

GRADUATE STUDENT CELEBRATION WINTER 2011

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

April 22, 2011

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



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate Student Celebration

April 22, 2011

2nd Floor Eberhard Center

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 Student Association (GSA)

Program

5:00 PM: Refreshments and Social Hour

6:00-7:30 PM: Awards Presentation Ceremony

- Introduction: Joe Amisi, GSA Media and Public Relations Officer
- Welcome: Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies
- Awards: Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. John R. Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, and Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students
- Faculty Mentor Recognition Awards: Yasha Nath, GSA Vice-President, Joshua Lee, GSA Secretary, and Andy Crosby, GSA Graduate Council Representative

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

Welcome!

Dear Graduate Students, family members, and friends,

Tonight we recognize those individuals who have distinguished themselves in graduate education at Grand Valley State University. We celebrate all your hard work and recognize the investments and achievements you have made at GVSU.

The awarding of the Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence is a Grand Valley State University tradition that honors the accomplishments of our graduate students. First held in 2006, this event recognizes the academic excellence of graduate students at our university. It originated through the combined efforts of Graduate Council and the Graduate Program Directors. The Graduate Student Association and the Office of Graduate Studies are co-hosts for this evening's activities.

In the awards ceremony, we recognize excellence in academic performance in several categories. Graduate students can be nominated for these awards by staff, faculty, advisors, the graduate program director, and the departmental chair or school director who is familiar with the individual student's accomplishments in the specific areas of recognition. Nominees are reviewed by the Dean of Graduate Studies who makes the final selection. Each recipient will be granted a certificate of recognition and a graduate honors cord, which may be worn at commencement. We are also proud to honor several of our graduate faculty members who have distinguished themselves in mentoring and serving our students at GVSU. It is through their efforts that we create a rich and vibrant learning environment.

Grand Valley State University is proud of your accomplishments. I wish each and every one of you a bright and successful future.

Congratulations!

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

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

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Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence in the Major Winter 2011

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Roxane B. Kruse, Accounting
- ❖ Rabih M. Jamal, Business Administration

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Heather M. Andrews, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Carolyn C. Faber, Health Administration
- ❖ Andrew W. Crosby, Public Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Samantha J. Schenk, Higher Education
- ❖ Catherine R. Thomson, School Counseling

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Katherine M. Botting, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Ashley J. Strotbaum, Physician Assistant Studies

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Jordan R. Allison, Biology
- ❖ Allison M. Wehr, Biostatistics
- ❖ Hailey I. Jahn, Cell & Molecular Biology

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Linda S. Theuerkorn, Nursing

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

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Roxane B. Kruse, Master of Science in Accounting**

(B.S., Accounting, Defiance College, 1998)

Roxane is employed as a financial analyst with Bissell Homecare, Inc., a position to which she was promoted in 2009. This position is, in fact, her third promotion since she joined Bissell in 2004 as an accounts payable supervisor. In her current role, Roxane works closely with the Vice President of International to support focus growth areas in the company. Exceptional performance in all is distinctive, however, and Roxane has demonstrated the capacity and commitment to distinguish herself in both her professional and educational endeavors.

❖ **Rabih M. Jamal, Master of Business Administration**

(B.S.E., Software Engineering, University of Michigan, 2004)

Rabih began his career as a software engineer with a German automotive supplier. When the automotive industry took a downturn, Rabih saw it as an opportunity to focus on his other goal, owning and operating a business. Rabih has many interests, including accounting and finance. He recently challenged himself by competing with other Seidman MBA students in an intercollegiate mergers and acquisitions case competition sponsored by the Association for Corporate Growth. Rabih is the kind of community person who motivates others to consider joining the ranks of GVSU graduate students.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Heather M. Andrews, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

(B.S., Psychology and Criminal Justice, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

Among the graduate students in the Criminal Justice program, Heather has consistently performed near the top. In her courses, Heather consistently demonstrated a full grasp of the material and exhibited a strong ability for critical thinking and analysis. Her peers often sought her assistance in proofreading and editing because of her strong writing skills. In addition to her

academic skills, Heather has also demonstrated the professional skills and attributes that exemplify the Criminal Justice graduate program. Her high GPA is indicative of her hard work, dedication, and academic success.

❖ **Carolyn C. Faber, Master of Health Administration**

(B.S.N., Nursing, The University of Kansas, 1996)

Carolyn has demonstrated excellence in her graduate coursework while pursuing her MHA at GVSU. She has grasped every assignment as an opportunity to engage in applied work relevant to both her current work and her future goals as a health administrator. Her efforts reflect great credit on her success, her stellar academic skills, and her focus on the applied world of health and health care administration. While an outstanding student by night, by day Carolyn is a nursing supervisor at Spectrum Health. The knowledge she gained in the MHA program has helped her more effectively monitor processes that ensure quality, cost effectiveness, and efficiency of health service delivery.

❖ **Andrew W. Crosby, Master of Public Administration**

(B.A., Public Administration, Grand Valley State University, 2009)

As a student researcher, Andy has excelled. He is always prepared, always considerate, and never backs away from a challenge. Over the past two years, Andy has worked on a number of research projects, including the presentation of two conference papers. As a graduate student, Andy has taken an active role in student life. He has served as an elected graduate student representative to Graduate Council (2009-2011) and has actively lobbied for student life money to be allocated to graduate student activities. Andy has decided to pursue his Ph.D. and at this early stage in the process he has interviews at Rutgers University and the Arizona State University.

College of Education

❖ **Samantha J. Schenk, Master of Education in Higher Education**

(B.S., Psychology, Grand Valley State University, 2005)

Samantha is a diligent student whose work consistently reflects a high standard of excellence. She has a keen analytic mind and is an effective communicator, both verbally and in writing. Samantha is able to raise relevant questions, consider alternatives, and synthesize and integrate new information in order to formulate well-reasoned conclusions and solutions to practical

problems. She embraces learning with enthusiasm and the faculty consider her a pleasure to have in class. Samantha will make a valuable contribution in her future endeavors in higher education.

❖ **Catherine R. Thomson, Master of Education in School Counseling**
(B.A., Botany, Miami University, 1996)

Catherine has excelled in her course work in the school counseling program as indicated by her outstanding GPA. As evidenced by her exceptional work in class, it is clear to the program faculty that Kate possesses a genuine, compassionate, and empathic presence that serves her well in her role as a professional school counselor. The university supervisor who supervised Kate during her internship commented, "If Kate doesn't understand something, she is assertive in getting the information in an appropriate way. She has a positive outlook on life and shares that positivity with her students."

