



**Viking Mentor
Appreciation Ceremony**

April 2, 2020

**VOCATION
WEEK 2020**

Grand View University wants to recognize and thank faculty and staff members who have made a significant difference in the life of a Grand View student. It is in these relationships that the transformational aspect of the Grand View experience comes to life. Both the mentors and mentees have been blessed by these connections and we want to celebrate them today.

Students, you are wise to seek out and nurture deeper connections with faculty and staff members and we thank you for taking to the time to nominate your mentor and be here today.

Dr. Paul Brooke

Nominated by: Denise McCullough

“Dr. Brooke makes every single student feel that they are appreciated and important. He teaches with humor and knowledge, but adapts to a student's individual need. He builds your confidence as a student. His positivity is contagious. As a social work major and healthcare provider, I am overjoyed we have someone with your traits teaching students by example. Thank you for being YOU!!!”

Nominated by: Jordan Rodriguez

“Super cool teacher and very easy to get along with.”

Ms. Laurie Butz

Nominated by: Caleb McDowell

“Laurie is the greatest advisor I could have. Every time I step in her office I feel like she is my number one supporter in school. Without her I would not be succeeding in school like I have been.”

Ms. Beth Carlson

Nominated by: Marissa Ruppel

“I have had Ms. Carlson as my GV complete coach now for two years and I always feel if I need help I can reach out to her. She has never let me down when I have questions and she always finds ways to help me out, whether it be going over my four years I will be here or if I want to look at other minors I could add to my degree.”

Ms. Jori Avery

Nominated by: Allyssa Angle

“Jori always takes the time to listen to my concerns and help develop a plan of action. She is knowledgeable and loves to share her wisdom. She was recently a student herself so she relates well to students here at GVU.”

Dr. Ahmadu Baba-Singhri

Nominated by: Kyle Nitz

“Dr. Baba-Singhri has completely given me a new perspective on different topics concerning criminal justice. I truly believe he is the best instructor at Grand View.”

Dr. Sarah Miller Boelts

Nominated by: Sumitra Basnet

“Professor Sarah is my Spanish teacher. Spanish is my third language that I am learning, but professor Sarah has made the class convenient for me. She is always looking for an opportunity to teach the students in a way that students learn easy. I have learned so much over these 2 months than I ever have in my entire course. I have confidence when I am speaking Spanish, as well as writing. She is very polite and understands me so much, which makes me glad that I belong to Grand View. She always gives good feedback that I have always scored well every time I do a lab writing or a exam. Professor Sarah has all the qualities a PhD degree holder should have.”

Dr. Jaclyn Easter

Nominated by: Madison Green

“Dr. Easter has gone above and beyond for me on too many occasions to mention. She has encouraged me to present with her at a statewide teacher's conference, encouraged me to take multiple education practicum opportunities, and has overall pushed me to be the strong, confident student teacher I am today. She is truly an amazing woman. My Grand View experience simply would not have been nearly as remarkable without her. That is why Dr. Easter is absolutely deserving of the mentor appreciation award.”

Dr. Michael Elsbernd

Nominated by: Colby Gochanour

“Dr. Elsbernd has helped give me the confidence needed to play the organ for service playing, and always is able to find something positive, even if I had felt I had terribly messed up.”

Dr. Amy Getty

Nominated by: Duy Ly

“Dr. Getty encouraged any ideas I gave out. Supporting and empathizing with students' situations are the first things she does with students.”

Dr. Bonnie Hall

Nominated by: Blaze Kahikina

“Dr. Hall helped me get back to Grand view.”

Nominated by: Alli Rupert

“I have been struggling with multiple health issues throughout this semester. Dr. Hall has gone above and beyond to make accommodations for me and to look out for me academically, physically, and emotionally. She is constantly pushing students to get the very best out of their education and creates inspiration in the daunting field of biochemistry. Because of Dr. Hall I have a greater love for biochemistry and for research. She has introduced me to multiple wonderful opportunities to help me grow and become a better scientist. Dr. Hall is a true inspiration to me and I can't describe in words how appreciative I am for all of her help and support. Thank you for being such an amazing mentor!”

Nominated by: Idris Abubakar Barau

“Dr. Hall helped me with my academic processes, like my class scheduling, change of major when I needed to, critical advising about biochemistry, and many more.”

Nominated by: Grant Weldon

“She encouraged me and gave me confidence to get things done when I didn't think I could do it. She understood me, but also didn't let me take the easy way out.”

Dr. Bonnie Hall

Nominated by: Alexa Pinos

“She talked me through it when I felt lost in what major I wanted to pursue. She was honest and supportive of what I wanted to pursue and helped me feel at peace with my decision. She also helped by writing a recommendation for a scholarship. I really appreciate everything she has done for me and she really deserves to be recognized for it!”

Dr. David Hannum

Nominated by: Regina King

“Dr. Hannum reached out to me when I reached a low point in the semester, with life throwing many curve balls and the pressure got overwhelming and so intense, I was going to quit. Dr. Hannum emailed, texted and reached out to me to encourage me to take one bite at a time and that there are opportunities to finish strong. Even the strongest have weaknesses. I am so grateful for his encouraging words of wisdom and showing me that he really cared as a person. I will forever remember the impact he made on my education and my choices of hanging in there. Today, I know I am still a student through hard work, determination to not let go of a dream and encouragement from Dr. Hannum. He really has made a difference in my life. Thank you. The entire staff was willing to work with my situation. Grand View University really cares about their students.”

Ms. Diane Hintzsche

Nominated by: Kali Spaulding

“Diane has always gone above and beyond to make sure not only me but the other students succeed. She's a very approachable person, listens and understands that every student learns in a different way. She's always available to help, and often checks up on how each student is doing. I'm not the best test taker and she's helped me ease my test taking fear.”

