

GRADUATE STUDENT CELEBRATION WINTER 2010

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

April 16, 2010

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



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate Student Celebration

April 16, 2010

Steelcase Foundation Lecture Hall
Hager Auditorium

Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies

318C DeVos Center 616-331-7105

www.gvsu.edu/gs

gradstudies@gvsu.edu

in collaboration with the
Graduate and Professional Student Association

Program

5:00 PM: Refreshments and Social Hour (Steelcase Foundation Lecture Hall)

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

- Introduction: Michael Soltis, GPSA President
- Welcome: Dr. John R. Stevenson, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies
- Awards: Dr. John R. Stevenson, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students
- Faculty Mentor Recognition Awards: Michael Soltis, GPSA President

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

Welcome from the Graduate Dean

Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome to the Winter 2010 Graduate Student Celebration and Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence. This event is to celebrate *you* and to honor you for all your hard work and the sacrifices you and your family make to achieve your goal of obtaining a graduate degree at Grand Valley State University.

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

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

Congratulations and the best of everything to you and yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Stevenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John R. Stevenson, PT, Ph.D.

Interim Dean of Graduate Studies

Professor of Physical Therapy

Grand Valley State University

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Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence

Introduction

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

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

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

Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence in the Major Winter 2010

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Jonathan D. Wendt, Accounting, 3.957
- ❖ Scott P. Setlock, Business Administration, 3.940

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Amanda M. Linklater, Criminal Justice, 4.000
- ❖ Daniel S. Kuchan, Health Administration, 3.910
- ❖ Melissa S. Miller, Public Administration, 3.933
- ❖ Wesley R. Miller, Public Administration, 3.933

College of Education

- ❖ Kelly F. McDonell, College Student Affairs Leadership, 4.000
- ❖ Ashley M. VandeKopple, School Counseling, 3.900

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Lindsey L. Gerrits, Physical Therapy, 3.967
- ❖ Sarah E. Appold, Physician Assistant Studies, 3.938

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Rebeka M. Tabbey, Biostatistics, 3.889
- ❖ Tracy A. Stephens, English, 4.000

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Linda K. Buck, Nursing, 3.980

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

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ **Jonathan D. Wendt, Master of Science in Accounting, 3.957**
(B.B.A., Accounting, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Prior to pursuing the MSA, Jonathan Wendt graduated Magna Cum Laude from the GVSU's Honors College with a BBA in Accounting in 2008. Jonathan is currently interning with a Grand Rapids public accounting firm and, upon graduation, will begin his career with an international public accounting firm in Milwaukee. Jonathan has been a member and officer of the accounting honorary society Beta Alpha Psi and is also a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society. Jonathan's academic performance and other significant contributions make him a deserving recipient of the Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence.

- ❖ **Scott P. Setlock, Master of Business Administration, 3.940**
(B.B.A., Finance, Grand Valley State University, 2004)

Scott Setlock received his BBA in Finance from GVSU in 2004, graduating Magna Cum Laude and receiving the "Outstanding Finance Major" for that year. He joined Mercantile Bank following his graduation and has performed very well in his profession. Soon after, he decided to pursue a graduate degree and joined the MBA program. Scott's performance in the graduate program is outstanding and he will serve as a great role model for our students. He has participated in various events to support GVSU and Seidman College of Business. He has also shown great leadership skills both, at the University and in his profession.

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Amanda M. Linklater, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, 4.000**
(B.A., Criminal Justice, Michigan State University, 2005)

Amanda Linklater earned her undergraduate degree from MSU while fulfilling her duties as a full-time police officer for the Grand Rapids Police Department, and continued to serve the City of Grand Rapids while participating in

graduate study at GVSU. She is a joy to have in class. Given her work and life experience, she has helped to mentor many of the current graduate students in understanding what it is like to be a police officer. Amanda is a life long learner and understands the value of an education which has been evident in her ability to juggle both being a professional and a student. She has perseverance and a fantastic work ethic and will be a wonderful spokesperson for the graduate programs at GVSU.

❖ **Daniel S. Kuchan, Master of Health Administration, 3.910**
(B.S., Psychology, Michigan State University, 2006)

Daniel Kuchan earned his undergraduate degree from MSU and started the MHA program in 2008. He has served as a graduate research assistant in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration working with Dr. Greg Cline. Daniel is an outstanding pre-career student in the MHA program. His approach to his studies has demonstrated both a determination to attain a broad understanding and to synthesize his new understanding. Daniel's academic achievement thus springs from a nimble mind and a strong academic work ethic. His term project in the healthcare finance class is now used as an exemplar for other students.

❖ **Melissa S. Miller, Master of Public Administration, 3.933**
(B.A., Interpersonal & Public Communication, Central Michigan University, 2008)

Melissa Miller has been a graduate assistant for the Office of Student Life and graduate research assistant in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration working with Dr. Moon. While her studies and graduate assistantship have kept her very busy, she has found time to serve on committees for SowHope International, the Alpha Women's Center, and the Lean on Me Outreach Center, and to volunteer her time to the university, helping with the Volunteer Opportunities Fairs, commencement ceremonies, the 2009 GVSU Leadership Summit, the 2009 Hospitality and Tourism Management Summit, and the Campus Lions Club.

❖ **Wesley R. Miller, Master of Public Administration, 3.933**
(B.S., Psychology, Central Michigan University, 2008)

Wes has been a graduate assistant with the Johnson Center for Philanthropy and a recipient of the Joyce Hecht Distinguished Scholarship in Philanthropy.

He also was a summer intern for the Grand Rapids Children's Museum where he worked on grant proposals. Wes also has found time for community service, volunteering his time to SowHope International, the Alpha Women's Center, the 2009 GVSU Leadership Summit, and the Grand Rapids Children's Museum.

While it is unique that this citation be awarded jointly, Wesley and Melissa both graduated from CMU, got married, were awarded graduate assistantships, and went through the MPA program together. Their chemistry continued as they achieved identical GPAs of 3.933. They are both exemplars of the spirit of Grand Valley graduate students, excelling in their academic studies, their graduate assistantships, and their community and university service.

College of Education

❖ **Kelly F. McDonell, Master of Education in College Student Affairs Leadership, 3.900**

(B.A., English, Grand Valley State University, 2005)

Kelly McDonell completed her undergraduate degree at GVSU in 2005, graduating from the Honors College. Kelly has also been an exemplary student in her graduate program. She has exceptional written and verbal communication skills, critical thinking skills, is able to apply theory to practice, and works well with a variety of students, faculty, and staff. Her academic work has also been exemplary in terms of clarity, thoroughness, and professionalism. She is complimented on a regular basis by supervisors and colleagues for her administrative and interpersonal skills, and is active in the local community as a volunteer.

