

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1 • JULY 2026

APSS NEWSLETTER

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

photo by Corey Stamps

ISSUE FEATURES

BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE CHANGES

*Welcome to a new building representative. Changes to current representation.
more on page 2*

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT

Get ready for this year's Summer Movie Night at Lubber's Stadium...
more on page 5

CALLING 911

Find out the answer to when you should call 911, what to do if you accidentally call 911, and more...
more on page 6

HIGHLIGHTS

Members try new activities, recipes, and more. Plus celebrating accomplishments and recommendations from members!
starting on page 7

INSIDE:

UNION NEWS

PAGE 2

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

PAGE 3

CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

PAGE 4-6

HIGHLIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

PAGE 7-10

EXECUTIVE BOARD & BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

PAGE 11

UNION NEWS



EVENTS COMMITTEE

The APSS Union is looking for members to join the Events Committee. One of the main events this committee will help plan is the APSS Luncheon. Members are needed to help plan and the following:

- Donations/raffles
- Gift cards/giveaways
- Food
- Decorations
- Set-up
- Floral arrangements/table decor
- Speaker/programming

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas or have questions, please contact Tami John.

UNION DUES – SUMMER 2026 SCHEDULE

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 9/8/26 check (payroll number 18).



VACATION BANKS

If you will not be using all of your vacation hours prior to December, you can **donate hours** to APSS members who are short term or long term disability. This can be done anytime before December 1. Contact your building rep if you are interested.



MEET YOUR NEW BUILDING REP – PASQUALINA FIRE



Pasqualina (Lina) Fire is joining APSS leadership this July as a **Building Rep for Cook-Devos Center for Health Sciences (CHS), Daniel and Pamela DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health (DCIH) and Raleigh Finkelstein Hall (RFH)**, replacing Denise Gross as she steps into her new role as Vice President.

Lina is a GVSU alum, graduating in 2015. She began working at GVSU in 2022 after being in the mortgage industry for 7 years. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and video games. She is the Academic Department Coordinator for the Kirkhof College of Nursing. Please reach out to Lina if you are located in any of the above mentioned buildings.

ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

Due to construction projects and several campus departments changing locations, there have been a few updates to building representatives:

- **Vicky Wegner** will represent the Campus Health Center (previously did not house any GVSU employees)
- **Ash Godin**, who previously represented the Eberhard Center, now represents DeVos 3rd-5th Floors and Seidman College of Business (EC is under construction with no staff; Cheryl Kotecki retired and previously represented DV 3-5 & SCB)
- Due to movement at Student Services and to even out the number of members each building rep represents, **Kate Knopp** will continue representing the Fieldhouse, and will now represent STU 1st and 2nd floors. **Barb Ellis** will continue representing KHS and LMP and will now represent Manitou.

Please reach out to a board member if you are unsure who your building representative is!



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE: MICRO-WELLNESS, MACRO-IMPACT BY HUMAN RESOURCES

Wellness during work? Does that sound like a contradiction? This program will demonstrate how to take control of your well-being whether you have 2-minutes in between meetings or an hour for lunch. Micro-wellness practices are ways to re-center yourself, give yourself a little boost, or reconnect with the people around you using whatever time you have available.

- July 29, 2026, 2-3P - Kirkhof Center 2270

[Register on Workday Learning.](#)

Leadership Roundtable: Micro-wellness, Macro-impact



ACTIVE SHOOTER EDUCATIONAL MODULE BY GVPD

[Register for this self-paced course on Workday](#)

Created in the summer of 2023, this video demonstrates what to do in various active shooter situations. CONTENT WARNING: The content of the video includes scenarios that may be intellectually or emotionally challenging. These examples have been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this module. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly.

WORKDAY FINANCE TRAININGS BY BUSINESS & FINANCE

Register below for any of the self-paced Workday Trainings

[Workday Suppliers](#)

This course is designed to provide GVSU employees with a comprehensive understanding of how to request and manage supplier records in Workday. By the end of this course, you will be able to find existing suppliers, request new supplier setups, and make updates to supplier records efficiently.

[Workday Requisitions](#)

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 Grand Valley State University.

[Workday Purchase Orders](#)

The Workday Purchase Orders course provides a comprehensive overview of Grand Valley State University's purchasing process and policies as they relate to purchase orders. Participants will learn how purchase orders fit into the broader procure-to-pay process, how they are automatically generated from approved requisitions, and how to manage them throughout their lifecycle.

