

# Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing

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## Contributor's Bios

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**LAMONT ARRINGTON** found fire in Grand Rapids, Michigan at a young age and has since traveled the world to share the warmth with everyone he meets. Since graduating from Grand Valley with a degree in Writing, he has become an applied behavior analysis technician by day and a storyteller by night. When he is not working to better people's ability to navigate the world, he is creating content for everyone to explore in the relative safety of their homes. Find more to explore at [ww.arrimonogatari.com](http://ww.arrimonogatari.com).

**LIV BAKER** is currently studying allied health sciences and writing. Liv has been published in Goat's Milk Magazine and has won an AWP intro award for poetry. In her free time, you will find her writing, drinking excessive amounts of coffee, and tending to her many plants.

**ASHLEY BENEDICT** will be graduating this spring with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Writing. She has no idea what she wants to do in the future (but is excited to see where she ends up). In her spare time, she enjoys reading, volunteering, traveling, and cuddling with her dogs. She is drawn to ideas that are controversial and uses her writing to explore them deeper. She recently won the Fiction category for the 2018 GVSU AWP Intro Awards. This her first creative piece to be published.

**HAILEY CIESLUK** is an aspiring artist who is in her second year in the illustrations department. She looks to create pieces that have the intimate beauty of a second glance; that, even for a moment, force you to only focus on the beauty right before your eyes. Her favorite and most common style is pointillism, but she can be found creating all sorts of interesting, often colorful designs. When Hailey is not at Calder Art Center (a rarity), she can be found working at the Frederick Meijer Center for Writing. She hopes to someday combine her passions of art and writing to change the way in which people view, read, and interpret her chaotic thoughts.

**BRETT CLARK** is a junior at Grand Valley studying physics and mathematics. He lives in a town near Grand Rapids that once held the record for most churches on a single street. In his spare time, he binges Netflix, video games, and books. Sometimes he likes to take pictures of things. His photography reflects his ongoing fascination with how light can be used to evoke certain emotions.

**EMILY ROSE DORAN** is a senior majoring in Spanish and minoring in writing. She has worked in local media as a journalist and editor since 2014, most recently manning the helm at the Grand Valley Lantern as the newspaper's editor-in-chief. In her free time, she likes to dabble in creative writing, particularly poetry and flash fiction and nonfiction. For her academic studies, she focuses on researching and writing about feminist issues in modern Spanish literature.

**CULLEN DUNNING**, at twenty-two years old, is expecting to graduate in 2019 with a B.A. in Creative Writing. Cullen's hobbies include making too many Spotify playlists, wearing denim, and picking out which pair of shoes he's buying next, as soon as he finds the money. While endlessly spewing his words, Cullen is living in Grand Rapids with his best friend, Jack, and their cat, Oliver. Together, all three live happily, reading, eating New York Fried Chicken, drinking cheap beer, and spinning old Springsteen records.

**EMILY FERRERA** is a junior writing major and photography minor. She loves cooking, crafting, and watching *Gilmore Girls* in her spare time. Poetry is her favorite genre to write in, and she always has a cup of coffee and a box of Wheat Thins nearby. Emily hopes to have a career as an acquisitions editor in the future, and thinks everyone should pet a dog and do something kind at least once a day.

**KYLE FLANNERY** is a filmmaker, friend of most animals, lover of a good spring jacket, and the person who texts himself a reminder to pick up milk on the way home because the thought of starting his day without a tall glass seems unbearable. He has a passion for telling narratives and capturing heartbreaking emotion through film, photography, writing, and other arts. Much of his work focuses on the darker aspects of life because he believes there's beauty in everything. He aspires to continue storytelling until the day he dies, and even then, he hopes his stories will live on.

**MARIAH GOZOS** is a pre-nursing student who somehow fell in love with writing and photography. She does her best writing in her twin size bed at 11 p.m. with a cup of coffee and avocado toast. She enjoys taking photos because the things people capture in photos are the things they will love and miss the most. She is from Naperville, Illinois and her first time coming to the Mitten state was to visit Grand Valley State University. She is a simple piece of impressionism with corners of abstract, a magnet towards finding serendipity, and a building under construction.

