Graduate Dean's Citation Awards

Fall 2020

Presented by The Graduate School
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in collaboration with the
Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Dear friends and members of our graduate education community,

At the end of each academic semester, we have the great pleasure to honor those students and faculty who have distinguished themselves in graduate education at Grand Valley State University. The Dean's Citation Awards for Academic Excellence and the Graduate Student Association Faculty Awards are a proud Grand Valley State University tradition that began in 2006 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-sponsors for this event.

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 chairs 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. Additionally, the Graduate Student Association honors members of our graduate faculty who have distinguished themselves in mentoring and supporting our students at Grand Valley. Their noteworthy dedication helps to create a vibrant and engaged learning environment.

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

Congratulations to all!

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

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Congratulations to the Fall 2020
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GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM
Fall 2020

Seidman College of Business

- **Brian J. Hoekzema, Master of Science in Accounting**

  Brian exemplifies a high level of character, determination, work ethic, and actively demonstrates a strong moral compass. His academic performance has remained exceptional all while working a job and being involved in a variety of volunteer opportunities with organizations like Cornerstone Church, Feeding America, and Interfaith Hospitality Network. Brian is the kind of individual who will strongly impact his profession, business community, and society. He demonstrated strong academic skills in addition to his ability and desire to positively impact others. Brian is an excellent student, volunteer, and all-around person, and shows qualities that reflect current and future success.

- **Sofia Uribe Echavarria, Master of Business Administration**

  Sofia will graduate this semester with a near perfect GPA. She is the top academic performer for this graduating class, and her GPA speaks to her standard of excellence. Sofia came to GV with a background in Management Engineering from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. After graduating she had an esteemed career in Colombia and now resides in Grand Rapids where she is the co-founder and manager of a trucking company, BLU Advance Services. The faculty are proud to have her represent the Seidman College of Business.

College of Community & Public Service

- **Andrew G. Jakubik, Master of Health Administration**

  Andrew is an exceptional student in a variety of ways. He is a full-time student in the Master of Health Administration program as well as a full-time employee. Andrew has worked hard to maintain a high GPA and is always prepared, engaged, and eager to discuss real world issues and trends in his

field. He is dedicated to learning and growing as a leader which is evident through his time in the classroom. Students and faculty view Andrew as a true leader in his program. He is also the only student of recent classes to complete the Yellow Belt and Green Belt certifications for quality improvement. This shows his commitment to learn beyond the traditional classroom. Andrew exhibits excellence in his work and classes, and is a prime example of success in his field.

- **Katie L. VanDoeselaar, Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership**

  During her time in the Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership graduate program, Katie maintained a 4.0 grade point average, excelling in every course while also working in the arts community of West Michigan. She is an exceptional student who approaches every lecture, assignment and project with a sense of curiosity and a desire for excellence. She is a pleasure to have in any class and truly deserves to be recognized for her achievements. Katie is currently the Donor Relations Manager at the Grand Rapids Public Museum and a member of the Grand Rapids Jaycees.

- **Sasha G. Gale, Master of Public Administration**

  The MPA program is pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Sasha. Across the board, faculty in the School of Public, Nonprofit & Health Administration who have had Sasha in class fully support this nomination. Her preparations for, and contributions to, each class have been exemplary. She embodies the values of engaged learning that we seek to espouse in our MPA program. Faculty know she will continue to reflect these ideals throughout her career and life, and are truly proud to have such an outstanding student represent the program with this recognition from The Graduate School.

College of Education

- **Stephanie Sandrin-Beam, Master of Education in Literacy Studies-Reading**

  Stephanie has demonstrated academic excellence by maintaining a high GPA and achieving high grades in her courses. Beyond grades, Stephanie has performed in outstanding ways within her coursework. For example, she is currently enrolled in her final Reading Teacher practicum this fall, reflecting

on how to grow her literacy instruction. Her thoughtful and conscientious persona has led her to create meaningful experiences for students, growing them as readers and writers. Additionally, Stephanie wrote an outstanding master's project, earning her a pass with distinction, as she wrote about increasing reading volume and motivation through independent reading in the high school English classroom.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- **Adam J. Luckenbaugh, Master of Science in Applied Computer Science**

  Adam is finishing his Master's project this semester while working as a Software Engineer at Dematic North America. He is fully expected to graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA. The faculty note that Adam's work is consistently outstanding. Furthermore, Adam makes the classroom environment more enjoyable for both instructors and his fellow students. Adam's thoughtful questions and readiness to engage in discussion is an example that we wish all of our students would follow. The faculty are in unanimous agreement that Adam is deserving of this award.

- **Corinne T. Jaskiewicz, Master of Science in Data Science and Analytics**

  Cori was an excellent student in her program. She has one of the highest GPAs in the Data Science and Analytics program. She consistently went above and beyond expectations and showed a great combination of technical and creative skills. Cori was also very attentive to detail, writing excellent project reports. Apart from academics, she exhibited a positive attitude among her fellow students and faculty. She was an unspoken leader in her program and did so with humility and respect for other students. Cori is kind, thoughtful, and dedicated to providing high quality work. She exhibited qualities that set her apart and she has consistently been a phenomenal student in a variety of ways. She is more than deserving of this award.

