



GRADUATE STUDENT CELEBRATION

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Presented by The Graduate School in collaboration with
the Graduate Student Association

DECEMBER 7, 2018



Graduate Student Celebration

December 7, 2018

Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

Presented by The Graduate School
318C DeVos Center
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in collaboration with the
Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Program

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

6:00 PM: Awards Presentation Ceremony (Loosemore Auditorium)

Introduction:

Sarah Tibbe, GSA President

Welcome:

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School

Graduate Dean's Citation Awards Recognition:

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School,
Dr. Mark R. Luttenton, Associate Dean of The Graduate School,
Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students
and Jennifer Palm, Assistant to The Graduate School

Graduate Student Association Faculty Awards Recognition:

The Graduate Student Association Executive Board

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

Welcome!

Dear friends and members of GVSU's graduate education community,

This evening we have the great pleasure to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves in graduate education at Grand Valley State University. The Dean's Citation Awards for Academic Excellence are given to recognize the accomplishments of our students and faculty and celebrate their achievements. First held in 2006, this proud Grand Valley State University tradition began thanks to the combined efforts of the University Graduate Council and the Graduate Program Directors. The Graduate School and the Graduate Student Association serve as co-hosts for this evening's activities.

The Dean's Citation Awards recognize excellence in academic performance in several categories. Graduate students are nominated for these awards by staff or faculty members, advisors, graduate program directors, and departmental chair or school directors. The Dean of the Graduate School reviews the nominees and approves the final selection. Each recipient receives a certificate of recognition and a graduate honors cord to be worn at commencement. Additionally, we honor several of our graduate faculty members who have distinguished themselves in mentoring and serving our students at Grand Valley. Their dedication helps to create a rich and vibrant learning environment.

Grand Valley State University is proud of the accomplishments of these graduate students and graduate faculty members. I wish each of our award winners a very successful future.

Congratulations to all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Potteiger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being more prominent and the last name "Potteiger" following in a similar style.

Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Ph.D., FACSM
Dean of The Graduate School
Grand Valley State University

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**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Fall 2018**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Pushpaja Dodla, Business Administration

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Rebecca A. Young, Health Administration
- ❖ Beverly J. Harkema, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
- ❖ Spencer Ballard, Public Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Danielle Barnes, School Counseling

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Nicolas Arias Gonzales, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Jamie N. Cole, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Catharine R. Fortino, Clinical Dietetics
- ❖ Briar E. Plantinga, Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Lara Barnas, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Erin T. Hawkins, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Nicole M. De Windt, Applied Linguistics
- ❖ Spencer C. Pageau, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Anna E. Barry, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ James A. Ford, Communications
- ❖ Annabelle Miller, English

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Amy J. Hopp, Nursing

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Liana Cho, Clinical Dietetics

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Daniel T. Myers, Biology
- ❖ Sarah J. Kooienga, English

OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT

College of Education

- ❖ Kasey C. Stevens, Higher Education
- ❖ Jennifer L. Torreano, Higher Education

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Lauren O. Cole, Clinical Dietetics
- ❖ Bella Baazov, Kaitlin M. Brundage, Hannah L. Repasy,
and Christopher J. Rudenga, Occupational Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Neha Nitin Ainapure, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Joshua A. Schumacher, Communications

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Kimberly A. Oldenborg, Biology
- ❖ Jennifer M. Klug, English

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Brianna R. Wilson, Health Administration
- ❖ Tracey A. Hamlet, Public Administration

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Hannah B. Geels, Physician Assistant Studies

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Phallon K. LoveLady, Nursing

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Kathryn L. Jones, Health Administration
- ❖ Hannah M. Everett, Public Administration

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Jamie N. Cole, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Amber L. Carmean, Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Sarabrooke A. Mowery, Physician Assistant Studies

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Daniel T. Myers, Biology
- ❖ Anna E. Barry, Cell and Molecular Biology

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Lindsey A. Crawford, Physician Assistant Studies

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Alex M. Flach, Physician Assistant Studies

MAGS DISTINGUISHED THESIS NOMINEES

College of Education

- ❖ Recharad L. Peel, Higher Education

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Joshua O. Usoro, Engineering

*Congratulations to all of the Fall 2018
Graduate Dean's Citation Award Recipients!*

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARDS
Fall 2018

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Neal Buckwalter, School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Judy Stearns Williams, Educational Leadership and Counseling

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Byron DeVries, School of Computing and Information Systems

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Dawn Clifford Hart, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology

KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Jennifer Summers, Department of Occupational Science and Therapy

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Emily Nichols, School of Social Work

*Congratulations to the Fall 2018
Graduate Student Association Faculty Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM
Fall 2018**

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Pushpaja Dodla, Master of Business Administration**

Pushpaja Dodla has made a number of major contributions in her role as a graduate student in the Seidman College of Business. First, she co-authored and presented a paper at the 2017 Midwest Decision Sciences Proceedings. Next, she adopted leadership roles for the THEProject 2018 Competition and The AGC Cup 2018, both of which resulted in first-place wins. Faculty have said that she has the intellectual curiosity and the discipline required to succeed and make a major impact in the business community. Her outstanding communication skills, exceptional analytical skills, excellent GPA, and experience working with Empirical Bioscience, Inc. all make her a strong recipient for this award.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Rebecca A. Young, Master of Health Administration**

Rebecca Young has been nominated by Health Administration staff for the Academic Excellence in a Degree Program Award. Throughout Rebecca's academic career, she has maintained a 4.0 GPA while managing a rigorous course load, completing 2 internships, and working part-time. Rebecca's course participation, exams, reports, and research papers have all demonstrated thoroughness, completeness, curiosity, and excellence. Faculty have been thoroughly impressed with her work ethic and perseverance through all the difficult challenges that arise with attending graduate school.

❖ **Beverly J. Harkema, Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership**

Beverly Harkema has been an exceptional student since she began her graduate career at GVSU. She eagerly contributed in class and was praised by faculty as one of the most remarkable writers in her program. Beverly has

also volunteered in area schools, teaching and tutoring students. For the 2018-19 school year, Beverly was awarded the Maribeth Wardrop Leaders in Philanthropy Scholarship for her unwavering commitment to being a leader both in and out of the classroom. Her strong academic performance, community service, and role as a graduate assistant at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy has established Beverly as a clear recipient for this award.

