

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1 • JULY 2025

APSS NEWSLETTER

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

Photo by Kerry Hawley (Rose outside Kennedy Hall)

ISSUE FEATURES

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Please share your feedback on the Facebook group!
more on page 2

PAWS ON CAMPUS

Join the GVSU Alumni and other community members and take your dog to campus...
more on page 3

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION!

Celebrate the retirement of two APSS members!
more on page 7

HIGHLIGHTS

Emmy winners, an engagement, personal accomplishments, app and website recommendations, and even more book recommendations. Check out the highlights pages!
starting on page 18

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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.!

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK!

What do you like about the Facebook group? What could we improve? What would you like to see more of?

Email Communications Director Kelli Dykstra at dykstrk1@gvsu.edu with suggestions / feedback. Thanks!





CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT (SAP) FARM STAND

Don't forget to visit the SAP farm stand this summer - Wednesdays from 10A - 1P at the Allendale Clocktower. Visit their website for more information, as well as information on Community Supported Agriculture! www.gvsu.edu/sap



PAWS ON CAMPUS

Join Laker alumni and their furry friends for a tail-wagging good time! Enjoy a casual summer morning with fellow alumni and their pups. **Register** your dog to receive a sample of alumna-made dog treats, and treat yourself to complimentary coffee and donuts. Laker gear encouraged! Please note: Dogs must be leashed and up to date on vaccinations.

Saturday, July 26, 2025, 9:30A-11:00A, Cook Carillon Tower



GVSU PARKING UPDATE – PEW CAMPUS VISITOR PASSES

Due to new parking equipment (License Plate Scanners) acquired by GVSU Parking on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, if requesting a visitor parking pass for the Pew Campus, the visitor's license plate information will need to be provided. More information on the new equipment and FAQs is available here:

<https://www.gvsu.edu/parking/tiba-lpr-faq-110.htm>





CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS



ONEDRIVE COMING TO ALL MAC USERS & LABS BY FALL 2025 BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

As part of GVSU's ongoing efforts to modernize technology services, all Mac users and students using campus computer labs will transition to Microsoft OneDrive for private file storage by the start of the Fall 2025 semester.

Starting in June, GVSU-managed Mac systems will begin migrating to OneDrive. This change aligns with the university's broader shift—already underway for Windows users—to a more seamless, secure, and cloud-based file storage solution.

During the migration, files stored in each user's private DFS location—often referred to as My Documents, the N: drive, or department L: drives—will be moved to OneDrive. Departmental DFS storage will not be affected.

At the same time, all campus lab computers—both Mac and Windows—will be configured for OneDrive. Students will sign in with their GVSU credentials to access and save files directly to OneDrive, making it easier to move between devices without losing access to documents and project files.

What to Expect:

- If you're a Mac user, no action is needed at this time. You'll receive a direct communication with details about your migration before it begins.
- Once OneDrive is configured on your device, you will be prompted to sign in with your GVSU credentials.
- File syncing will happen in the background.
- Files from your private DFS directory will be in OneDrive.

[Visit the OneDrive for Mac Users webpage to view the planned migration schedule.](#)

Read the [OneDrive for Mac Knowledge Base article](#) for additional information on the process.

WORKDAY FINANCE UPDATES BY BUSINESS & FINANCE

The Expense Report Business process was updated with many changes in an effort to drive efficiencies.

