

APSS NEWSLETTER

The latest news & updates from GVSU's APSS Union & its Members

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2021-2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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BUSINESS & FINANCE DIRECTOR

BARB BLANKEMEIER

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

JOYCE SULLIVAN

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

MEGAN KOEMAN-EDING

This newsletter is published monthly. For submission information contact

Megan Koeman-Eding at edingme@gvsu.edu.



Visit our website:

apssgvsu.org



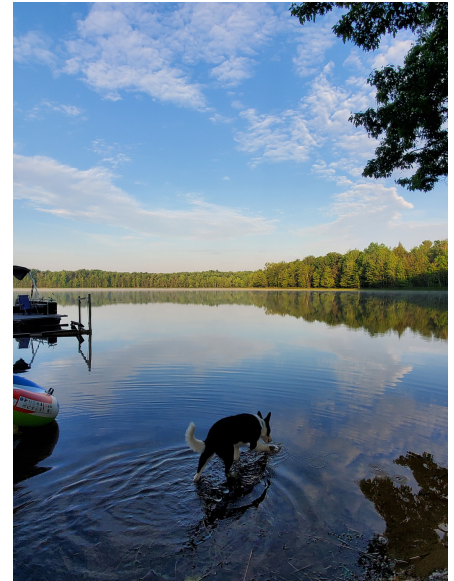
MEMBER SHARES

Lynnette Keen - A little PSS fun in the summer on the ALL campus! Photo credit goes to Janet Potgeter.



MEMBER SHARES, CON'T

Lynnette Keen, con't - My husband fills in as a caretaker at WilWin Lodge at Cygnet Cove in Custer, MI. It is a retreat area free to veterans. My husband is a 36 yr Army veteran. These are some pics of our time there last week with our dog Boo. Veterans are welcome to contact me for information on WilWin.



Jenna Stehouwer - . I can officially and excitedly share that I moved into the Academic Coordinator position in the VMA Department on June 21st!

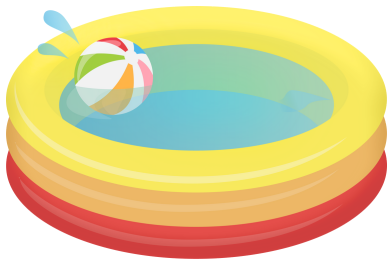
To the right are photos from our family vacation to Hilton Head Island, SC and Charleston, SC! We stayed on the ocean in a beautiful private condo (with the most amazing Spanish moss covered palm trees) and spent most of the trip at the beach! One of our favorite experiences was riding our bikes on the beach and then in Charleston we took a guided horse-carriage tour of the historic sites around the city.



