

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 11 • MAY 2024

# APSS NEWSLETTER

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

photo by Megan Koeman-Eding

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# UNION NEWS



## BARGAINING COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY SHAWN EVANS, BARGAINING COM. CHAIR

I recently reviewed application materials from APSS members interested in serving on the Bargaining Committee. We met individually via zoom and discussed the importance of the work that we do at the bargaining table, the nature and gravity of work that is done on behalf of 300+ bargaining unit members, the importance of confidentiality, as well as the goal of arriving at a tentative agreement that reflects the interests and the will of our bargaining unit members. Each individual had questions about the nature of the work at the negotiations table and the time commitment. I did my best to address each individual's questions and concerns.

I am happy to report that Avis Merry, from Modern Languages and Literatures/History, will be joining the APSS Bargaining Committee. Avis holds a juris doctorate and has valuable experience working at the intersection of contracts and law. She intuitively understands the importance of confidentiality, collaboration, and the value of hearing perspectives that are different than one's own. While we will not rely on Avis for legal counsel – the Alliance already has legal representation – Avis's experiences will add value to our team.

I am also happy to report that Rory Webb, from Information Technology, will be joining the APSS Bargaining Committee. Rory also emphasized an intuitive understanding of the importance of confidentiality – emphasizing trust and respect – and provided relevant examples of when he had mediated solutions for others who had disagreed.

Rory presented as a harmonizer who relies on strong analytical abilities to problem solve and work through difficult situations. His perspective and experiences in both T and E classifications will add value to our team.

We had two vacancies because the APSS By-laws state "Voting members of the Bargaining Committee shall not exceed five active members of the Union (6.03)," and "the President ...to be ex-officio of all committees." The composition of your [fully armed and operational battlestation](#), er, the APSS Bargaining Committee is:

- Shawn Evans (Chair)
- Michelle Holstege
- Rhonda LeMieux
- Avis Merry
- Rory Webb
- Cheryl Fischer (ex-officio, historical experience and perspective)
- Tami John (ex-officio, President)
- John Karafa (ex-officio, legal counsel)

While most of our work will commence in 2025, I do plan to present at this year's APSS luncheon in the fall, followed by a brief survey of membership to determine your primary interests as we work to prepare for negotiations. We will discuss the work to come in more detail this fall. Until then, please join me in congratulating our newest members of the APSS Bargaining Committee, Avis Merry and Rory Webb.

On behalf of your Bargaining Team,  
sme





# UNION NEWS

## APSS ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR STUDENT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK

HOSTED BY BRIAN DENUYL, LISA SAK, SHELBY HARRISON, DENISE GROSS, & SAM KOLK

Although the weather in ALL forced us inside, this year's ice cream social for Student Employee Appreciation Week was a success! Thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped out both in Allendale and downtown.



## REMINDER: UNION DUES - SUMMER 2024 SCHEDULE

BY KATIE HAYNES, BUSINESS & FINANCE DIRECTOR

Union dues will not be taken out of your paycheck for the months of June, July, and August (payroll numbers 11 – 17). Dues deductions will start back up in September beginning with your 9/10/24 check (payroll number 18).

## ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

BY MICHELLE HOLSTEGE & MEGAN KOEMAN-EDING, APSS ELECTION COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who took the time to vote for the APSS Executive Officer Elections on April 16.

Here are your election results:

We had 124 votes cast for the election. Slightly more than the last two years.

- Brian DenUyl was re-elected as the Vice President
- Rhonda LeMieux was re-elected as the Chief Alliance Steward
- Michelle Holstege was re-elected as the Secretary
- Rayshena Wilson was re-elected to the Membership Director

All of us on the Union board would like to encourage our members to get involved. Be it as a building representative or running for an executive board position, our Union's strength depends on our members' active participation.



# UNION NEWS

## CALL FOR BUILDING REPS!

BY MEGAN KOEMAN-EDING, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

We are looking for building reps for MAK & MAN!

If you are interested in learning more about getting involved in your Union as a building rep, please reach out to any of the current reps or our Union President, Tami John.

## REFLECTION ON THE PASSING OF MICHELLE DURAM

BY APSS BOARD

Michelle Duram, who worked in the History Department as their Coordinator from 1990-2020, passed away near the end of March from complications due to Alzheimer's. During her time at GV, she was an active participant in our Union as a building rep and touched many lives.

