



GRADUATE STUDENT CELEBRATION

GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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

APRIL 18, 2014



Graduate Student Celebration

April 18, 2014

Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies

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in collaboration with the
Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Program

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

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

- Introduction: Paul Jabaay, GSA President
- Welcome: Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies
- Awards: Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies,
Dr. John R. Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies,
and Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students
- Faculty Awards Recognition: Hilary Powsner, GSA Vice President,
Alaina Clarke, GSA Communications Officer,
and Anna Marotti, GSA Administration Officer

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

Welcome!

Dear members and friends of Grand Valley's graduate community,

Tonight we have the great pleasure to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves in graduate education at Grand Valley State University. The Dean's Citation Awards for Academic Excellence recognizes the accomplishments of our students and faculty and celebrates their achievements. First held in 2006, this proud Grand Valley State University tradition originated through the combined efforts of the members 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.

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

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

Congratulations to all!

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

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
Winter 2014

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE MAJOR

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Brendan P. Byxbe, Accounting
- ❖ Troy M. Bouman, Business Administration

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Jodi L. Zuiderveen, Health Administration
- ❖ Ingrid J. Scheer, Public Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Erin C. Ash, Higher Education
- ❖ Mark A. Switzer, School Counseling

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Sam Serpoosh, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Lauren J. Hickox, Engineering
- ❖ Mary Ellen Hoinski, Medical and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Matthew J. Rejc, Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Elizabeth L. Graney, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Alynn M. Martin, Biology
- ❖ Colleen L. MacCallum, Biostatistics
- ❖ Brett M. Brockman, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ David A. Zeoli, Communications
- ❖ Sierra C. Holmes, English

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Carolyn M. Fox, Nursing

OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Joanne M. Finazzi, Nursing

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Elle G. Teshima, Criminal Justice

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Huijing Zhu, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Anna M. Worm, English

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Barbara A. Goodspeed, Health Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Elaine R. Shalla, Instruction and Curriculum

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Allison L. Gaskell, David P. Sefton, and Kristen J. VandeBunte ,
Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Attila Bokor, Communications
- ❖ Alexandra J. VanderArk, Cell and Molecular Biology

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Ira J. Woodring, Computer Information Systems

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Tiffany M. Basore and Alyssa L. Polso, Physical Therapy

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Katherine A. Collen, Public Administration
- ❖ Daniela Ramos de Rodriguez, Social Work

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Trisha A. Armstrong, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Julie A. Strominger, Biostatistics
- ❖ Brett M. Brockman, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Karen E. Luidens, English

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Jeffrey M. Bird, Nursing

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Paul A. Jabaay, Business Administration

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Holly R. Anderson, Public Administration

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Brett S. Cain, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Melissa R. Plets, Biostatistics
- ❖ Meagan C. Shoe, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Rachel L. Curtis, English

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Tara A. Aday, Public Administration

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Katherine R. Rogowski, Physical Therapy

*Congratulations to all of the Winter 2014
Graduate Dean's Citation Award Recipients!*

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARDS
Winter 2014

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Dr. Aaron Lowen, Associate Professor of Economics

College of Education

- ❖ Dr. Amy Schelling, Assistant Professor of Special Education

KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Dr. Cynthia Coviak, Professor of Nursing

*Congratulations to the Winter 2014
Graduate Student Association Faculty Award Recipients!*

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE MAJOR
Winter 2014**

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Brendan A. Byxbe, Master of Science in Accounting**

The Faculty of the School of Accounting is pleased to nominate Brendan for this award as his performance in the MSA has been excellent. During his time in the program, Brendan has also served as a Campus Ambassador for Ernst and Young, where he will start full-time employment later this year. In addition to his studies, Brendan has worked as a graduate assistant in the School of Accounting, serving as both a tutor to undergraduate students, and as a research assistant for two professors. Finally, despite his busy academic schedule, Brendan is on track to pass all four sections of the rigorous CPA exam before he begins his position at Ernst and Young in August.

❖ **Troy M. Bouman, Master of Business Administration**

Troy possesses extraordinary native intelligence, which he weds to a strong intellectual curiosity, cultivating both to good ends. He was, in class, thoroughly respectful of the material, his peers, and the professor, but never let that get in the way of also challenging unfounded assumptions, poor reasoning, or questionable outcomes. He is one of those students who goes above and beyond – often far beyond – the required reading and coursework on a regular basis, and then brings his research and reflection to bear on the issues in ways that raise the level of discussion considerably.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Jodi L. Zuiderveen, Master of Health Administration**

Jodi has been an outstanding student in the MHA program. She has demonstrated an ability to work effectively and efficiently under tight deadlines and with multiple projects. She has demonstrated strong leadership abilities working in diverse student teams. Jodi earned a B.S. in health care administration from Ferris State University and has over thirteen years of progressive experience with Spectrum Health in surgical services, pharmacy,

cardiology, and emergency care. The faculty of the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration enthusiastically nominates Jodi for this award.

❖ **Ingrid J. Scheer, Master of Public Administration**

Ingrid has impressed all of her instructors in the MPA program. While maintaining exemplary standards in her academic work, Ingrid has been very busy with other activities. Ingrid has been a Disaster Training Specialist with American Red Cross of West Michigan, coordinating training and career development for over 130 active disaster volunteers. Ingrid is a great example of a well-rounded student. In 2013, she was a participant in GVSU's Cross Cultural Service Learning and assisted with Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts, resulting in a case-study analysis of land-use planning and disaster mitigation.

College of Education

❖ **Erin C. Ash, Master of Education in Higher Education**

Erin has been a stellar student in the College Student Affairs Leadership (CSAL) program. She has demonstrated exceptional critical thinking, verbal and written communication skills, and serves as a role model to her peers in the co-hort. Last year Erin won the CSAL case study competition, which is also a fairly competitive and rigorous process. Erin's academic work has shown both a breadth and depth of understanding and she has shown a high level of commitment in all of her undertakings. Erin is also active in professional associations such as GVSU's Leadership Summit, the Athena Women's Leadership conference, and the Michigan College Personnel Association conference.

❖ **Mark A. Switzer, Master of Education in School Counseling**

Mark is a leader. He is innovative in his approach to creating both classroom curriculum and school-wide initiatives that successfully engage all students in mature and thoughtful exploration of challenging topics. He has used his internship to further explore and develop his personal counseling skills and also will leave a footprint behind at his internship site by sharing the templates for the programming that he developed. As evidenced by his exceptional work in class, it is clear to the program faculty that Mark possesses a genuine, compassionate, and empathic presence which serves him well in his role as a professional school counselor.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Sam Serpoosh, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**

Sam has done outstanding work as a graduate student while working as a full-time Graduate Assistant in the Mobile Applications and Services Lab. For his Masters Project, Sam was responsible for helping deploy iBeacon devices in the new Mary Idema Pew Library, and integrating software features in the GVSU Laker Mobile app on iPhones that help provide real-time facility usage data. Throughout his time as a GVSU graduate student Sam has exhibited a high level of enthusiasm for software craftsmanship. Sam's passion for software excellence enabled him to land a coveted internship last summer with Groupon in Chicago, where he has accepted a full-time position after graduation.

