

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2 • AUGUST 2025

APSS NEWSLETTER

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

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

photo by Kendra Stanley Mills

ISSUE FEATURES

BARGAINING UPDATE

The APSS Bargaining Committee concluded negotiations with a tentative agreement with GVSU on Thursday, July 10, 2025...
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NEW!! for 2025-26, GVSU Athletics is excited to offer an All Sports Pass exclusively to GVSU Faculty and Staff...
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MEET WORKDAY ASSISTANT

Workday Assistant is now available! This feature is an AI chatbot built directly into Workday, making it easier than ever...
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GVSU REBRANDING

You may have noticed some changes around campus recently to include the GVSU official logo, and the names of the main campuses...
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UNION NEWS



!!! BARGAINING UPDATE !!!

The APSS Bargaining Committee concluded negotiations with a tentative agreement with GVSU on Thursday, July 10, 2025. I am continuing to work on the track changes version of the contract and a presentation for our ratification meetings which are scheduled to take place on **Thursday, September 4, 2025**. We are planning on holding a ratification meeting during the morning on the Allendale campus, followed by a repeat presentation on the Pew campus during the afternoon. If/once the next contract is ratified by APSS membership, it will go to the BOT for their ratification and approval. If the next contract is not ratified by the APSS membership, we will return to the negotiations table to continue to work toward a wise collaborative agreement.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime. I will not be able to answer any questions about tentative agreements in advance of the ratification meetings – it is important that all Alliance members can hear the same information, ask questions, hear the questions that others ask, etc.

On behalf of your APSS Bargaining Committee,
sme

*Mark
YOUR
Calendar*

What: APSS Contract Presentation & Ratification Meeting
When: Thursday, September 4, 2025
Where: 10A - 12P - Kirkhof Center Pere Marquette (Allendale)
2P - 4P - Seidman 1008 B (Pew Campus)

Union members are requested to attend in person. If you work on a satellite campus or have an extenuating circumstance, please contact Michelle Holstege for a Zoom link for the morning session.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

FALL IT TRAININGS BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Fall IT Classes available - sign up via Workday Learning! Contact Steph Balaskas for more information (balaskas@gvsu.edu)

Microsoft Bookings Basics
9/3 @ 1pm

Getting Started With Windows 11
8/13 @ 1pm
8/20 @ 1pm
9/10 @ 1pm
9/17 @ 1pm
10/8 @ 1pm

Time-Saving Tips in Outlook
10/1 @ 1pm

Microsoft Excel 101
10/22 @ 1pm

Microsoft Excel Formulas & Functions (part 1)
11/12 @ 1pm

Microsoft Excel Formulas & Functions (part 2)
11/19 @ 1pm

Practical Ways To Enhance Your PowerPoint Presentation
12/10 @ 1pm

Getting Started With Microsoft Teams
12/3 @ 1pm

COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Brainstorming Session
Help Shape the Future of Computing

Thursday, August 7th
10am - 3pm

We're exploring the development of a Ph.D. program in computing and new interdisciplinary pathways that pair Computer Science with fields like business, health, and humanities. Your feedback and ideas will help us ensure our programs meet the evolving needs of industry and support impactful, applied research partnerships.

RSVP: <https://gvsu.edu/s/3gh>

DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health (DCIH) Room 102 & 104

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

BY THE COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

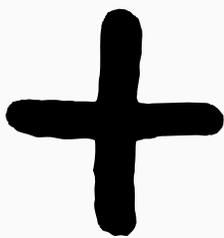
The College of Computing at Grand Valley State University invites you to a collaborative brainstorming session with industry leaders on Thursday, August 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at DCIH 102 & 104.

We're exploring the development of a Ph.D. program in computing and new interdisciplinary pathways that pair Computer Science with fields like business, health, and humanities. Your feedback and ideas will help us ensure our programs meet the evolving needs of industry and support impactful, applied research partnerships.

[More information and to RSVP.](#)



BENEFITS & WELLNESS



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.](#)

RESOURCES FOR WORK AND LIFE

As an employee of GVSU, there are so many resources available to you both on campus and in the community, either to benefit your professional or personal life. We all face different issues and needs. Take advantage of the resources available to learn and grow!

Take some time to explore these benefits today. Visit:

<https://www.gvsu.edu/hro/benefits/resources-for-work-and-life-481.htm>



YMCA / GVSU PARTNERSHIP

Did you know that all GVSU faculty, staff, and students (full and part-time) are eligible for a YMCA membership free of charge? The membership allows access to all YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids locations.

