



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 20, 2012



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF
GRADUATE STUDIES



Graduate Student Celebration

April 20, 2012

Hagers-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
Loosemore Auditorium

Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies
318C DeVos Center 616-331-7105
www.gvsu.edu/gs
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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: Yasha Nath, 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 Mentor Recognition Award: Yasha Nath, GSA President, Austin Dean, GSA Finance Officer, and Joseph Hanley, GSA Administrative Officer

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

Welcome!

Dear Graduate Students, family members, and friends,

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

The awarding of the Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence is a proud Grand Valley State University tradition that honors the accomplishments of our graduate students. First held in 2006, this event recognizes the academic excellence of graduate students and faculty at our university. It 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.

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

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

Congratulations!



Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Ph.D., FACSM

Dean of Graduate Studies

Grand Valley State University

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**Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence in the Major
Winter 2012**

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Amy J. Grasman, Accounting
- ❖ Douglas W. Klammer, Business Administration

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Alicia N. Blackmer, Criminal Justice
- ❖ Timothy R. Scholten, Health Administration
- ❖ Angela J. Stumpo, Public Administration

College of Education

- ❖ Margaret H. Guinan, School Counseling

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Alex Restrepo, Computer Information Systems
- ❖ Paul A. Shields, Engineering

College of Health Professions

- ❖ April C. Muske, Physical Therapy

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Elizabeth A. LaRue, Biology
- ❖ Andrew L. Richardson, Biostatistics
- ❖ Kibrom Gebre-Egziabher, Cell & Molecular Biology
- ❖ Todd S. Soule, English

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

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ **Amy J. Grasman, Master of Science in Accounting**
(B.B.A., Accounting, Grand Valley State University, 2011)

Amy has been one of the top students in the MSA program. Faculty members enjoy her ability to discuss their topics within the classroom. Her ability to connect theory with practical applications is noted by her professors. Fellow students have enjoyed her as a team member and she has emerged as a natural leader in collaborative efforts. During her time as a graduate student, Amy has also served as a Graduate Research Assistant in the Finance Department, completing data collection and compilation, analysis, and literature searches. She will be in a tax position at Deloitte in Grand Rapids this summer.

- ❖ **Douglas W. Klamer, Master of Business Administration**
(B.S., Engineering, Calvin College, 2001)

Doug is recognized as an outstanding MBA student among students and faculty. He demonstrates sophisticated analytical skills; faculty members are consistently impressed with his ability to connect theory and applications. He has demonstrated that he is a good team member, and emerges as a natural leader in collaborative efforts. Doug has worked at Johnson Controls (JCI), a tier 1 automotive supplier, since graduating from Calvin College more than 10 years ago. He has written software for such diverse applications as embedded microcontrollers, tire pressure monitoring system, entertainment center, and hands-free phone system. His work has resulted in one patent, and two more are pending.

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Alicia N. Blackmer, Master of Science in Criminal Justice**
(B.A., Criminal Justice, Grand Valley State University, 2010)

Alicia consistently exceeded expectations and outperformed most, if not all, of her peers on her assignments. She recently attended the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual meeting and conference in New York City to present an

original research project that she is working on, and that project will soon be submitted for publication review. Alicia has worked as a graduate assistant since she began her graduate career. She has consistently been a sought after GA and has done well in all of her assignments. She has also consistently acted as a role model to graduate students and undergraduate students alike, and demonstrated the essence of what we hope our graduate students become.

❖ **Timothy R. Scholten, Master of Health Administration**
(B.S.N., Nursing, Grand Valley State University, 1997)

Timothy is described by the faculty in the School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration as a hardworking and dedicated student, one who takes the time to mentor and coach younger students. He uses these same skills in his profession as a Nurse Manager of Orthopaedic Trauma Services at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, where he oversees a staff of 65 nurses. He is a Board Certified Orthopaedic Nurse as well as a Board Certified Nurse Executive. Timothy was also inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society in 2011 based on his exemplary work in the MHA program.

❖ **Angela J. Stumpo, Master of Public Administration**
(B.A., Advertising & Public Relations, Grand Valley State University, 2005)

Angela began Master of Public Administration program in 2010. The faculty of the School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration have described her as a very conscientious student with excellent writing skills. She has utilized those skills in her current position as a Senior Development Assistant at the Van Andel Institute since 2011 where she has managed the Annual Employee Giving Campaign and overseen Human Resources for the Development Department. She is also a member of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Grand Rapids and serves as the Event Calendar and Social Media Manager for Women in Development.

College of Education

❖ **Margaret H. Guinan, Master of Education in School Counseling**
(B.A., Organizational Studies, University of Michigan, 2008)

Throughout her coursework Margaret has worked hard to understand the role and work of the professional school counselor. Margaret is very skilled in the delivery of services in individual and group counseling as well as classroom

guidance. In each of these settings Margaret has demonstrated her keen ability to support students in the areas of academic, personal/social, and career development. One of Margaret's unique strengths is her own self-awareness which she uses to focus not only on her own growth but also on the impact of her work on others. As evidenced by her exceptional work in class, it is clear to the program faculty that Margaret possesses a genuine, compassionate, and empathic presence which will serve her well in her role as a professional school counselor.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ **Alex Restrepo, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**
(B.S., Computer Science, EAFIT University-Medellin, Colombia, 2003)

While completing his graduate program, Alex served as a Graduate Assistant in the Mobile Applications and Services Lab. In addition, he is the lead author on a paper accepted for presentation at the upcoming 2012 IEEE International Conference on Electro/Information Technology. His thesis, entitled "Accessorized Therapeutic Game Experiences for Touch-Enabled Devices" explores the use of video games to treat patients with traumatic brain injuries, and has resulted in a prototype system that has generated a great deal of interest among a number of physical therapists who have evaluated it. Alex has accepted a position with a stealth mode Silicon Valley startup and will be a valuable ambassador for GVSU moving forward.

- ❖ **Paul A. Shields, Master of Science in Engineering**
(B.S.E., Engineering, Grand Valley State University, 2010)

Paul is a remarkably dedicated student with a great attention to detail and an ability to grasp nuances in the material that make it a genuine pleasure to have him in the classroom. His tenacity and strong work ethic have made him an invaluable addition to the graduate program. He has a natural ability to connect with people from different academic backgrounds which has been very useful as he works to improve the training regimen of surgical residents as a result of his Master's thesis project. In addition, his outreach efforts for the School of Engineering have been extraordinary.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **April C. Muske, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
(B.A., Exercise Science, Hope College, 2008)

April has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate excellence in the classroom. She is an independent learner, and pushes herself to learn material above and beyond that which is required. Her problem solving skills will enable her to become a top notch physical therapist. April also excelled during her clinical internships, receiving high marks for her performance, professionalism, and knowledge. She has worked clinically as a rehabilitation technician and as a sports performance trainer for over 5 years. April has also worked and excelled as a graduate assistant in the physical therapy program. As well as being an excellent student, she has had many work and volunteer experiences which make her well rounded.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Elizabeth A. LaRue, Master of Science in Biology**
(B.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University, 2010)

Elizabeth truly has been an outstanding graduate student. As a student, she has been a role model. Her focus is extraordinary and her commitment to her program and education is unwavering. Her tenacity is matched by her intellectual curiosity. She is creative, exhibits an extraordinary ability to respond to questions, and presents a quiet confidence even when pressed by colleagues. Liz has maintained high standards in her course work while also investing a significant amount of effort in her thesis research. Her overall academic performance exemplifies our ideals of what graduate education should be for our students. Indeed, Liz is more a colleague than student.

