

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1 • JULY 2023

APSS NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES FROM GVSU'S APSS
UNION & ITS MEMBERS

photo by Megan Koeman-Eding

ISSUE FEATURES

NEW APSS NEWSLETTER DESIGN

When I became the Communications Director in July 2019, I implemented a redesign to the newsletter. Four years later...
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RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT MANTELLA'S 6/23 EMAIL

Following the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, June 23, President Mantella sent a message to the GVSU community...
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NEW STUDENT ORIENTATIONS

We as an admissions staff are wrapping up the freshman orientation sessions this July and will also be attending...
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FIREWORKS

Firework celebrations across West Michigan...
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MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

BY GABRIELLA BARAJAS
STATISTICS/MATH DEPTS

I would just like to share an exciting life update!

This spring I started my master's degree in Cell and Molecular Biology! I am very excited to work full-time and earn my grad degree at the same time. I also recently moved from Muskegon to Allendale into my own place. The two-minute drive to work is another perk of working at GVSU. Pictured are my cats enjoying our new home. Life is good!



BY LINDSEY BURNS
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

These are the peonies from my yard this spring! They popped very early due to the heat but were still gorgeous nonetheless!



BY JENNA BENCH (STEHOUWER)
VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

I am actively updating my contact information to reflect my recent name change from Jenna Stehouwer to Jenna Bench. I plan to retain my current email address of stehouje@gvsu.edu for continuity. My husband and I married in a beautiful ceremony a few weeks ago on June 2nd!

