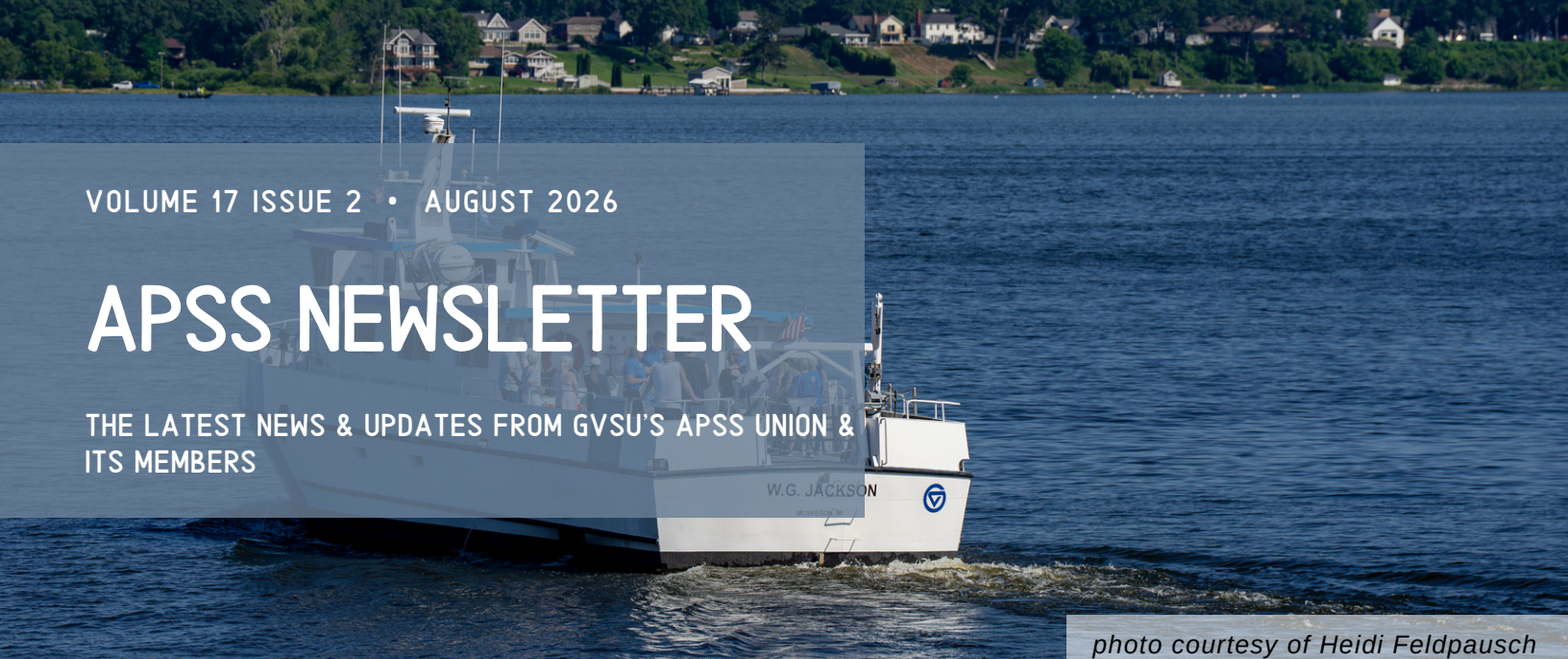




VOLUME 17 ISSUE 2 • AUGUST 2026

APSS NEWSLETTER

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

photo courtesy of Heidi Feldpausch

ISSUE FEATURES

VOTING INFORMATION

As we enter election season with the primaries last week and mid-terms coming up in November, please review information on voting...

more on page 2

HOMEcoming SHIRTS AVAILABLE TO ORDER

The votes are in, and the first limited edition Homecoming t-shirt is ready to order!

more on page 4

ISTUDENT APARTMENT SUPPLIES DRIVE

Support international students during move-in by donating items in good condition...

more on page 5

HIGHLIGHTS

A day in the life of a PSS, AWRI celebrates 25 years, and new recommendations

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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.



VOTING INFORMATION

As we enter election season with the primaries last week and mid-terms coming up in November, please review the following information and resources:

Voting Release Time

Voting release time is only available for Presidential Elections. For primaries, early voting, local elections, mid-terms, etc., employees should utilize before/after work schedules, lunch hours, or vacation time, as needed.

