

# GRADUATE STUDENT CELEBRATION FALL 2010

## GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence

December 10, 2010

Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies in collaboration  
with the Graduate and Professional Student Association



GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF  
GRADUATE STUDIES

# Graduate Student Celebration

December 10, 2010

Hagers-Lubbers Exhibition Hall  
Loosemore Auditorium

Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies

318C DeVos Center 616-331-7105

[www.gvsu.edu/gs](http://www.gvsu.edu/gs)

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in collaboration with the  
Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)

## Program

5:00 PM: Refreshments and Social Hour (Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall)

6:00-7:30 PM: Awards Presentation Ceremony (Loosemore Auditorium)

- Introduction: Yasha Nath, GPSA Vice-President
- Welcome: Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies
- Awards: Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies,  
Dr. John R. Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies,  
and Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students
- Faculty Mentor Recognition Award: Yasha Nath, GPSA Vice-President

*Award recipients please note: group photos will be taken  
immediately following the award ceremony.*

## Welcome from the Graduate Dean

Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome to the Fall 2010 Graduate Student Celebration and Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence. This event is to honor *you*, to celebrate all your hard work, and to recognize the investments you and your family have made toward achieving your goal of obtaining a graduate degree from Grand Valley State University.

Whether enrolled in a graduate degree program to enter a profession, to gain further education in a discipline, or for any other reason, graduate education brings increased expectations for academic performance, scholarship, intellectual maturation, professional service and development opportunities, and faculty mentorship. Tonight we recognize those of you who have distinguished yourselves in graduate study.

Some of you are here tonight to celebrate the end of the semester, while others are here to celebrate your graduation and to be recognized for outstanding academic achievement. Please be assured that no matter where you are in your degree program, you should be proud of your accomplishments. I know that each and every one of you can look forward to a bright and successful future.

Congratulations and the best of everything to you and yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Potteiger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and "P".

**Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Ph.D., FACSM**

Dean of Graduate Studies

Grand Valley State University

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# **Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence**

## **Introduction**

The Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence program is a growing tradition at Grand Valley State University. This event, recognizing the academic excellence of graduate students at our university, was first held at the end of the 2005-2006 academic year. It came about at the urging of the faculty-led Graduate Council and the Graduate Program Directors. The Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) and the Office of Graduate Studies co-host these events.

Starting in 2009, the State of Michigan recognized Graduate Education Week during the month of April. As part of the inaugural year, Governor Jennifer Granholm signed a Proclamation acknowledging Graduate Education as a priority in Michigan, and did so again in 2010. The 2010 event also included invitations to Michigan universities and colleges to send graduate student delegates to present at poster sessions in Lansing and meet with members of the state legislature. GVSU also celebrated Graduate Education Week by hosting a Graduate Student Luncheon with a guest speaker with contemporary expertise in graduate education. The week culminated with the Winter 2010 Graduate Student Celebration and Dean's Citations Award Ceremony.

In the awards ceremony, we recognize excellence in academic performance in several categories: Academic Excellence in the Major, Outstanding Master's Thesis, Outstanding Master's Project, Outstanding Publication, Excellence in Community and Professional Service, and Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU. Graduate students can be nominated for these awards by staff, faculty, major advisors, the graduate program director, and the departmental chair or school director who is familiar with the individual student's accomplishments in the specific areas of recognition. The nominees are reviewed by the Dean of Graduate Studies in consultation with others involved in graduate education. Final selection is made by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Each recipient will be granted a certificate of recognition, a graduate honors cord, and an 'academic excellence' pin. Recipients of the thesis, project, and publication awards, as well as the two service awards, also receive a gold star symbolizing the high level of performance in this final academic work. Honors cords may be worn at commencement.