❖ **Ashley M. VandeKopple, Master of Education in School Counseling, 3.900**

(B.A., Early Childhood Education, Cedarville University, 2006)

Ashley VandeKopple began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2008. She has excelled in her course work and has worked hard to understand the role and work of the professional school counselor. Ashley is completing her internship at the high school level in Lowell Public Schools. She is an outstanding student and representative of our program. As evidenced by her exceptional work in class, it is clear to the program faculty that Ashley possesses a genuine,

compassionate, and empathic presence which serves her well in her role as professional school counselors. She will make an excellent school counselor.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Lindsey L. Gerrits, Doctorate of Physical Therapy, 3.967**
(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

Lindsey Gerrits graduated Cum Laude from GVSU in April 2007 and began her graduate studies in Fall 2007. Lindsey's academic performance has been outstanding all the way through high school to the DPT program. She was inducted into the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in March 2007. Not only is she bright, but she is a curious and an active learner. In the area of research, Lindsey is a great example of how a student should commit to a research project. She is proactive in problem solving and thorough in follow through. She will also be an outstanding addition to the physical therapy profession.

- ❖ **Sarah E. Appold, Master of Physician Assistant Studies, 3.938**
(B.S., Biomedical Science, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

After Sarah Appold graduated Magna Cum Laude from GVSU, she began her graduate studies in Fall 2007. Sarah has brought dedication and commitment from day one in the program. As the class vice president, she humbly served along side her classmates and was a real asset. Her upbeat spirit and contagious smile brought warmth and professionalism to everyone she had contact with. As she awaits the final appointment with the United States Air Force as a physician assistant, her future opportunities and exceptional personal attributes will be very successful as she represents the physician assistant studies profession and GVSU.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Rebeka M. Tabbey, Master of Science in Biostatistics, 3.889**
(B.S., Statistics, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Rebeka Tabbey graduated Magna Cum Laude with her undergraduate degree in 2008 and began her graduate studies in Fall 2008. Rebeka strives for perfection in any assignment and goes well beyond what is necessary

statistically and professionally. She is driven to persevere over any obstacles that may be presented to her. Rebeka is always very enthusiastic about learning new concepts and techniques. This was very evident in her internship at the Van Andel Institute; her supervisor and colleagues have valued her statistical input in the computational biology lab. As a graduate assistant in the GVSU Statistics department, she has been invaluable.

- ❖ **Tracy A. Stephens, Master of Arts in English, 4.000**
(B.A., English, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Tracy Stephens has proven to be one of the most accomplished students in the history of the English department, both as an undergraduate student graduating Magna Cum Laude and as a graduate student, earning a 4.000 GPA. What distinguishes Tracy is her combination of depth and breadth of knowledge, keen insight, and an enthusiastic determination to do her best. What makes her essays so impressive is the knowledgeable perspective she can bring to bear on the issue as well as her ability to negotiate between theoretical viewpoints. Because of her sociological background, Tracy is an informed cultural critic as well. We in the department think she will do well in her future teaching and scholarly career.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ **Linda K. Buck, Master of Science in Nursing, 3.980**
(B.S.N., Nursing, Nazareth College, 1983)

Linda Buck began her graduate studies in 2007 while serving as an Academic Advising in the Office of Student Services for the Kirkhof College of Nursing. Prior to that, she served as an adjunct faculty member in an introductory nursing course. Linda has been an outstanding student. As evidenced by her academic grade point, she has been able to synthesize knowledge and skills gained in the classroom for application in professional practice. Furthermore, she is able to master some of the more challenging research and theoretical competencies essential for the implementation of evidence-based practice among health care providers and student advisement.

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

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Dina Grabareva, Master of Public Administration**

(Bachelor's, Philology, English, and Finnish Languages, Russian State Pedagogical University, 1996)

- **Thesis Title:** Health Technology Assessment and Comparative Effectiveness Research: Experience from the European Union and the United States
- **Thesis Committee Members:** Dr. Margaret Schulte (chair), Dr. Greg Cline
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.970

Dina Grabareva came to GVSU in Fall 2008 on the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship to study healthcare management. In the summer of 2009, she was an administrative intern with the Cherry Street Clinic in Grand Rapids, MI. Prior to her graduate studies at GVSU, she was a director at the American Medical Centers in St. Petersburg, Russia. She is an outstanding student in the MPA program, as evident by her GPA and high quality of her thesis, which demonstrates good progress towards completion in its first draft.

ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses the attempts in Europe and the US to provide better evidence for decision making in healthcare. Several members of the European Union established the national agencies for health technology assessment (HTA). In recent years, the efforts to institutionalize similar concept under the name of comparative effectiveness research (CER) have been made in the United States. The paper reviews experiences from three European countries – the United Kingdom, France and Germany – and explores features of their HTA which might successfully be applied in the US context.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Lisa K. Miller, Master of Arts in English**

(B.A., English, Alma College, 2003)

- **Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Jo Miller
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.877
- **Thesis Title:** Violence, Trauma, and Pornography: The Resurgence of *Titus Andronicus* in the Modern World

Lisa Miller completed her first graduate degree at GVSU in 2005 in the College Student Affairs Leadership program through the College of Education. She was then admitted to the graduate program in English. Her challenging and vividly detailed thesis works to change the tide of traditional criticism, which paints Shakespeare's earliest tragedy as a failed experiment at best. She notes that even T.S. Eliot once described *Titus Andronicus* as "one of the stupidest and most uninspired plays ever written." But Miller's riveting analysis of late 20th- and early 21st-Century productions of *Titus* all over the world, on stage and screen, convincingly demonstrates the tragedy's resurgence in contemporary society. Her work with this exciting body of theatre and film adaptations resonates with understanding about modern audiences and Shakespeare's peculiar ability to connect with our increasingly violent world.

In spite of the play's critics, and its relative obscurity within the canon, Miller notes, "contemporary audiences have responded with excitement and passion for this bloody tale of war, revenge, rape and mutilation." After two World Wars and the media-enhanced experience of Vietnam, with the images of death and destruction still fresh after 9/11, and with a constant awareness of countless acts of terrorism and genocide around the globe, Miller argues, our world understands trauma, and our historical moment is particularly ripe for a resurgence of Shakespeare's bloodiest play. In this thesis distinguished by its intelligent and original argument, its keen grasp of what matters in literary study, and by its willingness to plumb the depths of human experience, Lisa Miller accomplishes exactly what she set out to do, justifying, understanding, and making real for us the power of *Titus Andronicus*.