❖ **Lauren J. Hickox, Master of Science in Engineering**

Lauren has navigated her way through the extremely demanding undergraduate and graduate engineering curriculum as the top student in both classes. Lauren completes her work in a diligent, professional, and exemplary manner. She is very well respected by her peers and many other faculty members in the School of Engineering. Lauren's excellence extends beyond the classroom. She has served as the president of the GVSU student chapter of the national engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi and has been an active member of the Society of Women Engineers and the GVSU student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

❖ **Mary Ellen Hoinski, Master of Science in Medical and Bioinformatics**

Mary Ellen is a very interested and active student, and always among the best in class. Mary Ellen has been working in the research group for the SPOT project since Fall 2012. The SPOT project aims to build a program to support researchers in stimulus response studies to retrieve similar temporal profiles in microarray databases or clinical databases for data mining and statistics. She is an excellent team worker, takes on a leadership role, is open to new ideas, and always willing to learn. Considering Mary Ellen's academic record, special ambition, and determination, she is the ideal student for this award.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Matthew J. Rejc, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**

The Occupational Therapy Department is pleased to recommend Matthew for this award. Matthew has earned the highest GPA in both the OT traditional and hybrid program. He is a hard-working student that displays all of the qualities of an excellent therapist. During his time in the OT program, Matthew planned and implemented a Community Health Fair for older adults and his thesis work is focused on educating older adults about healthy aging. His intelligence, creative and critical thinking, empathy, and a genuine concern for others will make him a valuable addition to the OT profession.

❖ **Elizabeth L. Graney, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Elizabeth has excelled academically and currently has the top grade point average in her PT class. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Elizabeth has performed remarkably in the classroom and in the physical therapy clinic. She has accomplished all of this academically, while being a professional runner sponsored by Gazelle Sports/Brooks Running. She was even an Olympic Trials qualifier in 2012. Elizabeth has also been involved in leadership and service activities, and has been a coordinator for the GVSU Physical Therapy Pro Bono Clinics.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Alynn M. Martin, Master of Science in Biology**

Alynn has pursued a rigorous course plan, including classes in molecular ecology, population genetics, advanced population ecology, and advanced quantitative methods. She has consistently challenged herself with her coursework and fully engages with the course material. Along with her classwork, Alynn has exhibited, outside of formal class settings, academic skills that surpass usual expectations for students. She has enthusiastically engaged with all aspects of academic life. Alynn has offers to continue her studies at Ph.D. programs in the United States and Australia.

❖ **Colleen L. MacCallum, Master of Science in Biostatistics**

Colleen has an incredible attention for detail that is exemplified in all of her work. In her course work, this attention to detail is seen in the consideration of the possible options for data analysis and experimental design. She goes way beyond the minimum in any such assigned work. Her written documents are always superb and she is very thorough and thoughtful in all presentations. Colleen has a clear sense of knowing what needs to be done, requires minimal supervision and can be trusted to meet all project deadlines. Her quality of work is consistently high, writing and reporting is accurate, concise and well-organized. She will be an asset in her future workplace.

❖ **Brett M. Brockman, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Brett entered the PSM in Biotechnology program two years ago and has maintained an excellent GPA in a demanding sequence of courses. In addition to his stellar academic performance, he carried out a successful internship at Syzygy Inc. (now renamed Empirical Bioscience) and his work was featured at GVSU's Professional Science Master's Internship Recognition Luncheon as well as the Graduate Showcase. Brett is a very effective leader in his Graduate Assistant position with duties to help prepare for undergraduate cell and molecular biology and biotechnology labs.

❖ **David A. Zeoli, Master of Science in Communications**

David is learned across a wide spectrum of human knowledge; he has a broad and integrated understanding of human nature and communication, and he displays all the desirable characteristics of a liberally-educated person. It is evident through conversation with David that he is an incredibly intelligent and sophisticated person with enormous capacity for systematic reflection and problem-solving. David has been accepted for doctoral studies by multiple institutions. Clearly, David possesses the necessary intellectual curiosity and drive that will make him a remarkable doctoral student and a productive contributor to the field of communication.

❖ **Sierra C. Holmes, Master of Arts in English**

Sierra is graduating with one of the highest GPAs in the MA program. She is unusually thoughtful, articulate, and insightful as a member of a class. She tends to join in most fully at the crucial point in a class discussion, when many

ideas are out on the table, and she can help to bring them to fruition. It may be the natural writer's instinct in her, or the experience she has gained as a teacher of literature, but for whatever reason, she is able to draw cohesive, interesting conclusions from seemingly random thoughts and comments of other students, in a way that makes the whole class better.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ Carolyn M. Fox, Doctor of Nursing Practice

Carolyn has demonstrated excellence in her student role in three areas: scholarship, practice, and mentorship. She is developing and implementing a clinical project at a local health organization designed to transform how pain is managed in persons undergoing total joint replacement. She has been acknowledged by her clinical preceptors as an outstanding clinician with excellent potential as an advanced practice nurse. Carolyn has also been identified as a "go to" role model by other students when they need help. She is well-liked and well-respected in the Kirkhof College of Nursing by both students and faculty.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
Winter 2014**

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Joanne M. Finazzi, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

- **Dissertation Title:** An Evidence-Based Approach for the Implementation of an Osteoporosis Educational and Exercise Intervention Among Perimenopausal Women
- **Dissertation Committee:** Dr. Cynthia Coviak (Chair) - Kirkhof College of Nursing, Dr. Ruthann Brintall - Kirkhof College of Nursing, Dr. Claudia Leiras-Laubach - College of Health Professions, and Michael Wood - Saint Mary's Health Care

Joanne's project was born of personal and professional experiences that helped her to realize the human costs of osteoporosis. In directing her efforts toward prevention in perimenopausal women, Joanne not only targeted a key life phase when risks to bone health are mounting, but also one when the theoretical model chosen to guide her intervention was likely to be salient.

Employing the Health Belief Model, a long-standing public health framework, she was able to capitalize on participants' perceptions of susceptibility to the disease, and provide much-needed health teaching that amplified the effects of the exercise practice central to the enhancement of bone structure and strength.

To implement her project successfully, Joanne had to mobilize a variety of community resources. In utilizing a health club, she offered the intervention in a non-traditional setting that would reach numerous at-risk individuals. She formed partnerships with many other professionals who could augment the quality of the intervention, as well as those who could help her assess the business case for sustaining the program.

Joanne has completed a complex, yet successful dissertation project. She has extended her knowledge of a devastating disease process, while providing valuable health counseling to a population that is at risk for the condition.

ABSTRACT

According to the osteoporosis criteria developed by the World Health Organization, 10 million individuals residing in the United States are estimated to have osteoporosis, and 8 million of these individuals are women (National Osteoporosis Foundation [NOF], 2009). Educational and exercise interventions (Bohaty, Rocolle, Wehling, & Waltman, 2008) have been developed in an effort to prevent osteoporosis. However, medical record reviews reveal that only 18% of patients receive counseling regarding osteoporosis educational interventions and exercise preventive measures during health care visits (Lee, Zuckerman, & Weiss, 2002).

