



GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY®  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL



# Annual Report • 2022-23

## The Graduate School

Grand Valley State University

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## Executive Summary 2022-23

The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University is a collaborative partner in the education of our students. We provide meaningful support to students, staff, and faculty, encouraging their educational, professional, and personal development. We continually strive to give our graduate students the best educational experience possible so they may be lifelong learners who are engaged in their professions and their communities. Our master's, specialist, and doctoral programs are taught by highly qualified faculty and staff who use innovative and high-impact strategies and techniques for engaging students. All GVSU's graduate programs are grounded in rigorous academic plans of study and supported by a university that adheres to policies and procedures that guide the academic process yet provide the flexibility to address unique situations and create individual learning experiences.

The Graduate School oversees all areas of graduate education at GVSU. We are responsible for the administration of the

graduate assistantship program; collaborating with the Graduate Student Association to support graduate students and offer professional development; leading the Graduate Showcase; hosting the New Graduate Student Orientations, the Graduate School's Citations for Academic Excellence Ceremony, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition; supporting the work of shared governance through Graduate Council; supporting the Graduate Student Association; producing the Graduate Program Director's Handbook, the Graduate Student Guidebook, and the Graduate Advising manuals; administering the Presidential Research Grants and Academic Conference Fund programs; reviewing graduate faculty applications and maintaining a graduate faculty database; and enforcing graduate education policies. The Graduate School plays an important role in supporting our students and the faculty and staff engaged in graduate education. All the major initiatives, as well as the annual work of the Graduate School, is described in detail in this report.



# The Graduate School

## Our Mission

Support and advance excellence in graduate education and the scholarly and professional activities associated with it, while promoting a diverse, inclusive, and connected community.

## Our Vision

Excel in preparing students for tomorrow's world by offering distinctive and exemplary graduate education programs that are student and career centered, promote impactful community collaboration, and foster engaging scholarly experiences.

## Our Values

- **Critical Thought** – Our students skillfully engage in conceptualizing, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, and applying knowledge to their profession and community.
- **High-Impact Challenges** – Our students engage in challenging and transformative activities while learning in a holistic environment.
- **Inclusion** – Our students learn in an environment that is collegial, collaborative, equitable, and inclusive.
- **Personal Capacity** – Our students develop and sustain personal initiative and maintain a culture of professionalism and integrity.

## The Graduate School Staff at Grand Valley State University for 2022-23 included:

Associate Vice-Provost Jeffrey A. Potteiger

Assistant Director of Programming and Communication

Trista Bergerud

Administrative Assistants Irene Fountain and Sheri DeVries

Graduate Assistants Kassie Nguyen and Long Ho

Undergraduate Student Assistants Riley Begeman  
and Ashley Derfiny



## Graduate Program, Certificate, and Badge Profile: 2022-23 Academic Year

The 2022-23 academic year includes the Fall 2022, Winter 2023, and Spring/Summer 2023 semesters. For many graduate programs, students may have applied, been admitted, and/or matriculated in any of those semesters.

The Applied and Admitted columns in Table 1 represent all graduate applications received by each program combined from the 2022-23 academic year.

The New Enrollees and Total Enrollees columns represent the combined unduplicated headcounts for Fall 2022, Winter 2023, and Spring/Summer 2023 based on official census numbers.

The Degrees Awarded column represents Fall 2022, Winter 2023, and Spring/Summer 2023.

**Table 1: Profile of Graduate Students for the 2022-23 Academic Year**

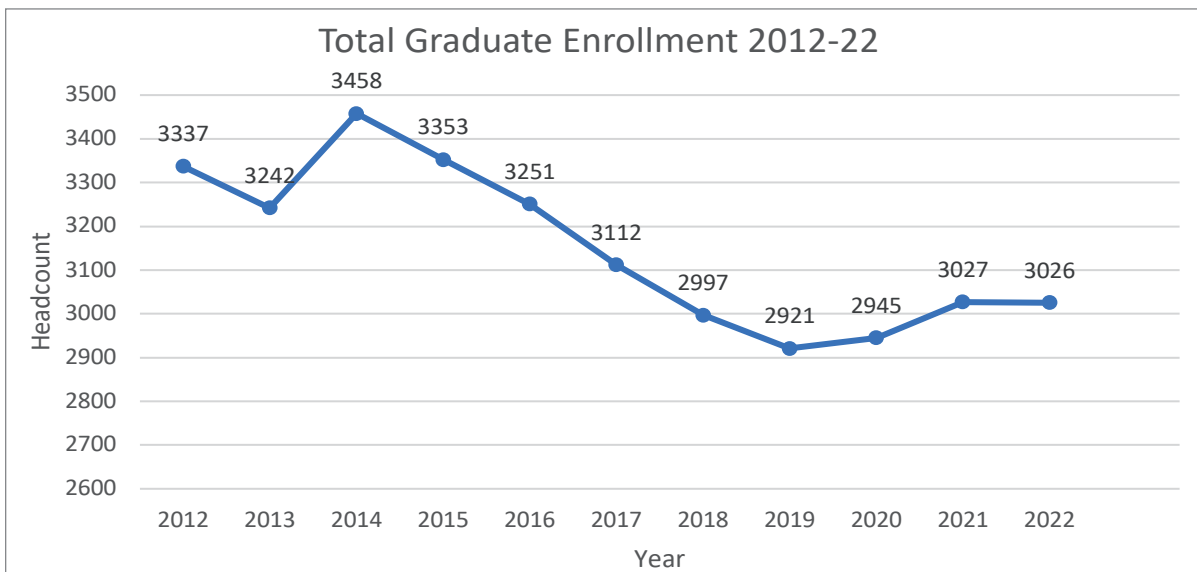
| College                     | Program                       | Applied     | Admitted   | New Enrollees | Total Enrollees | Degrees Awarded |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Col of Ed & Comm Innovation | Criminal Justice              | 33          | 28         | 11            | 30              | 12              |
|                             | Educational Leadership        | 143         | 137        | 94            | 290             | 40              |
|                             | Educational Technology        | 15          | 14         | 9             | 30              | 3               |
|                             | English as a Second Language  | 38          | 37         | 30            | 49              | -               |
|                             | General Education             | -           | -          | -             | 13              | -               |
|                             | Health Administration         | 94          | 76         | 18            | 71              | 23              |
|                             | Higher Education              | 72          | 65         | 26            | 71              | 27              |
|                             | Instruction & Curriculum      | 98          | 84         | 58            | 226             | 50              |
|                             | Leadership Ed.S.              | 29          | 21         | 13            | 48              | 9               |
|                             | Literacy Studies              | 27          | 25         | 18            | 80              | 14              |
|                             | Nonprofit Leadership          | 4           | 3          | 2             | 7               | 2               |
|                             | Online/Blended Instr & Assess | 5           | 3          | 1             | 2               | 1               |
|                             | Philan & Nonprofit Leadership | 15          | 12         | 4             | 20              | 5               |
|                             | Public Administration         | 101         | 78         | 30            | 82              | 19              |
|                             | Reading                       | -           | -          | -             | 2               | -               |
|                             | School Counseling             | 84          | 68         | 48            | 131             | 21              |
|                             | Social Innovation             | 23          | 16         | 11            | 37              | 9               |
|                             | Social Work                   | 237         | 224        | 120           | 372             | 131             |
|                             | Special Education             | 100         | 98         | 81            | 186             | 25              |
|                             | Victim Advocacy & Services    | 3           | 1          | 1             | 1               | -               |
|                             | <b>SUBTOTAL</b>               | <b>1121</b> | <b>990</b> | <b>575</b>    | <b>1748</b>     | <b>391</b>      |