- ❖ **Andrew L. Richardson, Master of Science in Biostatistics**
(B.A., Music and Statistics, Grand Valley State University, 2010)

Andy will graduate April 2012 after officially being in the graduate program for only 16 months. During this accelerated pace for his graduate studies, he has also served as a Graduate Assistant for the Office of the Vice Provost for Health and completed an internship at Spectrum Health Research. His background in music and statistics has been foundational toward his ability to

applying bio-statistical knowledge to teamwork skills and healthcare. When presented with opportunities to perform statistical analysis, he carefully considers the design and examines the data (and appropriate assumptions) so that he performs the correct analysis. Andy is an excellent student who has remarkable problem solving and critical thinking skills.

❖ **Kibrom Gebre-Egziabher, Master of Science in Cell & Molecular Biology**
(B.S., Communications, Calvin College, 2007)

Kibrom has distinguished himself in his coursework – notably displaying a fierce determination to succeed – however it is in his work outside the classroom that has marked him as a truly exceptional student. He has served for two years assisting the CMB Laboratory Supervisor in CHS where he not only maintains the facilities, but prepares for the laboratory classes and helps faculty and students. He has also been working an extended internship in a Michigan State Lab in the Van Andel Institute. In this capacity he has provided good service to the Lab, learned a great deal for his future professional work and served as a great ambassador to our sister institutions for GVSU in general and CMB in particular.

❖ **Todd S. Soule, Master of Arts in English**
(B.A., English and Education, Calvin College, 1984)

Todd is a fine student in many ways, an elegant writer, a fine analytical reader of literature, and a welcome leader in classroom discussion. He brings to his coursework a sense of sincere inquiry and eager engagement, with a perspective that is both fresh and mature, and benefits from a sense of humor. He welcomes criticism and debate while respecting his peers' comments, and consistently brings his best ideas to fruition in his verbal and written work. Todd is also a full-time writer and editor for the Grand Rapids environmental consulting firm of Rose & Westra, Inc. Additionally, he has taught writing as an adjunct instructor for Muskegon Community College.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS IN A MAJOR
Winter 2012**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Benjamin L. Staal, Master of Science in Cell & Molecular Biology**
(B.S., Biology, Grand Valley State University, 2004)
 - **Thesis Title:** Sprouty2 Deficiency in Mice Leads to the Development of Achalasia
 - **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Roderick Morgan (Chair), Dr. George F. Vande Woude (Van Andel Institute), Dr. Yu-Wen Zhang (Van Andel Institute)

After completing his undergraduate degree, Benjamin immediately found employment working in the prestigious lab of Dr. George Vande Woude at the Van Andel Research Institute. While working full time at the Institute, Ben was able to complete his graduate course and thesis work. Ben's thesis work focused on an important gene involved in signal transduction (cell communication) named *Spry2*. His work with *Spry2* led to the creation of a mouse model that was deficient in this gene, which allowed him to study the effects of this mutation in living animals.

Ben's research work was very thorough and provides significant insights into the functionality of *Spry2* and what role it plays in animal development. Ben's thesis was concise, well written, and reflects the excellent experimental design and thorough data analysis & interpretation of his research project. Ben's work exemplifies the benefits to students who can successfully use the synergy of the Graduate Program at GVSU with research at the Van Andel Research Institute.

ABSTRACT

Sprouty 2 (Spry2), one of the four mammalian Spry family members, is a negative feedback regulator of many receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) signaling including Met. It fine-tunes RTKs signaling through multiple levels of regulations starting from RTK itself to several downstream molecules that are crucial for signal transduction. To understand what role Spry2 might play during developmental processes, we created a Spry2 conventional knockout mouse in which Spry2 expression is replaced by enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP) reporter. Spry2 appears to be expressed in mouse embryo and in many adult tissues, and Spry2-deficient mice have smaller body size and shorter lifespan. Pathologically, we observed that Spry2 deficiency results in impaired relaxation of the lower esophageal sphincter and mega-esophagus, a condition known as achalasia, which is likely due to malfunction of the innervated neurons where Spry2 is expressed. The Spry2-deficient mice may serve as a useful animal model for achalasia. Currently, we are investigating how loss of Spry2 leads to achalasia and whether the Met pathway plays a role in the development of this phenotype.

❖ **Linda M. Olejnik, Master of Arts in English**

(B.S., English and Psychology, Aquinas College, 1998)

- **Thesis Title:** "You Remember the Harbor:" Stylistic Integrity and Lyrical Resonance in Ernest Hemingway's *In Our Time*
- **Thesis Committee:** Dr. Mack Smith (Chair), Dr. Linda Chown, Dr. Michael Webster

This thesis is the product of several years of study by Linda on *In Our Time*, which encompassed a graduate seminar, an independent studies course, two original essays on the subject from different literary critical perspectives, and a continuation of research, analysis, writing, and revision. What results is a study that synthesizes key features of her earlier work while integrating them into a more coherent and forcefully argued interpretation that sheds new light on *In Our Time*. Her key position is that this early work of Hemingway's questions the concept of genre in that it combines the hallmark poetic techniques of high modernism—fragmentation, compression, and sharply defined imagery—with the modernist prose techniques of non-linear, non-spatial, and non-temporal structure. Because of the modernist experiments that deny generic constraints,

the major aesthetic consideration, she argues, is whether the work achieves a unity of form and affect.

Truckloads of paper have been expended on Hemingway's writing, yet Linda showed that these stories remain almost inexhaustible cultural objects, the kind of work that continues to reward close attention. That she could say something new about Hemingway was impressive enough. That she could do it with such graceful language made her thesis all-the-more memorable.

ABSTRACT

Ernest Hemingway wrote *In Our Time* (1925) in the aftermath of World War I, a war that wrought destruction on a scale never before imagined and from which the world was not soon to recover. Like other writers of what fellow modernist Gertrude Stein labeled the "Lost Generation," Hemingway depicts the modern world as a wasteland, a war-weary and faithless land of disillusionment and futility. However, Hemingway's methods in presenting this world to the reader are unique, blending modern poetic techniques of fragmentation, compression, imagism, and lyricism with narrative shifts and non-linear progression associated with modern prose to create a work that is dense, cinematic, complex, and evocative, and that challenges the concept of genre. The result is a work that delves deeply into core of an understanding of humanity's struggle to find meaning and significance in an indifferent world. This understanding is felt, rather than perceived, and emanates from an unrestrained, continuous emotive force generated by Hemingway's concentration on potent imagery and compression of moments of moral, psychological, and spiritual trauma. Woven throughout this work are narratives centered on the recurring character, Nick Adams, and these fragmented passages thematically unify *In Our Time* in that this singular character takes limited yet significant steps toward establishing a boundary between the chaos and futility of the world and himself.