- **Kalyani Yedla, Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**

  Kalyani has continuously exemplified excellence throughout her time as a graduate student. She maintained exceptional grades and was always one of the best students in her class. Kalyani easily mastered projects and worked

with group members very well. Projects of hers stood out among other students' due to her obvious persistence and quality of work. Her organization and listening skills were among some of her most admirable and outstanding qualities as a student. Kalyani has maintained a positive attitude in everything that she does. Between her academic record and excellent qualities, Kalyani is well deserving of this award.

College of Health Professions

- **Courtney A. Coe, Master of Science in Clinical Dietetics**

  Courtney is a hard-working, passionate, and determined student. Throughout her time in the Clinical Dietetics program, she has exemplified excellence, leadership, and perseverance. Courtney has maintained a 4.0 GPA while being involved in outside activities and a demanding supervised practice schedule. She was also awarded two prestigious scholarships including the Academic Leadership Scholarship through the Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland and the Michigan Nutrition and Dietetics Institute. Courtney exemplifies a high level of maturity and dedication to her field and is an outstanding role model for other students. Her strong work ethic is noteworthy and contributes to her many qualities that make her an exceptional student.

- **Meagan L. Vetter, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**

  Meagan is committed, confident, thoughtful, and hard-working. She has shown dedication to success through her full-time course load in addition to working full-time as a certified occupational therapy assistant. Meagan has a willingness and excitement to push herself both inside and outside of the classroom. She excels academically and has shown perseverance by working full-time as an essential employee throughout the pandemic. Meagan is a true role model for other students due to her ability to balance a variety of responsibilities with ease. She is exceptional and well-deserving of this award.

- **Dakota G. Jordan, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

  Dakota exemplified excellence in both didactic coursework and during clinical rotations, thus recognizing the importance of understanding both the

science and the art of medicine. She epitomized professionalism and a commitment to learning throughout the program. She was active in the PA Student society and was supportive of her peers at every stage of the program, all while maintaining a high GPA. Dakota exemplifies the qualities and excellence required to be a great Physician Assistant. She is compassionate, knowledgeable and intensely focused on providing the best possible care to her patients.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- **Samantha R. Elliott-Mosley, Master of Science in Communications**

  Samantha graduated in Spring/Summer 2020 with a GPA of 4.00 and exhibited a level of mastery of subject matter that is rare among graduate students nationally. Her pursuit of graduate education speaks to the heart of her character, as that of an individual who is deeply passionate about education and committed to learning. Not only does Samantha possess a remarkable reading knowledge relevant to the field of communications, but she also skillfully and successfully applies conceptual principals to practical communication problem-solving situations—the hallmark of true excellence in the Master of Science in Communications program. The School of Communications is honored to recognize Samantha for this award.

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS
Fall 2020

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- **Kevin Kredit, Master of Science in Applied Computer Science**
  - **Thesis Title:** Contending with Wicked Cryptography
  - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Andrew Kalafut (Chair) – School of Computing and Information Systems, Dr. Jonathan Engelsma – School of Computing and Information Systems, Dr. Hans Dulimarta – School of Computing and Information Systems, and Dr. John Walsh – School of Criminal Justice

Kevin chose in his thesis work to examine the problem of Exceptional Access to encrypted communications (the ability of Law Enforcement to decrypt encrypted communications). This is a critically important problem in computing, because the technical advances on the problem and public policy decisions by the government will have lasting effects on security and privacy of electronic communications and stored data. While this is far too large of a problem to be resolved in a single thesis, Kevin's thesis contributes to advancing the conversation.

Kevin's coursework has prepared him to address the technical issues and to examine the security threats involved in this problem, which he does well. He also makes a significant additional contribution in the computing field by inventing his own new extension to data flow diagrams (a common type of diagram used for system design and analysis) to show what data is encrypted and what key is being used for the encryption.

Kevin's abstract appears on the next page.

ABSTRACT

Public debate has resumed over whether encryption systems should support alternative means of decryption intended for law enforcement use, called exceptional access (EA). Rather than a renege on a resolute promise made at the end of the 1990s ``crypto war,'' this represents a valid reassessment of optimal policy in light of changing circumstances. Achieving proper balance between privacy and access in the context of constantly changing society and technology is a wicked problem that has and will evade a permanent solution. As policymakers consider next steps, it behooves the technical community to stay engaged. Although the introduction of EA would inevitably introduce risk, the quality of the technical and regulatory approach can make a substantial difference. Furthermore, if one considers hard-line legislative action and malicious abuse of cryptosystems as part of the threat model, well-designed EA may reduce overall risk.

The root of the conflict lies in cryptography's dual role as enabler of unprecedented privacy and cornerstone of security. The emergence of strong encryption triggered the first crypto war, and its proliferation is causing the second. In response to both polarized and conciliatory voices, I analyze strategies that do and do not work on wicked problems and promote an iterative approach to the case of encryption and EA. Along the way I illustrate the components of the debate in argument maps and demonstrate the security risks with data flow diagrams and threat analysis, focusing on one EA proposal in particular, Stefan Savage's ``Lawful Device Access without Mass Surveillance Risk.''