- Grant PI approval moved to occur prior to the CCM to streamline approvals for reports with Grants.
- Step added for Tech Acquisition approval. Multiple items can trigger your report to move to Tech Acquisition for approval. It is still important that you attach any approvals as part of your receipt. Tech Acquisition can send your report back to you and ask for further information or deny something and ask for repayment to the University. This step was added after all normal budget approvals.
- All expense reports will stop with the Expense Processor for approval, versus using efficiencies to allow some items to go right through. This may cause delays in processing. The Expense processor has 2 weeks from the day she receives the expense report to process it. Please ensure you are submitting and approving reports in a timely manner.
- New check box added to all expense items called 'Violation - send for AO approval'. Its intention is identifying purchases that are outside of policy. Initiators, CCAs, some CCMs and the Expense Processor are all able to check this box if the item is outside of policy and requires AO's approval. It will route the report to your AO for approval. Attach preapprovals as part of the receipt. Items flagged as Violations will be shared quarterly with the division VP.
- Rule added to limit the expense report to 29 lines. More than that requires extra time to review on our end. Workday is cloud based and requires regular refreshing of a screen or it times out. If the report is more than 30 lines we hit those time out windows.

Any questions related to these changes should be directed to Erica Herwig at herwig@gvsu.edu



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT IS OKTA? AND WHY IT MATTERS AT GVSU

BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

You may have noticed a smoother login experience lately across GVSU's systems. That's thanks to Okta, our university's new identity and access management platform.

Okta acts as a secure gateway that helps you access multiple systems — like Banner, Workday, and Blackboard — using a single set of credentials. In other words, it's our "single sign-on" (SSO) . No more juggling passwords for every tool!

How Okta Improves Our Security

- * Stronger Identity Protection: Okta works hand-in-hand with Factor Authentication (MFA) to keep your account safe, even if your password is compromised.
- * Centralized Access: The Okta dashboard gives you one place to access GVSU applications — securely and efficiently.
- * Less Password Fatigue: Fewer login prompts and fewer passwords means a lower risk of accidental password reuse or exposure.

Pro Tips for APSS Staff:

- * Bookmark the Okta dashboard: (<https://my.gvsu.edu>)
- * Consider using the Okta browser extension
- * Use your GVSU email and password to log in — then approve with MFA.
- * If you have trouble accessing an app, check Okta first — it may already be available there.

Need Help?

Visit the GVSU Service Desk (<https://services.gvsu.edu>) or call x1221 for assistance.

Additional sources for Okta information:

- * Okta Verify: <https://services.gvsu.edu/TDClient/60/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=4883>
- * Install Okta Browser Plugin: <https://services.gvsu.edu/TDClient/60/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=4768>

Stay secure — and simplify your digital life — with Okta.





CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS: CALLING 911 BY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Call 911 when:

- Someone is hurt or in danger and needs emergency assistance
- Any medical emergency
- Crimes in progress
- Fires
- Vehicle collisions
- When you or a person you care for feels at risk



These are just a few reasons to call 911. You may feel the need to call 911 for other reasons. Trust your instincts.

See something, say something

You do not need to have an immediate emergency to call 911 for a suspicious situation. If you see something that seems abnormal, odd or out of place, you may call 911. If there is not an immediate emergency, GVPD's non-emergency dispatch line is also available 24/7 at (616) 331-3255. Only call this number if there is not an immediate threat or emergency.

What if 911 is called by accident?

If you accidentally call 911, stay on the line and explain your mistake to the dispatcher. If you hang up, the dispatcher will try to contact you back and may send an officer to your location thinking it is an actual emergency.

What to expect when calling 911?

Try to remain calm when calling 911. It is ok to not know the answer to a question. Give your best answer or say you do not know.

You will be asked for:

- Your current address - Try to give the street address or building name. Classroom emergency placards have building addresses listed at the bottom
- Your name
- A phone number they can contact you at
- What happened - Give your best explanation of what is going on or what occurred
- The best way to enter the building/reach you if necessary

Important reminders

- Do not assume someone else called 911
- Do not feel like a burden when you call 911
- Do not delay in calling during an emergency
- GVSU's Allendale and Grand Rapids Campuses are capable of receiving 911 messages through text if necessary
- GVSU's Allendale and Grand Rapids Campuses have public phones available in areas where cell service may not be strong. Grand Valley's buildings are also equipped to handle wifi calling to 911.



HIGHLIGHTS



Please join the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies in wishing “happy retirement” to two key staff members, Lynnette Keen and Noreen Savage, and please mark your calendars for Noreen’s retirement party on July 30!