Despite its disparate array of settings, scenarios, and voices, *In Our Time* is a unified, integrated, and unique work, molding modern literary techniques around a core of shared human experience of the world after World War I. In this work, Hemingway reaches beyond the constraints of genre, generating a dynamic emotive force that allows the reader an unblinking view of humanity's struggle to find meaning in a fractured world, and the path it suggests in doing so – a pragmatic and distinctively American focus on the inner strength of the individual to forge his own way.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT IN A MAJOR
Winter 2012**

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Meghan Cochran, Master of Health Administration**

(B.A., Political Science, Western Michigan University, 2006)

- **Title:** Community-based Participatory Research: How Developing Small Geography Health Indicators can Assist Communities with Big Decisions
- **Advisor:** Dr. Stephen Borders

Meghan worked tirelessly as part of a team from the SPNHA Student Consulting Center as part of a project for the Ottawa County Health Department addressing food insecurity within the county. With Meghan's leadership, the team's work this past semester was truly transformative in mobilizing community leaders around constructive solutions in addressing hunger. Her vision to take complex and often disparate information and then to distill, map and present through easy to interpret indices offered fresh and important breakthroughs in addressing this age-old problem. She is a selfless builder - a person who has raised the capacity of others and her community to advance the common good.

Meghan was recognized for her efforts at the Graduate Showcase 2012, where the Office of Graduate Studies and Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence presented her with an Outstanding Poster Presentation award. Her presentation met the standards of academic rigor, was well-articulated and organized, and demonstrates a significant contribution to her professional field. Meghan is a member of the newly formed Health Care Professionals Graduate Alliance. She also assisted Michigan Blood's Stem Cell Programs, serving as a Special Events Planner and Fund Developer.

ABSTRACT

The Ottawa County (Michigan) Health Department (OCHD) and the Graduate Student Consulting Center (GSCC) at Grand Valley State University engaged in community-based participatory research to build community capacity toward addressing food insecurity. With nearly 20% of the Michigan population receiving food stamps coupled with increasing rates of obesity and obesity-related chronic disease, GSCC conducted an environmental scan for OCHD in support of a larger food security strategic planning initiative. GSCC students employed Geographic Information Systems to map measureable health indicators at the census tract level. The goal of the project is to provide stakeholders with the information required make appropriate investment decisions at the community level. Based on Healthy People 2020 indicators, the analysis and subsequent baseline measures are being used to monitor changes and to gain understanding of the extent to which community needs are being met relative to other areas of the state and nation. For example, GSCC mapped the proportion of the population with access to nutrient dense foods (Objective NWS-4) while also surveying emergency food providers (churches and nonprofits) about capacities to provide such staples as lean meats, fresh fruits and vegetables to those seeking services. In addition, GSCC analyzed indicators associated with social determinants of health, such as poverty, ethnicity, age, and income. As a result, GSCC participants are developing practical skills and expertise required of future public health leaders to bridge the gap between research and what is practiced within the communities of Ottawa County to improve health while reducing food insecurity.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ **Andres F. Solano, Master of Science in Computer Information Systems**
(B.S., Computer Science, EAFIT University-Medellin, Colombia, 2003)
 - **Title:** “Art at GVSU” iPhone Application
 - **Advisor:** Dr. Jonathan Engelsma

For his Master’s project, Andres designed and implemented the “Art at GVSU” iPhone application, which provides convenient access to over 10,000 works art from the GVSU Art Gallery on five campuses. Andres’ application has been published by GVSU in the Apple App Store and is now being enjoyed by hundreds of people within the GVSU community and beyond. Andres also

decided to spend yet another semester post-project working on an iPad version of the application which will become available in May this year. Andres has also made significant contributions to the official GVSU Laker Mobile application during the two years he worked as a graduate assistant in the GVSU Mobile Applications and Services Lab.

In addition, Andres has excelled in his graduate coursework, and is also co-author of a paper accepted for presentation at the upcoming 2012 IEEE International Conference on Electro/Information Technology. His project was the subject of an article published in the Grand Rapids Press.

ABSTRACT

The Grand Valley State University Art Gallery has over ten thousand works of original art, including paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and more. A large portion of this collection is displayed across GVSU's campuses. These pieces of art are used by students for courses and research and are also simply enjoyed by people each day as they encounter them on campus. Although each individual work has a placard describing it and its artist, these do not help people locate specific works of art around the different campuses and buildings. Furthermore, the amount of information that can be displayed on a work of art is limited to the size of the placard. Another difficulty is that there is no way for a person to share or comment on a work of art that they really appreciate. This project addressed these problems by developing and deploying a mobile application that allows users to browse and locate works of art using their iPhone and its network connection and GPS capabilities.

Furthermore, users can use the application to go on virtual art tours, and they can interact with their friends around a piece of art via integration with Facebook, Twitter, and other social networks, all from their iPhone.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

❖ **Ahmad Abdalla Amer, Master of Science in Communications**

(B.S., Marketing, An-Najah National University-Nablus, West Bank, 2007)

- **Title:** College Students Motives for Using Social Media Networks (i.e. Facebook): A Comparison between American students and Arab students
- **Advisor:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko

The faculty in the School of Communications have described Ahmad's project as exceptional and innovative. He has aptly pinpointed a communication problem for which he is offering an interesting and elegant investigation. Ahmad's work is worthy of notice and celebration. He is a most capable student and has the drive, determination, curiosity, and ambition that will make him highly successful in the communications industry. He displays the natural curiosity of a scholar and will be an asset to the field of communications.