**ROBYN KNOPER** is an artist and illustrator based in Allendale, Michigan who is increasingly interested in the world around her. She enjoys experimenting with different mediums to create the feeling and outcome she desires for a piece. She loves working with her hands and has found joy in using the process of woodcutting while printmaking.

**ANNE LIVINGSTON** is a senior graduating from GVSU with degrees in Writing and English Literature. She enjoys volunteering with middle school students at the Creative Youth Center and visiting the Loch Ness Monster at the John Ball Zoo. She does not consider dandelions to be a weed.

**LILY MOXLEY** is attending school to further her lifelong dream and passion of being an artist. Using her creative mind, she has been making art since she was a young child. In her current works, she shows her fascination with the human form, and different, often distorted body types. Lily's art, which focuses on the female form, is uniquely motivated by her own body. She uses herself as a model to promote her passion for feminism, as well as self-love and representing unique body types, not just society's ideal of the female form.

**JENNA PEWARCHIE** is in her third year at GVSU where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Photography and Writing with a minor in Studio Arts and Digital Studies. Jenna flexes her creativity outside of her academics by continuing her passion for dance, specifically contemporary and ballet. This same act of discipline and submersion in movement inspires her work for trying to capture the way we all exist within the world and the beauty of the human body. She enjoys sipping coffee well into the night, being open to any flow of ideas that will inspire her.

**SCHYLER PERKINS** is interested in the intersections between sound, narrative, and the human experience. The work he is most passionate about allows him the opportunity to explore the lives and works of artists, or to experiment with the form and mediums of pieces to incorporate sound. He is a nonfiction writer, journalist, photographer, musician, and is co-editor-in-chief of SkipFiction.

**JENNALYN STULL** is a third-year student studying writing and legal studies here at Grand Valley. She enjoys poetry and creative fiction, and when she doesn't have her pen pressed to paper, she can be seen either napping or complaining about how terrible Michigan weather is. She loves walks on the beach, cats, and apple-flavored anything. In the future, she hopes to pursue a career in editing.

**MICHELLE TIESMA** is a senior English major and writing minor. She has been trying to write stories since she first figured out how to spell, and will continue to do so long after she's forgotten how.

**ANNELISE TROUT** is a first year student at GVSU majoring in Information Technology and is suspected to be human (although this remains unconfirmed). From Illinois, she enjoys most music pre-2000s, K-Pop, anime, horror movies, ramen noodles, cats, the writing of Rob Thomas and Lee Child, and spending time with her family. She is tired of people showing her dog pictures, of people spelling her name wrong, and of people who throw everything in the landfill when it's clearly compostable. She is honored to have her work featured in *fishladder* and hopes to submit again in the future.

**JACOB MARION VAN SINGEL** is a writer and a creator fascinated by the beauty amidst the chaos and disorder of the world, as well as by the power words have to convey that beauty. Whether fiction or nonfiction, his work is often very reflective and contemplative, reaching deep into his characters' thoughts and agendas. After graduating from Grand Valley in December with a degree in writing and business, he now works at Steelcase in Research and Brand Communications.

**HALEY WAGNER** is rounding out her final year at GVSU as a double major in Writing and Communications. She is honored to be published in *fishladder* before she dips her toe into ponds beyond the place she has called home for the past five years.

**MIKAELA WESTRICK** is a sophomore at Grand Valley and is currently earning a degree in psychology and writing. She enjoys writing, especially poetry, in her free time, and wants to continue to do so after graduating.

**EMILY ZERRENNER** is a junior writing major and LGBTQ studies minor. She works as a writing consultant and a front desk library staff member on campus. Emily comes from a background of creativity, as her grandfather was a writer and poet and her grandmother a painter. She has always been interested in telling stories and communicating something about what it means to be alive. She only recently became interested in stitching together poems, and has found enjoyment in double meanings, doorways, and leaving town.