## **Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence in the Major Fall 2010**

### ***Seidman College of Business***

- ❖ Bryan T. Avery, Accounting
- ❖ Matthew V. Langridge, Business Administration
- ❖ Melanie S. Buys, Taxation

### ***College of Community & Public Service***

- ❖ Courtney A. Lawler, Health Administration
- ❖ Dayna M. Porter, Public Administration

### ***College of Education***

- ❖ Tricia L. Dole, School Counseling

### ***Padnos College of Engineering & Computing***

- ❖ Todd M. Boss, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Negin Nadvar, Engineering

### ***College of Liberal Arts & Sciences***

- ❖ Matthew E. Altenritter, Biology
- ❖ Kristin L. Taber, English

### ***Kirkhof College of Nursing***

- ❖ Sara L. Workman, Nursing

**Comments from Faculty and Staff about the Honorees**  
**Graduate Dean's Citations for Excellence in the Major, by College**

*Seidman College of Business*

❖ **Bryan T. Avery, Master of Science in Accounting**

(B.B.A., Accounting/Finance, Grand Valley State University, 2009)

Bryan Avery is the type of student that professors dream of having in class. He is always prepared and cares about really understanding material rather than learning enough to get a grade. While working on his MSA, he has maintained an internship with an accounting firm and he recently took the last part of the CPA exam. His scores on the first three parts were high enough that it is very possible he could be a national medalist. He will work for a CPA firm full-time in January after completing his MSA. The faculty will be very sad to see him leave GVSU but are confident that he will continue to make us proud.

❖ **Matthew V. Langridge, Master of Business Administration**

(B.S.E., Electrical Engineering, University of Michigan, 2000)

Matt Langridge has worked for GE Aviation since he completed his engineering degree in 2001. He began his career as a digital hardware engineer, then became an engineering group manager, and today is an engineering department manager. In this role, he leads a multi-site design team (30+ engineers) in Michigan and Maryland, and he also directed the electronic design team in Hyderabad, India. He developed and implemented strategic initiatives last year which resulted in savings of \$1MM including product cost reductions, engineering productivity improvements, and sourcing.

❖ **Melanie S. Buys, Master of Science in Taxation**

(B.S., Accountancy, Calvin College, 2002)

Melanie Buys began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2003 and her GPA is the highest among all Taxation graduates this year. As an accountant for a relatively small accounting firm, Melanie is responsible for a broad range of client services. Her primary role as a tax expert is preparing corporate, partnership, trust, and not-for-profit tax documents, but she also provides other accounting services, including audit, and recently served as an interim controller for a client firm. Melanie has been employed with the CPA firm Dolinka, VanNoord & Company, PLLP since 2002.



## *College of Community & Public Service*

### ❖ **Courtney A. Lawler, Master of Health Administration**

(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Courtney Lawler is an excellent graduate student with a focused vision for her career in public health and administration. She has worked as a Graduate Assistant for the Vice Provost for Health where she is known as an outstanding scholar and researcher. While in the MHA program, Courtney has kept an active extracurricular schedule, including participation in Leadership Development Sessions at the University of Michigan's Center for the Education of Women and GVSU's Women's Center, the West Michigan Medical Society, the Omicron Delta Kappa Society, and many more.

### ❖ **Dayna M. Porter, Master of Public Administration**

(B.S., Public Health Education/Health Promotion, Central Michigan University, 2002)

Dayna Porter has maintained academic excellence while working full-time as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Kent County Health Department. In the community, Dayna communicate and collaborate with a myriad of response partners. These emergency preparedness partners come from diverse backgrounds and have diverse interests, including complex legal requirements. Finding a common ground and working together to form an effective and efficient emergency response framework is quite challenging, as partners have different experiences, expertise, and communication styles.

## *College of Education*

### ❖ **Tricia L. Dole, Master of Education in School Counseling**

(B.A., English, Western Michigan University, 1999)

Throughout her coursework, Tricia Dole has worked hard to understand the role and work of the professional school counselor. Tricia's excellence in her internship was documented her supervisor, who commented, "One of the qualities about Tricia that I observed and especially appreciated is her willingness to see beyond problems to solutions. She continually looks for more efficient ways to complete tasks without sacrificing the human touch that is so needed in the role of school counselor. This demands maturity, the ability to function as a member of a team, and the ability to see the whole picture."