Ahmad currently speaks four languages: Arabic, English, Spanish, and Hebrew. His global experiences give him a unique perspective on Social Media Networks and how students in different nations utilize new technologies.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to explore and compare the motives American college students and Arab college students have, and the gratifications they receive from using Internet and Social Media Networks with the focus on Facebook due to its popularity among college students. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt were chosen to represent the Arab world / region due to their relatively high Internet penetration among Middle East countries. There were two research questions in this study. First, what motivates American and Arab college students to use Internet and Social Media Networks such as Facebook? Second, is there any difference between American college students and Arab college students in the way they use Internet and Social Media Networks? In order to answer the research questions, different academic studies that have been performed in this area were utilized. The results show that American and Arab college students use Internet and Social Media Networks (i.e. Facebook) in very similar ways. They use it basically to maintain relationships with people they know and keep in touch with them. Their motives include behaviors such as sending messages to friends and viewing photos, posting a message on their friend's wall, staying in touch with a friend or getting in touch with someone who is difficult to reach. On the other hand, even though Social Media networks were used slightly different among Egyptians due to the 2011 Egyptian Revolution, it remained within the frame of communications. Social Media networks basically helped the Egyptian youth in holding online discussions and meetings, organizing protests and staying updated.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION
Winter 2012**

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ **Anderson S. Peck, Master of Science in Engineering**
(B.S., Computer Engineering, Miami University, 2010)
 - **Title:** Development of computer-aided detection (CAD) tool for liver metastasis micro CT imaging using targeted contrast agent
 - **Advisor:** Dr. Samhita Rhodes

Anderson helped develop a novel contrast agent to improve the detection of metastatic cancerous lesions in the liver using images obtained from micro CT studies in the mouse model. Liver metastasis are difficult due to the poor inherent soft tissue contrast and the need for highly technical, manual analysis of the data. This new imaging method enables detection and evaluation of liver metastasis as small as 1 mm or less in size from as early as 2 weeks. Anderson's work has exciting clinical potential allowing for early intervention and therapy in the treatment of liver cancer.

Anderson's abstract was presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in April 2012 in Chicago, IL. His coauthors in this study consisted of a group of scientists from the Van Andel Institute and Grand Valley State University.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Preclinical in-vivo micro CT studies of liver metastasis are difficult due to poor inherent soft tissue contrast and the need for highly technical, manual analysis of the data. Research has implicated that Kupffer cells in the liver encapsulate liver metastases providing an opportunity to deliver macrophage-specific contrast agents for the detection of small metastatic lesions. A new, long-acting preclinical CT contrast agent that targets Kupffer cells has been developed that may allow automated detection of liver lesions via CAD software. **Method:** A pancreatic cancer liver metastasis model was created by surgically implanting human pancreatic cancer cell line (L3.6pl) within the spleen. *Continued on next page.*

ABSTRACT CON'T

Mice were injected with the contrast agent and scanned to obtain baseline anatomy of the liver before implantation. The mice were scanned 1 day after implantation and weekly after that for 5 weeks to monitor the liver metastasis progression. The control group followed an identical protocol but with a sham surgery. Liver tissues were harvested and fixed in paraffin blocks after the last scan. Paraffin blocks were scanned using high resolution micro CT before IHC staining. Human Mitochondrial and F4/80 IHC were used to identify L3.6pl and Kupffer cells, respectively. The CT images were compared to the IHC images from the same block to verify that the locations of the contrast agent and the Kupffer cells were related. Once the pattern of contrast agent and metastatic tumors had been identified, CAD software was developed for automatic tumor detection. **Results:** The contrast agent was evenly distributed throughout the healthy liver tissue within 1 hour post injection. In healthy mice, the homogenous distribution of contrast remained unchanged for at least 6 weeks. In liver metastasis models, the contrast began to concentrate in various areas of the liver within 2 weeks post implantation. As tumors developed and grew, the contrast became highly concentrated on the borders of tumors creating a 3 dimensional outline of the lesion. IHC staining and micro CT imaging of the fixed tissue verified that the tumors are surrounded by Kupffer cells and that the distribution of concentrated contrast agent matched them. Software was able to detect the tumors based on these contrast outlines and compare them over successive weekly scans. **Conclusion:** Our new imaging method enables automated detection and evaluation of liver metastasis 1 mm or smaller from as early as 2 weeks. In addition to allowing better visualization, it provides new insight into macrophage motility within the liver. CAD software can take advantage of this unique capability to automate data analysis and allow for large scale longitudinal studies. This new imaging method could be a useful tool to facilitate longitudinal imaging of liver metastases in mice and has the potential for translation into clinical practice.

College of Health Professions

❖ **Nora A. Crouch, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

(B.S., Physiology, Michigan State University, 2009)

- **Title:** The Effectiveness of Current Interventions in the Management of Lateral Canal Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo
- **Advisor:** Dr. Bonni Kinne

Nora has served as a Graduate Assistant for the Physical Therapy Department faculty, collaborating on research regarding ergonomics, functional assessments, and sports nutrition. She completed clinical experiences at Spectrum Health Rockford Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and St. Joseph Mercy Health System. She volunteered in a Parkinson's disease exercise recreation class at St. Mary's Hospital, and attended a Michigan Physical Therapy Association student conclave. In addition, Nora is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and the Michigan Physical Therapy Association.

❖ **Christina L. Strace, Doctor of Physical Therapy**

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

- **Title:** The Effectiveness of Current Interventions in the Management of Lateral Canal Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo
- **Advisors:** Dr. Bonni Kinne

Christina has served as a Graduate Assistant in the Physical Therapy Department, conducting pediatric research and assisting faculty in the development of the pediatric and motor development courses within the physical therapy program. She completed clinical experiences at Sparrow Specialty Hospital, St. John Medical Center, and Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak. She volunteered in a Parkinson's disease exercise recreation class at St. Mary's Hospital, and attended a Michigan Physical Therapy Association student conclave. In addition, Christina is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and the Michigan Physical Therapy Association.

Although Dr. Kinne was the primary author (as well as the mentor of their research project), both Nora and Christina made substantial contributions throughout the entire research process (especially during the database search, the determination of which studies were ultimately included in the qualitative synthesis, the evaluation of the evidence level, and the evaluation of the

methodological rigor). In order to be knowledgeable co-authors, both students had to complete additional training in the areas of systematic reviews and vestibular rehabilitation. This article will be published in an upcoming edition of "Physical Therapy Reviews."

ABSTRACT

Background: Lateral canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (LC-BPPV) may comprise up to 40% of all reported cases of BPPV. Despite the recent development of techniques designed for the specific management of LC-BPPV, very few studies have examined the efficacy of these proposed treatments. **Objective:** The purpose of this systematic review was to evaluate the effectiveness of current treatment techniques in alleviating the vertigo and nystagmus encountered by individuals with LC-BPPV. **Methods:** The databases that were searched included CINAHL Plus with Full Text, ProQuest Medical Library, and MEDLINE. The search terms used for each of these databases were "lateral canal" OR "horizontal canal" AND "positional vertigo" OR "positioning vertigo" OR "positional nystagmus" OR "positioning nystagmus". The method used to evaluate evidence level was based upon the Oxford Centre For Evidence-Based Medicine 2011 Levels of Evidence tool, and the method used to evaluate methodological rigor was adapted from Medlicott and Harris. **Results:** A total of 543 articles were originally identified through the database search, and eight studies were ultimately included in the qualitative analysis. The qualitative analysis revealed three effective techniques for treating LC-BPPV that is geotropic in nature and two potential techniques for treating LC-BPPV that is apogeotropic in nature. **Conclusions:** Although LC-BPPV tends to spontaneously resolve in a relatively short period of time, it can also be associated with extremely severe symptoms and impaired postural control. This systematic review presented several techniques that may expedite the natural remission process and lead to a quicker recovery.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Jude T. Chenge, Master of Science in Cell & Molecular Biology**
(B.S., Biochemistry, The University of Jos, 2009)
 - **Title:** Nitroxyl (HNO) acutely activates the glucose uptake activity of GLUT1
 - **Advisors:** Dr. Patrick Thorpe

Jude is co-author on two papers. The work was done as part of his role as Research Assistant to Dr. Larry Louter's laboratory at Calvin College. One paper, published in 2011, is in the journal *Biochemie*. The second paper, published in 2012, is also in *Biochemie* and is titled "Nitroxyl (HNO) acutely activates the glucose uptake activity of GLUT1". The abstract is shown below. This work is important because it helps understand how GLUT1 (a glucose transporter) is regulated. Basal glucose transport into cells is an important factor for cell health.

