

# GRADUATE STUDENT CELEBRATION FALL 2009

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

November 20, 2009

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



GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF  
GRADUATE STUDIES

# Graduate Student Celebration

November 20, 2009

Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall  
Loosemore Auditorium

Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies  
318C DeVos Center 616-331-7105  
www.gvsu.edu/gs  
[graduatestudies@gvsu.edu](mailto:graduatestudies@gvsu.edu)

in collaboration with the  
Graduate and Professional Student Association

## Program

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

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

- Introduction: Michael Soltis, GPSA President
- Welcome: Dr. John R. Stevenson, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies
- Awards: Dr. John R. Stevenson, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students
- Faculty Mentor Recognition Awards: Michael Soltis, GPSA President

*Award recipients please note: group photos will be taken on the Loosemore Auditorium stage, following the award ceremony*

## Welcome from the Graduate Dean

Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome to the Fall 2009 Graduate Student Celebration and Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence. This event is to celebrate *you* and to honor *you* for all your hard work and the sacrifices you and your family make to achieve your goal of obtaining a graduate degree at Grand Valley State University.

Whether enrolled in a graduate degree program to enter a profession, gain further education in a discipline, or for other reasons, graduate education brings increased expectations for academic performance, scholarship, intellectual maturation, professional service and development opportunities, and faculty mentorship. Tonight we recognize those of you who have distinguished yourselves in these and other areas involved with graduate study.

Some of you are here tonight to celebrate the end of the academic year, while others are here to celebrate your graduation and to be recognized for outstanding academic achievement. Please let me assure you that, no matter where you are in your program, you should be proud of your accomplishments. I know that each and every one of you can look forward to a bright and successful future.

Congratulations and the best of everything to you and yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Stevenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**John R. Stevenson, PT, Ph.D.**  
Interim Dean of Graduate Studies  
Professor of Physical Therapy  
Grand Valley State University

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# Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence

## Introduction

Welcome! The Graduate Student Celebration and Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence is a growing tradition at Grand Valley State University. This event, recognizing the academic excellence of graduate students at our university, was first held at the end of the 2005-2006 academic year. It came about at the urging of the faculty-led Graduate Council and the Graduate Program Directors. The Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) and the Office of Graduate Studies co-host these events.

In the awards ceremony, we recognize excellence in academic performance in several categories: Academic Excellence in the Major, Outstanding Master's Thesis, Outstanding Master's Project, Outstanding Publication, Excellence in Community and Professional Service, and Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU. Graduate students are nominated for these awards by their major advisors, the graduate program director, and the departmental chair or school director, and/or other faculty and staff engaged in graduate education that are familiar with the individual student's accomplishments in the specific areas noted. The nominees are reviewed by the Graduate Dean in consultation with others involved in graduate education. Final selection is made by the Graduate Dean. Each recipient will be granted a certificate of recognition, a graduate honors cord, and an 'academic excellence' pin. Recipients of the thesis, project, and publication awards as well as the two service awards also receive a gold star symbolizing the high level of performance in this final academic work. Honors cords may be worn at commencement.

**Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence in the Major  
Fall 2009**

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ Steffany J. Dunker, Taxation, 3.666
- ❖ Thomas E. Henrikson, Accounting, 4.000
- ❖ Linda M. LeSage, Business Administration, 4.000

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ Roberta L. Osipoff, Public Administration, 3.973
- ❖ Brooke E. Wayman, Health Administration, 3.796

*College of Education*

- ❖ Susan K. Kraus, School Counseling, 4.000

*Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ Joshua P. Holtrop, Computer Information Systems, 4.000

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ Denise M. Galloway, English, 3.933

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

*Seidman College of Business*

- ❖ **Steffany J. Dunker, Master of Science in Taxation, 3.666**  
(B.S., Honors English, University of Michigan, 2000)

Steffany Dunker earned a BA in English from the University of Michigan before earning her MBA from GVSU in 2002. She went on to Wayne State University to earn her JD, which she completed in 2005. She is employed with Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones as a corporate attorney. Recognizing that a substantive knowledge of tax law and its applications will enable her to provide the best and most comprehensive business advice to her corporate clients, she returned to pursue the MST. "Steffany has a long history of academic excellence...she has earned one of the highest GPAs among current MST graduates."

- ❖ **Thomas E. Henrikson, Master of Science in Accounting, 4.000**  
(B.B.A., Management, Grand Valley State University, 1991)

Thomas Henrikson completed his undergraduate degree in Management at GVSU and has since worked as a Closing Coordinator and Escrow Manager. From 2004 to 2008, he served as President and Treasurer of Safe Title, Inc. He has been selected to participate with a select group of graduate business students to represent the Seidman College of Business in the annual intercollegiate Mergers & Acquisitions case competition. Thomas has "an impressive professional background managing insurance agencies." His nomination was based on his "outstanding performance in class, service for the MSA program and high GPA."