The purpose of the pilot study was to examine the effectiveness of a 4-week, 4-session osteoporosis education and exercise intervention among a convenience sample of eight perimenopausal women at a community health club in west Michigan. Specifically, participant osteoporosis knowledge, self-efficacy, and health beliefs were evaluated pre- and post-osteoporosis educational and exercise intervention. The specific question that directed the study was, *In a population of perimenopausal women, what is the effect of an osteoporosis educational and exercise intervention on osteoporosis knowledge, self-efficacy, and health beliefs?*

The design of the study involved a one-group, pre-experimental, pretest, posttest approach to evaluate the intervention. The Health Belief Model (HBM) and Iowa model were utilized as the conceptual frameworks. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 20 was used to analyze data. Demographic data were analyzed with descriptive statistics. The paired *t*-test was used to analyze the pretest and posttest data. Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient was utilized to determine associations among variables. The measurement instruments included the Osteoporosis Health Belief Scale (OHBS), Osteoporosis Self-Efficacy Scale-12 (OSES), and Revised Osteoporosis Knowledge Test (ROKT).

Statistical analysis of this preliminary study indicated that a 4-week, 4-session osteoporosis educational and exercise intervention increased osteoporosis knowledge among perimenopausal women in the health club setting. The intervention elicited a high self-reported confidence level regarding increased self-efficacy in nutrition and exercise along with health belief changes associated with susceptibility, benefits of exercise, benefits of calcium intake, barriers to exercise, health motivation, and total score. These findings suggested that an educational intervention and exercise practice for perimenopausal women increased knowledge and confidence regarding measures for preventing osteoporosis.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS IN A MAJOR
Winter 2014**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Elle G. Teshima, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

- **Thesis Title:** The Impact of Race and Offender Status on Small Business Hiring Decisions
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Patrick Gerkin (Chair) - School of Criminal Justice, Dr. Jennifer Stewart - Department of Sociology, Dr. John Walsh - School of Criminal Justice, and Dr. Christopher Kierkus - School of Criminal Justice

Elle's ambition for this project was apparent from the outset. Not only was she willing, but she was capable of taking on the many challenges presented by her research. Her dedication and intellectual curiosity provided the groundwork for a well written literature review and her grasp of research methodology is beyond what one would expect of a student taking on her first substantial piece of original research. The final product is an incredibly well written thesis.

Elle selected a very timely topic in regard to the impact of race and criminal record on job attainment, but the project also required her to collect primary data and employ quantitative statistical techniques, which required many hours of dedication. Elle's thesis will be able to be used as a model for new and current graduate students, and will also advance the field of criminological research examining the impact of these factors on obtaining a job. Finally, this thesis has laid the groundwork for Elle to go on to a doctoral program at Southern Illinois University—Carbondale and be successful. She has already been accepted and offered funding for a graduate assistantship position at SIU.

ABSTRACT

This research explores the impact of race and offender status on the hiring decisions of small business hiring managers. Cover letters, resumes, and surveys were distributed by mail to small business hiring managers in the Grand Rapids area to assess their reactions to and opinions of prospective applicants with varying racial and criminal backgrounds. The null hypothesis was supported. Respondents did not demonstrate a strong overall preference for candidates of a particular race group or offender status. The largest concern with this study is a limited sample size despite a fairly strong response rate. Social desirability bias may also limit the findings.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Huijing Zhu, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

- **Thesis Title:** The effect of drying on desiccation tolerance and Late Embryogenesis Abundant protein gene expression in immature seeds of *Phalaenopsis amabilis*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Sheila Blackman (Chair) - Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Dr. Pei-Lan Tsou - Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, and Dr. Mark Staves - Department of Cell and Molecular Biology

Huijing worked to determine whether premature orchid seeds can be artificially induced to become desiccation tolerant. Her thesis described a novel protein in orchids that may be responsible for the acquisition of desiccation tolerance and indicates that this protein can be induced by post-harvest treatment of seeds.

The work has implications not only in developmental biology but in conservation efforts for this diverse, widespread, economically-important but not-well studied plant family. A manuscript from this thesis will be submitted for publication this year. Huijing's presentation as part of the work at an international conference resulted in the offer of a fellowship for PhD study, which she is currently pursuing at Louisiana State University.

ABSTRACT

Orchidaceae as the most diverse family of flowering plants are endangered due to losing habitats or destruction of their unique symbiotic living style. Long-term seed storage banks can be a solution for threatened plant species but the stored seeds must tolerate extreme drying and cold. This ability is acquired during the last stage (maturation drying) of seed development and is correlated with a decline in water content and expression of the Late Embryogenesis Abundant (LEA) protein genes. Our goal is to investigate if premature orchid seeds can be artificially induced to become desiccation tolerant and the potential role of LEA genes in this process. In this work I monitored changes in water content, germinability, desiccation tolerance and LEA protein gene expression in seeds undergoing artificial drying in *Phalaenopsis amabilis*. Seeds were processed in 4-day Slow Drying (SD) treatment where they are placed in atmospheres of progressively lower relative humidity and High Relative Humidity (HRH) control where they are placed above water. During SD, seeds maintained their starting moisture content of 70% for 3 days, and then dried to 10-15% moisture on the 4th day. Seeds that had undergone SD become desiccation tolerant but seeds in the HRH control did not. Transcript level of all three LEA genes we've studied (TG1: Group4 LEA; TG2: group3 LEA; Dehydrin: Group2 LEA) increased after excision in both treatments but the transcript level of LEA genes from SD treatment were higher than control group. Our results suggest that premature seeds of *Phalaenopsis amabilis* can tolerate desiccation by appropriate post-harvest treatments and the accumulation of LEA proteins may contribute to the tolerance of desiccation.

❖ Anna M. Worm, Master of Arts in English

- **Thesis Title:** "God Made Me Thisaway": Mary Wilkins Freeman, Flannery O'Connor, and Religiosity as a Challenge
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Avis Hewitt (Chair) - Department of English, Dr. Danielle DeMuth - Women and Gender Studies, and Dr. Brian White - Department of English

Anna's work was excellent and represents the first thesis under the new guidelines to be awarded with distinction by the M.A. program. One of the criteria for making such a designation is the quality of the defense, and it was an area in which Anna really shined. A naturally reserved and even soft-spoken individual, Anna addressed every question or query from the committee with grace and insight. She was always in control, always offering

detailed and interesting responses. Her defense was unquestionably the best in the M.A. program in recent memory.

Her work on both writers was highly original, yet it was in bringing the two of them together that her thesis reached that elusive next level. She could certainly mine a pair of articles from this work; indeed, she would also have the heart of a Ph.D. dissertation. The M.A. program has produced several excellent English theses over the years; Anna's work can stand beside any of them.

ABSTRACT

The fiction of Mary Wilkins Freeman and Flannery O'Connor, especially Freeman's "A New England Nun" and "The Balsam Fir" and O'Connor's "A Temple of the Holy Ghost" and "Good Country People," expose and challenge heteronormativity. Consideration of heteronormativity and compulsory heterosexuality, as well as religious themes demonstrates the way their works offer an avenue of challenge for characters struggling with societal forces that push them towards an unwanted or unfulfilling heterosexuality. Although Freeman's works suggest that a satisfactory life outside heterosexual norms is unrealistic, with community alienation the price for resistance, she envisions religion a valuable tool in such resistances. O'Connor's texts explore the problems and possibilities of living in a heteronormative society and suggest divine grace as an avenue to transcendence of these harms. Neither believes in an easy solution to the struggles of finding fulfillment in the face of heteronormativity, but each considers resistance valuable.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT IN A MAJOR
Winter 2014**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Barbara A. Goodspeed, Master of Health Administration**

- **Project Title:** Developing a Physician Staffing Model: Staffing Planning for Post-Acute Care Programmatic and Geographic Growth
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Greg Cline - School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration

Barbara's project is a great example of student learning being applied in a professional setting. A poster of her research was presented at the Graduate Showcase on April 2, 2014.

