

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 5 • NOVEMBER 2026

APSS NEWSLETTER

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

photo by Kendra Stanley-Mills

ISSUE FEATURES

HOLIDAY TIME ENTRY - THANKSGIVING BREAK

information on how to enter your time for the campus closure and observed holidays...
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LEADING LAKERS: ACTIVATE - NEXT COHORT COMING FEBRUARY 2027

The Activate program is open to any employee who has an interest in growing as a leader...
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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Check out the line up of events hosted by OMA for Native American Heritage Month...
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HIGHLIGHTS

Halloween, Celebrations, Fall Photos, A Memorial...
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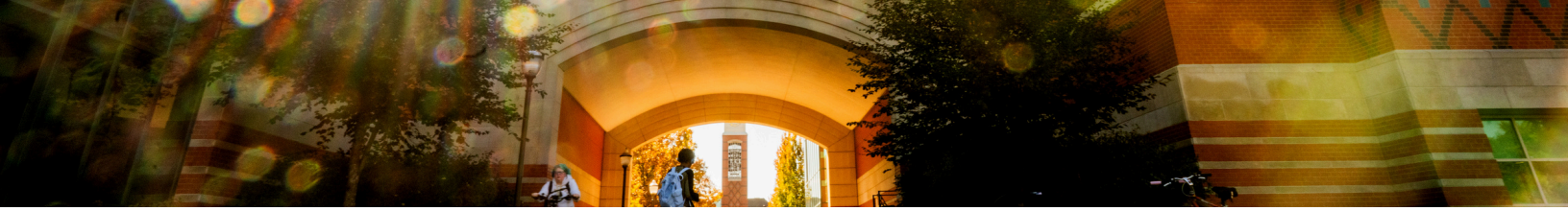
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UNION NEWS

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE APSS FALL LUNCHEON!

Photo shared by **Tonya Brown, AWRI**. “I will be retiring next month so I’m submitting the picture that Heidi Feldpausch, Cheryl Kastas and I had taken of us at the luncheon. We call it ‘Stuart’s Angels’. LOL”

See the highlights section for more information on Tonya’s retirement celebration!



If you are still in need of a blanket that was handed out to members at the luncheon or did not receive a new calendar, please complete the survey here: https://gvsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ePMLKQ6KHxVxsFw

JOB ALERTS IN WORKDAY

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 up at: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/mwyq1gr9siiui7b7a598r/WDJobAid-REC-Create-Job-Alerts.docx?rlkey=b9epniurct15qgjq6stf9lnd9&st=5f5s5pw8&dl=0.

HOLIDAY TIME ENTRY - THANKSGIVING BREAK

The following codes should be used to enter holiday time for the Thanksgiving recess for *most* PSS staff:

- Wednesday, November 25 - Use Time Type “**Holiday Break**”
- Thursday, November 26 & Friday November 27 - use Time Type “**Holiday**“



If you are **full time staff**, enter 8 hours for each day.

If you are **part time staff**, enter 4 hours for each day - per the APSS contract, “When a holiday is on a day a part-time staff member is normally scheduled to work more than four hours, they must make up the difference in hours for that day by either adjusting their schedule within the same week, using vacation, or using lost time. The staff member and manager will work together to adjust for the holiday to not exceed their normal scheduled hours for the week.”

If you are required to work a shift on the campus closure date (November 25) or the holiday/observed holiday (November 26 & 27), enter your time worked as regular time.

If you have any specific questions, please consult with your manager and/or building representative.

Reminder for those supervising students: Please ensure you are approving student hours in a timely manner!



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

LEADING LAKERS: ACTIVATE - NEXT COHORT COMING FEBRUARY 2027

BY HUMAN RESOURCES

The next two cohorts of **Leading Lakers: Activate**––GVSU's leadership development program––will take place February 4 & 10 on the City (Health Campus).

Who is eligible to participate in Activate?

The Activate program is open to any employee who has an interest in growing as a leader regardless of supervisory status. All regular, full-time employees (AP, PSS, Faculty, MGS, POAM, COAM, Security Staff) are eligible and encouraged to submit an interest form.

What is included in the Activate program?

Participants will attend two in-person learning sessions and engage with an accountability pod for six-months following the in-person sessions. Participation in both days of programming, as well as the monthly accountability pods, is required for completion.

Submit your interest

To participate, **submit your interest** for the upcoming cohort.