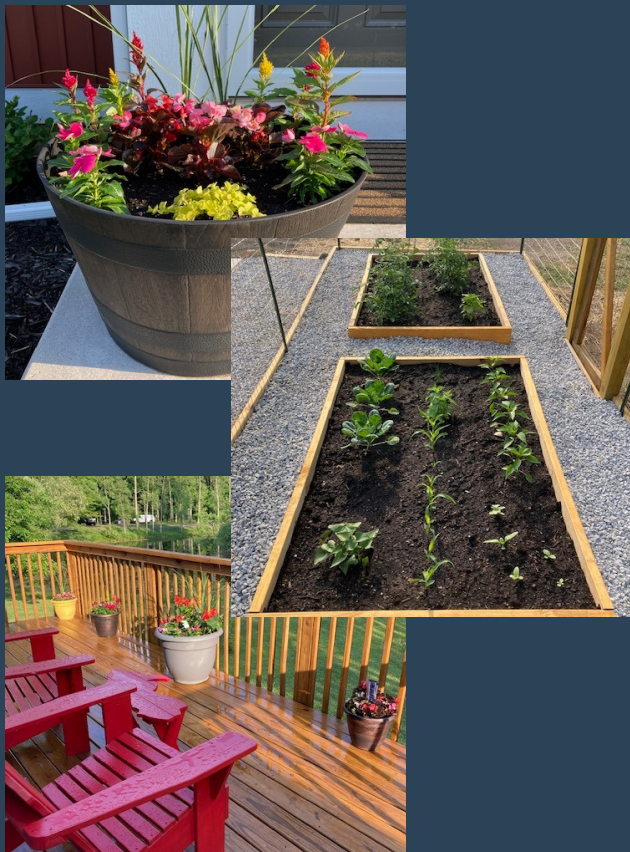
**CONGRATS,
JENNA!**



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

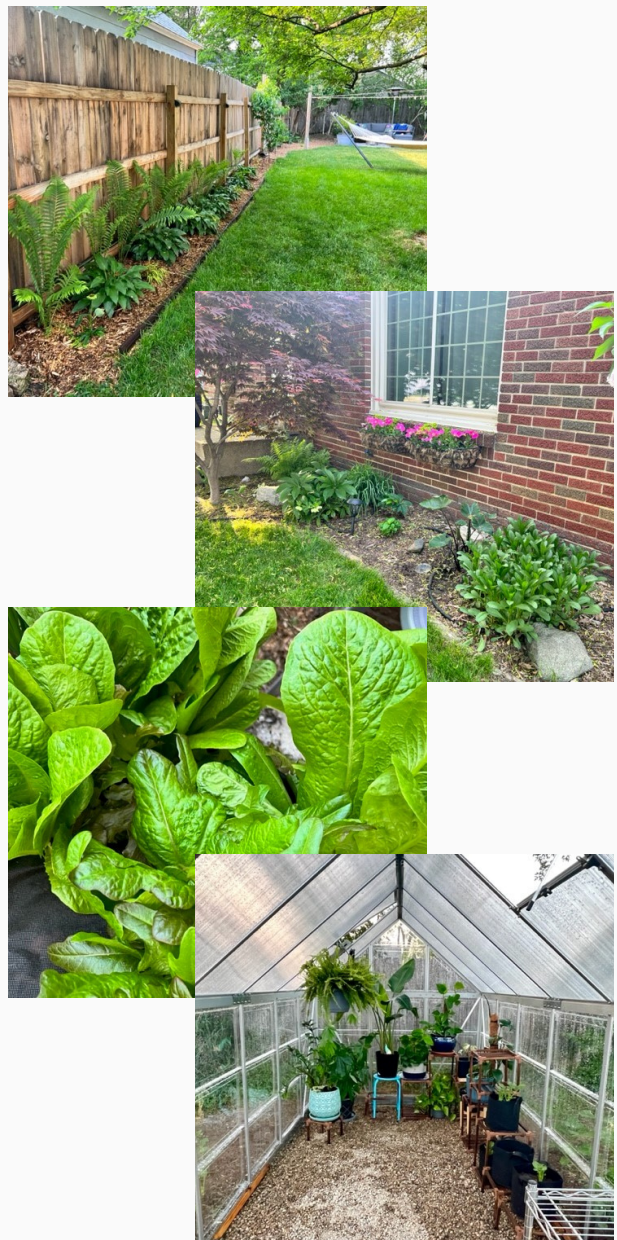
BY KIM REEVES-JORGENSEN
RECORDS AND REGISTRATION

My annual trip to Motman's makes me happier than a possum eating a sweet tater (anyone else from NC?! I actually took a vacation day this year to get all my plants and plant them - I cannot explain the joy it brings me. 😊 Here's a small fraction of my flowers and veggie garden. My husband built me a new fenced in veggie garden this year and I couldn't be happier with it! This year I am growing tomatoes, sweet peppers, jalapenos, chives, catnip, Brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes, corn, and sunflowers. A few of those are new to me – I'm experimenting a little with growing some different things than the last few years. Hope everything does well!



BY BRANDIE BULTHUIS
UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT

Here are a few of my plants and my new greenhouse that I've started. Also, I started a new job as Office Assistant in University Development.





MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

BY JAY ZINK
COPY CENTER

Here's a pic of our Garden. It gets bigger every year. This year we have 63 various Tomato Plants, 57 various Pepper plants along with Summer Squash, Zucchini, Sweet Corn, Watermelon, Muskmelon, Pumpkins, Green & Yellow Beans Pod Peas, Sugar Peas, Kale & Pickles along with a variety of Herbs.



BY MEGAN KOEMAN-EDING
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

My spouse is an amazing gardener. He starts our garden mostly from seed with growing shelves in our basement; usually around February/March. This year, we have garlic, butternut squash, green beans, jalepenos, bell peppers, cherry tomatoes, paste tomatoes, cucumbers, summer squash, snow peas. This year, he's trying yard waste bags for weed prevention and to help seal in moisture. So far it seems to be working. While I do not have a green thumb, I love helping harvest! He also grows horseradish separately.





UNION NEWS

BY MEGAN KOEMAN EDING
APSS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



When I become the Communications Director in July 2019, I implemented a redesign to the newsletter. Four years later, I felt it was time for a new refresh and I hope you enjoy it. One of the things I would like to do is solicit campus photos from our members to feature as the newsletter's header each month. If you are out an about on campus or walking around inside a building, take a picture and send it my way. Please avoid taking photos in which people's faces are visible since we do not have permission to share their likeness online.

BY SHAWN EVANS
APSS BARGAINING CHAIR

Following the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, June 23, President Mantella sent a message to the GVSU community that reported a 4.5% increase for faculty and EAP staff through the annual salary adjustment program. The tone of this message was negligent, misleading, and discouraging for many of our bargaining unit members because it was titled "Acknowledging our Faculty and Staff," but disregards the commitment, work, and contributions of all hourly employees to the continued success of this institution and the students and communities we serve.

I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify how the faculty and EAP staff salary adjustment program works and how their salary increase impacts the next PSS wage increase scheduled for October 1, 2023, per our contractual agreement with GVSU. It is important to note that not all faculty and EAP staff will receive a 4.5% increase – rather, this is the average of all faculty and EAP salary increases for 2023-24. Some faculty and EAP staff will receive less than a 4.5% increase based on their annual review performance ratings; some faculty and EAP staff will receive more than that average amount due to performance, alignment with market ranges, or to address equity issues. The language at the bottom of p. 35 of our contract outlines how this percentage will impact the next wage increase for our bargaining unit members. If the faculty and EAP salary adjustment program percentage increase is above 3%, then our hourly wage increase effective October 1, 2023 will be 3%.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I appreciate your feedback and can assure you that PSS concerns will be brought to the bargaining table when we next convene in 2025.