[Workday Supplier Invoice Requests](#)

Learn how to effectively create, manage, and track supplier invoice requests in Workday. This course covers when and how to use supplier invoice requests, step-by-step guidance on entering requests, handling codes, and approval workflows, as well as processing credit memos. By the end of the course, you'll be able to confidently submit supplier invoice requests, ensure compliance with GVSU purchasing policies, and track the status of payments.



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS BY ALUMNI RELATIONS

[GVSU Day at the Detroit Tigers](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2026, 11A - Comerica Park



Join us for GVSU Day at Comerica Park and grab an exclusive game-day bundle available only to the Laker community, a \$75+ value for only \$50! This includes:

- Your tickets to the game (seats are in sections 102 & 103).
- A pre-game social at Union Assembly for food, drinks and connection.
- An exclusive GVSU hat to commemorate the experience.

Tickets to the game can also be purchased separately at a discounted rate. Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP as soon as possible!

[Alumni Webinar: Ask an Advisor with Dayna Phillips and Stephanie Jensen](#)

Wednesday, July 29, 2026, 12P-1P - Virtual

Join us for a virtual “Ask an Advisor” session designed specifically for alumni seeking general career support and guidance. This open Q&A format offers the opportunity to ask questions about resumes, job searching, interviewing, career transitions, and more. Whether you’re exploring new opportunities, refreshing your application materials, or simply looking for career insight, this is a great chance to connect and learn from experienced advisors.



[Paws on Campus](#)

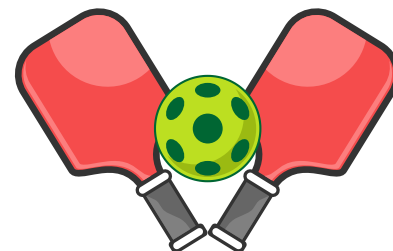
Saturday, August 1, 2026, 9:30A-11A - Cook Carillon Tower, Allendale

Enjoy a casual summer morning with fellow alumni and their pups. Receive a free GVSU bandana and a sample of alumna-made treats for your dog, and treat yourself to complimentary coffee and donuts. Laker gear encouraged! Please note: Dogs must be leashed and up to date on vaccinations.

[Pickleball Outing](#)

Thursday, August 6, 2026, 5P-8P - GVSU Tennis Courts

Join us Thursday, August 6, for a fun evening of Pickleball and Happy Hour. This Pickleball Outing is a great way to support the GVSU Tennis Program, get some exercise, socialize, and compete for prizes! Everyone will be guaranteed 4 games and there will be free drinks at the courts following play (Beer, Seltzer, Water, Gatorade). You can sign up as an individual, or with a partner at a cost of \$35 per person. All proceeds benefit the GVSU Men's & Women's Tennis program.



Visit www.gvsu.edu/alumni/events for more great events!

CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

ACADEMIC PARTICIPATION & TUITION REDUCTION NOW AVAILABLE IN WORKDAY

BY GVSU PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Employees can now submit Academic Participation and Tuition Reduction requests directly in Workday. Simply enter your course information, complete the request, and submit it for manager approval, all within Workday. The same process can also be used to request Tuition Reduction benefits for an eligible dependent. Moving this process to Workday eliminates paper forms and provides a more convenient way to submit and track requests.

Need help? [Review the Workday Help articles](#) for step-by-step instructions on submitting a request for yourself or for an eligible dependent.

GVSU PHOTO COLLECTIVE MOVES FROM WIDEN TO PHOTO SHELTER

BY UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



GVSU has moved their digital asset management from the Widen Collective to Photo Shelter. Photos that are publicly available and which can be used for GVSU websites or projects are now available at Photo Shelter. You can create your own account at <https://gvsu.photoshelter.site/>. Photos taken of events, headshots, or general campus photos can be downloaded directly from this site.

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT

BY GVSU ATHLETICS



Get ready for the 9th Annual GVSU Summer Movie Night, brought to you by PNC Bank — happening **Wednesday, July 22nd at 7 PM in Lubbers Stadium!** This year, we're showing Zootopia 2 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.

Free parking will be available in lots B and C - within walking distance to Lubbers Stadium!

[RSVP](#) and you will be entered into pre-movie raffle drawings for a chance to win some awesome prizes — youth basketball jerseys, GVSU football tickets, GVSU Athletics Mystery Boxes, and more! Winners will be announced 15 minutes prior to the movie starting and must be present to win!

Check out the [Summer Movie Night Facebook event](#) for the most up to date announcements!

Bring your friends and family — this is the GVSU Athletics event of the summer! See you there for a night of fun and a fantastic movie at Lubbers Stadium!