The primary purpose of Barbara's research was a comprehensive review of existing and future programs at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. It addressed the needs of the inpatient, outpatient, and network programs and identified the physician leadership and staffing required to support them. Through contextual interviews with 16 physicians, 14 non-physician leaders, 8 community stakeholders, and executive leadership from two other rehabilitation hospitals, a baseline model was developed. The model was then compared with similar facilities.

Barbara's research is so impressive that while proposing her project at Mary Free Bed, she was immediately offered a position as Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives where she is pursuing grant and marking opportunities to build upon her work.

ABSTRACT

PURPOSE: The primary purpose of this study is to identify the physician leadership and staffing required to support current medical programs and planned expansion into to other areas of care. The intent is to address the needs of the inpatient, outpatient, and network programs. Through this process, specialty advanced practice professionals may also be identified and recommended. *Continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT CON'T

Through this study we will deliver a fully developed physician leadership and staffing model which can be implemented, reviewed and updated annually, and utilized in future recruitment and planning. **SUBJECTS:** Currently, there are seven medical inpatient programs. They are Amputee, Brain Injury, Oncology, Orthopedic, Pediatric, Spinal Cord Injury, and Stroke. This study is a comprehensive review of existing programs, future programs, and the physicians needed to support each program and other initiatives under consideration. **METHODS AND MATERIALS:** Through contextual interviews with physicians, non-physician leaders, community stakeholders, and executive leadership from other rehabilitation hospitals, a baseline model has been developed. The model was then compared with similar facilities in a benchmarking comparison study. Physician utilization in clinic, inpatient, rounding at other hospitals, and academic and research activities have also been assessed. Trending in referrals, conversions, and case mix complexity have also been analyzed. **ANALYSES:** Physician expertise is outlined against current and new medical programs. Physicians' personal preference for work/life balance, inpatient/outpatient care, geographic coverage, involvement in research activities has been identified in order to gain a clear picture of recruitment necessary. **CONCLUSIONS:** Many of the frequently needed physician sub-specialties are difficult to access, some of which are no longer available in West Michigan. Along with the physician staffing model to be implemented, this study includes plans to ensure that our patients have access to the shortage specialties needed to provide quality care within a clinically integrated network.

College of Education

❖ Elaine R. Shalla, Master of Education in Instruction and Curriculum

- **Project Title:** A Model for Professional Development Training: Evidence-Based Practices to Implement in the General Education Classroom for Students with Emotional and Behavior Disorders Using a Tiered Model
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Douglas Busman - College of Education

Elaine has developed a unique capstone project for the Master of Education in Instruction and Curriculum with an Emphasis in Secondary Level Education. The purpose of this project is to provide an exemplar curriculum unit in Secondary Education English Language Arts that integrates the Common Core

State Standards into a Project Based Learning model for teachers to use. The unit will show the Project Based Learning model in depth, how to embed the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts in a project with Social Studies content, incorporate 21st Century Skills, and effective pedagogical methods for teaching.

Elaine is a facilitator at Kent Innovation High School for Kent ISD. She facilitates in a cross-curricular, project-based learning setting for ELA 11 and Economics. At KIH she has helped develop the curriculum for these courses using the Common Core State Standards. KIH is a project-based learning school, which creates curriculum that embeds 21st Century skills, and real-world and authentic application of the content standards.

ABSTRACT

Resources for implementing the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) exist, as well as resources for research-based best teaching methods, research-based cross-curricular design and project-based learning. However, resources that combine these areas are largely absent for ELA educators. This project synthesizes the findings from these areas of study into a teaching unit for teachers to use in their own classrooms and as a model to reference in their own curriculum development and lesson design.

College of Health Professions

The Department of Physical Therapy has selected three recipients of this semester's Outstanding Final Project Award as part of a group project.

- ❖ **Allison L. Gaskell, David P. Sefton, and Kristen J. VandeBunte, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
 - **Project Title:** Acute care rehabilitation of patients following left ventricular assistive device implantation and the association between early ambulation, length of stay, and discharge to home
 - **Project Advisor:** Dr. Michael Shoemaker - Department of Physical Therapy

❖ **Allison L. Gaskell, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Allison entered the PT program at GVSU after completing her undergraduate degree in Health Professions. She completed clinical experiences at Health Motion Physical Therapy, Spectrum Health Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, and Mercy Health Partners. Allison participated in the PT Department service trip to Guatemala and provided pro-bono physical therapy services. She is also the Assistant Bowling Varsity Coach at Wyoming Kelloggsville High School.

❖ **David P. Sefton, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

David completed a Bachelor of Arts in Youth Ministries from Moody Bible Institute prior to his admission to the PT program at GVSU. He completed clinical experiences at Mercy Health Saint Mary's, Advent Physical Therapy, Hope Network, and Northern Physical Therapy. David is currently a Patient Care Specialist at Northern Physical Therapy and previously worked for Mercy Health Saint Mary's.

❖ **Kristen J. VandeBunte, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Kristen graduated magna cum laude from Taylor University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Sciences. In the PT program at GVSU, she completed clinical experiences at Holland Hospital, Glenbrook Hospital, and University of North Carolina Hospital. She is a DPT class officer and a student coordinator at the PT Pro Bono Clinic at the Grand Valley Family Health Center. She also works as a personal caretaker for an individual diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

Allison, David, and Kristen completed their research project by studying patients who received left ventricular assistive devices (LVADs) to help manage end-stage heart failure. Their project included study design, obtaining IRB approval at both GVSU and Spectrum Health, extensive retrospective data collection on 105 medical records, statistical analysis, interpretation of results, and preparation of two presentations and a manuscript.

Their manuscript has been submitted for publication in the Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy Journal. Their work represents the finest that GVSU Doctor of Physical Therapy students have to offer, and they are to be commended on both the scope and quality of their work as well as their desire to publicly disseminate their results. Their work fills an important gap in the rehabilitation literature.

ABSTRACT

PURPOSE: No prior study has specifically investigated the effects of early mobility following left ventricular assistive device (LVAD) implantation. The purpose of the present study was to determine whether earlier mobilization and ambulation were significant predictors of shorter length of stay (LOS) and discharge (DC) home. **METHODS:** A retrospective chart review of the initial acute care stay of 98 consecutive patients with first-time HeartMate II or HeartWare implantation was performed. Hierarchical linear and logistic regression models were used to control for the confounding effects of the following variables on LOS and DC home: INTERMACSTM Profile, Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score, serum albumin, number of post-operative days of impaired cognition, mechanical ventilation, and total number of adverse events. **RESULTS:** The number of post-operative days until first ambulation was an independent, statistically significant predictor of both shorter LOS and odds of DC home, explaining an additional 15% of the variance in length of stay and an additional 14% of the variance in the odds of DC to home. The number of days until first time standing was not a statistically significant predictor of LOS or DC home. **CONCLUSIONS:** Earlier ambulation after LVAD implantation was predictive of shorter LOS and DC home even when controlling for several other well established pre- and post-operative determinants of clinical outcome.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Alexandra J. VanderArk, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

- **Project Title:** Investigating Tumor Microenvironment and Bone Metastasis in Prostate Cancer
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Xiaohong Li - Van Andel Research Institute

As part of the requirement for her Professional Science Master's degree in Biotechnology, Alexandra carried out an internship at the Van Andel Research Institute in the laboratory of Dr. Xiaohong Li. For part of her internship, Alexandra successfully made four primary prostate fibroblast cell lines from individual mice (on the first try). From there, she was able to grow the cells in culture and recombine them with prostate cancer cells. These recombined cells were then injected orthotopically into the mouse prostates for study.