- ❖ **Linda M. LeSage, Master of Business Administration, 4.000**  
(B.S. MIS, Central Michigan University)

Linda LeSage has over 30 years of professional experience in manufacturing, retail, and software development. From 2006 to 2009, she served as Director of IT for Byrne Electrical Specialist, Inc. in Rockford, MI. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at Davenport University, teaching classes in IT including E-Commerce, Systems Analysis, and Database Design. "She is both a serious



intellectual and a diligent worker. While congenial and unassuming, she possess considerable analytical horsepower...she does not always accept things at face value. That is an increasingly rare ability among both undergraduate and graduate students."

### *College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ **Roberta L. Osipoff, Master of Public Administration, 3.973**  
(B.A., Aquinas College)

After receiving her undergraduate degree, Roberta Osipoff served as Director for Development Operations and then Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees at Aquinas College. She has since brought her expertise to GVSU, serving as a consultant Project Coordinator to the President's Office and Project Assistant to the Seidman College of Business. "Robbie has demonstrated strong commitment to her graduate studies in Public Administration through her consistent excellence in class preparation, insightful participation in class discussion, and her willingness to propose and execute detailed and difficult assignments."

- ❖ **Brooke E. Wayman, Master of Health Administration, 3.796**  
(B.S., Health Science, Grand Valley State University, 1991)

Brooke Wayman completed her undergraduate degree at GVSU in 1991, then successfully completed the Master of Science in Physical Therapy program in 1994. After graduation, she was employed at Spectrum Health as a Physical Therapist and Clinical Team Leader. Most recently, she was named the Director of Sub-acute Rehabilitation at Spectrum Health Rehab and Nursing Center. Brooke "is an outstanding graduate student...her participation in her classes has contributed to her fellow students' understanding of the practical application of coursework and assignments, enhancing the engagement of pre-career MHA graduate students."

### *Padnos College of Engineering & Computing*

- ❖ **Joshua P. Holtrop, Master Computer Information Systems, 4.000**  
(Bach, Computer Science and Mathematics, Calvin College, 2007)

Joshua Holtrop graduated from Calvin College with Honors in 2007 and began his graduate studies at GVSU in 2008. He is currently employed as an

Embedded Software Engineer at DornerWorks Ltd. in Grand Rapids, where he served as an intern during his undergraduate studies. "He is naturally curious and extremely talented...it is no stretch to say that Josh is the model graduate student." Moreover, "Josh is not only an excellent software developer, but also an effective communicator in the technical areas...he noticeably stands out as one of the top students" in the program.

### *College of Education*

- ❖ **Susan K. Kraus, Master of Education in School Counseling, 4.000**  
(B.S., Psychology, Grand Valley State University, 1991)

Susan Kraus began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2004. In her program, School Counseling, she has achieved a 4.000 GPA. As part of her graduate studies, she completed an internship at East Kentwood High School, where she served as "an excellent role model for other school counseling peers as well as for students." Susan "stands out among out most capable students as one who is both thorough and meticulous in her work...she has those quiet leadership skills so prized in our profession. Susan looks beyond problems to workable solutions, whether engaged with students or adults."

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Denise M. Galloway, Master of Arts in English, 3.933**  
(B.A., English, Hope College, 2001)

Denise M. Galloway graduated Magna Cum Laude from Hope College in 2001 and taught high school English in Pasadena, MD. She returned to Grand Rapids to complete her Master's degree and won the GVSU Graduate Essay Contest in 2008. She is currently a doctoral fellow in Baylor University's English program. Denise "has proved to be a singularly outstanding student in every area of achievement...she operates at a level of intellectual sophistication and clarity that afford her the ability to take on complex literary tasks and make sense of them." Denise is also the recipient of the Dean's Citation Award for Excellence in Service to the Community of Profession (page 24).

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATIONS FOR  
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS IN A MAJOR  
Fall 2009**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

❖ **Dorothy A. Asare-Kumah, Master of Science in Communication**

(B.A., University of Ghana)

- **Thesis Title:** A Content Analysis of the African Media's Coverage of the War in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from April to June, 2008
- **Thesis Committee Members:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko (Advisor), Pete Haines, and Dr. George Klay-Kieh
- **Cumulative GPA:** 4.000

Dorothy's thesis provides a valuable contribution to the field of communications. Previous scholarly efforts had almost exclusively focused on the Western media's coverage of the war in the DRC. Dorothy's examination of the African media coverage is indeed revelatory and points to the role that the African media had in bringing great harm to the Congolese people.

In addition to her exceptional academic performance and related to her status as an international student, Dorothy has shown great expertise and sensitivity in interpreting American culture in class, representing the African perspective and reconciling the differences between the two. Dorothy is a valuable representative of her native country and an exceptional representative in her academic work at Grand Valley.

"Dorothy is one of the best writers I've seen come through our graduate program." She demonstrates the natural curiosity of a scholar and is able to articulate that well in her writing. Her thesis work on African media coverage is a strong case and an excellent platform for further graduate study.

