



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**FREDERIK MEIJER
HONORS COLLEGE**

Graduate Profiles

Grand Valley State University

Class of Fall 2024



Sawyer Barton

Major: *Biology*

Senior Project

Developing a noninvasive technique for the Heat Shock Protein Quantification in Mammalian Feces

As climate change increases heat stress, heat shock protein (HSP) levels track the degree of thermal stress experienced by wild animals. Current HSP sampling methods are invasive, limiting

research efforts. My senior project involved developing a noninvasive approach for HSP quantification and writing a manuscript of my results.

Research

I have conducted research at the Van Andel Research Institute in the Metabolism and Nutritional Programming Department. I have presented my research at Student Scholars Day (2023 and 2024) as well as the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference (2023).

Leadership Activities

Research Ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship
Structured Learning Assistance Facilitator for the GVSU Tutoring Center
Bible Study Leader for GVSU Campus Ministry
Pre-Veterinary Club Treasurer

Activities and Awards

P. Douglas Kindschi Undergraduate Research Fellowship in the Sciences (2023 and 2024), Phi Kappa Phi Honoree (2022)

Internship/Practicum

Research Intern at Van Andel Research Institute, Veterinary Technician Intern at Black Beauty Ranch - Humane Society, Volunteer at Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center, Biology Tutor

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Working in various research labs has been my greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley. It helped develop my career path and sparked a passion for scientific communication.

Plans after Graduation

I am pursuing a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. I submitted my graduate school applications in November and I will be going through the interview process in a few months!



Avery Bates

Major: *Supply Chain*

Minor: *International Business*

Senior Project

A Guide to Sustainable Consumerism

A website detailing practices and resources that consumers can use to make more sustainable choices in a market favoring consumerism.

Leadership Activities

Director of Corporate Communication for Seidman Sustainability Association
Honors Mentor Fall 2022

Honors TA Winter 2024

Mentor for Seidman Mentorship Program

Activities and Awards

Member of Women in Business

Member of Seidman Sustainability Association

Dean's List

Internship/Practicum

Retail Inventory Operations Intern at Spartannash

Global Logistics Intern at Millerknoll

Material Planning Intern at Millerknoll

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment is the connections I have made across industries that allowed me to have excellent intern experiences.

Plans after Graduation

After I graduate I plan to stay in West Michigan to pursue a career in supply management.



Lauren Behrenwald

Major: *Psychology*

Minor: *Applied Statistics*

Research

Inspiring Divergent Thinking

Perceptions of Authentic and Assigned Sources of Minority Thinking

Student Scholars Day: Authentic Dissent is Superior to a Devil's Advocate in

Inspiring Divergent Thinking

Activities and Awards

Helping Hands Club

Mental Health Ambassador

Study Abroad

Peace, Conflict, and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland

Internship/Practicum

Psychology Practicum: Behavior technician work with kids with Autism.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU is presenting research at the Midwestern Psychological Association meeting in Chicago with my fellow research partners on authentic dissent versus Devil's advocate in inspiring divergent thinking.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to obtain my masters in clinical mental health with plans to become a therapist and eventually pursue my doctorate.



Anna Bisonet

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Senior Project

Effect of Female Physicians in Healthcare

Conducted a systematic research paper on the impact of female physicians on patient satisfaction, 14 sources were analyzed. The study evaluated patient satisfaction, communication styles, and care outcomes. Findings suggest that patients do not have a gender preference, but overall satisfaction varies based on individual patient needs and healthcare contexts.

Research

Effects of Smoking on the Development of COPD A Systematic Review

Leadership Activities

Communication chair for the pre-PA club
Teaching Assistant for Cadaver Lab

Activities and Awards

Pre-PA club, Mu Epsilon Delta, BLS, Phi Kappa Phi Honoree, Phi Kappa Phi Member, Dean's list, CITI Certification, Fundamentals of Telehealth - GVSU

Study Abroad

Shadowing Doctors in Italy. I spent three weeks in Genoa Italy shadowing different specialties of doctors and healthcare professionals.

Internship/Practicum

Worked as a resident assistant at Sunset Manor. 2021-2022
Currently, work as a nurse technician at Butterworth Hospital on 6 Heart. 2022-current

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Working part-time, volunteering, and being apart of extracurriculars while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Plans after Graduation

I will be attending Physician Assistant School in the fall!



Haley Clark

Majors: *Chemistry and Education*

Minor: *Biology-Teaching*

Senior Project

Tanzania: Teaching, Learning, and Culture (Study Abroad)

Spent four weeks in Tanzania teaching Chemistry and Biology in a secondary school, volunteering in an orphanage and exploring the culture and country.