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- **Jasmine L. Mancuso, Master of Science in Biology – Aquatic Sciences**
  - **Thesis Title:** Bloom or Bust: Search for phytoplankton community drivers using long-term time-series observations and field measurements in a model Great Lakes estuary
  - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Bopaiah Biddanda (Chair) –Annis Water Resources Institute, Dr. Megan Woller-Skar – Department of Biology, Dr. Eric Snyder – Department of Biology, and Dr. Sarah Hamsher – Department of Biology

Jasmine conducted research on the impact of climate change and seasonality on the occurrence of harmful algal blooms in Muskegon Lake. This research was part of a long-term monitoring project and has resulted in multiple presentations and publications with at least one publication now under

review with Jasmine as lead author. Jasmine is well-deserving of this recognition and the Department of Biology whole-heartedly supports her nomination.

Jasmine served as a graduate assistant for the Annis Water Resources Institute, researching the environmental factors that foster cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms in Muskegon Lake. This is a Great Lakes area of concern and has always been a passion of Jasmine's. It is central to her hometown since she grew up along the shores of Lake Michigan and nearby the Muskegon Lake. Jasmin's background gives her research drive and purpose and has created an opportunity for her to study and learn how to better protect freshwater ecosystems for the future.

ABSTRACT

As sentinels of climate change and other anthropogenic effects, freshwater lakes are experiencing ecosystem disruptions at every level of the food web, beginning with the phytoplankton. One of the major threats to waterbodies around the world are cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms (HABs) resulting from anthropogenic eutrophication and exacerbated by climate change. Muskegon Lake, a drowned river mouth Great Lakes estuary on the east coast of Lake Michigan, is no exception and was declared an Area of Concern by the EPA in 1987 with nuisance algal blooms cited as a beneficial use impairment. Using long-term data and additional 2019 sampling, we performed multivariate and univariate analyses on environmental and phytoplankton data in order to visualize variation over the study period. The objective of this thesis was two-fold: 1) we aimed to quantify changes in HAB prevalence and community composition in Muskegon Lake over 16 years (2003-2019) and explore the environmental factors potentially driving the change, and 2) recognizing 2019 as a year of anomalous weather patterns, we explored the effects of heavy precipitation and cool temperatures on the phytoplankton community and cyanobacterial HABs in particular. For our first objective, we used two long-term data sets: the Muskegon Lake Observatory (MLO; 2011-2019) buoy data and data from the Muskegon Lake monitoring program (MLMP; 2003-2019) in addition to 2019 sampling. *Abstract continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT

Principal component analysis (PCA) was used to visualize variation and patterns in environmental variables over time, non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) was used to assess associations between HAB community composition and environmental variables, and a univariate comparison (paired T-test and Wilcoxon Rank Sum test) was made on environmental variables between a group of severe bloom years and a group of mild-bloom years. Analyses revealed that, despite generally rising water temperatures, a reduction in nutrient concentrations likely led to decreases in HAB abundance over time. Additionally, HAB community composition appears to be driven by nutrient form and concentration and temperature, with Microcystis often being dominant. These results indicate that, while increasing temperatures in the future may enhance HABs and alter their community composition, it may be possible to manage their severity through sustained nutrient reductions in the watershed. For our second objective, we used biweekly sampling in 2019 at three locations on the lake to disentangle the connections between environmental conditions and phytoplankton community composition using multivariate analyses. Additionally, the long-term datasets from the MLO and MLMP allowed us to compare 2019 to previous years to capture how the aberrant weather of 2019 affected the phytoplankton community of Muskegon Lake. With the prevailing uncertainty regarding how future climate scenarios will impact HABs, knowledge of phytoplankton composition in years that experience anomalous weather patterns may be valuable. In 2019, the Muskegon Lake watershed experienced record-breaking amounts of precipitation and a relatively cool temperature regime. The cool spring and late onset of stratification delayed phytoplankton growth overall. Unexpectedly, diatoms were the dominant division throughout the entire 2019 study period, and the cyanobacteria community was diverse but negligible compared to previous years, likely as a result of frequent rain events that reduced residence time and cool temperatures that inhibited their growth. These results may provide insight into how phytoplankton communities, diatoms and HABs in particular, in temperate freshwater lakes may respond to a future climate change scenario in which precipitation is frequent and intense, water levels are highly variable, and some regions experience unexpected cooling.

- **Katlyn R. Betway, Master of Science in Biology**
  - **Thesis Title:** Variation in Tundra Plant Traits Across a Latitudinal Gradient
  - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Robert Hollister (Chair) – Department of Biology, Dr. Gary Greer – Department of Biology, Dr. Megan Woller-Skar – Department of Biology, and Dr. Timothy Evans – Department of Biology

Katlyn has conducted her MS thesis research on the response of arctic vegetation to climate change. This research is multidisciplinary, fits into a long-term project, and has been disseminated widely through multiple presentations, including several publications that are in review. Katlyn is well-deserving of this recognition and the Department of Biology whole-heartedly supports her nomination.

Katlyn served as a Research Associate while completing her graduate degree, along with completing a Graduate Assistantship in research and being a Teaching Assistant for Aquatic and Wetland plants. In 2021, she will begin the position of Research Contractor with the United States Forest Service.