| College                                     | Program                              | Applied     | Admitted    | New Enrollees | Total Enrollees | Degrees Awarded |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Col of Lib Arts and Sciences                | Applied Behavior Analysis            | 8           | 6           | 5             | 8               | 8               |
|                                             | Applied Linguistics                  | -           | -           | -             | 1               | -               |
|                                             | Applied Statistics                   | 41          | 24          | 10            | 12              | -               |
|                                             | Bioinformatics and Genomics          | 1           | 1           | 1             | 4               | 2               |
|                                             | Biology                              | 16          | 16          | 13            | 35              | 13              |
|                                             | Biomedical Sciences                  | 39          | 23          | 14            | 32              | 8               |
|                                             | Biostatistics                        | 20          | 14          | 8             | 32              | 20              |
|                                             | Cell & Molecular Biology             | 26          | 22          | 10            | 42              | 15              |
|                                             | Communications                       | 71          | 63          | 20            | 49              | 21              |
|                                             | English                              | 1           | 1           | -             | 20              | 8               |
|                                             | School Psychology                    | 54          | 19          | 14            | 38              | 19              |
|                                             | Water Resource Policy                | 10          | 10          | 4             | 5               | -               |
|                                             | <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                      | <b>287</b>  | <b>199</b>  | <b>99</b>     | <b>278</b>      | <b>114</b>      |
| College of Health Professions               | Athletic Training                    | 21          | 18          | 12            | 18              | 10              |
|                                             | Audiology                            | 43          | 22          | 10            | 32              | 10              |
|                                             | Clinical Dietetics                   | 46          | 33          | 27            | 46              | 19              |
|                                             | Medical Dosimetry                    | 38          | 25          | 19            | 22              | 19              |
|                                             | Occupational Therapy                 | 123         | 68          | 51            | 134             | 59              |
|                                             | Occupational Therapy DROT            | 3           | 1           | 1             | 15              | 7               |
|                                             | Physical Therapy                     | 344         | 167         | 62            | 176             | 56              |
|                                             | Physician Assistant Studies          | 491         | 61          | 48            | 144             | 48              |
|                                             | Public Health                        | 124         | 66          | 39            | 94              | 42              |
|                                             | Recreational Therapy                 | 20          | 18          | 13            | 13              | 7               |
|                                             | Speech-Language Pathology            | 128         | 44          | 41            | 100             | 41              |
|                                             | <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                      | <b>1381</b> | <b>523</b>  | <b>323</b>    | <b>801</b>      | <b>170</b>      |
| Grand Valley State University               | Non-Degree Graduate                  | 4           | 0           | -             | 164             | -               |
|                                             | <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                      | <b>192</b>  | <b>162</b>  | <b>-</b>      | <b>164</b>      | <b>-</b>        |
| Kirkhof College of Nursing                  | Interprofessional Health Informatics | 1           | 1           | 1             | 2               | -               |
|                                             | Nursing DNP                          | 18          | 15          | 14            | 63              | 27              |
|                                             | Nursing MSN                          | 4           | 3           | 2             | 8               | 6               |
|                                             | Palliative and Hospice Care          | 5           | 4           | 1             | 1               | -               |
|                                             | Psychiatric Mental Health NP         | 5           | 5           | 3             | 7               | 4               |
|                                             | <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                      | <b>33</b>   | <b>28</b>   | <b>21</b>     | <b>81</b>       | <b>37</b>       |
| Padnos College of Engineering and Computing | Applied Computer Science             | 614         | 356         | 106           | 167             | 40              |
|                                             | Computer Information Systems         | -           | -           | -             | 7               | 1               |
|                                             | Cybersecurity                        | 360         | 221         | 39            | 52              | 8               |
|                                             | Data Analytics                       | -           | -           | -             | -               | 1               |
|                                             | Data Mining Fundamentals             | -           | -           | -             | -               | 1               |
|                                             | Data Science and Analytics           | 925         | 371         | 62            | 123             | 30              |
|                                             | Database Fundamentals                | -           | -           | -             | -               | 1               |
|                                             | Database Management                  | -           | -           | -             | -               | 2               |
|                                             | Engineering                          | 50          | 40          | 30            | 76              | 15              |
|                                             | Health and Bioinformatics            | 341         | 127         | 38            | 61              | 10              |
|                                             | Info Systems Project Management      | 1           | 1           | -             | -               | -               |
|                                             | Information Systems Management       | 2           | 0           | -             | -               | -               |
|                                             | Networking Fundamentals              | -           | -           | -             | -               | 1               |
|                                             | Software Engineering                 | 1           | 1           | -             | -               | -               |
|                                             | Web & Mobile Computing               | 1           | 1           | 1             | 1               | 1               |
|                                             | <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                      | <b>2295</b> | <b>1118</b> | <b>276</b>    | <b>487</b>      | <b>111</b>      |

| College                     | Program            | Applied     | Admitted    | New Enrollees | Total Enrollees | Degrees Awarded |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Seidman College of Business | Accounting         | 115         | 93          | 65            | 124             | 50              |
|                             | Business General   | 107         | 103         | 68            | 133             | 45              |
|                             | Taxation           | 3           | 3           | -             | 4               | 1               |
|                             | <b>SUBTOTAL</b>    | <b>225</b>  | <b>199</b>  | <b>133</b>    | <b>261</b>      | <b>96</b>       |
|                             | <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>5534</b> | <b>3219</b> | <b>1427</b>   | <b>3813</b>     | <b>1067</b>     |

The total graduate enrollment headcount information in both Figure 1 and Table 2 is based on the Fall census data of the corresponding academic year.

**Figure 1: Graduate Degree-Seeking Headcount 2012-22**



**Table 2: Total Graduate Enrollment Headcount by College 2012-22**

| College Of Degree Program                    | 2012        | 2013        | 2014        | 2015        | 2016        | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies  | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | 12          | 42          | 38          | 0           |
| College of Community and Public Service      | 636         | 675         | 660         | 608         | 588         | 533         | 518         | 486         | 479         | 0           | 0           |
| College of Education                         | 1294        | 1104        | 1134        | 1054        | 908         | 885         | 779         | 821         | 790         | 0           | 0           |
| College of Education & Community Innovation* | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | 1241        | 1227        |
| College of Health Professions                | 372         | 473         | 607         | 643         | 679         | 692         | 690         | 702         | 776         | 805         | 728         |
| College of Liberal Arts and Sciences         | 183         | 172         | 202         | 225         | 261         | 271         | 270         | 262         | 256         | 279         | 214         |
| Kirkhof College of Nursing                   | 82          | 93          | 111         | 124         | 130         | 118         | 118         | 76          | 90          | 79          | 101         |
| Padnos College of Engineering & Computing    | 143         | 128         | 150         | 160         | 170         | 177         | 213         | 190         | 189         | 256         | 479         |
| Seidman College of Business                  | 326         | 317         | 349         | 332         | 310         | 270         | 273         | 265         | 212         | 219         | 211         |
| University (Non-Degree Seeking)              | 301         | 280         | 245         | 207         | 205         | 166         | 136         | 107         | 111         | 132         | 66          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>3337</b> | <b>3242</b> | <b>3458</b> | <b>3353</b> | <b>3251</b> | <b>3112</b> | <b>2997</b> | <b>2921</b> | <b>2945</b> | <b>3049</b> | <b>3026</b> |

\*CECI was created in 2021 and is a combination of CCPS and COE.

## Major Initiatives

### New Graduate Programs 2022-23

During the 2022-23 academic year, no new graduate programs were approved through the University Curriculum process, but the graduate program in English was suspended bringing the total number of graduate programs at GVSU to 44.

The Graduate School continues to support newly appointed Graduate Program Directors and assist with issues related to recruitment, admission, and enrollment in all graduate programs.

### New Combined Degree Programs

During the 2022-23 academic year, no new combined degree programs were approved through the University Curriculum Review Process, the total number of combined degree programs at GVSU is currently 27.

### PACES Professional Development Program

The PACES program offers professional development opportunities for students, and helps students increase their professionalism, academic advancement, communication, engagement, and success. By participating in PACES, students are supported in developing communication, interview, stress management and debt management skills – among other critical and timely topics.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic the PACES Program was suspended. The Graduate School restarted the program during the Winter 2023 semester. We hosted 4 sessions that focused on Interviewing Skills, Presentation Skills, Professional Image and Mentorship. The sessions were held virtually via Zoom Webinar and were recorded for future viewing. All recorded sessions can be found on the PACES website.



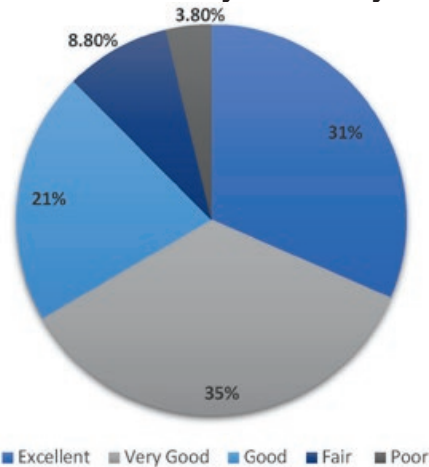
## Ongoing Activities

### Graduate Exit Survey

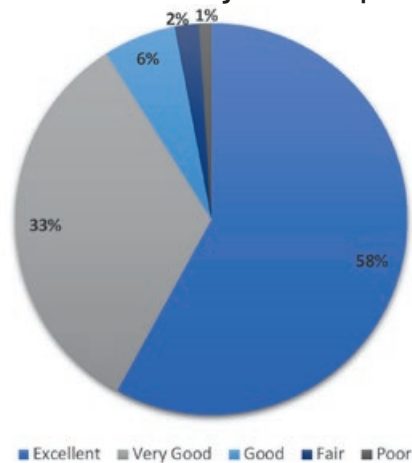
In an effort to evaluate and continually improve graduate education, the Graduate School administers the Graduate Exit Survey. At the end of each academic semester, graduate students who are nearing the end of their degree program are invited to complete the survey and assess their graduate experience at GVSU. Of the 1059 invitations sent to graduate students during the 2022-23 academic year, 444 (43%) students completed the survey. Individual graduate programs were provided reports if the respondent number for the program was equal to 3 or more.

Students that have received their undergraduate degrees from GVSU accounted for 49% of the respondents. Overall program quality was rated as very good or excellent by 66% of respondents (Figure 2). Figure 3 illustrates the respondent's overall impression of GVSU. When asked if they would choose GVSU again if they were to start graduate school over, 75.5% answered yes (Figure 4).

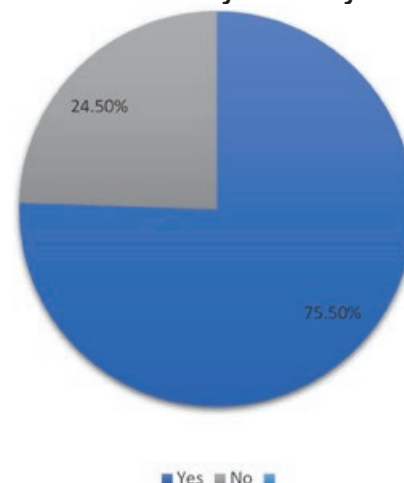
**Figure 2:**  
Graduate Student Rating of Overall Program Quality



**Figure 3:**  
Graduate Student Rating of Overall Experience at GVSU



**Figure 4:**  
Graduate Student Rating of Choosing GVSU Again



## Outstanding Graduate Student Accomplishments

### Public Health Graduate Student Presents at the Michigan Autism Conference

Longtime Laker Maggie Carey had the opportunity to present her research on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at the Michigan Autism Conference in October 2022, in Kalamazoo, MI.