College of Health Professions

❖ **Katherine M. Botting, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
(B.S., Biomedical Science, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Katherine has shown academic excellence in didactic coursework, laboratory coursework, and clinical coursework. She is inquisitive and a skilled problem solver. She will be an outstanding addition to the physical therapy profession. Katherine has completed clinical experiences at Kentwood Physical Therapy, Rehab Institute of Michigan of Novi, Providence Hospital of Southfield, and Henry Ford Medical Center of Southfield. She has also served as a Graduate Assistant for the Physical Therapy department and a Laboratory Tech for the Biology Department at GVSU.

❖ **Ashley J. Strotbaum, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**
(B.S.N., Nursing, University of Michigan, 2008)

The faculty of the Physician Assistant Studies program found Ashley to be excellent in all areas of the classroom, clinicals, and service to the program. Academically, professionally, and personally, she is well-deserving of this honor. Her clinical experiences include family medicine, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medical, emergency medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics, and underserved patients. Ashley has also served as a Graduate

Assistant and received the “I Am Grand Valley” Leadership and Service Award.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Jordan R. Allison, Master of Science in Biology**
(B.S., Biology and Fisheries, Mansfield University)

Jordan’s graduate work has been outstanding. He learns new materials easily and integrates that information with materials he has learned previously. Not only does Jordan assimilate factual information well, he also is able to grasp new concepts quickly. In addition, he is thoughtful and inquiring, and has a very positive attitude. His GPA has been the highest of his cohort while he has maintained a rigorous academic schedule. More notable however, is the fact that Jordan has been willing to dig deeper into a topic, making that extra effort to find additional literature on a range of topics.

- ❖ **Allison M. Wehr, Master of Science in Biostatistics**
(B.S., Statistics, Grand Valley State University, 2009)

Allison has a tireless work ethic that leads to a desire to understand and solve every statistical problem presented. This attention to detail also manifests itself in her writing and strong presentations. Her motivation to do as well as possible and perseverance to succeed has been noted by several faculty members. As a graduate assistant, Allison was an integral part of our statistical consulting center in the Statistics Department in 2009 and 2010 and is now performing excellent statistical consultation within the Kirkhof College of Nursing. Allison has shown strong leadership while being a valuable statistical resource to the Grand Rapids research community.

- ❖ **Hailey I. Jahn, Master of Science in Cell & Molecular Biology**
(B.S., Neuroscience, University of Michigan, 2007)

Hailey is one of those rare students who excel at whatever she does, as evidenced by her 4.0 GPA across all subjects in her graduate program. This outstanding performance is particularly notable since she completed her degree in only three years while working full time in a cancer research lab at the Van Andel Research Institute. Hailey doesn’t make a show of her excellence, which endears her to her class mates and fellow team members. She

is always well prepared for class and for presentations and turns in the highest quality work on time or early, which endears her to her professors.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ **Linda S. Theuerkorn, Master of Science in Nursing**
(B.S.N., Nursing, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Linda quickly established herself as a leader among her peers in the MSN program. Her curiosity, integrity, love for learning, passion for nursing, and commitment to serving clients to the fullest are her characteristics that embody the intent of this award. She achieved the higher grades in nursing theory courses, research, and the other courses supporting the professional role of the APN. Her questions have always shown a depth of understanding that brought class discussions well beyond what would be the obvious topics. Linda has shown that her objectives include making greater contributions to nursing.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS IN A MAJOR
Winter 2011**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Matthew P. Zuellig, Master of Science in Biology**

(B.S., Biology, Indiana Wesleyan University, 2007)

- **Thesis Title:** Development and Implementation of a New Molecular Approach for Identifying Unique Genetic Lineages of Eurasian Watermilfoil
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Ryan Thum (Chair), Dr. James Dunn, Dr. Gary Greer

Matthew's thesis work serves as a model of graduate student effort and commitment. His interest and excitement in the topic was evident from the start and at no time, in spite of the amount of work required, has Matthew's enthusiasm waned. He has truly shown an extraordinary level of dedication to his thesis research. Because of his attention to experimental design and his perseverance, Matthew's work will be a clear and notable addition to our understanding and management of exotic invasive plant species. The work is of very high quality and is clearly suitable for publication in a peer reviewed scientific journal.

Matthew's thesis work addresses a topic that is timely and central to issues related to the degradation of lake communities across North America. Specifically, the introduction of Eurasian Watermilfoil, an exotic invasive plant species introduced into North America through the aquarium trade. This species of plant has resulted in habitat degradation which has become wide spread and has severely altered a significant portion of lakes in North American. To control the impacts, lake managers apply significant quantities of herbicides to reduce the growth of Eurasian Watermilfoil, however, it has become clear that herbicides are often ineffective. Matthew's work addresses why herbicides are less effective, but he has used an extraordinarily novel approach; he has developed genetic tools that can be used to identify which populations will be resistant to herbicide treatments.

ABSTRACT

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is one of the most widely managed aquatic weeds in North America. *M. spicatum* also forms hybrids with native northern watermilfoil (*M. sibiricum*), which are believed to be as invasive as pure *M. spicatum*. Recently, lake managers in several parts of the United States have experienced reduced efficacy in managing invasive populations of *M. spicatum* and/or its hybrid. These perceived management differences have been attributed by some to the formation of distinct genetic lineages (biotypes) capable of differential management response within these species. However, current methods of identification do not provide enough resolution to accurately detect distinct biotypes within these taxa. Therefore, no tools are currently available to allow researchers to test the hypothesis that distinct biotypes are responsible for differences in management efficacy in this system. I resolved this issue by developing high-resolution amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP) molecular markers for identifying distinct biotypes within these species. I then performed a field survey using these new markers and revealed that multiple biotypes of Eurasian and hybrid watermilfoils exist in North America. This finding could have large implications for the management and control of *M. spicatum* and future studies assessing herbicide control efficacy on distinct biotypes should be conducted.