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS – CALLING 911

BY GVPD

When should I call 911?

In the case of an emergency, always call 911. Such circumstances may include a medical emergency, crime in progress, fire, vehicle collision or when you feel yourself or another are at risk. Trust your instincts. If something feels abnormal or out of place, you may call 911.

GVPD's non-emergency dispatch line is also available 24/7 at (616) 331-3255. This number is available for all non-emergencies, such as requesting roadside assistance, filing a police report and other non-emergency requests for an officer to be dispatched.

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 to see if it is an 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 location - Try to give the street address or building name. Classroom emergency placards have building addresses listed at the bottom. Tape a note with the street address of your building to your office phone or computer monitor so it's readily available if needed.
- Your name
- A phone number where you can be contacted
- What happened - Give your best explanation of what occurred
- The best way to enter the building/reach you if necessary

Important reminders during an emergency

- Do not assume someone else called 911
- Do not feel like a burden when you call 911
- Do not delay in calling
- GVSU's Valley Campus in Allendale and Grand Rapids campuses are capable of receiving 911 messages through text if necessary
- GVSU's campuses have public phones available in areas where cell service may not be strong.



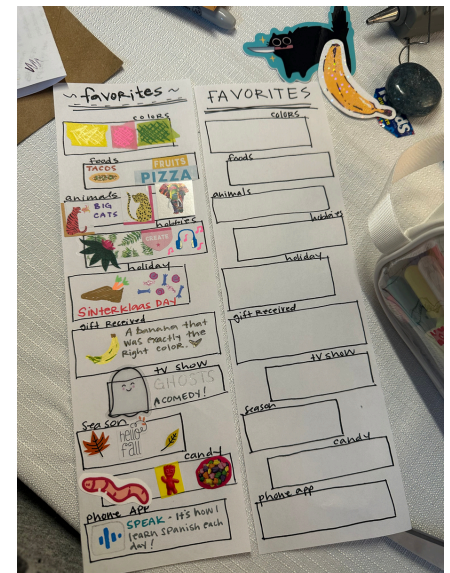
HIGHLIGHTS



Hannah Noorman, Padnos College of Engineering. “I recently starting writing letters to a new pen pal. I found her through globalpenfriends.com. It’s a free service that connects pen pal seekers from around the world. We send each other mail once or twice a month and our envelopes are always stuffed with letters we’ve written throughout the weeks. Sometimes we swap crafts, stickers, stationery, or art we’ve made. My pen pal is a native Spanish speaker, and she usually includes a page or two written in Spanish to help me in my quest to fluency. I respond in Spanish the best I can. 😊 She just surprised me with a package filled with Mexican treats and art! It’s been so great to get to know a complete stranger only through letter writing. I look forward to checking my mailbox because it’s no longer just junk mail!”

What's New?

WHAT'S SOMETHING NEW YOU'VE TRIED RECENTLY?



Marguerite Aceto, Institutional Advancement. “Something I have tried recently - biking to work! I moved closer to downtown and I'm trying to use my car less since I'm now so central to the places I go every week. I haven't driven in days; it's been great!”



Elle Hilley, Records. “I just started taking barre classes at Barre 3 and I am loving them!!”

Sam Condon, Faculty Teaching and Learning Center. “I found a new brownie recipe online, and the brownies turned out so good that now friends and family are starting to request them. Recipe: [Brown Butter Brownies](#)”



HIGHLIGHTS



Brienne Forgette, Statistics. “I wanted to let you know about an accomplishment of a former union member! **Gabriella Barajas** [pictured], the former split Academic Coordinator between the Math and Statistics departments, graduated with her master's degree in Cell and Molecular Biology at the end of the Winter 2026 semester. She was offered a role as a Research Technologist in the Grainger Lab at the Van Andel Institute and started her new role on June 8th. She's really enjoying her new role so far, but plans to come back to GVSU in the fall to complete an additional certificate.”

Sam Condon, Faculty Teaching and Learning Center. “I started a new position on campus! I am now the Office Assistant (C4) for the Robert and Mary Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center (FTLC). Celebrating two years (in July, when this gets published) at GVSU, and as a Michigander transplant! I've survived two winters, lol. Living the good life.