Visit <https://www.gymca.org/gvsu-membership/> for more information and how to enroll!



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS



President Philomena V. Mantella invites you and a guest to join her and the GVSU Senior Leadership Team in launching the new academic year.

Faculty & Staff Fall Kickoff Celebration

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

4 – 7 p.m.

L. William Seidman Center
Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Celebrate the start of the academic year with colleagues from across the university - enjoy great food, refreshing drinks, and live music as we reconnect and celebrate our incredible Grand Valley community.

Kindly respond by Wednesday, August 13

RSVP

Questions? Contact Morgan Knapp at presoffice@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2185



 GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY



READY for MORE

NEW!!

GVSU FACULTY/STAFF ALL SPORTS PASS

2025-2026 SEASON MEMBERSHIP

YOUR TICKET TO EVERY GAME

75+ ATHLETIC EVENTS - ONLY TWO PAYMENTS OF \$60

WWW.GVSULAKERS.COM/SPORTSPASS | 616-331-3200

GVSU ALL SPORTS PASS

BY ATHLETICS

NEW!! for 2025-26, GVSU Athletics is excited to offer an All Sports Pass exclusively to GVSU Faculty and Staff. For only two payments of \$60, you will receive one (1) guaranteed admission to every GVSU home, regular season event across all ten ticketed sports: football, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, soccer, men's and women's wrestling, track & field, swimming & diving, and lacrosse. That's 75+ events to show your Laker Pride!

Pay the first \$60 now to receive your pass, and complete the second \$60 payment anytime by November 1st. Sign up today!

www.gvsulakers.com/sportspass





CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

GLOBAL LAKER FESTIVAL BY PADNOS INTERNATIONAL CENTER



We are celebrating our Global Laker community with an international festival! GVSU students, faculty & staff are invited to join us for lawn games,

LIVE MUSIC by [Samuel Nalangira](#), global games, art & activities. FREE ice cream! TIE-DYE a FREE Global Laker T-shirt (while supplies last)!

***** FOOD TRUCK! *****

by [Casa De Los Abuelos](#) (Salvadoran/Mexican food)

MEET WORKDAY ASSISTANT BY PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Workday Assistant is now available! This feature is an AI chatbot built directly into Workday, making it easier than ever to get things done using natural language. Whether you're managing your own tasks or supporting your team, Workday Assistant can help you do things such as:

- Request time off
- Find information about the employees you manage
- Update personal information
- Search for and launch tasks, reports, and business processes
- Access step-by-step help articles and training content as you work

Once you sign into Workday, a small chat bubble is located at the top right of the screen. If you click on the icon, you are accessing Workday Assistant and can begin interacting with it. You'll start seeing more tips and demonstrations on using Workday Assistant this fall. To learn more, check out the [Help Article](#).

GVSU SEED LIBRARY – STOCKED! BY GVSU LIBRARIES

Each of these boxes are filled with fruit/vegetable/flower seed packets! Big thanks to the Standale Blaine's Farm & Fleet for donating their leftover inventory to the GVSU [Seed Library](#)! We'll have plenty of variety for your fall harvests, and options for well into spring/summer of next year. Swing by anytime for spinach, squash, carrots, turnips, etc.



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

TRAVELING SAFELY WITH YOUR LAPTOP

BY IT SECURITY

Whether you're attending a conference, visiting family, or just taking some time away, traveling with your laptop requires extra vigilance. Laptops hold sensitive personal and work-related data and losing control of that information can have serious consequences. Here are a few tips from GVSU's IT Security team to help you stay protected while traveling.

Back Up Before You Go

Before hitting the road, back up all important files to a secure location such as your GVSU OneDrive or a trusted cloud service. If your laptop is lost, stolen, or damaged, you'll still have access to your data.

Update and Secure Your Device

- **Apply updates:** Make sure your operating system, antivirus software, and applications are up to date.
- **Use strong passwords:** Enable a strong login password and consider using a password manager.
- **Enable disk encryption:** On Windows, use BitLocker; on Mac, use FileVault. This ensures your data stays safe even if your device is stolen.

Be Smart About Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi networks, such as those in airports or coffee shops, can be risky. When possible:

- Use a secure hotspot or your phone's data connection.
- If you must use public Wi-Fi, connect through the GVSU VPN to encrypt your traffic.
- Avoid logging into sensitive accounts like banking or email unless you are on a secure network.