ABSTRACT

After being out of favor for centuries, Shakespeare's first play, *The Most Lamentable Roman Tragedy of Titus Andronicus*, is back and in a big way. In 1977, just as the resurgence began to pick up speed, G. Harold Metz, suggested that "this first fruit of Shakespeare's tragic muse has something to say to the contemporary world" (169). What is it about this play, for so many years scorned by critics and cast off as Shakespeare's first attempted (as opposed to realized) tragedy, that resonates with modern audiences? Despite the play's critics, and even questions of its authorship, contemporary audiences have responded with excitement and passion for this bloody tale of war, revenge, rape and mutilation. Why does *Titus Andronicus* appeal to modern audiences? The violence and sex may contribute to the current popularity of *Titus Andronicus*, but what makes it powerful and relevant is its ability to create an environment in which the audience must confront its individual and societal fascination with the horrors that humans heap upon each other. By exploring contemporary audiences' experiences and interactions with violence and trauma in *Titus* and what Cynthia Marshall deems the "pornographic economy", I argue that our collective understanding of such issues implicates us to the point that we cannot claim to be innocent bystanders to the atrocities taking place daily around the globe.

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

College of Education

❖ **Robert F. Johnson, Master of Education in Instruction & Curriculum**

(B.S., Michigan State University, 1971)

- **Title:** Worldview and Socioscientific Reasoning: An Interdisciplinary Curriculum Unit Involving Theology and Biology in a Catholic High School
- **Advisor:** Dr. Douglas Busman
- **Cumulative GPA:** 4.000

After receiving his undergraduate degree from MSU, Robert Johnson earned his Doctor of Medicine from MSU in 1975. He completed GVSU's Graduate Teaching Certificate Program in 2009 and earned endorsements in Biology, Chemistry, and Health. He has taught Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, and Advance Placement Biology for Lansing Catholic High School since 2006. He has maintained a perfect 4.000 GPA in his graduate studies at GVSU.

For his Master of Education degree, Dr. Johnson has developed a unique capstone project. The project is designed to engage students in science through a series of student directed projects related to developing and incorporating the students' worldview. The project uses interdisciplinary curricula to respond to what I believe are several future trends in education (i.e. critical thinking, creative thinking, addressing ethical dilemmas, and social responsibility).

For 2010-2011, Dr. Johnson received a Fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at Ohio State University. He also remains on staff at Metro Health Hospitals Intensive Care Unit as a Consultant and Staff Physician. He has also served as a professor at the MSU College of Human Medicine since 1980, most recently as a Clinical Professor at the Grand Rapids Campus.

ABSTRACT

Current high school science curricula are criticized for an emphasis on subject content presented in a didactic fashion without concurrent attention to interdisciplinary and life experience connections. This project addresses this shortcoming by creating teaching materials and a plan for implementation of an interdisciplinary curriculum unit involving theology and biology at a Catholic high school that explicitly acknowledges and pursues educational outcomes consistent with impacting student worldview.

The curriculum unit detailed in this project focuses on the theoretical construct of worldview as its educational objective. Scientific literacy, citizenship education, and the Roman Catholic perspective are constructs used to develop and refine the approach to worldview as an educational outcome. The teaching and learning construct of socioscientific reasoning is used as an application strategy in this project to pursue the outcome of worldview impact. Socioscientific reasoning as applied in this project is characterized by interdisciplinarity, a constructivist orientation, and the exploration of socioscientific issues.

The teaching materials for the interdisciplinary curriculum unit designed in this project include overview and orientation documents, background and assignments sheets for specific topics, and an assessment rubric. Student performance evaluation is guided by the assessment rubric. This rubric quantifies the demonstration by students, when analyzing socioscientific issues, of cognitive patterns felt to be consistent with an influence on worldview: recognizing complexity, exhibiting skepticism, and showing awareness of moral and ethical implications. Teacher guides suggest a plan of implementation for this curriculum unit to be presented over a period of 15 school days.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Tonie J. McMaster, Master of Science in Nursing**

(B.S.N., Nursing, Spring Arbor University, 2006)

- **Title:** The Lived Experience of Grand Valley State University Baccalaureate Nursing Program Graduate who Failed the NCLEX-RN
- **Advisor:** Dr. Linda Nicholson Grinstead, Dr. Nancy Schoofs
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.982

Tonie McMaster is currently in the first semester of her research proposal (on track to complete in Spring/Summer 2010). She has done an outstanding job developing the proposal for her qualitative study. Her proposal was well researched and well written. She spent considerable time reviewing the literature regarding the topics of success and failure on the licensing examination for registered nurses. Tonie has outstanding writing skills which were evident in her proposal. All of her work was done in a timely manner and according to sound research principles.

ABSTRACT

There are significant implications when a nursing program graduate is unsuccessful in passing the National Computerized Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Nursing program outcomes are measured by their students' NCLEX results, as the state boards of nursing and accrediting bodies examine NCLEX passing rates as evidence of program quality. The impact of NCLEX-RN failure on individual nursing graduates is significant as well. The purpose of this study will be to explore the lived experience of baccalaureate nursing program graduates who failed the NCLEX-RN. This will be a qualitative study utilizing self-report through semi-structured, in-depth individual telephone interviews to gather participant data. A master of science in nursing graduate student, serving as a co-investigator, will conduct individual, audio-taped, telephone interviews, between the months of May, 2010 and August, 2010. Current Kirkhof College of Nursing (KCON) students, recent KCON graduates and other graduates who failed the NCLEX-RN will benefit from this research by understanding the lived experience of KCON graduates who did not pass the NCLEX-RN on their first attempt.

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

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Kamil W. Makiela, Master of Public Administration**

(Master of Computer Science and Econometrics, Cracow University of Economic, Poland, 2009)

- **Title:** Economic Growth Decomposition; an Empirical Analysis Using Bayesian Frontier Approach
- **Advisor:** Dr. Mark Hoffman, Dr. Jacek Oseiwalski (The Cracow Institute of Economics, Poland)
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.925

Kamil Makiela earned his Masters Degree in Computer Science and Econometrics from the Cracow University of Economics (CUE) in Poland. He is a graduate research assistant with the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration, working with Professors Hoffman, Schulte and Cline. He began this paper while at CUE and completed it at GVSU while earning his second master's degree, an MPA. Kamil is currently working on a paper measuring the economic efficiency of state health care systems in the US. Upon his return to Poland, Kamil plans to complete his third Masters degree in Programming and Engineering, and then pursue a Ph.D.