Research

Presenter at ASECS Conference for Reacting to the Past (with Dr. David Eick).

Leadership Activities

NSTA President (1 year)

GVSU Rowing Team Trustee (1 year)

Science Olympiad Tournament Official (2 years)

Activities and Awards

Rowing

NSTA

OURS Office SA

Chemistry Club

Senior Chemical Education Award

Study Abroad

Tanzania (Spring 2024)

Internship/Practicum

Teacher Apprenticeship Winter 2024, Wyoming High School

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Creating a really intentional experience that has helped me become the educator I am today as well as building a network of wonderful people.

Plans after Graduation

Planning to sub for the rest of the school year and decide what school districts I want to apply to for Fall 2025.



Macenzie Conn

Majors: *Multimedia Journalism*

Minor: *Criminal Justice*

Senior Project

Art Inspires Art: A Look Into How Rock Music Appropriates Other Forms of Media

My senior project is a comprehensive look into how rock music has appropriated ideas from other forms of media such as movies, books, and art to inspire song lyrics. It aims to show how inspiration drives creativity, and how ideas are represented differently based on their medium.

Research

"An Unsettling Trend: How True Crime Podcasts are Abandoning Ethics for Sensationalism"

"An Examination Into the Role Universities Play in Decriminalizing Psilocybin"

Leadership Activities

Frederik Meijer Honors College Mentor for the 2022 and 2023 school year

Activities and Awards

Activities:

Member, Phi Kappa Phi

Member, Thompson Scholars

Columnist, Grand Valley Lanthorn

On-Air Talent, WLSX

Awards:

Dean's List recipient every semester

Robert Nelson Foundation Scholarship recipient

Internship/Practicum

I was an intern at Trill Mag from November 2023 to August 2024. I started off as a writer, publishing articles in the Life category. I was then promoted to be an Editor in the Culture category.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley is balancing school, work, and my personal life all while excelling in my academics by maintaining a high GPA and graduating a semester early.

Plans after Graduation Following graduation, I plan to pursue a career in crime journalism where I can shed a light on issues within the criminal justice system and perform investigations into bigger stories. I am also considering obtaining a master's degree in the future.



Mya Dever

Major: *Environmental and Sustainability Studies*

Minor: *History*

Activities and Awards

- Frances Anne Kelleher Memorial Scholarship
- Jeff ("Dr. J") Chamberlain Meijer Honors College Alumni Scholarship
- Shelby Fazio '13 Memorial Scholarship
- Eugene J. TenBrink Scholarship
- Grand Valley Award for Excellence

Study Abroad

Studied the Ecology of Western Ireland at the University of Galway this past summer.

Internship/Practicum

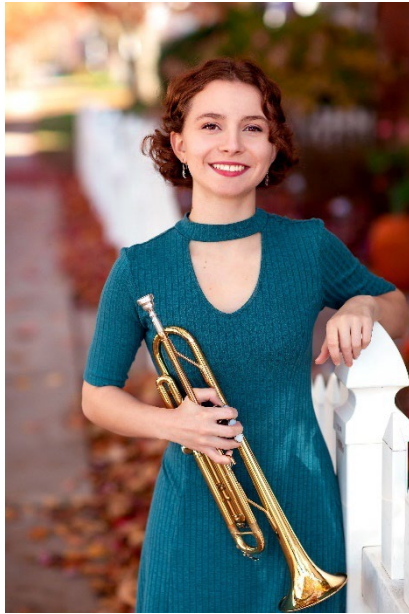
Completed an internship at HillTop Greenhouse and Farms, facilitating the preparation of farmers market produce and plant care.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My study abroad experience in Galway, Ireland stands as the greatest accomplishment of my time at Grand Valley. I feel grateful for the opportunity to learn from environmental educators and gain perspective on climate issues outside of the United States.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I hope to work in environmental education, where I can advocate for greater access to connection with our natural spaces.



Lucinda Eberly

Majors: *Biology and Psychology*

Senior Project

Molecular evolution of CAM photosynthesis and amino acid coevolution within phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase sequences

This is a summary of the work I have completed so far to analyze the molecular mechanisms underlying the repeated independent evolution of CAM photosynthesis within multiple plant lineages.

Activities and Awards

Marching Band

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley has been participating in undergraduate research while maintaining a good GPA and participating in four years in the LMB.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to work over the next year or two before moving on to grad school.



