

FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2013

INTRODUCTION

These are amazing times in the Frederik Meijer Honors College. We have more students than ever before, and they are accomplishing greater things than ever before. The environment in the College is wonderful—there is a palpable joy in learning among faculty and students alike and excitement about “shaping” the future of society and the world. As Amanda Haupt, a graduating senior recently wrote:

“As I complete my Honors courses, I emerge from much more than an academic challenge; I have joined a community. The small class sizes provided me with the opportunity to connect personally with professors and fellow students. My place in the Honors College provided me with the opportunity to make life-long friendships. Additionally, having the opportunity to reside in a living-learning community provided me an additional connection to the Honors College. My Frederik Meijer Honors College experience has been extraordinary. The courses I have taken through Honors has taught me much more than academic information, I have learned how wonderful it is to journey outside of my comfort zone.”



Amanda Haupt in Ghana

It is a privilege and a delight to work with the faculty, staff, and students in the Meijer Honors College. As Amanda made clear above, together these amazing people have created a supportive community which engenders deep learning, creativity, and accomplishment. And, as you will see in the following pages, the results are truly remarkable. The truth of the matter is that staff and faculty have created the environment, but the students have made the Honors College what it is. Not only do they take up the challenge, but they love it. They are our best recruiters, and the Honors College basks in the glow of their successes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Chamberlain".

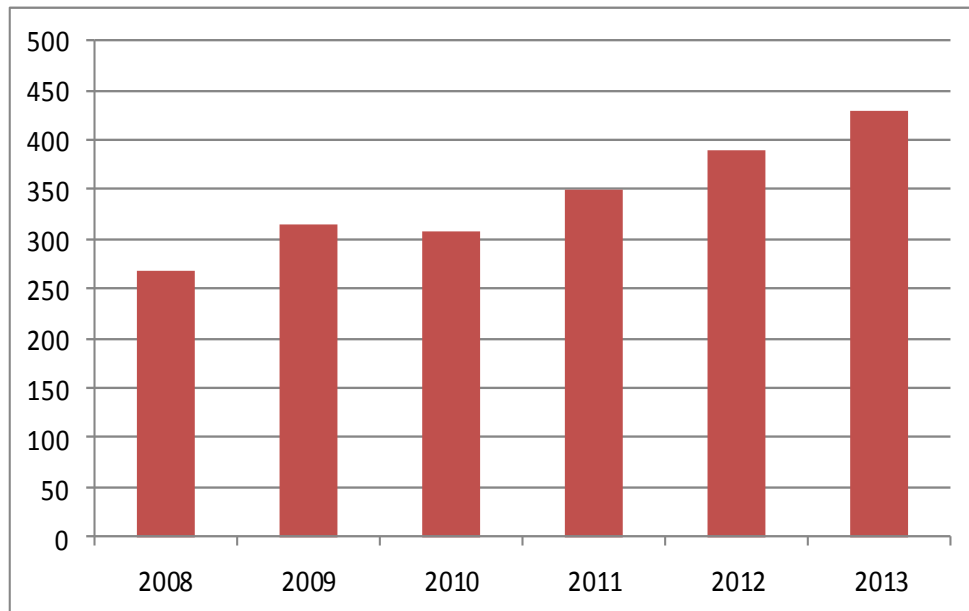
Jeff Chamberlain, Director



FREDERIK MEIJER HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS

⇒ **Enrollment and Retention.** The Meijer Honors College continues to grow significantly, and at a higher rate than undergraduate enrollment in the university overall (where growth is approximately 1% a year).

- ☑ **Honors freshmen enrollment:** For Fall 2013 we have nearly 10% more matriculants than last year. Below is a chart that shows the growth of freshmen accepted and enrolled into the Meijer Honors College.

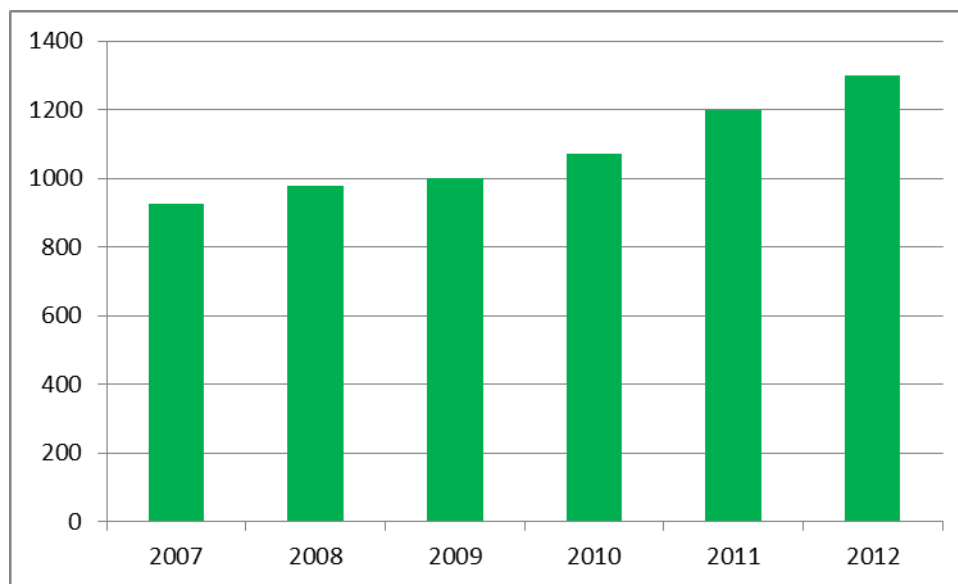


It is noteworthy that nearly half of the incoming class of freshmen have ACT scores of 30 or higher. The average ACT of entering freshmen is 29.44 and the average high school GPA is 3.904.

Freshman class 2012



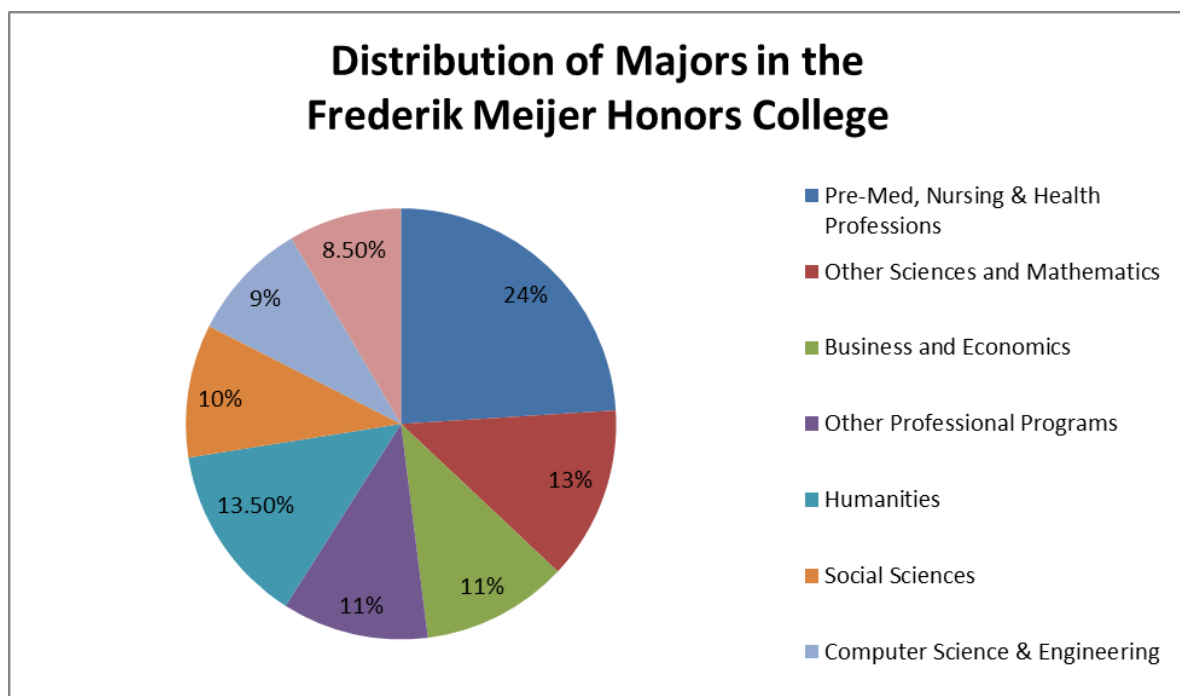
⇒ **Honors total enrollment:** Growth in the freshman class has markedly boosted enrollment in Honors overall, but so has improved retention. Not only are we enrolling more students, but we are retaining more too. Whereas a few years ago it was not uncommon for 20% of the freshmen to fall below a 3.2 GPA (the cutoff for remaining in good standing in Honors) after their first semester; this year the figure was cut to under 15%.