❖ Jennifer L. Jakubowski, Master of Science in Cell & Molecular Biology

(B.S., Biomedical Science, Grand Valley State University, 2004)

- **Thesis Title:** Interactions Between Mid1 and Essential Cell Division Proteins in Fission Yeast
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Dawn Clifford Hart (Chair), Dr. David Leonard, and Dr. Suganthi Sridhar

Jennifer took on a challenging project that required her to spend several months performing preliminary trials to get an assay that had not been previously performed within an up and running laboratory. This was not a trivial exercise and demonstrated Jennifer's determination and attention to detail. The novel results generated by Jennifer are the scientific basis for several student projects in my lab as well as an external grant application to be submitted this summer.

Jennifer's thesis research focuses on general mechanisms related to cell division. Cell division is a fundamental biological event that underlies the growth and development of all organisms. A failure to temporally and spatially regulate this event is catastrophic to the cell, resulting in aneuploidy, cell death, and cancer. Jennifer developed a thesis project directly related to how a cell divides in the middle. Her work focused on understanding interactions between components of the cell division machinery and a protein called Mid1, named so because it is required for cells to divide in the middle.

ABSTRACT

Fission yeast (*Schizosaccharomyces pombe*), like human cells, divide symmetrically through constriction of an acto-myosin ring, termed so due to the fact that actin and myosin are the two most abundant proteins. The anillin-like protein Mid1 plays a key role in the early assembly of the ring by recruiting ring components to a broad band of dot-like nodes at the medial region of the cell. Cells lacking Mid1 form non-centered, disorganized rings, resulting in unequal division of the cellular contents. In human cells a Mid1 related protein called anillin regulates ring contraction. Anillin contains an actin binding domain that is necessary for the protein's direct association with actin. Unlike anillin, Mid1 does not contain an actin binding domain, and its ability to interact directly with actin has not been previously reported. Polo-like kinase 1 (Plo1), a protein essential for cytokinesis, has been implicated in Mid1 regulation. Direct association between Mid1 and Plo1, however, has not been demonstrated. Experiments performed for the following thesis analyze both the physical association between Mid1 and actin, and determine the molecular details for Mid1-Plo1 association. Here we provide evidence that the C-terminus of Mid1 interacts directly with the primary ring component actin. As cells lacking *mid1* form disorganized "floating" rings, this interaction indicates Mid1's role as a central regulator of ring assembly by its recruitment of actin to the nodes. We also provide evidence that Mid1 associates directly with the essential mitotic kinase Plo1 through a minimum of two independent binding sites in both the N- and C-terminus. As Plo1 is known to activate Mid1 nuclear export at the onset of mitosis, the association of Mid1 and Plo1 further indicate that these proteins facilitate contractile ring assembly at mitotic onset. *Continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT CON'T

While many years of research provide only a brief understanding of the cell's ability to rapidly undergo consecutive rounds of cell division and correctly produce appropriate cells, these experiments advance our understanding of cell division at a molecular level, and provide significant insight into the details of cytokinesis. This knowledge will assist in molecular targets for diseases that arise from cell division defects, such as cancer.

❖ **Lisa C. Dopke, Master of Science in Communications**

(B.S., Legal Studies, Grand Valley State University, 2005)

- **Thesis Title:** An Exploration of Communication Strategies for Effectively Organizing and Managing Collaborative Grant Writing Groups
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko (Chair), Dr. Roy Winegar, Dr. Ric Underhile

Lisa has impressed the faculty in the graduate Communications program with her dedication and commitment to her learning. She has the natural curiosity of a scholar. "Lisa has the requisite intelligence, creativity, discipline, and drive to pursue a doctoral degree. I am confident that she will be a major contributor to the field of communication."

While pursuing her graduate studies at GVSU, Lisa has also served as the grants coordinator for Grand Rapids Community College and generated more than \$11 million in grant funding. She previously worked for Cherry Street Health Services as a fund development officer and served the School of Criminal Justice as a graduate assistant while completing her graduate degree in criminal justice. Grand Valley State University frequently utilizes Lisa's abilities as a consultant for the College of Community & Public Service and the College of Health Professions.

ABSTRACT

The present research explored best practice approaches to collaborative grant writing, as little is known about the details or range of variation in the processes that are currently deployed by professionals working within this context. Findings provided the opportunity to build a typology of the roles specific to collaborative grant writing groups, provide a discussion of ideal group composition and leadership, and to identify and suggest strategies for organizing and managing group dynamics and tasks during the phases of the collaborative writing process. Fisher's (1970) theory of small group decision making was used as the conceptual framework for presenting these strategies in an effort to demonstrate strategic points along a work continuum that they might be deployed to help such groups move through the collaboration and writing processes more efficaciously. The topic of collaborative grant writing was deemed both timely and relevant in that several federal departments are now mandating that grant activities be undertaken by partners prescribed by the department.

❖ Heather E. Gemmen, Master of Arts in English

(B.A., English, Calvin College)

- **Thesis Title:** Rosa Re-Centered: Spatial Form and the Trauma Narrative in *Absalom, Absalom!*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Mack Smith (Chair), Dr. Rob Franciosi, Dr. Avis Hewitt

Heather's thesis is an original approach to the role of Rosa Coldfield in one of Faulkner's most complex narratives that extends and goes beyond previous studies and is thus a significant contribution to Faulkner scholarship. Heather argues that Rosa is a far more central character than has been previously acknowledged. She is the only character who is both part of the story and one of its narrative voices. Her story begins the various narrative interpretations and her mode of narration, filled with gaps, suspensions, omissions, and shifts in time, spatializes the temporal flow of the narrative to create a temporal stasis of endless retelling, revising, supplementing, and speculating in an ever-widening concentric circle of narrators. It is not until Rosa abandons narrative time, the endless chain of narration through language, and re-enters story time as living participant and a causal agent of new events again after a forty year absence that she can end the eternal retelling of the Sutpen story by bringing

about the deaths of the last Sutpens and the fiery destruction of the Sutpen mansion.

This highly original thesis is argued convincingly by Heather by proving its validity through several overlapping theoretical perspectives. Drawing upon the emerging field of trauma studies, she analyzes Rosa's narration as having elements of traumatic memory, especially in its fragmentation, emotional rage, suspension, and circularity. Heather then shows how this psychological state is represented in Faulkner's narration by what Joseph Frank described as spatial form in an influential study describing the modernist handling of time. Her examples are informed by a narratological approach as well as stylistic analyses of individual passages.

