

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 12 • JUNE 2025



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

PEW CAMPUS - GRAND RAPIDS

APSS NEWSLETTER

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

photo by Lauren Fodor

ISSUE FEATURES

LAKER DAY, MY WAY

Beginning July 1, 2025, all eligible faculty and staff will be granted one paid day off per calendar year, called "Laker Day, My Way."

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GVSU SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT

Get ready for the 8th Annual GVSU Summer Movie Night, brought to you by PNC Bank — happening Wednesday, June 25th at 7 PM in Lubbers Stadium!

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GVSU JUNETEENTH AND PRIDE EVENTS

Check out events happening on and off campus for Juneteenth and Pride this month!

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Meet the 2025 graduates...

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UNION NEWS



UNION DUES – SUMMER 2025 SCHEDULE BY KATIE HAYNES, BUSINESS & FINANCE DIRECTOR

Union dues will not be deducted from your paycheck for June, July, and August (payroll numbers 11 – 17). Dues deductions will start back up in September, beginning with your 9/9/25 check (payroll number 18).

APSS is on Facebook:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/APSSGVSU](https://www.facebook.com/groups/APSSGVSU)

Please feel free to share information on this page about events, celebrations, or information about your GVSU department.

You are also welcome to share items for sale, fundraisers, community notices, ask for help with a GVSU program (ahem-Workday), etc.!

sweet
SUMMER



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

BEST PRACTICES FOR EFFECTIVE INTERVIEWING BY HUMAN RESOURCES

June 12, 2025, 2:00 PM, Allendale Campus

This interactive training course equips employees with the skills needed to conduct effective interviews. It covers the interview process, choosing the right format, and using GVSU Core Competencies to assess candidate alignment with organizational values. Participants will practice creating tailored questions, applying structured techniques, and making informed, fair hiring decisions.

Register through [Workday Here](#).



HANDS ONLY CPR TRAINING BY RECWELL

Hands-only CPR is CPR without rescue breaths which is simple to learn and easy to remember, especially outside medical settings. It increases the likelihood of surviving cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating or beats too ineffectively to circulate blood to the brain and other vital organs.

RecWell staff will lead a 1-hour class that reviews why hands only CPR is effective, identifying and checking for a medical emergency, how to deliver chest compressions, and use an AED. We will also include a brief overview of recognizing first aid emergencies and how to respond.

Register through [Workday here](#).

MIEA MINDFULNESS FOR GVSU FACULTY & STAFF

4 Sessions starting June 2, 2P-3:15P, Virtual

Mindfulness has been well-documented to improve physiological and psychological wellbeing. This four-session course introduces 10 mindfulness skills from the MIEA curriculum and is suitable for all experience levels, from beginners to experienced practitioners. MIEA is an evidence-based mindfulness training program originally designed for emerging adults that has been found to be applicable to people of all ages.

Register through [Workday here](#).

NEW COURSE: WORKDAY REQUISITIONS BY BUSINESS & FINANCE

This comprehensive course is designed to provide participants with a thorough understanding of the requisition process within Workday. From creating requisitions to managing approvals and cancellations, this course covers all essential aspects to ensure efficient procurement practices at GVSU.

[View course here.](#)

Before taking this course, it is recommended to complete the [Workday Suppliers](#) course to understand the supplier setup process.



BENEFITS & WELLNESS

LAKER DAY, MY WAY

Beginning July 1, 2025, all eligible faculty and staff will be granted one paid day off per calendar year, called “Laker Day, My Way.” This day is yours to use in a way that is most meaningful to you:

- Celebrate a cultural or religious holiday
- Volunteer for a cause you care about
- Take time for self-care and renewal
- Mark a personal or family milestone



“Laker Day, My Way” can be requested through the university’s regular time-off approval process. As with other time-off requests, we ask that it be submitted and approved in advance to support planning and continuity. You can find more information about this new benefit on the [People, Equity, and Culture website](#).



JOB ALERTS IN WORKDAY

BY KELLI DYKSTRA, INTERIM COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Set up notifications in WorkDay to alert you to new internal-only job postings (or any new job postings!).

[View instructions on how to set these notifications.](#)

UFIT PLAN BY RECWELL

It is important to have both a healthy mind and body. The Fitness and Wellness Services has a UFit Plan, where participants meet with a Fitness Specialist to discuss their wellness goals, current health, fitness and lifestyle status and receive a custom fitness program using the equipment the participant has access to.