**From Megan Koeman-Eding:** Michelle is the reason I became involved with our Union! I was a history major during my undergrad years at GV and when I became a GV employee many, many years later Michelle still remembered me. She welcomed me to campus and strongly encouraged me to volunteer to be a part of the Union board. I couldn't walk past the History Department door without her asking if I'd joined the board yet! Her passion and enthusiasm shined through and gave me the courage to run for Communications Director. I will forever be grateful for her and for that.

**From Cheryl Fischer:** When I first met Michelle she was dressed as Marilyn Monroe for a COTA Human Resources luncheon. I knew we were going to be good friends since I love to dress up for any event. Michelle was adorable and had a personality as big as the room we were in. I was very involved in the COTA union which later became the APSS union. Michelle volunteered to become a building union representative. As a grievance chair of the union, I was involved in training the building representatives to assist our members when they have an issue. Michelle was excellent at assisting the member before it escalated into a grievance. Dependable, intelligent, positive and always smiling are only a few traits that describe Michelle. Over the years we became great work friends. After she retired, she came to my office and said the best part about retirement was being able to get up and go to her neighbors for a breakfast mimosa any day she wanted. She made me laugh and gave me something to look forward to.

I am saddened to hear of Michelle's passing but I know she is making everyone smile in heaven. Michelle, "May the Lord Bless you and the angels take care of you."

**From Michelle Holstege:** Michelle was a building rep when I started in the Union, she always had a twinkle in her eye, and a heart for serving her fellow PSS. She was always present: when we did student dessert days and board meetings you could always count on Michelle to be there and actively participate in union events.





# WORKSHOPS

## WORKDAY TRAININGS CONTINUE!

PRESENTED BY THE WORKDAY TEAM

Additional Workday trainings will continue to be posted in [Sprout!](#) Many of the trainings now offer a self-paced option as well if that better fits your schedule. Lots of information is available on Sprout as well as the [Workday Training page](#).

## STUDENT SUPERVISOR ROUND TABLE

PRESENTED BY STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Do you have questions about being a student supervisor? Would you like to get some feedback from other student supervisors on topics you have been struggling with? Do you wish there was a time and place to gather and ask questions of both other supervisors and the Student Employment team? Would you like to inform Student Employment about the topics and concerns you would like to know more about? Then we would like to invite you to attend the Student Supervisor Round Table to ask questions, get answers, and meet other supervisors.

This in person discussion and training is being offered to anyone who is a student employee supervisor on campus or who helps with the student employment process. This is a great opportunity to meet with other supervisors and gain valuable knowledge.

Wednesday, May 7 · 2:00PM - 3:00PM · 106 STU

## ROAD-TRIP TRAINING SERIES: GETTING STARTED WITH MS TEAMS

PRESENTED BY IT SEMINARS

This training is intended for faculty/staff who have a basic understanding of Microsoft Office 365 web applications and need to understand the basics of Microsoft Teams in order to collaborate more effectively.

Prerequisites: To ensure your success in this training, users should have a basic understanding of Microsoft Office 365 web applications, including how to start and close both web and desktop applications, send and receive electronic communications, and navigate and manage basic filing and organization systems.

### Learning Objectives:

- Navigate the Teams interface with confidence.
- Learn best practices for creating and managing teams and channels.
- Understand the variety of communication options, including chat, meetings, and calls.
- Explore integrations with other Microsoft 365 apps.

Tuesday, May 7 · 11:00AM - 12:00PM · Virtual

Thursday, May 30 · 1:00PM - 2:00PM · Virtual



# WORKSHOPS

## NOT JUST STRESS, MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITY

PRESENTED BY DISABILITY SUPPORT RESOURCES

To recognize Mental Health Awareness Month, Disability Support Resources and The University Counseling Center are discussing the contours of mental health, disability, and civil rights. We'll also explore available resources and support for GVSU community members.

Thursday, May 9 · 3:00PM - 4:00PM · Virtual



## TIME SAVING TIPS IN OUTLOOK

PRESENTED BY IT SEMINARS

This training is intended for faculty/staff who have a basic understanding of Microsoft Office 365 applications and need to know how to use Microsoft Outlook as an email and calendaring application to organize, manage, and customize communications for increased efficiency.

Prerequisites: To ensure your success in this training, users should have a basic understanding of Microsoft Office 365 applications, including how to start and close both web and desktop applications, send and receive electronic communications, and navigate and manage basic filing and organization systems.