Lynnette Keen

“My last day is July 18. I began at GVSU as a temporary employee with 6 months in the Van Andel Global Trade Center and Institutional Marketing. Then, I was hired as a PSS into what was the Liberal Studies Department and am finishing from the Brooks College Dean’s Office.

My greatest pleasure has been learning from and working alongside Melanie Shell-Weiss, and supporting faculty members so they can support students. There were many days I would have worked for free.

My early retirement is made possible because my wonderful husband of 13 years served 36 years in the Army with 3 deployments, retiring in 2018. Thank you for your service 1st Sgt. Gerald Keen (Ret.)! I love you! I’m staying home now!”

Noreen Savage

“My last day is July 31, with my retirement party on July 30. I have been at GVSU for over 20 years.

Before being employed at Grand Valley, I remember a conversation with an old friend: She asked, “What are you doing these days?” “I’m going to be working at Grand Valley.” “Oh really, where?” “Not sure – they don’t know me yet.” 😊

Employment at GV became reality in 2004, when I worked one week as a temp in TRIO, covering their spring break. Later that year, I called HR to see if they had any more temp work and was quickly hired as a temp in a brand new college: CUII – College of University-wide Interdisciplinary Initiatives – later to be renamed Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. Fortunately, a new PSS position became available in Brooks College, and I was hired full-time in 2005 and remained at Brooks until now.

I’m so glad I pursued my search for employment at Grand Valley and feel fortunate for the great work, wonderful experiences and many friendships. I look forward to spending retirement with my husband Tom and enjoying our large family. I wish you all the best!”



RETIREMENT PARTY FOR NOREEN SAVAGE

Event: Wish Noreen a happy retirement and share a piece of cake

Date: Wed., July 30, 2025

Time: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm; remarks at 3:15

Location: Honors College, Chamberlain Multi-purpose Room (NMH), Allendale Campus



HIGHLIGHTS

From Terri Kenney and Joel Beltman, WGUV.

WGUV Public Media Wins Multiple Emmy Awards

WGUV Public Media has been honored with awards in three categories from the Michigan chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. The awards banquet was held at The Fillmore in Detroit on the evening of Saturday, June 14th.

Mutually Inclusive was successful in securing two awards with Meeting Alice & Language of the Land both winning in their categories. Living West Michigan also won with The Silent Crisis taking home a trophy.

[Mutually Inclusive: “Meeting Alice”](#)

[Mutually Inclusive: “Language of the Land”](#)

[Living West Michigan: “The Silent Crisis”](#)

Congratulations!





HIGHLIGHTS

From L Dettling, IT Operations. “I got engaged on Sunday 😊. Connor and I have been together for 4.5 years, and we met in college at GVSU. He proposed in Muskegon. I am very excited!”

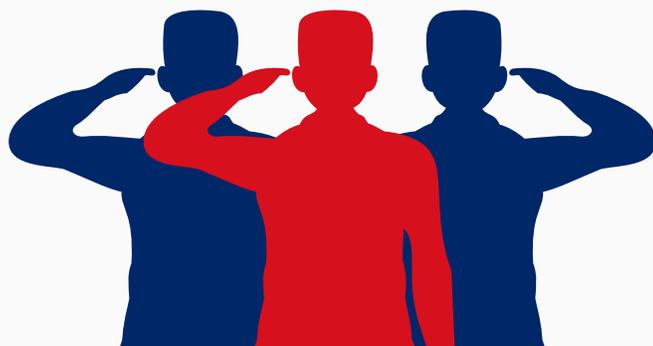
Congratulations, L and Connor!!!!



Engagement

From Joel Beltman, WGUVU. In response to the request for submissions of celebrations/accomplishments in your personal life, Joel shared, “My activism for workers and veterans is building momentum as more people stand with us.