Lauren Ferris

Major: *Pedagogical Content Knowledge for PreK-3rd*

Minor: *Educational Studies*

Senior Project

Writing Strategies to Improve Executive Functioning

Improving student executive functions through writing strategies. This starts with trauma-informed practices into the five CASEL

competencies, an essential for executive functioning, and examines the relationship between executive functions and writing processes. There are writing strategies that are proven to scaffold knowledge and independence that fosters executive.

Research

Capstone These: Lack of Play-Based Learning in Elementary Education

Internship/Practicum

Teacher Apprenticeship

Student Teacher

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being called "one of the best student teachers" that Vanguard Charter Academy has had.

Plans after Graduation

To teach in a second-grade classroom at Vanguard Charter Academy



Lexie Hartnagle

Major: *Political Science*

Minor: *Legal Studies*

Activities/Awards

Member of Law Society

Study Abroad

Studied Abroad in Northern Ireland and Ireland during the Spring 2024 semester.

Internship/Practicum

Interned at the Muskegon County Public Defenders Office.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Completing a full mock trial and being voted best direct examination by my classmates.

Plans after Graduation

Work as a paralegal and then attend law school.



Hannah Hosfelt

Majors: *Education and Special Education*

Senior Project

LINKS: *Bridging the Divide*

This project highlights the importance of Peer-to-Peer programs for students with disabilities in K-12 schooling in 3 parts. A research paper on the impacts that these programs have, a video highlighting a successful P2P program in a nearby school district, and a handout representing the research conducted.

Research

- Student Researcher with Dr. Julia Snider on the effects of the involvement of individuals with disabilities within teacher preparation programs
- Presented research on Peer to Peer programs at the Michigan Council For

Exceptional Children Annual Conference

Leadership Activities

- Cook Leadership Academy Lead Fellow
- President of Student Board for Michigan's Council for Exceptional Children
- Membership Chair for GVSU's Council For Exceptional Children

Activities and Awards

- President of GrooVe A Capella (2020-2024)
- I am Grand Valley recipient (2022)
- Most Improved Organization for GrooVe (2022)

Internship/Practicum

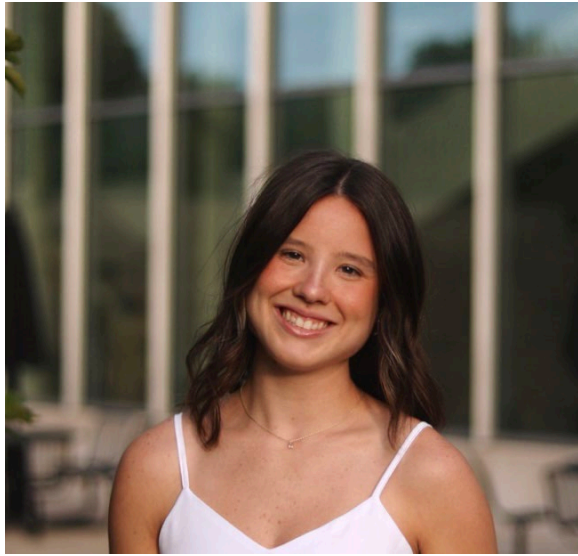
- Teacher Intern at Forest Hills Public Schools
- Teacher Intern at Battle Creek Public Schools
- Teacher Intern and Northview Public Schools

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Hannah's greatest accomplishment was rebuilding GrooVe A Capella post-COVID-19. They began with 4 members meeting in a basement and now host 18-20 members. GrooVe was awarded Most Improved Organization in 2022 and has been a quarterfinalist in the International Championship of Collegiate A Capella in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, Hannah plans to continue her education at Grand Valley to pursue her master's in Special Education. She also plans to be a special education teacher next fall. Upon completion of her master's degree, Hannah plans to earn her Doctorate of Education from an accredited university.



Anna Huttenga

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Senior Project

The Link Between the Epstein-Barr Virus and Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Literature Review

For my senior project, I am identifying the link between the Epstein-Barr Virus and the development of rheumatoid arthritis. I am taking literature and using it to find causes that connect the two topics.

Research

- Presented the effects of the mediterranean diet on hypertension and cardiovascular diseases
- Evaluated the correlation between outside exposure and mental health"

Leadership Activities

- Coached middle school volleyball for 3 years
- Small group leader through Campus Ministries
- Helped coordinate activities for Foster the Family Grand Rapids"

Activities and Awards

- Volunteered for GVSU pre-street med assisting with free health clinics around Grand Rapids
- Volunteered at Corewell Health Hospital visiting patients"

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley has been growing my knowledge of the complexities of healthcare. I have done this through not only my degree but also volunteering with GVSU pre-street med, and working at the Meijer Heart Center in Grand Rapids.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to continue my education in the healthcare field.



