

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3 • SEPTEMBER 2025

APSS NEWSLETTER

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

photo by Joey Grubbs-Hulst

ISSUE FEATURES

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UNION NEWS



Mark your calendar for the Fall 2025 APSS Luncheon! The doors will open at 11:45 AM, and the luncheon will run from 12:00 - 1:30 PM and will be held at the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room on the Valley Campus. See you there!

Did you see something in a previous newsletter that you wish you could remember? A book recommendation? An event or training that you wanted more information about? Can't find that newsletter in your email?

Never fear! All previous newsletters are posted to the APSS website. Visit www.apssgvsu.org. There is a dropdown under the preview of the current newsletter where you can select archived newsletters. You can view all newsletters back to 2014 in the archive!

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming MS365 Trainings



FALL



2025

SEPT

- MICROSOFT BOOKINGS BASICS
- GETTING STARTED WITH WINDOWS 11

OCT

- TIME-SAVING TIPS IN OUTLOOK
- MICROSOFT EXCEL 101

NOV

- MICROSOFT EXCEL FORMULAS AND FUNCTIONS PARTS 1 AND 2

DEC

- PRACTICAL WAYS TO ENHANCE YOUR POWERPOINT PRESENTATION
- GETTING STARTED WITH MICROSOFT TEAMS

To register, visit myworkday.com/gvsu/learning

For more information contact balaskas@gvsu.edu

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ELEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

While **eLearning Technologies** is best known for supporting faculty, they also offer a variety of training opportunities designed for staff. Below you'll find a few highlighted sessions with links to register. All trainings are offered via Zoom and a few are also available as self-paced options.

Adobe Express Training

We're excited to offer Adobe Express training now that these tools are available through our updated contract. For step-by-step instructions on accessing Adobe Express, see this **Knowledge Base article**.

Introduction to Adobe Express

*GVSU sponsored

- 9/17/25 - 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 11/11/25 - 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Professional Learning: Adobe Self-Paced Courses

With our GVSU license, you can take Adobe self-paced courses. Register with your GVSU email address. Most courses are 30 minutes long.

Making PDF's Accessible

Join us for a 30-minute webinar on how to create accessible PDFs using Adobe Acrobat Pro. This training will cover the essential tools and techniques needed to ensure your PDF documents are readable and navigable for all users, including those who rely on screen readers. Participants will learn how to check for accessibility issues, add tags, set reading order, and fix common barriers.

- 9/11/25 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM
- 9/25/25 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM
- 10/9/25 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM
- 10/23/25 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Microsoft 365 Efficiencies Series

Introduction to Windows 11

- 9/10/25 1:00pm - 2:00pm
- 9/17/25 1:00pm - 2:00pm
- 10/8/25 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Microsoft Bookings Basics

- 9/3/25 - 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Timesaving Tips in Outlook

- 10/1/25 - 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Microsoft Excel 101

- 10/22/25 - 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Departments can also request that training topics be customized and scheduled at their convenience. Send email requests to it@gvsu.edu with the requested topic, date/time, and format preferences (Zoom or in-person).



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

QUEER CONNECTIONS MENTORING PROGRAM BY GVSU LGBT FACULTY/STAFF ASSOCIATION

Applications for Queer Connections Mentors are **due on September 26**. Faculty and staff members are matched with 2SLGBTQIA+ undergraduate students at GVSU to provide mentorship opportunities for connection, support with GV resources, and help create a sense of belonging.

Working with the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center, mentors will be matched with LGBTQIA-identified students. Mentoring pairs will meet regularly over a six-month period during which time they will build connections, explore resources, and work toward collaboratively-constructed goals.

Visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/lgbtfacstaff/queer-connections-17.htm> for more information and to access the application form!



LIBRARY OF THINGS

EXERPT FROM GVNEXT ARTICLE

Check out the NEW Library of Things at the Mary Idema Pew Library on the Allendale Campus. The collection is intended to fill in gaps or one-time needs for students. **APSS member Patty Kishmen-Smith**, library specialist for library access support services, and her team ran a survey among campus departments to determine what resource gaps could be filled in order to remove potential barriers for students. The library includes items such as:

- Portable tire inflator
- Eyeglasses repair kit
- A stud finder
- A sewing machine
- Many games - indoor and out
- Chargers
- A webcam
- DVD-VHS Player
- Stress Fruit
- Crutches
-

Check out more items available at <https://www.gvsu.edu/library/library-of-things-collection-163.htm>. This is an excellent resource to suggest to your student employees or other students you interact with!



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION DEVICE AND VEHICLE USE POLICY BY SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The [Personal Transportation Device and Vehicle Use Senior Leadership Team Policy](#) has been updated to address the use of personal transportation devices (PTDs) on campus and within university buildings. The policy defines PTDs as devices designed to transport an individual rider where the rider is not enclosed, and is operated either by human-power or electric motor power. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Scooters (electric or other)
- Skateboards
- e-skateboards
- Rollerblades
- Skates (roller/inline)
- Wheeled footwear
- Segways
- Bicycles, tricycles, unicycles
- One-wheels
- Hoverboards
- Other small, lightweight, wheeled conveyances.