“It’s an honor to serve with you all, thank you. APSS is a great union for us, but are we providing all the solidarity we should for other workers in West MI trying to organize? We’re stronger together.”





HIGHLIGHTS



From Robert Thompson, WGUV.

Merlin Bird ID app by Cornell: Identify the birds you hear and see. Free global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps, and more! Download here: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>



Seek by iNaturalist: Take your nature knowledge up a notch with Seek! Use the power of image recognition technology to identify the plants and animals all around you. Earn badges for seeing different types of birds, amphibians, plants, and fungi and participate in monthly observation challenges.

Download here: https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app

APP & WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS

From Holl Nguyen Mills 胡佳琪, Padnos International Center. “My favorite website is www.behindthename.com. It is a website where you can look up the definition of names and their origins, as well as their popularity in many countries! To me, it's my favorite because when I did write stories, it was fun to find names and use their name generator to create my own characters. There is also a subpage on their website where you can look up the origins of surnames.”

Behind the Name



HIGHLIGHTS

From Allison Bazaire, College of Computing. "One of my favorite websites to keep up with is <https://grfilmsociety.substack.com/>. They put out a newsletter called "Beam from the Booth." It features great articles and interviews about films I know well, independent films, local filmmakers, and films I would never have known about otherwise! They are all written by Michigan filmmakers and enthusiasts, along with a few faces that may be familiar to GVSU."



APP & WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS

I want to search the archive for saved snapshots

From Joel Beltman, WGVU. <https://archive.ph>

Archive.today is a time capsule for web pages! It takes a snapshot of a webpage that will always be online even if the original page disappears. It saves a text and a graphical copy of the page for better accuracy and provides a short and reliable link to an unalterable record of any web page.

This can be useful if you want to take a snapshot of a page which could change soon: price list, job offer, real estate listing, blog post... Saved pages will have no active elements and no scripts, so they keep you safe as they cannot have any popups or malware!

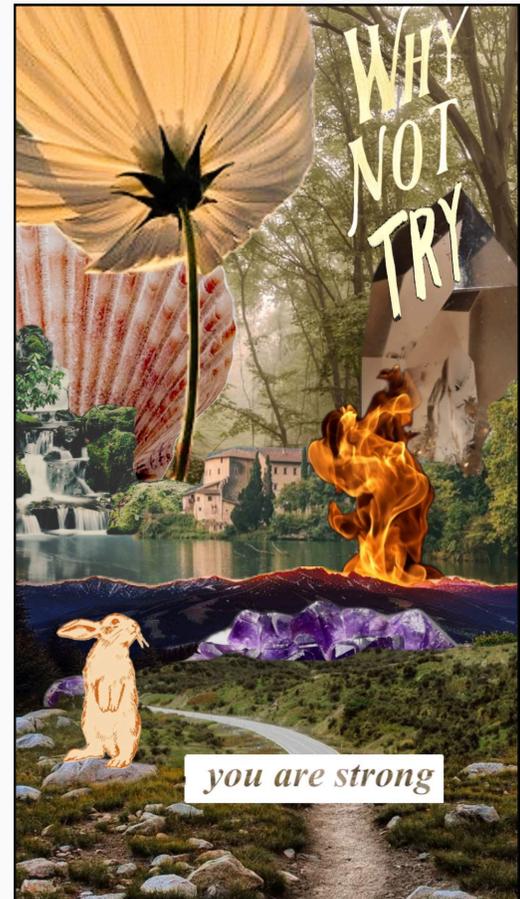
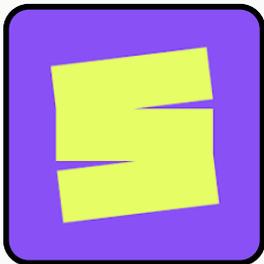
My url is alive and I want to archive its content



HIGHLIGHTS

From Hannah Noorman,
Padnos College of
Engineering.