❖ **Spencer Ballard, Master of Public Administration**

Spencer Ballard has been unanimously nominated for the Academic Excellence in the Degree Program Award. Throughout Spencer's academic career, he has maintained a 4.0 GPA while handling a rigorous course load and working as an Environmental Health Supervisor at Ottawa County Department of Public Health. He is known for his thoughtful approach to class discussions and thoroughness in his course discussion posts, reports, and research papers. Spencer has personally demonstrated excellence as a role model for public administrators to emulate in intellectual integrity, leadership aptitude, and public service vision.

College of Education

❖ **Danielle Barnes, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Danielle Barnes has been characterized as a strong student with natural intellectual curiosity paired with authentic and genuine interpersonal skills. Her excellence is also evidenced by her master's project, which was designed to help students understand and manage anxiety. Danielle has been described as very knowledgeable about professional standards, extremely organized and efficient with her time, and infallibly energetic. She is a natural leader in the school setting who does not back down from taking the initiative. Such qualities have led the School Counseling faculty to enthusiastically recommend Danielle for this award.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Nicolas Arias Gonzales, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

Nicolas Arias Gonzales is finishing his master's thesis this semester, and the faculty in the School of Computing and Information Systems expect him to graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Faculty note that in many of his classes Nicolas went well beyond the homework and project specifications, and he was a model student to have in the classroom. Nicolas has served as a Graduate Assistant to support work on the grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (GVSU is a sub-recipient), "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Predict and Improve the Health of Honeybees Used for Pollination of U.S. Fruit, Nut, and Seed Crops."

❖ **Jamie N. Cole, Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**

Jamie Cole is always among the best in class and her general attitude towards work is excellent. She joined a faculty-led research group with Health Information, Public Administration, and Nursing faculty on "Usability and Patient Safety" and has been seriously engaged in her research. Her research resulted in two peer-reviewed poster presentations, one at a major national conference, the American Medical Informatics (AMIA) Symposium 2018, in San Francisco. Her professors also indicated that she is exceptionally well organized and intelligent. Considering Jamie's academic record, special ambition, and determination, the program nominates Jamie for this award without reservation.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Catharine R. Fortino, Master of Science in Clinical Dietetics**

Catharine Fortino has been a positive presence in her program where she has consistently displayed strong qualities. She is hard-working, inquisitive and a natural leader both inside and outside of the classroom. During her time at GVSU, Catherine earned a high GPA while maintaining a positive attitude and strong work ethic. She has earned the respect of the professors in the

Clinical Dietetics program who mention that her maturity and dedication to excellence in the field of dietetics will not only make her an exceptional clinician but employee as well following her graduation. Catharine is an exceptional student and a fantastic example of academic excellence.

❖ **Briar E. Plantinga, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**

Briar Plantinga exemplifies excellence both inside and outside the classroom. She has sustained a 4.0 GPA and has maintained a leadership position in her cohort academically while supporting her classmates through their personal challenges. Her written work and projects retained exceptional quality. Briar even stepped up outside of the classroom to help a faculty member provide an accessibility evaluation for a handicapped room at the Alumni House. Her efforts have been recognized and have led to her nomination for this award by the Occupational Science and Therapy faculty.

❖ **Lara Barnas, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Lara Barnas has been recognized by faculty to exemplify excellence during her time in the Physician Assistant Studies Program. Lara was commended for staying active in the student society, displaying leadership in class, and maintaining a high GPA. She has portrayed professionalism and a commitment to learning throughout her academic career as well. Lara's professors mentioned that her drive, determination, and passion for medicine will make her an exemplary physician assistant. In recognition of her hard work and selflessness, the faculty have seen fit to nominate Lara for this award.

❖ **Erin T. Hawkins, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

Erin Hawkins has excelled in her academic and clinical coursework, earning the highest GPA in her graduating class. She has continuously impressed her professors and clinical preceptors with her knowledge, skills, and professional demeanor. Her experiences focus largely on helping children. Erin has worked within area schools and therapy centers to help students with articulation, language, and fluency disorders. She won the 2018 Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation Scholarship for her merit and passion. Speech-Language Pathology staff have ardently endorsed Erin for this award.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Nicole M. De Windt, Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics**

Nicole De Windt has proven herself to be one of the top students in her graduate program. She has continually demonstrated intrinsic interest, curiosity, and critical thinking skills throughout her studies. Nicole has been commended for her sensitivity to cultural diversity and linguistic challenges while maintaining a broad sociolinguistic understanding of English language learning. Program faculty have expressed pride and praise for Nicole's work ethic; she took every assignment seriously and acted proactively by asking questions and preparing materials ahead of time. This caliber of work ethic not only produced quality work, and it is indicative that Nicole will be a valued and trustworthy member of her profession.

❖ **Spencer C. Pageau, Master of Health Science in Biomedical Sciences**

Spencer Pageau recently earned his Master's degree over the Spring/Summer 2018 semester. His 4.0 GPA in a diverse range of classes from physiology, microbiology, anatomy, and statistics helped to set him apart as an outstanding student. Biomedical Sciences faculty members were unanimous in their praise of Spencer's performance and scholarship. Staff also noted his distinguished writing ability, demonstrated through logical/sequential organization and a solid comprehension of subject matter. In lab settings, Spencer was able to learn techniques quickly and reproduce them with a minimum of issues. Given his accomplishments and proficiency, he has been highly recommended for this award.

❖ **Anna E. Barry, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Anna Barry has maintained 4.0 GPA in an intensive combined degree program while managing a busy research schedule during her studies. She was an intern in Dr. Brian Haab's lab at the Van Andel Institute for almost two years and previously worked on National Science Foundation-funded research in the lab of Dr. Dawn Clifford Hart in the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology. With this nomination, the department recognizes Anna's academic and scientific achievements as well as her service in enhancing the image and reputation of the department and University.

❖ **James A. Ford, Master of Science in Communications**

James Ford has been commended for a high level of subject matter mastery that is rare even among graduate students. His academic performance has been exemplary as demonstrated by a 4.0 GPA, and he has continuously exceeded the expectations of Communications faculty. James has been commended for his remarkable level of knowledge relevant to the field of communication; he has skillfully applied conceptual principals to practical problem-solving situations in and out of the classroom. James' pursuit of graduate education speaks his character as a lifelong learner and leader.