Kamil's article has been accepted for publication in the *Central European Journal of Economic Modeling and Econometrics*. The abstract is as follows:

ABSTRACT

This paper presents an empirical analysis of economic growth with respect of its components, namely input change, technological progress and changes in efficiency. In this work the Bayesian Stochastic Frontier method as well as the output change decomposition procedure, are used in order to evaluate their influence on economic growth. The use of panel data in the study allows for a detailed analysis of economic growth in a given economy and enables the search for general patterns that govern the process. The study examines sixteen countries over the period 1995 - 2005.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Sarah A. Donker, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

- **Title:** Inspiratory Muscle Training in patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: the State of the Evidence
- **Advisor:** Dr. Michael Shoemaker
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.524

Sarah Donker graduated from GVSU with her undergraduate degree in 2007. As part of her graduate program, she completed clinical experience work at Borgess Hospital, Alpena Regional Medical Center, Alpena Regional Medical Center, and Lakeview Specialty Hospital. She has volunteered at the Wheel Run Together, a Parkinson's Clinic, and the Heartside Pro Bono Clinic. She has also worked as a Physical Therapy Technician at Metro Health Hospital since 2004.

❖ **Ashley A. LaPoe, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**

(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

- **Title:** Inspiratory Muscle Training in patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: the State of the Evidence
- **Advisor:** Dr. Michael Shoemaker
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.745

After receiving her undergraduate degree from GVSU, Ashley LaPoe began her graduate studies in Fall 2007. Her clinical education experience includes working for Mid Michigan Hospital, Advent Physical Therapy, University of Michigan Hospital, and Rehab Dimensions of Holland Home. She has also volunteered at the Heartside Pro Bono Clinic, Palmer Elementary School, and a Parkinson's Clinic.

Ashley and Sarah's contributions were critical to the article's success. The systematic review was published in 2009 in the *Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy Journal*. Ashley and Sarah provided keen insight into the literature regarding inspiratory muscle training in patients with lung disease. It should be noted that this paper originally began as a course assignment, and they should be commended for their commitment and exceptional effort in helping to develop it into a product worthy of publication.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present review was to assess the quality of evidence in the literature regarding the specific benefits of inspiratory muscle training (IMT) with an emphasis on training intensity and the relationships between changes in inspiratory muscle function and other clinical outcome measures. METHODS: Articles were found by searching CINAHL, PubMed, Medline via First Search, and ProQuest databases. Articles used in the review were randomized trials of IMT vs. sham IMT or no intervention, published in English in a peer-reviewed journal, included patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and specified the intensity of training. The quality of the studies was evaluated by 2 independent reviewers using the methodological rigor scale described by Medlicott and Harris as well as Sackett's levels of evidence. Fifteen articles met the inclusion criteria and were used in this review. RESULTS: Consistent improvements in maximal inspiratory pressures (ranging from -11 to -30 cm H₂O) and inspiratory muscle endurance were found. Improvements in dyspnea and health-related quality of life were also observed. Inspiratory muscle training may result in improved exercise tolerance as measured using walking tests. High-intensity IMT resulted in improved training efficiency with respect to inspiratory muscle strength, but evidence of the effect of high-intensity IMT on other clinical outcomes is lacking. CONCLUSION: Despite research spanning decades, there are numerous limitations in the literature regarding IMT. IMT appears to improve dyspnea, walking test distance, and health-related quality of life in individuals with COPD, but it is not clear whether this improvement is mediated through improved inspiratory muscle strength and endurance. This review discussed several considerations critical to the design of future trials.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Patrick R. Prominski, Master of Arts in English**

(B.A., English, Siena Heights University, 2005)

- **Title:** This is Not Not a Game: Ulysses as Hypertext Fiction
- **Advisor:** Dr. Susan Swartzlander
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.900

Patrick Prominski has a keen intellect, persistent and solid work ethic, and a talent and passion for literary scholarship. Patrick quickly distinguished himself as a creative and cogent thinker in a graduate seminar on one of the most challenging of modern writers, James Joyce. Patrick delighted in puzzling over Joycean passages and very ably drew connections between *Ulysses* and his prior knowledge about diverse topics in history, literature, and popular culture. The more elusive an episode, the more Patrick seemed to relish tackling it.

Patrick's passion for scholarship so evident during the research and writing emerged as well during revision, when he seemed to relish pushing himself and his ideas to higher levels. Throughout the summer after the seminar, Patrick revised his paper for presentation at the Midwest Popular Culture Association conference and worked steadily at revising for publication. He expanded the scope of his PCA paper for the Twentieth Century Literature conference in Louisville (a major international venue for modernist scholars). He also quickly moved from presenting to chairing the session at Louisville, as well as becoming an area chair at the Midwest PCA conference. Patrick revised, recast, and reshaped to move his work from seminar paper to conference paper to an outstanding article, "This is Not Not a Game: *Ulysses* and Hypertext Fiction" which appeared in the winter 2008 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Rhizomes: Cultural Studies in Emerging Knowledge*. Patrick's outstanding publication is a solid article on a very challenging text, and with it Patrick exemplifies the best of scholarship: a rigorous attention to detail and quality, as well as a touch of wit and playfulness. One of the reviewers for the essay pronounced "three cheers for good writing and sound thinking." Three cheers for Patrick Prominski and his exemplary work!

ABSTRACT

James Joyce's *Ulysses* is often described as a palimpsest, but one that has its layers confused. The reader is never entirely sure which level of "meaning" is primary since Joyce did his best to keep blend the layers into one another. However, *Ulysses* is more than a set of carefully constructed images and text. Its form and features strongly resemble 21st century hypertext literature.

While Joyce did not have access to computers, he was heavily influenced by one of the emerging technologies of his time: cinema. Joyce incorporates many visual techniques from the screen into his text. His copious notes for each section contain detailed lists of references that were crossed off with specific colors depending upon which revision the items were used in. Joyce's notebooks become the source code and his novel becomes the platform for his intertextual links.

Joyce's careful use of intertextual reference is a protozoic form of modern hypertext. Instead of linking web pages, Joyce's fiction links to literature, art, history, religion and music. Within the novel, "Aeolus" provides one of the best episodes for examining Joyce's connection to hypertext. Using the episode as a test case, I examine electronic literature's characteristics and compare them to the specific techniques Joyce used in his writing. Building upon the work of Michael Groden, and using Giles Deleuze as inspiration, I examine the relationship between the inserted headlines and hypertext. Finally, I demonstrate how it is possible to use images from the episode as links to other parts of the novel, obtaining an entry point for modern readers and exposing another way of reading the text.