☑ **Retention and Graduation Rates of Honors Students at Grand Valley.** Grand Valley retains and graduates Honors students at a significantly higher rate than undergraduates overall. In terms of retention, the university's freshman to sophomore retention rate is 83%, whereas Honors is 93%. Even if a student does not stay in Honors for her/his entire undergraduate career, if s/he starts in Honors, the odds are good that s/he will stay at Grand Valley and graduate in good time. While you compare the graduation rates below, keep in mind that many Honors students major in disciplines which have demanding curricula that often extend a program beyond four years, and most study have two or more areas of concentration (majors and minors).

Cohort	GVSU 4-year graduation rate	Honors 4-year rate		Honors 5-year rate		Honors 6-year rate	
		GVSU 5-year graduation rate		GVSU 6-year graduation rate			
2008	31.2%	50.7%					
2007	33.0%	54.3%	62.8%	82.9%			
2006	31.4%	59.0%	57.6%	79.3%	65.7%	83.3%	
2005	29.7%	54.2%	55.9%	78.3%	63.3%	81.6%	
2004	26.3%	45.1%	53.8%	73.1%	61.1%	76.1%	

- ☑ **Hills Honors Living Center.** Honors grew so much last year that we opened an additional Honors residence for freshmen—the Arthur C. Hills Honors Living Center on north campus. This new Honors center for 118 students was fabulously successful—students reported that they quickly developed a strong community there, but one which also encouraged academic achievement. As Grace Couture noted, “Living in Hills has been amazing! It combines the traditional college dormitory experience of rooming with someone else and the freedom of having a kitchen and your own bathroom. Hills, unlike Niemeyer, is by all the other Freshman dorms and most of my classes, which is great for hanging out at night with friends or sleeping in a little bit longer before class. The memories I've made, and laughs I've had with my friends at Hills are some the best times I've had at GV so far; and I believe Hills Honors Living Center is one of the best places to live as a Freshman." A large proportion of students who lived in Hills are moving en masse in 2013-14 to Niemeyer, where there is little question that they will enrich the community. For Fall 2013, Honors has grown so that even Hills cannot contain all of the freshmen. The Housing Office is opening yet another Honors living center—Pickard.
- ☑ Meijer Honors College students have **diverse educational goals**. The following chart shows the breakdown of student majors.



Programs in which 10% or more of the majors are Honors students (the average is 5%) include Biomedical Science, Biopsychology, Business Economics, Business, Cell & Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Classics, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, International Business, International Relations, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Pre-Medical Technology, Statistics, Theatre, and Writing. It should be noted, as well, that 50% carry a minor and 26% carry a double major, and not a few students have both a double major and a minor. Nearly 10% of Honors students have a foreign language for a minor.

- ☑ Honors students are engaged in wide array of activities and are leaders around campus and in the community. The following represents just a few of the organizations and activities in which Honors students participate: Student Senate, Honors Community Council, Cooke Leadership Academy, Resident Housing Association, Sign Language Club, Lacrosse Club, Rowing Club, Humane Society, Amnesty International, Civil War Club, Marching Band, Pre-Med Club, Math and Statistics Club, Biology Club, French Club, Pre-PT Club, Pre-PA Club, Yoga Club, Unicycling Club, Swing Dancing Club, Dance Troup, Skating Club, Campus Crusade, Campus Ministry, Intervarsity, Intramural sports, American Institute of Graphic Arts, Water Ski Club, Synchronized Swimming Team, fraternities and sororities, Alternative Spring Breaks, Mission Trips, Rock Climbing Club, Fencing Club, Teachers of Tomorrow, A Cappella groups, GVSU Opera, Theatre, Orchestra, and Band, Writing Consultants, Tutors, etc. This year our seniors reported that 52% of them were officers of organization, and nearly 25% were leaders of more than one organization. Many were founders of a service organization or club. 27% were mentors or tutors, and nearly 10% were R.A.s
- ☑ A large proportion of Honors students study abroad. Though we have not yet reached our goal of 40%, nearly a third of Honors students study internationally at some point during their college career. During the year, Honors students can be found on every continent in the world, with the exception of Antarctica. The countries students visit include Peru, Chile, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Russia, Spain, China, South Africa, Poland, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, and, of course, Ghana. Often they blaze trails: Julie Vander Male, for example, was the first student to study abroad with Grand Valley's partnership program at the Universidad del Bio Bio in Chile." As she commented, "I decided to go by myself and study abroad in Chile in the Fall 2012 semester. Study abroad alone was very challenging but I grew a lot as a person, I developed very close relationships with my Chilean family and I learned how to speak Spanish fluently."



THE FREDERIK MEIJER FIRST GENERATION HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

- ☑ **Fall 2013.** Four **Fredrik Meijer First Generation Honors College Student Scholarships** were awarded this year.



☑ **Gloria LaCourse** (pictured left) is from Martin, MI, and plans to major in Accounting and/or Marketing. She has an impressive academic credentials, and was her class Vice President, the President of her National Honors Society chapter as well as Student Council President. In her essay in application to the Meijer Honors College, Gloria showed wisdom beyond her age. She explained how taking a dual enrollment college class in Sociology helped her understand that academics in college will take very significant time and effort. As she wrote, “From my awakening I experienced from my first Sociology 101 quiz I learned to never put education after fun. Of course every high school student wants to enjoy their senior year and make it one of the best, but I realized it is more than just having a fun ending: It’s about preparing for the future.”



☑ **Rachael Vrugink** (pictured right) is from Hudsonville. During high school, she participated actively in Theatre (both plays and musicals), was involved in the 4H Livestock Program raising steers, and participated in the Summer Science Institute, a summer course that took a group of students out west for three weeks examining the geology and other scientific aspects of Yellowstone, Black Hills, Devil's Tower, Custar, Grand Tetons, Badlands, and Glacier National Parks. Over the summer, she interned at Ionx Corporation, writing for their Smart Living Network.