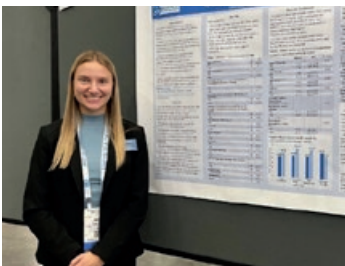


The study, titled “Sensory-friendly built environments and accommodations for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): A Scoping Review,” is a joint effort by Maggie and Dr. Juliea VanderMolen. The lack of sensory-friendly environments for individuals with an ASD was the focus of their research. “A ‘Quiet Hour’ where the lights are dimmed, noise levels are reduced, cart collection is paused, and beepers at the cash register are turned off can be the framework for other grocery stores to build off of to ensure their store is an inclusive environment where individuals with ASD can come and complete their activities of daily living,” suggested Maggie.

The brilliant Laker graduated in April 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Sciences from Grand Valley and is now continuing her education here with a Master’s in Public Health. Maggie completed her degree in April 2023. She hopes her efforts will change how people view disabilities and help improve inclusivity in our society for those with ASD.

### Public Health Graduate Laker Presents at the American Public Health Association Annual Conference

Ally Goerge had the opportunity to present her research on breast cancer survivorship of African American individuals at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.



Ally’s study is titled “Lifestyle and comorbidity and upper extremity disability among long-term African American breast cancer survivors.” She utilized data from the African American Breast Cancer Survivorship Long-Term (AABL) Study for the data analysis. The data span three states — South Carolina,

Tennessee, and Georgia — in collaboration with Meharry Medical College, looking at the physical and mental health conditions in survivorship. Ally has researched this topic with the mentorship of Dr. Sarah Nechuta from the College of Health Professions.

This inspiring Laker is in her second year of the Master of Public Health program, with an emphasis on epidemiology.

### Laker Veteran is a Member of a Successful Legislative Effort to Address Concerns of Healthcare Services for Veterans

Cameron Zbikowski (Public Administration, M.P.A.) is a member of a successful legislative effort that aims to address efficiency, transparency, and accountability concerns of healthcare services for veterans across the country.



Cameron was a President Emeritus of Laker Vets, having served the Grand Valley chapter of Student Veterans of America during his undergraduate education in Business Administration. In connection with the organization Veterans of Foreign Affairs, he was 1 of 5 students nationwide to be selected for a legislative research fellowship in 2021, which resulted in the crafting of two bills aiming to address the issue.

H.R. 5754, named the Patient Advocate Tracker Act, allows for an online submittal where patients can submit their complaints directly to the patient advocate, streamlining the process, freeing up advocates from having to answer numerous voicemails of veterans trying to contact them, and allows veterans to easily track where in the process their complaint is at any given point. The bill was signed into law by President Biden on September 16, 2022.

H.R. 5755, named the Veterans Patient Advocate Act, aims to address staffing issues in the VA. Cameron is hopeful about the bipartisan support for H.R. 5755 and is looking forward to its progress with the new Congress in 2023.

This momentous achievement carries an amazing feeling for Cameron. He did not see himself in this field, drafting and advocating for legislation like this, and working directly with members of Congress on the hill. “It just goes to show, I think, that anybody, no matter your background or your status, can

take an idea and make a difference. Whether it be in your local community, or whether it be in the halls of Congress," he encouraged.

This exceptional Laker is continuing his education at Grand Valley with a Master of Public Administration degree. He will also continue to serve his veterans both locally and nationally as a Program Coordinator for Student Veterans of America's National Headquarters and as the Assistant Legislative Director for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan.

### **International Graduate Laker stepped up to be the new president of the Graduate Student Association.**

Joseph Ohaeche (Cybersecurity, M.S.) stepped up to be the Graduate Student Association (GSA) President. His term started in the Winter 2023 semester.

Joseph is originally from Lagos, Nigeria. He was in the Master of Science in Cybersecurity program. When looking for potential graduate programs, "the distinctive and outstandingly remarkable curriculum for my major at a very reasonably priced tuition, coupled with the multicultural environment led me to choose GV," said Joseph.

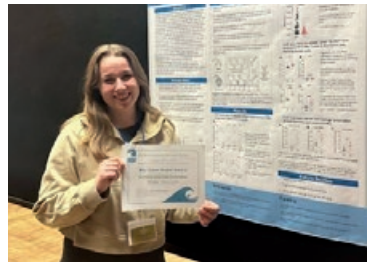
There are several committees that the GSA contributes to, which include many important decision-makers. Recognizing this, Joseph joined the GSA to serve as the voice of concern for his fellow graduate students, and as a



means of resource to them. As the President, he wanted to help create "an inclusive graduate school community that serves the needs of every graduate student." His vision was to have GVSU recognized in the community as a powerhouse for both undergraduate and graduate studies. Above all, Joseph wanted to maintain Grand Valley as an inclusive and welcoming campus for all.

### **Biomedical Sciences Laker Wins the Ray Owen Poster Award**

Marlee Busalacchi (Biomedical Sciences, M.H.S.) presented a collaborative project, and won the Ray Owen Poster Award, at the 2023 Midwinter Conference of Immunologists,



located in Monterey, California. The event featured experts sharing cutting-edge research as well as presentations from immunology labs around the world through posters.

The poster was titled "Microbial experience influences anti-tumor immunity". This was a collaborative effort by Marlee Busalacchi, Nicholas Bunda, Hanna Groeber, Cody Morrison, Roland Nulph, Maci DeBoer, and Dr. Kristin Renkema. All participants were from the Biomedical Sciences program. The team investigated how exposure to microbes shapes the adaptive and innate immune system, as well as the immune response to cancer.

Marlee is extremely grateful to Dr. Renkema for her guidance and mentorship throughout the program. She would also like



to express gratitude to the lab members whose work in the Renkema Lab contributed to the poster.

## Biology Graduate Published in Journal of Environmental Management

The second chapter of John Hart's thesis for the Master of Science in Biology program in conjunction with the Annis Water Resources Institute was published in the Journal of Environmental Management. It is a peer-reviewed journal for the publication of original research related to managing environmental systems and improving environmental quality.



John's article, titled "Using watershed characteristics to enhance fecal source identification," looked at a synthesis of state-of-the-art molecular methods for fecal indicator bacteria and watershed information through the Geographical Information System (GIS) to help identify problem areas in two watersheds. His work represents an outstanding example of high-quality science and applicability to local water quality issues. The Ottawa Conservation District incorporated the influential and ground-breaking results for a 319 Grant on the Bass River and Deer Creek. This was a collaborative effort among GVSU's Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute, Oakland University's Department of Chemistry, and the Ottawa Conservation District.

John was a member of the graduating Class of 2023. He has also won an Outstanding Publication Award at The Graduate School Winter 2023 Citations for Academic Excellence. After Grand Valley, he is joining Kieser & Associates LLC, an environmental science and engineering firm based in Kalamazoo.

## Public Health Alumna Ready to Make a Laker Effect

Kassie Nguyen graduated from the Master of Public Health program in April 2023, and is ready to make her Laker Effect.

Kassie was with the Detroit Health Department (DHD) for the practicum experience, and collaborated with the organization for her culminating project. This was the first epidemiological report for the organization's iDecide Clinic. The clinic provides patients with sexual and reproductive health services that

are affordable, teen-friendly, and gender-inclusive. She also aided in evaluating frequencies of different forms of birth control uptake throughout Detroit.

Kassie was also an exemplary staff member in The Graduate School. She was responsible for recording and updating The Graduate School Podcast Series and updating the Graduate Writing Resources page. She also wrote the monthly Grad News: Headlines from Across the Nation newsletter and assisted with other projects. Currently, Kassie is a patient services representative at Corewell Health. In the future, she plans to contribute to the field of public health as an epidemiologist, specifically on infectious diseases.



## Laker Chosen to Attend an International Conference in Global Governance

Obed Boateng (Higher Education, M.Ed.) was one of 50 global delegates chosen to attend the Highway Institute of Strategic Alliance (HISA) Youth Dialogue 2023, which was hosted in Madrid, Spain.

The HISA Youth Dialogue brings together professionals from different sectors to discuss the challenges of global governance, public administration, and social entrepreneurship. This conference was a valuable opportunity for participants to gain perspective on how these domains intersect with each other, as well as learn about policy-making in relation to them. Attendees also had the chance to network with experts and fellow peers in their respective fields, exchange ideas and experiences, and explore new ways of thinking about social issues within a global context.

Obed is passionate about engaging with diverse communities, listening to their needs, and advocating for inclusive policies that will uplift marginalized voices. He hopes to bring insight from the conference with him into the field of higher education, where cross-disciplinary approaches are becoming increasingly important. This Laker aspires to be a leader that inspires others to join the collective effort of making the world a better place.



## Outstanding Thesis Nominees

The Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) annually calls for nominations for the Distinguished Thesis Award. Each school is allowed to nominate one student thesis for the award competition in each discipline category. The award categories rotate each year to allow for greater student representation across the disciplines.

The theses representing GVSU are selected by a committee of faculty members from multiple disciplines and approved by the Associate Vice-provost of the Graduate School.