ABSTRACT

High latitude regions are warming faster than most regions. Studies documenting change in plant cover due to warming have reported that graminoids, deciduous shrubs, and evergreen shrubs are increasing in some regions of the Arctic, but not at others. Mixed responses to warming have caused researchers to shift towards an emphasis on functional traits of individual species rather than their growth forms. This thesis focuses on ten measured plant functional traits for twelve arctic species at three regions spanning a latitudinal gradient in northern Alaska (Utqiaġvik, Atqasuk, and Toolik Lake). We compare mean trait values across the three regions for each species and find considerable variability within a growth form. Quantification of intraspecific variation (ITV) in the three populations showed high amounts of variation for some traits (>50% for normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) and photosynthetic capacity (Amax)) but not for other traits (<15% for plant height, leaf area, specific leaf area (SLA), leaf thickness, and leaf dry matter content (LDMC)). Amount of ITV also varied across regions. To better understand why trends in plant cover and functional traits vary across regions, change in cover (measured three times from 2008 to 2018) was also compared with observed trait values (measured in 2018) for twelve dominant species. *Abstract continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT

Canonical correspondence analysis (CCA) suggested a relationship between change in species cover and functional traits. Species increasing in cover were associated with photosynthetic capacity (Amax) and species decreasing in cover were associated with LDMC. Investigation of community-weighted trait means (CWM) showed that whole community rather than species-specific trait values may be more indicative of future change. CWM changed significantly over time for all traits at Utqiaġvik and Atqasuk, but not Toolik Lake. Non-significant results in direct cover-trait relationships also suggest that multiple traits rather than a single trait may be responsible for shifts in plant cover, supporting a multidimensional approach to future trait-based studies. Additionally, studies investigating the impact of warming on vegetation that incorporate ITV will be able to provide more accurate predictions for future change.

- **Debra J. Kue, Master of Arts in English**
  - **Thesis Title:** Emily Dickinson, the Tyrant, and the Daemon: A Critique of Societal Oppression, and the Significance of Artistic Truth
  - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Brian Deyo (Chair) – Department of English, Dr. Jo Miller – Department of English, and Dr. James Persoon – Department of English

Debra deserves this award because she fiercely embodies the values and traits of the English graduate program that is designed to promote, enliven, and deepen for students—scholarly rigor, academic integrity, the courage and ability to think critically, to feel intensely, and to imagine paths forward to realizing our best instincts and potentials. All of these things that the Department of English values were consistently on fine display in her thesis. Debra's thesis committee chair, Dr. Brian Deyo, stated "I cannot even begin to say how deeply impressed I was during her oral defense! I teach for moments like that—for pride in the work we all do, graduate faculty, administrators, staff and students alike, collectively, together at GVSU."

Debra's abstract appears on the next page.

ABSTRACT

This thesis argues that art, for Dickinson, was an alternative system of salvation which her society could not provide her. Unwilling to surrender herself to the mold of her society, the institutional practice of Christianity and gender expectations, Dickinson chose to take ownership of her life through art, which allowed her to develop a personal language to combat the oppressive forces of the world around her. As a conscious "revolutionist of the word" Dickinson embarked on a path of self-discovery that enabled her to conduct a life in self-imposed exile as a means to emancipate herself from the constraints of conventional living (Howe xi). As Gelpi explains, "the normal man can follow the general trend without injury.... but the man who takes to the backstreets and alleys because he cannot endure the broad highway will be the first to discover the psychic elements that are waiting to play their part." (Gelpi 83).

Because Dickinson refused to struggle or integrate herself into her society, she enabled herself to fiercely explore her imagination and question the tyranny of institutionalized Christianity, patriarchy, and gender expectations. The commitment she would make to art was not for the sake of an elusive promise of redemption and transcendence of the 'earthly,' but rather a temporal goal which sought to uncover the full potential of her humanity as intensely as possible no matter the consequence. As a woman who harnessed and manifested an unnameable gift of language that defied and challenged the people and concepts of her time, Dickinson's work depicts the struggle between succumbing to the expectations of society and the will to live by the dictates of her imagination.

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT
Fall 2020

Seidman College of Business

- **Dorali Reimer, Master of Business Administration**
  - **Project Title:** Portfolio Strategy for Aspen Surgical's Fluid Management Products
  - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Ana Gonzalez – Department of Management

Dorali is a top academic performer and a strong leader in her program. One requirement of the MBA program is a final project that allows students to serve as a business consultant. They delve into a business problem utilizing the skills learned in the MBA to analyze it. They work on it for four to six months and present their findings and recommendations to the sponsoring organization. Dorali took the lead on her project and brought her team to a successful conclusion. The MBA faculty is confident that the company will be pleased with the results.