☑ **Roxana Dumitrache** (pictured left) is a native of Romania. She moved to Michigan in 1993 without knowing any English. She prospered in the public schools, and ended up performing extraordinarily well in a rigorous high school program at the International Academy of Macomb. She has shown very significant leadership both academically and in service. She is a pre-Pharmacy major, and has high ideals as she plans to work towards improving healthcare internationally by helping make medical equipment more available to countries across the globe.



☑ **Dayne Martinez** (pictured right) hails from Tontogany, Ohio, and plans to be a Biopsychology major. He is a National Merit Finalist and Valedictorian of his high school. Dayne appreciates a broad liberal education: he has, on his own, read such widely different literature as works by George Orwell, Machievelli, Edgar Allen Poe, and Ayn Rand.

- ☑ **Fall 2012.** Last year's recipients, **Katie Kruk, Liana Periard,** and **Caitlin Rykse,** are flourishing. All three are doing exceptionally well academically: two are carrying a 4.0 after their first year, and the other had one A- (and so her GPA is 3.969). All three are Honors mentors for incoming freshmen. **Katie** (pictured) has a double major in Pre-Med Tech and Physics, and minors both in Chemistry and Mathematics. Katie commented: "I am majoring in physics, though I am planning on going to medical school and studying neurology. This past year, I was involved in Physics Club, Pre-Med Club, and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. In January, I went to the Women in Physics Conference and learned a lot about current research and the opportunities available in physics. In May, I was presented the General Chemistry Award. I have highly benefited from being part of the Honors College. The freshman sequence I took, Big History, showed me how all subjects are interconnected, and the small class size helped me better connect with my classmates and professor." **Liana** is a Management and Liberal Studies major. She observed that "Being a student in the Frederik Meijer Honors College has helped me to flourish both intellectually and professionally. Through various written works, video projects, and verbal presentations, I have not only gained the skills to excel academically, but also confidence in my ability to communicate and convey information to others. This confidence first lead to me to discover the career field I feel I am destined for: student affairs and higher adult education. My confidence soon translated into passion as I now work two student positions related to my future career field, one as a student assistant in the Career Center and the other as a student leader at freshman orientation for Admissions. Throughout my next three years at Grand Valley State University, I plan to take several courses relating to cultural studies within my Liberal Studies major, join several cultural organizations, and study abroad in order to continue improving my communication skills and cultural understanding in hopes of one day becoming a successful professional in the field of higher education." **Caitlin** is an English/Secondary Education major with a Spanish minor. Caitlin wrote: "I have completed my first year of college and it feels wonderful! In the fall I attended the First Year Leadership Experience which gave me incredible insight onto not only my own leadership style, but others and how to blend different strengths together. From this I knew I wanted to be more involved in a leadership role so I joined the community council, ANCHOR, and was elected as the secretary. In addition I also volunteered as an Honors Ambassador and decided to become an Honors Mentor from this experience. I plan on continuing with ANCHOR, an Honors Ambassador and Mentor as well as playing intramural soccer. I was chosen to be a Peer Research Consultant this Fall at our new library and plan on applying to be a Resident Assistant the following year because my RAs freshman year were absolutely fabulous and I would love to help students as they helped us. As far as long term future is concerned, I plan on becoming a Middle or High School counselor and teaching English and Spanish. Being a part of the Honors program at GV has helped me tremendously. The biggest thing I have gained from it is my confidence in scholarship, writing, and mainly confidence in myself and my abilities. I have also made many friends from the program because I was surrounded by people with similar interests and hobbies. I feel as if I hadn't joined the honors college, I would lack an essential part of who I am today because of the confidence and relationships I gained."



- ☑ **Fall 2011.** The recipients from 2011, **Jacob Bart** and **Amanda Borieo**, are doing very well. **Jacob** is progressing in his English and Film & Video double major. He noted that “I’ve had the pleasure of really delving into coursework for each of those two majors over the course of the last year, but perhaps the most rewarding project I completed was in my Honors Human Body in Motion class. Two other group members and myself designed, submitted, tested, and reported a scientific study on the relationship between music and heart rate. It was challenging to participate in something so far afield from my usual course of study and gratifying to know I could do well with it. Currently, I am researching internship opportunities with a focus on available positions near my Chicagoland home.” **Amanda** (pictured below with her YMCA team) writes: “This past year has been a year of growth and realization for me. After deciding that I wish to become a Physical Therapist later in life, my college experiences have all been directed towards that. I spent this past year getting involved in the community through sports. I joined, and am now secretary of, an on campus organization called Kids In Motion that raises money for underprivileged kids who wish to participate in sports. We also spend much time volunteering at the Visser Family YMCA. I love this organization and am very passionate about what it



stands for. In addition to Kids In Motion I have been coaching young children in basketball at the same YMCA. These two experiences have been amazing and I love helping younger kids be more healthy and active. In addition to this I spent my Winter semester volunteering in the physical therapy gym at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital every Sunday morning. This was an amazing experience and really solidified my love for physical therapy. Grand Valley has offered me many opportunities of involvement and I look forward to my next few years here!”

- ☑ **Fall 2010.** **Katrina Maynes**, the first Meijer First Generation Scholarship recipient, is entering her senior year, and is thriving academically. Katrina observed: “This past year, I fulfilled my dream of studying abroad in France, spending the summer improving my French language skills in Paris and Nice. I am also very proud of my research; I compiled an intelligence community report on North Korea for Student Scholars Day, and I presented historical research at the Great Lakes History Conference. I served as an editor of the Grand Valley Journal of History, and I will be stepping up as co-president of Phi Alpha Theta Club (the History Honors Society) in the coming year. In the future, I plan to attend graduate school to pursue my PhD in history with hopes of becoming a professor.”



THE FREDERIK MEIJER LECTURE SERIES

The Meijer Lecture Series brought illustrious speakers to campus this past year. On Tuesday, October 16, 2012, Mike Jandernoa, former Chairman of the Board and CEO of Perrigo. He is also a founder and director of Grand Angels, Jandernoa Entrepreneurial Mentoring, and co-founder of Bridge Street Capital. Jandernoa spoke to a large audience of students, faculty, and community members at the Loosemore Auditorium on the DeVos campus on the topic “Passion for Entrepreneurship.” The audience benefited from his rich experience and anecdotes and developed a better sense for how to innovate and develop and grow a business.

On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, Sir Ken Robinson, author of the bestseller *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything*, riveted small and large groups alike. Robinson is an internationally recognized leader in the development of education, creativity and innovation, and consults with governments and Fortune 500 companies. He played a central role in developing a strategy for economic development as part of the Northern Ireland peace process and served with other advisors to Singapore when that government developed a strategy to become the creative hub of Southeast Asia. The Meijer Lecture Series partnered with the Community Reading Project for this event, which meant that hundreds of people read Sir Ken’s book in advance. Honors students and others who had been selected for their careful reading and enthusiasm for the book had a special Q & A session in the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center (right).



Then Sir Ken spoke to a crowd of nearly 2000 people in the Grand Valley Fieldhouse on “Creating a Culture of Innovation” (picture left). He emphasized how we all can, and should, develop creativity in order to be innovative in business, education—every field. People drove long distances to hear him, and not a few commented that it was the best lecture they had ever attended. One student remarked how his lecture had “made” her entire college career.

THE FREDERIK MEIJER OFFICE OF FELLOWSHIPS

The **Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships** was established in the Fall 2009 semester and was renamed in January 2012. The office provides nationally competitive scholarship and fellowship advising services to students across campus. These are highly competitive opportunities that will offer great benefits to recipients in the future. The Meijer Foundation gift to establish the fellowships office has been a game changer for many of our students.