## ABSTRACT

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has in its 49-year history seen many wars. After successful elections in 2006, renewed clashes broke out in April 2008. This, as well as other events in the DRC, was allegedly ignored by the media.

This study therefore looked into the African media's involvement in the DRC following concerns raised by Marysse (2003) and Alozie (2007) about the media's 'cold attitude' towards that country. These concerns are supported by the findings in this study.

It is the author's aim that this study will contribute to the self-assessment of the African media and also serve as a firm basis to advocate for media development and support by carrying out the recommendations made in this study.

### *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (con't)*

#### ❖ **Ann Hayward, Master of Arts in English**

(B.A., English Literature, Aquinas College, 1969)

- **Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Benjamin Lockerd
- **Cumulative GPA:** 4.000
- **Thesis Title:** Till We Meet Again: Hope's Alchemy in the *Songs and Sonnets* of John Donne

Ann Hayward began her graduate studies at GVSU in 2005 and is completing her MA with a 4.000 GPA. She has been employed by GVSU since 2000 and currently serves as a Senior Associate at the Zumberge Library in Allendale, MI. Her outstanding work in the English department has earned her both the Outstanding Thesis and Outstanding Publication Awards (page 20).

In her thesis, Ann argues that "Donne's verse is unique in its keen respect for the inexplicable...Many of his *Songs and Sonnets* share imagery associated with alchemy, while others seem to be driven by its transformational principles." Throughout this elegantly written discussion, Hayward offers close textual analysis, her reading of the poems informed by extensive study of Donne's life, his cultural milieu, and his determination to wrest "truth" from paradox,

wholeness from fragmentation, spiritual understanding from concrete reality. Her essay has been nominated for the Outstanding Thesis Award on the basis of its overall excellence, but particularly for its depth, clarity, and persuasiveness.

#### ABSTRACT

Alchemy, in his *Songs and Sonnets*, offers John Donne a realm devoted to the paradoxical; one from which he selects material to be artistically altered by his trademark “metaphysical wit.” It also provides him – in its intensely-prescribed process of *coniunctio* – with a paradigm for passion, for the irresistible conjunction and inevitable separation of lovers. Drawing upon the writings of the Twentieth-Century psychologist, C.G. Jung, whose study of alchemy informed much of his own work, it is possible to uncover both within and among nine diverse selections from the *Songs and Sonnets* a poetic *opus circulatorium*. A circular sequence of painful separations and joyous reunions in the poetry seems to track with events in the life of the poet himself. Donne’s art renders the refinement of devotion between soul-mates even as it transforms the consciousness of a man very much like *John Donne*.

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

#### ❖ **Sherly L. Mulder, Master of Science in Nursing**

(B.S.N., Nursing, Grand Valley State University, 1983)

- **Thesis Title:** Screening for Intimate Partner Violence: The Behaviors, Beliefs, and Barriers of Parish Nurses
- **Thesis Committee Members:** Dr. Andrea Bostrom (Chair), Dr. Sue Mlynarczyk, Dr. Kathleen Bailey
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.970

Sheryl completed the Master’s program in Advanced Nursing Practice in August 2009. There are many aspects of this study that were unique and challenging. Parish nurses are an understudied group. The issue of intimate partner violence is also a difficult and emotionally charged topic across health care disciplines and settings. Sheryl’s work required her to negotiate access to parish nurses through their professional organization, which was difficult. It also required her to identify an extant instrument that would be useable and

adaptable to her population. She did this successfully. Further, she analyzed the data and her process of collecting data with independence, creativity, and appropriate critique.

Her research was exemplary and the thesis is extremely well written. Sheryl was able to complete her scholarly inquiry process in an area that is relevant and timely to health care, as well as society at large. Not only did she embrace her graduate studies with enthusiasm, Sheryl was able to learn, implement, and articulate the scientific process to produce an excellent graduate thesis project. "It was a pleasure working with her through this process. She is an excellent self-motivated learner who definitely produced an outstanding thesis."

#### **ABSTRACT**

This study used the Health Belief Model to explore the behaviors, beliefs, and barriers of parish nurses regarding intimate partner violence (IPV). Parish nurses, selected from three educational partner/affiliates of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, completed written surveys adapted from a multi-domain tool created by the Group Health Cooperative and Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center to measure practice specific attitudes, beliefs, and self-reported behaviors towards the identification and management of IPV. Results indicated parish nurses identify IPV at rates similar to that of general registered nurses. Differences in rank scoring for each subscale of beliefs and barriers were not statistically significant between parish nurses that have identified IPV and those that have not. Parish nurses that identified IPV were significantly more likely to be paid for their roles. Parish nurses that identifying IPV were more likely to believe that IPV was common in their congregations.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING MASTER'S FINAL PROJECT IN A MAJOR  
Fall 2009**

*College of Community & Public Service*

❖ **Conrad P. Venema, Master of Public Administration**

(B.A., Geography, Calvin College)

- **Title:** Bicycle Factory Environmental Scan
- **Advisor:** Dr. Mark Hoffman
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.800

Conrad Venema began his graduate studies at GVSU in 2003. He is currently serving as the Strategic Planning Manager for Interurban Transit Partnership (The Rapids) in Grand Rapids, MI, where he oversees planning, grants, and business transportation services programs.