## *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ **Todd M. Boss, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**  
(B.S., Information Systems, Grand Valley State University, 2003)

Todd Boss is a model student, thus far achieving a perfect 4.0 in his coursework while employed as the IT Manager at Bradford Company of Holland. Todd combines intelligence with a strong work ethic. He is conscientious and creative. He is also a natural group leader, able to effectively coach and mentor teammates for successful collaboration. Furthermore, Todd is working on his final Master's Project, which involves the creation of a new web development framework that is easy to learn, concise, and requires limited system resources; novel features in the current day of increasing complexity.

- ❖ **Negin Nadvar, Master of Science in Engineering**  
(Bachelor's, Biomedical Engineering, Azad University, 2005)

Not only has Negin Nadvar maintained a high GPA, she has also presented her work at international conferences hosted by the Biomedical Engineering Society, the leading professional society for biomedical engineers. She has a natural ability to connect with people from different academic backgrounds, which has been very useful as she works to disseminate her research findings in the larger Biomedical Engineering community. Her outreach efforts for the School of Engineering have been extraordinary. Negin's tenacity and strong work ethic have made her an invaluable addition to the graduate program.

## *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Matthew E. Altenritter, Master of Science in Biology**  
(B.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Matt Altenritter began working with on his graduate program immediately after completing his Bachelor's degree in 2009. His research required two rigorous field seasons, which he completed successfully. Although Matt's thesis work has required a significant amount of effort on his part, he has been more than willing to help both undergraduate and graduate students with related research projects. This fact, in addition to his thesis work and his overall academic

performance, exemplifies the ideals of what graduate education should be for students in the Biology program.

❖ **Kristin L. Taber, Master of Arts in English**  
(B.A., English, University of Michigan, 2005)

Kristin is remarkably enthusiastic and meticulous in her approach to her studies, which makes her not only a delightful contributor to class discussions, but also one of the most proficient writers in the program. With an open mind and a lot of curiosity, Kristin managed to do superior work in whatever field she encountered. She also produced an excellent paper which she delivered at the Irish Studies Association Conference this year. Overall, Kristin is a uniquely talented student with a fine mind, a mature and engaging personality, outstanding research and writing skills, and certainly a bright future as a professional scholar/teacher.

*Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Sara L. Workman, Master of Science in Nursing**  
(B.S.N., Nursing, Calvin College, 1992)

Sara Workman has been an outstanding graduate student. She has been able to synthesize knowledge and skills gained in the classroom for application in professional practice. Furthermore, she is able to master some of the more challenging research and theoretical competencies essential for the implementation of evidence-based practice among professional health care providers. Sara has taken an active role in every aspect of the research process and is able to apply scientific principles to her own practice as a professional nurse with an advanced degree.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR  
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS IN A MAJOR  
Fall 2010**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Nicholas R. Ettema, Master of Science in Biology (General Biology)**  
(B.S., Biology, Illinois Wesleyan University, 2007)
  - **Thesis Title:** Whole-Stream Metabolism and Macroinvertebrate Response to Elevated and Turbidity in the Little Susitna River
  - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Eric Snyder (Chair), Dr. James Dunn, Dr. Mark Luttenton, Mr. Jeffrey C. Davis (Aquatic Research and Restoration Institute)

Nick Ettema began his graduate studies at GVSU in 2007 after completing his undergraduate program. He wrote an outstanding thesis, made significant contributions to his thesis project, and developed a project that has important implications for understanding the ecological mechanisms of in-stream primary productivity and applications to salmon management issues. Nick has presented his work at several regional and national meetings and co-authored a final report that was submitted to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. He is working on a manuscript based on his thesis research for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

His drive to complete his degree and to develop a thesis project that makes a significant contribution to the field of stream ecology and to aquatic ecosystem protection and restoration is a central motivation for Nick. In addition, he gets along very well with his peers and was willing to spend his time helping others out on their thesis projects and undergraduate research projects. All of these attributes helped him obtain employment for a competitive post as a Fisheries Biologist with the USDA Forest Service in California where he has worked for the last few months.