❖ **Annabelle Miller, Master of Arts in English**

Annabelle Miller has impressed GVSU English faculty regularly with different aspects of her character. Regarding her attitude toward classwork, Annabelle's professors mentioned that she possessed an intensity and seriousness in her approach to literature that is unmatched. One faculty member noted that Annabelle is a strikingly sophisticated thinker and she demonstrated an ability to analyze literature at an impressively deep level in classes. Annabelle's ability to shine in her courses has earned her a high GPA, but beyond that, her hard work and serious approach to her studies has prepared her for a Ph.D. program and for scholarly work beyond GVSU.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Amy J. Hopp, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Amy Hopp has demonstrated outstanding academic excellence among graduate students in the Kirkhof College of Nursing as a student leader, discussion facilitator, and scholar. She maintained a high GPA through the program's rigorous coursework while promoting the excellence of GVSU's program at Allegan General Hospital. Amy was recognized by her preceptor, the Chief Nursing Officer of the organization, for her insightful leadership, tenacity in the face of problems and her exceptional integrity. Amy implemented a Multimodal Hand Hygiene Intervention at this rural critical access hospital in order to decrease hospital acquired infections spread by hand. DNP faculty have enthusiastically nominated Amy for this award.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS
Fall 2018**

College of Health Professions

❖ **Liana Cho, Master of Science in Clinical Dietetics**

- **Thesis Title:** The Relationship between Neuroticism, Self-Esteem, and Disordered Eating Attitudes: Examining the Health at Every Size Theory
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Libby MacQuillan (Chair) – Department of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Judy Vogelzang – Department of Allied Health Sciences, and Dr. Kirk Anderson – Department of Statistics

Liana Cho went above and beyond the expectations of her professors while at GVSU. She has displayed self-directed initiative and the ability to simultaneously think creatively and analytically, particularly in regard to the completion of her thesis. Liana's thesis used a survey design to examine the associations of neurotic traits and self-esteem with eating disorder behaviors and diet tracking. Liana recognized a potential connection between the use of diet tracking and poor mental health that had not been explored and quantified by existing research. She efficiently developed several clear, practical suggestions to address these issues for clinicians in their practice.

The most impressive part of her thesis, however, was her own interpretation of the results in clear, simple terms that a clinician reading her paper could use to apply to their own practice. Liana also thoughtfully included several suggestions for clinical practice applications of her results in her final thesis paper write-up. This dedication to producing research that can be applied to improve practice is one of the highlights of her thesis work, and the reason it will be an impactful contribution to the field of dietetics.

Liana's abstract appears on the following page.

ABSTRACT

Background. In the modern day treatment of overweight/obesity, conflicting recommendations regarding treatment have been released by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) and advocates of the Health at Every Size HAES) movement. While the AND have indicated their support for self-monitoring practices, such as keeping a food diary or tracking calories, HAES advocates have claimed that these restrictive practices may result in increased disordered eating tendencies and poor self-esteem. **Subjects.** The participants for this study included 410 students at Grand Valley State University. Almost 80% of participants were female, and just over 85% of participants identified as white. **Methods.** Participants completed three self-report measures through the online survey system Qualtrics: the Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale (RSES), which evaluates self-esteem; the EAT-26, which is a measure of characteristics of eating disorders, and eight items from the Big Five Inventory that measures an individual's level of neuroticism. These data were analyzed using regression models, correlation, and Mann-Whitney U tests conducted with SPSS v.20 software. **Results.** Diet tracking was significantly correlated with increased disordered eating attitudes and behaviors, as well as lower self-esteem. Self-esteem was found to be a significant negative predictor of scores on a measure of disordered eating attitudes and behaviors. Individuals who diet tracked scored higher on a measure of disordered eating. Finally, lower scores on a measure of neuroticism significantly predicted greater frequency of meeting dietary goals. **Conclusion.** This study confirmed previous research findings on the correlative links between self-esteem, diet tracking, and disordered eating attitudes and behaviors. The recommendations provided by the AND and HAES proponents each have some value in health management, as demonstrated by the work of previous studies. However, the limitations of the available research and lack of data on this topic in more diverse populations suggest that additional research is required to comprehend the most optimal integration of treatment methodologies. Findings from this study support a multi-modal approach to weight management that combines mental health screening with traditional diet tracking approaches.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Daniel T. Myers, Master of Science in Biology**

- **Thesis Title:** Investigating Erosion and Ecological Impacts to an Urban Coldwater Stream Using Multiple Techniques
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Rick Rediske (Chair) – Annis Water Resources Institute, Dr. James McNair – Annis Water Resources Institute, Dr. Eric Snyder – Department of Biology, and Wendy Olgilvie – Lower Grand Rapids Organization of Watersheds

Daniel Myers created a noteworthy and significant thesis using a rigorous experimental design. Program faculty mentioned that the quality and rigor of his work demonstrated outstanding scholarship. Dan's experimental design included intensive ecological, geomorphic, and modeling components. He worked ardently to master the geomorphic measurement and modeling techniques necessary to complete his research with the Annis Water Resources Institute staff, committee members, and GVSU faculty.

All three of his thesis chapters have been submitted for publication and Dan recently presented his work at two conferences. Biology staff also commended Dan's exceptional organizational skills in coordinating his field work, effectively utilizing equipment resources, and communicating results to local stakeholders. Dan's thesis has been nominated by his professors to receive this award for his work that significantly contributes to stream ecology and provides critical information to guide current and future stream restoration efforts.

Daniel's abstract appears on the following page.

ABSTRACT

Sediment pollution is a major cause of stream degradation. Our objectives were three-fold. First, we assessed the impacts of environmental stressors on the structure of fish and macroinvertebrate communities across a gradient of agricultural to urban land cover in a coldwater tributary of the Grand River, Michigan, USA called Indian Mill Creek. We found that instream woody debris, streambed substrate, riffle and pool habitat variability, and riparian conditions affected aquatic macroinvertebrates along an agricultural to urban land cover gradient. We also found that variation in fish community assemblage was driven largely by stream flow and temperature regimes and could be impacted by episodic pollution events that have occurred within the lower, urbanized part of the watershed. Second, we identified critical areas for sediment management in the Indian Mill Creek watershed using the Enhanced Generalized Watershed Loading Functions (GWLFE) model and MapShed plugin for MapWindow GIS to simulate the water budget, field erosion, and streambank erosion in 20 subbasins from 1997-2015. We found that southwest subbasins had the highest rates of runoff because of impervious surfaces and urbanization. Field erosion was greatest in the lower watershed with steep slopes and erodible soils. The proportion of sediment load from streambanks and the lateral bank erosion rate increased in a downstream direction. Third, we evaluated three techniques for quantifying sediment pollution from streambank erosion: erosion pins, total station surveyor, and terrestrial laser scanning, and assessed the spatial distribution of erosion rates in the watershed in relation to the GWLFE modeling. We found that erosion pins and total station surveying are preferable for vegetated banks, while laser scanning can collect high quality data for barren banks. We also found that streambank erosion rates vary spatially in the watershed, with the lower reaches experiencing net deposition of sediment on the banks, while the upper reaches experience net erosion that contributes to sediment loading in the creek. We estimate that streambank erosion contributes 28.5% of sediment to the creek's total sediment load. Findings of these studies help watershed managers prioritize restoration programs to reduce sediment loadings and have broad applications for streams degraded by sediment.