College of Community & Public Service

- **Michael C. Wilson, Master of Health Administration**
  - **Project Title:** GVSU Family Health Center Mental Health Services Sustainability Model
  - **Project Advisors:** Dr. Raymond Higbea and Dr. Greg Cline – School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration

Michael's hard work and dedication are evident through his master's project. With this project, Michael created a modeling tool in Microsoft Excel that allowed the GVSU Family Health Center (FHC) to understand revenue projections and its current staffing model and patient payer mix. The tool also allows the user to mix different scenarios to understand how current and future revenue will be affected. The model allows FHC leadership the ability to experiment with various staffing and payer mix to determine a sustainable mode for mental health delivery. Michael's project can provide valuable insight for FHC and contributes greatly to the field of health administration.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- **Elijah J. Smith, Master of Science in Applied Computer Science**
  - **Project Title:** Exploring Seasonal Trends and Episodic Weather in the Muskegon Lake Ecosystem
  - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Jonathan Leidig – School of Computing and Information Systems

  Elijah is one of the top students in the Applied Computer Science graduate program. In addition to excelling academically, he has spent an enormous amount of time providing high-quality contributions for his research project. He has led the efforts and agenda for a new collaboration between AWRI and CIS, going well beyond the scope of a typical project. His research in conducting time-series analysis and visualizations has direct benefits to both units in better understanding the dynamics of Muskegon Lake. His contributions will be directly used in follow up efforts by AWRI and CIS to better model and predict the health of the lake, such as poor conditions and harmful algal blooms.

- **Shreya Shakya, Master of Science in Data Science and Analytics**
  - **Project Title:** Research: Identify Influence on Local Level
  - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Jerry Scripps – School of Computing and Information Systems

  Shreya is an outstanding student and a top performer in her program. Not only does Shreya excel in her math, computer science, and statistics courses, she is also an excellent communicator. She has published a blog post on the project that she did to use convolutional neural networks to create snapchat-like filters on her own. She completed an internship where she exceled as well. Shreya worked with Holland, the motor freight company, mining and analyzing data from the company's files to drive optimization and improvement of product development, marketing techniques, and business strategies. She is a prime example of a phenomenal student that exhibits excellence in multiple areas.

- **Lear E. Brougher, Master of Science in Engineering**
  - **Project Title:** Design and Development of a Test Method for Unplanned Catheter Extractions
  - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Lindsay Corneal – School of Engineering

  Lear is a passionate student who seeks improvement in the healthcare field. His master's project included developing a test method to help designers of urinary catheters better understand unplanned catheter extraction. There is a lack of published test methods and literature on the forces and pressures associated with unplanned catheter extraction, so Lear decided to expand the research in this area. His test method was quantitative in nature and measured the pull-out force and retention balloon pressure of urinary catheters during extraction from a stimulated bladder. This test method will be a valuable tool to design new safety measures for urinary catheters and will provide an opportunity to enhance patient safety. Lear's dedication and hard work to improve a valuable healthcare instrument and promote patient safety makes his project a significant contribution to society.

College of Health Professions

The Department of Occupational Therapy has selected a group for this semester's Outstanding Final Project Award.

- **Julia C. Gomez, Joshua J. Oliver, Veronica S. Pabich, Jamie L. Sheaffer, and Melissa L. Tonkavich, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**
  - **Project Title:** Immersive Virtual Reality in Healthcare: A Systematic Mapping Review
  - **Primary Project Mentors:** Dr. Scott Truskowski – Department of Occupational Therapy and Betsy Williams – University Libraries

  This group of students completed an outstanding final project that focused on creating a systematic mapping review of the literature related to the use of immersive virtual reality in rehabilitation. They worked hard and met every deadline for every stage of their research project and have continued to provide excellent work. The outcomes of this project have far exceeded the initial expectations of the faculty. These students plan to submit their manuscript for publication and will be submitting a proposal to hopefully present at a future American Occupational Therapy Association Annual

Conference. They represent GVSU, their department, and themselves phenomenally.

- **Sonal Subhash Mandale, Master of Public Health**
  - **Project Title:** Screening Mammography in Women with Disabilities: Evaluation of Knowledge and Training of Mammographers in Breast Positioning Optimization
  - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Azizur Molla – Department of Public Health

For the past two years, Sonal has shown a passion and commitment as a strong health educator working as a volunteer in Spectrum Health's Culinary Literacy program. As a research assistant at GV for two different projects, she worked on the Radon and the Lung Cancer and then the Teaching Breast Image Optimization in handling patients with physical disabilities-a public health perspective and as a member of the Student Campus Culture Coaliation-COVID-19 Prevention organization. Her project aims to gain insight into the evaluation, training, and knowledge of mammographers in adjusting breast positioning techniques for people with physical disabilities to achieve optimum image quality for early breast cancer diagnosis.

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION
Fall 2020

College of Community & Public Service

- **Maximilian V. Golec, Master of Health Administration**

  Max conducted an applied research project for Exalta Health, a nonprofit charity clinic in Grand Rapids, MI. His work for them was to assess the revenue effects from the switch to telemedicine from in-person clinic appointments due to the pandemic. His research results provided important information for future decision making that, in his absence, would not have existed. Furthermore, Max received effusive praise from his new colleagues at Exalta health. To quote the staff at Exalta Health: "Max is a model student who showed great respect for us at all times. He demonstrated high levels of initiative and follow-through. We will miss him!"