## The GVSU faculty who served on the 2022 MAGS selection committee included:

- Dr. Jamal Alsabbagh, School of Computing
- Dr. Frederick Antczak, Department of English
- Dr. Karl Brakora, School of Engineering
- Dr. Anthony Spencer, School of Communications
- Dr. Joshua Veazey, Department of Physics
- Dr. Ayana Weekley, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

## 2022 Category: Math, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

- Kevin Nicholas Kredit, Master of Applied Computer Science, Thesis Title: Confronting Wicked Crypto: Wicked Problems, Encryption Policy, and Exceptional Access Technology Advised by Dr. Andrew Kalafut, School of Computing.

## 2022 Category: Social Studies

- Brittany Leigh Bahl, Master of School of Communications, Thesis Title: Princes, Moms and Warriors: A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Toxic Depictions in Film – Advised by Dr. Richard Besel, School of Communications.

## Dissertation and Thesis Approvals

The policy on Preparation of a Thesis or Dissertation at GVSU requires attendance at a Thesis and Dissertation Workshop for students beginning a thesis or dissertation. Students are required to attend a workshop the first semester they are enrolled in thesis or dissertation credit hours.

The Graduate School hosted eight workshops in 2022-23, led by Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger. In total, 124 students attended these workshops. The workshop includes an overview of the thesis and dissertation-related policies, how to select a chair and build a committee, resources for writing and editing, and helpful suggestions on timelines, getting started, and finishing the

project. In order to accommodate hybrid and online students, at least two workshops per semester were held virtually via Zoom, while the other workshops were held in-person.

The Graduate School also continued to update the Guidelines for Preparation of Theses and Dissertations to assist students in the timely submission of their final work. Communication is sent to students regarding submitting thesis/dissertation committee membership, reminders on defense and submission dates, and follow-up on continuous enrollment. When students form a thesis or dissertation committee, the Graduate School provides a Thesis and Dissertation Flowchart and Checklist outlining the steps students must take to comply with the current guidelines. The Graduate School maintains this and other documents on one “quick link” created for students and faculty to reference all thesis or dissertation related documents:

Theses and Dissertations: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/thesis-and-dissertation-information-35.htm>

The Graduate School continues to review and approve all final theses and dissertations. After each document is approved, the Graduate School notifies the Registrar's Office that a student's diploma can be released and assists the students with submitting the final documents to ScholarWorks. In 2022-23, 33 dissertations and theses from the following academic Colleges were approved:

College of Education and Community Innovation: 2  
Padnos College of Engineering and Computing: 9  
College of Health Professions: 1  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: 21  
Kirkhof College of Nursing: 0

Note: there are no graduate programs with a thesis option in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies or the Seidman College of Business.

## Requests for Exception to University Policy

These numbers represent all completed petitions submitted to the Graduate School during the Fall 2022, Winter 2023, and Spring/Summer 2023 semesters.

**8-Year Time Limit Requests:** The Graduate School reviewed 19 petitions to extend the 8-Year Time Limit, and all were approved. A summary of the number of student petitions by program is provided below:

## 8-Year Petitions by Program:

Applied Computer Science: 1  
 Education: 11  
 English: 1  
 Public Administration: 2  
 Social Work: 4

**12-Credit Limit Requests:** The Graduate School did not receive any requests from students who had exceeded the limit of completing 12 credits as a non-degree seeking student.

## Requests for Graduate Course Withdrawal, Graduate Program Withdrawal, and Graduate Program Leave of Absence:

The Graduate School received a total of 35 requests, and all were approved. The requests from the following programs were approved:

### Course Late Withdrawal: 19

Accounting: 1  
 Audiology: 1  
 Biology: 1  
 Data Science and Analytics: 1  
 Education: 2  
 Health Administration: 1  
 Non-degree Seeking: 3  
 Public Administration: 2  
 Social Innovations: 1  
 Social Work: 6

### Leave of Absence: 16

Audiology: 1  
 Education: 1  
 Engineering: 2  
 Medical Dosimetry: 1  
 Occupational Therapy: 4  
 Physician Assistant Studies: 1  
 Public Health: 1  
 Social Work: 4  
 Speech Language Pathology: 1

**Exception to the Policy for Continuous Enrollment in Project, Thesis, or Dissertation Stage of a Program:** The Graduate School received 9 requests for an exception to the Continuous Enrollment Policy, and all were approved. A summary of the number of student requests by program is provided below:

Cell and Molecular Biology: 2  
 English: 5  
 Biology: 1  
 Biomedical Sciences: 1

**Extension of the Thesis Final Submission Deadline:** The Graduate School did not receive any requests for an extension to the Thesis Final Submission Deadline.

**Extension of the Thesis Defense Deadline:** The Graduate School received 6 requests for an extension to the Thesis Defense Submission Deadline, and all were approved. A summary of the number of student requests by program is provided below:

Biology: 1  
 Engineering: 1  
 Engineering-Biomedical: 1  
 Mechanical Engineering: 1  
 Higher Education: 2

**Academic Review and Renewal:** The Graduate School received 3 requests regarding the Academic Review policy. A summary of the number of student requests by program is provided below:

Applied Computer Science: 1  
 School Counseling: 1  
 Social Work: 1

**Exception to Graduate Policies:** The Graduate School received 2 requests for Exception to an Academic Graduate Policy. All were approved.

Transfer of Credit to a Graduate Program:  
 Education: 1  
 Social Work: 1

**Total Requests for Exception to University Policy reviewed by The Graduate School in 2022-23: 136**

## Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education

The Graduate School continues to work with the Academic Unit Heads and Deans to ensure that qualified faculty members are engaged with our graduate students at GVSU. All graduate faculty applications are submitted electronically to the Graduate School.

### Non-tenure Track Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education as of July 1, 2023

Approved Adjunct Faculty: 256

### Tenured and Tenure Track Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education as of July 1, 2023

Faculty approved with Full Graduate Faculty Status: 345

Faculty approved with Associate Graduate Faculty Status: 52

These numbers do not include faculty members whose initial status has expired without renewal (or those applications approved for faculty no longer with the university).

A complete listing of approved faculty is available on the Graduate School website at <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/graduate-faculty-policies-and-applications-57.htm>. Access to the policies and the electronic application forms can also be found on this page.



## Graduate Assistantships 2022-23

The Graduate School oversees the graduate assistantship program at GVSU. Our primary role is to ensure that hiring departments adhere to the Graduate Assistantship (GA) Policy, to verify student eligibility for holding a GA position, and to ensure that funds allocated for graduate assistantships are appropriately utilized. We serve as a liaison between the appointing units and Financial Aid and Student Employment on budget, payroll, and tuition issues, offer advice and guidance to faculty and staff who administer GA appointments for their units, and work with units and students to resolve problems relating to any aspect of their graduate assistantships.

Typically, GA appointments are made for the academic year, corresponding with the first day of the Fall semester and ending the last day of finals week at the end of the Winter Semester. Some units maintain a number of extended positions (10-month and 12-month). Extended positions are mostly utilized by units that need assistance beyond the regular academic year, such as the Office of Financial Aid and Housing. Some appointments are made semester-by-semester. Spring/Summer appointments are considered to be separate positions from the academic year.

In 2022-23, the Graduate School reviewed and approved the following full time (1.0 FTE, 20 hrs. per week) and half time (.5 FTE, 10 hrs. per week) graduate assistant appointments:

- **Academic Year:**
  - 101 full-time
  - 101 half-time
- **10-Month Extended:**
  - 39 full-time
  - 0 half-time
- **12-Month:**
  - 9 full-time
  - 11 half-time
- **Semester-by-Semester:**
  - Fall 2022 -**
    - 13 full-time
    - 71 half-time
  - Winter 2023 -**
    - 25 full-time
    - 87 half-time
  - Spring/Summer 2023 -**
    - 14 full-time
    - 23 half-time

### Special Projects Graduate Assistantship Positions 2023-24

The Graduate School provides funding for special project GAs to departments, units, and faculty that demonstrate a specific need. Criteria used for awarding special project GAs are: the impact of the project on the academic mission of the university, the project's congruence with the university's mission and vision and the objectives of the Strategic Plan, the roles and responsibilities for the requested GA are appropriate for a graduate student and congruent with a degree program or a set of skills required in an academic discipline, and evidence that the need could not be met through other budget processes.

Fifty-eight faculty/staff members submitted proposals for special projects GAs for the 2023-24 academic year. Of those, 11 full-time (1.0) positions for one academic year were awarded, and 28 half-time (.5) positions for one academic year were awarded.

Table 3 on the following page offers a full report of Special Project GAs awarded for the 2022-23 academic year.