Photo is of me and my two-year-old, Beagle pup, Ollie, out at the GVSU sign. Philly may have her Golden, and GVPD may have Scout, but have you ever seen a pup as cute as Ollie? Maybe Louie needs a doggo mascot friend. 😊”





HIGHLIGHTS

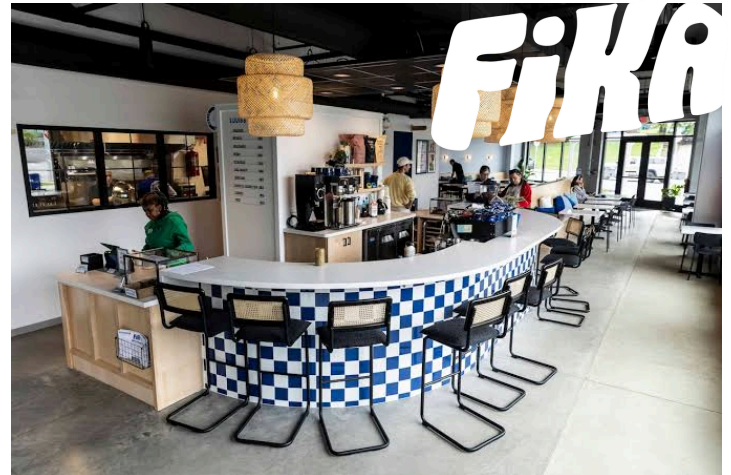
MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS BY NATALIE DAY, KCON

“Out now: **Disclosure Day**: Steven Spielberg's new movie centered around hidden data about alien life. Reviews have been mixed on this one, but I honestly thought it was an incredibly well-done movie. If you saw it once and weren't sure about it, go see it again! It took me 2 times seeing the movie to fully understand it, but now I'm obsessed.

Supergirl: You thought Superman (2025) was good? I'm even more excited for this one. Kara, who grew up on Krypton and watched everything she loved turn to ash, has one thing left in her life and that is her beloved dog, Krypto. Milly Alcock brings an edge to the character we've only seen briefly before (though if I see people comparing her to the other actresses, I think I will lose my mind). I hope to see the same hype in the theater that we saw for Superman!

Coming soon in July are: **Moana** (July 10th), Christopher Nolan's **The Odyssey** (July 17th), and **Spider-Man: Brand New Day** (July 31st).

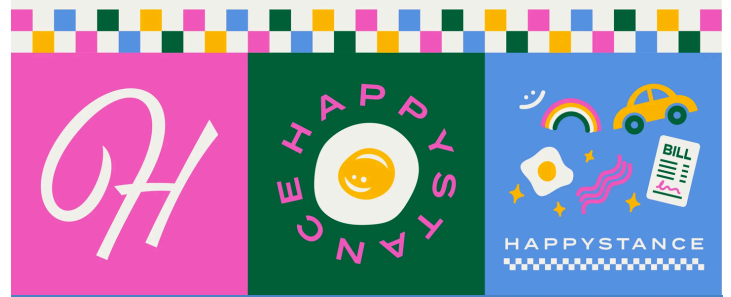
I know I'm always out here recommending movies to people, and I'm not sure most people know how I'm able to see so many movies because they truly can be quite expensive. So, I'd also love to shout out Celebration Cinema's VIP Subscription! I pay \$23.95 per month, which gets me 3 movie tickets per week for a total of 12 movies (I'm no mathematician, but I think that's just \$1.99 per movie). If that's not in someone's budget, Celebration Cinema also has \$6 movie nights every Tuesday! You can also purchase a popcorn card, which is \$50 and gets you 1 free large popcorn per day (+refill) for 6 months. You can buy a popcorn card now, but they'll expire on October 1st. New ones can be purchased in October!”



Elle Hilley, Records. “I recommend [Fika](#). It is a super cute café!!” (Grand Rapids)

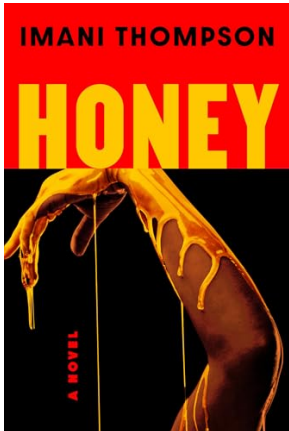
Happystance

DINETTE



Recommended by Sam Condon, FTLC, [Happystance Dinette](#). We are happystance, a hip & friendly little chef-driven dinette in downtown Douglas, serving breakfast & lunch on the corner of Center & Main. (Douglas, MI)