Alexandra was described by her mentor as “a talented and devoted student who learned new techniques quickly, was able to analyze data and think critically and who helped a lot with other laboratory activities that benefited all other lab members.” In short, exactly what the PSM program hopes to hear about its graduates.

Alexandra presented part of her internship experience at GVSU’s Professional Science Master’s Internship Recognition Luncheon as well as the Graduate Showcase on April 2, 2014.

ABSTRACT

PURPOSE: Interning at the Van Andel Research Institute provided me with experience I would not obtain in a classroom setting. This component of the PSM program provides a great networking environment and fast-paced learning opportunity that only comes from working in a laboratory setting. **CHALLENGE:** Without having much research background, I had a lot to learn about how a laboratory runs as well as various techniques I had never used before. One of my goals was to examine the role of the lab manager to prepare myself for this potential career path. **EXPERIENCE:** The first few weeks of my internship involved learning many new techniques and becoming familiar with the flow of the lab. My PI and other lab mates were very helpful throughout the process and after I caught on to most of the new techniques, I began helping with existing projects as well as working on projects of my own. **OUTCOME:** I was able to work with mouse models and learn how to perform x-rays and collect various tissue types and culture them. My cell culture skills were enhanced throughout the experience as this was vital for most experiments, and I was able to observe the lab manager and determine the various components involved in running and managing a lab. **IMPACT:** I learned many new techniques and skills that I will be able to apply to my work in the future. I also made connections that will hopefully help my future employment as well as future PSM internship candidates.

❖ **Attila Bokor, Master of Science in Communications**

- **Project Title:** Social Media’s Role in the Hiring Process in West Michigan
- **Project Advisor:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko - School of Communications

Attila’s project is a practical and useful contribution to the discussion about social media. Given the rapid and dramatic drift toward social media

applications in so many aspects of personal and professional life, Attila's study is indeed illuminating.

Attila has been among the most engaging and promising graduate students in the Communications graduate program at GVSU. He has an outstanding theoretical grasp of communication and human behavior. Furthermore, he has the ability to critically evaluate a communication problem and arrive at effective solutions. He is richly deserving of this award. The faculty of the School of Communications is confident that Attila will be a major contributor to the field of professional communication throughout his career.

ABSTRACT

Social networks are viewed by corporations as a means of recruiting candidates in a personal, yet professional, manner. Given that social media are becoming a vital part of the national recruitment process, this study compares West Michigan data to national data as found in the "Jobvite 2013 survey." The information regarding West Michigan was considered from two points of view: from the employee's perspective of social media readiness for the job market, and from the employer's perspective of using social media in the recruitment process. The data gathered suggest that the percentage of West Michigan employees with a well maintained social media profile, and West Michigan employers who have a well-defined social media recruitment strategy in place, is significantly lower than national averages. It can be surmised that West Michigan employers either do not allocate sufficient resources for social media, or they have not yet integrated social media into their recruiting/hiring strategies, or both.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION
Winter 2014**

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ **Ira J. Woodring, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**
 - **Publication Title:** An Economical Cluster Based System for Detecting Data Leakage from BYOD
 - **Publication Co-Author:** Dr. Mostafa El-Said - School of Computing and Information Systems

Ira is an excellent, very reliable, extremely hardworking and thorough individual. His integrity, senses of duty and moral qualities deserve highest possible marks. In comparison with other individuals of the same age and experience, his research aptitude, intellectual potential, ability to work with others, maturity, creativity, ability to do independent work are all within the top 2% of students.

Ira proved himself in theoretical modeling and analysis in various aspects related to his graduate research work. Recently, Ira worked with faculty on a research project to explore data leakage threats and their associated risks as well as mitigation techniques in corporate's Wireless LAN network. Ira's contribution is significant in regards to developing an economical monitoring system to monitor for the possible data leakage sources and alert the user. Ira coauthored an article to be published in the 11th International Conference on Information Technology: New Generations (ITNG 2014), Las Vegas, Nevada.

ABSTRACT

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) model of technology in the workplace is becoming more and more common – leading to a variety of issues users, managers, and administrators have not had to deal with previously. Though there are many positive and negative issues surrounding BYOD, the issues of privacy and data loss are at the forefront, as business try to strike a balance between keeping technology costs low and protecting their data. This paper seeks to mitigate these issues with a low-cost monitoring system for wireless networks that uses existing, under-utilized office computers as its basic infrastructure.

College of Health Professions

The Department of Physical Therapy has selected two recipients of this semester's Outstanding Publication Award as part of a group project.

❖ **Tiffany M. Basore and Alyssa L. Polso, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

- **Publication Title:** Physical therapist professional autonomy, medical malpractice, and adverse professional license action: results from a twenty-year review of the National Practitioner Data Bank
- **Publication Co-Authors:** Dr. Mary Green - Department of Physical Therapy and Dr. Michael Shoemaker - Department of Physical Therapy

❖ **Tiffany M. Basore, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Tiffany completed her undergraduate studies in Exercise Science at GVSU prior to entering the PT program. She completed clinical experiences at Holland Hospital's Lakeshore Medical Campus, Agility Physical Therapy and Sports Performance, and Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, NY. Tiffany is currently a graduate assistant in the PT department and previously worked as an Exercise Technician for GVSU's Campus Recreation.

❖ **Alyssa L. Polso, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Alyssa earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences from GVSU and then began her graduate studies in the PT program. Her clinical experiences include Mercy Health's Hauenstein Spine Rehabilitation, Lakeview Specialty Hospital & Rehab, and Physical Therapy One in Kalamazoo. Alyssa is currently a graduate assistant in the PT department and previously worked as a Chemistry Tutor and Lab Assistant.

As members of the Doctoral Physical Therapy Class of 2013, Tiffany and Alyssa have demonstrated a commitment to research and scholarly pursuits with the rigor expected of the profession.

Prior to publication, they presented a portion of this paper as a presentation at the Annual American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting on January 20, 2013. This was subsequently awarded Best Platform Presentation by the Health Policy Section.

ABSTRACT

Study Design: Analysis of a publicly available database. **Objectives:** To determine the incidence of and reasons for physical therapist malpractice and adverse professional license and the impact of state adoption of direct access on malpractice and adverse professional license action. **Background:** There is a need to better understand medical errors committed by physical therapists especially with regard to autonomous physical therapist practice and direct access. **Methods and Measures:** Primary data sources were the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) Public Use Data File and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Analyses included descriptive statistics of extracted data as well as comparison of malpractice and adverse professional license action incidence before and after state adoption of direct access in a subgroup of 14 states. **Results:** Adverse professional license actions were more common than malpractice claims. There was a statistically significant decrease in the annual incidence of malpractice claims against physical therapists following adoption of direct access (0.275 to 0.145 claims per 1,000; $p=.019$). There was no difference in the incidence of adverse physical therapist license action following adoption of direct access (0.781 to .731 actions per 1,000; $p=.311$). **Conclusions:** Unlike previous analyses demonstrating no difference in the frequency of malpractice in direct and non-direct access states (a between-groups analysis), the present study demonstrated no increase in the incidence of malpractice and adverse professional license action following state adoption of direct access (within-groups/dependent measures analysis).