**Table 3: Special Project Graduate Assistantship Positions approved for 2023-24**

| College/Department                                           | Project Title                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Writing Center</b>                                        |                                                                                                          |
| Fred Meijer Center for Writing                               | Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors                                                      |
| <b>College of Education and Community Innovation</b>         |                                                                                                          |
| School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies   | Examining the Transfer Economy of the Prison Industrial Complex                                          |
| School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies   | GVSU School of Criminology, Criminal Justice & Legal Studies & Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 Partnership |
| Department of Literacy, Educational Foundations & Technology | GRPS Oral History                                                                                        |
| Department of Literacy, Educational Foundations & Technology | Learning Café                                                                                            |
| School of Social Work                                        | Social Justice Begins with ME!                                                                           |
| <b>College of Health Professions</b>                         |                                                                                                          |
| Recreational Therapy                                         | Adventure Course Coordinator                                                                             |
| Communication Sciences and Disorders                         | Interprofessional (IPE) Education Academic and Research Lab Facilitator                                  |
| Interdisciplinary Health                                     | Population Health Research and Epidemiology                                                              |
| Occupational Science & Therapy                               | Accreditation, Process Improvement, and Research in the OST Department                                   |
| College of Health Professions Dean's Office                  | Position Grants and Research                                                                             |
| Engineering/Physical Therapy/Athletic Training               | Scoliosis Research                                                                                       |
| <b>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</b>                  |                                                                                                          |
| Department of Statistics                                     | Statistical Consulting Center SPGA                                                                       |
| Robert B. Annis Water Research Institute                     | Research in Fisheries Ecology and Management                                                             |
| Robert B. Annis Water Research Institute                     | Annis Water Resources Institute SPGA                                                                     |
| Biomedical Sciences                                          | Anatomy SPGA                                                                                             |
| Department of Writing                                        | Department of Writing SPGA                                                                               |
| Department of Psychology                                     | Social Emotional Learning Interventionist at TEAM 21                                                     |
| Department of Psychology                                     | Lakers at the Club SPGA                                                                                  |
| Department of Psychology                                     | Development of the Grand Connections Program                                                             |
| Cell and Molecular Biology                                   | Adaptation and Instruction of CMB 156 Assistance SPGA                                                    |
| Cell and Molecular Biology                                   | Wastewater Based Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 SPGA (MoM Lab)                                               |
| Cell and Molecular Biology                                   | Study of microRNA mimics in Parkinson-like neuronal cells                                                |
| Geology/Honors                                               | Water in the West Program Graduate Assistant                                                             |
| Exercise Science                                             | Soft Tissue Injury and MF-BIA Scan                                                                       |
| History/Statistics                                           | Eye-Tracking Study of Data Literacy in Social Studies                                                    |
| <b>Kirkhof College of Nursing</b>                            |                                                                                                          |
| <b>KCON</b>                                                  | Marketing and Communications SPGA                                                                        |
| KCON                                                         | Wesorick Center for Healthcare Transformation GA                                                         |
| <b>Padnos College of Engineering and Computing</b>           |                                                                                                          |
| School of Engineering                                        | Investigation of Nanoparticle Coatings for Self-Cleaning Solar Panels                                    |
| School of Engineering                                        | Thermo-Fluids Experimental Development Graduate Assistant                                                |
| School of Engineering                                        | Difference Between Female and Male Collegiate Athletes SPGA                                              |
| School of Computing                                          | Graduate Computing Program Developer                                                                     |
| School of Computing                                          | Cyber Bullying Defensive Detection SPGA                                                                  |
| <b>Seidman College of Business</b>                           |                                                                                                          |
| Family Owned Business Institute                              | Family Owned Business Institute SPGA                                                                     |
| Department of Economics                                      | Economics Research Assistant                                                                             |

| College/Department           | Project Title                                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Enrollment Development       |                                               |
| Registrar's Office           | On-Base Workflow Specialist GA                |
| Information Technology       |                                               |
| IT - Innovation and Research | Extended Reality Education Research Assistant |
| Provost's Office             |                                               |
| Provost's Office             | Faculty Initiatives for Student Success GA    |
| Inclusion & Equity           |                                               |
| Inclusion & Equity           | Inclusion & Equity Institute SPGA             |

## Academic Conference Fund

The Graduate School administers the Academic Conference Fund for graduate students to provide grants (\$600 for domestic travel and \$800 for international travel) for presentations at academic conferences. Students must be the primary presenter of research at a professional conference, or whose creative work is accepted for an exhibition or performance at a recognized event.

The application is submitted along with a brief budget, evidence of acceptance to the conference, and a letter of reference from a faculty member who can attest to the quality of the student's work or the academic benefit of attending the conference/meeting. Students must be in good standing with the University and should be either current graduate students or recent graduates whose research was accepted for presentation prior to graduation.

**Table 4: 2022-23 Academic Conference Fund Facts**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Applications Received  | 50          |
| Applications Approved  | 50          |
| Total Dollars Approved | \$24,797.79 |

### Awards by College/Department:

|                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| College of Liberal Arts and Sciences          | 14 |
| • Communications                              | 3  |
| • Biomedical Sciences                         | 2  |
| • Biology                                     | 8  |
| • Cell and Molecular Biology                  | 1  |
| Fred Meijer Center Writing & Michigan Authors | 2  |
| • Fred Meijer Center for Writing              | 2  |
| College of Education and Community Innovation | 6  |
| • Social Work                                 | 3  |
| • Criminal Justice                            | 3  |
| School of Community Leadership & Development  | 1  |
| • Public Administration                       | 1  |
| Kirkhof College of Nursing                    | 2  |
| • Nursing                                     | 2  |
| College of Health Professions                 | 15 |
| • Occupational Therapy                        | 9  |
| • Speech-Language Pathology                   | 3  |
| • Athletic Training                           | 3  |
| School of Interdisciplinary Health            | 6  |
| • Public Health                               | 4  |
| • Recreation Therapy                          | 2  |
| Seidman College of Business                   | 1  |
| • Business Administration                     | 1  |
| Padnos College of Engineering and Computing   | 3  |
| • Engineering                                 | 1  |
| • Applied Computer Science                    | 2  |

## Presidential Research Grants

The Graduate School administers the Presidential Research Grant program. Grant awards up to \$1,500 are provided to graduate students to support their research endeavors. Students must be degree-seeking, and the research must be tied to completion of some aspect of their graduate degree. Usually, these grants will be in support of research undertaken for the purposes of the completion of a dissertation, thesis, or final scholarly project.

Students submit an application with a detailed budget, a description of their research, and a letter of support from their major advisor or research advisor. Applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of the Associate Vice-provost of The Graduate School and faculty members representing a cross-section of disciplines. Grants are competitive, therefore not all applicants will receive an award. Faculty reviewers for 2022-23 included:

- Dr. Jennifer Smart, Associate Professor of Audiology
- Dr. Timothy Evans, Professor of Biology
- Dr. Alexandra Locher, Associate Professor of Biology
- Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger, Associate Vice-provost of The Graduate School
- Dr. Robert Smart, Vice Provost for Research Administration
- Dr. Mark Staves, Professor of Cell Molecular and Biology
- Dr. Laurie Stickler, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy

Table 5: 2022-23 Presidential Research Grant Facts

The Graduate School received 15 grant applications in 2022-23. The following data refer to the 13 grants awarded for research conducted during the Fall 2022, Winter 2023, and Spring/Summer 2023 semesters.

| Number of Grants Awarded    | Awards in Dollars: |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 9 awards at \$1,500.00 each | \$13,500.00        |
| 1 award at \$1,080.00       | \$1,080.00         |
| 1 award at \$760.00         | \$760.00           |
| 1 award at \$400.00         | \$400.00           |
| 1 award at \$200.00         | \$200.00           |

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Total Awards: |             |
| 13 Awards     | \$15,940.00 |

|                                         |   |
|-----------------------------------------|---|
| Number of Awards by College/Department: |   |
| College of Liberal Arts & Sciences      |   |
| • Biology                               | 2 |
| • Biology – Aquatic Sciences            | 3 |
| • Biomedical Sciences                   | 1 |
| • Cell & Molecular Biology              | 1 |
| Kirkhof College of Nursing              |   |
| • Doctor of Nursing Practice            | 1 |
| College of Health Professions           |   |
| • Occupational Therapy                  | 2 |
| • Public Health                         | 3 |



## Campus-Wide Events

### 3-Minute Thesis Competition

The Graduate School hosted GVSU's ninth annual 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on February 16, 2023. Students presented their independent research in exactly three minutes with the aid of one static PowerPoint slide. A panel of faculty judges from a variety of disciplines at GVSU evaluated the competitors and determined the winner.

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2023 3MT judging panel included:

- Dr. Andrew Booth, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Brian Hatzel, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Tonisha Jones, College of Education and Community Innovation
- Dr. Libby MacQuillan, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Cray Mulder, College of Education and Community Innovation
- Dr. Wendy Reffeor, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing
- Dr. Gregory Warsen, College of Education and Community Innovation
- Dr. Janet Winter, Kirkhof College of Nursing

Dr. Len O'Kelly from the School of Communications served as the competition's MC.

Eight students participated in the competition, and the top three students were announced at the end of the event. The students recognized at the event were:

#### Third Place (\$100 award):

Emily Bemben, Nursing (D.N.P)

#### Second Place (\$250 award):

Autumn Cannon, Speech Language Pathology (M.S.)

#### First Place (\$500 award):

Karina White, Biology (M.S.)

The first-place winner continued to compete in the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools' Annual Conference, which was held in March of 2023.

### Graduate Showcase 2023: Bright Minds, Bright Futures

The Graduate Showcase is an event co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. Due to the university reducing the COVID-19 alert to alert level 1, the event was held in-person on April 18, 2023. Student scholars from a variety of programs submitted abstracts to participate in the showcase. Students received a certificate of recognition for participating.

The University Library assisted in updating the event page on ScholarWorks to house current and previous years' programs and student abstracts. All abstracts from 2011-23 are available online at <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gradshowcase/>.