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

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Joshua M. Meringa, Master of Health Administration, 3.916**
(B.S.N., Nursing, Calvin College, 2002)

Joshua Meringa has an outstanding record in service to the nursing profession. He is currently the Central Nurse Educator and Academic Liaison for Spectrum Health hospitals. In this capacity, he is responsible for central nursing orientation and basic life support instruction. He is also responsible for Spectrum's relations with a dozen schools of nursing. Joshua is a member of the National Nursing Staff Development Organization, Ferris State University Nursing Advisory Council, Grand Rapids Community College Nursing Advisory Council, Hope College Nursing Advisory Council and West Michigan Nursing Advisory Council.

Joshua also has an outstanding record of service to the citizens of Grandville. In 2007 he was elected to the City Council. He is also currently on the boards of the Grandville Branch Library and the Elected Officials Academy of the Michigan Municipal League.

- ❖ **Toni S. Jones-Lipsey, Master of Public Administration, 3.829**
(B.S., Psychology, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Toni Jones-Lipsey has always been very active on campus, and has served in a variety of roles. Her desire to be an advocate and activist for gender equity and social justice is evident in the work that she has done. In May of last year, Toni was recruited as the first intern with the Grand Rapids National Organization for Women. In the capacity, Toni was involved in administrative tasks as well as community organizing. She played a crucial role in organizing a local rally that brought together students, community members, and political leaders, including the Mayor of Grand Rapids. Toni continues to stay involved in the organizations and was recently elected the chapter secretary.

Toni is a tremendous leader, student, activist, and professional. She is ever increasing her involvement on campus and in the community. Toni tirelessly

works to create a community on and around the GVSU campus that promotes the success of all students – with a particular dedication to improving the environment for women.

- ❖ **Brandon J. Seng, Master of Public Administration, 3.736**
(B.A., Communications, Michigan State University, 2006)

Brandon Seng is the Director of Member Services for the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA). MNA provides resources and services to increase the ability of nonprofit organizations to advance their mission. Brandon also serves as director of the Eva Seng Memorial Good Works Scholarship which promotes volunteer community service and civic engagement for Manistee County high school students. This scholarship program recognizes high school seniors for outstanding volunteer service to their community and neighbors.

Brandon finds time to volunteer as an advisor with the Capital Region Community Foundation's Youth Action Committee, a group of 30 high school students from Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties who grant \$50,000 per year to local programs targeting youth needs. Brandon is also active on the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network Leadership Committee, who is working to connect and strengthen the YNPN chapters across the state, including an emerging chapter in Lansing, which he and a few other emerging nonprofit professionals are leading.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Erin L. Lewis, Doctorate of Physical Therapy, 3.934**
(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

As well as achieving excellence academically, Erin Lewis has been involved in various professional and community service projects during her DPT career and has also achieved excellence in this area. Erin has also volunteered a considerable amount of time working as a student physical therapist for an aging adult with cerebral palsy. For the past 2 years, Erin has conducted a maintenance exercise program and assisted in problem-solving and evaluation of this individual's ongoing needs as she struggles to remain living independently in the community. Erin's efforts have no doubt played a significant role in helping this person age successfully in the community.

Erin also volunteered for one week in Guatemala. There she provided supervised PT services to children and adults. She also volunteered for the "Extremity Games" which is a competition for individuals with congenital limb deformities and amputation. Erin also worked with a GVSU athlete in the "Partners for Success" helping him prepare for application to the PT program. To participate in this many extracurricular activities, while maintaining a high grade point average in a very difficult program, makes Erin truly an outstanding student.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Katy L. Leedy, Master of Arts in English, 3.738**
(B.A., English, The College of Wooster, OH, 2003)

Katy Leedy is extraordinary in every way. As the editorial assistant for *Cheers! The Flannery O'Connor Society Newsletter* and also *Spring: The Journal of the E. E. Cummings Society* these last two years, her technological skills and her superb abilities as a reader, writer, and organizer of information often seem in competition to outdo each other. She is simply masterful at every task to which she turns her attention. She is an indefatigable researcher, turning up O'Connor articles and events in cyberspace and on web sites, as well as in the mainstream peer-reviewed journals that allow all those involved in O'Connor studies to benefit. She is fearless and savvy with all cyber and electronic innovations.

Her tact and discernment in dealing with various contributors shows a patience that is rare to find in one who sets such strictly high standards for her own work. The O'Connor newsletter, which goes out once a semester to 530 scholars, is far better each issue because of Katy Leedy's savvy and polished approach to producing it. The same is true of her work on *Spring*, which is the primary journal for scholars studying Cummings. The future of the humanities seems a bit unpredictable, but Katy Leedy's clear ability to offer and construct what is needed in the interface of literature and technology that will certainly serve well the new generations of those engaged in literary learning.

- ❖ **Whitney B. Miner, Master of Science in Biostatistics, 3.963**
(B.S., Statistics, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Whitney Miner has been an impressive statistician for the GVSU community and beyond. She has been a very valuable part of the GVSU Statistical Consulting Center (SCC) for more almost 3 years. She has worked with many

researchers on the design and analysis of study data. This applied statistics experience is very evident in the classroom as she can quickly recognize the appropriate statistical technique while still giving thoughtful consideration to other alternatives.

Whitney has also been very active in the statistics and GVSU community in other ways. She is a student member of the American Statistical Association and its Southwest Michigan Chapter. She is currently the president of GVSU's chapter of Mu Sigma Rho, the Statistics Honor Society. She is also a former social chair of the GVSU Math & Statistics Club and a recipient of the 'I am Grand Valley' Award. She has also been very helpful to the Statistics department in social recruiting events for statistics majors and minors.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ **Tonie J. McMaster, Master of Science of Nursing, 3.982**
(B.S.N., Nursing, Spring Arbor University, 2006)

Tonie McMaster enrolled in the MSN Program in the Education Functional Role at the urging of her employer, Kellogg Community College (KCC). Preparing herself to become a more effective leader for the nursing program at KCC, she became immersed in her coursework at KCON with an intensity and enthusiasm that challenged her and her professors, but also instilled motivation and among her classmates. Tonie was fortunate to witness the process involved in an accreditation self-study and visit for her mentor's associate degree nursing program. In seeing the process unfold, she became convinced that she could impact the goal of having every associate nursing program in the state achieve national accreditation.