**Kevin M. Wisselink, Master of Public Administration**

(B.A., Environmental Science, Calvin College, 1998)

- **Title:** Bicycle Factory Environmental Scan
- **Advisor:** Dr. Mark Hoffman
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.910

Kevin Wisselink has served as the Business Transportation and Public Outreach Coordinator for The Rapid since 2005, when he began his graduate studies at GVSU. He manages The Rapid's RapidVan vanpool program and rideshare efforts throughout West Michigan.

**Nicholas Monoyois, Master of Public Administration (Winter 2010)**

(B.S., Sociology, Grand Valley State University, 2001)

- **Title:** Bicycle Factory Environmental Scan
- **Advisor:** Dr. Mark Hoffman
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.678

Nicholas Monoyois will complete his graduate studies in Public Administration in the Winter 2010 semester. After completing his undergraduate degree at GVSU in 2001, he joined the Rapid as a Senior Planner for The Rapid. Nicholas has also served as an Assistant Instructor for GVSU.

Their final project is a look at the past, present, and future of the neighborhood south of Grand Valley's Pew Campus. The focal point is the rebuilt Bicycle Factory at Front Street and Butterworth, a LEED-certified, mixed-use building which is the new home of GVSU's Johnson Center for Philanthropy. Their report is an insightful examination of the potential of this neighborhood that will be of value to GVSU and its neighbors.

### **ABSTRACT**

In January 2009, McGraw Construction erected a new LEED-certified mixed-use building on the previous bicycle factory site located at Front and Butterworth. Grand Valley State University is one of the tenants in this building. This building is the first of its kind in this neighborhood hereafter referred to as the Bicycle Factory Neighborhood. This prompted the desire to create a profile of the Bicycle Factory Neighborhood to understand its history, current situation, and potential.

This environmental scan of the Bicycle Factory Area is a foundation document. This document utilizes data collection, data analysis, and findings from a variety of sources including related literature, a survey questionnaire, stakeholder interviews, City of Grand Rapids municipal data, and geographic information systems (GIS) data.

The key findings of the environmental scan of the Bicycle Factory Neighborhood include the following:

- The demographic profile is overall similar to the City of Grand Rapids.
- There are more renter-occupied housing units compared to the City of Grand Rapids.
- The average household income is significantly less than the City of Grand Rapids
- The area contains residential, commercial, and industrial zoning classifications with a Transitional City Center (TCC) overlay.
- Overall land value is less than the City of Grand Rapids average.
- There are many vacant or under-utilized properties that are available for redevelopment.
- Grand Valley State University, Louis Padnos Iron and Metal Company, and Medtronic are the three largest employers in the area.
- There are approximately twice as many crimes per capita committed in the area compared to the City of Grand Rapids.
- The area contains adequate but aging transportation and utility infrastructure.
- The majority of the area is located within the 500-year floodplain.



## *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

### ❖ **Timothy C. Bulson, Master of Science in Communications**

(B.S., Computer Science, Grand Valley State University, 2005)

- **Title:** Communications Systems Designed to Spread Critical Health Care Messages
- **Advisor:** Dr. Alex Nesterenko
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.975

Timothy Bulson's project provides a valuable contribution to the fields of communication and health care. His project well underscores the significance of communication systems and technologies in health care delivery and in times of natural catastrophe. His depth of resources and thought exceeds expectations. He vociferously approaches his work; earnestly defends his positions; and meticulously follows his tonality throughout his work.

"Tim has maintained a high level of academic achievement and is a good representative of our program and the expectations of this award." Tim has been an excellent student throughout the program. He is friendly and helpful in a variety of ways and is well-liked by students and staff. He is also a skilled communications professional who has shared his knowledge and expertise with other students in the classroom and contributed to their learning as well as his own.

Tim is currently employed as a Grants Developer for Spectrum Health as well as an Adjunct Faculty member in the School of Communications at GVSU. From 2002 to 2008, he served as the Health Care Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Kent County EMS.

## ABSTRACT

Health care experts and the public shared a unique experience in 2009: the international spread of a novel influenza (flu) virus that reached pandemic proportions on June 11, according to the World Health Organization. Besides the unique genetic composition of the virus, making it “novel” by scientific definition, it defied predictions by emerging in North America and spreading to Europe and beyond, instead of following more traditional flu migration patterns that move from Asia across Europe and into the United States. While epidemiologists continue to investigate what was first called the “swine flu,” they know it has two genes from flu viruses that normally circulate in pigs in Europe and Asia, and bird (avian) and human genes.