- **Johngerlyn A. Young, Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership**

  In addition to her successful pursuit of the Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership graduate degree, Jonse serves as the Director of Philanthropic Services for the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. In this role, she works closely with the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors throughout West Michigan to ensure that the needs of the community are at the forefront of philanthropic decisions. She also is Co-Champion of Diversity and Inclusion at the nonprofit, supporting the Foundation's commitment to racial equity. She has also served on the Greater Grand Rapids Racial Equity Network, Partners for a Racism Free Community, and as Chair of the Michigan Forum of African American Philanthropy.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- **Matthew S. Colvin, Master of Science in Engineering**

  Matthew has exemplified leadership in a variety of ways. As an undergraduate student, Matthew was a tutor and volunteered his time to run exam study sessions. He has always loved to help people learn and was very

adamant about not accepting pay to lead the study sessions. Thus, showing his dedication and passion to serve other students and help them be successful. When he entered graduate school, he was offered a Graduate Assistantship that allowed him to build upon his leadership skills. Some of his responsibilities included coordinating open lab times, testing new labs, training new graduate students, tracking supplies, and running weekly meetings for graduate students. Matthew is extremely reliable, evident through his drive to resolve issues with minimal help needed from supervisors. Matthew is an excellent example of a student that lives out leadership in every aspect of his life.

College of Health Professions

- **Sara M. Androyna, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**

  Sara is a hard-working student who is dedicated to success. She came into the OT program as a certified Occupational Therapy Assistant ready to take on the challenges of the Occupational Therapy program. Sara showed from early on that she was able to tackle a heavy work load while also providing high quality work. She has been involved in the American Occupational Therapy Association's Representative Assembly serving as a Michigan delegate. This is a role that combines leadership and professionalism, two qualities of which Sara strongly possesses. She is a confident, thoughtful and inquisitive student and has the potential to do great things within her profession. She is dedicated and exemplifies the mission of GVSU.

- **Lauren O. Hooker, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

  Lauren demonstrated her passion for giving back to the community in volunteerism and support of community projects. Lauren is a part of a local not-for-profit, called "Beer City Dog Biscuits." This organization was established to provide a vibrant community and working environment for those with developmental disabilities. Beer City Dog Biscuits business is tailored to meet the unique abilities of each volunteer and employee to enable them to participate in all aspects of the business. Lauren has recruited many members of the GVSU PAS program to volunteer and give back to this wonderful organization.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- **Joshua D. Arnold, Master of Science in Biology**

  Joshua is committed to understanding the full scope of his research topic and contributing in multiple ways to river conservation. His topic focused on freshwater mussels which is an endangered species of aquatic animals. Specifically, Joshua looked at the translocation, or the intentional movement, of mussels for conservation purposes. While working on this research, Joshua also spent time working for the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds who supported his research and provided him the opportunity to be involved in community outreach and education. Joshua shows incredible work ethic and dedication to a field and cause that he is passionate about. In addition to his extensive work with river conservation, he has been a full-time graduate student and exceptionally completed his coursework. Joshua is an outstanding student who deserves to be recognized.

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU
Fall 2020

College of Community & Public Service

- **Spencer C. Gillis, Master of Health Administration**

  Spencer is a student who exhibits extraordinary leadership skills. He is a leader in the classroom, often taking charge effectively on assignments and discussions. He has a very inclusive and relationship-building leadership style that creates a comfortable environment for his fellow classmates. Spencer has held a wide variety of leadership roles. Some of which include the president, vice president, and finance officer of the Health Care Professional Student Alliance; an MHA representative to the CCPS Dean's Student Advisory Council; a HPGSA student representative to the MHA faculty meetings and the MHA Industry Advisory Council; a student representative in the American College of Healthcare Executives Great Lakes Chapter Board of Directors and Executive Committee; a member in the Michigan Medical Group Management Association Membership and Communication Committees; and an activity teacher at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum Diagnosis Fun. Due to Spencer's dedicated community and school involvement, he exemplifies true leadership and desire to succeed.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- **Ryan C. Lubbers, Master of Science in Engineering**

  Ryan is an exceptional student in the area of leadership and service. He has been involved in numerous activities that exemplify just that. He volunteered to be the president of the Professional Association of Graduate Engineering Students (PAGES). Ryan has continuously shown leadership by creating an environment where engineering students are able to thrive. He had many in-person activities planned, but unfortunately, they had to be canceled this year. However, he still kept in touch with graduate students and made the most of the situation. Ryan recruited a group of student leaders to take over the PAGES group, showing his dedication for the organization to succeed. Ryan has continuously been involved with his fellow engineering students

trying to create a positive environment for all. He has been a true leader in his program and deserves recognition for his dedication to excellence.

College of Health Professions

- **Alison M. Cooney, Master of Science in Clinical Dietetics**

  Alison is an active student with a drive to create change and succeed. She attended GVSU for her undergraduate degree in Allied Health Sciences where she was the president of the Pre-Dietetics Student Association. When she became a graduate student in the Clinical Dietetics program, she became president of the Clinical Dietetics Student Association where she promoted and advocated for the dietetics major, program, and profession. She has also helped organize clinical dietetic student events such as fundraising for two national conferences. She is an exceptional student in the classroom as well. Her skills involving communication with other students, problem solving, and leadership are admirable, and make her an outstanding student and professional in the field.

