

## BMS Faculty Receive Prestigious Awards at the Faculty Awards Convocation

Two **Biomedical Sciences Department** faculty members were awarded prestigious honors at the Faculty Awards Convocation.

On behalf of the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence and the Research and Development Committee, [Cyndie Thompson](#), Assistant Professor, was awarded the *Distinguished Early-Career Scholar Award*. This award honors remarkable investigators who have demonstrated mastery in their field, significant scholarly production, as well as substantial potential for continued success.

The Provost's Office awarded [Debbie Lown](#), Associate Professor, with the Outstanding University Service Award. The award is given in recognition for service to the University, including but not limited to committee work. It is also awarded in acknowledgment of service to the community that involves the faculty member's professional expertise, including but not limited to the faculty member's specific discipline.



(L-R) BMS Professors [Merritt Taylor](#), [Deb Burg](#), [Cyndie Thompson](#), [Dan Bergman](#) and [Debbie Lown](#) at the recent Faculty Awards Convocation held at Loosemore Auditorium.

[www.gvsu.edu/gynow/2016/faculty-convocation-to-include-new-award-presentation-9155.00000.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/gynow/2016/faculty-convocation-to-include-new-award-presentation-9155.00000.htm)

## 2016 Darwin Day Celebration

Grand Valley celebrated its first Darwin Day February 11-12 with two days of events that included a keynote presentation, an art exhibit, and faculty/student presentations. The event was interdisciplinary in nature. [Cara Ocobock](#), Assistant Professor of **Biomedical Sciences**, was among the organizers and said, "Darwin's theory of evolution touches everyday life in many ways, through language, art, and health. I am an anthropologist so

evolution is constantly in my studies. Internationally, Darwin Day events have been held for years, and I thought why not here, too?"

The keynote speaker was [Wenda Trevathan](#), professor emerita of anthropology at New Mexico State University. She is a co-editor of two collections of works on evolutionary medicine and wrote *Ancient Bodies, Modern Lives: How Evolution Has Shaped Women's Health*. Trevathan gave the keynote presentation in the Mary Idema Pew Library.



President Haas pictured with "little Darwin or Chuck" the 2016 Darwin day mascot.



CLAS Dean Fred Antczak with "Chuck" Darwin

*Flash Talks*, quick presentations similar to TED Talks, followed Trevathan's address from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

On February 11th, events were conducted at Wealthy Street Theatre where a comedy show was followed by a screening of *Jurassic Park* with a panel discussion, whose members consisted of Drs. [Lissa Tallman](#) and [Dan Bergman](#) from **Biomedical Sciences** and Dr. Trisha Smrecak from Geology.

The Science on Tap monthly event closed Darwin Day activities with [Laura Stroik](#), Assistant Professor of **Biomedical Sciences**, giving a presentation *Amazing Adaptations and Other Evolutionary Eccentricities* at the SpeakEZ Lounge in Grand Rapids. And an art exhibition *Endless Forms Most Beautiful* runs through February 25 in Mary Idema Pew Library.

"Chuck's" journey to Grand Valley can be viewed at the following link: [www.gvsu.edu/darwinday/darwins-journey-to-gvsu-12.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/darwinday/darwins-journey-to-gvsu-12.htm)

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## BMS Researchers Helped Two Grand Rapids Food Pantries

Recently the work of [Deborah Lown](#), Associate Professor of **Biomedical Sciences**, and graduate student **Katherine Hekstra** was profiled in the print edition of *The Grand Rapids Press* on January 10, 2016. The research performed by **Lown** and **Hekstra** will help to improve the health of neighborhoods in Grand Rapids by helping to provide nutritional options.



## BMS Professor Presents Research at WMU

[David Linn](#), Associate Professor of **Biomedical Sciences**, gave a recent presentation, *Drugs for the Eye: Existing and Emerging Therapies*, at Western Michigan University Bronson School of Nursing. **Dr. Linn's** lab explores the mechanisms of action of excitatory neurotransmitters including glutamate and acetylcholine (ACh) in the mammalian retina.



## Osher Lifelong Learners Program

Recently [Dan Bergman](#), Associate Professor and Chair of the **Biomedical Sciences Department**, conducted a couple of sessions on sensory systems neuroscience with the [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute \(OLLI\) at Aquinas College](#). OLLI is a community of adults joining together to achieve personal transformation of mind, body, and spirit through lifelong learning and community service.

**Dr. Bergman's** two day course was entitled *Making Sense of Our Senses*. This is the fourth such course he has conducted for the OLLI program.



**Dr. Dan Bergman with his most recent class for the OLLI program.**

OLLI's mission is to foster accessible lifelong learning, individual growth, and social connection for learners age 50+ by providing stimulating opportunities to enrich the intellectual, social, and cultural lives of members, regardless of educational background. Courses are taught in a welcoming environment without the academic pressures associated with formal, degree-granting programs. Textbooks are generally not required and there are no exams, papers, or grades to worry about. No specific background is required to join, just an interest in academic learning, the desire to participate with peers, and a mind that is open to new possibilities.

*OLLI is funded in part by the Bernard Osher Foundation that supports educational programs and the arts. OLLI at Aquinas is one of 117 institutes in all 50 states funded by the Foundation.*

## Science on Tap

On March 10th, Science on Tap will hear a talk entitled *Pi + FaCe = HaHa In search of the humor equation*. Come join us to learn about the science and art of comedy from *Bart Sumner of Rapid Delivery Improv*!



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## 2016 Professional School Fair

MARCH 17 | 2ND FLOOR – RUSSELL H. KIRKHOF CENTER | 10 AM–2 PM

Admission representatives from over 50 graduate and professional schools will be on hand to discuss their programs and answer questions at this year's Professional School Fair. If you are a student interested in any of the following careers, please plan on attending.

Chiropractic  
Genetic Counseling  
Occupational Therapy  
Pharmacy  
Physician Assistant Studies  
Public Health  
Speech Language Pathology

Dentistry  
Medicine (MD and DO)  
Optometry  
Physical Therapy  
Podiatry  
Science Related Masters & PhDs  
Veterinary Medicine

To see a list of attendees: <http://gvsu.edu/s/NS>

For more information contact:  
CLAS Academic Advising Center  
[www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising)  
616.331.8585

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## Former and Current Student News

- **Patricia (Drake) Sallans**, a former student in Human Physiology with [Dr. Merritt Taylor](#) and advisee of [Dr. Aaron Baxter](#), is a first year student at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry.
  - **Hannah Skok**, a former student in Human Physiology and advisee with [Dr. Dan Bergman](#), has been accepted to the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine to begin her pursuit of her M.D. this fall.
  - **Jesse Skok**, a former student in Human Physiology and Pathophysiology with [Dr. Dan Bergman](#) and advisee with [Dr. Shel Kopperl](#), has been accepted to the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine to begin his pursuit of his M.D. this fall.
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## Upcoming Events

3/1 – CSCE Internal Grants ([Catalyst Research and Creative Activity and Collaborative Research and Creative Activity Initiative](#))

3/1 – Midterm Grades due before noon

3/6-3/13 – Spring Break

3/10 - Science on Tap -  $\pi + FaCe = HaHa$  In search of the humor equation with Bart Sumner

3/17 – Professional School Fair

3/18 – BMS Seminar Series - Dr. Andre Bachmann, Prof of Pediatrics & Associate Chair for Research at Michigan State University (Host: **Dr. Taylor**)

4/29 – BMS Annual Graduates of Distinctions Ceremony

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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 [bergmand@gvsu.edu](mailto:bergmand@gvsu.edu)

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