Jude is described by the faculty in his program as a quiet and modest student, which belies his tenacity, dedication and commitment to his work and science. He has been particularly interested in seeing whether traditional medicines contain biologically active compounds that can be used to treat disease. His graduate work has implications for the treatment of diabetes, heart failure and obesity.

ABSTRACT

Nitroxyl (HNO) is a molecule of significant interest due to its unique pharmacological properties, particularly within the cardiovascular system. A large portion of HNO biological effects can be attributed to its reactivity with protein thiols, where it can generate disulfide bonds. Evidence from studies in erythrocytes suggests that the activity of GLUT1 is enhanced by the formation of an internal disulfide bond. However, there are no reports that document the effects of HNO on glucose uptake. Therefore, we examined the acute effects of Angeli's salt (AS), a HNO donor, on glucose uptake activity of GLUT1 in L929 fibroblast cells. We report that AS stimulates glucose uptake with a maximum effective concentration of 5.0 mM. An initial 7.2-fold increase occurs within 2 min, which decreases and plateaus to a 4.0-fold activation after 10 min. About 60% of the 4.0-fold activation recovers within 10 min, and 40% remains after an hour. The activation is blocked by the pretreatment of cells with thiol-reactive compounds, iodoacetamide (0.75 mM), cinnamaldehyde (2.0 mM), and phenylarsine oxide (10 mM). The effects of AS are not additive to the stimulatory effects of other acute activators of glucose uptake in L929 cells, such as azide (5 mM), berberine (50 mM), or glucose deprivation. These data suggest that GLUT1 is acutely activated in L929 cells by the formation of a disulfide bond, likely within GLUT1 itself.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION
Winter 2012**

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Julie M. Scholten, Master of Health Administration**
(B.S.N., Nursing, Grand Valley State University, 1990)

Julie was nominated by the faculty of the School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration because of her dedication to health care in Grand Rapids. Julie is currently the Project Manager for Nursing Operations at Spectrum Health. After arriving at Spectrum Health, she steadily demonstrated excellent interpersonal and management skills to take her to the Director of two inpatient oncology units. She is widely respected by peers and colleagues, and described as a gift to the patients in her units. Her peers and colleagues value her strenuous efforts to help them to fulfill their potential.

- ❖ **Kevin M. Lignell, Master of Public Administration**
(B.S., Communications, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Kevin has served his community and profession in two unique roles. At the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, where he completed his Graduate Assistantship, he helped to pioneer a new graduate position to support government collaboration and environmental policy in West Michigan. As a board member for the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Greater Grand Rapids, he assisted in design programming and professional development to support young professionals in the nonprofit field. Kevin is also a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha Honors Society for Public Affairs and Administration students.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Kathryn Bigsby, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
(B.S., Zoology, Michigan State University, 2009)

In the community, Kathryn was a volunteer for several different groups. She was a volunteer for the GVSU Physical Therapy Pro Bono Clinics. Here she serviced the underserved and uninsured community of Grand Rapids.

Kathryn was also a weekly volunteer to the Saint Mary's Health Care, Parkinson's Exercise and Recreation Class. Kathryn also demonstrated a desire to serve the physical therapy profession. She was GVSU's Doctorate of Physical Therapy Class of 2012 Michigan Physical Therapy Association (MPTA) Liaison. She was also the GVSU Liaison to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). In the APTA, Kathryn was the Michigan student representative to the APTA Physical Therapy on Capitol Hill in 2011. The faculty of the Physical Therapy Department are inspired by her commitment to serve the community and profession.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ **Rebecca C. Lodewyk, Master of Cell & Molecular Biology**
(B.S., Biology and German, Aquinas College, 2010)

Rebecca became an ambassador for the Cell & Molecular PSM program by being the first GVSU student in Dr. Yendrembam's Laboratory at the Michigan State University College of Medicine, and since her completion, the laboratory has accepted four more graduate students and an undergraduate student to complete their research credits. Rebecca left a positive and lasting impression of exemplary work/professional etiquette that overall defines the uniqueness of a GVSU education at both MSU and the adjoining Van Andel Institute (VAI). Rebecca volunteered her time during the summer by accepting a freshman from GVSU interested in the CMB program to shadow her for 4 weeks, and she continues to counsel and introduce students interested in pursuing research at both of the mentioned institutes.

- ❖ **Teresa Taylor-Williams, Master of Science in Communication**
(B.S., Geography, Missouri State University, 1993)

Teresa's final project for her graduate degree, titled "The History, Effectiveness, and Impact of the Missouri Urban Journalism Workshop" is described as "exceptionally innovative" by her faculty advisors. It is particularly important because this landmark Journalism workshop for minority students, offered for 40+ years by the famed University of Missouri School of Journalism, has never been reviewed. The focus has remained consistent: Expose, nurture, and cultivate high school students – primarily students of color – with the aim of encouraging future talent for the pursuit of careers in print and broadcast media. As such, Teresa's project is a significant service to educators and

practitioners in the field of journalism. Teresa has also served as a staff writer for the Muskegon Chronicle and is currently an adjunct instructor at Muskegon Community College.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ **Elaine A. Leigh, Doctor of Nursing Practice**
(B.S.N., Nursing, Ferris State University, 1999)

Elaine's doctoral project was a profound undertaking. In collaboration with colleagues from the Muskegon area, she was instrumental in proposing and implementing a community-based hepatitis C clinic for the underserved population of greater Muskegon who lack access to treatment. Her efforts were paramount in partnering busy healthcare providers with the greater Muskegon community to enact this much needed healthcare service for an increasingly prevalent and devastating disease. The impact of hepatitis C is often life-long, and the rising incidence represents a public health and societal burden. Her project highlights the role, expertise and potential of DNP nurses as a national health resource.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP & SERVICE TO GVSU
Winter 2012**

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ **Alyson J. Dondzila, Master of Health Administration**
(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 2006)

Alyson founded and served as President for the Healthcare Professionals Graduate Student Alliance (HPGSA). This group is an American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) student affiliate chapter, focusing on networking and emerging trends in healthcare. After realizing that Grand Valley was short on Graduate Student groups that had professional affiliations, she and her faculty mentor felt this group be an excellent way for students in the MHA and MPA programs to network with one another and local health care professionals. In its inaugural year, HPGSA held several successful events, including two formal events with keynote speakers and well-attended social events and general assembly meetings.