Joslyn Kaiser

Major: *Allied Health Sciences*

Minor: *Psychology*

Senior Project

HNR 201 Teaching Assistant

"I had the privilege of being Dr. Ellenberger's TA for HNR 201. I provided feedback, graded assignments, and coached students on public speaking. I developed a personalized feedback system to enhance learning and balanced these duties with coursework, strengthening my organizational, leadership, and mentoring skills while engaging with students effectively."

Research

For my capstone course, I researched walking as an exercise to reduce stress in college students. Our findings showed that walking, especially in nature, lowers cortisol levels, improves mood, clears the mind, and promotes relaxation. It offers a simple way for students to manage academic stress and enhance overall well-being.

Leadership Activities

As a "Big" in Mu Epsilon Delta, I mentored a fellow pre-medical student, providing guidance through academics, professional preparation, and organizational involvement. This role allowed me to build a meaningful relationship, emphasize collaboration, and develop my skills in supporting others in their professional and personal growth.

Activities and Awards

During college, I was active in the Pre-Physician Assistant Club, Mu Epsilon Delta, IM sports, and GVSU STAGE, performing in *Legally Blonde* (Winter 2024). I volunteered for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Relay for Life. I also prioritized academics, earning a spot on the Dean's List each semester.

Internship/Practicum

I've gained valuable experience in diverse clinical settings as a resident's aide, pelvic rehabilitation technician, and medical assistant. I provided compassionate care, supported patients in therapy, and assisted with medical procedures and patient intake, gaining a well-rounded understanding of patient care and the operational aspects of healthcare.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at GVSU has been meeting new people and gaining diverse perspectives. Through involvement in the Pre-Physician Assistant Club, Mu Epsilon Delta, and GVSU STAGE, I developed leadership skills, built meaningful connections, and deepened my commitment to helping others, shaping my future career as a physician assistant.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I will continue applying to Physician Assistant programs and hear back from schools. In the meantime, I will focus on gaining more clinical experience, volunteering, and staying involved in healthcare advocacy. My goal is to build on my education and experience to provide equitable care to underserved communities.



Cameron Kessler

Major: *Finance and Marketing*

Senior Project

Exchange Traded Funds: The Future of the Financial Markets
The project reviews exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and their place in the financial markets. The study observes the current state of ETFs in comparison to individual stocks to predict their future as an investment option in the next 5-10 years.

Leadership Activities

I was the acting Chief Financial Officer for the GVSU Euchre Club from 2023-2024.

Internship/Practicum

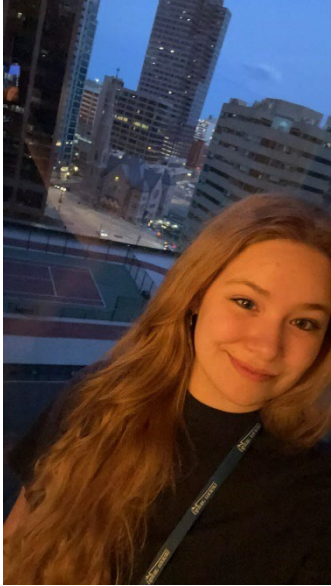
I have been working at Hantz Financial Services since January of 2024.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment has been maintaining an exceptional cumulative GPA while building long-lasting relationships, both professionally and personally.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to work as a Financial Consultant for Hantz Financial Services after completing my internship in December.



Anastasia Kritzman

Major: *Accounting*

Senior Project

An Analysis of Traditional and Modern Social Values

The aim of this project is to compare and contrast modern and traditional social values to see where society has improved and where we can learn from the past.

Internship/Practicum

Audit Internship at Plante Moran

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining a 3.9 GPA and writing a 20 page research paper.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to attend a masters program and become a CPA at Plante Moran.



Sydney Lim

Major: *Marketing and Business Economics*

Senior Project

Study Abroad in France

Studied abroad in Paris, France in the summer of 2023. Took a Global Marketing and Luxury Business and Communications class with the IES program.

