

# Welcome To Student Scholars Day 2011

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to celebrate the diversity and excellence of faculty-student collaboration at GVSU. In its 16th year, Student Scholars Day continues to grow in scope, including six hundred students and mentors in over four hundred presentations. We are excited to support the achievements of these students representing seventy diverse majors across the university. We encourage you to visit presentations of interest in a variety of disciplines and presentation formats, and to engage these students in meaningful discussions of their work. This event is a true celebration of creative thought and practice.

Many have contributed to make this growing event a success. We are especially grateful for the hard work and patience of Shelley Sickrey, Megan Shannahan, Kassi Bullen, and Isaac Billings who made this process manageable and enjoyable. We thank the members of the 2011 SSD committee, Bopi Biddanda, Amanda Cuevas, Robert Deaner, Christina Moord, Melissa Morison, Debbie Morrow, Ross Reynolds, Megan Shannahan, Shelley Sickrey, Suganthi Sridhar, Patricia Videtich, and Janet Vigna for their dedication and continuous flow of creative ideas. It takes an entire year to put together a program like this, and we appreciate the hours spent engaging with us in this process.

Once again our deepest gratitude goes to Dan Slaughter for his support of the web registration for SSD. We would also like to thank the Kirkhof Center staff, Fred Mooney, and Kellie Pnack-Carter for their assistance and patience. Our deepest thanks to Aimee Sitka and Catering for their assistance and support. We would also like to thank Jeff Woollet for assisting in the preparation of Henry Hall.

Thank you to Jessi Essian for her artistic contributions to this abstract book. Layered Skies was one of several pieces submitted in response to a student competition hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. Jessi's woodblock piece was selected to serve as the cover by the SSD committee.

Thanks to our student, faculty, and staff volunteers for their commitment to the university's mission and values, as evidenced by their involvement in this important activity. We value the time and effort given to this event.

A very special thank you goes to the faculty mentors who work collaboratively with undergraduate and graduate students in their scholarly and creative pursuits. We know it takes a great deal of time and dedication, but these experiences make a formidable impression on the education of GVSU students. We applaud your commitment and passion for teaching and learning.

And finally, a day like this does not happen without outstanding students like this year's SSD presenters. These students have sought ways to connect their classroom experiences with scholarly and creative practice. They have engaged in a process of discovery that is often difficult and demanding. We thank these students for taking full advantage of their liberal education at GVSU. We are proud of their achievements and excited to share their success.

Please enjoy this day of celebration. Attend the many presentations available throughout the day. We extend a special invitation to attend the presentation given by this year's Keynote Speaker, Dr. Nina Jablonski from The Pennsylvania State University. Today is sure to be a day of sharing and celebration.

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