**Table 6: Graduate Showcase Participants and Posters**

| Program                                               | Student(s)                    | Title                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Social Work                                           | Anderson, Martina             | Trauma-informed Care Training for Officers                                                                                                                         |
| Engineering                                           | Beauchamp, Brendan            | Surface Electromyographic (sEMG) Transduction of Hand Joint Angles for Human Interfacing Devices (HID)                                                             |
| Social Work                                           | Carter, Breanna               | A Panel Discussion on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)                                                                                                          |
| Higher Education - College Student Affairs Leadership | Cwiakala, Katie               | Supporting the Pedagogical Development of Graduate Teaching Assistants: A Self-Directed Approach                                                                   |
| Biomedical Sciences                                   | Dalm, Trent                   | Effects of Dietary Phytoestrogens on Spermatogenesis and Male Reproductive Tract in Mice                                                                           |
| Engineering                                           | Doran, Michael                | seL4 on RISC-V – Developing High Assurance Platforms with Modular Open-Source Architectures                                                                        |
| Athletic Training                                     | Ellis, Noah (Group)           | Effects of Percussion Therapy on Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness                                                                                                     |
| Cell and Molecular Biology                            | Ensing, Jessica               | IN VIVO BIOTINYLATION AND STREPTAVIDIN PULL DOWN OF FZD9B To Evaluate the Role of Ubiquitination of The Intracellular Domains of FZD9B in WNT9A Signal Specificity |
| Public Health                                         | Garcia, Isabella              | An Evaluation of a School-Based Oral Health Education Event Among Elementary Students: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration of Stakeholders                          |
| Higher Education - College Student Affairs Leadership | Gibson, Matthew               | Religion and Worldview Development: The Ignored Piece of Student Identity                                                                                          |
| Applied Computer Science                              | Going, Griffin                | MUSE: A Genetic Algorithm for Musical Chord Progression Generation                                                                                                 |
| Applied Computer Science                              | Gonzalez Osorio, Andrea       | Bring Art Back to the Future                                                                                                                                       |
| Public Health                                         | Hamilton, Jeanine             | Hospital Admissions for Preventable Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions                                                                                                |
| Biology/AWRI                                          | Hart, John                    | Using watershed characteristics to enhance fecal source identification                                                                                             |
| Communication                                         | Hartley, Russell              | Efficacy Analysis of Online Artificial Intelligence Fact-Checking Tools                                                                                            |
| Engineering                                           | Holmes, Nathaniel             | Low-Impact Drone Containment Defense System                                                                                                                        |
| Doctor of Nursing Practice                            | Hunger, Sarah                 | Improving Adherence to Annual Retinal Screening Among Adult Diabetics in Rural Midwest.                                                                            |
| Engineering                                           | Lama, Bibash                  | Validation of Nvidia Tao'S Bpnet for Gait Feature Extraction with Human Motion Dataset                                                                             |
| Cell and Molecular Biology                            | Lee, Cameron                  | Lipid Starvation Increases Cancer Cell Susceptibility to Ferroptosis                                                                                               |
| Social Work                                           | McKenzie, Maureen             | Talking About Death: Exploration of the Impact of Death Communication Norms on End-of-Life Caregivers                                                              |
| Communication                                         | Pagone, Grace                 | Improving Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace One Initiative at a Time – Or Does It?                                                                          |
| Athletic Training                                     | Pennington, Mary Ryan (Group) | Effects of Percussion Therapy on Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness                                                                                                     |
| Engineering                                           | Petrenko, Anton               | Investigation of the Effect of Pulsed Power During Electrochemical Surface Modification of Aluminum and Titanium Alloy                                             |
| Criminal Justice                                      | Pinamang, Abena               | Sexual Minority Students' Negative Experiences in High School: A Descriptive Study                                                                                 |
| Biostatistics                                         | Repush, Anna                  | Quantitative Analysis of Lectin Microarray Data Using Simplified Binding Models Derived from Glycan Array Data                                                     |
| Doctor of Nursing Practice                            | Rollins, Shannon              | Nordic Walking Exercise Effects on Walking Function, Motor/Nonmotor Symptoms and Biomarkers in Individuals with Parkinson's Disease                                |
| Biostatistics                                         | Rose, Courtney                | Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Internship Experience                                                                                                           |
| Biology/AWRI                                          | Silverhart, Matthew           | Fish Assemblage Structure in Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands                                                                                                          |
| Public Health                                         | Sprau, Sydney                 | Hormonal Contraceptive Use and Postpartum Depression: Results from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2016-2020                                      |
| Health Informatics and Bioinformatics                 | Subedi, Gautam                | Do EHRs Contribute to Value-Based Purchasing in Physician Offices?                                                                                                 |
| Criminal Justice                                      | Thomas, Natalie               | Influence of Media Bias on Public Opinions Towards Protests                                                                                                        |
| Doctor of Nursing Practice                            | Voss, Abigail                 | Development of an Advanced Practice Provider Diagnostic Clinic within an Oncology Practice                                                                         |
| Athletic Training                                     | Wilks, Bailey                 | Blood Flow Restriction and Various Intensity Exercise in the Upper Extremity                                                                                       |

## The Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence

The Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence event is held at the end of the Fall and Winter semesters of each academic year to recognize the academic excellence of graduate students and faculty at GVSU.

The event traditionally begins with a reception for graduate students and their families and includes faculty and staff who are involved with graduate education at GVSU. The reception is followed by an award ceremony where students are honored for their outstanding work at GVSU.

**Table 7: Graduate Student Celebration Facts**

|                            | Fall 2022            | Winter 2023          |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Date Held                  | December 2, 2022     | April 14, 2023       |
| Location of Event          | Loosemore Auditorium | Loosemore Auditorium |
| No. of Attendees           | 126                  | 273                  |
| Conference Services        | \$2,827.51           | \$2,777.51           |
| Recording                  | \$650.00             | \$650.00             |
| Photographer               | \$455.00             | \$750.00             |
| Program Printing           | \$695.19             | \$1,248.54           |
| <b>Total Cost of Event</b> | <b>\$6,675.65</b>    | <b>\$8,060.93</b>    |

The Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence include awards for Excellence in a Degree Program, Outstanding Dissertation, Outstanding Master's Thesis, Outstanding Final Project, Outstanding Publication, Service to the Community or Profession, Leadership and Service to GVSU, Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU, and Excellence in Sustainability.

Faculty members and graduate program directors nominate graduate students in their disciplines that are at or near degree completion. Students are nominated for excellence in the program based on grade point average, outstanding performance in coursework, academic skills that exceed the average for written assignments, projects, service, and exceptional leadership.

Students receiving awards for Service to the Community or Profession, Leadership and Service to GVSU, Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU, and Excellence in Sustainability have demonstrated active leadership, outstanding service, innovative thinking, and represented GVSU's core values in a way that has made a positive impact on the community or university.

Awards for Outstanding Dissertation, Master's Thesis, Final Project, and Publication are given to students whose work is of publishable quality, or whose research is on a topic of exceptional significance to the profession or discipline. Excellence in design, analysis, discussion, and presentation are evident. Winners of awards for 2022-23 can be found online at <http://www.gvsu.edu/gs/graduate-deans-citations-for-academic-excellence-32.htm>.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) co-hosts this event. Graduate students at or near degree completion are encouraged to submit nominations for outstanding faculty members. The GSA Executive Board selects the recipients of the Faculty Mentor, Kimboko Inclusion, and Teaching awards. Those faculty members are invited to the ceremony and receive a certificate from the current GSA president.

Table 8: Graduate School Citations Awards 2022-23

| Graduate School Citation Award Category                 | Fall 2022 | Winter 2023 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Academic Excellence in a Degree Program                 | 15        | 19          |
| Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation                       | 0         | 0           |
| Outstanding Master's Thesis                             | 3         | 2           |
| Outstanding Final Project                               | 7         | 12          |
| Outstanding Publication                                 | 0         | 4           |
| Excellence in Service to Community or Profession        | 11        | 8           |
| Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU            | 9         | 10          |
| Excellence in Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU | 3         | 8           |
| Excellence in Sustainability                            | 2         | 4           |
| MAGS Thesis Nominees                                    | 2         | N/A         |

\*Awards presented by the Graduate Student Association

New Graduate Student Orientation

The New Graduate Student Orientation is a joint endeavor between The Graduate School and Office of Admissions. Graduate School staff and Tracey James-Heer, Associate Director of Admissions, provide leadership in planning and coordinating the event.

The event was held both in-person and virtually in Fall 2022 on Wednesday and Thursday, August 24 and 25, respectively. Two separate information sessions were held at the in-person orientation, with a resource fair in between the sessions. The resource fair includes university offices, departments, and

units that support graduate students, such as Financial Aid, Information Technology, University Libraries, Student Life, the Graduate Student Association, and others. The Winter 2023 orientation was held in-person on Thursday, January 5, 2023, and Spring-Summer 2023 was held in-person on Monday, May 1, 2023.

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance:                   |     |
| Fall 2022: . . . . .          | 211 |
| Winter 2023: . . . . .        | 91  |
| Spring-Summer 2023: . . . . . | 16  |



Graduate Assistant Orientation

The Graduate Assistantship Policy, Section 1.09.B in the Faculty Handbook, requires that all graduate students assigned a Graduate Assistantship must complete an orientation that explains Graduate Assistant rights and responsibilities.

The Graduate School held two New Graduate Assistant Orientation sessions prior to the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester. One orientation session was held in-person in the Loosemore Auditorium, and one was held virtually. In the Winter 2023 semester, one in-person orientation was held

for new graduate assistants starting their appointments during that term. In the Spring/Summer 2023 semester, one in-person orientation was held for new graduate assistants starting their appointments during that term. Students who were unable to attend any of the orientation sessions were required to meet with TGS staff individually.

Attendance:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Fall 2022:          | 205 |
| Winter 2023:        | 51  |
| Spring/Summer 2023: | 8   |



# Graduate Communications

## Graduate Education Publications

- **Advising Handbooks**

The Graduate School publishes both a faculty/staff and a student advising handbook. Each handbook contains best advising practices, expectations of quality advising, and resources for students and faculty. Both versions are available for download at [www.gvsu.edu/gs/manual](http://www.gvsu.edu/gs/manual).