Voting Information and Events

For more information on voting at GVSU, volunteer opportunities, and other civil engagement, visit www.gvsu.edu/vote.

For more information on voting in Michigan, including absentee ballots, voter registration, and polling locations, please visit mvic.sos.state.mi.us.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE: WORTH THE MEETING? REVISITING HOW WE GATHER AT WORK (VIRTUAL)

BY HUMAN RESOURCES

August 12, 2026

11:00am-12:00pm

Virtual attendance

Registration now open!

Description: Most of us spend a significant portion of our work week in meetings, but how many of those meetings are truly productive, engaging, and worth everyone's time? Join colleagues from across campus for an interactive Leadership Roundtable inspired by The Art of Gathering by Priya Parker as we explore practical strategies for designing meetings that are more purposeful and action-oriented. Through discussion and reflection, participants will examine common meeting pitfalls, learn principles for creating more meaningful gatherings, and leave with simple, actionable ideas they can implement in their next meeting. Whether you regularly lead meetings or simply want to make the meetings you attend more effective, this session will provide valuable tools for faculty, staff, and campus leaders alike. Participants should come prepared with a meeting they attend/lead and would like to improve based on the content presented.

WORK REIMAGINED: AI & IMMERSIVE TECH

BY ALUMNI RELATIONS

September 10, 2026

5:30pm-7:30pm

DCIH 104 (Health Campus)

RSVP

Gather with fellow alumni for a hands-on generative AI experience and discussion on emerging technologies like AI and Virtual Reality. At this free event, you'll learn more about how these innovations are impacting the future of Laker students while enjoying light refreshments and connecting with others who share your curiosity. Also, get a sneak peek of what's happening on campus during Grand Rapids Tech Week!

FALL MICROSOFT 265 TRAININGS

BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Search and register for these trainings in Workday Learning. Contact Steph Balaskas for more information!

Time-Saving Tips In Outlook:

8/5 1-2pm

Excel 101:

8/19 1-2pm

Quizzes And Forms With MS Forms:

8/26 1-230pm

Getting Started With MS Teams:

9/9 1-2pm

11/11 1-2pm

MS Bookings Basics:

9/16 1-230pm

Getting Started With OneDrive:

9/30 1-2pm

12/9 1-2pm

20 MS 365 Tips To Work Smarter, Not Harder:

10/7 1-230p

Practical Ways To Enhance Your PowerPoint Presentation:

10/21 1-2pm

Maximizing Productivity With Free Copilot Features:

10/28 1-2pm

MS Excel Formulas And Functions (Part 1):

11/18 1-2pm

MS Excel Formulas And Functions (Part 2):

12/2 1-2pm



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

HOMECOMING SHIRTS AVAILABLE TO ORDER!

BY ALUMNI RELATIONS

The votes are in, and the first limited edition Homecoming t-shirt is ready to order! Available in adult and youth sizes, it's a fun way for the whole family to celebrate Homecoming. Each shirt is \$30, shipping included. 40% of your purchase supports current students, so you can show your Laker pride and give back at the same time.

The deadline to order is September 6. [Order your t-shirt today!](#)



PSS FALL FEST

BY PSS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Take a break and celebrate the season with us! Stop by the PSS Fall Fest to enjoy cider, donuts, and great conversation with fellow PSS and your PSS Development Committee. Whether you're new to GVSU or have been here for years, we'd love to see you. Drop in anytime during the event—no RSVP needed!



ACADEMIC PARTICIPATION & TUITION REDUCTION FORMS AVAILABLE IN WORKDAY

BY HUMAN RESOURCES

Say goodbye to paper forms! You can now complete and submit your Academic Participation or Tuition Reduction requests within Workday. Enter your course information, complete the request, and submit it for manager approval.