MEMBER SHARES, CON'T

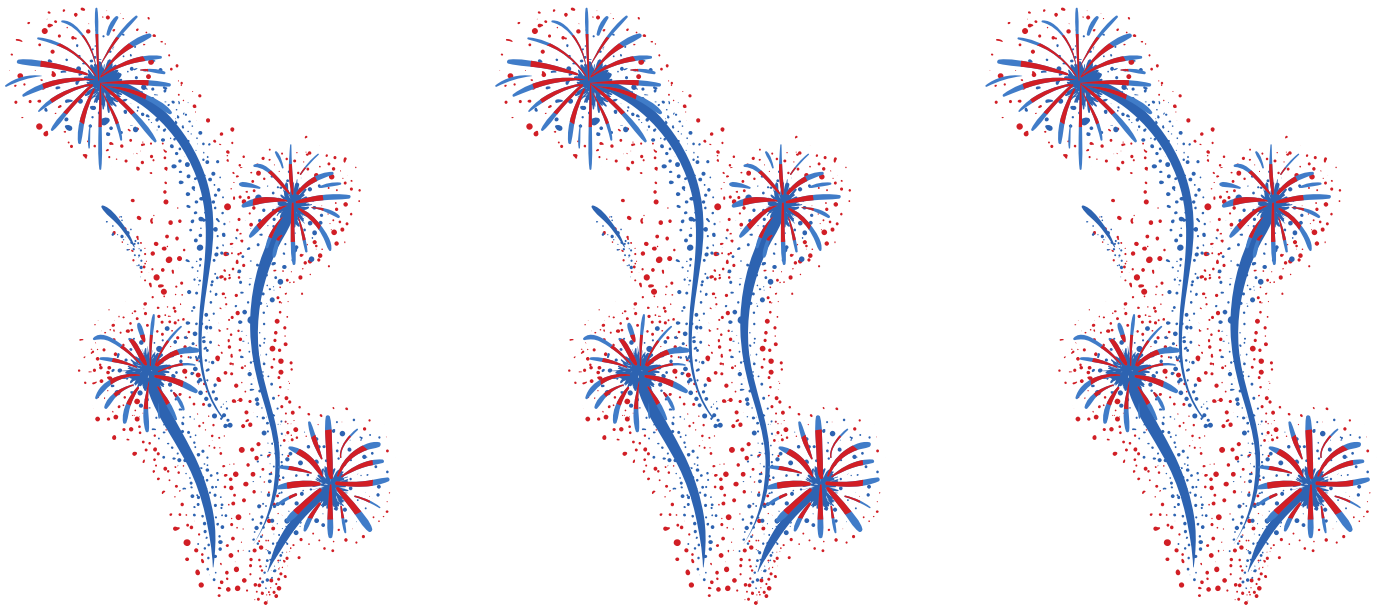
Karynn Gregory - . We don't have any plans in place this summer for vacations, but we do know a lot of people with pools!

The Gregory family plans to hang by the pool every weekend and soak up the sunshine.



Brandie Bolthuis - I officially started as the Office Coordinator in the Seidman Dean's Office on June 21.

Megan Koeman-Eding - I've made my way back to the Allendale Campus from Pew as the new Department Coordinator in the History Department. My first day was June 14.



HR WORKSHOPS

The following five (5) workshops have been approved for PSS Development Credit:

**Please note that although they are not listed in Sprout as approved for PSS Development Credit, HR has approved them. Remember to enter them in the [PSS Development Credit website](#) after taking the training!*

1) Concur Expense Training

Presented by Business and Finance
Approved for **technical** credit

Please visit our website for more resources <https://www.gvsu.edu/busfin/concur-university-travel-and-expense-management-54.htm>. Please reach out to Erica Herwig at herwige@gvsu.edu with any questions!

Thursday, July 1	10:00AM - 11:00AM	Virtual
Wednesday, July 7	10:00AM - 11:00AM	Virtual
Monday, July 12	9:00AM - 10:00AM	Virtual
Wednesday, July 14	2:00PM - 3:00PM	Virtual

2) Concur Approval Training

Presented by Business and Finance
Approved for **technical** credit

Please visit our website for more resources <https://www.gvsu.edu/busfin/concur-university-travel-and-expense-management-54.htm>. Please reach out to Erica Herwig at herwige@gvsu.edu with any questions!

Thursday, July 1	2:00PM - 3:00PM	Virtual
Wednesday, July 7	3:00PM - 4:00PM	Virtual
Monday, July 12	2:00PM - 3:00PM	Virtual
Thursday, July 15	9:00AM - 10:00AM	Virtual

HR WORKSHOPS, CON'T

3) Concur Training Q&A

Presented by Business and Finance

Approved for **technical** credit

Please visit our website for more resources <https://www.gvsu.edu/busfin/concur-university-travel-and-expense-management-54.htm>. Please reach out to Erica Herwig at herwige@gvsu.edu with any questions!

Tuesday, July 6	9:00AM - 10:00AM	Virtual
Thursday, July 8	11:00AM - 12:00PM	Virtual
Tuesday, July 13	1:00PM - 2:00PM	Virtual
Thursday, July 15	11:00AM - 12:00PM	Virtual
Thursday, July 15	3:00PM - 4:00PM	Virtual

4) Concur Travel Training

Presented by Business and Finance

Approved for **technical** credit

Please visit our website for more resources <https://www.gvsu.edu/busfin/concur-university-travel-and-expense-management-54.htm>. Please reach out to Erica Herwig at herwige@gvsu.edu with any questions!