Work will continue into the fall as the flu season returns to the Northern Hemisphere, and health officials should learn lessons not only about preparing for and responding to pandemics, but they should also gain insights into preparations for and response to other disasters, including other diseases, public health crises and both natural and manmade events. Hopefully these lessons will include key communications insights.

Several communications tools that government and health care leaders use to share crisis-related information – among themselves and ultimately with constituents - are the subject of this paper. In particular, an extensive literature search and firsthand examination of existing communications systems help show whether these tools fill disaster response gaps identified since September 11, 2001, especially those needs that continued to resurface during the onset of the H1N1 pandemic.

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

#### ❖ **Amanda M. Himes, Master of Science in Nursing**

(B.S.N., Nursing, Grand Valley State University, 2003)

- **Title:** Needs Assessment Report 2009: No One Dies Alone Program Implementation
- **Advisor:** Rebecca Davis
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.724

Amanda Himes completed an administrative project concerning individuals at end of life. Concerned about the quality of this experience, Amanda completed a needs assessment for the implementation of a program entitled “No One Dies

Alone.” In order to implement programs that are effective, efficient, and equitable, it is appropriate to complete an organizational (unit) needs assessment. Of particular significance is the need for programs that maximize quality of life at the end of life. “A program which ensures that no one dies alone is important to all of us in our quest to deliver high quality, patient-centered care.”

Amanda was an outstanding graduate student. She was able to synthesize knowledge and skills gained throughout her educational program to implement administrative intervention at an advanced level. “I was frequently impressed by the thoughtful contributions she made in class, as well as during her administration practicum experience at Bronson Methodist Hospital.” Amanda’s ability to develop such a relevant and timely project that has high organizational utility, as well as a focus on quality care is noteworthy.

Not only has she embraced her graduate curriculum with vigor, Amanda implemented a final project for her major that has significant value and utility for her clinical site and the clients they serve. The concepts for this project are difficult, but Amanda demonstrated tenacity in learning and applying this knowledge. In addition, she wrote an outstanding paper on the topic.

### **ABSTRACT**

Most individuals if given the choice would choose to die in the comfort of their homes surrounded by family if faced with the reality of a terminal diagnosis and end of life. Despite tremendous efforts to fulfill this desire, many individuals continue to die in the acute care setting, and alone. It was estimated that in 1998, 47% of the deaths that occurred in Michigan were in the hospital setting (Michigan Commission on End of Life Care, 2002). With such staggering statistics it is important for healthcare organizations to implement a program that supports dying patients in hospital settings.

Bronson Methodist Hospital, located in downtown Kalamazoo, Michigan, is a non-profit healthcare system serving all of southwest Michigan and northern Indiana. With 380 licensed beds Bronson is dedicated to being a leader amongst healthcare organizations. In order to meet the needs of this unique patient population, Bronson has expressed interest in the implementation of the No One Dies Alone program. A national program designed to provide companionship to those faced with dying alone in the acute care setting. In order to determine next steps a needs assessment was conducted to evaluate current state in relation to desired future state.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION  
Fall 2009**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Ann Hayward, Master of Arts in English**  
(B.A., English Literature, Aquinas College, 1969)
  - Titles: "William Empson" and "Villanelle"
  - **Advisor:** Dr. Benjamin Lockerd
  - **Cumulative GPA:** 4.000

Ann Hayward stands out as a researcher, writer, and thinker. This is evident in her two publications, which have earned her the English Department's Nomination for the Outstanding Publication Award. Those two publications are "William Empson" and "Villanelle," invited entries for a reference book, *Companion to British Poetry, 1900 to the Present*, published by Facts on File in 2009.

As with all publications, Ann's are the fruit of prior work. In her English M.A. seminars, she has consistently been one of the most deeply curious persons, the hallmark of a life-long learner. Going above and beyond the call of assignments and readings, Ann explores even peripheral subjects deeply, which is how she came to be engaged in conversations with her professors on an almost-forgotten English poet of the 1930s. Her skills at writing and research, wedded to her interest in this topic, led directly to her being asked by the editors of a reference work to write on William Empson.

The two entries she composed are models of writing and research for this type of publication. Ann struck immediately the right tone of clear, objective, learned prose that one needs command of to write for a literate but general audience, a skill often in short supply in the world of academia. Her research also reached far afield, in traditional and modern sources. The biographical entry on Empson, for example, conveyed information about a newly discovered work by Empson that had appeared only in the popular press in Britain, his photographic journal of his travels in China. Finally, her skills at interpretation came to the fore in her second publication, the entry on Empson's poem "Villanelle," in which she offers a new but convincing reading

of the appropriateness of the structure of the poem, by linking it to Empson's training as a mathematician.