& Mission Statement:

“Advising and supporting students and alumni to achieve the extraordinary by matching their dreams to prestigious fellowship and scholarship awards and other opportunities.”

Below are highlights of the 2012-13 academic year:

- ☑ The Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships is now co-located with the Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship in the new Mary Idema Pew Library Learning & Information Commons to more closely collaborate in serving GVSU student scholars.

Programming:

- We offered a successful workshop series to inform the campus community about nationally competitive fellowship award opportunities, and publicize to the GVSU campus community.
- We continued a “Dream Big” campaign to better reach out to students on campus to inform them about the Office and national awards, and encourage them to envision and pursue their biggest dreams.

Advising & Outreach:

We have scheduled over 600 advising appointments this academic year. These are the top reasons students made an appointment:

- #1: Study Abroad Funding including Fulbright, Gilman, & Boren Scholarships
- #2: Funding for Graduate or Professional School
- #3: General Fellowship Advising
- #4: Competitive Summer Research or Internship Opportunities
- #5: Goldwater Scholarship

- ◆ This year, 112 GVSU students and alumni applied for nationally competitive awards. The office provided support through the intricate application process to these students.
- ◆ Fellowships Director, Amanda Cuevas was named the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Academic Advising and Student Services Award in recognition of her dedicated service to students at GVSU.

- **Awards & Outcomes:**

- ☑ Applicants have earned over \$700,000 in nationally competitive scholarship and fellowship funds since the opening of the Office December 1, 2009.
- ☑ This year, over 112 GVSU students and alumni applied for nationally competitive awards and outcome highlights are listed below:

- ❖ **Amgen Undergraduate Research Scholarship:** Craig Russo was awarded this nationally prestigious summer research opportunity, but turned it down to Participate in the world renown Harvard Stem Cell Internship program instead.

- ❖ **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship:**

- Fall 2012: 4 students applied; 3 awarded, totaling \$10,000.00.
- Winter 2013: 12 students applied; 6 awarded, totaling \$7,500.00.
- Summer 2013: 25 students applied; 9 awarded, totaling \$30,500.00.

☑GVSU remains one of the top producers of Gilman Scholars in the nation.

- ❖ **Critical Language Scholarship Program:** Alumnus Aubrey McMahan was awarded this prestigious award to study Arabic in Oman.

- ❖ **Erasmus Mundus Scholarship:** Alumnus Kris Cortez was one of two American award recipients, to pursue a fully funded master's degree study in Europe. The award is estimated to be worth over \$60,000 (US).

- ❖ **Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship Program:**

- Fall 2012: Nine students applied; three advanced to the host country for consideration; two were named finalists; Kelsey Schoenborn was awarded a U.S. Student Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Peru for 13-14.

- ❖ **NSEP Boren Scholarship:**

- 3 students applied; Michael Martin received a \$20,000 scholarship to study Russian (Russia) during the AY 13-14 year.

- ❖ **Freeman-ASIA Scholarship:**

- Winter 2013: Michelle Ross was awarded \$5,000 to study in Japan

- ❖ **Phi Kappa Phi Awards:**

- ☑ Summer 2012: Katherine Blumenthal was awarded a \$1,000 study abroad grant
- ☑ Summer 2012: Zoe Kilbourne was awarded a \$500 love of learning scholarship

- **Awardee Updates:**

- ❖ Kate Coveney (2011 Hollings Scholar) will pursue her PhD in Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences
- ❖ Brianne Docter (2012 Goldwater Recipient) will pursue her PhD in Chemistry at the University of Michigan.
- ❖ Former Goldwater Applicants:
 - Mallory Fuhst, Master's/PhD Program in Applied Physics, University of Michigan
 - Kelseyann Kremers, PhD in Biosciences, University of Notre Dame
 - Johnathan Lehman, PhD in Chemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 - Grady Zuiderveen, PhD Plant Breeding, Genetics, & Biotechnology at Michigan State University

- **Additional Outcomes:**

In addition to pursuing and winning nationally competitive awards, students who seek fellowships advising are also: engaging in leadership and research activities, earning campus and local scholarships to support their study abroad and other endeavors, and attending some of the top professional and graduate programs in the nation. Through fellowship advising, GVSU students learn about new opportunities, discover about themselves, and are inspired and motivated to move in the direction of their biggest dreams. We all win!

THE SCHOLARS' INSTITUTE

The second Scholars' Institute, held August 12-17, 2012, brought 35 incoming freshmen to campus a week before regular move-in for an intensive workshop. Fifteen faculty and staff worked together with ten student mentors to challenge the freshmen to 1) perform on a very high collegiate academic level, 2) work collaboratively on problem-solving, 3) develop research skills, and 4) present orally and in writing in the most persuasive manner possible. Students learned self-assessment techniques and focused on life skills and goals, but they also worked in teams of five to develop proposals for helping to solve regional issues. At the end of the week, each group presented its proposals in a public presentation, in a written report, and in a poster session. Faculty, staff, and regional officials judged the student presentations and merit of their proposals. Community leaders came and participated in a panel to talk about approaches to problem solving, and helped assess student performance.



Above: Session from innovative community leaders Judy Van Dyke, Neighborhood Connections Director, Good Samaritan Ministries; Michael Scantleberry, GVSU Hospitality and Tourism Department; Khari Bridgewater, Believe to Become; and Juliana Nahas, Marketing and Social Impact Director of Tiger Studios

The Scholars' Institute was a tremendous learning time for all involved, and we were particularly gratified that two groups continued to work on issues throughout the year. One group further developed the composting project on campus to reduce the amount of materials (especially pizza boxes) going to landfills. The other grappled with the issue of how to create urban gardens in Grand Rapids, and consulted officials from the mayor on down. They ultimately produced an interactive community map of the current gardens in Grand Rapids, as information and a helpful reference for other projects. Their map can be found at <http://grandrapidsgardens.com/>



IMPACTING COMMUNITIES HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD

⇒ **ANCHOR**, the restructured Honors Community Council, coordinated programming in the Meijer Honors College in social, service, and academic areas. The council operates with an executive board of officers, and last year had approximately 60 students actively involved in the whole organization. The HCC has restructured to better address the needs of all of the students it serves. The Niemeyer Living Center Director and Resident Assistants also worked to coordinate activities for Honors students.

Below are a sampling of the initiatives and events that Honors students put on this past year:

- ☑ Fundraising for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (bake sales, penny wars, collection jar, candy grams, pie an R.A., etc.)
- ☑ Annual Talent Show
- ☑ Volunteered at "Make a Difference Day"
- ☑ Volunteered at Kid's Food Basket
- ☑ Homecoming Team Lip-sync
- ☑ MLK Day of Service
- ☑ Fall Festival
- ☑ Niemeyer/Calder/Hills/Honors Relay for Life Team
- ☑ Clothing Drive
- ☑ Mr. ANCHOR Pageant
- ☑ (Freshman Course) Sequence Showdown
- ☑ Tie-Dye Party
- ☑ Participated and Presented at the Mid-East Honors Association Annual Meeting
- ☑ Carnival to raise money to sponsor a child at Challenging Heights