- Customized fitness programming from knowledgeable staff to guide your fitness journey
- Equipment orientations and guided tour through the recreation center
- Goal development and strategies for exercise adherence
- Incorporate stress management strategies to help achieve your personal wellness goals.

Free for Students! One-time charge of \$25 for non-students.

What's Included?

- Intake appointment to discuss wellness goals and establish a plan to reach them
- Equipment orientation and exercise demonstration
- Personalized Fitness Program
- Follow-up appointments to gauge progress, adjust goals, and modify the fitness program as you continue to improve your fitness

Book Online - GVSU is now using MindBody for our programs registration. [Book Here](#)

[More information available on the RecWell website.](#)



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

DEADLINE

FISCAL YEAR-END DEADLINES

Purchasing and Invoicing

- **June 1, 2025** - Requisitions for future dated purchases open for FY 2025-2026
- **June 30, 2025** - ALL FY 2024-2025 requisitions will be closed. All purchase orders with inactivity of 13 months (as of 5/31/24) will be closed regardless of obligation balance.
- **July 3, 2025** - Last day to submit invoices with a purchase order number to Accounts Payable for FY 2024-2025.
- **July 11, 2025** - Last day to approve invoices in Workday for FY 2024-2025.
- **July 15, 2025** - FY 2024-2025 purchase orders with remaining balances will be rolled to FY 2025-2026.

Technology Acquisition Purchasing Deadlines

- **June 9, 2025** – Last day to submit Tech Acquisition quote orders

Internal Service Deliveries for Technology Acquisition quote orders must be submitted and approved by your cost center manager no later than 12:00 p.m./noon on Monday, June 9, 2025. If the items ordered have not arrived to campus by June 30th, the ISD will be moved and billed in the next fiscal year.

- **June 23, 2025** – Last day to submit Tech Acquisition orders for catalog/stock orders

Internal Service Deliveries for Technology Acquisition catalog/stock orders must be submitted and approved by your cost center manager no later than 12:00 p.m./noon on Monday, June 23, 2025. Any catalog/stock items ordered before Monday, June 23rd at noon will be billed to the current 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Orders for fiscal year 2025-2026 will be accepted on July 1, 2025. Please visit the [Technology Acquisition website](#) for guidelines and policies.

Supplier Invoice Requests

- **June 30, 2025** - Supplier invoice requests need to be submitted for approval in Workday.
- **July 3, 2025** - All supplier invoice requests must be fully approved in order to be processed in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Miscellaneous Payment Fund Requests

- **July 3, 2025** - Miscellaneous payment fund requests must be submitted to Erica Herwig or Brian Thompson

Expense Cards and Expense Reports

- **June 27, 2025** - Last day to submit expense reports for FY 2024-2025.
- **July 1, 2025** - Expense reports for FY 2025-2026 can be submitted.
- **July 3, 2025** - Last day to approve expense reports for FY 2025-2025. All cash advance reconciliations for cash spent in FY 2024-2025 must be approved or repaid.
- **July 16, 2026** - Process begins for July expense reports.

Visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/purchasing/fiscal-year-end-181.htm> for additional information.



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

HEALTH & WELL-BEING TOWNHALL EVENTS BY CENTER FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

You're invited to join the GVSU Center for Health and Well-Being (CHWB) for two town hall events which will unveil the center's 2025–28 strategic plan, share updates on new systems and services, and gather feedback from the GVSU community. These town halls are essential for students, faculty, staff, and community partners who are interested in understanding, influencing, and engaging in the future of campus well-being. We look forward to seeing you there!

June 17 Town Hall | 2-4 p.m. | Kirkhof Center Room 2266

This event will focus on presenting the center-wide strategy and departmental goals for health promotion, the Community Health Advisory Team (CHAT), the Campus Health Center, and victim advocacy. This will include an interactive session designed to capture insights and lived experiences to help better understand specifications and shape offerings. We invite your insights and lived experience to help shape our final implementation approach.

July 29 Town Hall | 2:30-4 p.m. | Kirkhof Center Room 2266

This event will mark the official launch of our strategic initiatives. We'll reveal new systems for care management, insurance navigation, emergency shelter services, and sexual violence response, as well as outline opportunities for collaboration across campus and community.

[Register to attend](#)



GVSU SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT BY ATHLETICS

Get ready for the 8th Annual GVSU Summer Movie Night, brought to you by PNC Bank — happening Wednesday, June 25th at 7 PM in Lubbers Stadium!