- ❖ **Ashlee I. Cunningham, Master of Public Administration**
(B.S., Public Administration, Grand Valley State University, 2010)

Ashlee completed her undergraduate degree at GVSU in 2008 and went on to serve as a Student Research Assistant for the Institutional Marketing Department. During her graduate studies, she completed an Economic Development Internship with LINC Community Revitalization, Inc and later took on her current role of Intake/Income Supports Specialist at LINC. There, she provides one on one income supports counseling and has developed relationships with the local government offices and community organizations. Ashlee is also a Hauenstein Center Leadership Fellow, she serves on the Inclusion and Equity Advisory Board, and is a Graduate Advisor to the GVSU Chapter of the NAACP.

College of Education

- ❖ **Ashley N. Schulte, Master of Education in Higher Education**
(B.A., Public Administration, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

Ashley was very involved, even as an undergraduate student at Grand Valley, with a well-documented history of commitment and helping others. Now in her final semester of completing her M.Ed. in College Student Affairs Leadership, she manages a 20-hour graduate assistantship with Student Services, along with responsibilities as a graduate intern in Winter/Secchia Living Centers while remaining involved in many other initiatives at both the Grand Rapids and Allendale campuses. Ashley's energy, interests, motivation, and ability to seek out opportunities that complement the theory that she obtains in her curriculum have resulted in experiences with several departments, including the Dean of Students Office, Housing and Resident Life, the Women's Center, Team Against Bias and Nontraditional Student Network.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Kate E. Rustem, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
(B.S., Physiology, Michigan State University, 2009)

Kate is considered a leader and was elected class president by her fellow physical therapy students. In this role she helped organize and facilitate class activities such as fund raising, and facilitated communication between faculty and students. In the classroom and lab, Kate took the role of a leader. The faculty could depend on Kate to provide leadership academically, as well as in interpersonal matters. Kate has also been involved in helping the faculty develop a service learning trip for PT students at Baycliff Health Camp for children with physical disabilities. She was a graduate assistant for the program, and did an excellent job. Kate also was a guest lecturer in a first year GVSU PT class demonstrating wound care.

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ **Elaine A. Leigh, Doctor of Nursing Practice**
(B.S.N., Nursing, Ferris State University, 1999)

Elaine served as the Kirkhof College of Nursing (KCON) Alumni Chapter President from 2004 to 2010. Under her leadership, the chapter became established as one of the more active chapters in the GVSU Alumni Association. She provided leadership at the chapter level but also served on the GVSU Alumni Board of Directors. Elaine is to be commended for her enthusiasm and dedication to this role. Despite her own busy schedule, she consistently found time to make the success of KCON's Alumni Chapter a priority. A college of nursing is dependent on robust alumni support to foster community awareness, student and faculty recruitment, and ongoing financial support. She set the bar high for future presidents.

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

Winter 2012

College of Community & Public Service

❖ **Olubunmi F. Parks, Master of Public Administration**

(B.S., Public Administration, Grand Valley State University, 2008)

After completing her undergraduate degree at GVSU in July 2008, Bunmi was hired full-time to work as Coordinator of the Community Service Learning Center located in the Office of Student Life. In this role, Bunmi was fortunate to work with several public and nonprofit organizations to assist in finding volunteer, service-learning and other co-curricular opportunities for students. Bunmi was able to couple her passion for serving her community with learning more about diversity and inclusion by serving on committees, participating in conferences, volunteering and mentoring students from diverse backgrounds.

Bunmi served on the Team Against Bias, a group of university representatives whose mission is to review information regarding bias incidents and implement strategies to educate, engage and inform the campus community. This committee provided Bunmi the opportunity to work strategically with her university colleagues to address relevant campus issues regarding diversity and inclusion. Bunmi has also presented with her colleagues at the Michigan College Professional Association's Diversity Summit at Delta College. During her time at GVSU, she also participated in the Inclusion Advocate Program.

Bunmi currently works for Cascade Engineering, a triple bottom line B Corporation that focuses on sustainable solutions in the community. She is a diversity awareness facilitator to new employees through the human resources department. She sits on the Diversity Coordinating Council of the company and continues to pursue activities in the community that value diversity and inclusion.

College of Health Professions

- ❖ **Danica T. Rodriguez, Doctor of Physical Therapy**
(B.S., Exercise Science, Grand Valley State University, 2009)

Danica has been very involved with many different and diverse populations while being a student at Grand Valley State University in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program. All of these activities have been in addition to her school work, and many have been volunteer activities.

Danica was a Clinic Coordinator for the Physical Therapy Pro Bono Clinic. The Pro Bono Clinics service the underserved population of our Grand Rapids Community who have no health insurance and/or have low income. Many of the people serviced are homeless. Danica was also part of a service learning trip to Guatemala as part of GVSU's PT program. There, she was part of a team of students who provided care for underserved children and adults in a rural Guatemala City. Danica was also a volunteer for the Michigan Special Olympics as part of GVSU and the Michigan Physical Therapy Association. Working with this population, gave Danica experience in working with people with special needs.

As well as these unique populations, Danica has worked with different age groups of people with needs. One example of this, Danica was involved in delivering Meals on Wheels to the elderly home bound population. She has also serviced many different groups of children, including Children's ministry and being a camp counselor. She has also serviced older students at GVSU by being a transitions leader. Another opportunity that Danica took advantage of was working with a woman who was severely involved with multiple sclerosis. In this role, Danica learned to work and help people who are dependent and use wheelchairs primarily for mobility.

Danica has serviced many people through these volunteer and work opportunities. She is an exemplary example for other GVSU students on how to be involved with multiple populations. Danica will continue to be involved with many different groups of people and as such will be a tremendous asset to the PT community.

OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN WINTER 2012

NIEMEYER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS

This is a university-wide award honoring the most outstanding graduate students; selection is made by the Deans Council.

College of Education

❖ **Kara N. Endsley, Master of Education in Literacy Studies**

Kara's zest for learning extends well beyond the GVSU classroom. Kara's intensive work with the *National Writing Project* included conducting in her own classroom a year-long research project, *Using Mentor Texts to Enhance the Writer's Workshop*. Kara embodies the qualities of a reading specialist as she inspires her peer teachers to learn through her work as a volunteer teacher consultant helping teachers develop informed, effective writing instruction, her one-on-one assistance and professional development in the use of technology, a professional book club and a reading blog featuring children's literature. Kara also serves the profession in a vital way as a cooperating teacher for student teachers from GVSU, Hope College, and Central Michigan University. In recognition of her expertise as a literacy leader, Kara was asked by her school district to accept a position as a literacy specialist as soon as she graduates.