- ☑ **Nicaragua Trip and Participation in Applied Global Innovation Initiative.** Profs. Paul Lane (Marketing) and John Farris (Engineering) have worked in Nicaragua for 15 years developing innovation workshops to help Nicaraguan students develop products which could be produced and marketed in Nicaragua. This year four Honors students went and acted as facilitators in the workshop. It was a natural for students who had participated in the “Social Product Innovation” freshman sequence taught by the same instructors. One of the student participants, **Alexandria Case** (pictured below leading a session), reported that “Nicaragua was such an amazing experience. I'm so glad I got the chance to go - it was one of those ‘opportunities of a lifetime.’ As nice as it was to hear ‘Welcome Home, Miss’ from the Customs guy, it broke my heart to leave that beautiful country. I left my heart there when I came home and I plan on returning next year to retrieve it. Watching the students and professors start with a list of problems and develop those into so many unique solutions and models was amazing. It was crazy to see how much they depended on even me, a freshman in college, for advice on what to do next in the iteration and design process. As the week progressed, I watched different groups really get passionate about their ideas. One group designed such a cool shoe out of recycled jeans and old rubber tires that I would definitely splurge to have a pair myself. Besides the program itself, the trip was such a unique experience. We were able to visit and talk with people who really employ the interdisciplinary mindset as they create their own business ventures. Listening to these people's stories, and struggling to communicate and break the language barrier was so memorable - I know that I'll be annoying my friends and family with *‘This one time in Nicaragua...’* stories for a long time.” **Jack Bontekoe** (also pictured at the front) added: “Eye opening and unforgettable. The opportunity to visit Nicaragua, understand their society, compare the lives of those from urban and rural countryside, and learn the culture was certainly an experience I will forever be grateful for. Even with struggles in education, health care and poverty, the Nicaraguan people endure life with a feeling of togetherness, something I feel we in America all too often disregard. Knowing all of our opportunities and feeling blessed, I want to return and help those in need. The AGII Program provides inspiration and motivation for the Nicaraguans to find opportunity and begin a business on their own. It was a rewarding experience to see the excitement in participants as they saw their future in a new light. I am fortunate to have assisted in the facilitation of such a moving and potentially life changing opportunity for others.”



- ☑ **Visit from Qatar University Honors Program.** In June, ten students and two faculty from the Honors Program at Qatar University (Doha, Qatar) visited the Honors College. Qatar University is the only institution of higher education in the Middle East that has an Honors Program, and we were delighted that they chose Grand Valley as their destination of choice. Profs. Coeli Fitzpatrick and Karen Zivi hosted the group, and Honors senior Natalie Klackle made the arrangements. The group stayed at the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center and explored the university and West Michigan. They presented to a group about Qatar and participated in Prof. Fitzpatrick's Ideas of the Human Person class, and got tours of facilities (the Mary Idema Pew Library and Information Commons, the College of Engineering, Annis Water Resources Institute) and sustainability initiatives. They also explored West Michigan and visited Meijer Gardens, Steelcase, the John Ball Zoo, the Grand Rapids Art Museum, and Blandford Nature Center. Near the end of their trip, one of the students remarked that he had never heard of Grand Rapids or Grand Valley State University until shortly before they embarked, but after having spent time here among Honors students and faculty, felt that it was one of the most important places in the world. Another student concluded in her reflections: "The experiences that I had in the US with the people, their culture, and the surroundings built up a foundation to my future experiences that I wish to have again in the future sometime soon. The Grand Valley State University and its honors faculty have placed such a remarkable impression in my mind that it has incited me to look for studying Masters in such a renowned institution. The trip in my perspective has been a real eye opener to a complete new culture which I only saw in digital mode but experienced now in real life and cherish the experience that I had."



Dr. Majeda Kraishah (left) with her students in the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center.

- ☑ **The Meijer Honors College Ghana Initiative** continued for a fifth year. The main focus of the program is to help children who were rescued from enslavement in the fishing industry to recover from their ordeal and develop full, productive lives. In fact, the program is not just a summer event—students are so affected by their experience on the trip that the work never stops. Students who returned from last year’s trip accomplished a great deal.
 - ☑ **Presentations.** Students from last year’s Ghana service-learning trip presented about their experiences to a wide variety of audiences—to a plenary meeting of the faculty and staff of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, to individual dignitaries at GVSU, and to the Michigan Sociological Association. Their presentations were impressive for their insights and dedication.
 - ☑ Under the leadership of Ally Stephens and Morgan Talbert, students started a **Challenging Heights GVSU**. The organization (CH:GVSU) was registered as a student organization and non-profit 501(c)3 agency in October 2012. In collaboration with Challenging Heights, based in Winneba, Ghana, CH:GVSU became the first university extension of Challenging Heights. The purpose of CH:GVSU is to raise awareness of human trafficking, educate students and the community on the Ghana service-learning program, and to raise funds for Challenging Heights. Since its registration, with 15 official student members, CH:GVSU has raised \$3,468.50 for various Challenging Heights programs. In partnership with Rays of Hope International, based in Grand Rapids, CH:GVSU sent medical equipment to Ghana, valued at nearly \$500,000. CH:GVSU has hosted and participated in four awareness events, as well as met with university administrators to raise awareness.



☑ The summer 2013 Ghana service-learning trip built upon the previous ones in very significant ways. Under the extraordinary leadership of Prof. Joe Verschaeve, thirteen students participated in a wide variety of activities. The following is a list of some of the ways that they made a difference in Ghana:

- Painting of the Hovde House (the “halfway house” where children are first taken for initial rehabilitation after the ordeal of slavery).
- Administrative Support of Challenging Heights-Annual Reporting.
- Service at the Hovde House and Challenging Heights School.
- Assistance in the development of the new NGO, International Sustainability Health Education & Water (ISHEW). CH-GVSU will participate in running a cassava house and water projects to help residents of surrounding areas be healthier and more economically self-sufficient.
- Facilitation of educational plan for new recruits to the Ghana Police Service from Challenging Heights Rescue Team.
- Medical service learning at five hospitals and two outreach clinics in the Effutu Municipality
- Reinstalling a water filter in Cape Coast as well as experimentation with new filter design using local materials.
- Establishing a partnership with the University of Winneba for the ongoing maintenance of water filters in Atekyedo.
- Cleaning of 24 water filters in Atekyedo (see ceremonial incantations in photo on the right).



- ☑ **Service-Learning in classes.** A variety of classes engaged in service-learning activities. Students participated in the Sustainable Agriculture Project by preparing the ground, planting, and working in the new Hoop House; they did research on a forthcoming documentary on Genetically Modified food; they volunteered during ArtPrize; they physically removed invasive plant species from dunes with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan; they worked with Women At Risk to raise awareness regarding human trafficking issues; they worked with the Business and Finance Office to craft language for Request for Proposals that necessitates GVSU vendors to maintain social responsibility; etc. Below is a photo of students who ran in “Traffick Stop 5K” to raise awareness and funds to combat human trafficking.



- ☑ **Brink of Survival.”** Dr. Martha Sommers is a physician who works in Malawi with Presbyterian Missions, and is currently spending a year on staff of Northwestern University Hospital. A documentary about her work in Africa, “Brink of Survival,” premiered in September 2013. The Honors College sponsored an event in January, inviting students to view the film and meet with both Dr. Sommers and the director of the film (Salome Chasnoff). Students learned about the challenge of providing healthcare in rural Malawi, and gained appreciation for the culture as well.
- ☑ **Carl Wilkens.** Honors sponsored a visit to GVSU by Carl Wilkens in November. Mr. Wilkens is an American who was working with an NGO (Adventist Development and Relief Agency International) in Rwanda when the genocide occurred in 1994. He sent his family out of the country, but decided to remain himself. Since his return to the United States, he wrote a book called *I’m Not Leaving* about his experiences during the Rwandan genocide, and has worked tirelessly to create awareness about how easily genocide occurs, and to help people learn how to develop an understanding and appreciation of difference that could otherwise lead to conflict. Toward that end, he created and heads an organization called “World Outside My Shoes,” which works to encourage understanding among peoples. Students from Prof. Norm Kravitz’s Honors Holocaust class organized and promoted the visit. Mr. Wilkens spoke to a large, engaged group.