This year, we're bringing Minecraft to life... we will be playing the Minecraft Movie on the videoboard! Gates will open at 6 pm, so you can snag the best spot to watch the movie on the GVSU Football Field. The movie will kick off promptly at 7 pm! The best part - admission is **free** to the public! Plus, early arriving fans will score a giveaway item, courtesy of PNC Bank, the official bank of GVSU Athletics.

[RSVP](#) now and you will be entered into pre-movie raffle drawings for a chance to win some awesome prizes



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

GV TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT 2025 – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The inaugural GV Technology Summit will take place on October 2, 2025, from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health, Health Campus.

Be part of a university-wide celebration of innovation and progress, sponsored by Information Technology in collaboration with colleges and departments across the university.

Information Technology is seeking passionate presenters to showcase technology advancements and explore future opportunities.

[Submit a proposal](#) by June 30, 2025 to help make the Summit a success. Learn more and register at gvsu.edu/it/summit.

NEW SEIDMAN IT SERVICE DESK

BY IT SERVICES

GVSU IT is making it easier than ever for downtown students, faculty, and staff to get tech support! As of May 5, a brand-new walk-up service desk is open in the L. William Seidman Center (SCB 2046), offering in-person IT help in the heart of Pew Campus. Whether you need help with Wi-Fi, password resets, setting up software, or troubleshooting a device, our team is ready to assist. Just stop by during open hours:

Monday–Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Closed weekends

The Seidman location joins our existing walk-up desks at the Mary Idema Pew Library (LIB 010) in Allendale and Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (CHS 100) in Grand Rapids. It's all part of our commitment to provide quick, convenient, and friendly IT support wherever you are on campus.

WORKDAY FINANCE UPDATES

BY BUSINESS & FINANCE

We have turned on a feature in Workday that allows you to email your expense report receipts directly to Workday. From the appropriate user's email, a receipt can be forwarded to receipts@gvsu.edu and it will be ingested into that person's Expense Transactions as a Quick Expense that they can then add to an expense report.



WORKDAY FINANCE UPDATES

BY BUSINESS & FINANCE

There is a new feature to general fund reports in time for year-end.

GVSU General Fund Budget to Actuals and GVSU Divisional General Fund Budget Balance Available now have a section for Ledger Accounts to Exclude.

By leaving “75660 Year End Sweep Transfer In” and “75670 Year End Sweep Transfer Out” in the prompts, you will be able to see General Fund YTD activity before the year-end sweep. To see YTD after the year-end sweep (i.e. see it at a zero balance), simply remove these ledger accounts. The year-end sweep will occur in the last two weeks of July.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.gvsu.edu/busfin/workday-resources-91.htm>



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Juneteenth is a federal holiday that commemorates when the last enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas learned of their freedom on June 19, 1865 - more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.



Black Faculty & Staff Affinity Group (BFSA) Juneteenth Dinner

June 18 • 4-6 p.m. | Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall, DeVos Center (Building E) Pew Campus

Join BFSA as they honor and celebrate Juneteenth, a pivotal moment in American history marking the end of the enslavement of African Americans in the United States. [RSVP: BFSA Juneteenth Dinner](#)

Community Event: Juneteenth Celebration

**June 19 • Parade at 12 p.m. • Celebration at 1 p.m. | Dickinson Buffer Park, Grand Rapids
1635 Willard Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507**

Celebrate Juneteenth at this vibrant community gathering featuring a parade, celebration, and resource booths, including GVSU's Sustainable Resource booth. GVSU is providing complimentary transportation between the Allendale Campus and Dickinson Buffer Park and lunch/water for students, faculty, and staff who participate in this year's Juneteenth Celebration. [RSVP: Community Event Participation](#)

From Roots to Rise: GVSU Community Juneteenth Celebration

June 20 • 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Haas Center for Performing Arts Lobby Valley Campus

Join us for an open-house style event for the campus community to connect and reflect on the meaning of Juneteenth. This interactive program will include experiential education, games, and red foods*.

*Red food is deeply rooted in West African cultures, reflecting power and resistance. It symbolizes the blood shed by enslaved people and their descendants, and the resilience and spiritual power associated with fighting the realities of slavery. [RSVP: From Roots to Rise](#)



GVSU PRIDE MONTH EVENTS

GVSU Reel Pride

Join us for an outdoor movie night featuring the cult classic *But I'm a Cheerleader*! Bring friends, a chair/blanket, and allyship for an evening of fun, film and community. 🎬 The first 50 people to register will receive a GVSU Reel Pride t-shirt!