Research

A Study on the Differences Between Return of a College Degree on Gender and Major for ECO 495

Leadership Activities

Vice President for Women in Business (Fall 2024)

Co-Marketing Chair (Fall 2023 - Winter 2024)

Director of Social Media Marketing (Fall 2023 - Fall 2024)

Activities and Awards

Part of Inaugural Game Changers Valorant Premier Team in GVSU Esports

Study Abroad

Paris, France 2023

Internship/Practicum

Marketing and Communications Intern for First Tee - West Michigan

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Being a part of the first Valorant Game Changers Premier team at Grand Valley State University and placing 2nd in our conference.

Plans after Graduation

Plan to enter the workforce as a Marketing Specialist or Coordinator.



Matthew Long

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Senior Project

Alleviating Issues in End-of-Life Care

A paper that takes a look into hospice care as well as how terminal patients are treated in our current healthcare system. My personal experiences with death and dying in the hospital environment and hospice facility with my own family members.

Leadership Activities

Acting as a teachers assistant for Honors 201 Live Learn Lead, leading small group discussions and grading reflections.

Activities and Awards

Acting as a TA for an honors class. Member of the swim club for two years. Working for the span of my college career as a certified nurse assistant.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Becoming a CNA and working in the hospital. Getting out of my shell, to become a more outgoing and friendly person and meeting my friends and partner. Progressing through my degree, while also dealing with the loss of my mom. Becoming a better student despite former shortcomings.

Plans after Graduation

I will be applying to second degree nursing programs. Once I am a nurse, I will later pursue a career as a nurse practitioner. At this point in time I havent made any decisions on schools yet.



Eva Markey

Major: *Legal Studies*

Minor: *Criminal Justice*

Senior Project

I did a semester abroad in Sydney, Australia.

Research

I participated in a mock trial and did the closing argument for the plaintiff.

Leadership Activities

I am part of the Global Leadership Program at Macquarie University in Australia.

Activities and Awards

Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX) honor society

Badge in American Sign Language

Dean's list

Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Sydney, Australia for my last semester at Macquarie University.

Internship/Practicum

I was an intern at the Kent County Prosecutor's office and Twarozynski & Dowling Law Firm. I also worked at the Grand Rapids Police Department.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley is the variety of experiences that I have been fortunate to get and the connections that I have made with both peers and professors.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to have a semester off before going to law school in the fall of 2025.



Alison Marsh

Major: *Psychology*

Minor: *Environmental and Sustainability Studies*

Leadership Activities

FMHC Honors Mentor

Activities and Awards

Member of Psi Chi

Study Abroad

Northern Ireland: Peace, Conflict, and Reconciliation Spring/Summer 2024

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Applied classroom knowledge to real-life experiences on study abroad in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Plans after Graduation

Plans to start a master's program for clinical mental health counseling after obtaining work experience in the field.



Michael Melei

Major: *Computer Science*

Senior Project

CastMaker

CastMaker is an AI automatic podcast generator focusing on customizability and automation. It can create engaging podcasts about any topic using customizable characters.

Leadership Activities

Bible Study Leader

Activities and Awards

- Concert Band (2022-2023)
- Symphony Orchestra (2021-2022)

Internship/Practicum

IT Operations Team Member at Christian Brothers Services

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Working with Bizstream to help create Castmaker

Plans after Graduation

Work as a software engineer



Raul Montanez Sanchez

Major: *Finance*

Minor: *International Business*

Senior Project

Pfizer and Seagen Event Study Methodology

An Excel spreadsheet and Word document were created to demonstrate and explain the impact of new information on a firm's stock price through the calculations of various standards and business strategies.

Research

- Multicultural Dimensions of International Business
- Business Processes and MIS Project

Leadership Activities

- GVSU Men's Soccer Club
- Latin Student Union

Internship/Practicum

- Accounting/Finance Intern at Grand Rapids Chair Co.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was managing school, work, and extracurricular activities to the best of my ability.

Plans after Graduation

After graduation, I plan to work in international finance and travel the world.



Amanda Mykrantz

Major: *Studio Art and Psychology*

Senior Project

Continuing Walts Legacy: A Guide to the Ins and Outs of Walt Disney Imagineering

My project involved researching the history and step-by-step processes of Walt Disney Imagineering. In addition, I created my own idea for a new attraction at Walt Disney World. I used the same process Imagineers use to formulate ideas for it and made it as complete as possible.

Leadership Activities

- Grand Valley Dance Troupe Choreographer- Fall 2022
- Grand Valley Dance Troupe E-Board Committee Member- Winter 2022, Fall 2022"

Activities and Awards

- "Grand Valley Dance Troupe
STAGE
GVSU Haunted Arboretum Participant-2020-2024
GVSU Presidential Scholarship
GVSU Award for Excellence"

Study Abroad

Disney College Program- January-May 2023

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU has been finding communities that allow me to grow and discover my interests! I am proud of the person that GVSU has allowed me to become, and happy I have been given the confidence to pursue my passions!