❖ **Sarah J. Kooienga, Master of Arts in English**

- **Thesis Title:** Reaching the Sacred Through the Secular: Biblical Elements and the Superiority of Divine Love in Three of Marie de France's *Lais*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Kathleen Blumreich (Chair) – Department of English, Dr. Benjamin Lockerd – Department of English, and Dr. Jo Miller – Department of English

Sarah Kooienga's thesis contains original readings of three narrative poems 'book-ending' a larger collection through which twelfth century author Marie de France seeks to articulate a theory of love. Sarah utilized an infrequently broached mode of literary analysis called scriptural exegesis, arguing that it was useful for fully understanding the meaning of the twelfth-century texts. This form of analysis allowed Sarah to explore the author's habit of viewing human behavior from an allegorical/moral perspective. Sarah has been commended for her skill in recognizing often obscure biblical allusions, her ability to discern structural patterns, and her commitment to painstaking research.

Faculty have also remarked that Sarah's prose is clear, engaging, and stylistically sophisticated. Having defended her thesis in August 2018, and having earned a Pass with Distinction, Sarah is fully deserving of this honor. In 2018, Sarah was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and is now serving as an Adjunct Professor for the Department of English at GVSU.

Sarah's abstract appears on the following page.

ABSTRACT

In the Prologue to her *Lais*, Marie de France hints that her text possesses multiple layers of meaning: "The custom among the ancients...was to speak quite obscurely / in the books they wrote, / so that those who were to come after / and study them / might gloss the letter / and supply its significance from their own wisdom" (9, 11-16). Critics who study the *Lais* agree that the tales overwhelmingly focus on romantic love, and most of the existing scholarship overlooks the fact that this theme is merely one layer of the text's significance. To the contrary, this study examines three particular *lais* and the biblical elements within them in order to clarify Marie's true aim in her text: to show divine love is superior to flawed human love. *Guigemar*, *Equitan*, and *Eliduc* all present courtly romances that expose the protagonists' spiritual deficiencies. Guigemar's liaison with a married woman is characterized by selfishness and lust; and the *Lais* biblical motifs, including talking animals, a ship that rescues, and references to Solomon, hint at the existence of a more profound love than that found in physical affection. Equitan, a king, has an affair with his seneschal's wife and plots the man's murder, mirroring the biblical account of David and Bathsheba. Whereas David confesses and finds forgiveness, Equitan dies with his sins, allowing Marie to insist that the type of love that saves David from himself—divine love—is the highest type. Eliduc, torn between two women, is the picture of pride and self-centeredness. In the end, though, the love demonstrated by his soul-like wife moves both him and his lover to a renewed bond with God that transcends romance. In conclusion, Marie's depiction of courtly love scenarios consistently shows those relationships to be flawed. In fact, all human relationships in the *Lais* are imperfect. Only with God can people experience a perfect love, one that moves them to charity and selflessness. By employing elements from the biblical text in her *Lais*, Marie points her readers to this higher love.

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT

Fall 2018

College of Education

❖ **Kasey C. Stevens, Master of Education in Higher Education
(Spring/Summer 2018)**

- **Project Title:** The Influences of Male Gender Role Conflict, Men's Fear of Femininity, and Student Development on Male College Students
Gender Socialization: An Intervention to Men's Poor Achievement and Male Perpetrated Campus Violence
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Cathy Meyer-Looze – College of Education

Kasey Stevens completed his Master of Higher Education with an emphasis in Adult and Higher Education degree at the end of the Spring/Summer 2018 semester. Program faculty were continually impressed with his dedication to learning and his own professional development. Kasey was a motivated student who engaged thoughtfully in class. He participated in honest discourse that challenged both his colleagues and educators to consider alternative perspectives. Kasey was well-respected and regarded as a leader among his classmates, especially regarding his final project. It centered on decreasing campus violence by engaging men in gender identity development—an extension of progressive work across his graduate studies surrounding men and masculinity. The project represented Kasey's lifelong commitment to social justice and improved campus environments.

❖ **Jennifer L. Torreano, Master of Education in Higher Education (Fall 2018)**

- **Project Title:** Encouraging Intellectual Development and Overcoming Cognitive Bias: Developing Training for Undergraduate Research Consultants at Grand Valley State University
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Jay Cooper – College of Education

Jennifer Torreano's master's project has been praised by faculty as thorough, exceptionally well written, and a topic of great importance. Jennifer's project addresses a current critical issue in higher education: the intellectual development and information literacy skills of undergraduate students. The project created a theoretical undergraduate research assistant training program for use in the GVSU university libraries. She effectively uses these theoretical frameworks in developing an undergraduate research assistant

training program for use in the GVSU university libraries. Jennifer's project has great potential to be adapted for use in the library system of GVSU and positively impact many future students. Jennifer's excellent work ethic, scholarship, and project have proven worthy of this award.

College of Health Professions

❖ Lauren O. Cole, Master of Science in Clinical Dietetics

- **Project Title:** Adherence of Gastric Residual Volume Protocol in the ICU and Barriers to Administering Enteral Feeding
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Elizabeth MacQuillan – Department of Allied Health Sciences

Lauren Cole has been credited with exemplary dedication and initiative at each stage of her master's project development. Faculty have noted that her findings will be instrumental in making direct improvements to the nutrition care provided to critically ill patients in intensive care units (ICUs). Lauren was permanently placed at a site in Marquette, Michigan for the duration of her coordinated graduate program and conducted herself exceptionally well given the distance. Her work has caught the attention of not only her Clinical Dietetics professors at GVSU, but also of the hospital administrators, critical care physicians, and dietitians she came in contact with during her placements. The Clinical Dietetics faculty have applauded the tangible health benefits of Lauren's project and believe the results may also be applied by other hospitals' staff to help in assessing and improving patient care in other settings.

The Department of Occupational Science and Therapy has selected four recipients of this semester's Outstanding Final Project Award as part of a group project.

❖ Bella Baazov, Kaitlin M. Brundage, Hannah L. Repasy, and Christopher J. Rudenga; Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

- **Project Title:** Lateral Epicondylitis and the Efficacy of Long Arm Orthosis: A Case Series
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Jeanine Beasley – Department of Occupational Science and Therapy

Bella Baazov, Kaitlin Brundage, Hannah Repasy, and Chris Rudenga formed a group to complete their final project for the Occupational

Therapy program. Their completed project demonstrated excellence from its conception, has received national and local recognition for merit, provides significant results, promotes the relationship with Spectrum Health, and is outstanding in its presentation including its written, oral, and poster forms.