ABSTRACT

Utilizing principles of the trauma narrative and the formalist critical approach of spatial form, this thesis examines the "Rosa story" in William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*: the Rosa Coldfield character; her narrative; and, the actions she performs after narrating. While Rosa views the Sutpen story as the paradigm for her life, telling her life story ultimately does not enable her to locate her personal meaning in the paradigm because she was a minor character in the Sutpen story — and, consequently, in her own life as well. Once she transforms Thomas Sutpen into a role model, she is able to claim the protagonist's role in the story. By taking action to complete the Sutpen story, Rosa transforms herself from a trauma victim into a perpetrator. Doing so, however, does not allow her to create a new self-identity. Rather, Rosa discovers the identity she has possessed since birth: that of trauma victim. This argument uses Erik H. Erikson's psychosocial model of identity formation to adumbrate how pivotal events in Rosa's life express and confirm the mistrust she learns as an infant. Erikson's emphasis on how social interactions affect a person's experience of self, others, and environment is particularly adaptable to the analysis of three trauma narrative *Leitmotifs*: how society produces traumatogenic environmental conditions; how trauma interferes with normative identity development; and, the traumatized individual's process of identity formation within a traumatogenic social milieu. All three *Leitmotifs* are active in the components of the Rosa story — the Rosa character, her narrative, and her actions.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Phyllis D. Boone, Master of Science in Nursing**

(B.S.N., Nursing, Grand Valley State University, 2002)

- **Thesis Title:** The Lived Experience: Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension and Intravenous Prostaglandin Therapy
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Cynthia Coviak (Chair), Dr. Linda Scott, Dr. Patricia Shafer, Tina Simmons, LSW (Spectrum Health)

Phyllis came to the nursing graduate program after spending several years as a critical care nurse. In this role, not only had she developed technical competence, but she was particularly drawn to the care of those who were destined to look to a future of long term, progressive losses in physical capabilities that would introduce challenges for the management of their illnesses at home. Knowing the implications of this treatment for patients and families, Phyllis chose to explore the experiences of these clients who were pioneering a new and demanding area of health care.

As excellent as her project was, it is unfortunate that Phyllis was not able to recruit participants. Even after a modification of her procedures, none of the few individuals undergoing this therapy in the West Michigan community were interested in being a part of the study. Nevertheless, to complete the project, Phyllis completed a literature review to learn what could be gleaned about the care of people involved with this therapy. She also determined other methods for recruiting participants for health care research during an era of challenges associated with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). In choosing to complete a thesis, Phyllis not only chose to take on a challenge seldom elected by her peers, but she also did so with independence, tenacity, and excellence. Her thesis is well deserving of this honor.

ABSTRACT

A descriptive phenomenological study was proposed to obtain a subjective description of the experience of living with intravenous prostaglandin treatment for pulmonary arterial hypertension. It was intended to determine what kinds of elements are common to the experience with study participants, to develop an aggregate structure of the experience from the individual descriptions of it, and planned to add to what is now known about this phenomenon. It was anticipated that the stories told by the participants could help to determine how nurses can assist future patients to live optimally within the confines of a palliative treatment for this incurable illness.

Unfortunately, no participants responded to recruitment efforts by the researcher. However, the current state of nursing science about the experience of having pulmonary arterial hypertension was synthesized, and the utility of phenomenological exploration for nursing practice was discussed. Finally, the barriers to recruitment for researchers following the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule were examined and approaches to overcome these barriers determined.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT IN A MAJOR
Winter 2011**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Heather M. Andrews, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

(B.S., Psychology and Criminal Justice, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

- **Title:** Evaluation of the 20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Court Internship Program
- **Advisor:** Dr. Christine Yalda

Heather's final project was an assessment of the 20th Circuit Court-Ottawa County Probate Court internship program. This internship program was created in a joint effort between the School of Criminal Justice and the 20th Circuit Court of Ottawa County. Heather's project utilized a number of different research methods, including content analysis, field observations, and interviews, to examine Criminal Justice internship programs across the United States in general and the Ottawa County internship program specifically.

Heather's project is significant because there is little, if any, research published on criminal justice internship programs. Heather's research will surely add to the body of research on criminal justice internship programs. Her findings will allow for improvements to be made, as well as shed more light on this internship program. Additionally, Heather has modeled the professional development expected of graduate student-researchers. Her capacity, commitment, and enthusiasm to accomplish this study kept her "ahead of the curve" on nearly every aspect of the study and, when she faltered, she requested and responded immediately to constructive assistance. She fully engaged with this project, the court, and her committee.

ABSTRACT

For decades, internship programs have been an integral part of criminal justice education, providing students with the opportunity to gain “real world” experience and more easily make the transition from classroom to work life. Examined literature suggests participation in internship programs may offer both positive outcomes and barriers to success for each of the three primary stakeholders of such programs: students, agencies, and universities. However, few if any studies have evaluated the impact of criminal justice internship programs specifically. This project sought to close this gap by evaluating a criminal justice internship program housed in a local court. Mixed methods included interviews, field observations, and a content analysis of program materials for both the target program and other criminal justice internship programs across the country. Together these methods were geared at determining whether or not the court internship program effectively served the placement agency, students, and participating academic institutions. Additional objectives included determining if the program is meeting its stated goals and objectives, whether or not it is a “typical” criminal justice internship program, and providing recommendations for improvement.

Findings indicate that this program is typical of others of its kind. Data was insufficient for determining effectiveness for either students or participating universities. However, findings suggest that the program was generally effective for the participating court staff. Furthermore, while the program lacked clearly stated and measurable goals and objectives, court participants recognized and seemed to share informal program goals, objectives, and expectations. Interviews with court staff participants also suggest that while most students gain significant professional development through their internship, a few “problem students” have negatively impacted court staff perceptions of student interns and their commitment to working with them. Suggested improvements drawn from identified “best practices” are geared toward helping the Court move forward in providing better internship services to local students as well as offering insights to support future program evaluation.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Jon E. Hultgren, Master of Science in Communications**

(Bachelor's, Hope College, 1996)

- **Title:** Contemporary Hits Radio in the Social Media Era
- **Advisors:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko and Dr. Roy Winegar

Jon works professionally in the broadcast arena and used this opportunity to apply his professional knowledge with his academic endeavors. He has done an excellent job in applying his academic program into this work. He is on target to complete his project during the summer session. Jon's project is exceptionally innovative. He has aptly pinpointed a communication problem for which he is offering an interesting and elegant solution. His work is worthy of notice and celebration.