Plans after Graduation

My plan is to return to Florida and participate in another Disney College Program, with the hopes of being a full-time employee afterwards. I plan to get my Masters in Themed Experience from the University of Central Florida. In the end, I hope to be an Imagineer!



Margaret Myles

Major: *Exercise Science*

Senior Project

An Evaluation of Richard Simmons' Sweat It to the Oldies: Vol. 2

Evaluated a Richard Simmons video in regards to American College of Sports Medicine exercise prescription guidelines as well as visual appeal. This project outlines the best practices for making a home exercise program that is both effective and engaging.

Leadership Activities

Laker Marching Band Section Leader, Laker Marching Band Council Secretary and Social Events Chairperson, Irish Dance Club Vice President

Activities and Awards

Dean's list

Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society member

Internship/Practicum

IKUS Life Enrichment Services- Fieldwork Student

Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy- Intern

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I am really proud that I have been able to get involved in many different experiences at Grand Valley, which has allowed me to broaden my horizons and form many connections.

Plans after Graduation

Attend grad school in the fall for doctorate in physical therapy.



Kayla Onken

Major: *Finance and Marketing*

Senior Project

Study Abroad

Studied Abroad in Amsterdam, Netherlands, through the CIEE program for four weeks. Completed a course titled "Intercultural Communications and Leadership."

Study Abroad

Amsterdam, Netherlands. Spring/Summer 2024

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Maintaining a 3.66 GPA while double majoring, completing the Honors program, working part-time, and taking the opportunity to study abroad my senior year!

Plans after Graduation

Explore different finance or marketing career options in the greater Grand Rapids area.



Viola Pagnani

Major: *Biology and Pre-Health*

Senior Project

Studying Benefits of Nutritional Enrichment in Captive Scarlet Macaws

I studied a captive scarlet macaw in my study abroad in Costa Rica. During this time, I created nutritional enrichment to enhance her welfare. I continued this research through the FMHC and created a research poster of my data.

Leadership Activities

"Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy Fellow '24
GVSU Pre-Veterinary Club Vice President '24
GVSU Pre-Veterinary Club Event Coordinator '23
American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) National Delegate '23
GVSU Biology Tutor"

Activities and Awards

-Miss Oakland County Scholarship Program:
-Community Service Award
-Spirit of Miss America Award
-2nd Runner-up Award

I received these awards based on my volunteer and community work with educating my communities on the importance of service animals, along with my volunteer work with Leader Dogs for the Blind and Paws with a Cause.

Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Costa Rica in the Summer of 2023. I went through the veterinary program, Loop Abroad. During my time there I volunteered at a wildlife rescue in the rainforest and conducted a behavioral research project to improve the animal welfare in this center.

Internship/Practicum

During my time at Grand Valley, I worked at three veterinary hospitals, each with a different specialty of patient care. I interned at a General Practice, Rehabilitation, and Physical Therapy hospital, and Triage/ICU at a veterinary emergency hospital.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Planning and being the committee head for the West Michigan Pre-Veterinary Symposium

Plans after Graduation

I will begin applying to veterinary school in January 2025. I have accepted a position at a rehabilitation veterinary hospital.



Cara Sawyer

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Activities and Awards

- Volunteered at Meals on Wheels of West Michigan
- Volunteered at University of Michigan Health-West
- Job Shadowed at Bay Mills Health Center of Bay Mills, Michigan
- Gained my National Healthcare Certification Organization Phlebotomy Technician certification"

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Discovering my passion of medicine while volunteering and shadowing at healthcare facilities throughout Michigan.

Plans after Graduation

My plans after graduation are to work in my field to gain experience before applying to medical school for orthopedic surgery, specializing in spinal surgery.



Dorian Schlutt

Major: *Mathematics*

Minor: *Writing and Mathematical Statistics*

Senior Project

MTH 496

In a small group, we conducted research about a game where the Questioner must find one of the Responder's 2 secret numbers.