☑ **Smart-phone App for Malawi.**

Following the visit of Dr. Sommers, Prof. Star Swift organized a group of students to work on a project to develop an application for a smart phone so that midwives in Malawi could have information at their fingertips while tending to childbearing women in the field. Under Prof. Swift's leadership, the group presented the project to Google executives and won a \$40,000 grant. The team then went on to develop the application. It was an



interdisciplinary group involving the following Honors students: Mike Angerbrandt (Accounting and Management) brought the business expertise, Holly Malinoski (Biomedical Sciences) consulted on medical issues, and Olvi Tole (Computer Science) used his programming skill.



- ☑ **Dickinson School visit**—With the initiative and leadership of Darris Sawtelle, the Meijer Honors College partnered with Student Senate and GVSU Athletics to bring at-risk 5th grade students from Dickinson School to Grand Valley in October to give them a taste of college life and encourage them to keep the goal of earning a college degree high in their minds as they proceed through the rest of their education. They met football players, had their picture taken with Louis the Laker, did a scavenger hunt, and met with university officials. Darris did a fabulous job organizing and facilitating the event. He is pictured with the students above.

FACULTY

Except for the first entry below, please note that the updates relate only to full-time Honors faculty members. There are many, many faculty who teach in Honors who are worthy of recognition, but space here only permits us to note the achievements of faculty assigned full-time to Honors.

- ☑ The National Collegiate Honors Council selected syllabi from three of our Honors faculty to put on their website as exemplars for Honors courses. The three are Jeremiah Cataldo for his freshman interdisciplinary sequence, “Alliance and Change: World Construction in Religion and Society;” Diane Rayor for her Junior Seminar, “Classical Mythology;” and Rob Franciosi for his Junior Seminar, “Culture and the Holocaust.”
- ☑ **Bill Holsinger-Robinson** completed his first year as **Frederik Meijer Endowed Honors Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation**. He participated in the Scholars’ Institute, taught in the Social Product Innovation freshman sequence, co-taught a junior-level class with Kevin McCurren (Director of the Seidman College of Business Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation), and taught an Honors Junior Seminar in the Winter semester. He has consulted around campus and has been connecting students with Grand Rapids area entrepreneurs and ventures. As Megan Lemmen, one of his students wrote: “Bill Holsinger-Robinson has been instrumental in my education over the past several months. His extensive knowledge, varied experience, humble leadership, and evident passion are inimitable assets to the Frederik Meijer Honors College. I was a member of his Junior Seminar entitled “Social Impact through Community Engagement”—in this class we focused on creating and measuring social impact. We completed an extensive project that culminated in hosting a Ted Livestream event for 200+ business leaders, community members, and students from the Grand Rapids area. In addition to this project, we also created a set of guidelines—to be used by new or existing organizations—that instruct how to measure social impact in terms of economic capital. These projects were orchestrated by Bill in such a manner that he took on the role of consultant rather than professor. He allowed us to think critically and solve problems as a class, which greatly improved my teambuilding skills. The hands-on, real world experience that I accumulated proves more valuable than any instruction I could have received concerning social impact. In addition to this class, I am currently researching with Bill. He again leads with a hands-off approach that allows me to gain important professional skills— researching, networking, coordinating, organizing, and critically thinking. His professional and academic support, however, are constant; if I am in need of direction, he willingly shares his expertise. I have gained extensive knowledge from Bill as his student and now his research intern. He has helped me solidify my career goals and form a more concrete plan for my continuing education at the Frederik Meijer Honors College. I have been motivated by his passion, dedication, and humble leadership. His position as the Meijer Endowed Honors Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation has been instrumental not only in my life, but also in the lives of every student Bill has taught, led, and inspired.”
- ☑ Professor Kurt Ellenberger was selected as a Fulbright scholar to Austria's Kunstuniversität Graz University for the 2013-14 academic year. Prof. Ellenberger will be studying and teaching about jazz music.

- ☑ Professor Norman Kravitz retired after the Winter 2013 semester, and will be living in Chicago. Prof. Kravitz, a former lawyer, taught in Honors for nine years, and won the university's Pew Teaching Excellence Award for Part-Time Faculty in 2011. Norm was extraordinary in engaging students in thinking about their social responsibilities, and was renowned for the many ways he incorporated service-learning into his courses. It was, perhaps, fitting that his students presented about their service-learning at the Mid-East Honors Association Meeting in April, since it was a powerful tribute to his teaching and service. Professor Kirsten Bartels, who was for the last two years Faculty Resident Fellow in Honors, has taken a job as Associate Director of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Honors Program at the University of Illinois at Champagne Urbana. We will miss Kirsten for her outstanding teaching, extraordinary advocacy for students, and her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. Kirsten brought tremendous energy to Honors, and was responsible for the success of significant programs and initiatives like the Scholars' Institute.
- ☑ Jeremiah Cataldo received an Early Career Stipend from the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center in order to do research on his third book, tentatively titled *What's Left is Right: The Role of Prejudice Within the Christian Right*. This work will examine the role of prejudice upon the Christian Right and subsequently upon the tone of public debate in the United States.
- ☑ Craig Benjamin coordinated the first conference of the International Big History Association in Grand Rapids in August 2012. It was a huge success with participants from across the United States and nearly a dozen other countries. Craig is co-author (with Cynthia Brown) of *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything*, which was published early in August of this year.
- ☑ Coeli Fitzpatrick co-edited a book with Dwayne Tunstall (also a Philosophy professor teaching in Honors) on *Orientalist Writers*. Further, she did a fabulous job in her oversight of the Qatari visit. This was a huge undertaking, and a senior Honors student, Natalie Klackle, deserves special recognition for all of the work she put into organizing and coordinating the visit. Prof. Karen Zivi also played a very significant role.
- ☑ Karen Zivi traveled to South Africa in order to do research on AIDS activism in the country. She is also associate editor of the journal *Contemporary Political Philosophy*.
- ☑ Jonathan White published a substantially revised edition of his popular textbook, *Terrorism and Homeland Security*. Jon and his wife, Marcia, endowed a scholarship for Honors students who are studying National Security issues. Jon is also developing the new sequence on National Security.
- ☑ Eric Gollannek joined Honors as a Visiting Instructor in Fall 2013. Prof. Gollannek has a Ph.D. in Art History from the University of Delaware, and participated as one of the team of teachers of the freshman sequence, Making of Europe. He also created his own unique Honors courses on "Art and Empire" and "History of Collecting," and taught in Liberal Studies and the Art Department.
- ☑ Edward Baum published an article in the *Journal of College Science Teaching* entitled "Augmenting Guided-Inquiry Learning with a Blended Classroom Approach."

CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENTS

One of the hallmarks of the Honors program at Grand Valley has always been team-taught, interdisciplinary freshmen sequences. These allow students to get many types of General Education credit while digging deeply into a subject, learning multiple perspectives, and developing critical thinking and writing skills. Now we are enriching the interdisciplinary sequence even more.