Of note is that operators of PTDs must not leave them in a place that will cause an obstruction, are liable for property damage and injuries caused by their PTD, must report any on-campus collisions, not operate without a light during certain times, yield right-of-way to pedestrians at all times, abide by legal speed limits and limits outlined in the policy, and not operate on bridges. Additionally, operation of PTDs in university buildings is prohibited. Battery-powered PTDs are not permitted inside any university building and must be safety secured outdoors. PTDs may be operated on sidewalks in accordance with the policy.

Please visit the policy for more information on policy and procedures. Some building entrances will be marked in the near future with information about the policy.

*Note that this policy does NOT pertain to any personal assistive devices such as manual or electric wheelchairs or walkers.



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

FSA COMMUNITY READ FACULTY STAFF ASSOCIATION

Join the Black Faculty Staff, Postive Black Women, LGBT Faculty Staff, Lakers Unidos, and the Women's Commission for a community reading experience focused on conversations about identity and belonging.

This year, we'll read the novel *Like Happiness* by Ursula Villarreal-Moura. *Like Happiness* was named a Best Book of 2024 by NPR, San Francisco Chronicle, ELLE, and Them, and was an Indie Next Pick. Macmillan Publishing described it as "A searing debut about the complexities of gender, power, and fame, told through the story of a young woman's destructive relationship with a legendary writer." Check out library options for borrowing the book [here](#).

Book Discussion Part I

Date: Wednesday, October 22

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: City Campus - Regency Room, DeVos Center 102E

Event Details: BYO lunch - beverages & snacks provided! [RSVP Here](#).

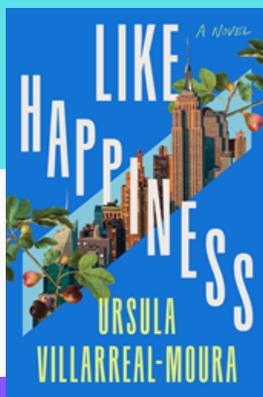
Book Discussion Part II

Date: Thursday, November 20

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Valley Campus - Room TBD

Event Details: Join us for afternoon refreshments and conversation! [RSVP Here](#).



ACADEMIC MAJORS FAIR BY GVSU ALUMNI RELATIONS

September 23-24, 2025

2-4P

Holton-Hooker Living Center, Multi Purpose Room

The Majors Fair is an opportunity for students to explore a variety of degrees and career paths before declaring, or changing, a major. Most majors offered at GVSU will be represented with a table staffed by faculty who teach in that discipline along with an alumni volunteer who works in that field. Our students relate especially well to individuals who have been in their shoes and can speak about career paths based on real-world experience. You need not necessarily have majored in your current line of work to participate. Please RSVP by September 17.

[More Information](#)

CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS



NEW EXHIBIT AT FREE SCIENCE MUSEUM

In collaboration with GVSU faculty, Muskegon Community College will host a public science event on Tuesday, September 16, to launch the John Bartley Science Museum (JBSM)'s 2025–2026 exhibit: *Climate & Ecosystems*. The JBSM welcomes hundreds of K-8 student visitors every year, and the exhibit is particularly designed for K-12 students and teachers (although, of course, all are welcome!). The event is free and open to the public and begins with a lecture at 5:30 p.m. in Room 1300 of the Stevenson Center. It will be followed by a 6:30 p.m. tour of the interactive museum.

The evening opens with a presentation by Dr. Laura Stroik (faculty in the Dept. of Biomedical Sciences and a JBSM Collaborator), titled “After the Bridgerian Crash: Mammals and Climate Change in the Middle Eocene.” She will discuss findings from her National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded research on how ancient mammals responded to climate warming, based on fossil evidence from the Uinta Basin in Utah.

Following the talk, from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., attendees are invited to explore the museum's new hands-on displays in Room 1073 of MCC's main campus. Exhibits include 3D-printed mammal skulls and jaws, fossil replicas, and visual installations focused on Michigan's ecosystems through time—from coral reefs and glaciers to the current Great Lakes region. The exhibit was funded in part by a collaborative NSF grant with GVSU.

The event concludes with a planetarium show at 7:00 p.m. in MCC's Carr-Fles Planetarium.

- **WHAT:** John Bartley Science Museum Presents: *Climate and Ecosystems*
- **WHERE:** 221 S. Quarterline Rd. MCC Main Building Lecture (Room 1300), Museum (Room 1073)
- **WHEN:** Tuesday, September 16. Lecture at 5:30, Museum Tour at 6:30 p.m.
- **COST:** Free and Open to Public

<https://www.gvsu.edu/events/new-exhibit-at-free-science-museum-explores-ancien-461953.htm>

HIGHLIGHTS



Amanda Reader's (Geography and Sustainable Planning) kids went back to school earlier than most! "My daughter, Charlotte, is starting 10th grade at City High School. My son, Mathias, is starting 4th grade at Vanguard National Heritage Academy." Check out that awesome chalk art!