Dr. Grant Knotts

Nominated by: Robin Fenton

“Before taking Dr. Knotts physics courses, I couldn't even do basic algebra. His encouragement led me to be successful in a class I thought that I would surely fail. As a new professor to Grand View, I think that he has created a classroom environment that any student can thrive in.”

Ms. Molly Lauck

Nominated by: Kiya Jones

“If I'm not okay or I need anything she will cross oceans for me.”

Dr. Thomas Lecaque

Nominated by: Caitlyn Malloy

“Dr. Lecaque makes sure that his students always feel welcome and that they are being listened to. He goes above and beyond to make sure that the material is understood but that it is also in connection with other material. He is the most understanding person on this campus, and always has great advice.”

Mr. Dayne Logan

Nominated by: Mikayla Morris

“Dad. Teacher. Writer. These are all words that can be used to describe Dayne Logan, communications professor and department chair. However, most of the department views him as human. During my years at Grand View, I have witnessed Professor Logan create meaningful relationships with nearly all his students. Inside and outside of the classroom, he truly cares about us as people. He advises us through not only classes, but through life. He even advises students who were not assigned to him, such as myself. Professor Logan is always honest with us, which allows us to grow and become better. Even with a busy schedule, Professor Logan figures out a way to make room in his schedule for all students. Whether its walking and talking with him in the hallway or having an hour-long conversation in his office, he prioritizes his students and their education. He is a prime example of going above and beyond the job description of a teacher. In fact, he has inspired me to want to teach at the college level. All of these reasons and then some, are why I am nominating him.”

Dr. Xiang Ma

Nominated by: Baleigh Wheeler

“Dr. Xiang Ma was my introduction to research and has pushed me to become a more confident student. He has believed in me and has encouraged me to further my education and life after college.”

Mr. Klinton McGinnis

Nominated by: Mariah Koch

“KC McGinnis helped me achieve a project for a class outside of the one that I have with him. He taught me how to use new equipment, schedule studio time, troubleshoot editing ideas, and inspire me to challenge myself with projects outside of the skill set that we learn in class. KC welcomes any filming or editing questions anyone has and he would go above and beyond to help students get the content they would be looking for.”

Dr. Jay Prescott

Nominated by: Katelyn Martinson

“It'll be hard to explain in less than 200 words how Jay has helped me, but I'll try. Jay never fails to follow the mission he is called to at this university, which is founded in Christ. If it is a day where I need professional counsel on student government issues and politics, Jay is there to gracefully advise. If it is a day where I need to be reminded of my faith in Jesus Christ and His ultimate plans for me, Jay is there to guide me back to that truth. If it is a day where I need someone to hear me, Jay is there to listen without judgement. Jay goes above and beyond his job description to inspire me, making me a better leader and a better daughter of Christ. He has become a true mentor and friend. And if I ever need a dad on campus, Jay is someone I can count on to care about me.”

Ms. Rachel Schwaller

Nominated by: McKenna Quandt

“Rachel has been an exceptional professor and mentor during my 4 years at Grand View. She influences me to take risks and has helped me process and talk about what I want to say as an artist. In the fall, Rachel offered her time to personally meet with me on several occasions to talk through ideas and to help me prepare for graduate school. I appreciate and value the honest feedback and helpful advice she provides. I look up to her not only because of all the hard work and energy she puts into her practice as an artist but the passion she brings when she is teaching. I want to thank her for believing in me, helping me through my failures, and for always listening.”

Mr. Aaron Tinder

Nominated by: Chloe Vogel

“Aaron has been a huge motivator, supporter, and mentor in the months that I have been at Grand View. I'm not sure that I would have found my career path if it weren't for Aaron. I knew I wanted to be a teacher, but I wasn't completely sure. He described the way I fit perfectly into the role of a high school art teacher. He mentioned how he sees my abilities in my interaction with my classmates. His support and direction solidified my idea and made me excited to graduate and to get out into the workforce. He supports every good idea, adjusts and guides when necessary, and provides all the tools that I need to succeed. I greatly appreciate his open mind, his dedication to myself and my peers, and his ability to see creativity everywhere.”

Ms. Sherri Watts

Nominated by: Dumbari Taoh

“Sherri has not only been an instructor to me, but also a friend. She genuinely cares about how her students are doing and makes herself available when she sees that help is needed. For me, I got the privilege of having her as an instructor 2 semesters in a row, which gave me a chance to open up about things in my life that were affecting my coursework. Even after those courses, I have still been able to reach out to her about things and she has always been a good listener and supporter. I will always consider her a close friend of mine even after I graduate Grand View.”

Dr. Cyndi Wiley

Nominated by: Taylor Eckstrom

“Cyndi has always gone above and beyond for not only me, but many other art students as well. She is always there to help with not only advising, but with our art work and is always there for us. She makes students feel welcome and is always encouraging. To sum it up she is the bomb.com!”

Dr. Alec Zama

Nominated by: Magda Almendarez

“Alec Zama has always pushed me to do my best. When needing help, he always goes out of his way to find the resources to help me. Every time I receive an accomplishment, he ensures to recognize it by sending a quick "congratulations" email. He is one of my go-to persons.”

Dr. Corbin Zea

Nominated by: Tyler Henze

“Dr. Zea is always willing to help with more than just classes and is very easy to get along with and talk to. He gets to know students on a personal level rather than just as another student.”

Nominated by: Sunnie Baumgartner

“Dr. Zea is my advisor but has also been my professor for multiple classes. He always makes time for me even outside of his office hours. He is also one of the most enthusiastic professors I know.”

Nominated by: Elma Omanovic

“Dr. Zea brings a whole other level of enthusiasm to his classes that you don't see from other professors. This makes classes more enjoyable and easier to learn.”