Research

MTH 498 Applied Capstone Project for the GVSU Tutoring Center

Activities and Awards

Member of Math and Statistics Club

Member of Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society

Member of Mu Sigma Rho Statistics Honor Society

Department Senior Award winner

Dean's List all semesters

Study Abroad

Paris, France 2023

Internship/Practicum

Held a job at a DataWise consulting for 1.5 years

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Became a more well-rounded individual

Plans after Graduation

Pursue a career in data



Lauren Schnicke

Major: *Music Education*

Senior Project

Giving Voices to Female Music Educators

Giving Voices to Female Music Educators is a podcast series where I spent an hour having conversations with 4 different women in our field about the highs, lows, celebrations and glass ceilings in music education. Topics such as mentorship, micro aggressions, visibility and allyship were covered as well.

Research

The Content Exists - The Choice to Ignore Diversity in the Music Classroom. This is my Senior Thesis where I examine the repertoire and pedagogy happening in the classroom and how we can grow to include more diversity while maintaining our standards.

Leadership Activities

Ensemble Director, Choreographer - LSM Indoor Winds

Visual Caption Head, Choreographer - Kent City High School Marching Band

Drum Major - Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps

Activities and Awards

Finalist for the Jim Jones Leadership Award – 2023

Internship/Practicum

Teacher Internship - 6-12 Band at Jenison High School

Teacher Apprenticeship - RK-5 Music at Comstock Park Public Schools

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at Grand Valley was completing my Senior Recital. I never thought I would be able to get to a point where I was playing such high-level repertoire in front of so many people, I was incredibly proud of myself.

Plans after Graduation

My plans after graduation are to become a band director. As long as I am teaching music, I will be happy and fulfilled.



Ivy Strausberg

Major: *Natural Resources Management*

Minor: *Environmental and Sustainability Studies*

Senior Project

Water in the West

Study of the sociological and geological importance of water usage along the Colorado River, and why conservation is crucial to survival out West

Research

Sustainability Showcase 2023: ENS 401 capstone presentation on the Children's Enrichment Center and their sensory garden

Leadership Activities

Section Leader for GVSULMB Mellophone section 2022

Activities and Awards

Sustainability Champion 2023

Internship/Practicum

Teacher assistant for HNR 201 2023

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Planning and executing Band Day 2023 for the GVSU LMB

Plans after Graduation

Working for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a Park Officer



Kaitlyn Tibbitt

Major: *Advertising & Public Relations*

Senior Project

Study Abroad in Ireland

Research

Conducted research on feminism in public art, the psychology of finances, and multiple projects regarding the betterment of an organization's digital communication and public outreach.

I have presented many large-scale presentations involving public relations, like for the client SpartanNash and their new initiatives to help Independently Owned Grocery Stores.

Leadership Activities

- Honors Student Mentor
- Honors Teaching Assistant
- Honors Student Ambassador

Activities and Awards

- Account Associate for GrandPR
- Member of GVPRSSA
- Global Finalist in the Digital Marketing Competition
- Member of Phi Kappa Phi

Study Abroad

- Summer Semester Internship Program in Dublin, Ireland

Internship/Practicum

- Worked as a PR assistant for Buck&Hound in Dublin Ireland

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

- Becoming a global finalist for DMC
- Graduating in 2.5 years with a 3.9 GPA
- Being selected for Phi Kappa Phi
- Being chosen to submit my final project to the Arthur W. Page competition

Plans after Graduation

Pursue a career in public relations by working in an agency-style firm and eventually starting my own practice, free lancing PR and digital marketing.



Elise Voglewede

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Senior Project

Study Abroad in Italy

I studied abroad in Rome, Italy for 5 weeks. While there, I took an introductory Italian course and shadowed doctors in local hospitals with the Doctors in Italy Program.

Research

I am a member of the Vertebrate Microfossil Lab at Grand Valley State University. As a part of this, I helped present our research at the North American Paleontological Convention, Student Scholars Day, and West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Conference.

Leadership Activities

Throughout my four years at GVSU, I served as the Co-president, Vice President, VP of Membership, and Volunteer Chair of the GVSU chapter of Mu Epsilon Delta professional pre-healthcare fraternity, Vice President of the National board of Mu Epsilon Delta, and as a study abroad mentor.

Activities and Awards

Some organizations I was a member of include: Mu Epsilon Delta GVSU Chapter, Mu Epsilon Delta National Board, the Pre-Physician Assistant Club, and the Vertebrate Microfossil Lab at GVSU.

Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Rome, Italy. While there, I took a course in introductory Italian and shadowed doctors in local hospitals with the Doctors in Italy program.

Internship/Practicum

To gain experience in my future field, I worked as a patient care technician at University of Michigan Healthwest OB/GYN and a Nursing Technician at Corewell Health Lakeland Critical Care.