“One of my favorite apps is Shuffles by Pinterest. It allows you to create digital collages out of images found on Pinterest. I love being inspired by other people’s collages and have fun searching for the best images to use in my own. I often use Shuffles when I’m feeling creative but don’t want the mess created by making traditional collages. Here are two collages I created using the app.” <https://www.shffls.com>.

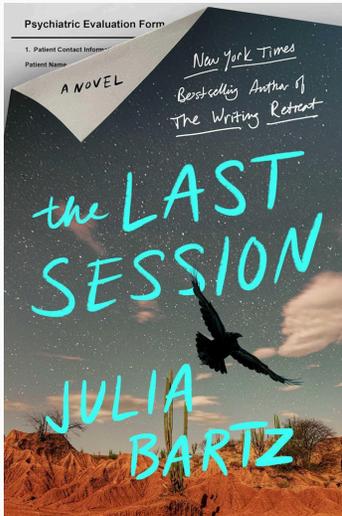


APP & WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS



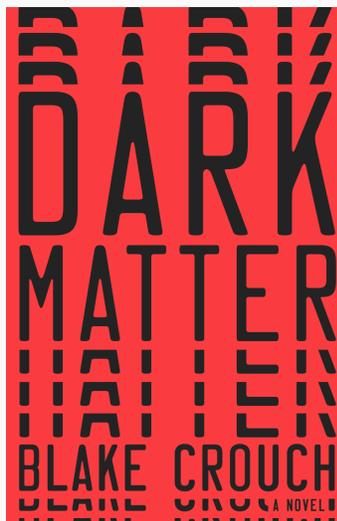
HIGHLIGHTS

Book recommendations

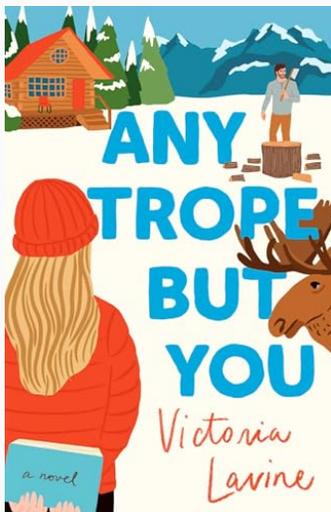


The Last Session by Julia Bartz

Recommended by **Allison Bazaire, College of Computing**. "Personally, this is such a great, "Beach Read." This book may have some triggering mental health and abuse situations for some. If you enjoy reading about cults, the psychology of cults, with an added layer of mystery, I would highly recommend this book!"



Dark Matter by Blake Crouch Recommended by **Joel Beltman, WGVU**. "Fun Sci-Fi read!"

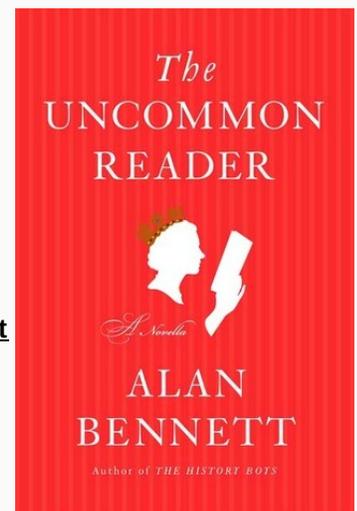


Any Trope but You by Victoria Lavine

Recommended by **Annie Valkema, Development Services**. "Beach read focusing on romance author Margot trying to survive a humiliating online gaffe who escapes to Alaska and meets prickly Forrest, who has secrets of his own to overcome." **Please note - per Annie, this became "R-rated" at the end! Read with discretion!**

The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett

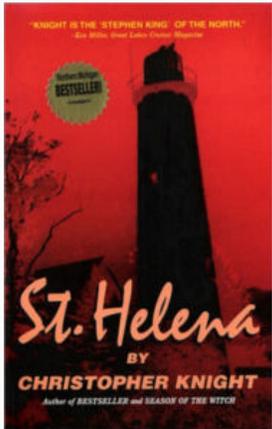
Recommended by **Sue Dix, Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships**. "Sometimes the shortest books are the best books. This charming gem is excellently written and a marvelously enjoyable read."