Their project was a collaboration with Spectrum Health and GVSU. The students worked with Spectrum Health therapists to conceptualize, create, and defend a retrospective case series design, a process noted for abundant academic rigor. Their research represents solid findings in an area where the literature is often contradictory or inconclusive. The group's poster has been accepted for both the Rehabilitation Symposium at Spectrum Health and the national annual meeting of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Their paper will be presented at the Philadelphia Hand Rehabilitation Meeting by faculty as an invited presentation. This study demonstrated a clinically significant effect for changes in pain and function with the long arm orthosis intervention; practitioners can use the findings to help make the most informed decisions possible for their patients. Given the project's outstanding significance, merit, and scholarship, faculty have nominated this group for this award.

College of Liberal & Arts and Sciences

- ❖ **Neha Nitin Ainapure, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**
 - **Project Title:** Techniques for the Study of Vascular Contributions to Dementia
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Scott Counts – Michigan State University

Neha Ainpure's project demonstrates a continued collaboration between GVSU and the broader academic community. She conducted her efforts in Grand Rapids at Michigan State University in the Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine. In her work, she provided evidence that oxytocin and oxytocin receptors may be involved in protection from vascular cognitive impairment. This means that her findings may have an impact on developing treatment for the 7.7 million patients who develop this type of dementia annually. Neha's excellent scholarship and perseverance played a strong role in her project's success, and she has recently accepted a position as a Research Specialist at Charles River Laboratories.

❖ **Joshua A. Schumacher, Master of Science in Communications**

- **Project Title:** Public Speaking Class for the Workplace
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko – School of Communications

Joshua Schumacher developed and instructed a course in public speaking for employees of the Gentex Corporation as his final project. He established a twelve-week program for employees to prepare them for speaking in public; each week the class met to work on different aspects of successful speech. Speech class members spanned a range from new employees to executive vice presidents. Participants created and presented a number of practice speeches throughout the course, and Joshua's class has been assessed as highly successful by Gentex. It is now in its fifth round with a full complement of participants for the foreseeable future. It is notable that employees at other local companies have also attended these speech classes so that they may implement similar programs at their respective companies.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION
Fall 2018**

College of Liberal & Arts and Sciences

❖ **Kimberly A. Oldenburg, Master of Science in Biology**

- **Title:** Impact of sediment dredging on sediment phosphorus flux in a restored riparian wetland
- **Publisher:** *Science of the Total Environment*
- **Co-Author:** Dr. Alan Steinman – Annis Water Resources Institute

Kimberly Oldenburg focused her research on evaluating the effectiveness of sediment removal in restoring a coastal wetland and successfully defended her thesis this past June. Her field and laboratory research combined cutting edge biogeochemical assays with field measurements. By comparing her post- restoration results to work conducted prior to restoration, she was able to determine the effectiveness of sediment dredging in improving water quality. Kimberly's findings will be valuable to natural resource managers and decision-makers in helping to control nutrient runoff from watersheds in the Great Lakes region. Her thesis has already been successfully published in the *Science of the Total Environment* journal with high reviewer acclaim. Kimberly has accepted a position with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as the Northeast Lakeshore Total Maximum Daily Load Project Coordinator.

Citation:

Oldenburg, K.A. and Steinman, A.D., 2019. Impact of sediment dredging on sediment phosphorus flux in a restored riparian wetland. Science of The Total Environment, 650, pp.1969-1979.

❖ **Jennifer M. Klug, Master of Arts in English**

- **Title:** "'It's Sad, But Not Crazy' — Memory as Construction/Performance in Graphic Memoirs."
- **Publisher:** *ImageText* – University of Florida
- **Advisor:** Dr. Robert Rozema – Department of English

Jennifer Daniels Klug is a recent graduate of the English graduate program at GVSU. On the recommendation of one of her professors, she submitted an essay she wrote while at Grand Valley for publication in *Image/Text*, a journal run by the University of Florida. The main thesis of Jennifer's article is that the graphic medium is well-suited to address the problem of memory; that its flexible, multimodal format can better show how personal experiences are artificially constructed and highly subjective. Jennifer examined the idea of memory from a range of social and individual angles, analyzing other sources concerning the graphic medium to expose the artificiality of all works that purport to record personal history. Professors within the Department of English were impressed with the depth of the essay's analysis and the clarity of its language and the profundity of Jennifer's insights.

Citation:

Klug, Jennifer Daniels. "'It's Sad, But Not Crazy' — Memory as Construction/Performance in Graphic Memoirs." *ImageText*, vol 10, no. 1, 2018, n. pag. Dept of English, University of Florida. 14 November 2018. Web. (http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/archives/v10_1/klug/)

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

Fall 2018

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Brieanna R. Wilson, Master of Health Administration**

Brieanna Wilson has ardently pursued her MHA degree while working full-time, a feat that has impressed program faculty immensely. Brieanna has been involved in the Special Olympics of Michigan, Grand Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce, Omocron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, the American College of Healthcare Executives, and the Healthcare Professionals Graduate Student Alliance. Alignment with each entity embodies her commitment to both service and professional growth. It also demonstrates her passion for social development and giving back, even when time constraints would have stopped others from pushing forward.

❖ **Tracey A. Hamlet, Master of Public Administration**

Tracey Hamlet has been applauded for successfully completing her degree with an exceptional academic record and a legacy of service to the community. For more than 9 years, Tracey has served as the Director of Programs for the community-based MOKA Foundation and prior to that she spent her career in the nonprofit sector working to improve the community. In total, Tracy has spent nearly thirty years of her life in positions that directly served members of the community, from individuals with disabilities to elderly citizens. She has a passion for volunteer work that makes tangible differences in the lives of people living in West Michigan.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Hannah B. Geels, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Hannah Geels has demonstrated her passion for giving back to the community in a variety of ways, including being elected as the Richard P. Clodfelder Student Society's Volunteer chair. Through this position she developed relationships with the community and organized volunteer

opportunities benefiting Gilda's Club, Hurricane Harvey Relief, STEM Experience Day, and the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan. Her dedication to her community and profession extend even beyond the academic realm. She has been a student liaison to the Grand Valley State University Pre-PA club, volunteered her musical talents to her church as a vocalist, and mentored children through the New City Kids program.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ Phallon K. LoveLady, Doctor of Nursing Practice