This process applies to faculty and staff submitting requests for themselves, and for eligible dependents. To learn how to submit via Workday, follow the Help articles:

- [Submit an Academic Participation Request \(For Dependents\)](#)
- [Submit an Academic Participation Request \(For Non-Union Employees\)](#)
- [How to Submit an Academic Participation Request \(For Union Employees\)](#)
- [Approve Academic Participation Requests \(For Managers\)](#)





CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

ISTUDENT APARTMENT SUPPLIES DRIVE BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

It's rare when our new iStudents have family or friends with them during move-in. Finding all the items that make their space feel like home takes time and money during a high demand moment. Your contributions, big and small, make moving into a bare apartment feel much more manageable. We're accepting a wide variety of items in good, clean, working condition. *****NOTE - CORRECT DROP-OFF LOCATION IS LOH 103*****

 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

iStudent Apartment Supplies Drive

Items in good, clean, working condition, please!

Suggested Items:

- **Kitchen equipment** (cups, plates, mugs, silverware, etc)
- **Practical items** (fans, rugs, shower curtains, bath mats, etc)
- **Unused, non-perishable food items**
- **Home furnishings**
- **Toiletries** (shampoo, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste)
- **Laundry supplies** (detergent, fabric softener)
- **Home decorations** (cushions, blankets, pictures, ornaments)
- **Fun things** (board games, sports balls)

Drop-Off . I30 LOH . by Aug 14

iStudents@gvsu.edu



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

ALCOHOL EXCEPTION APPROVALS MOVED TO WORKDAY BY BUSINESS & FINANCE

Alcohol Exception Approvals have moved into Workday! This will help streamline our system and clean up the awkward manual system we have been using since the update to the alcohol policy last year. Hopefully it makes your life a little bit easier.

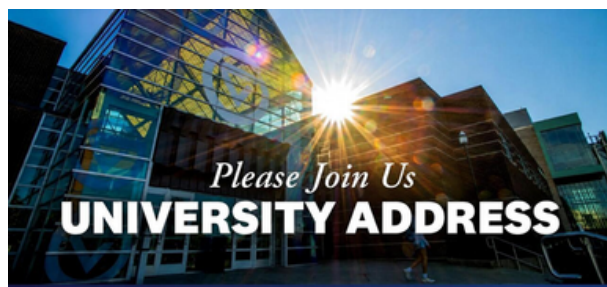
Here's how it works:

1. Go to your Workday Dashboard
2. Type "Create Alcohol Service Exemption Request"
3. Fill out the event information fields in the form, just like you would manually for Appendix A.
4. Click Submit



If you are in Academic Affairs, your request will be routed to your AO => Provost's Office => VP for F&A for approval.
If you are in any other division, your request will route directly to VP for F&A for approval.

We will not be accepting any other manual forms, so please use this process going forward.



Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts
Allendale Campus

Join President Philomena V. Mantella and Provost Jennifer Drake for the University Address as they share the university's priorities and aspirations for the 2026–27 academic year. Light refreshments will be available following the address

[Kindly respond by Friday, August 15](#)



Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 4 – 7 p.m.
L. William Seidman Center
Robert C. Pew Campus

Celebrate the start of the academic year with colleagues from across the university. Enjoy great food, refreshing drinks, and live music by Brena as we reconnect and celebrate our shared purpose of empowering learners.

[Kindly respond by Wednesday, August 19](#)



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS



Volunteer Opportunities

Join Student Affairs in Welcoming Our Newest Lakers During Laker Kickoff!

Friday, August 28, 2026

6-7 p.m. | Lubbers Stadium Welcome

7 p.m. | Student Parade and Laker Spirit Tunnel

7-11 p.m. | Kirkhof Lawn Party

Ways to Get Involved!



GVSU PARKING PORTAL OPEN FOR 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR BY PARKING SERVICES

The [GVSU Parking Portal](#) is now open and ready for the 2026- 2027 academic year parking permit registration.

All Faculty and Staff will access the Parking Portal through Single Sign On

BEACH CLEAN-UP

BY COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING CENTER

Saturday, August 29, 8:00 AM

Join fellow Grand Valley students and volunteer to clean up the beach in beautiful Grand Haven, Michigan. Meet in Kirkhof Pere Marquette Room 2204 at 8:00 a.m. for check-in and we will take the bus together. Buses leave at 8:30 a.m.

[Please register for this event online.](#) Contact us at service@gvsu.edu if you have any questions.