Never Leave Your Laptop Unattended

Always keep your laptop with you or locked in a secure location. A cable lock can help deter quick thefts if you need to step away briefly.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

"Visual hacking" can happen if someone glances over your shoulder while you work in public. Consider using a privacy screen filter, especially if you handle sensitive information.

Prepare for the Worst

- Enable device tracking features such as "Find My Device" (Windows) or "Find My Mac" (Apple).
- Store your laptop's serial number somewhere safe.
- Know how to report a lost or stolen device immediately to IT Services at GVSU.

Traveling for work.

If you are traveling for work and need to go out of the country you can request a loaner laptop!

<https://services.gvsu.edu/TDCClient/60/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=16914>

Final Thought

Travel is a time to recharge and focus on what matters most—don't let a stolen or compromised laptop ruin it. By following these best practices, you can keep your data secure and enjoy peace of mind while you're away.



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS: HANDS-FREE DRIVING BY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Michigan's hands-free driving law went into effect in 2023. The law prohibits drivers from having a phone in their hands while operating a motor vehicle.

The hands-free driving law helps prevent distracted driving. There are three main types of distraction:

- Visual, taking your eyes off the road
- Manual, taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive, taking your mind off the drive

Using your hands to operate your phone to text, check email or perform other functions involves all three types of distraction.

Outside of calling 911, drivers are prohibited from holding their phones in their hand for any reason. This includes while stopped at a traffic light or stop sign as a driver is still considered to be operating the vehicle.

How can a cell phone be used in a vehicle?

Drivers are still permitted to make or take phone calls while operating a motor vehicle, but this must be done hands free. This can be done through Bluetooth, a headset, earbuds or a speakerphone so long as the phone is docked.

While the phone is docked, drivers are permitted to make a quick tap or swipe to answer or end a phone call. Placing a phone call must be done through voice command.



RAINBOW SOCIAL
BY LGBT RESOURCE CENTER

Wednesday, August 27, 2025
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Kirkhof East Lawn (Allendale)

Brought to you by the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center, Rainbow Social is a **free** event for GVSU students, faculty, and staff to gather, enjoy food, and explore campus and community resources. This year we will have special entertainment featuring the fabulous [Miss Moscato](#) as well as a 360 photobooth!

[More Information](#)





CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS



Photo by Macayla Cramer, GVL



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY®**

NAMING OUR SPACES

- Overcome Allendale perception (College in the cornfield)
- City - More conceptual (Pew and Health remain)
- Unique selling point from our competitors
- Promote campus culture and belonging



Academic, residential, and social heart of our university



The launchpad for real-world impact in Michigan's second largest city.

GVSU REBRANDING

EXCERPTS FROM THE LANTHORN

You may have noticed some changes around campus recently to include the GVSU official logo, and the names of the main campuses.

New logo:

A new logo has been introduced, with secondary and tertiary logos being rolled out. Visit www.gvsu.edu/identity for more information, to download the new logo, and information on official colors.

Campuses Renamed:

The Allendale and Grand Rapids Campuses have been renamed the “Valley” and “City” Campuses respectively. Through these titles, the University hopes to distinguish Allendale as the “academic, residential and social center of the University,” and emphasize the business, engineering and healthcare programs provided on the City Campus.

New Tagline

“Turning What If Into What Is” will be used in various branding facets starting this academic year.

You’ll start to see the rebranding around campus this fall as signs, banners, etc., are updated.

View The Lanthorn article for additional information:

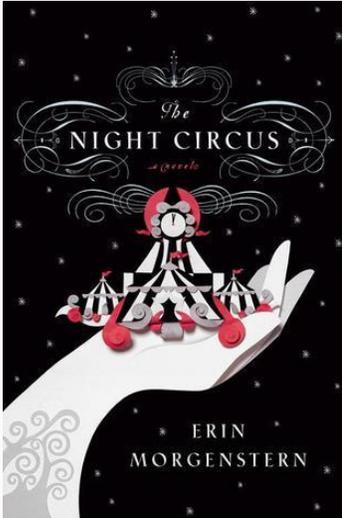
<https://lanthorn.com/123922/news/gv-branding-revamped-additional-changes-expected/#>

View the University Communicator Network presentation for additional information:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/168ISVVekc780F6ILg4hllfeRSgZwLe_8/view