## ABSTRACT

The natural structure and function of flowing waters are too often altered by anthropogenic disturbance. Monitoring ecological integrity of these systems is necessary to make informed management decisions and ensure sustainability of the resource. Typically, monitoring programs focus on point samples of water quality and assessments of biological communities which are valuable, but these structural metrics provide little indication of how a stream actually functions. In this study, I used functional (ecosystem metabolism) and structural (macroinvertebrates) metrics to evaluate the potential impact of boat-traffic induced turbidity on the Little Susitna River, Alaska. Gross primary production was approximately 50 % higher at upstream "reference" sites vs. downstream "impact" sites resulting in autotrophy upstream and heterotrophy downstream. Average turbidity was 3.7 NTU higher at downstream sites explaining much of the decrease in GPP between sites ( $R^2 = 0.48$ ). Macroinvertebrate metrics displayed some differences between sites suggesting turbidity and sediment were affecting the community, but interpreting results was difficult due to lack of statistical significance. The use of ecosystem metabolism detected and quantified a suspected loss in autochthonous production at downstream sites which would have gone undocumented with the use of macroinvertebrate sampling alone.

### ❖ **Kelli A. Johnson, Master of Science in Biology (Aquatic Sciences)**

(B.S., Environmental and Plant Biology, Ohio University, 2007)

- **Thesis Title:** Algal Responses to Road Run-off in an Urbanized Catchment
- **Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Alan D. Steinman (Chair), Dr. Carl Ruetz, Dr. Eric Snyder

Kelli Johnson was a model graduate student; she was inquisitive, bright, hard-working, collaborative, and respectful. Her thesis project, dealing with the effects of stormwater on algal ecology, allowed her to look at an important environmental stressor from a variety of structural and functional attributes. Therefore she was essentially assessing the role of human impacts on the base of the aquatic food web. She was anxious to learn new methods, and combined experimental and observational data to produce an ambitious and impressive

thesis. Kelli is currently finalizing a manuscript from her thesis, which we will be submitting to the *Journal of North American Benthological Society* next month.

Although Kelli's thesis work required significant effort, she was more than willing to help both undergraduate and graduate students with related research projects. This fact, in addition to her thesis work and overall academic performance, makes Kelli an outstanding student from the Biology graduate program. The combination of a rigorous and publishable thesis project and outstanding academic performance make Kelli well-deserving of this award and recognition.

#### ABSTRACT

Two major effects of urbanization on streams are the input of storm water runoff from impervious surfaces containing excess nutrients, heavy metals, and other organic contaminants and changes to stream hydrology. These impacts are potential stressors or stimulants for algae. The purpose of my study was to evaluate the effects of urban storm water on algal biomass, productivity, and community composition using three different experiments. First, I used controlled experiments in mesocosms (~1,300 L tanks) to evaluate the effect of different concentrations of storm water (100%, 50%, and 0%) on algal communities. Second, my field studies assessed the in-stream influence of storm water discharge on benthic algae in Little Black Creek (LBC), MI, and third, my snowmelt study evaluated the effects of urban snowmelt on algal metabolism. Storm water did not have an overall effect on algal biomass or metabolic activity in the mesocosms, but had a moderate effect on algae during the field experiments. Snowmelt did not significantly impact algal metabolism. Community composition was affected by storm water in the mesocosm experiments, but not in the field experiments. Increases in current velocity downstream of the storm water pipe in LBC may have negatively impacted the algae during the field experiments. It is likely that relatively low concentrations of contaminants in the storm water were responsible for the absence of a strong effect on biomass and metabolism in the mesocosm and field experiments. Changes in community composition in the mesocosms suggest that it is a more sensitive measure of water quality than biomass. *Continued on next page.*

### ABSTRACT CON'T

Storm water is extremely variable, even among different storm events at the same location, so this type of experiment is very context-specific. It is possible that road runoff from other areas may contain higher levels of pollutants than the storm water in this study and have a greater effect on algal biomass. LBC is impacted by urbanization and past industrial activities and its sediments are contaminated with a number of metals and organic chemicals that can potentially be re-suspended in the water column if increases in current velocity due to storm water runoff are large enough.