### Learning Objectives

- Organize message
- Manage automatic message content
- Schedule meetings

Thursday, May 16 · 11:00AM - 12:00PM · Virtual





# WORKSHOPS

## MICROSOFT BOOKINGS BASICS PRESENTED BY IT SEMINARS

This training is intended for faculty/staff who have a basic understanding of Microsoft Office 365 web applications and need to know how to use Microsoft Bookings to schedule and manage appointments.

**Prerequisites:** To ensure your success in this training, users should have a basic understanding of Microsoft Office 365 web applications, including how to start and close both web and desktop applications, send and receive electronic communications, and navigate and manage basic filing and organization systems.

### Learning Objectives:

- Create your own Bookings page
- Add and manage staff and services (both virtual and in-person)

### Presenters:

- Steph Balaskas

Wednesday, May 22 · 11:00AM - 12:30PM · Virtual

## QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION GATEKEEPER TRAINING

PRESENTED BY DISABILITY SUPPORT  
RESOURCES

This program dispels common misconceptions about suicide, helps individuals recognize the warning signs of suicide, and empowers GVSU community members to save lives using the nationally-recognized QPR method of suicide prevention. It also allows students, faculty, and staff to examine the issue of suicide from both a social and multicultural perspective while considering their own role in preventing suicide.

Thursday, May 23 · 3:00PM - 4:00PM · Virtual

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK  
SPROUT THROUGHOUT  
THE MONTH FOR  
ADDITIONAL CLASSES  
THAT MAY BE ADDED  
AFTER THE PUBLICATION  
OF THIS NEWSLETTER.**



# BENEFITS & WELLNESS

## ONSITE THRIVE COACHING APPOINTMENTS BY HUMAN RESOURCES

Shelly will be hosting onsite coaching appointments for those interested in meeting in person, and to engage others who may not already be working with a coach!

- [Allendale \(Room TBD\) - Onsite Coaching Appointments \(Tuesday, May 7, 9-12pm\)](#)
- [Downtown GR \(Room TBD\) - Onsite Coaching Appointments \(Thursday, May 9, 9-12pm\)](#)



## MINDFULNESS AT WORK & INTRO TO MINDFULNESS: FEATURED WELLBEATS PROGRAMS

BY HUMAN RESOURCES

### Mindfulness at Work

This two week program will teach you simple mindfulness techniques you can do in just a few minutes, right at your desk! Take this mindfulness break to recharge for a more productive day. Sign-up for [Mindfulness at Work](#).

### Intro to Mindfulness

These simple, beginner-level classes are designed to introduce us to mindfulness and how we can be mindful in our everyday lives with easy to follow instruction and classes. If you are a veteran in the mindful community, these classes are also a great reminder and refresher on how to stay mindful throughout our day. Sign-up for [Intro to Mindfulness](#).

Change your mood with moments of wellness

**Wellbeats**  
Wellness

portal.wellbeats.com





# CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATIONS

BY ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

Freshman Orientation officially begins on Monday, May 6! It will run throughout the end of June offering 3-4 days per week with each sessions hosting around 200 new incoming students and their families/supporters to GVSU's campus!

Be on the lookout for these new students and their families and welcome them to GV!



## MIND-BODY, TREES & SNACKS

BY DISABILITY SUPPORT RESOURCES

Join Recreation & Wellness, The University Counseling Center, Laker Food Co., and Disability Support Resources for a relaxing yoga session followed by a build-your-own yogurt parfait.

This yoga session will focus on strengthening the mind-body connection. Through a combination of gentle physical postures, breathing, relaxation techniques, and psychoeducation, we invite participants to feel more connected and balanced within their body and mind. This is a FREE session offered with a trauma-sensitive, person-centered approach, and no previous yoga experience is necessary. [Sign up on MindBody!](#)

Following the yoga session, enjoy a yogurt parfait from Laker Food Co. to fuel the body and mind. More info on [Sprout!](#)

Wednesday, May 1 · 12:00PM - 1:30PM · Arboretum







# CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

## 4TH ANNUAL GVSU CORNHOLE

BY CHELSEA BEST, ALEX PRIEBE, & DAN VAINNER, GVSU CORNHOLE COMMITTEE

The time of the year has come again to start practicing your throws. The 4th Annual GVSU Cornhole Tournament is just around the corner. Join us at this year's tournament for a chance to earn the title of the 2024 GVSU Cornhole Champions.

### Date/Time/Location

- **Date:** Thursday, May 16
- **Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Lawn outside of MIP Library (near the clocktower)\*

\*The turf in Lubbers Stadium is being replaced and will be under construction during this time, hence the location change. We hope to be back in the stadium next year!