To start on the accreditation mission with her own home program, she first persuaded KCC's nursing program director to obtain support of the Dean of the Health Science programs. She then identified a cadre of faculty to engage as leaders in the program's exploration of the benefits and barriers to accreditation. Tonie has initiated all of these actions while completing her course requirements, but the course of action she has identified stretches out several years into the future. She is laying the groundwork for change while still a student. With these actions, she has developed a course of action that assures an impact on her program and its graduates, who comprise a portion of the future of health care workforce for the state.

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

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Matthew W. Ferre, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, 3.834**
(B.A., French, University of Utah, 2002)

Matthew Ferre is not only an excellent student but a fantastic mentor to other students. It was because of his leadership qualities, as well as his strong writing skills, that Matthew was chosen to help set up the new School of Criminal Justice Resource Center. This Center provides research and writing support to students taking courses in the School of Criminal Justice. During his year tenure with the Center, Matthew helped develop the forms and processes to be used in the Center; helped develop handouts and classroom lecture modules; visited diverse classes to talk with student about how to research and write well, and how these practices can be integrated into their academic lives; and provided one on one mentoring with students on research and writing skills.

In Fall 2009, Matthew served as the graduate student administrator of the Center. Matthew's professionalism and work have made him well-respected in the department and he accepted and embraced the responsibility of creating and modeling this new mentoring role in the Center with enthusiasm and vision. This service has been invaluable to faculty and set the groundwork for ongoing service to students in the future. He has set a new standard for graduate students and assistantships in the School of Criminal Justice.

- ❖ **Matthew R. Mokma, Master of Public Administration, 3.756**
(B.A., History, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Matthew Mokma is completing his second year as a graduate assistant at the LGBT Resource Center under the Dean of Student Services office. During his time at the Resource Center, Matt has made major contributions not only to the center but also to the entire LGBT community on the campus of GVSU. Matt has worked hard on his grant writing skills and, with a second successful grant, Matt will have helped to bring in nearly a quarter of a million dollars to the LGBT Resource Center.

Matt has developed a new student organization this year, Graduate Queers and Allies, which he conceptualized and brought to fruition. He is a true visionary. Matt understands the mission of the LGBT Resource Center in terms of meeting the students' needs as well as the goals of the strategic plan of GVSU. As the LGBT Resource Center has come online during its first academic year and is completing the first semester of the second academic year, we owe a debt of gratitude to Matthew Mokma for the investment he has made in the center, for his vision, for his tireless work. We know that with his professionalism Matt will continue to be a leader and to influence others not only within the LGBT community but also his greater community.

❖ **Michael K. Soltis, Master of Health Administration; Master of Public Administration, 3.861**

(B.A., English and Spanish, Western Michigan University, 2005)

As a new graduate student, Michael Soltis realized the importance of providing additional service to the graduate student community by getting involved in student governance. He has now realized this opportunity by serving as the current President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) and has dedicated his efforts this year to building a larger graduate student culture and presence. Additionally, Michael has continued his involvement with Graduate Council as a graduate student representative and has built bridges for graduate student involvement with the start-up of Grad Club and the new PACES program.

In the classroom, Michael has distinguished himself as one of our brightest and most motivated students. He will leave GVSU with two degrees, a Masters in Health Administration and a Masters in Public Administration. He has consistently demonstrated a mastery of material in his health and public administration courses, a spirited leadership style, and mature organizational skills. Michael has also been a spokesperson for his fellow students in challenging his instructors and program directors to meet the highest standards of graduate education.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Shana J. Simon, Doctorate of Physical Therapy, 3.550**
(B.A., Spanish, Grand Valley State University, 2006)

Shana Simon is a remarkable person, and has been involved in numerous activities which demonstrate her leadership and service to GVSU. One of Shana's outstanding contributions has been in the area of teaching medical Spanish to her classmates. Shana has an undergraduate major in Spanish and is fluent in the language. In the DPT program, Shana initiated the plan to teach medical Spanish to her DPT classmates. She also organized a service learning trip involving 8 DPT students and a faculty person, to Guatemala in the summer of 2009. This is the first time a service learning project has taken DPT students out of the country. Shana also worked with the next DPT class to again organize a similar service learning experience.

It is evident that Shana has a deep commitment to GVSU and the DPT program, as well as to the Spanish community both here and in other countries. She has been effective in sharing her love for these activities with her classmates and faculty in the DPT program. As stated before Shana is an exceptional student who will better both the PT population that she works with and the community that she lives in.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Kristina N. Persenaire, Master of Arts in English, 3.773**
(B.A., English, Grand Valley State University, 2003)

Kristina Persenaire has served the English M.A. Program at GVSU for two years as a graduate assistant. She has been instrumental in communicating with other graduate students and she has organized several events for them, including presentations on thesis writing, on application to doctoral programs, and on teaching opportunities at the community college level. She has maintained the program web site, making sure that the information available there was relevant, helpful, and correct.

In addition, Kristina assisted in organizing a Shakespeare Conference held in Fall 2009 in conjunction with the GVSU Shakespeare Festival. This conference was entitled "Shakespeare Connects," and it emphasized connections among various groups of people interested in Shakespeare: high school teachers,

university scholars, directors, actors, etc. Planning the conference was a daunting logistical challenge, but Kristina's dedicated work made it all possible. The conference was regarded by all the participants as a great success, and there are plans to host another conference during the Shakespeare Festival in 2011.

OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2010

NIEMEYER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS

This is a university-wide award honoring the most outstanding graduate students; students who strive for excellence in all aspects of a well-rounded academic experience. Selection is made by the Deans Council.

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Erin L. Pinkster, Master of Business Administration**

Erin Pinkster epitomizes the characteristics for which Glenn Niemeyer is remembered and which this award recognizes. Erin is the only MBA graduate of 2009-10 with a 4.0 grade point. Starting her career in public accounting, she passed rigorous examinations and completed all requirements for certification in public accounting, internal audit, and fraud examination and was recently promoted by Meijer, Inc. to Continuous Quality Improvement Lead. While her academic performance and career advancement are impressive, what really distinguishes Erin is leadership and commitment to community. Erin volunteers for such diverse causes as the Meijer Credit Union, Seidman Graduate Student Advisory Board, and American Diabetes Association. Her contributions are also diverse, from leading a church Bible study to chairing a 3-day walk for breast cancer. Erin co-authored a case study and was selected to present to the annual conference of the U.S. Association for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs. When her student team was narrowly defeated in the Association for Corporate Growth's Mergers & Acquisitions Case Competition last year, Erin continued to support the advancing team by coaching and providing feedback and helping to host the regional competition. She is consistently a model of integrity, leadership, and teamwork.