His academic prowess exceeds the faculty's expectations for graduate students. Jon is a most capable student and has the drive, determination, curiosity, and ambition that will make him highly successful in the communications industry.

ABSTRACT

An interview with Dr. Zak in *Wired* magazine noting oxytocin, responsible for bonding in the brain, increased when subjects used Twitter lead to an experiment by Dr. Hill of Arizona State University on how oxytocin levels are affected by music. Using Dr. Hill's experiment we ask the question, if oxytocin increases when the subject's favorite song is played, what if the time of the song was shortened and the number of those favorite songs increased? Would this affect the bond to the medium providing the songs?

Having a naturalistic means to observe such phenomena, the time of 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every Saturday on a local radio station over a three-month period was selected. Songs on that station during that time were truncated to play between 90 and 120 seconds. The number of songs and real time data from the radio stations webstream was used as initial data.

Preliminary data shows the number of songs during that time period increased 39% and the time the observed subjects spent listening to the station increased 13%. A conclusion is difficult at this time, but as data becomes available from Arbitron within the next 30 days the data will be analyzed.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Jennifer K. Dankers, Master of Science in Nursing**

(B.S., Human Biology, Michigan State University, 2002)

- **Title:** Evidence to Support Revision of the Osteoporosis Knowledge Test: Diet Components
- **Advisor:** Dr. Phyllis Gendler

Jennifer has demonstrated excellence in her project's conception, merit, significance, and in its presentation. Jennifer worked with the Healthy Bones Research Team in the Kirkhof College of Nursing for two semesters on her research practica requirements. She chose to work with the revision of the Osteoporosis Knowledge Test (OKT) on the diet components content.

Jennifer did an extensive review of the research and discussed her review with the Health Bones Research Team thus influencing the question development of the revised OKT. She refined that IRB proposal and made arrangements with a Traverse City Senior Center so that she could collect data for evaluation of the psychometric properties of the instrument. Jennifer's scholarly project experience was rigorous and rewarding. She embraced the requirement and immersed herself in the scientific process.

ABSTRACT

PROBLEM: With an aging population, osteoporosis has become a significant healthcare burden, affecting over 79 million people in the United States, Europe and Japan. There has been extensive research in the last 20 years that supports osteoporosis as a preventable disease. Knowledge of exercise and diet for optimum bone growth, including calcium and vitamin D intake, are essential to osteoporosis prevention and treatment. The Osteoporosis Knowledge Test (OKT), developed by Kim, Horan, and Gendler in 1991 and revised in 2008, is a tool that has been used to assess understanding of osteoporosis risk factors as well as knowledge of both exercise and calcium intake for osteoporosis prevention.

METHODS: For this project, a literature search for publications on the dietary components of osteoporosis prevention from January 2004 through April 2010 was conducted using the Cochrane Library, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), ProQuest Medical Library, PsychInfo, PubMed, and UpToDate databases. *Continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT CON'T

Keywords included osteoporosis, fracture, calcium, and vitamin D. A reverse search using the reference lists from studies obtained was also performed. Studies were selected based on levels of evidence and ability to contribute to the role of nutrition in osteoporosis prevention or treatment.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION: Serum vitamin D levels have been substantiated as deficient worldwide secondary to latitude, season, and a heightened awareness of skin cancer risk. The OKT (1991) and the ROKT (2008) were revised to include specific sources and daily intake values for vitamin D of 800-1000 IU. Next steps include conducting a psychometric analysis of the 2010 OKT.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION
Winter 2011**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Jennifer L. Jakubowski, Master of Science in Cell& Molecular Biology**
(B.S., Biomedical Science, Grand Valley State University, 2004)
 - **Title:** Interactions Between Mid1 and Essential Cell Division Proteins in Fission Yeast
 - **Advisors:** Dr. Dawn Clifford Hart, Dr. David Leonard, and Dr. Suganthi Sridhar

As a whole, Jennifer's thesis research addressed important questions in the cell cycle field that are evolutionarily conserved and her work will impact scientists across many disciplines. The complete story, which details the biological relevance of the Mid1-Polo-kinase interaction, is published in a recent issue of *Current Biology*. The article is titled "*Temporal Control of Contractile Ring Assembly by Plo1 Regulation of Myosin II Recruitment by Mid1/Anillin*". The second part of Jennifer's thesis work demonstrates that Mid1 interacts with another essential cell division protein, actin. This work provides the first direct evidence that Mid1 is a bona fide actin binding protein, which is a long-standing question in the cell cycle field.

Jennifer presented her results at international (American Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) and regional (Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters) scientific meetings. She also represented the graduate programs at GVSU by presenting her research at the State Capitol in Lansing and at recruitment events on campus. The experience gained while completing her thesis work landed her an immediate position as Senior Molecular Biologist with Syzygy Biotech Solutions. Jennifer leads the research and development division where she continues to have strong ties to GVSU, recruiting GVSU student workers and graduates to join her research team.

Jennifer is also a recipient of the Outstanding Thesis Award. For a copy of the publication abstract, please refer to page 14.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION
Winter 2011**

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Emily A. Martin, Master of Public Administration**
(B.A., History and Sociology, Calvin College, 2006)

Emily was recently named the manager of a new YMCA-sponsored Farmers' Market in downtown Grand Rapids. The market is supported by a \$76,344 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She has been a graduate assistant for the Sustainable Community Development Initiative. She assists with the weekly on-campus farmers' market and student farm, plans sustainability-related activities on campus for students, including the annual Campus Sustainability Week and TEDxGrandValley, and assisted in authoring the City of Grand Rapids Sustainability Plan and Sustainability Indicator Report. Emily previously worked for the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Blandford Nature Center, and Mixed Greens.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Emily M. Woolsey, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
(B.S., Health Professions, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Emily has served as an exemplar for her peers with regard to service to her professional association and the need for active engagement in the advocacy process. Emily, along with a classmate, became the first Grand Valley State University students to take a leadership role in the Michigan Physical Therapy Association's Student Relations Committee by serving as Co-Vice President in 2009/2010 and currently as Co-President. She also helps mobilize other students in advocacy efforts including the successful adoption of Public Act 55 of 2009 which provided for licensure of physical therapist assistants. Her dedication to her leadership role and outstanding execution of its functions is a great service to our professional association.