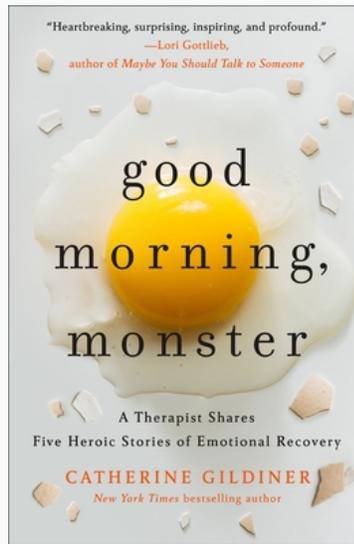


HIGHLIGHTS

Book recommendations

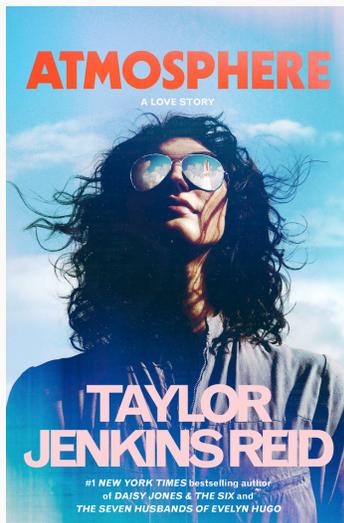


St. Helena by Christopher Knight (Michigan author)
Recommended by **Tammy Brasic, Admissions**. Horror story taking place in a dilapidated lighthouse on an island in Northern Michigan.



Good Morning, Monster: A Therapist Shares Five Heroic Stories of Emotional Recovery by Catherine Gildiner
Recommended by **Annie Valkema, Development Services**. "Hurray for therapy, am I right? With family members in that field, I was fascinated by the five stories and how therapy played a role in recovery."

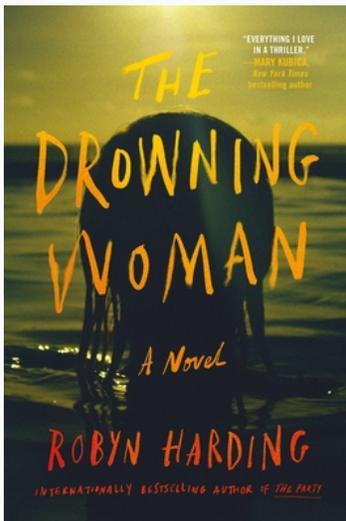
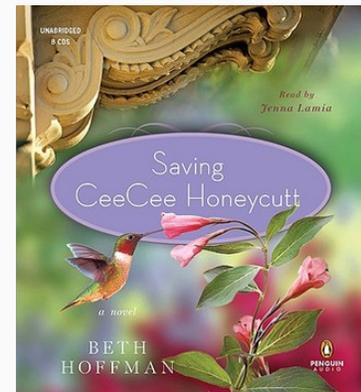
The Drowning Woman by Robyn Harding
Recommended by **Valerie Palmer, Seidman College of Business Outreach Centers**. "Awesome thriller!"



Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Recommended by **Tammy Tobar, WGVSU**. Goodreads review recommended by Tammy, "I want to get this review right, to honor the book properly. This is not a book you leave behind. It's a treasure that will live inside you as long as you live. I can't remember a love story that has touched me more, shattered my heart and plastered it back together again. Transcending space and time, perfectly illustrated by a plot about reaching for the stars and pondering big questions, it never felt trite. Instead I encountered again my childhood awe for the unknown, my third for knowledge and looking for what makes me happy. There was also a wonderful sub-plot of the love between Joan and her sister's child, their story was magical and real. Lastly, I cried. I cried so much that I needed to take a moment just to breathe. What kind of book is able to do that? This one."