❖ **Kelli L. Carrier, Master of Science in Communications**

(B.A., Political Science and Communications, Hope College, 2008)

- **Thesis Title:** Gender Appeal and Gender Identity in Magazine Alcohol Advertisements
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Roy Winegar (Chair), Dr. Alex Nesterenko, Mr. Peter Haines

Kelli Carrier began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2009, where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Upon successful completion of her graduate program, Kelli intends to pursue a doctorate program. She has the requisite intelligence, creativity, discipline, and drive. Her faculty advisor anticipates she will continue to be a major contributor to the field of communications. Her thesis is worthy of publication and celebration.

During her graduate program, Kelli has completed internships with the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park and Priority Health. Her internship at Priority Health focused on internal corporate communications with a focus on promoting events and sponsorships, including maintaining the corporate health blog.

## ABSTRACT

My thesis examines the gender appeal present in magazine alcohol advertisements and the potential for gender identity formation. The public is constantly exposed to advertisements, many of which are alcohol advertisements. Through a content analysis of magazine alcohol advertisements, I intend to discover the appeal alcohol advertisements have to the different genders and how individuals may form ideologies about gender identity. A convenience sampling of magazine alcohol advertisements was taken from advertisements found in *Cosmopolitan* and *Sports Illustrated* from May to October 2010. The content analysis will focus on five distinct variables: product type, language used, scene, tonality, and which gender the advertisements appeal to overall. This is important because many content analyses of alcohol advertisements have mainly looked at adolescent exposure to the advertisements. In contrast to this, the focus of this thesis is not on adolescents and the exposure of alcohol advertisements to adolescents, but is on gender appeal and gender identity formation. Furthermore, by examining magazine alcohol advertisements, further connections may be made between the gender appeals of the advertisements and gender ideologies created by the advertisements that help individuals' form views about gender identity.

### ❖ **Luke J. Rapa, Master of Arts in English**

(B.A., English, Grand Valley State University, 2003)

- **Thesis Title:** 'Out of This Stony Rubbish': Echoes of Ezekiel in T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Benjamin Lockerd (Director), Dr. Avis Hewitt, Dr. Michael Webster

Luke Rapa has written his thesis about the most famous English poem of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, *The Waste Land*, by T. S. Eliot. So much has been written about this work that it is almost hard to imagine there is anything really new to say, but Luke has done just that. He decided to explore the prophetic voices in the poem, with a particular focus on an allusion to the Book of Ezekiel. Of course scholars have long been aware of Eliot's reference to Ezekiel, but what Luke has shown in his thesis is that this Biblical text has a much greater importance



to the poem than has previously been recognized. The greatest meaning comes not from the one phrase from the Book of Ezekiel that is directly quoted in the poem but from a later passage concerning a valley of bones that are brought to life by God. Luke further shows a convincing parallel between the structure of the Book of Ezekiel and that of *The Waste Land*. These discoveries have, as Luke shows, very significant implications for the interpretation of the poem as a whole. The thesis is written in fluent and elegant prose, making it a pleasure to read. The members of his thesis committee look forward to seeing Luke present his findings at an academic conference, and to seeing some version of his thesis in print.