- ❖ **Austin N. Kuipers, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**
(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Austin began his graduate studies at GVSU in Fall 2008 after receiving his bachelor's degree with honors earlier that year. The faculty of the Physician Assistant Studies graduate program appreciated Austin's commitment and servant's heart in the classroom, as well as while on clinical rotations. By nature, his personal and professional attributes will serve him well in his career as a physician assistant.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Allison M. Wehr, Master of Science in Biostatistics**
(B.S., Statistics, Grand Valley State University, 2009)

Allison's professional service has extended into the community through her membership in the American Statistical Association and Mu Sigma Rho (the Statistics Honors Society) and through other educational outreach. She has helped statistics department faculty and the university with a variety of educational community projects, including Statistics Career Day and Super Science Saturday. While working in the Statistical Consulting Center, Allison worked on a number of projects dealing with the community. These studies included the Girls Chorale Club in Grand Rapids, a study of the nutritional values of the food served at various food kitchens in Grand Rapids, a study on radon gas levels in homes, and a study on preemie's and identifying the type of assistance needed.

- ❖ **Jonathan A. Whitmer, Master of Art in English**
(B.A., Bible, Pensacola Christian College, 1992)

Jonathan Whitmer has an extraordinarily varied background. Before he began the graduate program at GVSU, he already had a Master of Arts in linguistics, as well as a certificate in teaching English as a foreign language. As a graduate assistant, Jonathan has served as editorial assistant to Professor Lockerd, who is editor of *Permanent Things: The Russell Kirk Center Newsletter*. Jonathan's extensive experience with publishing (another part of his varied background) makes him adept at this role. He has written articles, edited articles, and completed all of the layout and design for this publication. Jonathan has been

an invaluable resource for GVSU and has at the same time served the broader profession in many ways.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Pamela M. Bryant, Master of Science in Nursing**

(B.A., History and Secondary Education, Nazareth College, 1992)

Pamela leads her team of caregivers at Alamo Nursing Home in rural Michigan with competency and humility. It is evident the staff has great respect for her. Pamela approaches her leadership with a “level playing field mentality.” She works alongside her team of caregivers and provides direct patient care freely as needed despite her administrative role. Research in long term care, especially rural areas, is uncommon and Pamela single handedly bridged the culture to accept and participate in the work. She has a skill set of leadership that inspires people to work toward a common vision. Pamela has continued to make significant contributions to the health of individuals and to nursing practice.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP & SERVICE TO GVSU
Winter 2011**

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Yasha A. Nath, Master of Business Administration**

(B.Sc., Accounting Specialization, The University of the West Indies, 2001)

Yasha has demonstrated an exceptional drive to contribute to the university, in particular, graduate programs and graduate students, in meaningful ways. Yasha has co-led an initiative to achieve university recognition for the unique role of graduate students at the university, including ensuring graduate student voices at the University Academic Senate and funding to support graduate student activities. Yasha is currently serving as vice president of the Graduate Student Association (GSA). Most significantly, she has been instrumental in helping to ensure GSA's continuity through various collaborative activities associated with amending the GSA constitution, developing membership and interest, and, generally, strong and persistent advocacy for graduate students.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Justin E. Ott, Master of Health Administration**

(B.S., Health Professions, Grand Valley State University, 2009)

Justin represents the well-rounded graduate student at Grand Valley. As a graduate assistant for the Office of Graduate Studies, Justin has helped with the launch of the PACES initiative, with the Graduate Council, and with creating, administering and analyzing surveys. Last year, as a graduate assistant to Professor Margaret Schulte, Justin assisted with her editing of the journal *Frontiers in Health Services Management*. He also authored a chapter in Professor Schulte's upcoming book *Go Live: Smart Strategies from Davies Award-Winning EHR Implementations*. Justin is a diligent student in the MHA program and has consistently produced work of high quality. In addition, Justin has been an intern with the Hospice and Palliative Care program at Spectrum Health and a coach for the Forest Hills Northern High School Rowing Team.

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

As a graduate student in the MPA program, Todd has done things in threes. He has had three graduate assistantship assignments. He has had three separate internships: one with the Kent County Administrators Office; one with the United States Bankruptcy Court; and one with the Office of the Inspector General - Social Security Administration. The three achievements for which Todd is nominated for this award: (1) serving as a member of CCPS's IMPAACT (Improving Momentum Partnering Alliances and Collaborative Team), formed to create mutually beneficial relationships between the University and the community by linking transformational service with practical applications; (2) working with the Pals Student Mentors program; and (3) serving as Grant Coordinator for the Department of Justice - Project Safe Neighborhoods - P.R.O.V.E. grant.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Ann M. Matthews, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Ann is an excellent student and contributor to the physical therapy program. As a graduate assistant, Ann has taught "Spanish for Physical Therapists" to her fellow classmates and other PT students. Her Spanish background was also utilized on a PT service learning trip to Guatemala last summer. As well as serving as a translator for other PT students, Ann organized and facilitated the trip. Ann also took a leadership role in the Pro Bono Clinics. As coordinator of the Family Health Center PT Clinic, Ann provided pro bono physical therapy services to the under-insured population, instructed orientations for new physical therapist volunteers, and worked on quality improvement. Ann is also the coordinator of student volunteers for the Physical Therapy Community Outreach Initiative which runs an exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease.

- ❖ **Leah B. Tarrant, Master of Physician Assistant Studies**
(B.S., Biomedical Science, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Leah began her graduate studies at GVSU in Fall 2008. The faculty of the Physician Assistant Studies program recognize Leah's strong work ethic from her service on the Physician Assistant student society, to her support with the

professional advisory committee. Her clinical experiences include family practice, emergency medicine, critical care and cardiology, dermatology, psychiatry, pediatrics, and rural medicine. Leah also serves as a blood drive volunteer for Michigan Community Blood Centers. She is also the elected GVSU student delegate for the Assembly of Representatives of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Her strong academic and professional excellence has had a very positive and lasting impact on the PAS program at GVSU.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TO GVSU
Winter 2011**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Rachael L. DeWitt, Master of Public Administration and Master of Social Work**

(B.A., Spanish, International Studies, and Political Science, Hope College, 2005)

Rachael has stood out among her peers as a motivated and inspirational leader. While she has been busy pursuing a dual graduate degrees in Public Administration and Social Work, Rachael has always been very active on campus and in the community. Her service to the university has been inspirational and invaluable. As a graduate assistant in the Women's Center, Rachael has been involved with the creation of the Student Food Pantry, the development of the South Africa Study Abroad prospectus, enhancing our fundraising efforts, and co-authoring a federal grant through the United State Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women.