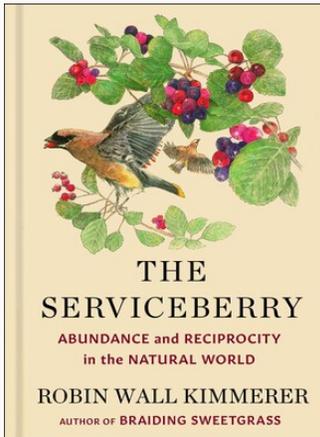
Saving CeeCee Honeycutt by Beth Hoffman
Recommended by **Sam Condon, Psychology Department**. "Coming of age in the south, feel good story."



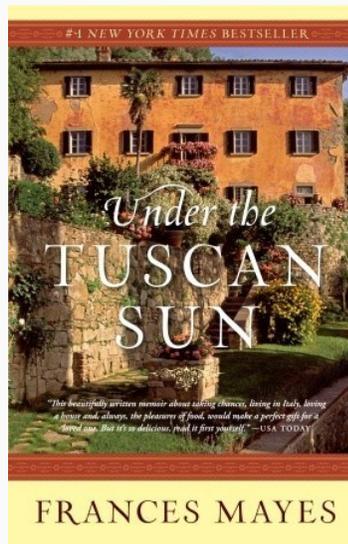


HIGHLIGHTS

Book recommendations



The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Recommended by **Sue Dix, Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships.** "The author is a botanist and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The book emphasizes earth's abundance and our duty to reciprocate that abundance. Reads like a big hug."

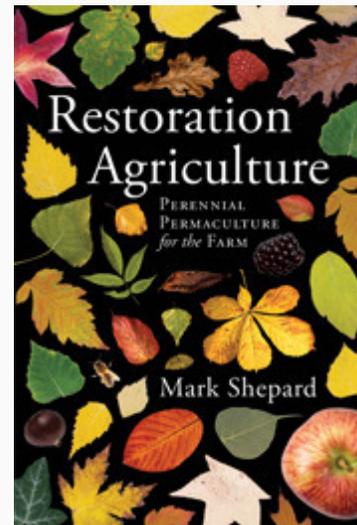


Under the Tuscan Sun: At Home in Italy by Frances Mayes
Recommended by **Sam Condon, Psychology Department.** "Autobiography of a divorced woman who moves to Italy and starts anew."

Viewfinder: A Memoir of Seeing and Being Seen by Jon M. Chu
Recommended by **Tammy Brasic, Admissions.** From Goodreads, "A powerful, inspiring memoir of belonging, creativity, and learning to see who you really are."



Restoration Agriculture by Mark Shepard
Recommended by **Joel Beltman, WGVU.** "Planting to heal wild biology while supporting people."





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CAMPUS DATES

4TH - INDEPENDENCE DAY
GVSU.EDU/EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS

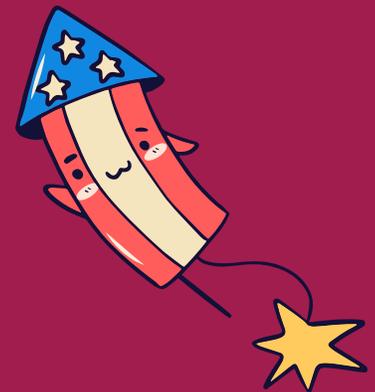
1ST - VALERIE PALMER
2ND - GEORGINE BELLO
2ND - AUNA DWELLE-OLSON
3RD - SHAWN EVANS
7TH - ERIN BRAGINTON
23RD - ANNE KAMSTRA
23RD - ANA VANBRAGT
29TH - TRACY MCLENITHAN

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

10TH - SAM CONDON
27TH - JENNIFER GLAAB
31ST - PAT COX

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

23RD - ANGELA MUNFORD
29TH - GEORGINE BELLO



SHARE YOUR GVSU TIPS, TRICKS, ADVICE, ETC. WITH OTHER APSS STAFF FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER!

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