- **Hannah M. Grinwis, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

  Hannah is a most deserving candidate for this award. She served as the President of the GVSU PAS Student Society. In this role, she led her fellow PA students and was instrumental in growing and expanding the PAS Student Society goals. Hannah is a servant leader, often times helping and participating in the fundraising and volunteering activities of the organization. She led with openness and inclusiveness. Hannah consistently thinks about others and their well-being, a trait that will help her in her role as a PA. Her leadership and devotion to others' well-being extends beyond the classroom.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- **Jeannine M. Lane, Master of Science in Communications**

  The GVSU Speech Lab is pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Jeannine for three main reasons. First, Jeannine is a natural leader. Second, Jeannine is a consultant that can adapt her style to fit every consulting situation. Third, Jeannine maintains an award-winning research program

focused on the GV Speech Lab and the larger community of communication centers. Jeannine is a devoted consultant and Student Director at the Grand Valley Speech Lab, and an accomplished young scholar in GV's School of Communications. She will soon earn her Master of Science degree in Communications and we know she will continue to represent Grand Valley well in the future.

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU
Fall 2020

College of Health Professions

- **Taylor R. Veldkamp, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

  Taylor was voted in as the Diversity Chairperson by the GVSU PAS Student Society to promote inclusion and diversity within the program. She facilitated visits from outside professionals and medical providers from a variety of specialties. These speakers were chosen to expand exposure of PA students and faculty to a variety of professionals and diverse patient populations. The programming broadened outside-of-the-classroom experiences, expanded cultural competency, and enabled her classmates to become more inclusive providers. As the Diversity Chair, Taylor was a tireless advocate for inclusion. Her passion was evident to both her classmates and faculty in the program.

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY
Fall 2020

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 has given life to a sustainability initiative in one or more aspects of the triple bottom line in sustainability (economic, social, or environmental).

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- **Michael J. Stratton, Master of Science in Engineering**

  Michael is the prime example of a student who values sustainability. His thesis topic included developing a program to assist others in the design of tiny houses to promote sustainable living while ensuring that the houses were safe, efficient, and cost-effective. Michael is passionate about sustainable living and seeks to help others who share that passion by developing his tiny house program. Many individuals who try to build tiny houses do not have the proper construction experience, therefore, they create unsafe designs. Michael wanted to find a solution to this problem by creating a tool that asks users a series of questions. Those outputs include construction drawings, the total expected monthly electricity and water requirements, and an itemized bill of materials to build the home. Michael plans to utilize his tool to build his own tiny house, reflecting his true passion for sustainability.

College of Health Professions

- **Danielle M. Michaels, Master of Science in Clinical Dietetics**

  Danielle is passionate about sustainability and driven to make a difference in this area. Throughout her time as a Clinical Dietetics student, she got involved in GVSU's Sustainability Project where she chose to work at the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. Danielle advocated for and brought attention to the importance of protecting Michigan's Great Lakes. She brought awareness to the microplastics that are contaminating fresh water in the Great Lakes. She also gave her time to attend the Fulton Street

Farmer's Market where she encouraged community members to shop local and green. Danielle has been a full-time graduate student, maintained a part-time job, and has been involved in fieldwork which demonstrates her motivation and ability to succeed. She is an outstanding role model in the field of sustainability and dietetics and inspires those around her to succeed.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- **Arin J. Thacker, Master of Science in Biology**

Arin is a dedicated student who cares deeply about her thesis topic. She focused on the massasauga rattlesnake, which is a threatened species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. This species population has been declining which is an important indicator for the health of wetlands. Minimal research has been done in this area, therefore, it is an important topic for wildlife conservationists to focus on. Arin's research did just that and addressed the uncertainties of this topic and provided critical information for management agencies like the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Arin coordinated field-based research that focused on much of the Lower Peninsula and involved long days of working in wetland areas searching for rattlesnakes. Her dedication and commitment to the conservation of this species is truly inspiring. She is a leader and has the potential to do great things in this field.

MAGS DISTINGUISHED THESIS NOMINEES
OUTSTANDING THESIS 2020

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 nomination is in the category of 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 2020 MAGS selection committee included:

- Dr. Lindsay Corneal, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing
- Dr. Sanjivan Manoharan, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- **Richard A. Gross, Master of Science in Engineering**
  - **Title:** Algorithm for Geodetic Positioning Based on Angle-Of-Arrival of Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcasts
  - **Advisor:** Dr. Nicholas Baine – School of Engineering

  Dr. Nicholas Baine, Richard's thesis committee chair, stated, "Many of Richard's findings have already been well received by the engineering community as they were presented and published at two conferences. The rest of his work is soon to be published in a leading journal in this field. I would argue that his master's thesis rises to the level of a PhD dissertation. It is superbly written, the work is relevant to the current state of the art, and his design provides an extra layer of safety to a system all air traffic depends on.

  As exemplified by his work, Richard is an extraordinary non-traditional student. He has worked through our program, taking one class at a time while working full-time and supporting a family. It has been a long journey for him, and he has earned the respect of everyone who has met him. I have truly enjoyed advising him as he has made steady and continuous progress toward the completion of his work."