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

❖ **Alexander J. Plotkowski, Master of Science in Engineering**

An academically superior student, Alex will be the first GVSU student ever to earn both a BSE and an MSE degree in May 2012, with the undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and graduate degree in Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering. It is by virtue of his deep interest and superior analytical skills that he has managed to integrate undergraduate and graduate studies in our articulated program and earn his MSE degree with a perfect GPA in half the time usually needed to earn a Master's degree. It is thus no surprise that his professors praise, respect, and support Alex as an exemplary student. Distinguished professors at other recognized universities also hold Alex in high esteem, for Alex has been invited to join the PhD programs, with full scholarship, at such prestigious universities as Purdue University, the University of Wisconsin, and Carnegie Mellon University.

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

2011-2012

(Recognized at the annual Scholar Awards Banquet on April 16, 2012)

Seidman College of Business

- ❖ Andrea Erat, Accounting (MSA)
- ❖ Jennifer Brown, General Business (MBA)
- ❖ Anthony Rupinski, Taxation (MST)

College of Community & Public Service

- ❖ Alicia Blackmer, Criminal Justice (MS)
- ❖ Bennett Samuel, Health Administration (MHA)
- ❖ Jessa Dutton, Public Administration (MPA)
- ❖ Amy Freehafer, Social Work (MSW)

College of Education

- ❖ Michael Stoll, Higher Education (M.Ed)
- ❖ Jessica Herceg, Literacy Studies- TESOL (M.Ed)
- ❖ Ross Lambitz, School Counseling (M.Ed)

Padnos College of Engineering & Computing

- ❖ Keith Chappelow, Computer Information Systems (MS)
- ❖ Jeffrey VanOss, Engineering (MSE)
- ❖ Lovemore Kashoko, Medical and Bioinformatics (MS)

College of Health Professions

- ❖ Lauren Vetter, Occupational Therapy (MS)
- ❖ April Muske, Physical Therapy (DPT)
- ❖ Deana Girbach, Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- ❖ Angela Larson, Biology (MS)
- ❖ Matthew Malloure, Biostatistics (MS)
- ❖ Kibrom Gebre-Egziabher, Cell and Molecular Biology (MS)
- ❖ Lisa Dopke, Communications (MS)
- ❖ David VanderWaa, English (MA)

Kirkhof College of Nursing

- ❖ Barbara Hooper, Nursing (DNP)

GRADUATE STUDENT PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Fall 2011

BAISCH, David. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Phylogenetic Analysis of Various Strains of Great Lakes Brown Trout (Salmo Trutta)*

FOSTER, Travis. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology-Aquatic Sciences.

Title: *Effects on Macroinvertebrates from the Zebra Mussel Invasion of the Muskegon River*

HOMOLA, Jared. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology.

Title: *Disease Ecology of a Microsporidian Parasite: Effects on Mottled Sculpin Population Dynamics*

MIARA, Sheila. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology-Natural Resources Management.

Title: *Winter Habitat Characteristics and Behavioral Ecology of Southern Flying Squirrels in Southwest Michigan*

Winter 2012

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

Title: *Assessing the Efficacy of Biosand Filters in the Removal of Toxic Materials*

MARTIN, Laurelin. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology-Natural Resources Management.

Title: *Biodiversity Establishment in a Native Prairie Restoration: Assessing the Impacts of Centaurea Maculosa Control*

PAGE, Kathryn. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Science.

Title: *Effects of Nonylphenol on Mate Recognition by the Crayfish, Orconectes Propinquus*

SISSON, Andrew. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology-Aquatic Sciences.

Title: *Testing Field Practice of the Biosand Point of Use Water Filtration System Performance in the Laboratory*

**GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD
OUTSTANDING FACULTY/STAFF MENTOR AWARD
Winter 2012**

❖ **Vijay Gondhalekar, Professor of Finance**

Nominated by: Joseph Hanley, Master of Business Administration and Victoria Ichungwa, Master of Business Administration

According to Joseph Hanley's letter of nomination: "Dr. Gondhalekar is a diligent student, a loving father, a devoted researcher, and most of all, an inspirational teacher. His passion for ceaseless academic growth and demand for excellence has inspired me to improve both personally and academically. The strict standards of his classroom, combined with his calm, supportive demeanor, further enable me to rise to, and overcome, the challenges both within and out of the classroom environment."

Victoria Ichungwa adds, "I find Vijay to be one of the best faculty members in the Seidman College of Business and a value added for Grand Valley as a whole. He is willing to go above and beyond by his flexibility when office hours do not work for a student's schedule. He is also very patient and sincere in his willingness to help students both in class and outside of class. This is exemplified in his financial support to Grand Valley where he gives back to Grand Valley and provides support through a scholarship for students."

❖ **Avis Hewitt, Professor of English**

Nominated by: April Best, Master of Arts in English

I would like to nominate Professor Avis Hewitt for the Faculty and Staff Mentorship Award in the MA English program. Having had her as a professor I witnessed her dedication to both students and teaching. Whenever a student asks for additional help or a meeting with her, she spends the time, meets with him/her and accepts drafts of work to which she provides very detailed notes and comments. Moreover, Professor Hewitt provides her graduate students with information about upcoming academic conferences that correspond with the work in her class to which they can submit paper proposals. By doing this she encourages Grand Valley Students to participate in the academy at large and offers her help with submitting proposals. Finally, Professor Hewitt is organizing a pilot-class this summer in which students who take English 661: Flannery O'Connor Immersion Studies have the opportunity to write a

grant to go down to Georgia for one week with Professor Hewitt and do archival work and research.

I believe Professor Hewitt demonstrates passion and, a love for teaching and her students that encourages all who take her classes to fully engage with current conversations in English Literature studies and provides assistance and help beyond the call of duty.

❖ **Richard Jelier, Professor of Public Administration**

Nominated by: Jessa Dutton, Master of Public Administration

I am pleased to nominate Professor Richard Jelier from the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration for the Mentorship Award. I have been his part-time graduate assistant for three years and have worked with him closely on many projects. He has taken interest, above and beyond many other professors, to engage me and support me personally as I develop my skills as a public administrator.

We have co-written a paper together which he encouraged me to present to the Midwest Political Science Association's annual conference in Chicago. In doing this, he introduced me into the conference setting which is something I would not have done on my own. He's also helped me see the process of shaping the conference paper into a journal-worthy article.

Professor Jelier is constantly engaging all students to become a contributing member of society. In all of his courses, he makes sure students are getting into the community and working actively with community stakeholders. This is an important experience as many courses simply take place within the classroom. He has shown that his main focus is to give students a full understanding of the types of work they will be doing in the future.

In closing, I have seen Professor Jelier work closely with many of his current and former students to aid them in the job placement process. He is always willing to write a letter of recommendation and even actively help in this process as a well-connected individual in this community.