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

2009-2010

(Recognized at the annual Scholar Awards Banquet on April 12, 2010)

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Thomas Henrikson, Accounting (MSA)
- ❖ Erin Pinkster, General Business (MBA)
- ❖ Ronald Arendsen, Taxation (MST)

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Shoryai Mareya, Criminal Justice (MS)
- ❖ Daniel Kuchan, Health Administration (MHA)
- ❖ Elizabeth Schrauben, Public Administration (MPA)
- ❖ Rachel Goulart, Social Work (MSW)

College of Education

- ❖ William Dygert, Educ. Specialist in Leadership (Ed.S)
- ❖ Phillip Seaborn, Higher Education (M.Ed)
- ❖ Jordan Beel, Leadership (M.Ed)
- ❖ Sara Christner, School Counseling (M.Ed)
- ❖ Sarah Mittino, Special Education (M.Ed)

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Joshua Holtrop, Computer Information Systems (MS)
- ❖ Brad Peirson, Engineering (MSE)
- ❖ Xiaohui Huang, Medical and Bioinformatics (MS)

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Kara Manning, Occupation Therapy (MS)
- ❖ Kathryn Garcia, Physical Therapy (DPT)
- ❖ Kirra Sheremet, Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Whitney Miner, Biostatistics (MS)
- ❖ Pushpaja Dodla, Cell and Molecular Biology (MS)
- ❖ Jason DeLong, Communications, (MS)
- ❖ Tracy Stephens, English (MA)

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Maren Ferre, Nursing (MSN)

**GRADUATE STUDENT
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS
Winter 2010**

Deborah Dila, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Title: *Genomes and Biomes: Microbes and Carbon Flux in a Great Lakes Watershed*

Edward Krynak, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Title: *Importance of Macrophytes for Macroinvertebrate secondary production and implications for juvenile coho salmon feeding ecology*

Angela Larsen, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Title: *Effects of forest thinning on the predator-prey relationship between white-footed mice and gypsy moth pupae in west central Michigan*

Tonie McMaster, Kirkhof College of Nursing, MSN, Title: *The Lived Experience of Grand Valley State University Baccalaureate Nursing Program Graduates Who Failed the NCLEX-RN*

Whitney Nelson, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Title: *Composition and toxic sensitivity of benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages in Muskegon Lake, a Great Lakes Area of Concern*

Jeremy Newton, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cell & Molecular Biology, Title: *Origin of Rare Mitochondrial DNA Lineages in the Carpathian Mountains*

Timothy Paver, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Title: *Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) in the Great Lakes: an Evaluation of Habitat Preference, Strain Performance, and Stocking Methods*

Robert Slider, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Title: *Detection and Attribution of Long-Term Vegetation Changes in Northern Alaska*

Elizabeth Tromp, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Title: *PBDE Concentration and Congener Patterns in Lake Huron Fish*

**GRADUATE STUDENT RECIPIENTS OF
SCHOLARLY TRAVEL GRANTS
Winter 2010**

Lyndsey Adams, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference (MEEC), Ames, IA

Tiffany Beaudry, College of Community & Public Service, Social Work, 21st Annual National Youth At Risk Conference, Savannah, GA

Megan Cookingham, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, North American Benthological Society (NABS) and American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Summer Meeting 2010, Santa Fe, NM

Andrew Crosby, College of Community & Public Service, Public Administration, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual National Conference, Chicago, IL

Olivia Destrades Mendoza, College of Education, TESOL, TESOL International, Boston, MA

Elizabeth Eastman, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academy of Physician Assistants 38th Annual PA Conference – Impact 2010, Atlanta, GA

Amy Grossman, College of Community & Public Service, Social Work, The Sixth International Congress Qualitative Inquiry, Champaign, IL

Amanda Herd, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academy of Physician Assistants 38th Annual PA Conference – Impact 2010, Atlanta, GA

Nancie Hudson, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Communications, The University of Oklahoma Sooner Communication Conference, Norman, OK

Jennifer Jakubowski, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Cell & Molecular Biology, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASMBM) 2010 Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA

Katy Leedy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, English, 11th International Conference on the Short Story in English – “The Border as Fiction,” York University, Toronto, Canada

Shorayi Mareya, College of Community & Public Service, Criminal Justice; Social Work, 21st Annual National Youth At Risk Conference, Savannah, GA

Ashley Mitchell, Kirkhof College of Nursing, Midwest Nursing Research 2010 Annual Research Conference, Kansas City, MO

Ramez Nassri, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academy of Physician Assistants 38th Annual PA Conference – Impact 2010, Atlanta, GA

Markus Neuhoff, Padnos College of Engineering & Computing, Medical & Bioinformatics, 21st Annual National Youth At Risk Conference, Savannah, GA

Whitney Nelson, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, North American Benthological Society (NABS) and American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Summer Meeting 2010, Santa Fe, NM

Robert Roos, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, Society for Ecological Restoration International, Midwest-Great Lakes Chapter, Madison, WI

Sarah Shaheen, College of Community & Public Service, Social Work, The Sixth International Congress Qualitative Inquiry, Champaign, IL

Rachel VanStrien, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academy of Physician Assistants 38th Annual PA Conference – Impact 2010, Atlanta, GA

Todd Workman, College of Community & Public Service, Social Work, 21st Annual National Youth At Risk Conference, Savannah, GA

Anna Young, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology, 2010 Nebraska Tern and Plover, Lincoln, NE

**GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT AWARD
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARDS
Winter 2010**

❖ **Dr. Salvatore Alaimo, Assistant Professor of Public Administration**

Nominated by: Melissa S. Miller, Master of Public Administration

Dr. Alaimo demonstrates the qualities that I believe to represent a mentor. He possesses integrity, a positive attitude, and a passion for students and teaching. He encourages students to stretch beyond their self imposed boundaries and challenges them to grow. I have heard him say several times that in his line of priorities, teaching *always* comes first. Many professors may say this but he exhibits this through his actions. Not only is he an outstanding professor who is skilled in both engaging students academically and challenging them to think critically, but he genuinely cares for them. It is this genuine care that has impressed me the most. He goes out of his way to ensure that students understand their assignments, guides them if they are experiencing difficulties, and continually seeks feedback on how to improve his teaching and class.

Personally, he has empowered me to speak up in class and actively participate. In many of my previous courses, I was content with just listening and often felt intimidated to voice my opinion. However, it was his openness and ability to create a culture of acceptance in the classroom that gave me confidence to share my thoughts. He also helped develop a culture of camaraderie and at the end of the semester invited the whole class for pizza! I have a profound respect and appreciation for Dr. Alaimo and his ability to not just teach academic lessons but for being able to cultivate confidence in an otherwise intimidated student.