HIGHLIGHTS



Christine Adams, Interprofessional Simulation Center

My job is not your normal sit at a desk PSS position. Every day is different. Some days I am coordinating & scheduling tours for schools and external partners. Some days I am the tour guide and running a manikin for the tour. Some days I am doing moulage/make-up on our Standardized Patients. Some days I am assisting to recruit Standardized Patients. Some days I am helping to set up or tear down a simulation. Some days I am coordinating events/meetings. Some days I am a judge at a cooking contest for team building. Some days I am managing Simulation Center reservations. Some days I am coordinating a search process. Every day I love my job! 😊

WHAT IS SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR JOB?



Kelli Dykstra, Public Safety. "My job is different from other PSS jobs because it is so incredibly unpredictable. You never know when you are going to have someone come to the front desk and report a crime, process a police report that surprises you-just when you think you've 'seen it all', or have to figure out how to order unique police equipment and supplies. We sometimes have to think about the worst that could happen on campus so we can make sure our department is prepared to protect the community. I love my job, even if it is emotional at times, because I love GVSU and the fact that I get to be a small part of keeping the campus as safe as possible."



HIGHLIGHTS



Heidi Feldpausch, Annis Water Resources Institute. "The Annis Water Resources Institute held an open house for the community on July 11 to celebrate 25-years of being in Muskegon. It was a wonderful event in which we had hands-on activity stations throughout the Institute for all ages. There were also tours and cruises aboard AWRI's research vessels, the WG Jackson and the DJ Angus. We had approximately 200 people attend. It was a huge success!"



Celebrating
— 25 YEARS —



HIGHLIGHTS



This Book Made Me Think of You by Libby Page - recommended by **Sam Condon, FTLC**. From Goodreads: "Imagine a call from a bookstore. There is a book to be picked up. There will be 12. One for each month selected by your deceased spouse. A farewell gift from the departed. For Tilly, this monthly gift begins to move her out of the grieving stage and she begins to rediscover herself and her joys. She begins to travel making little discoveries along the way. There are hard days, but as the days go on, the grief becomes less sharp. Opening her up to possibilities.."



The Douglas Root Beer Barrel,

recommended by **Kelli Dykstra, Public Safety**. "How did I never know there was a barrel that served root beer floats only a half hour from my house? Check out this historical landmark restaurant in Douglas, MI. They had some delicious looking hot dogs as well!"



Two Beards Deli - recommended by **Sam Condon, FTLC**. Known for its laid-back atmosphere and huge menu, the deli puts its own spin on the classics while also coming up with creative new options. From stacked sandwiches and fresh salads to house-made soups, there's something for just about everyone. Two Beards makes sure everyone has a spot at the table, offering plenty of vegetarian and vegan choices along with more than 90 gluten-free combinations.



The Things We Leave Unfinished by **Rebecca Yarros** - recommended by **Tammy Brasic - Admissions**. From Goodreads: "Told in alternating timelines, *The Things We Leave Unfinished* examines the risks we take for love, the scars too deep to heal, and the endings we can't bring ourselves to see coming."



2026-2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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VICKI WENGER

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LIB

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PASQUALINA FIRE

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MARISA NAYLOR

ASH, AGS, LHH, LSH,
PAC

BRIAN DENUYL

AH, CUB, SER

TREENA GILBERT

BIK, CEC, IDC, KEN, WAT

CAMPUS DATES

26TH - 28TH - MOVE-IN

30TH - CAMPUS NIGHT LIFE

31ST - FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

7TH (SEPT) - LABOR DAY RECESS
(CLOSURE)

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

BIRTHDAYS

1ST - JORDAN SICKREY

5TH - CHRISTINE ADAMS

10TH - AMALIA VARGAS

12TH - JALYN KAMP

17TH - ANGELA AMERSON

19TH - KIM REEVES-JORGENSEN

25TH - RONDA HUSTER

26TH - PAT COX

28TH - JULIE DEVECHT

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

6TH - GINA RICKERT

7TH - BARBIE YOUNG

8TH - KEL NEMETZ

12TH - KIM REEVES-JORGENSEN

24TH - DARRHONDA SCOTT-JONES

25TH - JALYN KAMP

ANGELA AMERSON

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

5TH - CHRISTINE ADAMS

6TH - LORI O'BRADOVICH

12TH - MICHELLE HODDE

21ST - ERIN BRAGINTON



SHARE BACK TO SCHOOL PHOTOS FOR THE
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER!

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