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My biggest accomplishment at GVSU was my involvement with Mu Epsilon Delta. As an Executive Board member, I had the opportunity to help build a large community of pre-healthcare majors that encourages friendship, leadership, volunteering, and learning.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to attend graduate school to get a masters in physician assistant studies. Then will go on to be a practicing physician assistant.



Rylee Webb

Major: *Biomedical Sciences*

Senior Project

The Toll of Caregiving: A Podcast About Burnout in Healthcare

In this podcast, I interviewed several healthcare professionals about their experiences with burnout. Each episode explores the often-unspoken challenges faced by healthcare professionals in their high-stakes work environments. My goal is to increase awareness and spark more conversations around burnout, so it becomes a topic discussed more openly and regularly.

Research

I attended the 2023 Mid-East Honors Association Conference and presented about our Honors Mentor program to other universities alongside my fellow classmates.

Leadership Activities

- President of GrooVe, an a cappella singing group
- Vice President of Mu Epsilon Delta, a pre-healthcare professional fraternity
- Treasurer of the Coordinator Board for Camp Kesem, a camp supporting kids affected by a parent's cancer
- Honors Mentor
- Mentor for the 2023 Young PI's Summer Scholar Program

Activities and Awards

- Dean's List all 7 semesters of college

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

I am most proud of my active involvement in the clubs I chose to join, while also maintaining strong academic performance. I'm especially grateful for the opportunity to serve as a leader on the executive boards of each organization, having been voted for or selected through applications for each role.

Plans after Graduation

I plan to spend my gap year applying to PA schools and will hopefully become a PA student in 2026. I will continue working in healthcare, shadowing various PAs, and volunteering. Finally, I am looking forward to potentially traveling and having a little more time for hobbies.



Clayton Wenzel

Major: *Cybersecurity*

Minor: *Computer Science*

Senior Project

Advanced Data Classification for Enterprises: Integrating Microsoft Purview and Machine Learning Classifiers

This project aims to implement and mature a comprehensive data classification strategy across a company using Microsoft Purview. The goal is to enhance data governance, ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, and improve data security by classifying and managing data based on its sensitivity and importance.

Research

- Domain-Based Email Spoofing (2022)
- Securing Infrastructure: SCADA Systems, PCEC Project day (2023)

Leadership Activities

- Small group leader for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (2022-2024)
- Group leader for Grand Rapids Bagged Lunches program (2021-2024)

Activities and Awards

- Intermural Pickleball (2021-2023)
- Intermural Volleyball (2023-2024)

Internship/Practicum

- Cybersecurity Intern, Life Journey Psychological Services (2021-2022)
- IT Security Analyst Intern, Auto-Owner's Insurance (2024-2024)

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment at Grand Valley was discovering my passion for computing and actively pursuing opportunities outside the classroom to deepen my understanding and skills in the field.

Plans after Graduation

I will be working full-time as an Associate IT Security Analyst at Auto-Owners Insurance after graduation. Additionally, I'm getting married in January. My fiancée and I actually met at an Honors College event in 2021.



Sarah Woods

Major: *Biology & Pre-Grad Health Professions*

Senior Project

Connecting the Dots: low birth weight, socioeconomic status, and health across Michigan

I am researching the connections between socioeconomic status, low birth weight, and infant and maternal health, then comparing it's potential effects on lifelong health.

Leadership Activities

Chapel Pointe Young Adults Leader

Activities and Awards

Dean's List Recognition

Member of Vertical Earth

Internship/Practicum

National Tiger Sanctuary Summer Intern

Van Andel Research Institute Summer Intern

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

My greatest accomplishment while at GVSU was the completion of my research project at Van Andel Research Institute concerning Parkinson's Disease and its potential relations to the appendix. I was then able to present what I had learned through that project at the end of the program.

Plans after Graduation

Attend an accredited Physician's Assistant program, then use my education and license to serve my community as a pediatric physician's assistant.



Sydney Ziegler

Major: *Nursing*

Minor: *Spanish*

Senior Project

Study Abroad in Prague

I spent the summer in Prague studying culture, food, and brewery. I completed a reflection about this experience.

Leadership Activities

President of Delta Gamma third year.

Activities and Awards

Dean's list 2021

Study Abroad

Prague culture, food, and brewery

Internship/Practicum

Leadership for nursing at U of M Health West in ICU

Greatest Accomplishment while at Grand Valley

Studying abroad in Prague for the summer while learning about culture, food, and brewery as well as making great friends and connections throughout the years.

Plans after Graduation

Work as an RN at a pediatric hospital.