#### **ABSTRACT**

This essay explores T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* in light of the poet-prophet connection—a connection which was of particular interest to T.S. Eliot himself. I argue that Eliot was aware of the poet-prophet connection early in his youth and that this awareness influenced and informed *The Waste Land*. I suggest also that Eliot takes up the themes and images of the biblical prophets, and of Ezekiel in particular, as a means to structure the poem, but more importantly, as one way of “controlling, or ordering, of giving a shape and a significance to the immense panorama of futility and anarchy which is contemporary history” (Eliot, “‘Ulysses,’ Order, and Myth,” 177). Finally, I propose that Eliot himself, through *The Waste Land*, stands for readers as a poet-prophet, and thereby offers a way out of the desolation and despair that Eliot found to be so pervasive in the modern world.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT IN A MAJOR  
Fall 2010**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Emily L. Hohman, Master of Science in Biology**  
(B.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University, 2005)
  - **Title:** Shortgrass and Wet Prairie Restoration in Ottawa County, Michigan
  - **Committee:** Dr. Neil MacDonald (Chair), Dr. Todd Aschenbach, Chip Francke (City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation)

Emily Hohman began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2007. She developed her Masters Project in cooperation with the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Department, and her responsibilities included completing an initial topographic site survey, organizing site preparation activities including herbicide applications and prescribed burning, developing the seed mix, monitoring groundwater levels in the wetland creation site, organizing volunteers to complete the seeding of both wetland and upland areas, and performing final on-site vegetation surveys to evaluate the establishment of native plants.

This project represented an integration of results of studies previously completed at GVSU, incorporated research experience that Emily gained through her work with the Nature Conservancy and as a graduate student at GVSU, and was implemented in a highly visible location in cooperation with the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Department, the Ottawa Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The successful results of her project are readily visible to any who visit Hemlock Crossing Park and see the restored prairie and constructed wetland complex contained within it. Emily played the critical role in planning and implementing this project. She excelled at academics and the hands-on aspects of her graduate work. Her project will continue to bear fruit in the years to come.

## ABSTRACT

In Michigan, both tall- and shortgrass prairies once existed, with the largest areas in the southern Lower Peninsula where 60,500 acres occurred in the early 1800s. Currently, less than 4% of these prairies remain as degraded remnants, resulting in biodiversity loss and listing of numerous prairie endemics as State or Federal threatened or endangered species. The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission initiated a shortgrass and wet prairie restoration project at Hemlock Crossing County Park in 2007 to provide for improved wildlife habitat, increased enjoyment by park users, and enhanced educational opportunities. Site preparation included broadcast herbicide applications, a prescribed burn, wet prairie excavation and installation of a water control structure. Native plant species were selected for this project based on historic occurrence in Ottawa County, historic association with shortgrass or wet prairies of Michigan, comparison with reference sites, aesthetic features, and seed availability. Sixty-nine species were planted as seed on this site, with a no-till drill in the upland portion of the site in June 2008 and by hand in the wet prairie in November, 2008. Germination and early growth of shortgrass prairie species was assessed in June 2009; 9 planted species were observed onsite along with 48 other native and non-native species. Adequate vegetation monitoring, fire management, and invasive species management will be critical for long-term integrity of these reestablished native grassland plant communities. Ottawa County Parks should pursue opportunities to expand the current planting to adjacent parcels to further improve its value to wildlife, particularly grassland birds.

- ❖ **Ryan H. Vaughn, Master of Science in Communications**  
(B.A., Creative Writing, Western Michigan University, 2006)
  - **Title:** Business Plan for Varsity News Network
  - **Advisor:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko

Ryan Vaughn began his graduate studies at GVSU in 2009. His final project for the graduate program is exceptionally innovative. He has aptly pinpointed a communication and business problem for which he has offered an interesting and elegant solution. His work is worthy of notice and celebration. Ryan is a most capable student and has the drive, determination, curiosity, and ambition that will make him highly successful in the communications industry.

Ryan has founded a company called “Varsity News Network” and has future plans to seek investment from private equity or angel capital firms to continue to build the company at a statewide level. He has well applied the academic program in this work. The outcome is a product of which both he and GVSU can be very proud.