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION
Winter 2014**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Katherine A. Collen, Master of Public Administration**

Katherine has worked as a Graduate Assistant for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, wherein she prepared a policy analysis of local road funding, attended and presented information at Board of Directors meetings and worked closely with local municipal leaders and staff. The majority of her time was spent working on Environmental Programs including assisting with grant writing for local watershed projects, providing reporting for state programs, preparing public education materials and managing programs for the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW). She presented the results of her Metro Council work to the GVSU Board of Trustees. Outside of her GA position, she wrote a grant and advocacy plan for the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, assessed the financial situation of the City of Royal Oak, provided an Economic Development Analysis of the Grand River Restoration Project, and provided Strategic Planning to the West Grand Neighborhood Organization, among other projects.

❖ **Daniela Ramos de Rodriguez, Master of Social Work**

Daniela demonstrates great leadership in the classroom and continuously excels in her course work. The projects she has undertaken in the Grand Rapids Latino community illustrate her great passion and compassion for helping others as well as her leadership capabilities. She has a strong passion for inclusion and diversity and she demonstrates great professionalism in all that she does. As part of her graduate program at GVSU, she assisted with the Nuevo Camino Program at Cherry Street Health Services, providing services to the Grand Rapids Hispanic population in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Daniela currently serves as both a Project Coordinator and a Spanish Medical Interpreter and Translator for the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan. She was inducted into the GVSU chapters of Phi Alpha, Chi Epsilon and Phi Kappa Phi in 2014.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Trisha A. Armstrong, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Trisha has been an outstanding leader both inside and outside the classroom. She has made outstanding contributions to both our profession and to the community in her time at GVSU as a graduate student. Trisha has been actively involved in student relations as part of the Michigan Physical Therapy Association (MPTA). Trisha is also a stellar student. She not only demonstrates high intelligence, but an excellent work ethic and consistently conducts herself in a professional manner. She has also volunteered to assist with a Parkinson's exercise class and the physical therapy pro bono clinics. Trisha truly makes an impact on those she serves.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Julie D. Strominger, Master of Science in Biostatistics**

Julie's skills with statistics and attention to detail for community level information have been a tremendous asset for the Community Profiles 2.0 project and many other projects at GVSU's Community Research Institute (CRI), where Julie served as a graduate assistant and is currently employed. Julie has shown enthusiasm and dedication for her work in these projects, has excelled in her engagement with CRI staff and community partners. Her work on these projects has helped CRI to improve the quality of the information we provide to the community. Julie has also been an active volunteer participant in other community outreach statistical events such as the 2013 International Year of Statistics Scavenger Hunt and the Michigan Statistics Poster Competition in both 2013 and 2014.

❖ **Brett M. Brockman, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

Brett has provided excellent service to the community and his profession through his internship at Empirical Bioscience (formerly Syzygy), a start-up life science company located at GVSU's Center for Health Science. His supervisor, a member of the Professional Science Master's Advisory Board, writes very positively about his contributions to the company and the increase in productivity that resulted from his work there. With this nomination, the department recognizes both Brett's contribution to Empirical Bioscience and

the development of the life-science community in Grand Rapids, as well as his service to GVSU and his own academic success.

Brett is also the recipient of the Graduate Dean's Citation Award for Excellence in the Major from the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology.

❖ **Karen E. Luidens, Master of Arts in English**

Karen has demonstrated leadership in and service to the profession via her work for *SPRING: The Journal of the E. E. Cummings Society*. She is efficient and intelligent, and an invaluable assistant in editing the journal. She clearly benefits the profession by assisting in all phases of publication: handling subscriptions, making editorial corrections to articles, setting articles and poems in a printable electronic format, designing the pages, making and inserting illustrations, final proofreading of the entire 200-page text, and dealing with the printers. Karen has been the best assistant since the inception of the position a number of years ago. Given the importance of peer review to all academics, it is important to recognize the efforts of those like Karen. The entire system depends on their work.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

❖ **Jeffrey M. Bird, Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Jeffrey has demonstrated his academic excellence in his graduate study. He also has participated both in the classroom, clinical sites and community organizations demonstrating the joy of learning as part of a community of scholars. Jeffrey's dissertation project is titled *Implementation of the Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire (INQ) as a Suicide Risk Screening Tool within a Veteran Population*. Jeffrey has demonstrated amazing growth and passion for suicide prevention for the Veteran's population and has promoted this topic in community venues with educational programs. He has also been an outstanding advocate for the profession in promoting Senate Bill 2 to define the advanced practice roles for the state of Michigan, actively engaging his legislators to inform them of the benefits of advanced practice nursing to the citizens of the state.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP & SERVICE TO GVSU
Winter 2014**

Seidman College of Business

❖ **Paul A. Jabaay, Master of Business Administration**

Throughout his career at Grand Valley, Paul has exemplified student leadership. During his first year in the MBA program, Paul served as Vice President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA). He now serves as the President of the GSA. Under his leadership the GSA secured seats on five standing university committees, increased the budget for graduate student organizations from \$35,000 to \$80,000, and increased the number of graduate student organizations from 4 to 17. Paul has also been an active member of the Graduate Student Advisory Board for the Seidman College of Business. He is a Graduate Assistant in the Economics Department, where he contributed significantly to the Annual West Michigan Health Check in both 2013 and 2014.

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Holly R. Anderson, Master of Public Administration**

Holly is the founding member and president of GVSU's Nonprofit Graduate Student Organization, an organization created to provide professional development and networking opportunities for graduate students and local nonprofit professionals. During her tenure, she developed a strategic plan and planned over six events, including leading a social media team of 12 students during the Michigan Nonprofit annual Conference. She provided exceptional mentoring and support to executive officers and created a succession plan to ensure the future success of the organization. She also serves as a Development Coordinator for Kids' Food Basket and manages annual fundraising to combat childhood hunger.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Brett S. Cain, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Brett has demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills while serving as the class president of the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Class of 2014. He also served as the DPT Representative for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and diligently pursued avenues of potential funding sources for the Class of 2014 and the Physical Therapy Department. In addition, he established a Physical Therapy Department-wide Registered Student Organization (RSO) within the GSA, which allowed him to contribute in regular GSA budget/finance meetings in collaboration with a number of other graduate representatives from other organizations and programs. Brett has made significant contributions that have built a solid foundation for future leaders to stand upon.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Melissa R. Plets, Master of Science in Biostatistics**

Melissa has been a leader in the Statistical Consulting Center over the past year in a variety of ways. She has been a model for other graduate student consultants based on how she has excelled in this valuable service to the GVSU research community. Throughout her 2013-14 internship at Spectrum Health Research, Melissa has been a great ambassador for the GVSU biostatistics program and has provided similar outstanding statistical support within that research department. Melissa is excellent at brainstorming, conducting a literature review and doing follow ups. She always brings her best at the discussion table without reservation or fear. Melissa will be sorely missed as a leader in the classroom and at GVSU.