Get your teammate, team name, and [sign up!](#)





# CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

## SUPPORT TRIO UPWARD BOUND

BY TRIO UPWARD BOUND

The GVSU TRIO Upward Bound programs are looking forward to a fun filled summer residential program in Allendale this June and July. Each high school aged student will receive a supply bag to welcome them on campus and are requesting your help with providing them with some GVSU swag!

Highest need items:

- Bags (drawstring/reusable/backpacks)
- Water Bottles
- Notebooks
- Pencils
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Markers
- ChapSticks
- Umbrellas
- Sunglasses
- Hand Sanitizers
- GV Clothing

If your department has any of these items to spare, or any other fun GV branded items, we would love to have them for our students. We tentatively plan to have 120 students participate, but welcome and are thankful for donations of any amount.



If you are able to contribute, please email Bonnie Jaracz ([peterbon@gvsu.edu](mailto:peterbon@gvsu.edu)) to arrange a pick up, or items can be sent inter-campus, attention to:

Bonnie Jaracz  
TRIO Upward Bound  
366C DeVos

We would like to have all items collected by the last week of May.

Thank you for supporting our TRIO Upward Bound students!



# CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

## REMINDER: MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION FOR STUDENTS

BY IT SECURITY

Starting May 6th, 2024 Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) will become mandatory for all students. You may find additional information on the [GVSU website](#).

**New MFA Requirement:** To access university systems and services, all students must enroll in MFA, if they haven't already done so. This includes email, learning management systems (LMS), and student portals.

**MFA for Off-Campus Access:** MFA will be required for all off-campus access to ensure the security of our systems and data, regardless of the student's location.

**Support and Resources:** In addition to existing IT Services support, we have prepared comprehensive guides to assist students with this transition:

- [Multi-Factor Authentication for Students article](#)
- Students can optionally enable MFA today by submitting [this form](#)
- Additional information about MFA is available on the [MFA for Students webpage](#)

**Role of Faculty and Staff in Student MFA Implementation:**

- Encourage you to remind students about these changes and direct them to the available resources to enroll and update their MFA before May 6.
- Review the upcoming [MFA changes](#) to familiarize yourself with the new authentication methods.

Your feedback on the implementation process and its impact on teaching and learning is invaluable. Email [it@gvsu.edu](mailto:it@gvsu.edu) with your observations and suggestions.





## 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### PRESIDENT

TAMI JOHN

### VICE-PRESIDENT

BRIAN DENUYL

### CHIEF ALLIANCE STEWARD

RHONDA LEMIEUX

### BUSINESS & FINANCE DIRECTOR

KATIE HAYNES

### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

MEGAN KOEMAN-EDING

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

RAYSHENA WILSON

### SECRETARY

MICHELLE HOLSTEGE

## BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

### CHERYL BRONNER

STU 1ST FLOOR

### BARB ELLIS

KHS & LMP, STU 2ND & 3RD FLOORS

### SHELBY HARRISON

EC,

### KATE KNOPP

FH

### VICKI WENGER

LOH, NMH

### CHERYL KOTECKI

DEV 3RD-5TH FLOORS, SCB

### AVAILABLE

MAK, MAN

### RAYSHENA WILSON

DEP, DEV 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

### JENNA BENCH

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### IRINA GROUGAN

TC REGIONAL CENTER, HOLLAND, MUSKEGON

### KATIE HAYNES

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### MARISA VREDEVOOGD

ASH, AGS, LHH, LSH, PAC

### BRIAN DENUYL

AH, CUB, SER

### TREENA GILBERT

BIK, CEC, IDC, KEN, WAT

### CAMPUS DATES

MAY 6: CLASSES START  
MAY 27: MEMORIAL DAY (UNIVERSITY CLOSED)

### BIRTHDAYS

14TH – MELISSA KUREK  
21ST – CHERILYN DENOMME

### GVSU ANNIVERSARY

7TH – MELISSA KUREK  
29TH – BRIAN DENUYL  
29TH – TERRI KENNEY

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

7TH – KIMBERLY REEVES-JORGENSEN  
16TH – ERICA BAKER-BRINGEDAHL  
(15 YRS)  
23RD – JAY ZINK (38 YRS)



SHARE YOUR SUMMER VACATION PLANS FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER!  
EMAIL MEGAN AT EDINGME@GVSU.EDU BY 5:00PM ON TUESDAY, MAY 24.

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