HIGHLIGHTS

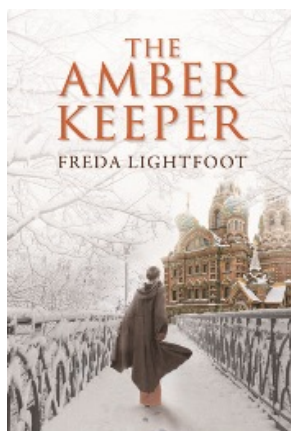
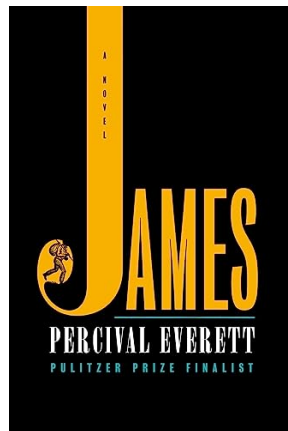


Honey by Imani Thompson - recommended by **Sam Condon, FTLC**. From Goodreads: "A dark, provocative, adrenaline-rush of a novel about a graduate student who murders bad men and justifies it in the name of feminism, by a bold new voice in fiction."

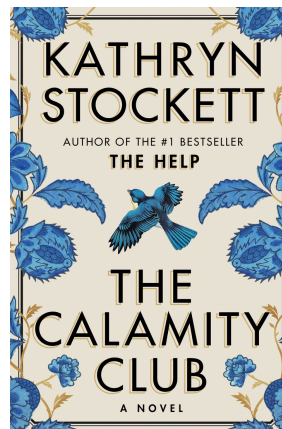


The Lie She Wears by Elle Marr - recommended by **Tammy Brasic, Admissions**. From Goodreads: "A daughter inherits her mother's deadly secrets in a chilling novel of psychological suspense."

James by Percival Everett - recommended by **Kelli Dykstra, Public Safety**. "Told from the viewpoint of enslaved Jim from the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, this novel is as good as the original story, but tackles the tough topics of race and enslavement that are oversimplified in Mark Twain's version."



The Amber Keeper by Freda Lightfoot - recommended by **Tammy Brasic, Admissions**. From Goodreads: "Set against the backdrop of revolutionary Russia, *The Amber Keeper* is a sweeping tale of jealousy and revenge, reconciliation and forgiveness.."



The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett (author of *The Help*) - recommended by **Sam Condon, FTLC**. "Set in 1933 Mississippi, *The Calamity Club* returns to the American South during a different historical crisis, exploring the intersecting lives of two women against the backdrop of the Great Depression and the American eugenics movement. The novel alternates between the perspectives of 11-year-old Meg Lefleur, an intelligent girl cruelly isolated in a corrupt orphanage, and 24-year-old Birdie Calhoun, who is sent to the city of Oxford to ask her wealthy sister for a loan to save her family's farm from foreclosure. When Birdie begins volunteering at the orphanage, her path crosses with Meg's, setting in motion a series of events that will force a group of women to take extraordinary risks to reclaim their lives.."

2026-2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

TAMI JOHN

VICE-PRESIDENT

DENISE GROSS

CHIEF ALLIANCE STEWARD

RHONDA LEMIEUX

BUSINESS & FINANCE DIRECTOR

KATIE HAYNES

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

KELLI DYKSTRA

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

RAYSHENA WILSON

SECRETARY

MICHELLE HOLSTEGE

BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

L DETTLING

MAK

BARB ELLIS

KHS & LMP, MAN

CHERYL BRONNER

STU 3RD FLOOR

KATE KNOPP

FH, STU 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

VICKI WENGER

LOH, NMH, CAMPUS HEALTH CENTER

ASH GODIN

DEV 3RD-5TH FLOORS,
SCB

NICOLE BROWER

LIB

RAYSHENA WILSON

DEP, DEV 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

JENNA BENCH

CAC, KC

IRINA GROUGAN

TC REGIONAL CENTER, BATTLE
CREEK CENTER, MUSKEGON

KATIE HAYNES

HHLC, HRY, PAD

TRACY LONDON

CON, HON, JHZ, LMH

PASQUALINA FIRE

CHS, DCIH, RFH

MARISA NAYLOR

ASH, AGS, LHH, LSH,
PAC

BRIAN DENUYL

AH, CUB, SER

TREENA GILBERT

BIK, CEC, IDC, KEN, WAT

CAMPUS DATES

4TH - INDEPENDENCE DAY (CLOSURE)
[GVSU.EDU/EVENTS](https://www.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 MCLLENITHAN

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

23RD - ANGELA MUNFORD
29TH - GEORGINE BELLO



SHARE "A DAY IN THE LIFE" - EITHER PHOTOS OR STORIES - FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER. WE ALL HAVE SUCH DIFFERENT JOBS - SHARE SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT YOURS!

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