Tuesday, July 6	2:00PM - 3:00PM	Virtual
Thursday, July 8	2:00PM - 3:00PM	Virtual
Wednesday, July 14	11:00AM - 12:00PM	Virtual

5) Closing the Gap: International Students and Campus Employers

Presented by Student Employment & Padnos International Center

Approved for **non-technical** credit

As a campus employer, are you unsure about hiring international students? We know you have lots of good GVSU students to choose from for your jobs and we want you to know why international students make great hires! We'll talk about the international student experience, the rules of their visa, and what supervising international students looks like.

By being open to hiring international students, you have the opportunity to help these students with the many employment challenges they face in the US. Additionally, you can serve as a mentor figure (from tips on warm winter boots to workplace advice) as well as set an example of a great supervisor.

Tuesday, July 13	3:00PM - 4:00PM	Virtual
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OTHER NEWS

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

The following information is as of the morning of June 29. For more information and other activities, check out the following information from [GRKids](#) (updated on June 28).

City	Location	Date/Time
Allegan	Downtown Allegan	July 3: 10:15PM
Allendale	APS K-8 Campus	July 4: 10:15PM
Ada - Cascade	Ada Village	July 3: Dusk
Caledonia	Duncan Lake Middle School	July 3: 10:30PM
East Grand Rapids	Reeds Lake	July 4: Dusk
Grand Haven	Canceled	
Grand Rapids	Ah-Nab-Awen Park	July 3: 10:30PM
Grandville	Grandville Middle School	July 5: 10:00PM
Holland	Kollen Park	August 20: Dusk
Kentwood	Kentwood City Hall	July 3: 10:00PM
Muskegon	Western Avenue	July 3: 10:30PM

UNION NEWS

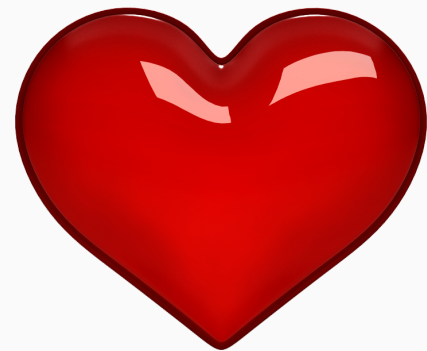


Dear APSS members,

I want to announce that I retired from GVSU on 6/30/2021. I have truly enjoyed knowing you all and working with you over the years. I think the APSS is a great organization and I'm proud to have been a part of it. I will miss GVSU and the great people who work here.

Thank you and I wish you all the very best,

Hollie Rago
APSS Union Business & Financial Director and Building Representative



Thank you for your service, Hollie Rago!

The union would like to **THANK** Hollie Rago for her MANY YEARS of service as a building rep and as our Union's Business and Finance Director for most of her career at GVSU.

You have set a positive and caring example for us to follow. We wish you the VERY BEST in your retirement years!

THANK YOU for ALL you did here at GVSU.



UNION NEWS, CON'T



Please welcome our new APSS Business and Finance Director, Barb Blankenmeier

I have worked at GVSU since 2003 in varied positions across the university which have allowed me to meet and interact closely with numerous faculty, staff and students. My positions included: IT Helpdesk Technical Support, Financial Aid Assistant, Area & Global Studies Office Coordinator, and currently, the Pew Faculty Teaching & Learning Center Administrative Assistant.

In my current role, my primary area of focus is managing the budgets and databases associated with grants, teaching awards and other FTLC activities. I also guide faculty and staff through the faculty teaching excellence award and grant application/reimbursement processes. I especially enjoy the financial and budgeting aspects of my position and the daily interaction with APSS staff members to field financial questions and explain the expense reimbursement process.