#### **ABSTRACT**

This project was researching and developing a complete business plan for Varsity News Network. Varsity News Network is a network of high school sports blogs. Using resources available in each school and aggregating the content, we create a scalable system of relevant and local information about high school sports. As the newspaper industry reorganizes, print media coverage of high school sports gets progressively smaller, particularly in sports other than basketball and football. Athletics can play a critical role in the development of character in American youth, and because 99% of athletes will not play competitive sports after high school, celebrating this time in an athlete’s life is of critical importance. Varsity News Network does this through a custom website through which high schools can promote all of their athletics. This enables them to enhance the experience of being an athlete at their school through dynamic coverage of all sporting events, and create opportunities for media and writing students to succeed in a real environment.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION  
Fall 2010**

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

❖ **Geoffrey J. Miller, Master of Science in Engineering**

(B.S., Resources Ecology and Management, University of Michigan, 1997)

- **Title:** A Case Study of Lean, Sustainable Manufacturing
- **Advisors:** Dr. Charlie Standridge, Dr. Janice Pawlowski

Geoff Miller is Vice-President of Operations at Grand Rapids Chair Company and completed his program as a part-time student while serving in this role. Throughout his graduate student career, he has demonstrated the natural ability to merge learning and application. This paper is no exception from that. This work not only contributed to the bottom line of his company but also showed creative synthesis of operations management tools and techniques to address the concurrent issues common to all industries.

Geoff's work makes a unique contribution by developing concepts for integrating the traditional method of operations research: mathematical optimization and discrete-event simulation with the newly emerging ideas in lean and sustainable manufacturing. The quality of Geoff's work is remarkable.

**ABSTRACT**

A small furniture production company has integrated lean tools and sustainability concepts with discrete event simulation modeling and analysis as well as mathematical optimization to make a positive impact on the environment, society and its own financial success. The principles of lean manufacturing that aid in the elimination of waste have helped the company meet ever increasing customer demands while preserving valuable resources for future generations. The implementation of lean and sustainable manufacturing was aided by the use of discrete event simulation and optimization to overcome deficits in lean's traditional implementation strategies. Lean and green manufacturing can have a more significant, positive impact on multiple measures of operational performance when implemented concurrently rather than separately. These ideas are demonstrated by three applications.

## *College of Health Professions*

### ❖ **Megan L. Cooper, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

(B.S., Movement Science, University of Michigan, 2007)

- **Title:** A method for providing high-volume interprofessional simulation encounters in physical and occupational therapy education programs
- **Advisor:** Dr. Michael Shoemaker

Megan Cooper began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2008. As part of her clinical education experience, she has worked with PhysioKids of Kalamazoo, Borgess Woodbridge Physical Therapy of Portage, and Bronson Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Lawton. She has also served as a Graduate Assistant since entering the Physical Therapy program in Fall 2008.

Megan's contributions were critical to this article's success. The article is currently in press in the *Journal of Allied Health*. Megan began her role in this paper as a graduate assistant to help with the literature review. However, her interest in the topic, the quality of her contributions, and her level of commitment to completing the project were so substantial that she was asked to continue on the project as a co-author following the completion of her term as a graduate assistant. Her keen insights and challenging questions helped this paper become a valuable contribution to the literature.

#### **ABSTRACT**

With an increasing emphasis on interprofessional education within the allied health professions, simulation has potential for being a useful teaching modality for providing collaborative learning experiences for occupational and physical therapist students. However, there are many challenges associated with conducting simulations with large numbers of students. The present paper describes the design, planning, cost, and support staff time required for conducting an interprofessional simulation of the intensive care setting, including a methodology for maximizing resources and student opportunities for participation for 64 physical and occupational therapy students over a 4 hour time period. Qualitative analyses of student experiences are also presented.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION  
Fall 2010**

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Mark R. Breon, Master of Health Administration**

(B.A., Psychology and Criminal Justice, Indiana University, 2004)

Mark Breon currently works as the Operations Manager for the Spectrum Health Regional Hospital Network, a 21-hospital network focused on collaboration to improve efficiencies, quality, safety and value to West Michigan hospitals. Mark is responsible for launching a regional business plan for environmental sustainability, the first of its kind in the United States. The plan has been presented at CleanMed and National Cooperative of Health Networks (NCHN) national conferences.