A critical skill for the workplace is collaboration. Grand Valley State recognizes this and has revised its General Education curriculum to provide significant training in those skills. Honors proposed to the General Education Committee a plan to incorporate two collaborative problem-solving experiences in its curriculum, a plan that was readily approved. The difference between the traditional General Education program and the Honors one is that the traditional program will include the experiences in two upper-level (“Issues”) courses, whereas Honors will have a robust team problem-solving experience in a freshman Foundational Interdisciplinary Sequence and the other in a junior seminar. This approach helps build these skills over time. Given the fact that many other Honors courses involve significant collaborative work, Honors students should be given a very solid training in these important skills for today’s world.

Though most sequences are just now planning to develop the approach, the following one has been doing it very successfully: David Eick and Gretchen Galbraith have been running historical simulations (from an approach called “Reacting to the Past”) in their European Civilization sequence for a couple of years. The simulations group students together with the task of solving historical problems, and then acting them out. Profs. Eick and Galbraith have been so successful in implementing the simulations that they presented the approach with several students in April at the Mid-East Honors Association Meeting.

The following freshmen sequences ran very successfully for the first time this past year:

- ✓ Professor Craig Benjamin offered his new sequence, “Big History,” very successfully. By bringing in regular experts in the sciences and Social Sciences, he made the sequence very interdisciplinary. As one of the students wrote in a course evaluation, “We had a guest professor almost every week and that was great. While Prof. Benjamin was great with explaining things on the big picture level, he brought in specialists in the areas where he wasn't an expert. Prof. Benjamin was readily available to help us, whether with academics or anything else.” Prof. Benjamin is one of the world's leaders in developing the new field upon which this sequence will be based and taught—it looks at major trends in cosmological history from the beginning of the universe, and is extraordinarily interdisciplinary—it uses science and social science in addition to humanities to discern these “big” trends.

- ✓ “Social Product Innovation” (Paul Lane, Marketing, and John Farris Engineering) was offered for the first time and was very successful. Students continued to communicate through the sequence Facebook page about product innovation and other course topics long after the sequence had concluded, and two of the students went to Nicaragua in May with Dr. Lane to participate in the Applied Global Innovation Initiative in Esteli, Nicaragua. The photo is of students making models of the products they were proposing to develop.



- ✓ “How to Love the World” was also very successful in its first year. It is an interdisciplinary sequence, led by Patricia Clark (Writing) and Jill Eggers (Art). When the GVSU “Art Gallery went through the Art studio to select a painting to purchase for its permanent collection, it selected an honors freshman English/ Secondary Education major, not an Art major, for the acquisition.



- ☑ We are excited to offer two new sequences for 2013-14. The first one, called “Urbanism,” has been years in the planning. The following is a description of the sequence: “What prompted the emergence of the earliest cities? Can it be true, as some scholars have suggested, that cities were an inevitable development? Can we imagine other viable long-term options? Is the ‘Age of Cities’ coming to an end? In the first semester of the course (3 credits; Professor Melissa Morison), we will examine the city as “artifact,” analyzing the broad spectrum of ways that cities have developed and functioned across time and space. We will consider planning strategies, cultural and environmental interaction, infrastructure, meaning, form, and representation of the city in the visual arts. We will also use the Fall semester to develop an understanding of key theoretical approaches and the language of architectural and urban analysis. Do cities solve problems? Create problems? Both? In the second semester of the course (6 credits; Professors Matthew Daley, History, and Shirley Fleischmann, Engineering), we will focus on developing answers to this question, applying knowledge developed in the Fall and using the city of Grand Rapids as a “lab” in which we’ll analyze a spectrum of modern urban structures and problems. Students will be introduced to basic mathematical models that will help them to better understand issues of structural engineering and energy efficiency. Students will also develop the ability to use local public archival resources effectively. We’ll conclude the year with a look at the decline of cities and the psychology / conceptualization of “ruins,” alongside a look at more theoretical predictions / suggestions for the future of urban life.”
- ☑ The second new sequence for 2013-14 is “National Security.” Prof. Jonathan White, an Honors faculty member and renowned authority on counter-terrorism, is teaming up with Gleaves Whitney, the Director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies to offer this exciting sequence. As described in our curriculum guide, “The National Security Sequence is designed to teach you how to assess threats to United States security. It focuses on methods for gathering information and transforming it into intelligence. Topics include: history of national security, terrorism, unconventional and conventional war, chemical-radiological-biological-nuclear (CRBN) threats, qualitative and quantitative research methods, and applied lessons from military history. You will also participate in a simulated not-for-profit company that gathers and analyzes information for the United States’ Intelligence Community. The whole process culminates in the second semester when your research team will produce and present an actual threat assessment based on information available to the public. Guest lecturers will include former U.S. intelligence agents.” The first course in the fall will focus on research methods. You will learn to utilize research tools and how to gather information related to national security. You will also learn how to assess and analyze information and the processes for turning information into national security intelligence. You will be introduced to a year-long project where teams of interdisciplinary researchers will gather and analyze threats to the security of the United States. Two courses in the winter semester will build on the skills developed in the fall semester. First, you will complete a class covering historical intelligence-gathering techniques from the Revolutionary War to the present. You will enhance research skills by utilizing Hauenstein-Markle Collection of National Security and Intelligence. Second, you will continue the research project from the fall semester by conducting and presenting an actual threat assessment. If you choose, you may use this sequence to begin an interdisciplinary major in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in National Security Studies.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ⇒ The Meijer Honors College held a **research paper competition** among freshmen in the Foundational Interdisciplinary Sequences. Faculty nominated 21 students, and the top three were given cash prizes. All of the nominees were encouraged to present at the Grand Rapids Honors Student Research Conference on April 13, 2013.
- ⇒ The Meijer Honors College hosted the **Grand Rapids Honors Student Research Conference** this year. Profs. Jeremiah Cataldo and Craig Benjamin organized the event, where Honors students from Grand Valley, Calvin College, and Aquinas College presented.
- ⇒ The Meijer Honors College has taken significant leadership in the **Mideast Honors Association (MEHA)**. MEHA is made up of colleges and universities from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia. At the annual meeting in March of 2012, Dr. Chamberlain was chosen as President-Elect of MEHA, Janaan Decker as Secretary-Treasurer, and two students (Katie Hekstra and Xinyi Ou) were chosen to sit on the executive board. The President bowed out halfway through the academic year, so the Frederik Meijer Honors College organized the 2013 annual conference. Bo Anderson, a senior Honors student, did much of the organization and logistical work (including developing a new website for the organization). The conference was held at The Dearborn Inn in Dearborn, MI, April 5-7, 2013, and was a great success—nearly 200 people attended. Three Meijer Honors College faculty presented as did 10 students. Two students—Jonathan Cook and Scott St. Louis—were elected to the Executive Board. The Board met near the end of the conference and agreed to hold 2014's annual conference in Grand Rapids.
- ⇒ Thirteen Honors freshmen were honored by the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society—35% of all of those so honored, and 31 Honors upperclassmen (out of 150 total) were initiated into the Society. The chapter fellow, who was also nominated for a national award from the Society, was Ryan Meyer, an Honors student.
- ⇒ Nine Honors students were Cook Leadership Academic Fellows at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and Leadership. These are very competitive and prestigious. There were 27 undergraduates who were so honored, which means that Honors students took one third of the available fellowships.
- ⇒ Twenty-nine Honors seniors were recipients of departmental awards at the annual Grand Valley State Awards Celebration on April 8th. This means that Honors students were given the highest academic award in 29 of the 79 departments that give the award—nearly 27%. This year this included Anthropology, Biology, Cell and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Classics, Computer Science, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Exercise Science, Film and Video Production, French, Integrated Science, Journalism, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Political Science, Religious Studies, Russian Studies, Secondary Education, Spanish, Statistics, Supply Chain Management. It is also noteworthy that two students won departmental awards in two different departments: Lauren Spaans won both the Biology and the Secondary Education awards, and Ryan Meyer received both the Economics and Political Science award.