- **Graduate Faculty & Graduate Program Director Handbooks**

The Graduate School creates two separate handbooks, one for general graduate faculty and one specifically for graduate program directors. Both handbooks are designed to assist faculty members with a variety of duties, including recruitment, enrollment management, application review and admission, academic processes, and graduation audits. These handbooks are available for download at [www.gvsu.edu/gs/resources-for-faculty-staff-59.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/gs/resources-for-faculty-staff-59.htm).

- **Graduate Student Guidebook**

The Graduate School annually reaches out to individuals and departments to gather policies, resources, and helpful suggestions to enhance the quality of graduate students' experience at GVSU. Included in the guidebook are facts about the campus, department contacts, advice for guidance and resources, and program options. The guidebook supplements the standard university resources by providing graduate-specific information and resources. The Graduate Student Guidebook is available for download at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/guides-for-graduate-students-70.htm>.

- **Guides for Graduate Students**

Along with the listed resources here, the Graduate School maintains several documents and guides for graduate students. Some of these include the New Graduate Student Checklist, Graduate Student Blueprint, Online Learning Guide, and the new Health Resources document. These guides are available for download at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/guides-for-graduate-students-70.htm>.

- **Policies and Procedures Manual**

The Graduate School publishes the Graduate Education Policies and Procedures Manual annually to provide support to graduate education at Grand Valley State University and to serve as a comprehensive guide to graduate education policies and procedures for faculty, staff, and students at GVSU. The Policies and

Procedures Manual is available for download at [www.gvsu.edu/gs/manual](http://www.gvsu.edu/gs/manual).

- **Culminating Project Guidelines**

The Graduate School annually publishes guidelines that define the procedures for creating and submitting a final graduate project at Grand Valley State University. These guidelines, along with document templates and resources, are available for download at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/project-guidelines-104.htm>.

- **Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines**

The Graduate School annually publishes a manual that defines the procedures for creating and submitting a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation at Grand Valley State University. This manual, along with document templates and resources, are available for download at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/thesis-and-dissertation-information-35.htm>.

## The Graduate School Podcast Series

To provide prospective and current graduate students with more efficient ways to learn about GVSU's graduate programs, the Graduate School created a series of podcasts during the 2016-17 academic year and regularly updates the content. These podcasts intend to cater to prospective students who desire more information about GVSU's graduate programs, certificates, and badges.

These 3 - 7 minute long podcasts individually outline all graduate programs and graduate certificates at GVSU. The Graduate School has podcasts for master's, doctoral, certificate, and combined degree programs which provide an overview of the admissions processes, degree requirements, curriculum structures, and distinguishing qualities of each program. The podcasts are recorded by a graduate assistant in the Graduate School office, edited, and uploaded to the Graduate School website.

As of Spring/Summer 2023, podcasts have been created for all the master's and doctoral programs, combined degree programs, and graduate certificate programs. The Graduate School has also begun a new podcast initiative to create individual podcasts for the different emphases within programs to provide more details to prospective students that are targeted to their interests. The Graduate School is continually recording and updating podcasts as new programs, and program changes arise.

## 6 in 60: The Graduate School Newsletter

Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, the Graduate School continued to use the cost-free EMMA software system supported by Institutional Marketing for the 6 in 60 Newsletter. The newsletter content regularly highlights graduate education activities at GVSU, including important dates and deadlines, opportunities for graduate students, news and events from the Graduate Student Association, and graduate student success stories. The newsletter is distributed via email to over 500 faculty and staff, as well as to all enrolled graduate students. Recent newsletters are available online at [www.gvsu.edu/gs](http://www.gvsu.edu/gs).

## "Grad News: Headlines from Across the Nation" Newsletter

The Graduate School has continued this newsletter to highlight graduate education-related news from across the country. The Graduate School uses the cost-free EMMA software system supported by Institutional Marketing to distribute this newsletter. Stories include the addition of programs, program changes, and program recognition. This newsletter is sent to approximately 130 recipients, including members of the Provost Cabinet, Graduate Program Directors, Graduate Department Chairpersons, Academic Deans, and members of the Graduate Council.

## The Graduate School Website

The Graduate School website serves as the central location for information on all issues related to graduate education for future and current students, as well as faculty and staff. The Graduate School also supports the Virtual New Graduate Student Orientation and PACES Professional Development Program websites.

## Website Facts July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023

Selected Graduate School website data are provided below:

- Total page views: 553,226
- Total unique users who visited the Graduate School website: 161,258
- Total number of new users on the Graduate School website: 229,217

Top 10 Pages Visited:

1. Master and Doctoral Degree Programs
2. The Graduate School Homepage
3. Graduate Assistantships – Job Openings
4. Graduate Degrees, Certificates, and Combined Degrees
5. Graduate Assistantships – Student Information and Resources
6. Graduate Student Resources
7. Graduate Assistantships – What is a Graduate Assistantship?
8. Online/Hybrid and Certificate Programs
9. Combined Degree Programs
10. Virtual New Graduate Student Orientation

## The Graduate School Social Media

In Fall 2020, the Graduate School at GVSU's Facebook page had over 850 Followers. Due to issues with Facebook, the page was unpublished, and a new page was created: <https://www.facebook.com/GVSUGradSchool/>. The Graduate School continued to rebuild its social media presence in 2022-23.

Facebook, 174 followers - <https://www.facebook.com/GVSUGradSchool/>

Instagram, 200 followers - <https://www.instagram.com/gvsugraduateschool/>

LinkedIn, 71 followers - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/gvsu-graduate-school/>

Posts to the page are used to actively promote events such as New Graduate Student Orientation, Thesis and Dissertation Workshops, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition. Other posts include links to articles related to professional development, career guidance, financial advice and support, fellowship and grant opportunities, and news about the GVSU or Grand Rapids communities. Campus and event photos are also featured regularly.

## Graduate Leadership

### Graduate Council

#### Full Graduate Council

Total number of meetings: 8 regular meetings, 7 executive committee meetings

Average number of attendees per regular meeting: 14 elected members, 5 ex-officio members

#### Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review (GC-CPR) Subcommittee

Total number of meetings: 15

Average number of attendees per meeting: 7 elected members, 2 ex-officio members

#### Graduate Council Policy (GC-PC) Subcommittee

Total number of meetings: 8

Average number of attendees per meeting: 8 elected members, 4 ex-officio members

### Graduate Council 2022-23 Annual Report

#### Graduate Council Faculty, Student, Administrative Members, and Ex-officio members:

T. Bergerud (ex-officio), A. Campbell (CLAS, Chair of Graduate Council), X. Cao (PCEC), Sheri DeVries (administrative), C. Fitzpatrick (BCOIS), B. Harvey (UL), N. Harpold (KCON), M. Harris (CECI, Vice Chair of Graduate Council), T. James-Heer (ex-officio), A. Hussain (BCOIS), J. Jeffryes (UL), R. Jelier (CECI), C. Karasinski (CHP), L. Kessler (SCB), A. McKay (KCON), T. Parker (CHP), J. Pope (SCB, Chair of Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee), J. Potteiger (ex-officio), Erica Hamilton (ex-officio), S. Rhodes (PCEC), M. Staves (CLAS, Chair of Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee), D. Vainner (ex-officio), P. Wells (ex-officio).

**Graduate Council Student Members:** H. Robinson, J. Ohaeche, M. Seamogano, C. Okoroafor

The Graduate Council (GC) convened on September 16, 2022, and met a total of 8 times through April, 2023. Because the GC addresses policy issues and reviews graduate curriculum proposals and implements program reviews, members of the GC also serve on either the Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee (GC-CPR, Mark Staves, Chairperson) or the Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee (GC-PC, Jennifer Pope, Chairperson). With each college sending two faculty members to GC, each college is represented on both subcommittees. The GC-CPR and GC-PC generally meet 2-3 times each month in addition to regular GC meetings.

### Graduate Council Charges

#### 1. Review Graduate Faculty Workload

To address this charge, the GC-PC conducted a survey of graduate faculty, analyzed the results, and developed a full report. The full report was submitted to ECS and UAS at the end of the academic year.

#### 2. Graduate Program Culminating Experiences

The GC-PC reviewed policies and procedures related to graduate culminating experiences and determined no policies changes or additions were needed at this time.

### 3. Graduate Student Experience:

The GC-PC reviewed several years of existing data from the graduate student exit survey regarding student perceptions related to their academic and student life experiences at the university. Overall, while students are largely positive about their academic experience at the university, they are less positive about the student life experience. This has been a consistent finding both pre and post pandemic. Further, it is apparent that there is greater dissatisfaction with student life activities on the downtown and health campuses.

After reviewing the data, the GC-PC would like to further explore the types of student life services and activities that are most important to graduate students, as their needs are likely to differ from undergraduate students. To aid in gathering additional data, the Graduate School has added additional questions to the graduate student exit survey for this year. The GC-PC will review the additional data and develop recommendations in 2023/2024.

### 4. Graduate Program Review

The GC-CPR completed 3 graduate program reviews this year. Site visits were conducted either in-person, and final reports were approved by the council.

### 5. Leadership and Succession Planning:

The GC developed and approved a policy for leadership and succession planning.

### Additional Activities

The GC-PC developed changes to the following policies:

- Graduate Remediation Policy (new policy)
- Graduate Transfer Credit Policy
- 8-year Time Limit Policy
- Dual-listed Enrollment Policy
- Graduate Academic Policies for Degrees, Certificates, and Badges

The GC-CPR reviewed and approved several graduate program changes, and worked with the Provost's office and UCC to develop an improved curricular review process.