### *Kirkhof College of Nursing*

❖ **Kari S. Blech, Master of Science in Nursing**

(B.S.N., Nursing, Calvin College, 2006)

- **Title:** Cervical Spine Clearance in the Nonalert, Noncommunicative, or Unreliable Pediatric Blunt Trauma Patient
- **Advisor:** Dr. Jean Martin
- **Cumulative GPA:** 3.970

Kari Blech demonstrated high academic performance throughout her graduate studies. This article, authored with two of her colleagues from Spectrum Health and published in the Journal of Trauma Nursing, is an outstanding example of the quality of her work. Successful publication in a refereed professional journal is a commendable and noteworthy achievement for a graduate student. Kari had an integral role in the development of this project. She took the project beyond her program requirements to ensure that the results were disseminated to a large professional audience.

The quality of Kari's work is further acknowledged by the receipt of a student research grant to help fund her master's thesis: Coping Mechanisms used by Adolescent Mothers during Their Infant's Early Infancy. This study has also been selected for a student poster presentation at the Midwest Nursing Research Society annual conference in Kansas City, MO in April 2010.

"Kari's scholarship is of the highest quality, and is deserving of the Outstanding Publication Award." Not only did Kari embrace her graduate studies with enthusiasm, she engaged in knowledge generation and dissemination that has potential to advance the nursing profession.

## ABSTRACT

Currently, there is no nationally recognized evidence-based guideline or protocol for cervical spine clearance in nonalert, noncommunicative, or unreliable pediatric blunt trauma patients. This descriptive survey study sought to identify current practices and elicit expert opinion data regarding pediatric cervical spine clearance in a specialized population of children in trauma centers in the United States. A 93-item electronic Pediatric Cervical Spine Clearance Survey was sent to 309 members of the Pediatric Special Interest Group of the National Society of Trauma Nurses. The main areas of interest in the survey included trauma verification, annual volume of pediatric trauma cases, and sequence and time frames of diagnostic testing for cervical spine clearance by age group. Additional areas of interest were perceived supports and barriers to meeting target time frames for diagnostic testing and outcomes to evaluate the impact of a cervical spine clearance guideline for pediatric blunt trauma. The results from 44 respondents demonstrate that trauma centers are using a variety of diagnostic testing sequences and time frames when clearing children for suspected cervical spine injury.

**GRADUATE DEAN'S CITATION FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION  
Fall 2009**

*College of Community & Public Service*

- ❖ **Megan S. Sall, Master of Public Administration, 3.836**  
(B.A., International Relations, Grand Valley State University, 2007)

Megan Sall completed her undergraduate degree at GVSU in 2007 and immediately began her graduate program in Public Administration. Since 2007, she has worked for the City of Wyoming, first as an Intern in the City Manager's Office and then as Assistant to the City Manager. In 2008, she moved to the Community Services Department and has since served as the Community Services Coordinator and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Director. In this capacity, she directs the economic development activity of the DDA with a \$315,000 annual budget for marketing, promotion, business retention and attraction.

In addition to her work in the City of Wyoming, Megan volunteers her time to serve on nonprofit boards and assist with community based activities. She currently serves on boards and committees with the following community-based organizations: 5/3 Community Advisory Board, Grand Valley Metro Council, Michigan Downtown Association, Michigan Economic Development Association, Wyoming Kentwood Chamber of Commerce, and the Peter Cook Leadership Academy.

Megan says that the "goal in all of my activities is to make the community work better by lining the different sectors – business, education, nonprofits, government, citizens, etc. I'm always trying to instill a 'we' mentality in order to get us moving in the right direction. Helping build relationships and foster understanding is key to success."

## *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

- ❖ **Denise M. Galloway, Master of Arts in English, 3.933**  
(B.A., English, Hope College, 2001)

Denise Galloway is a remarkably good writer who has used her gift to work as a public intellectual-in-the-making in her own community: Holland, Mi. From April 2007 to December 2008, she wrote a column for the *Holland Sentinel* on the interface of popular culture with the life of the mind. As an epigraph for her column, she identifies herself facetiously in this way: "Holland resident Denise Galloway is a recovering cultural snob who enjoys reading pretentious novels and watching *The Bachelor*."

In that engaging stance--one that seems near to Addison, Steele, and Franklin's journalistic "masks"--she invites a wide audience to consider not only what they are experiencing with *Batman* and with James Bond movies, but also ways in which *Beowulf* and Jane Austen might meet (and deepen) readers' appetites for story and for imaginative and mythic alternatives to west Michigan contexts. To make astute, successful cultural commentary for the diverse readership of the hard copy and on-line community newspaper, Denise has needed not only deep learning but also smart insights into what appeals and persuades. She also wrote outstanding articles for *Cheers! The Flannery O'Connor Society Newsletter* during her year as the departmental graduate assistant in the M. A. program (2007-2008). She has taught with great success both public and private school. She has served her community of Holland as a newspaper columnist and also led faithfully a demanding reading group for four years.