- When: June 26, beginning at 4 p.m.
- Where: TBD, Valley Campus

[RSVP: GVSU Reel Pride](#)



Also check out community events!

[Holland Out on the Lakeshore](#) and [Grand Rapids Pride Festival](#)



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS: EVACUATION PROCEDURES

BY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Evacuation instructions are only issued if the safety and well-being of the university community is at serious risk. Orders for evacuations may apply to individual buildings, regions of campus or campus in its entirety.

The campus community will be notified of evacuation decisions through various methods, including GVSUAlert!, building annunciators, strobe alarms or a building/vehicle public address system.

Occupants can follow overhead illuminated 'EXIT' signage to find the nearest exit from the building. GVSU does not designate evacuation routes or assembly areas.

Each university building has designated department emergency coordinators to assist in an orderly evacuation.

The most likely need for evacuation from a university building is in response to a fire. When an evacuation/fire alarm sounds, all university operations in that building are suspended.

Evacuation of people with disabilities

Being prepared to request assistance is crucial for people with disabilities. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to plan in advance if anyone would require evacuation assistance during an emergency.

If an evacuation/fire alarm sounds, and it is not possible to exit the building with minimal assistance, anyone with disabilities should go to the nearest area of rescue assistance or an enclosed stairway to await evacuation by first responders. Planning ahead is ideal for locating areas of rescue assistance.

One person may stay with the person with a disability, if there is no unreasonable personal risk in doing so, to await rescue assistance. Others should evacuate the building and advise first responders of the location of individuals remaining in the building so that the emergency personnel may complete the evacuation.

During an emergency, elevators should not be used to move people with disabilities, and moving people in wheelchairs down a stairway should only be conducted by trained personnel.

Training

All instructional staff are provided training on evacuation procedures prior to the start of each academic year in accordance with Michigan State Law.





HIGHLIGHTS



From Jennie Reed, Department of English. "I wanted to share a photo of a particular graduate – ME! 😊"

At the end of April, I walked across the stage at Van Andel Arena to receive my Bachelor of Arts in Sociology degree. It was the culmination of a journey that took a path I never could have anticipated. For so long, I felt such guilt and shame because I had never finished my bachelor's degree. I spent a long time working to convince myself that finishing my degree was something I was capable of after starting and stopping multiple times.

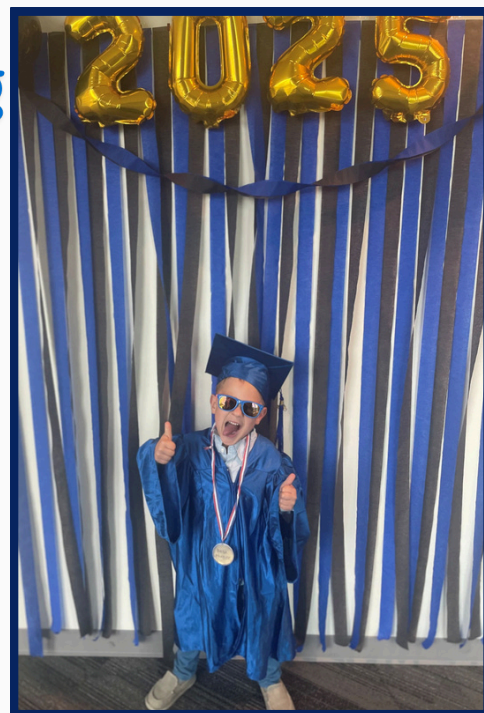
It wasn't always easy as a mom and wife with a full-time job, but looking back, I wouldn't have had it any other way. I'm really proud of myself for reaching this milestone. It feels especially significant because my beloved grandmother was the same age when she graduated with her bachelor's degree in teaching as a non-traditional student.

If starting or finishing a degree is something you've ever thought about, I highly recommend it! I'm already thinking about what the next steps in my educational journey might look like.

From Jenna Bench, Visual & Media Arts.

"My oldest daughter Mackenzie will be graduating from Spring Lake High School with honors at the end of the month! It really does go by in the blink of an eye! She will continue her education this fall at Michigan State University, pursuing a degree in Secondary Education & Social Sciences."

celebrating
the Class of
2025



From Kate Knopp, Athletics
"My son, Ethan, graduated from the CEC preschool last week!"