Phallon Lovelady has been recognized for her passion in preventing cardiovascular disease and diabetes in the African-American population. Her doctoral project focused on evaluating a health system's program for individuals with these diseases, and she worked as part of a team of experts dedicated to providing screening and preventative care services in Grand Rapids. Due to Phallon's efforts, these preemptive services have been expanded for the populations of people that need them most. Faculty remarked that Phallon is an exemplary role model for health care professionals, scholars, and leaders who wish to create healthier communities in Michigan.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU
Fall 2018**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Kathryn L. Jones, Master of Health Administration**

While pursuing her degree, Kate Jones has served as the Communications Officer for the Upsilon Phi Delta Student Organization and as the Finance Officer for the Healthcare Professionals Graduate Student Alliance. Additionally, she was part of the student group that attended the annual American College of Healthcare Executives Congress in March 2018, which illustrates her ongoing passion for professional development and leadership in her field. She has contributed to Grand Valley's success as a graduate assistant for multiple departments and is known for her excellent communication skills, being a team player, and serving others.

❖ **Hannah M. Everett, Master of Public Administration**

Hannah Everett was commended for not only being a committed and dedicated student, but also for her outstanding scholarship. She has served as a Fellow for the Cook Leadership Academy, and her time at GVSU has allowed her to develop and utilize her leadership skills in unique ways. Volunteer work, campus engagement, and international travel are all areas that Hannah has developed her leadership qualities. Her professors in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration determined she is the ideal candidate for this award.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Jamie N. Cole, Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**

Jamie Cole is known by program faculty as an inquisitive and active student who strives to serve others. Jamie creatively developed fundraisers to help international students supplement GVSU conference funding to attend and present at conferences around the nation. She even organized travel for the students to the various conference locations. James has worked as a graduate assistant and demonstrated strong leadership qualities by helping students who

had difficulty with classwork, even meeting with them outside of class to make sure that they were successful. Jamie has the exceptional quality of selflessly volunteering her time and talents to those in need, a quality fostered as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

College of Health Professions

❖ Sarabrooke A. Mowery, Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Sarabrooke Mowery has demonstrated leadership and service to GVSU, the Physician Assistant Studies program, and her classmates as the vice president of the Richard Paul Clodfelder (RPC) Student Society for GVSU at the Traverse City Campus. In this role, Sarabrooke represented the Traverse City Campus student voice and was instrumental in continuing organizational structure and function between the two sites. Additionally, she frequently organized fundraiser events for the Traverse City PAS students in an effort to raise money for the RPC Student Society. Sarabrooke's leadership skills and dedication to service took her to Africa for a clinical rotation, and her passion for the profession and her patients make her a natural leader.

❖ Amber L. Carmean, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Amber Carmean is an outstanding student in her program has demonstrated leadership and service consistently throughout her studies. Amber has been credited with the exceptional ability to reframe negative situations into more favorable ones, both personally and professionally. Amber's leadership is demonstrated through her role as a fieldwork student, having been selected by professors to work with prisoners at the Muskegon Correctional Facility in an untested and unusual pilot experience. She is also a student scholar and the President of the Pi Theta Epsilon Honor Society in Occupational Therapy, an organization dedicated to focusing on the support of increased scholarship in the profession.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

❖ Daniel T. Myers, Master of Science in Biology

Daniel Myers has been nominated for this award because on top of his remarkable scholarship and academic performance, Dan demonstrated

exceptional leadership skills while completing his degree. He served as Vice President of the Graduate Student Association and coordinated professional development, education, networking, and social opportunities on its behalf. He also volunteered at the Literacy Center for West Michigan and served as a tutor for community members that needed assistance with English as a second language. Dan helped numerous graduate and undergraduate students with GIS projects and served as a mentor to new students as well. His service greatly impressed his professors, who also noted that Dan's professional, courteous personality have made him an outstanding representative of GVSU.

❖ **Anna E. Barry, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Anna Barry served as the treasurer/financial officer of the Professional Association of Graduate Scientists (PAGS) and served the public by volunteering at MSU's Brain Awareness Week at the Neuroscience Fair at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. She has also volunteered at a Forest Hills school leading science explorations. Anna completed Grand Valley's CMB combined degree program and often offered to represent GVSU for both graduate and undergraduate events. With this nomination, program faculty recognize Anna's exemplary service to Grand Valley, her graduate program, her department, and her own exceptional academic success.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU
Fall 2018**

College of Health Professions

❖ **Lindsey A. Crawford, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

Lindsey Crawford was a tireless advocate for inclusion while at GVSU where she served as the Diversity Chair of the Richard Paul Clodfelder (RPC) Student Society. She facilitated interaction with external professionals and medical providers from a variety of specialties (i.e. music therapists, providers who work with the LGBTQ population, and PAs practicing international medicine) with the intent of exposing her classmates to experiences from a larger variety of professional/patient populations. Lindsey's love of the Spanish language and passion for the Hispanic community have been driving forces throughout her time at GVSU and she has embodied advocacy for diverse populations.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY
Fall 2018**

The Excellence in Sustainability award nominees have demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovative thinking in the community by implementing sustainable best practices. The award recipients must have given life to a sustainability initiative in one or more aspects of the triple bottom line in sustainability (economic, social, or environmental).

College of Health Professions

❖ Alex M. Flach, Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Alex Flach served as the Health and Wellness Chair for the Richard P. Clodfelder (RPC) Student Society and used his position to encourage, develop, and promote several initiatives that aligned with GVSU's sustainability efforts. Alex catalyzed the organization of a Summer Health and Wellness challenge and coordinated group workout sessions with his peers. He also established a Blackboard and Facebook page for students to share healthy recipes and workout plans/ideas. Alex was instrumental in advancing sustainability efforts for the program and his peers, setting an excellent example for both students and faculty.

MAGS DISTINGUISHED THESIS NOMINEES OUTSTANDING THESIS 2018

The Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) calls for nominations for the annual Distinguished Thesis Award. Each school is allowed to nominate one student thesis for the award competition in each discipline category. This year's categories are Social Sciences and Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering. The theses representing GVSU are selected by a committee of faculty members from multiple disciplines and approved by the Dean of The Graduate School.

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2018 MAGS selection committee included:

- Dr. Bradley Ambrose, Department of Physics
- Dr. Colleen Brice, Department of English
- Dr. Lindsay Corneal, School of Engineering
- Dr. Samantha Riggleman, College of Education
- Dr. Steven Smith, School of Social Work
- Dr. Gregory Wolffe, School of Computing and Information Systems

Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School and Associate Dean Dr. Mark Luttenton also served on the review committee and approved the final thesis selections.