❖ **Jerry Johnson, Professor of Social Work**

Nominated by: Elizabeth Delaney, Master of Social Work

Dr. Jerry Johnson has been an advocate, a leader, and a mentor to me throughout my time in the Masters of Social Work program. With his guidance and wisdom, I made it through this program and into a fulfilling career field that would not have otherwise existed. He spent countless hours providing advice and he was always supportive. When I started the social work program, I transferred from a hard science background and what I saw as a weakness in experience, he saw as strength in perspective. Once I began to appreciate and leverage this strength, I then had to find a niche within a very subjective program. It was through his insight, I found an area in program evaluation and research at the Johnson Center. We now work together on a daily basis, and although I have not completed my program, he treats me as a colleague and encourages me to challenge myself, his ideas, and societal values.

It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Johnson for the Grand Valley State University Graduate Faculty & Staff Award for Mentorship. I would not be here, typing this letter, in my office without the compassion and care he has shown me. It is not possible for me to adequately show gratitude for all he has done, but if anyone in my life deserves this award, it is Jerry.

❖ **Sonja Johnson, Executive Director of the Van Andel Global Trade Center**

Nominated by: Joseph Hanley, Master of Business Administration

I nominate Sonja Johnson for the GSA Outstanding Faculty & Staff Mentor Award. As the Executive Director of the Van Andel Global Trade Center, Sonja is often recognized for her unwavering commitment to the West Michigan business community but I would argue that her commitment to Grand Valley graduate students' personal and professional growth is more laudable. Her unique grasp of the global environment enables her to strategically prepare local businesses for the future; she is a visionary for the global development of our region. She has prepared me and countless other students for the competitive business environment by constantly challenging us to solve real-world business problems while drawing parallels to our academic coursework. Her test-by-fire methods breed creativity and encourage personal growth which is further catalyzed by her patience and open door policy.

Sonja's mentorship has further opened my eyes to the world's opportunities and for this reason she deserves my recommendation. Please allow me to express my gratitude to her through this award.

❖ **Sue Nieboer, Professor of Health Administration**

Nominated by: Chaunte Rodgers, Master of Public Administration

Please consider this my nomination for Professor Sue Nieboer for the GSA Graduate Faculty Mentor Award. She takes the time to listen to her students, connecting them with the greater community and providing opportunities for them to take advantage of the health community around them. She was instrumental in helping her students form the Healthcare Professionals Graduate Student Alliance and that group now has support from the ACHE.

Sue challenges her students with real life situations and how to think outside of the box. She makes sure her students are supplied with an armory of presenters that have real world knowledge of the theories and concepts that the students learn in class. Each student takes away a real understanding of the material that is given and how to apply those skills outside of the classroom. She approaches each class from the student's perspective, in asking herself what we (the student) would like to get out of not only her class but the program.

I personally appreciate Sue for taking the time to connect with me as a student, as a person, and as a colleague. Even though she is not my advisor and I am no longer in her classes I still openly communicate with her on a weekly basis, and she made sure to keep in touch with me over the summer. The information that I learned from her has been invaluable and she is someone that I look up to professionally and personally. It is for these reasons that I believe that she is deserving of this award.

❖ **John Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies**

Nominated by: Yasha A. D. Nath, Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Accounting

Dr. Stevenson is one of the most personable and selfless people I have ever met. He has an uncanny ability to make one feel completely at ease in his presence; and he goes beyond the call of duty, to help others or to simply do what he considers a good job. Exhibiting the true character of an educator, John often takes a supportive role when interacting with students – drawing on his

considerable personal and professional experiences to assist students with issues they may present. John Crosby said, "Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction." John exemplifies this... as an advisor he is always composed and structured; never issuing edicts but rather facilitating your decision process through discussion and thought provoking enquiry. John tirelessly pursues exemplary graduate education at GVSU. A true leader, John meets challenges with an impressive 'can-do' attitude coupled with such a high level of optimism, confidence, and practicality that one is always inspired to do the same.

I recall well my first encounter with John; his booming voice echoed across the Graduate Student Commons; when John speaks, people listen; a strong sense of purpose, clarity and authority is inherent in his discourse. One of the ways that John has helped me to develop is by encouraging me to go outside of my comfort zone to solve problems. This instilled a confidence in me that has translated into my ability to lead the Graduate Student Association. He has guided me through the complexities of graduate student life and has been an ideal mentor, boss, and colleague...and I am proud and fortunate to also be able to call him my friend.

**GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD
KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD
Winter 2012**

The Graduate Student Association has created the Kimboko Award to recognize Grand Valley 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.

❖ **Mark Staves, Professor of Cell & Molecular Biology**

Nominated by: Kibrom Gebre-Egziabher, Master of Science in Cell & Molecular Biology

I am from Ethiopia and I have known Dr. Staves for over two years. I met him through Kate Stoetzner during my pursuit to fulfill my career goals. I was truly astounded by the fact that the Chair of a department could find time to come all the way from his office in Henry Hall on a bitterly cold winter morning just to meet me and meticulously walk me through the PSM program.

Having taken several courses with him, I have found him to be a devoted, insightful, engaging and inspirational teacher. His goal from the start is to ensure that every student succeeds, particularly underrepresented international students, who have to grapple with course content and cultural challenges such as different accents. He not only implements teaching strategies to ease our understanding, but also encourages us to seek and meet him if we needed further clarification.

Dr. Staves goes out of his way to encourage and involve minority students in research (at GVSU or other Institutes), and facilitates their attendance at scientific meetings. An indication of the above is his tireless effort to initiate and ensure that GVSU was represented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students held in St. Louis, MO in November, 2011 (there were over 3, 500 participants). Further testament to this is that there are students from six countries (USA, Canada, India, China, Trinidad and Nigeria) in one 2012 CMB class of twelve. I believe he is the most worthy recipient of this year's award because he has been a persistent advocate for diversity.

**GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS WINTER 2012**

President:

Yasha Nath, Accounting & Business Administration

Vice President:

Jennifer Tyson, Health Administration

Communications Officer:

Claire Harrison, Public Administration

Finance Officer:

Austin Dean, Business Administration

Administrative Officer:

Joseph Hanley, Business Administration

Graduate Council Student Elected Representatives:

Paul Jabaay, Business Administration

Matthew Vanderwindt, Public Administration

Advisors:

Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students

Dr. John Stevenson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

Michelle Burke, Student Life

GRADUATE COUNCIL OFFICERS WINTER 2012

Chair:

Dr. Mark Luttenton, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Vice-Chair:

Dr. Aaron Lowen, Seidman College of Business

Policy Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. David Cannon, Seidman College of Business

Curriculum Subcommittee Chair:

Dr. Mark Staves, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger, Dean of Graduate Studies

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

Irene Fountain, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Palm, Office Coordinator

Graduate Assistants:

Heather De Nio, Public Administration

Derek Knight, Business Administration

Yasha Nath, Accounting & Business Administration

Aaron Tubergen, Criminal Justice

Student Assistant:

Destine Hatcher, Psychology (undergraduate)

Office of Graduate Studies

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