I love to travel and have been fortunate to have experienced some international travel to Mexico, Jamaica, Lithuania (home of my ancestors), and Australia. My trip to Australia was with a delegation from GVSU and I explored faculty professional development at two universities there—Macquarie University and University of the Sunshine Coast. I discovered that faculty professional development is mandatory in Australia and very different than in the US!

In my spare time I enjoy quilting, cooking, remodeling projects and enjoying the sunsets at our cottage in Newaygo with my husband of 29 years, our children and two grandchildren.



GVSU Partnership Delegation – Australia, 2018



Blankemeier family – Christmas, 2020

UNION NEWS, CON'T



APSS Bargaining Team Update

The APSS Bargaining Committee has started negotiations with the Administrative Bargaining Committee. We began with a training session/refresher on the principles of Interest Based Bargaining. We commenced bargaining at the table by identifying our interests related to potential modifications to contractual language. We will first attend to discussions on potential contractual language changes, and then identify and discuss our financial interests. We began bargaining in earnest on June 15, 2021, we are meeting regularly, and we are continuing to make progress on potential contractual language changes which represent the interests of APSS members.

Please do not hesitate to contact your bargaining team at apssbargaining@gmail.com

On behalf of your bargaining team,

Shawn Evans
Bargaining Chair
Alliance of Professional Support Staff (APSS)

2020-2021 BARGAINING TEAM

CHAIR

SHAWN EVANS

EX OFFICIO

BECKY BAKALE

CHERYL FISCHER

MEMBERS

MICHELLE HOLSTEGE

TAMI JOHN

SARAH KOZMINSKI

RHONDA LEMIEUX

LEGAL COUNSEL

JOHN KARAFI

EMAIL

apssbargaining@gmail.com



2021-2022
BUILDING REPS

CHERYL BRONNER	X13327
STU, 1ST FLOOR	
TAMI JOHN	X12350
CAC & KC	
MATT COLLVER	X15583
CHS & RFH	
BARB ELLIS	X18611
KHS & LMP	
LINDSEY BURNS	X12186
MAK & NLC	
DEB ROTMAN	X12297
AGS, LHH, LSH, & PAC	
TRACY LONDON	X12252
CON, JHZ, LMH	
KATIE HAYNES	X13006
HHLC, HRY, & PAD	
JOYCE SULLIVAN	X13730
ASH	
AUTUMN DEROO	X15936
EC, IDC, KEN	
RAYSHENA WILSON	X17130
DEV, 1ST & 2ND FLOORS	
PATRICK MURDOCK	X19188
BIK & SCB	
LINDSAY BOGI	X13585
STU, 2ND & 3RD FLOORS	
VICKI WENGER	X13898
LOH	
PATRICK PERRY	X16202
DEV, 3RD & 4TH FLOORS	
IRINA GROUGAN	X17606
TC REGIONAL CENTER, HOLLAND, & MUSKEGON	
BRIAN DENUYL	X12025
AH, CUB, SER	
KATE KNOPP	X12685
FH, MAN	
VACANT POSITIONS	
LIB	

MEMBER RELATIONS
TEAM

RHONDA LEMIEUX	X12557
CHAIR	
VACANT	

IMPORTANT DATES

University Closed, Independence Day
Observed - July 5

UPCOMING ISSUE

Share photos of your thriving gardens with **Megan** at edingme@gvsu.edu by 5:00PM on Tuesday, July 27.

JULY DATES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Valerie Palmer
- 3 - Shawn Evans
- 11 - Amy Duwe
- 25 - Patrick Perry
- 29 - Tracy McLenithan

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

- 15 - Joyce Sullivan
- 27 - Jennifer Glaab
- 31 - Pat Cox

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 19 - Lindsey Burns
- 23 - Angela Munford

Thinking of You Cards:

Do you know someone who is off work because of surgery, illness, or accident? Please let **Deb Barko** know at barkod@gvsu.edu. She will send a card from our Association.

If you would like your birthday, GVSU anniversary, wedding anniversary, job change, and/or retirement notice published in the newsletter, or if you have suggestions for an upcoming issue, email **Megan Koeman-Eding** at edingme@gvsu.edu.