Her commitment to community has not ended on campus, but is evident in the community, as well. She is an active supporter of the Holland-based organization, Center for Women in Transition. She also uses her Spanish language skills and outreach talents to mentor two migrant girls each summer. Rachael is completing the MSW field education requirement as an intern for Children's Advocacy Center of Holland, where she provides counseling services to children, adolescents, and families impacted by child sexual abuse. She also co-facilitates a support group for adolescent survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

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

OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2011

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 Deans Council.

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Barbara J. Reimbold, Master of Business Administration**

Faculty members cite Barb's performance in class and how her insightful contributions to class discussions and projects enrich the learning for other students and help foster a stimulating class environment. Prior to pursuing the MBA, Barb graduated with honors from Central Michigan University with a degree in management information systems. Barb has also earned professional certification in project management. She has been employed by Steelcase since 2000, starting as an IT project manager. Prior to assuming her current position as director of project and process management in the wood category, she was also a senior strategic analyst. In her current role, Barb leads a team that develops and executes the business unit's strategy, including continuous improvement, project management key initiatives, and product development.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Christina M. Moore, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Christina is an excellent student, and has already received several prestigious awards, including the Michigan Physical Therapy Association Outstanding Student Award and the David Daniels Memorial Scholarship. She has also excelled in all of her clinical internships. Christina is currently finishing her doctoral research entitled "An investigation of the value of directional preference screening and its related interventions in a subgroup of patients with neck pain previously managed with thoracic manipulation". Her research chair states that she is one of the brightest and most dedicated students that he has seen. As well as accomplishing the above and having the highest GPA in her class, Christina is also an outstanding person.

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

2010-2011

(Recognized at the annual Scholar Awards Banquet on April 11, 2010)

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Matthew Gary, Accounting (MSA)
- ❖ Joseph Cote, General Business (MBA)
- ❖ Christine Brynaert, Taxation (MST)

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Ian Fields, Criminal Justice (MS)
- ❖ Carolyn Faber, Health Administration (MHA)
- ❖ Aaron Vis, Public Administration (MPA)
- ❖ Jason Anderson, Social Work (MSW)

College of Education

- ❖ Amy Burton-Major, Educ. Specialist in Leadership (Ed.S)
- ❖ Deborah Schuitema, General Education (M.Ed)
- ❖ Kelley Hughes, Higher Education (M.Ed)
- ❖ Edwin Vaandering, Reading (M.Ed)
- ❖ Kerry Baldwin, School Counseling (M.Ed)
- ❖ Maria Bultsma, Special Education (M.Ed)

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Todd Boss, Computer Information Systems (MS)
- ❖ Nicholas Goote, Engineering (MSE)
- ❖ James Bund, Medical and Bioinformatics (MS)

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Kendra Weesies, Occupation Therapy (MS)
- ❖ Kristi Howard, Physical Therapy (DPT)
- ❖ Ashley Strotbaum, Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Matthew Altenritter, Biology (MS)
- ❖ Kathryn Firlik, Biomedical Sciences (MHS)
- ❖ Nicole Arradaza, Biostatistics (MS)
- ❖ Jennifer Jakubowski, Cell and Molecular Biology (MS)
- ❖ Kelli Carrier, Communications (MS)
- ❖ Heather Gemmen, English (MA)

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Jennifer Dankers, Nursing (MSN)

GRADUATE STUDENT PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Fall 2010

FLUEGEL, Larissa. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Science.

Title: *Relationship between Maternal Feeding Practices and Child's BMI and Child's Dietary Restraint in Mexican American Families of Grand Rapids*

HORNE, Nicole. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Characterization of the Biological Layer (Biofilm) of the Biosand Filter System*

MADANU, Sampath. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *The Response of Coronary Arteries to Testosterone is Heterogeneous*

MIARA, Sheila. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Winter Nest Selection and Behavior Ecology of *Glaucumys volans* in Southwest Michigan*

SCHENK, Samantha. College of Education, M.Ed.

Title: *Student Activist Identity: The Relationship Between Activist Identity and Undergraduate Involvement*

Winter 2011

BRINKS, Benjamin. Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, Electrical/Computer Engineering.

Title: *Local Area Processing for Real-time Imaging Systems*

KAUFMAN, Darcy. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Genetic Cofactors that Promote *Nato3* Induction of Dopamine Neuron Markers*

KRYNAK, Edward. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Mesohabitat Macroinvertebrate Secondary Production in a Low Gradient, Sand-dominated Stream*

TAVALIRE, Hannah. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Does Gene Flow among Ecologically Distinct Lineages Fuel Adaptation in an Invasive Aquatic Plant Species?*

VANDERVLIT, Marc. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Science.

Title: *Insertion and Characterization of Epitope Labeled Histidine Decarboxylase (HDC) in Drosophila Melanogaster*

WHITMER, Jonathan. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, English.

Title: *Sacred Spaces in C.S. Lewis' Till We Have Faces*

**GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
Winter 2011**

❖ **Dr. Julie Chlebo, Associate Professor of Education**

Nominated by: Laura M. Crump, Early Childhood Education

I was blessed to have been assigned to Julie as my advisor. During my educational endeavors, I have tried to obtain a master's degree two other times with two other universities. I have to admit that her passion and personality immediately gave us a bond, but it was in having her as an instructor as well as continued advising that I was able to see the amazing gifts she has to give her students and the field of education. Outside of the classroom, Julie made herself available and was always interested in each student beyond the academic realm.

Julie is real in all aspects of her teaching. Her honest, open, positive, passionate nature overflows into every area of teaching. In Julie's visits to my classroom, I admired the time she took to look carefully and deeply into my teaching. The extensive notes - handwritten - that she left I have keep and she did the same on all the projects, papers and presentations go above and beyond. Julie gave such specific, detailed and timely feedback that I have never seen modeled in other educators' evaluations. I feel she personally is walking along side of me so that I may complete my master's degree and rise to some other opportunities because of her continued guidance, encouragement and wisdom.