## Graduate Program Directors (GPD) Group

The GPDs meet regularly with the Associate Vice-Provost of The Graduate School to review issues, policies, and procedures affecting graduate education at GVSU.

Total number of meetings: 7

Average number of attendees per meeting: 44

Major initiatives and discussions:

- Return of PACES program for Graduate Students
- Slate training provided for GPDs
- EAB Navigate launch and training for GPDs
- Presentation by Career Center – Lisa Orlando
- Graduate recruitment, retention, registration
- Presentation by Office of Admissions – Danny Velez
- Graduate recruitment and retention initiatives
- Remediation Policies for graduate programs
- Dual-listed courses
- Transfer of credit to a graduate degree program, certificate or badge
- Graduate Student Mental Health presentation – Mikhila Wildey
- Use of Artificial Intelligence for graduate level academic work presentation – Patrick Johnson and Emily Frigo
- HBCU/HSI Pipeline Consortium presentation – LuWanna Williams
- Hauenstein Center programs presentation – Megan Rydecki



## The Graduate School Information and Activities

Periodically, the Graduate School provides financial support to units, programs, events, and individuals for travel, conference registration, and other matters relating primarily to graduate education. In the fiscal year 2022-23, the Graduate School sponsored the following:

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools |          |
| Annual Conference.....                     | \$500.00 |
| Total Support .....                        | \$500.00 |

### Institutional Memberships

The Graduate School covers the cost of institutional memberships in the following organizations:

|                                              |            |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Council of Graduate Schools.....             | \$6,034.00 |
| Midwest Association of Graduate Schools..... | \$250.00   |
| Total Support .....                          | \$6,284.00 |



## The Graduate School Staff

### **Jeffrey Potteiger, Associate Vice-provost of the Graduate School**

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger joined Grand Valley State University in July of 2010 and is a professor in the Department of Movement Science. He received his Ph.D. from Auburn University, his M.S. degree from McDaniel College, and his B.S. degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Potteiger has been a faculty member at Indiana State University, the University of Kansas, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Miami University. Dr. Potteiger has served in university administrative roles as a laboratory director, graduate program director, department chairperson, dean, and associate provost for research.

Dr. Potteiger began his professional career as a public school teacher in Pennsylvania before becoming involved in education at the university level. He has over 100 published research articles, books, and book chapters much of which has involved work with students. Dr. Potteiger recently published the 4th edition of the textbook titled ACSM's Introduction to Exercise Science. His broad research interest is in how physical activity and nutrition influence health and disease. Much of Dr. Potteiger's recent research activity has been focused on the role of exercise and dietary intake on the use of carbohydrates and fats by the body.

In addition to his role as Associate Vice-Provost of the Graduate School, Dr. Potteiger serves as the GVSU Authorizing Institutional Official for all research activities and as the university's Research Integrity Officer. Dr. Potteiger contributes to his profession by serving on the editorial boards of several journals and as a leader in the American College of Sports Medicine.

### **Trista Bergerud, Assistant Director, Programming and Communications**

Trista joined Grand Valley State University in July of 2021 and the Graduate School in February 2022. She earned her master's degree in International Education from New York University, and her bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of North Dakota.

Trista has a background in global education and diversity that she developed while teaching abroad in Ghana and Morocco. She also taught students from pre-K to college in the US and has been an international student herself in London and Paris. Her experience as both teacher and student gives her a unique perspective that helps to guide her in supporting all students.

Trista is responsible for conducting market research in support of GVSU's ability to offer new graduate programming, as well as expanding graduate faculty and graduate student engagement in curricular and co-curricular activities. She provides creative and strategic direction and project/content management for all Graduate School communications. In addition, Trista plans and facilitates special events and functions, including New Graduate Student Orientations, the Graduate School Celebrations, and the Graduate Showcase event. She also administers the Michigan Intercollegiate Graduate Studies (MIGS) Program, reviewing applications from non-degree seeking graduate students, preparing and reviewing petitions for exceptions to university graduate education policies and leave of absence requests, and processing professional learning credit requests. Trista also supervises and manages the Graduate Assistants of The Graduate School.

In addition to managing the programming and communication of The Graduate School, Trista is the Thesis and Dissertation Coordinator. She manages the 3-minute Thesis Competition, designing and facilitating the project, thesis and dissertation workshops, and other co-curricular activities. She also reviews all final thesis and dissertation documents for compliance with university policies, continuous enrollment requirements, and coordinates the approval and dissemination of all final documents.

### **Irene Fountain, Assistant to the Associate Vice-provost of the Graduate School**

Irene Fountain has been with the Graduate School since the department was formed in 2000 as "Graduate Studies and Grants Administration." She holds a master's degree in Public Administration from GVSU and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Davenport University.

Irene serves as Dr. Potteiger's administrative assistant. She coordinates The Graduate School financial and operational records, organizes meetings with various constituent groups such as the graduate program directors' advisory group and the Graduate Council and its subcommittees, and keeps the official minutes and records of the Graduate Council. As the primary administrative support person for the Graduate Council, she is responsible for coordinating external reviewer site visits for programs undergoing graduate program review.

She also coordinates and administers the Graduate Presidential Research Grant (PRG) program, oversees the Academic Conference Fund (ACF) for Graduate Students, and works with the Graduate Student Association's (GSA) funding board by assisting with the review of funding requests and approvals. She maintains the budgets and tracks expenditures for the PRG, ACF, and GSA and serves as the Associate Vice-provost's designee for expense reimbursements.

Irene manages the graduate assistantship program, ensuring adherence to the graduate assistantship policy, communicates with constituents and coordinates assistantship appointments with Financial Aid, Student Employment, GA supervisors, and students, and organizes the New Graduate Assistantship Orientation. Irene retired from the Graduate School in September 2022.

### **Sheri DeVries, Assistant to the Associate Vice-provost of the Graduate School**

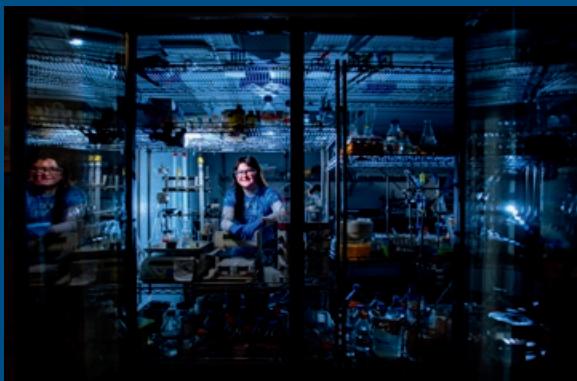
Sheri DeVries has been with Grand Valley State University and The Graduate School since September 2022. She earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science, health fitness instruction from GVSU.

Sheri serves as administrative assistant to The Graduate School and Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger, Associate Vice-Provost for the Graduate School. She is the primary contact for scheduling meetings with the AVP.

She manages all aspects of the Graduate Assistantship program, Presidential Research Grants, and the Academic Conference Fund for graduate students, and supports the Graduate Student Association as an unofficial advisor, primarily handling the financial aspects of the organization and the funding board.

Sheri coordinates the activities of the Graduate Council, including meeting scheduling, official records, and coordinating the external reviewer site visits for graduate program review.

She also coordinates the Graduate Program Directors meetings, new graduate faculty luncheons, the Graduate Student Celebration, Graduate Showcase, and other meetings and events sponsored by The Graduate School.



# The Graduate School Graduate Assistants and Student Assistants

## **Kassie Nguyen, Graduate Assistant**

Kassie joined the Graduate School as a Resources and Marketing Graduate Assistant in the Fall of 2021. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Communication and a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Grand Valley State University in December of 2020. She completed a Master of Public Health with an emphasis in Epidemiology from GVSU.

Kassie was responsible for the creation, maintenance, and research report generation from databases in The Graduate School. She assisted with podcasts for graduate programming and was a member of the Graduate Council as well as the University Technology Committee. Kassie supported the management of events such as the Graduate Showcase and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition.

## **Long Ho, Graduate Assistant**

Long became a Student Assistant to the Graduate School in May 2019. He graduated in Winter 2022 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management. He is continuing his education at Grand Valley with a Master of Public Administration and has continued with the Graduate School as a Resources and Marketing Graduate Assistant in the Fall of 2022.

Long is responsible for coordinating The Graduate School's social media, the 6 in 60 Newsletter, graduate student success stories, and other marketing projects. Long also supports the management of events such as the Graduate Showcase and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition.

## **Riley Begeman, Student Assistant**

Riley (They/He) became a student assistant to The Graduate School in March of 2022. They are currently completing an undergraduate degree in Advertising and Public Relations with a minor in Theatre. Riley hopes to work in PR for creative projects like film, television, and theatre after graduation.

Riley joined the Graduate School to maintain databases related to The Graduate School, graduate thesis and dissertations, and student petitions. They assist with data entry, filing, communication with students and faculty, and special projects to help the office run efficiently.

## **Ashley Derfiny, Student Assistant**

Ashley joined the Graduate School in September 2022. She is currently in her undergraduate program with a double major in management and marketing. Her dream job is to work for a luxury fashion company and move to New York.

Ashley is a student assistant at the graduate school. Her everyday tasks include communicating with students and staff, data entry, and assisting on any special projects.



The Graduate School extends its appreciation to the students, faculty, and staff who further the mission of quality graduate education at Grand Valley State University. Comments, questions, or suggestions regarding this Annual Report may be directed to the Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu) or (616) 331-7105.