](#), associate professor, has been named the new Assistant Unit Head of Student Affairs. The **Biomedical Sciences Department** recognizes the need to dedicate time, attention, and energy to student success. Therefore the responsibilities for the Assistant Unit Head of Student Affairs will be to conduct individual and/or group academic, career and personal advising that demonstrates commitment to the department mission and its diverse population of students. **Dr. Burg** in her new role as assistant unit head will also offer development and educational assistance to students, provide leadership for faculty advisors, and coordinate the Department's advising programs. Please join me in congratulating **Dr. Burg**, as her new position should greatly benefit our students and faculty.



Deb joins [Dr. Dave Kurjiaka](#), associate professor, as an Assistant Unit Head for the BMS Department. **Dave** continues on in his current role of Assistant Unit Head for Curriculum and Personnel. Among his duties as assistant unit head, he is responsible for curricular issues involving BMS courses at Grand Valley and evaluating course equivalencies elsewhere. He is also responsible for the staffing of all classes within the department.

BMS Research among the Top Stories of 2015

[Dr. Lissa Tallman's](#) research involving the discovery of a one-million-year-old monkey fossil was recently listed in the top 5 unforgettable moments at GVSU in 2015. Dr. Tallman is an assistant professor in the **Biomedical Sciences Department**, and she primarily teaches anatomy courses.



You can find all of the [top 15 memorable stories of 2015](#) on GVSU's website. These moments were chosen based on their impact on campus, in the news, and on social media. The research of Dr. Tallman, assistant professor, was also included on our [September Newsletter](#).

Researchers discovered the tibia fossil in an underwater cave in Altagracia Province, Dominican Republic. Photo by Laurent Benoit.

New Nutrition Book Authored by Nutrition Professor

[Dr. Steve Nizielski](#), associate professor, recently co-authored a new textbook in nutrition. The new textbook is titled, [Nutrition for a Changing World](#). In this breakthrough introductory text, educators Jamie Pope and **Steve Nizielski**, and science writer Alison McCook use real stories—about real people and real science—to teach the basic concepts of nutrition. Each chapter reads like Scientific American-style



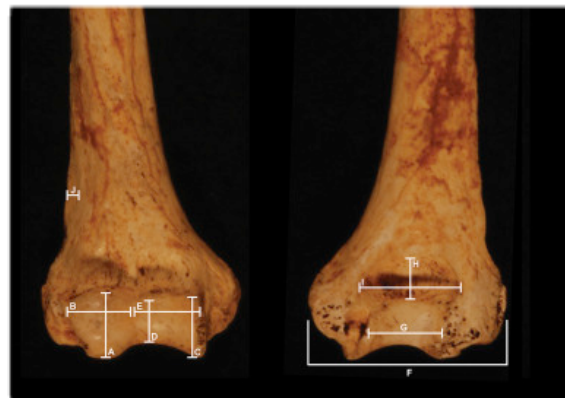
article with compelling reporting and beautifully designed infographics providing a context for the scientific content. Unique chapters on timely topics (diabetes, cardiovascular disease, plant-based diets, fat- and water-soluble vitamins, dietary supplements, and the college years) exemplify the book's thoroughly contemporary approach to nutrition science.

Dr. Nizielski, earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in Wildlife Biology and assisted in research projects involving Siberian tigers and grey wolves before entering graduate school. He earned his masters and doctorate degrees at the University of Minnesota in nutrition with an emphasis in biochemistry. He is currently an associate professor in the [Department of Biomedical Sciences](#) at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, where he teaches introductory nutrition, clinical nutrition, public health, advanced metabolism, and sports nutrition courses. His current research seeks to identify cellular adaptations in adipose tissue in response to aging and endurance training. **Steve** is a fellow of The Obesity Society and a member of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and of the American Physiological Society (APS). He is an avid competitive cyclist and also enjoys cross-country skiing, hiking, and camping.



Paper Published in the Journal of Human Evolution

[Dr. Lissa Tallman](#), assistant professor, recently published a paper in the [Journal of Human Evolution](#). In the paper, **Dr. Tallman** and her collaborator, Dr. Cooke at Northeastern Illinois University, describe the morphology of a new distal humerus from a collection in Haiti and from this fossil evidence create a locomotor reconstruction. They also develop a model for the ancestral platyrrhine (New World Monkeys) morphotype of the distal humerus and develop and/or support existing phylogenetic hypotheses for the origin of the Greater Antillean primates that take into account the morphology of the distal humerus.



Marked are the locations for the linear measures collected on the distal humerus by Dr. Tallman and her collaborator.

Science on Tap

Join [Dr. Laura Stroik](#), assistant professor, as she helps us celebrate Charles Darwin's birthday by discussing all the amazing and weird things that could only come about by the forces of evolution. Her presentation is titled, "Amazing Adaptations & Evolutionary Eccentricities" and will be given on February 12th at 8pm at the SpeakEZ Lounge.