College of Education

❖ **Rechard L. Peel, Master of Education in Higher Education (Winter 2017)**

- **Thesis Title:** Racial Ideology and Black Students' Leadership Experiences at a Historically White Institution.
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury (Chair) – College of Education, Dr. Marlene Kowalski-Brown – Department of Inclusion and Equity, and Dr. Donald Mitchell– Bellarmine University

Rechard successfully completed his thesis and graduated at the conclusion of the Winter 2017 semester. His thesis was selected to represent GVSU in the Social Sciences category as the nominee for the MAGS Distinguished Thesis Award.

Rechard's committee chair, Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury, expressed that Rechard's thesis is an exemplar of high quality, original work that has made an "unusually significant contribution" to the social sciences. The extant literature provides a wealth of information on Black college students attending historically

White institutions (HWIs); however, there is a wide gap in our knowledge when it comes to understanding how Black students' racial identities inform and shape their decisions and behaviors regarding campus leadership involvement.

Rechard's thesis advances our knowledge of "how Black students' beliefs and attitudes towards race influence their motivations to be involved with certain types of leadership positions, how they make meaning of being in a leadership role, or their perceptions of how leadership may impact their life and future" (Peel, 2017, p. 9). His study makes a critically significant contribution to the fields of social psychology, student affairs, and the sociology of education because it takes an assets-based approach to better understanding Black college students' experiences at HWIs.

ReChard is currently the Assistant Director in the Office of Inclusion Initiatives and Cultural Competence at Vanderbilt University.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study is to understand the relationship between *racial ideology* and leadership experiences of Black student leaders at a historically White institution (HWI). Using a phenomenological approach, the study seeks to delineate the experiences of Black students as it relates to their leadership and racial identity. Using the Multidimensional Inventory of Black Identity (MIBI); (Sellers et al., 1997) and one-on-one semi-structured interviews, data was collected from Black undergraduate students at a midsized HWI who were classified as juniors or above and who participated in one or more student organizations or campus activities in a leadership capacity. Among the data collected was information about students' *racial ideology*, *racial centrality*, and their experiences and perceptions about leadership at a midsized public HWI. Findings suggest that most students at the research site hold the *Oppressed Minority racial ideology*. Also, *racial ideology* plays a clear role in Black students' perceptions of their leadership experiences, beliefs, and decisions. Black students whose ideology emphasized assimilation or humanism were more likely to deemphasize the impact of racial oppression, and choose leadership opportunities which enhance their professional development, respectively. Ideologies associated with a higher emphasis on Black identity and the Black experience were more likely to feel racially isolated as a student leader and to choose organizations which provided them with a stronger sense of community and belonging.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Joshua O. Usoro, Master of Science in Engineering (Winter 2017)**

- **Thesis Title:** Information Theoretic EEG Analysis of Children with Severe Disabilities
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Samhita Rhodes (Chair) – Department of Engineering, Dr. Lisa Kenyon – Department of Physical Therapy, Dr. John Farris – Department of Engineering

Joshua successfully completed his thesis and graduated at the conclusion of the Winter 2017 semester. His thesis was selected to represent GVSU in the Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering category as the nominee for the MAGS Distinguished Thesis Award.

Joshua's thesis committee chair, Dr. Samhita Rhodes, expressed "Josh's thesis work focused on the changes in network connectivity in the brains of children with multiple, severe disabilities undergoing power mobility training. As the literature for the subject population is fairly sparse, Josh had to extrapolate from studies done on children in the autism spectrum and those with ADHD to understand brain plasticity. His ability to distill information from multiple sources efficiently progressed by leaps and bounds in his tenure as a graduate student, and his enthusiasm to learn and grow as a researcher was never more evident."

Joshua is current a doctoral student at the University of Texas, Dallas pursuing a PhD at the Neuronal Networks and Interfaces Laboratory.

Joshua's abstract appears on the following page.

ABSTRACT

Studies have shown that self-initiated locomotion in infants and young children is paramount to developing motor skills, social skills, and visuospatial perception. Because children with multiple, severe disabilities are often not able to produce movement on their own due to limited motor control, access to a power mobility device may be vital to their overall development. This study extends data analysis from an exploratory study, and investigates the use of information theoretics in providing objective measures to characterize changes in electroencephalograms (EEG) as a result of power mobility training, and relates these changes to observed rehabilitation outcomes. Three subjects with multiple, severe disabilities participated in the 20-week study. A single subject, A-B-A-B study design was employed where each baseline (A) and intervention (B) phase lasted 5 weeks. Various conditions were included in both phases: No Interaction 1, Passive Mobility, and No Interaction 2. EEG data were collected under each condition for 5 minutes, sampled at 128 Hz. During B phases, the subject trained for 45-60 minutes with the power mobility device as well. All three subjects showed similar changes in activation in the frontoparietal recordings, likely due to the visuomotor, attention, and memory requirements of power mobility training. The emergence of a centroparietal network was also observed in one subject. Furthermore, a theta increase and alpha decrease in power for one subject may have been the result of increased alertness and anticipation, while a decrease in theta and increase in alpha power for the other subject may be associated with an increase in cognitive performance. Additionally, all subjects demonstrated rehabilitative growth that correlated well with trends seen in the EEG metrics. All three subjects also exhibited more significant change during the intervention phases compared to the baseline phases. This suggests that power mobility training may be responsible for consistent and objectively quantifiable changes in cortical activity that may be correlated with improvement in subjective measures of cognitive gains.

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
Fall 2018**

The Faculty Mentor Award serves to acknowledge faculty who exemplify a deep commitment to fostering the professional and personal development of graduate students. This includes encouraging the development of individual talent through advising graduate level research, promoting professional development opportunities beyond the classroom, and providing successful transition from graduate studies to individual careers.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Neal Buckwalter, Associate Professor of Public Administration**

Nominated by: Ashley Latsch, Public Administration

Ashley writes: "Professor Buckwalter stepped into my journey during one of the most trying and uncertain times of my life. Upon my first semester back after undergoing brain surgery, most things in my world seemed arduous and overwhelming. I was at senior status in my undergraduate studies with an idea and no real plan. Luckily, I was in the right place at the right time.

His impact has been life-changing. Beyond his required responsibilities, he has invited me personally to share my interests with him, as he also shared his experiences with me while offering advice and trusted me with literature of sentimental value to him. Furthermore, he invited me to meet his graduate students who had similar experiences to my own, encouraged me to apply to graduate school, pushed me to join his student organization, connected me with several individuals in my field, and encouraged me to apply for the internship that turned into my dream job. But, most importantly, he pushed me to see what value I bring to the table. I would not be the aspiring public servant that I am today without his constant genuine support and encouragement."