Her thesis, "'Domestic Virtues,' Not 'National Importance': The Type of Service in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*," was admired by all who read it and everyone who participated in her defense as a thoroughly researched and eloquently articulated study of what Austen scholars see as the novel representing the pinnacle of the novelist's achievements. Denise brought together critical precepts from Aristotle and the New Testament, as well as a vast array of commentaries ranging from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present, in creating this piece of provocative cultural work.



**GRADUATE STUDENT  
PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS  
Fall 2009**

**Lyndsey Adams**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, *Effects of Parental Care of the Growth, Viability and Epidermal Microbial Fauna of Offspring in Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum*

**Kelly Anthony**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, *Knowledge regarding HPV, its transmission, and its complications in college age men and women at one public university in the Midwest*

**Amanda Oracz**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, *Genetic Diversity of Microcystis aeruginosa in Four Muskegon County Lakes*

**Dodla Pushpaja**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Cell & Molecular Biology, *Micro array Analysis of Normal Prostate Cell Lines (+1-CD82)*

**Jennifer Snide**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Cell & Molecular Biology, *Interactions Between Essential Cell Division Proteins in Fission Yeast*

**Megan Uitti**, College of Health Professions, Physical Therapy, *Practice Area Interest and Contributing Factors: A Study of First Year Physical Therapy Students*

**Matthew Zuellig**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, *Improved Genetic Methods for Identification and Genetic Analysis of Eurasian, Northern, and Hybrid Milgoils*

## GRADUATE STUDENT RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARLY TRAVEL GRANTS

Fall 2009

**Stacey Baisden**, College of Education, American College Personnel Association National Conference, Washington, DC

**Amy Disselkoen**, College of Education, MITESOL Conference Transforming Learning: Teaching and Advocacy, Grand Rapids, MI

**Ross Ekdorn**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**Nicholas Ettema**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Springfield, IL

**Matt Ferre**, College of Community & Public Service, Criminal Justice, Evidenced-Based Policies and Practices in Criminal Justice, Chicago, IL

**Alain Giraud**, Seidman College of Business, Business Administration, 2009 Annual Meeting of the North American Case Research Association, Santa Cruz, CA

**Amanda Herd**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**Alyssa Jewell**, College of Education, MITESOL Conference Transforming Learning: Teaching and Advocacy, Grand Rapids, MI

**Angela Larsen**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, The Wildlife Society's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Monterey, CA

**Katy Leedy**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, English, The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY

**Jesse Lincoln**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, Botany & Mycology 2009, Snowbird, UT

**Sheila Miara**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, The Wildlife Society's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Monterey, CA

**Whitney Miner**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biostatistics, Joint Statistical Meeting 2009, Washington, DC

**Negin Nadvar**, Padnos College of Computer & Engineering, Engineering, Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Meeting, Pittsburg, PA

**Ramez Nassri**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**Marie Nizienski**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**Rebecca Norris**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, The Wildlife Society's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Monterey, CA

**Kristina Persenaire**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, English, Midwest Popular Culture Conference, Detroit, MI

**Patrick Prominski**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, English, The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY

**Patrick Prominski**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, English, Midwest Popular Culture Conference, Detroit, MI

**Robert Slider**, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biology, NCEAS Fall 09 ITEX Phenology Synthesis Workshop, Santa Barbara, CA

**Katee Stahl**, College of Community & Public Service, Criminal Justice, American Criminal Justice Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

**Ashley Strotbaum**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**Leah Tarrant**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**April VanDenburg**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies, American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**Rachel Leigh VanStrien**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies,  
American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**Melissa Vegter**, Seidman College of Business, Business Administration, 2009 Annual  
Meeting of the North American Case Research Association, Santa Cruz, CA

**Michele Vuillemot**, College of Health Professions, Physician Assistant Studies,  
American Academic of Physicians Assistants Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

**Cortne Winegard**, College of Community & Public Service, Public Administration,  
National Planning Conference, Minneapolis, MN

**GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT AWARD  
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARDS  
Fall 2009**

❖ **Dr. Kathleen Blumreich, Professor of English**

Nominated by: Ann Hayward, Master of Arts in English

What does one look for in a mentor? Perhaps the signal quality a student seeks is a dual one: experience and wonder. I found my mentor before I knew I was looking for her.

A mentor is a guide and my first encounter with Kathleen Blumreich, Ph.D. as a guide was the Chaucer seminar she moderated in the fall of 2008. With her distinctively Twenty-first century flair, Dr. Blumreich encouraged us to give Chaucer's poetry free reign beyond whatever Medieval space we might have previously assigned him. I came to recognize myself in the pilgrims and to see that great literature has a timeless, human face.

Her tendency to drop the name "John Donne" during our Chaucer discussions prompted me to seek her advice as I prepared to present my conference paper on one of his poems. This encounter cemented in my mind the idea that Dr. Blumreich might be willing to work with me on a master's thesis with Donne as the (highly intimidating) subject. Perhaps she felt sorry for me; perhaps she saw in my status as a "very non-traditional" student a unique challenge; perhaps – and this is the most likely explanation – she connected with my *feeling* for John Donne and agreed to advise me on my research and writing.