[Science on Tap](#) is co-sponsored by the **Biomedical Sciences Department** and the SpeakEZ Lounge. These events are an opportunity for conversation, debate and interaction between scientists and the public. This is a great chance to exercise your academic interests in a casual setting while enjoying great food and drinks.

New Opportunity for Graduate Students: 3- Minute Thesis Competition

Grand Valley State University will host our first 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on February 18, 2016. This competition is unique to graduate students and provides them with the opportunity to present their research/thesis/dissertation work to a panel of judges in just three minutes. To participate in the new 3-Minute Thesis Competition (3-MT), students prepare a synopsis of their research to be delivered in a dynamic three minute presentation. Students may only be aided by one PowerPoint slide, if desired. We encourage you to visit the [3-Minute Thesis website](#) for more details about the nature of this presentation. The **GVSU Speech Lab** has also committed to having services available to help students prepare.

The requirements for participants are as follows:

- 1) The student must be actively enrolled in a graduate program.
- 2) Research/thesis/dissertation work must be conducted by a sole, independent author.
- 3) A one-page synopsis must be submitted summarizing the student's research.
- 4) A faculty letter of support must be submitted.

All application materials must be submitted by **January 25, 2016** through an [online form](#) (available at www.gvsu.edu/gs/3MT). Once all applications have been received, a committee will invite the top 18 students to present their work during the competition to be held in the afternoon of **February 18, 2016** in the Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium.

The Graduate School will provide cash prizes for first, second, and third place, and the first place winner will also be given full funding to represent GVSU and present their research/thesis/dissertation work at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 3-Minute Thesis Competition in April 2016 in Chicago. Please contact [Jennifer Palm](#) in **The Graduate School** for further details.

Outside Scholarships and Fellowships Search Available

What are Outside Scholarships? Scholarships provided by agencies, foundations, or other providers not affiliated with Grand Valley State University.

What are Fellowships? Funding opportunities for bright and talented students to pursue study, research, public or foreign service, at both the undergraduate and graduate level in the U.S. and abroad.

External scholarships and fellowships are nationally competitive award opportunities. [The Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships](#) supports student scholars in pursuit of nationally competitive award opportunities through advising services and programming. They are located in 230 Mary Idema Pew Library. You can also begin your own search by visiting this [link](#).

Former and Current Student News

- **Holly Malinoski**, former **BMS** research student and advisee with [Dr. Dan Bergman](#), is currently attending the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry.
 - **Joseph Aikens**, a former student in Pathophysiology with [Dr. John Capodilupo](#), has been accepted to the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia.
 - **Emily Fulton**, also a former student in Pathophysiology with [Dr. John Capodilupo](#), has been accepted to the Wayne State's Physician Assistants Program.
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Upcoming Events

- 1/22 – **BMS Seminar** - *Mechanisms and Models of Dominant Parkinson's Disease*, Dr. Darren Moore, Van Andel Research Institute, hosted by **Dr. Thomas**
- 1/22 – Darwin Day abstracts due
- 1/25 – 3-Minute Thesis Competition application deadline
- 1/29 – **BMS Seminar** - *Exploration of the role that variation in locomotor behavior during ontogeny can have on the adult musculoskeletal phenotype*, Dr. Adam Foster, Northeast Ohio Medical University
- 1/29 – Student Summer Scholars applications due
- 2/1 – **BMS Seminar** - *Regulation of beta-adrenergic receptor signaling by post-translational modifications in cardiac myocytes*, Dr. Ruijie Liu, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- 2/4 – Faculty Awards Convocation
- 2/5 – **BMS Seminar** - *Candida and the Disease it Causes*, [Dr. Derek Thomas](#), GVSU
- 2/8 – Registration opens for [Student Scholars Day](#)
- 2/8 – **BMS Seminar** - *Investigation of the functional anatomy of the hominid foot*, Dr. Zach Throckmorton, Lincoln Memorial University

2/12 – Science on Tap at 8pm at the SpeakEZ Lounge; [Dr. Laura Stroik](#), “Amazing Adaptations & Evolutionary Eccentricities”
2/18 – 3-Minute Thesis Competition
2/19 – **BMS Seminar** - *Real Life Inceptions: using optogenetics to interfere with memories during sleep*, Kevin Swift, Ph.D Candidate at the University of Michigan
2/26 – Registration Closes at 11:45pm for [Student Scholars Day](#)
3/1 – CSCE Internal Grants ([Catalyst Research and Creative Activity and Collaborative Research and Creative Activity Initiative](#))
3/6-3/13 – Spring Break
4/29 – BMS Annual Graduates of Distinctions Ceremony

Interesting and Significant Items to Share

Don't be a stranger! 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 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 bergmand@gvsu.edu