College of Education

❖ **Judy Stearns Williams, Affiliate Faculty for School Counseling**

Nominated by: LeAnne Lazar, School Counseling

LeAnne states: “Judy makes me feel like I am a priority in her busy schedule and has helped me grow from a nervous first-year graduate student to a confident school counseling intern. She uses times that we meet to give me constructive feedback as well as encouragement on how I can become a better school counselor as well as encouraging me to present for my first time at the Michigan School Counselor Association conference this year. I became more confident in myself after this presentation and I give Judy credit for helping me grow.

Without Judy, I would not be president of the School Counselor Graduate Student Organization, graduate student rep for the West Michigan Counseling Association and a leader within the School Counseling program at GVSU. Judy makes me feel like I can tackle anything that comes my way, and I am a better person for having met her.”

Padnos College of Engineering

❖ **Byron DeVries, Assistant Professor of Computing and Information Systems**

Nominated by: Katherine Skocelas, Computer Information Systems

Katherine writes: “Dr. DeVries is an enthusiastic and dedicated educator who cares deeply about his students’ success. He offers as much hands-on help as each student needs to understand the material, and makes all of his lectures interactive and inclusive. He has been accommodating of my physical disability and tutored me in the areas I had knowledge gaps. This has allowed me to help him with his current project. He has also assisted me with my graduate research project, and we are formulating another that, if selected, would allow us to attend a regional conference before I graduate.

To say that Dr. DeVries’ mentorship has enhanced my experience at GVSU is an understatement. Computer science can be an isolating field as a female student with physical limitations, and Dr. DeVries has gone above and beyond to encourage and promote me, helping to bridge the opportunity gaps and inspire me to always reach higher. I strongly and sincerely believe that he is deserving of the Outstanding Mentorship Award.”

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

❖ **Dawn Clifford Hart, Associate Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology**

Nominated by: Anna E. Barry, PSM/CMB Combined Degree Program

Anna states: “Dr. Hart has been a mentor to me throughout my undergraduate education and graduate education in the Combined Degree Program. She pushes her students to recognize and grow their potential as students and scientists through her commitment to personal and professional growth. This has been shown by her requirements of presenting research from her lab at Student Scholars Day and advocating for presenting at other campus events and conferences.

I believe Dr. Hart has exceeded her general advising role and has fostered mine and others professional growth by reviewing cover letters, telling her industry connections about graduating students, and acting as a guide for career exploration. She genuinely cares about the well-being of students as human beings because she understands how tough and intimidating graduate school and applying for jobs can be.”

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD
Fall 2018**

The Kimboko Inclusion Award recognizes faculty who have made significant contributions in outstanding teaching, distinctive scholarship or creative work, or noteworthy service in moving GVSU graduate education toward being a more diverse and inclusive community. The award recognizes the accomplishments of Dr. Priscilla Kimboko, GVSU's first Graduate Dean, and represents her commitment to these values.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Jennifer Summers, Assistant Professor of Occupational Science and Therapy**
Nominated by: Amanda Deel, Occupational Science and Therapy

Amanda writes: "During my time in the Occupational Science and Therapy (OST) Program, I have had the privilege to learn from Dr. Jennifer Summers. She has made a tremendous impact on myself, the OST program, and the occupational therapy community. Dr. Summers started her career as an OT assistant and has worked her way up to be an exemplary OT in the field, all while she was a single mother. Through her teaching, research, and service it is evident that one of her biggest passions is for the OT field to be more diverse and inclusive in order to adequately serve underrepresented communities.

In her role as an instructor, Dr. Summers is continually striving for her students to better understand underrepresented communities. For example, she designed a semester-long assignment allowing students to research the oppression of an underrepresented community and design programs to combat that oppression. As a research mentor, Dr. Summers has a strong focus on inclusion and equity by researching topics such as voters with disabilities and advocacy. Through her involvement in her hometown of Lake County, MI, her leadership in SHAPE camp, and role as the public policy director of MiOTA, she continually is striving for occupational therapy to be a diverse and inclusive profession."

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD
Fall 2018**

The Outstanding Teaching Award distinguishes faculty who deserve special recognition for exemplary teaching. This includes contributing to graduate student development by using thoughtful and creative methods of instruction, assisting in deeply understanding course content, and engaging students in a dynamic and inclusive manner.

College of Community and Public Service

❖ **Emily Nichols, Assistant Professor of Social Work**

Nominated by: Lainah Hanson, Social Work

Lainah states: "Professor Emily Nichols bolsters excellence in the classroom and dedicates herself to maximizing her students' experiences at Grand Valley. She is an engaging lecturer, reinforcing active student participation through dynamic teaching patterns, such as role play or self-exploration. From bringing in a collection of toys to teach play therapy to touring the city to discuss injustices, she promotes student involvement during class time in every way possible. Additionally, Nichols has a vision involving the reformatting of courses, as well as increasing students' practical skills by utilizing the simulation center for group practice.

More than anything, Professor Nichols truly believes in her students. She takes every opportunity to encourage students to grow through offering active mentorship, promoting doctoral-level education, and giving individuals opportunities to gain new skills in and out of class. She has sacrificed many hours of her time mentoring me and helping me master course material. She inspires me and will inspire many social workers to come. Professor Nichols exemplifies content expertise, vision for program direction, and passion for student futures."

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Sarah Tibbe, Higher Education

Vice President: Bradley Wallsteadt, Social Work

Finance Officer: Andrea Osei-Bonsu, Accounting

Administrative Officer: Rachel Dzapu, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics

Communications Officer: Callie Melton, Public Administration

Advisors:

Mr. Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Dr. Mark Luttenton, Associate Dean of The Graduate School

GRADUATE COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chair:

Dr. Andrea Bostrom, Nursing

Vice Chair:

Dr. Dan Balfour, Public Administration

Policy Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. Shabbir Choudhuri, Engineering

Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. Mark Staves, Cell and Molecular Biology



Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School

Dr. Mark R. Luttenton, Associate Dean of The Graduate School

Irene Fountain, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Palm, Assistant to The Graduate School

Graduate Assistants:

Amanda Boman, Occupational Therapy
Cori Jaskiewicz, Data Science and Analytics
Nick Ross, School Counseling

Student Assistants:

Brittany Ackerman, Finance (undergraduate)
Kelley Heynen, Accounting (undergraduate)

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