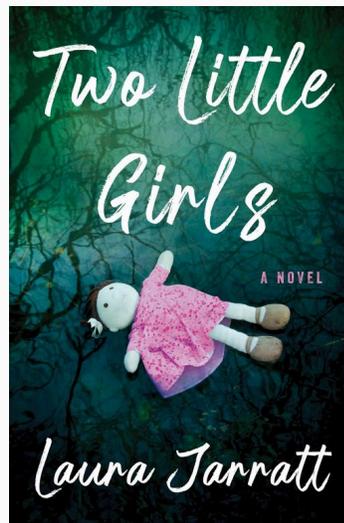
HIGHLIGHTS

Book recommendations



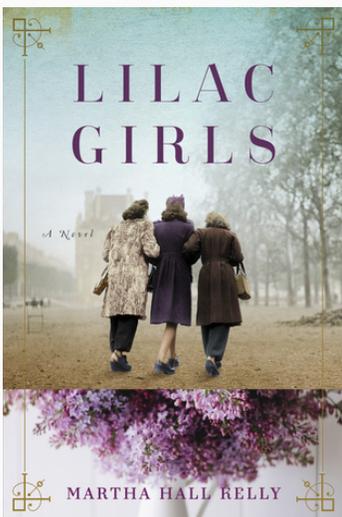
The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

Recommended by **Sam Condon, Psychology Department.** "Magical fiction. Mysterious and deadly"



Two Little Girls by Laura Jarratt

Recommended by **Tammy Brasic, Admissions.** From Goodreads: "When Lizzie's car crashes with her two daughter's inside, she faces a terrible choice - she has time to save one of her girls. Only one."

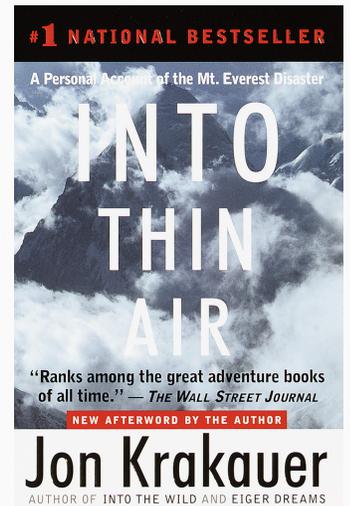


Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly

Recommended by **Anne Valkema, Development Services.** "Inspired by the lives of three women in WW2, it contains equal parts tragedy and triumph since it's based on real women who survived. Trigger warning: focuses on Ravensbruck prisoners and the experiments inflicted on them. Dark but it kept me riveted and has some victories in the end."

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

Recommended by **Susan Weise, CLAS Dean's Office.** From Goodreads: "...the definitive account of the deadliest season in the history of Everest."



2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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CHIEF ALLIANCE STEWARD

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BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

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VICKI WENGER

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DEV 3RD-5TH FLOORS, SCB

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LIB

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HHLC, HRY, PAD

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CON, HON, JHZ, LMH

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ASH, AGS, LHH, LSH, PAC

BRIAN DENUYL

AH, CUB, SER

TREENA GILBERT

BIK, CEC, IDC, KEN, WAT

ASH GODIN

EC

CAMPUS DATES

20-22ND - MOVE-IN

20TH - FACULTY/STAFF FALL KICKOFF

22ND - UNIVERSITY ADDRESS / LAKER KICKOFF

24TH - CAMPUS NIGHT LIFE

25TH - CLASSES BEGIN

GVSU.EDU/EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS

1ST - JORDAN SICKREY

5TH - CHRISTINE ADAMS

12TH - JALYN KAMP

17TH - ANGELA AMERSON

19TH - KIM REEVES-JORGENSEN

25TH - RONDA HUSTER

26TH - PAT COX

28TH - JULIE DEVECHT

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

7TH - BARBIE YOUNG

8TH - KEL NEMETZ

10TH - AMALIA VARGAS

12TH - KIM REEVES-JORGENSEN

24TH - DARRHONDA SCOTT-JONES

25TH - JALYN KAMP

26TH - SHELBY HARRISON

ANGELA AMERSON

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

5TH - CHRISTINE ADAMS

6TH - LORI O'BRADOVICH

12TH - MICHELLE HODDE

21ST - ERIN BRAGINTON



SHARE YOUR BACK TO SCHOOL PHOTOS FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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