Mark also serves as the Chair of Next Gen United Way, a group of under-30 professionals and students aimed at increasing engagement in Heart of West Michigan United Way (HWMUW) among the Grand Rapids sub-30 population. Mark formed this council with support from the United Way Board and Donor Relations Council. Mark serves as Chair and administrator of this team of 20+ young leaders and created a strategic plan after their formulation in April 2010. This council aims to increase donation and participation levels among Millennials and become a long-term strategic partner with HWMUW.

Mark has also volunteered time to other local nonprofits, including Junior Achievement and American Heart Association. He has also served as an ambassador and leader for several Spectrum Health fundraisers and initiatives. He is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE), American Cancer Society Young Leaders Council, Grand Rapids Young Professionals and the Grand Rapids Chapter of Young Nonprofit Professionals Network.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP & SERVICE TO GVSU  
Fall 2010**

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ **Jeffrey A. Stoll, Master of Public Administration**  
(B.S., Criminal Justice, Grand Valley State University, 2006)

After graduating from the GVSU's Police Academy in the summer of 2006, Jeffrey Stoll was hired as a part time officer by GVSU Public Safety. Jeffrey was promoted to full time status in the fall of the following year. During Jeffrey's time at GVSU he has thoroughly enjoyed working as a university police officer and has pursued opportunities to develop his professional and technical skills, including Hostage Negotiation, Active Shooter Response, and Leadership Training. Skills from these and other courses of instructions have helped him be better prepared and equipped as a police officer.

While working road patrol Jeffery has taken initiative to tackle the issue of drunk driving. He has been recognized as the leading arrest officer for drunk driving incidents the past three years. Working with the Probation department, he helped implement a program ensure convicted students adhered to their probation regulations. For his work he received a Lifesaving Award in 2009 from the Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Jeffrey has also taken the initiative to improve service delivery to Grand Valley students. He helped in researching and evaluating patrol statistics in order to provide more efficient practices in the Police Department. He continues to work with many of GVSU other departments including Housing and the Counseling Center in order to provide a comprehensive problem solving approach at the Allendale campus.



**GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT AWARD  
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD  
Fall 2010**

❖ **Dr. Hari Singh, Professor of Economics**

Nominated by: Rennie Ramlal, Business Administration

Professor Singh is well known in the Seidman College of Business as funny, enigmatic and an expert in the field of Economics. I came to know Professor Singh while working as a Graduate Assistant in the Economics department. He has been a constant source of advice both professionally and personally to me. He never hesitates to offer assistance when needed; and sometimes even when unsolicited.

Professor Singh's tutelage afforded me the opportunity to be published on several occasions. He also involved me in many meetings which he had with external institutions to help extend my network of contacts. With Professor Singh's recommendation and guidance, I received a summer internship at the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC).

Externally, he has made several attempts to engage myself and others in extracurricular activities– in fact, Professor Singh single-handedly developed an ad hoc soccer league which is comprised of GVSU faculty, staff and students.

Hari Singh is the epitome of what a mentor should be and does not reserve his considerable contributions to a select or favored few – everyone has an equal chance at benefiting from associating with him.

## **GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2010-2011**

### **President:**

Jamie Guigar, College Student Affairs Leadership

### **Vice President:**

Yasha Nath, Business Administration

### **Communications Officer:**

Joseph Amisi, Business Administration

### **Financial Officer:**

Barbara Gbewonyo, Accounting

### **Secretary:**

Joshua Lee, College Student Affairs Leadership

### **Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:**

Andrew Crosby, Public Administration

Joseph Amisi, Business Administration

### **Advisors:**

Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Michelle Burke, Student Life

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL OFFICERS 2010-2011**

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Dr. Mark Luttenton, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Dr. John R. Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

Irene Fountain, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Palm, Office Coordinator

**Graduate Assistants:**

Yasha Nath, Business Administration

Justin Ott, Health Administration

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