⇒ Fourteen of the 29 students chosen by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship to be Summer Student Scholars this past summer are Meijer Honors College students (compared to eight out of 22 last summer). Three of these just completed their freshman year. In this prestigious program, the students work closely with a faculty member during the summer months on a research project and are given a stipend for their work. Many will present their work at major disciplinary conferences (in addition ranging from Engineering to Chemistry to History and Music. Some are fascinatingly interdisciplinary, like Julia Gjebic's, which is looking at oboe reeds using physics and music (she is pictured presenting her findings on right).



⇒ Over **100 Meijer Honors College students** presented their research at Grand Valley's **Student Scholars Day** on April 10, 2013. Honors College students made up approximately 18 percent of the total number of presenters that day.

⇒ Seventeen percent of the recipients of the **"I am Grand Valley Award"** this year—142 students—were in Honors, demonstrating that leadership is, indeed, a hallmark of Honors students. Two graduating Honors seniors—Bridgette McGuire and Brendan Miller—won Thomas M. Seykora Awards for Outstanding Contributions to the university.

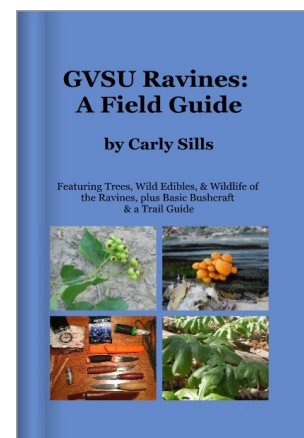
⇒ Honors students comprised over a third (17 out of 49) of the undergraduate **writing consultants at the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors** this last year. They helped other students in reviewing and revising their writing. The Honors student consultants are majoring in fields as diverse as Accounting, Sciences, English, History, Marketing, and Math.

⇒ Fifteen of the 22 Peer Research Consultants—68%—in the Zumberge library this past year were Honors students.

⇒ Recipients of **Senior Awards**. Over 30 graduating seniors were nominated for awards of distinction from the Meijer Honors College. The following were recipients of those awards:

- **Outstanding Senior Thesis.** Linsey DeVries was awarded this prize for her "Remembering the Fires of Hate: The Nazi Book Burnings of 1933." As Rob Franciosi, Linsey's thesis advisor wrote, "What most impresses me about Linsey DeVries's thesis is

- **Outstanding Senior Project:** There were two recipients in this category this year:
 - ⇒ **Andrew Lund**, for his project, “Promethean Myth and Mythopoeia for Adjudicated Students.” Andrew conceived of this project and implemented it flawlessly. He prepared a new translation of Hesiod’s Prometheus and Pandora myth (a translation, by the way, that is better than any other currently available, according to his advisor) and effectively taught it to adjudicated youths. He thereby communicated timeless truths and critical life skills to at-risk kids. There is little better illustration of students who “Live, Learn, and Lead” than Andrew’s senior project.
 - ⇒ **Lauren Spaans**, for her project, “Incorporating Academic Service Learning into the Biology Curriculum: Environmental Stewardship and Student Engagement at Sparta High School.” This project demonstrates why Lauren won the departmental awards both in Biology and Secondary Education. During her student teaching, Lauren taught the principles of a healthy ecosystem and worked with the school and her students to effect a controlled burn of a nearby field to bring about the recovery of its ecology.
- ⇒ **Outstanding Creative Achievement: Carly Sills** for her project, *GVSU Ravines: A Field Guide*. As her mentor, Eric Snyder from the Biology Department, commented: “Not only did she research and write all chapters, but also took the photographs, hiked and mapped (using GPS) the trails, received copy-write permission for all web-based material, and self-published the book using an on-line publishing company.” He added that “Carly epitomizes GVSU’s commitment to undergraduate research and scholarship and she could and should be a poster-child for the benefits of a liberal arts education at a larger institution such as GVSU.” The book is available at <http://www.blurb.com>.



- ⇒ **Excellence in Collaborative Research.** Will Woods's honor's project was titled "The role of shared activities and conversation quality in social support." As his advisor from the Psychology Department, Brian Lakey, wrote, "Will took on the task of developing an empirical understanding of shared activities.... Will derived new predictions from the theory regarding need for cognition and sensation seeking. Will took responsibility for identifying what constructs should be linked to shared activities, found the appropriate measures, and wrote the first drafts of the HRRC [Human Research Review Committee] proposal." The result is an article that will be published jointly with Prof. Lakey, in which Will is listed as lead author. Prof. Lakey remarked that Will's was the best undergraduate work he had ever seen, and was fully the equivalent of an accomplished graduate students'.
- ⇒ **Outstanding Leadership and Service Award.** Katie Hekstra received this award. Katie has been an exceptional leader in Honors for years—as a representative of the Honors Community Council, she worked with faculty in curriculum and faculty search committees. She then became president of ANCHOR (the reconstitute Honors Community Council); as such she presented on the work of ANCHOR at the Mid-East Honors Assoc. twice, restructured in very effective way, and cultivated the next generation of leadership. She was on the executive board of the Mid-East Honors Assoc. this last year. Katie received a Gilman Award to study abroad in Spain, and gave a wonderful mini study-abroad fair in our Multipurpose Room. She's been an exceptional RA, and has mentored large numbers of students.
- ⇒ **Outstanding Senior Award.** This is the Meijer Honors College's highest award and is given in conjunction with the "departmental award" given by the university to one senior in the Honors College. This year the list of eligible students stretched to 370. The top 10 graduating seniors on the list were asked to candidate by submitting their resume and writing an essay. **Jessica Miller** was selected by a committee of Honors faculty as the recipient. Jessie was a Professional Writing major. She has been a writing consultant for three years in the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors, and was lead consultant this past year. Jessie has been published in *The Rapidian*, *The Grand Rapids Press*, & *The Lanthorn*. She has presented at a number of conferences, including twice at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing. In her candidacy essay, Jessie wrote: "If I could have caught a glimpse of my future when I was a freshman, I'm not sure I would have recognized myself. Four years ago, the Honors College was a new experience, and at times a bit frightening, but in the time since then it has become my academic home. I now see the Honors College and the principles it instilled within me integrated into all aspects of my





From left: Will Woods, Lindsey DeVries, Lauren Spaans, Carly Sills, and Katie Hekstra, at Honors Senior Recognition Ceremony, April 2013.

CONCLUSION

One can hardly compile a report like this without being impressed by the caliber and accomplishments of the students. It is a wonderful and humbling thing to direct a program that works with such capable and eager young people. The Frederik Meijer Honors College is grateful to have the endorsement and support of The Meijer Foundation. The sponsorship enables us to go from strength to strength and provide extraordinary opportunities for extraordinary students. We look forward to the continuation of our partnership in working to create the very best education possible for the future leaders of our society.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Chamberlain, Director

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