RESEARCH SYNOPSIS

This paper develops a non-precision, three-dimensional, geodetic positioning algorithm for airborne vehicles. The algorithm leverages the proliferation of Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) equipped aircraft, utilizing them as airborne navigation aids to generate an RF Angle-of-Arrival (AOA) and Angle-of-Elevation (AOE) based geodetic position. The resulting geodetic position can serve as a redundant navigation system for use during locally limited Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) availability, be used to validate on-board satellite navigation systems in an effort to detect local spoofing attempts, and be used to validate ADS-B position reports.

The navigation algorithm is an implementation of an Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) that is loosely based on Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM), in that it tracks ADS-B capable aircraft while simultaneously determining the geodetic position and velocity of the host vehicle. Unlike SLAM, where the absolute location – latitude/longitude – of the landmarks is unknown and must be estimated as the vehicle encounters them, the absolute position of the airborne navigation aids is typically well-known and periodically reported in the ADS-B data set. Because the absolute position of the navigation aids are known, the resulting host vehicle position will also be an absolute, rather than a relative position. Secondarily, the continuous tracking of the airborne navigation aids allows reported ADS-B positions to be validated against the estimated navigation aid position; thereby, concurrently accomplishing ADS-B validation and host vehicle geolocation.

This research has demonstrated through a series of simulated Monte-Carlo tests that the algorithm is capable of generating valid position estimates, along with a reliable estimate of its accuracy, across a variety of anticipated input conditions. With multiple GNSS quality navigation aids available, mean position errors below 225 meters were observed. As the quality of the navigation aids decreased, so too did the accuracy of the algorithm. Utilizing navigation aids with an accuracy of 4 nautical miles (95% containment) resulted in mean position errors on the order of 0.75 nautical miles. These results demonstrate that the method is feasible, and even under worst case conditions, the accuracy of the position estimate generated by the algorithm was sufficient to allow an aircraft to navigate to its destination. The improvement in quality indicator metrics demonstrated the effectiveness of a continuous documentation of a completed retinal exam in the EHR to impact care in an FQHC.

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD
Fall 2020

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

- **Dr. Andrew Booth, Department of Physician Assistant Studies**
  Nominated by: Laura Finn and Kayla Malackowski, Physician Assistant Studies

  Laura writes: "Following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, myself and several of my Physician Assistant student colleagues got together with faculty to talk about how those 8 minutes and 46 seconds represented racism in every profession and system. Dr. Booth was the first to thank us for taking initiative and eager to help make change. Dr. Booth spearheaded forming the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) committee. This was formed to recognize our program's weaknesses in regards to diversity and set new goals for improvement. He was not only receptive of requests to add racial backgrounds into lecture, but also to address barriers to admissions."

  Kayla adds: "Dr. Booth has provided great value to this committee in hearing our concerns and helping to better the Physician Assistant students. He also recruited a community member for this committee who is the Executive Director at the Grand Rapids African American Health Institute to help provide guidance and diverse perspective to the actions we are taking as a committee. He brought many opportunities through his network of connections to allow the PA students to volunteer and help in these underrepresented communities when safe to do so. His class was also one of the first classes that was able to adapt some of the changes proposed by the DEIJ Committee to change the material delivered to the students."

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
Fall 2020

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.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- **Dr. Marie VanderKooi, Kirkhof College of Nursing**
  Nominated by: Cheryl Bos and Alida Semrinec, Nursing

  Cheryl writes: "Dr. VanderKooi continues to demonstrate a strong intellect, very good inter-personal skills, and excellent clinical leadership abilities. She is well-respected by her students, as well as her peers within the Kirkhof College of Nursing. She inspires trust easily. My initial interaction with Dr. VanderKooi was when I entered the DNP-HSL program. I was impressed by her noteworthy classroom manners, clinical astuteness and initiative. She provides compassion and comprehensive attention to each student. She demonstrates respect and takes sincere and active interest in the well-being of students."

  Alida adds: "Dr. VanderKooi has offered mentorship and tools I will use in my future career. I am most grateful that Dr. VanderKooi has helped me to improve my ability to self-reflect, recognize personal growth, and most of all, believe in myself. A leader who does not believe in themselves cannot possibly efficiently lead. Due to the mentorship I have received from Dr. VanderKooi, throughout the DNP program, I have the hope that I will one day become someone who leads with integrity and strength."

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD
Fall 2020

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 & Public Service

- **Professor Myra Burton, School of Social work**
  Nominated by: Andrea Gordon, Social Work

  Andrea writes: "Professor Burton's real-world knowledge and teaching platform allowed me to feel secure in my future role. Her stories allowed me to gain a better understanding of what it means to be a school social worker. Professor Burton commands a room not with an authoritarian stance but with an atmosphere of almost familial warmth. During each lecture I felt as though I was listening to the soft-spoken words of Angela Davis or Maya Angelou. Professor Burton made me feel as a black woman that I was seen within her classroom. She helped me to see during her lectures that my long battle was not over but had only just begun. I loved how Professor Burton truly cares about her students.

  Professor Burton's teaching allowed me to find security within my field of study. And also demand respect and confidence from myself. Professor, I submit this nomination as thank you. For being my representation of what it means to be a commanding, strong, empathic, warm woman of color. I thank you for your mentorship and teaching that allowed me to transform into the woman I am today."

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Student Assistants:
Long Ho, Management Information Systems (undergraduate)
Sarah Spencer, Writing (undergraduate)

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