HIGHLIGHTS



From Erin Braginton, Financial Aid. “I had the honor of getting my undergraduate degree Summa Cume Laude on April 25th and being cheered on by colleagues. My youngest daughter graduated on May 22nd from Grand Haven High School with High Academic Honors and will be attending Loyola Chicago in the fall.”

celebrating
the Class of

2025

From Kel Nemetz, CLAS Dean’s Office. “I just graduated with my Master of Arts in Social Innovation, with distinction 😊 My final research project is titled “Building Anti-Racist Teacher Education” and I am a proud first generation graduate! I’ll be celebrating this summer with a trip to Germany and Greece with my best friend, and an exploration of hobbies with all the extra time I have now! Happy graduation season! “





HIGHLIGHTS

From Keri Roth, Admissions.

"Ian Roth, Graduating from Jenison High School. Will be marching this summer with the Madison Scouts Drum & Bugle Corps. Attending GVSU for History/History Education."



celebrating
the Class of
**2025**



From Anne Kamstra, Registrar's Office. Here is "a photo of my son, London, who graduated in April with his 2-year certificate in Sports Turf Management from the Institute of Agricultural Technology at Michigan State University. He's spending a second summer working with the West Michigan Whitecaps and during that time will start looking for a more permanent job."



HIGHLIGHTS

Book recommendations



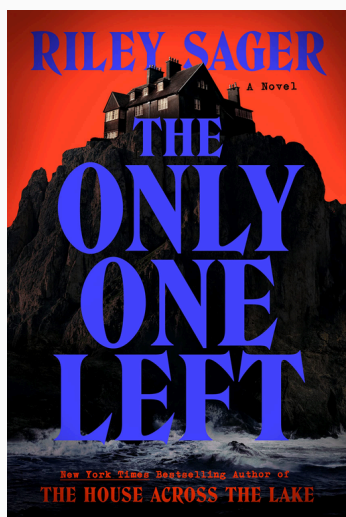
The Seven O'Clock Club by Amelia Ireland

Recommended by **Kelli Dykstra, Public Safety.** "This book has a classic twist presented in a very different way. It combines mystery, magical realism, friendship and romance in such a unique way!"



Red, White & Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston

Recommended by **Sam Condon, Psychology Department.** "Gay romance, friends to enemy, first son of the US falls for a UK prince - beautiful writing!"

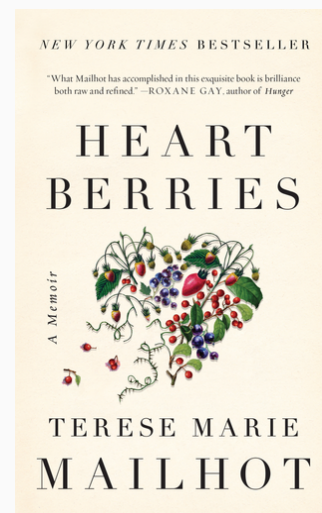


The Only One Left by Riley Sager

Recommended by **Jenna Bench, Visual & Media Arts.** From Goodreads, "This twisty Gothic mystery will leave even savvy thriller readers gasping until the very last page."

Heart Berries by Terese Marie Mailhot

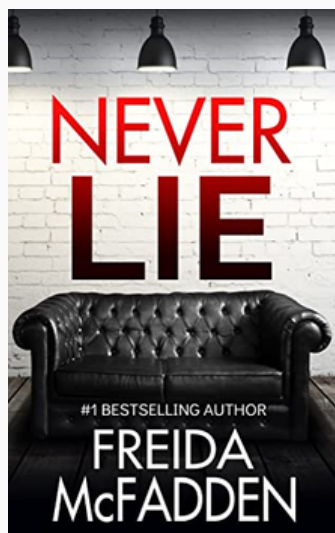
Recommended by **Sue Dix, Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships.** "This memoir makes you feel like you're inside the author's mind, looking out at her life as she comes to terms with herself, her family, her past, present, and future. It's disquieting, often disturbing, brilliantly written."





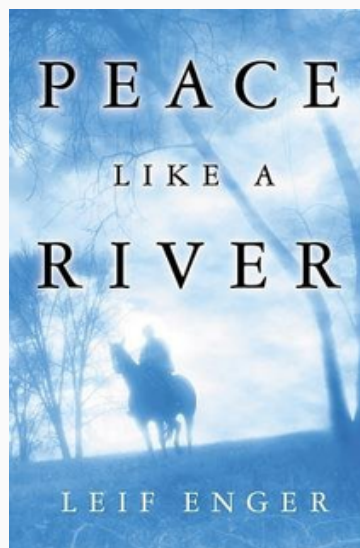
HIGHLIGHTS

Book recommendations



Never Lie by Freida McFadden

Recommended by Jenna Bench, Visual & Media Arts. From Goodreads: "An easy, quick 'popcorn' thriller that was super entertaining. Just when I thought I had it all figured out..."