❖ **Dr. B. Lorraine Alston, Associate Professor of Education**

Nominated by: Kelly F. McDonell, Master of Education

Professor Lorraine Alston has been an outstanding mentor to me since before I began the College Student Affairs Leadership program. I met with her in February 2008 to explore the possibility of returning to school and her kind demeanor, thoughtfulness, and positive attitude convinced me to apply to the program. Since then I have had her for five classes and currently am privileged to have her as my thesis advisor. Despite the fact that she is one of two full-time faculty for a program of over 59 full-time students, she always takes the time to ensure she is giving ample feedback and checking in with her students.

The feedback she gives is thought provoking and has helped me to better myself as a writer and as a future professional. She conducts her courses with a sense of respect and understanding that allows students to express themselves freely. Professor Alston's passion for education comes through in the way she carefully evaluates herself as a professor and consistently upgrades her course material to remain current. She supported me to write a thesis and conduct my own research when many students in the program were opting to complete a project instead and has been instrumental in the completion of my thesis. Professor Alston is consistent in the feedback she gives and encouraging to all of her students. She has been incredibly supportive over the last two years and I could not have completed the program, or my thesis, without her.

❖ **Dr. Greg Cline, Associate Professor of Health Administration**

Nominated by: Michael K. Soltis, Master of Health Administration; Master of Public Administration

In my opinion, a mentor is not only an influential supporter, but also someone who truly cares about an individual's success. As a pre-career health administration student, it was difficult for me to define my area of interest in the broad field of healthcare. Dr. Greg Cline has shown sincere interest in my academic and professional life throughout my entire graduate education, starting with my first graduate course 2 years ago. Since then, Dr. Cline has been actively involved in my educational development by offering constructive criticism and objectivity in various classes and with numerous research projects in the area of Public Health and Health Policy. He provided an experienced perspective for a Social Determinants of Health project I worked on with the Michigan Department of Community Health and on a Program Evaluation Project for Saint Mary's Health Care. Most recently, Dr. Cline contributed to my professional development by offering a glowing job reference, eventually leading to the beginning of my post-graduate career with the Michigan Public Health Institute this Spring.

Dr. Cline exemplifies mentorship by fueling creativity, motivation, and provoking new ideas and ways of thinking about the world around us. There is no doubt that Dr. Cline will remain involved in his students' lives as they continue to grow in their careers after graduation.

❖ **Dr. Jodee Hunt, Associate Professor of Biology**

Nominated by: Lyndsey L. Adams, Master of Science in Biology

It is my honor to nominate my graduate advisor, Dr. Jodee Hunt for the Graduate Faculty Mentor Award. I first met Jodee when I took her Evolution of Social Behavior class as an undergraduate. At the time I was studying forensic psychology and was planning on entering a doctorate program in criminology at SUNY-Albany the following fall. I also happened to be in the last trimester of my first pregnancy and struggling with whether psychopathic sex offenders were really my future. I simply showed up in her office shortly after my daughter was born and said, "I don't think I want to do this anymore." As a fellow mother, Jodee showed me compassion. As a mentor she offered me an opportunity that changed my life direction.

Jodee's office has always been a place of open discussion, where options are considered in detail and no decision is made hastily. This is not just from my personal experience, but also from my observations of undergraduate and graduate students always coming and going. She puts her students first, whether they are past, current, or future students. She has a constant supply of chocolate on her desk, used to ease a stressful day or to simply supply essential food groups to a poor, starving graduate student – Mr. Goodbar for protein, Crunch bars for whole grain, dark chocolate for those ever so important antioxidants. She provides a welcoming environment that is conducive to academic as well as personal guidance. She understands there is no cookie-cutter answer to all student circumstances, but that each one needs special attention.

After I joined the graduate program in biology here at GVSU Jodee and I began collaborating on a potential project. I was literally starting from ground zero. Her guidance, creativity, and our joint efforts soon produced an original thesis that has not only taught me a new set of valuable skills, but has also prepared me for a doctorate program in behavioral ecology. Her mentoring has allowed me to attain a graduate degree while simultaneously being a wife and mother (now of two). Anyone who knows Jodee will agree – there is no one quite like her. Her motto is, "There's no such thing as 'no' we just have to figure out what it takes to make it 'yes'."

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT AWARD
KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD
Winter 2010

❖ **Dr. Debra Ross, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice**

Nominated by: Katherine A. Rodriguez, Master of Science in Criminal Justice

As the Director of the Criminal Justice graduate program, Dr. Ross has played a pivotal role in my decision to attend graduate school at Grand Valley. As a minority student, she made me feel welcome and encouraged me to apply. Without her support and efforts, I may not have chosen Grand Valley for graduate school.

I have been fortunate enough to have Dr. Ross as a professor. Students have many diverse opinions related to criminal justice issues, and Dr. Ross creates an atmosphere in her classroom that allows for everyone to share their opinions on issues of race, gender, socioeconomic status and other categories related to CJ issues. This open format results in great classroom discussions and debates which fosters a diversity of opinions.

Dr. Ross has also created an environment in her courses which allows students to research various issues. In her research methods class, each student was able to pick a topic related to their interest on any criminal justice issue. This willingness to allow diversity in subjects to be developed and researched has been critical to my success in receiving an inclusive liberal education. In fact, Dr. Ross has mentored me as the chair of my Master's thesis which came about after her research methods course.

I am currently a graduate assistant in the Criminal Justice department and I work closely on some of her research endeavors. One of her passions is working on scholarly articles in the field of crimes against women. She is dedicated to helping students understand this topic area and furthering the literature in this field. For these reasons, I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Ross for the Kimboko Inclusion Award.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION Officers 2009-2010

President:

Michael Soltis, Health Administration; Public Administration

Vice President:

Kelly McDonell, College Student Affairs Leadership

Secretary:

Katie Wheat, College Student Affairs Leadership

Financial Officer:

Brian Eikenhout, College Student Affairs Leadership

Graduate Council Student Representatives:

Elected:

Andrew Crosby, Public Administration

Christina Torri, Business

Advisors:

Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Michelle Burke, Student Life

GRADUATE COUNCIL Officers 2009-2010

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Dr. Mark Luttenton, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Vice-Chair:

Dr. David Cannon, Seidman College of Business

Policy Subcommittee Chair:

Ms. Valeria Long, MLIS, University Libraries

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Graduate Assistant:

Michael Soltis, MHA/MPA program

Student Assistant:

Lucas Bender, Economics/Finance

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