Kate Knopp's (Athletic Facilities Assistant) kiddos head back to school!

HIGHLIGHTS



Jenna Bench's (Visual & Media Arts) daughters began fourth grade, eighth grade, and freshman year (at MSU) this year!



Luke Madden, Records and Registration, shared, "My partner Brandon started his last year of graduate school (and at a new school for his internship) and will be graduating from the Social Work program at the end of the Winter 2026 semester. After he graduates, he plans on continuing to work in education as a school social worker. I'm incredibly proud of all he's accomplished throughout his program, and I can't wait to celebrate him at Commencement in May!"

HIGHLIGHTS

BACK TO SCHOOL

Linda Ray's (Muskegon Innovation Hub) twin grandchildren headed to Kindergarten! 🍎



Marisa Vredevoogd's (Public Safety) daughter Mikaela started 3rd grade this year. (And baby Ace is being the supportive little brother!)

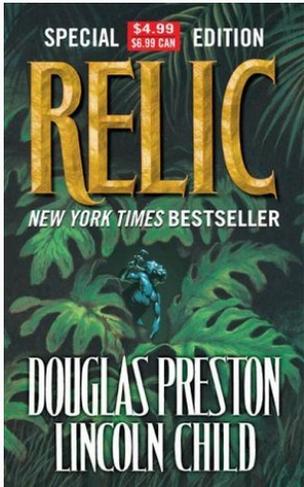


Kelli Dykstra's (Public Safety) kids finally went back to school! 😊 Lucy - 6th, Drew - 1st, Jett - CEC

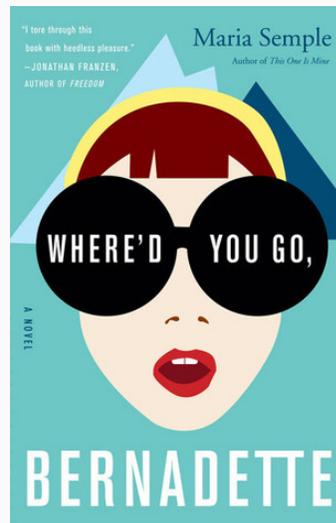


HIGHLIGHTS

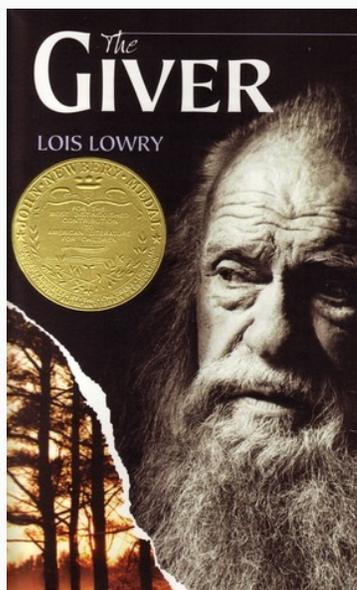
Book recommendations



Relic by Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child
Recommended by **Sue Dix, Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships**. "This is the first book in their Pendergast series and if you've seen the movie, know that the book surpasses the movie. I challenge you to not continue with the Pendergast series. He is an FBI agent to top all FBI agents. This series is supernatural, to say the least, and some of the books will make you sleep with the lights on. I recommend reading them in order. I believe there are now 25 in the series."



Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple Recommended by **Sam Condon, Psychology**. From Goodreads: "Emotional, adventurous, funny. All-around good read."



The Giver by Lois Lowry
Recommended by **Kelli Dykstra, Public Safety**. "An oldie, but a goodie. Set in a utopian, futuristic world where a young boy is singled out to receive special training from The Giver, who alone holds the memories of the true joys and pain of life."

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CAMPUS DATES

1ST - LABOR DAY RECESS
[GVSU.EDU/EVENTS](https://www.gvsu.edu/events)

BIRTHDAYS

1ST - AMANDA READER
1ST - SUSAN DIX
2ND - TERRI KENNEY
6TH - HEIDI FELDPAUSCH
15TH - MICHELLE HODDE
15TH - SHELLY MICH
20TH - CELESTE LAREAU
23RD - SUSAN WEISE
27TH - JULIE CARBINE

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

3RD - MICHELLE HODDE
19TH - SUSAN WEISE
21ST - KATE KNOPP
26TH - ALLISON BAZAIRE
LEAH THOMAS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

8TH - ABBY MCCLURE & JOSEPH STODDARD
11TH - CARRIE SHOUP
14TH - PAT COX
18TH - KELLI DYKSTRA
21ST - JALYN KAMP
23RD - ANA VANBRAGT



SHARE YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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