❖ **Dr. Jonathan Engelsma, Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems**

Nominated by: Alejandro Montoya, Computer Information Systems

I had the opportunity to meet Professor Engelsma through a graduate assistantship in the winter 2010 semester and since then I have worked very closely with him in the Mobile and Applications Services Laboratory (MASL) on various research projects. I also had the honor of taking a class with him and he is currently my master's thesis advisor. I have become very familiar with Professor Engelsma.

As an international student from Colombia I faced many challenges when I came to the States. I found in Professor Engelsma the support and advice I

needed. He was generous with his time and support and he is an exceptional communicator and gifted teacher. He is a highly dedicated educator who knows how to motivate students and inspire excellence. He is a formidable mentor. And, as a person, he is humble and approachable and loves to share his extensive knowledge with others. Professor Engelsma's leadership and organizational skills are exemplary. The team at MASL is more productive, creative, cohesive and motivated because of his enthusiasm and encouragement. In the Laboratory we have worked on several successful projects that give homage to the computer systems program and bring visibility to GVSU.

❖ **Dr. Mark Hoffman, Associate Professor of Public Administration**

Nominated by: Andy Crosby, Public Administration

Dr. Mark Hoffman has been an outstanding faculty mentor throughout my degree program. Dr. Hoffman's commitment to mentoring begins in the classroom. Dr. Hoffman challenges his students to become more critical thinkers and better writers through extensive feedback throughout the semester. Papers are not simply returned with comments; they are filled with suggestions and techniques to assist a student in becoming a better writer. However, his commitment does not end here. Dr. Hoffman has spent hours offering to help me be a more informed representative of the university's Graduate Council by discussing university policies. In addition, he has offered extensive academic and career guidance, even going so far as to assist me on weekends and holidays. He also encourages me and other students to attend relevant professional development conferences, such as the Michigan Local Government Management Association (MLGMA) Winter Institute. Dr. Hoffman consistently goes beyond the call of duty as both a faculty member and a Graduate Program Director (GPD).

❖ **Dr. Robert Hollister, Assistant Professor of Biology**

Nominated by: Rob Slider, Biology

As an undergraduate student I came to Dr. Bob Hollister looking for field experience to use in my future classroom as a biology teacher. What he did for me over the next four years went above and beyond what I initially hoped to get from his Arctic Ecology Program. Since Bob took me under his wing he has offered me opportunities few others have had the chance to experience, taught me how to think like a scientist, and showed me how to present our work in a way that is meaningful to those outside our field.

As his research assistant I spent three summers in the Alaskan tundra, contributing to an international study examining the effects of climate change on arctic plants. Through this research we have co-authored a paper, attended numerous local and international conferences together, and developed outreach programs making our work accessible to K-12 students. During this time Bob has exemplified what it means to be an excellent mentor—giving his students ownership of their work, igniting their passion for the field, and carefully guiding them in their academic and personal pursuits. He has fostered in me a tremendous level of insight and appreciation for the process of science, which I firmly believe will be to the benefit of my future students. I could not have asked for a better mentor to lead me through the graduate process.

❖ **Dr. Cray Mulder, Assistant Professor of Social Work**

Nominated by: Misty Wright, Social Work

I have not been the traditional student throughout my years in the graduate program at GVSU. In Fall 2009, I reentered the program in the Traverse City cohort. I had to travel downstate as well as to Sault Ste. Marie to complete some of the courses necessary to graduate with the cohort. I met Dr. Mulder in the Winter 2010 semester. Dr. Mulder is unlike any professor I have ever met. She is able to make a difficult subject easy to learn as she is passionate about the subject matter and teaches what she knows and loves. I found it inspirational that she did not teach through PowerPoint and she did not read word for word from notes. She shows great interest in her students and demonstrates a servant heart and attitude. She advocates for her students when necessary as well. While making the weekly trek to Grand Rapids for these classes was not the ideal situation it was refreshing that I not only enjoyed Dr. Mulder's class but also learned and retained the information that was taught.

I have attended several different colleges and Dr. Cray Mulder is by far the best professor I have ever had the privilege of taking a class and learning from. She made herself available outside of the classroom whenever necessary and she was more than willing to offer not only suggestions but also a listening ear when needed. Dr. Mulder is the picture of what a social work professor should be. Dr. Cray Mulder is training students to be good social workers through leading by example. I count it a great privilege that I have taken two of her classes.

❖ **Dr. Dawn Richiert, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences**

Nominated by: Kate Firlik, Biomedical Sciences

Dawn Richiert is one of the most dedicated professors I have had the pleasure of knowing. She puts her heart and soul, as well as a healthy dose of good humor, into her teaching and interactions with students. As a new graduate student, I was convinced that I did not want to do research for my master's thesis. I came to Dawn with an idea for a project that I thought would be an acceptable alternative. She told me that although my idea would benefit her, she thought I was a much better student and that I should consider doing research in some form, even if it wasn't in the lab I was so dreading. With her encouragement, I am now writing up a study of my own design for my master's thesis. As I go on to medical school this fall, I will be taking a little of Dawn with me. Most of all, she is present in my newfound confidence as a member of the greater scientific community. Dawn's greatest strengths lie in her ability to encourage, advise, and prepare students for life and a career after Grand Valley. I am proud to have been her student and I am excited for the future students who will learn so much from her.

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2010-2011

President:

Jamie Guigar, College Student Affairs Leadership

Vice President:

Yasha Nath, Business Administration

Media and Public Relations Officer:

Joseph Amisi, Business Administration

Financial Officer:

Barbara Gbewonyo, Accounting

Secretary:

Joshua Lee, College Student Affairs Leadership

Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:

Andrew Crosby, Public Administration

Joseph Amisi, Business Administration

Advisors:

Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Michelle Burke, Student Life

GRADUATE COUNCIL OFFICERS 2010-2011

Chair:

Dr. Mark Luttenton, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Vice-Chair:

Dr. Wallace Boeve, College of Health Professions

Policy Subcommittee Chair:

Ms. Valeria Long, MLIS, University Libraries

Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. Mark Staves, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies

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

Irene Fountain, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Palm, Office Coordinator

Graduate Assistants:

Yasha Nath, Business Administration

Justin Ott, Health Administration

Student Assistant:

D'Vaun Wells, Public Administration

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