❖ **Meagan C. Shoe, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology**

As part of Meagan's program in Biotechnology at GVSU, she completed an internship at MSU's College of Human Medicine where she performed research on ovarian cancer. Her advanced knowledge of immunohistochemistry was instantly recognized by her internship advisor and she was quickly given the important task of leading that part of the project within the lab. Her willingness to take on a leadership role and her hard work in the lab

has led to more GVSU graduate students receiving internships in that lab, and others at MSU's College of Human Medicine. For the past year, she has also served as the Financial Officer for the Professional Association of Graduate Students (PAGS). Several successful events were held by the organization, and Meagan played an instrumental role in securing the funding which made these events possible.

❖ **Rachel L. Curtis, Master of Arts in English**

Rachel has served as a graduate assistant since Fall 2012, serving a crucial role in supporting ENG 495, the Department of English capstone course. The 2012-2013 report "Scholarly and Creative Achievements of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences" cited the English department's capstone course and the conference it sponsors as particular examples of excellence in undergraduate education at GVSU. Without Rachel's efforts, neither the course nor the conference would have been the successes they were. Rachel has also taken on a host of extra tasks to strengthen the M.A. program. Her work to establish an English Graduate Student Organization is just one further example of her leadership and essential service. Her efforts have gone far beyond those required by her assistantship.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU
Winter 2014**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Tara A. Aday, Master of Public Administration**

Tara has worked tirelessly for gender equality and violence prevention. During her time at Grand Valley she engaged in numerous conversations and actions with her peers and university administration to remove systems of oppression and promote gender equality. While serving as a graduate assistant in the Women's Center, she developed and led numerous trainings on issues of gender inequality and gender-based violence. She also helped to develop the Women's Center first anti-violence magazine, ReClaim. She trained and worked with numerous peer education groups across campus, including ReAct!, a peer education theater group, and Eyes Wide Open, a peer education student organization. Her continued training and professional development with these groups has helped strengthen messages of inclusion and gender-based violence prevention across GVSU.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Katherine R. Rogowski, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Katherine is respected by the PT faculty for promoting inclusion and diversity. In the classroom she often brings up inclusion and diversity issues that might not otherwise be addressed. Faculty also report that she has volunteered time to work with children with disabilities and special needs. She is also respected by the PT class who state that Katherine always demonstrates openness and awareness to cultural and diversity issues and strives to maintain open demeanor for all walks of life, both in the clinical and classroom setting. In addition to fighting for greater cultural and diversity awareness, Katherine quietly demonstrates inclusion and diversity by silently fighting for causes. She will wear shirts that address discrimination, such as against sex, sexuality, race, or disability, and always addresses any questions that students might have when they ask her about her shirts.

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
Winter 2014**

❖ **Dr. Aaron Lowen, Associate Professor of Economics**

Nominated by: Bo Anderson, Full-time Integrated Business Administration

Bo writes: "Over the past year, no person has been more influential in my development from a student to a young professional than Dr. Aaron Lowen. Through his mentorship on both professional and personal matters, he has shattered my expectations of how faculty can work with students. He's taught me hard lessons both inside and outside of the classroom about how to grow into a business professional.

As the new academic director of the Full-Time MBA program, Dr. Lowen has been a great asset to GVSU. He has consistently listened to the voice of the students over the course of the program, and helped to mediate issues with other faculty while also pushing us to dig deeper into our own work. At the same time, he worked with our cohort to prepare us for full-time employment after we graduate through not only lectures and assignments that directly correlate to our future jobs, but with advice and wisdom from his own life that directly applies to our current struggles and decisions.

I entered into the Full-Time MBA program directly following undergrad. Within the first two weeks of my internship, I realized that I had lot to learn about working in the real world. Now, as I near the end of my MBA program, I have lucrative offers for full-time employment immediately following my graduation that I could only dream of 12 months ago. I owe this paradigm shift to Dr. Lowen, and his selfless mentorship of myself and the other FIMBA students."

❖ **Dr. Amy Schelling, Assistant Professor of Special Education**

Nominated by: Mikelle Hillewaere, Special Education and Amy Sluiter, Special Education

Mikelle writes: "Dr. Amy Schelling has been the greatest mentor I have ever had. I can go to her with any question for any class that I am taking and she will help. She has walked me through so many different issues and she understood when my Grandma passed away in November last year. She is not

only a mentor for my graduate degree - she is a friend when you need someone. This year she has helped keep me going when I felt like quitting because of a difficult instructor. She encourages when no one else seems to care. She responds to email, phone calls, and letters even when she is not in her office. She is a role model to all of us in our classes. She is fair honest and trustworthy. Dr. Schelling is the reason I am graduating!"

Amy writes: "Dr. Amy Schelling has been an exemplary role model and mentor to me throughout my graduate program. She possesses much knowledge in the field of special education and has been extremely helpful to me on several occasions when I have needed advice. I have always appreciated Dr. Schelling's prompt replies to my emails and phone calls; the way she makes herself available to her students shows that she genuinely cares. In the classes I've had with Dr. Schelling, she has always been very encouraging, supportive, and has given very prompt and helpful feedback.

The reason I feel that Dr. Schelling deserves this award is because she goes above and beyond her role as professor and advisor. Several times I've come to Dr. Schelling for advice about a problem at work, or for a reference letter, and she is always happy to take time to talk and give advice or encouragement. I began this program (Masters in Cognitive Impairment) as part of a mid-life career change and I came in very insecure and unsure of myself as a teacher. I've learned so much and gained so much confidence throughout these past two years, and I owe much of that to the mentorship of Dr. Schelling! Her enthusiasm for teaching and her genuine care for her students are contagious! I highly recommend her."

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD
Winter 2014**

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

❖ **Dr. Cynthia Coviak, Professor of Nursing**

Nominated by: Joanne Finazzi, Doctor of Nursing Practice

Joanne writes: "Dr. Coviak is my Doctor of Nursing Practice mentor and chair of my dissertation committee. During the DNP program, she has helped me successfully achieve a pass with distinction associated my dissertation.

Dr. Coviak has been a very sincere and international leader in research regarding the development of the Revised Osteoporosis Knowledge Test, Osteoporosis Self Efficacy Scale, and the Osteoporosis Health Belief Scale, assessment tools used in my scholarly pre-experimental pilot study. She has always excelled in her teaching and leadership abilities, and she has demonstrated a high level of accountability and responsibility for directing and developing DNP students in the community and practicum settings. During the NUR 737 and 738 Practicum experiences, she has also demonstrated the ability to assist DNP students in interacting with susceptible and vulnerable populations due to her excellent skills in teaching.

Dr. Coviak has been involved in special project work in the community with interdisciplinary collaboration, especially with osteoporosis prevention projects and community health. Additionally, she has worked with marginalized populations regarding bone health. Dr. Coviak has also successfully directed my research assistant endeavors and membership with IPE and Centers of Distinction programs.

I sincerely recommend Dr. Coviak for the Kimboko Inclusion Award."