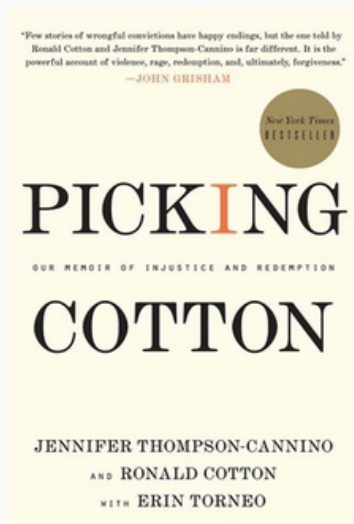


Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

Recommended by Sue Dix, Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. "A unique, Western-style saga. Wonderfully loving, lovely, miracle-filled, with an ending that is perfection."

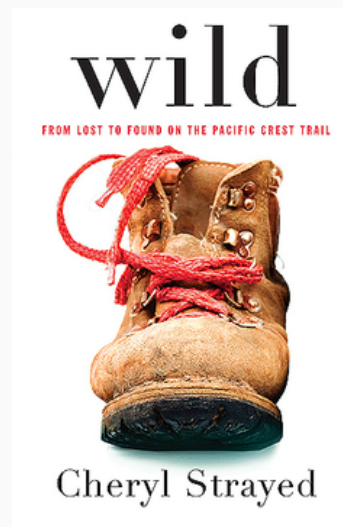
Picking Cotton by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton with Erin Torneo

Recommended by Kelli Dykstra, Public Safety. "An excellent memoir that includes true crime, a redemption story, surprising information on eyewitness testimony, justice, friendship, and forgiveness."



Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by

Recommended by Sam Condon, Psychology Department. "End of the world meets volcanoes meets the classic thrill of two great writers."





2024-2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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CHIEF ALLIANCE STEWARD

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PAC

BRIAN DENUYL

AH, CUB, SER

TREENA GILBERT

BIK, CEC, IDC, KEN, WAT

CAMPUS DATES

19TH - JUNETEENTH

[GVSU.EDU/EVENTS](https://www.gvsu.edu/events)

BIRTHDAYS

11TH - DENISE GROSS

12TH - KELLI DYKSTRA

17TH - BRIAN DENUYL

18TH - CARRIE SHOUP

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

1ST - TAMMY BRASIC

7TH - SHERYL NELSON

12TH - CELESTE LAREAU

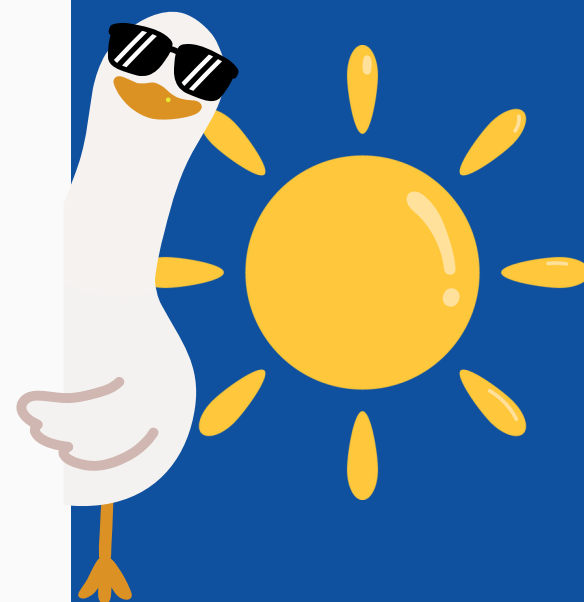
12TH - L DETTLING

22ND - RAFAEL JUAREZ-YUEN

30TH - JULIE CARBINE

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

6TH - KYRA VANOST



SHARE YOUR FAVORITE WEBSITE OR APP -
FUN, INFORMATIONAL, HELPS WITH
PRODUCTIVITY, ETC. - FOR THE JULY
NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
FOR SUBMISSION INFORMATION, CONTACT
THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.