On behalf of your APSS Bargaining Team,
sme



WORKSHOPS

BLACKBOARD ULTRA LUNCH & LEARN Q&A SESSIONS AND SPECIAL TOPICS SESSIONS PRESENTED BY ELEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

To assist you with getting ready for Blackboard Ultra and to supplement other training opportunities, these Q&A sessions allow you to ask questions and get tips for organizing content, using the gradebook, discussions, announcements, etc. All webinars will begin at noon and run for 50 minutes. Stay for 5 minutes or 50. eLearning Technologies team members will be there to help. **Lots of offerings in the month of July! Please visit [Sprout](#) for the full listing of days/times.**

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK [SPROUT](#) THROUGHOUT THE MONTH FOR ADDITIONAL CLASSES THAT MAY BE ADDED AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

BENEFITS & WELLNESS

WELLBEATS HIGHLIGHT

Wellbeats is highlighting self-care for the month of July. The highlighted program for the month is "Take Care of You" ([https://portal.wellbeats.com/home\(m:program-detail/358\)#overview](https://portal.wellbeats.com/home(m:program-detail/358)#overview)). This one give you two options for each day of the challenge, so you can choose how you want to show up/engage each day!





CAMPUS NEWS

BY ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

We as an admissions staff are wrapping up the freshman orientation sessions this July and will also be attending summer exposure camps around the Grand Valley campus and off campus. These events are summer camps held by different departments across our GVSU community and some are even outside the Grand Rapids area that we may attend. These are in efforts to expose the participants of these events to know about GVSU and the application process along with answering any other general Grand Valley questions.



BY IT SECURITY

Cybercrime happens more than you think. Large scale cyberattacks make the news, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. Cybercrime is on the rise, and the majority of attacks go unreported.

Consider the following facts:

- The University of Maryland found that there is an average of 2,244 cyberattacks per day, which is one every 36 seconds.
- The US Federal Trade Commission, in a recent six-month period, saw over 128,000 phone-based fraud scams that cost victims \$108 million.

Here are actions to stay safe:

- Be careful what you post and share online.
- Don't reuse passwords for multiple sites.
- Follow your organization's security policies and procedures.
- If something seems suspicious, always verify that it's legitimate.

For more information, visit www.knowbe4.com.

Visit [GVSU's Cyber Safety page](#) for more information on how you can protect your information and stay alert to the latest information.

If you suspect phishing, report it to the GVSU IT Service Desk by sending an attachment of the suspected email to it@gvsu.edu. We need to know about malicious emails to stop them from spreading.



FIREWORKS

The following information is as of the morning of June 25. For more information and other activities, check out the following information from woodtv.com.

| CITY | LOCATION | DATE/TIME |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Allegan | One the waterfront | July 3 - 10:15PM |
| Allendale | APS K-8 Campus | July 4: 10:15PM |
| Ada-Cascade | Legacy Park | July 4: Dusk |
| Caledonia | Cal Plex | July 1: Dusk |
| East Grand Rapids | Reeds Lake | July 4: Dusk |
| Grand Haven | Waterfront Stadium | July 1: 10:10PM |
| Grand Rapids | Ah-Nab-Awen Park | July 1: 10:30PM |
| Grandville | Grandville Middle School | July 4: Dusk |
| Holland | Kollen Park | July 4: Dusk |
| Kentwood | Kentwood City Hall | July 4: Dusk |
| Muskegon | Downtown Muskegon | July 4: 10:20PM |

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS



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JANICE AUSSICKER

CHS, DCIH, RFH

MARISA VREDEVOOGD

ASH, AGS, LHH, LSH, PAC

BRIAN DENUYL

AH, CUB, SER

CAMPUS DATES

JULY 4 - UNIVERSITY CLOSED

MEMBER DATES FOR JULY

BIRTHDAYS

1ST - VALERIE PALMER

2ND - GEORGINE BELLO

3RD - SHAWN EVANS

29TH - TRACY MCLENITHAN

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

27TH - JENNIFER GLAAB

31ST - PAT COX

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

19TH - LINDSEY BURNS

23RD - ANGELA MUMFORD

29TH - GEORGINE BELLO - 28YRS



UPCOMING ISSUE

SHARE PICTURES OF YOUR VACATIONS FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER! EMAIL MEGAN BY 5:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 26.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY. FOR SUBMISSION INFORMATION, CONTACT MEGAN KOEMAN-EDING AT EDINGME@GVSU.EDU.