**GRADUATE STUDENT
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS
Spring/Summer 2013**

BOTTING, Timothy. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Climate Change Impacts On and Conservation of Tundra Vegetation in Northern Alaska*

CANNAN, Melissa. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Den Site Characteristics, Kit Survival, and Juvenile Dispersal of American Marten in Michigan's Upper Peninsula*

DOGGETT, Jacob. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Northern Bobwhite Nesting and Brood-Rearing Survival in the Pine Forests of the West Gulf Coastal Plains*

GREGORY, Jessica. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Structural Comparison of Arctic Plant Communities Across a Soil Moisture Gradient in Response to Climate Warming in Northern Alaska*

HILLMAN, Tamara. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Genetic Analysis of Reintroduced American Marten in the Manistee National Forest, Michigan*

KUPISZ, Nichole. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *GIS-based Predictive Modeling of Floral Biodiversity in West Michigan Prairie Fens: A Metacommunity Analysis*

LAARMAN, Patrick. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Nest Site Selection and Neonate Ecology of the Eastern Box Turtle Terrapene Carolina in the Northern Lower Peninsula, Michigan.*

MARTIN, Alynn. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Regional Extinction Risks of the Eastern Pipistrelle Bat*

MIANECKI, Maxwell. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Epitope Detection of a FLAG-epitope Labeled HDC Protein in Vitro and in Vivo*

PARKS, Syndell. College of Liberal Arts and Science, Biology.

Title: *Eurasian Watermilfoil Phytoene Desaturase Resistance to the Herbicide Fluridone*

SANDERS, Robert. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Resting Site Characteristics of American Marten in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan*

SENSING, Christopher. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Understanding American Woodcock Survival and Fitness in Relation to Habitat at Multiple Spatial Scales.*

SESSELMANN, Meagan. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Estimating Lake Metabolism Using the Free Water Method and a 1-D Hydrodynamic Model*

SMIT, James. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Nutrient Fluxes from Flooded Farmland Sediment Due to Hydrologic Reconnection and Climate Change*

THOMAS, Kari. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *The Effects of Copulation on the Microbial Assemblages in the Female Tree Swallows Cloaca*

WESOLEK, Jessica. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Genetic Structure of Yellow Perch Populations: Drowned River Mouths vs Lake Michigan*

**GRADUATE STUDENT
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS
Fall 2013 and Winter 2014**

CLORE, Jayson. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Investigation of the Definitive Age of Freshwater Decapod Crustaceans, Orconectes Propinquus and Procambarus ClarkII, via Growth Bands in the Calcified Regions of the Eyestalk and Gastric Mill*

CURTIS, Rachel. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, English.

Title: *Tracing the Tensions: An Examination of Tillie Olsen's Social Philosophies in the Drafts of "Tell Me a Riddle"*

PASHNICK, Jeff. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology.

Title: *Developing New Methods for Authentication of Ancient Human DNA Using Next Generation Sequencing Technologies*

ROBERTSON, Amanda. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Sciences.

Title: *Functional Movement Screening Scores by Somatotype Category: Establishing Norms*

TESHIMA, Elle. College of Community and Public Service, Criminal Justice.

Title: *The Impact of Race and Offender Status on Small Business Hiring Decisions.*

**OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2014**

**GLENN A. NIEMEYER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE
STUDENTS**

*This is a university-wide award honoring the most outstanding graduate students;
selection is made by the Provost's Cabinet.*

- Jennifer Bowling, Nursing-Doctorate

**DEPARTMENTAL HONORS
2013-2014**

Recognized at the Annual Awards Celebration on April 7, 2014.

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Scott Bearup, Accounting
- ❖ Jeffery Clark, Business Administration
- ❖ Michelle Andrews, Taxation

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Elle Teshima, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Barbara Goodspeed, Health Administration
- ❖ Kristin Rahn-Tiemeyer, Public Administration
- ❖ Maram AbuFarha, Social Work

College of Education

- ❖ Lindsay Greyerbiehl, Higher Education
- ❖ Mark Switzer, School Counseling
- ❖ Rebecca Steele, Special Education

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Sean Fisk, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Lauren Hickox, Engineering
- ❖ Mary Ellen Hoinski, Medical and Bioinformatics

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Matthew Rejc, Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Kristen VandeBunte, Physical Therapy
- ❖ Maribeth Fisher, Physician Assistant Studies
- ❖ Katherine Olson, Public Health
- ❖ Michelle Revord, Speech-Language Pathology

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Laurelin Martin, Biology
- ❖ Kathryn Page, Biomedical Sciences
- ❖ Ashley Eckard, Biostatistics
- ❖ Brett Brockman, Cell and Molecular Biology
- ❖ Attila Bokor, Communications
- ❖ Rachel Curtis, English

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Sylvia Simons, Nursing-Doctorate

***Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) National Leadership Honor Society
Winter 2014***

Omicron Delta Kappa was founded December 3, 1914 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia by 15 student and faculty leaders. Now present on more than 300 campuses nationwide, membership in OΔK is one of the highest honors a college student can receive. Membership is granted to juniors, seniors and graduate students who excel academically and exhibit leadership in at least one of the five phases of campus life:

- Scholarship
- Athletics
- Campus or Community Service, Social and Religious Activities, or Campus Government
- Journalism, Speech, or the Mass Media
- Creative and Performing Arts

*Graduate Students inducted into the
GVSU Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa in 2013-2014:*

<i>Lorena Aguayo-Márquez</i>	<i>Barbara Goodspeed</i>	<i>Syndell Parks</i>
<i>Taletha Andrews</i>	<i>Joseph Grubaugh</i>	<i>Kelsey Peterson</i>
<i>Erin Ash</i>	<i>Charlese Hardiman</i>	<i>Danielle Scarth</i>
<i>Nathan Baar</i>	<i>Kendall Harmening</i>	<i>Kelley Senkowski</i>
<i>Kurtis Boeve</i>	<i>Ashley Jordan</i>	<i>Meagan Shoe</i>
<i>Sandra Braden</i>	<i>Walter Klatt</i>	<i>Mark Switzer</i>
<i>Teddie Buchner</i>	<i>Chelsea Knauf</i>	<i>Joshua Theil</i>
<i>Molly Carmer</i>	<i>Heather Knouse</i>	<i>Rebecca Thompson</i>
<i>Eric Cederholm</i>	<i>Andrea Kozminski</i>	<i>Buu-Tho (Jenny) Tran</i>
<i>Cherilyn Denomme</i>	<i>Stephanie Marquez</i>	<i>Rachel VanderStelt</i>
<i>Doreen Dusendang</i>	<i>Jessica Marzi</i>	<i>Karmen Vrooman</i>
<i>Lori Dykstra</i>	<i>Jennifer McGraw</i>	<i>Matthew Wolterstorff</i>
<i>Kayle Eckerle</i>	<i>Nathaniel Mehmed</i>	<i>Sara Woodwyk</i>
<i>Jason Escareno</i>	<i>Chad Nielsen</i>	<i>Mary Ziomkowski</i>
<i>Maribeth Fisher</i>	<i>Jennifer Ohman</i>	
<i>Ana Galloway</i>	<i>Marina Okopnaia</i>	

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS Winter 2014

President: Paul Jabaay, Business Administration

Vice President: Hilary Powsner, Business Administration

Communications Officer: Alaina Clarke, Public Administration

Social Media: Kayle Eckerle, Higher Education

Finance Officer: Troy Bouman, Business Administration

Administrative Officer: Anna Marotti, Literacy Studies

Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:

Nathan Bair, Business Administration

Hilary Powsner, Business Administration

Advisors:

Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Dr. John Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

Michelle Burke, Student Life

GRADUATE COUNCIL OFFICERS Winter 2014

Chair:

Dr. Mark Luttenton, Biology

Policy Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. Mark Luttenton, Biology

Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. Mark Staves, Cell and Molecular Biology



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:

Jacob Blossfeld, Accounting

Anoush Kabalyan, Business Administration

Kelley Senkowski, Educational Technology

Student Assistant:

Shannon Heynen, International Business (undergraduate)

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