I shall cherish the hours during which I was privileged to read the *Songs and Sonnets* with Dr. Blumreich, who – ever the quintessential teacher – never imposed meaning or direction, but rather offered encouragement and, yes: *wonder*.

She was worried about me for a while. "Are you feeling overwhelmed?" she asked. When I had to admit that I was, she simply said, "Go to the poetry, Ann. Go to the poetry." I did. And her encouragement gave me the confidence to write about an artist whose brilliance I was (feebly) able to acknowledge. Her friendship did even more: by pointing me toward Donne, she helped initiate a personal transformation that I will be working through for the rest of my life.

❖ **Dr. Michael Payne, Professor of Public Administration**

Nominated by: Heidi Herzog, Master of Public Administration

To me, a faculty mentor is an individual who not only guides and counsels students, but also offers them direction and knowledge through sharing life experiences as well as actively listening and participating in others.

Additionally, a faculty mentor is an individual who demonstrates genuine care and concern for students' educational success as well as their personal lives and circumstances. Overall, a faculty mentor is someone in the department capable of positively influencing and motivating students to set goals and achieve higher standards both educationally as well as personally. I am proud to say Dr. Payne has impressed, inspired, and encouraged me by demonstrating all of these attributes.

I first met Dr. Payne during the spring 09' semester in his Public Finance course. I admit being a little apprehensive taking the class over a six-week semester, mainly due to the fact that finance was a completely foreign topic to me and required a calculator! After suffering through the first intimidating assignment, and before actually meeting Dr. Payne, I questioned myself again why I was taking such a hard topic in such a short amount of time. On the first day of class Dr. Payne chuckled and asked how we liked the assignment. At that moment, I he had a sense of humor.

As the semester went on, Dr. Payne demonstrated extraordinary teaching skills. What captured me most was his ability to simplify complex concepts, turn foreign finance language into English, and still maintain the class's attention and enthusiasm by providing relevant jokes, humorous stories, and real-life examples. However, aside from his sense of humor and class facilitation methods, what I appreciate most about Dr. Payne is his genuine care for students' needs. Dr. Payne not only taught me public finance, he also assisted me with retirement recommendations, tax questions, and even extended himself as a reference.

Dr. Payne truly reaches out and sincerely hopes for his students' success. He acts beyond his obligation as a professor to ensure the knowledge, skills, and inspiration needed for future accomplishments are acquired. I believe Dr. Payne is not only an excellent professor, but a mentor and role-model for both his students and colleagues. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly believe Dr. Michael Payne deserves the Faculty Mentor Award for 2009.

❖ **Dr. Eric Snyder, Associate Professor of Biology**

Nominated by: Megan Cookingham, Master of Science in Biology

Eric Snyder exemplifies all of the great characteristics that are required to be a great professor, professional in the scientific community, and a mentor to students. He is extremely effective in the classroom and insists on teaching in the field with a hands-on technique. He has always been one of my favorite professors at Grand Valley and would recommend his classes to any student. Out of the classroom, Eric Snyder is an exemplary mentor and advisor. He is extremely interested in the scholarly and professional opinions of his students. He has his graduate students critique each other's presentations and manuscripts before conferences and publications, including his own work. He is extremely available and leaves his office door open to students at all times—even when he is writing grant proposals or on the phone. He takes the time to find an answer to any inquiry immediately, no matter how small or tedious.

His aid and availability as a mentor has even extended beyond borders. When I was a first semester graduate student, Eric was on sabbatical in Switzerland. This would have been a challenge to any new graduate student, but Eric was always available via email and phone and would send regular updates from Switzerland. My graduate work is also unique due to the fact that I conduct all of my research in Alaska. For the past two summers, I have been in Alaska studying juvenile salmon and Eric has been in Michigan conducting his own research, teaching summer courses, and continuing to advise graduate students. Eric was dedicated to staying in contact with his two graduate students stationed in Alaska via phone and email. He even flew up to Alaska for four to five days each summer to see our study sites, aid in the field work, and to have detailed discussions about research objectives and progress. Eric is so interested in the work of his graduate students and is so dedicated to lend a helping hand that he will literally go wherever he needs to make sure his students have an effective mentor.

I believe that Eric should get the recognition that he deserves. He will go to any length to make sure that his students are successful at Grand Valley and in the scientific community. I believe that this award would remind him that his graduate students appreciate all of the work and dedication he devotes to us.

**GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
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Michael Soltis, Public Administration

**Secretary:**

Katie Wheat, College Student Affairs Leadership

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Kelly McDonell, College Student Affairs Leadership

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Christina Torri, Business

**Advisors:**

Steven Lipnicki, Assistant Dean of Students  
Michelle Burke, Student Life

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## **Office of Graduate Studies**

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Jennifer Palm, Office Coordinator

### **Graduate Assistant:**

Michael Soltis, MPA program

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