IT E-LEARNING

BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Take a minute to bookmark the IT eLearning website. It contains a plethora of self paced courses, webinars, and upcoming scheduled course for a variet of IT platforms. A great resource for any GVSU employee!

https://www.gvsu.edu/it/elearn/webinars-training-and-special-events-3

EVERY BODY BELONGS: MOVEMENT, SELF-CARE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

BY I&E INSTITUTE



Friday, November 20, 2026, 3:30-5P, Kirkhof Center 2270

Our bodies are constantly receiving messages about how they should look, move, perform, and take up space. Even self-care and wellness can become another set of expectations about what we should be doing to be healthy, productive, or worthy. This interactive session invites participants to challenge those messages and explore a more inclusive approach to caring for ourselves and our bodies. No previous movement or yoga experience is needed, and participation is always by choice. Come prepared to reframe what self-care can be, reject harmful expectations, and reclaim movement and rest as practices of care, belonging, and liberation.

Space is limited, so registration on **Workday Learning** is required.

More information available here.



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

PSS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - NEW WEBSITE!

BY PSS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



The PSS Development Committee has a new website! **gvsu.edu/pssdc**. It's a central hub of content relevant for various PSS roles to easily find **university resources**, **professional development opportunities** and our **committee initiatives**. Review the **PSS Resource Recommendation List** to find various resources for PSS. If you have a resource to add, fill out **PSS Staff Resource Recommendation Form**. We value any ideas and suggestions on how to make our website more useful for the PSS community, share with us on the **PSSDC Feedback Form**.



VOLUNTEER AT GVSU'S COMMENCEMENT

BY GVSU COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, December 12, 2026. Volunteers needed 1-7 PM.
Van Andel Arena, 130 W Fulton, Grand Rapids
We are excited to offer you the opportunity to serve at the upcoming Commencement ceremony! Volunteers are needed to assist with set up, greeting guests and grads, and more!

Please sign up by Monday, November 30. Thank you!
Volunteer at the December Commencement Ceremony

MEET LAKER ASSIST: YOUR 24/7 VIRTUAL TECH SUPPORT TOOL

BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Need IT help? Starting October 30, Laker Assist will provide 24/7 virtual IT support, helping you get answers and complete common tasks whenever you need them. Laker Assist is a new virtual agent available through **the Service Portal** and as an app in Zoom.

- Password resets with secure, prompt identity verification
- Finding answers through IT knowledge base articles
- Guidance with common IT tasks and questions

How to use Laker Assist
Starting October 30, look for the chat icon in the lower corner of the Service Portal. Enter your question, and Laker Assist will guide you through the available solutions.

Laker Assist complements and expands our existing IT Service Desk support options by providing 24/7 self-service assistance. IT staff will continue to be available during standard business hours as usual.
We'll continue to improve and expand Laker Assist's capabilities and the types of requests it can handle. Give it a try starting October 30 and share your feedback on your interaction through the chatbot. To see Laker Assist in action, **view the Laker Assist overview video**.



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

TOAST TO THE CLASS OF 2026

BY ALUMNI RELATIONS



Thursday, December 3, 2026, 6:30 - 7:30 PM | Toast at 6:45 PM
L. William Seidman Center, City Campus RSVP

On December, President Mantella and Alumni Relations are hosting Toast, a celebration for grads. The event includes remarks from an alumni speaker and President Mantella, giveaways, and a champagne toast to the Class of 2026. Toast is a key milestone as Lakers transition from students to alumni, and we need your help to spread the word!

Please share about Toast on your socials, website, and in newsletters to students to encourage them to attend this special event.

👉 Download our Toast toolkit for photos, videos, and sample social media posts.

LAKER FAMILY HOLIDAY BRUNCH

BY ALUMNI RELATIONS



Saturday, December 5, 2026, 9:00 - 11:00 AM
Alumni House & Visitor Center, Valley Campus

Ring in the holiday season with Santa & Louie

Join us for a magical morning filled with holiday cheer! We'll have fun activities for little Lakers, photos with Santa & Louie, delicious food, and mimosas for the adults. It's the perfect way to kick off the season with your Laker friends and family right here on campus. Alumni and families of all ages are welcome!

Get Tickets
❄️ Adults - $20
❄️ Kids (3–12 years old) - $10
❄️ Little Lakers (under 3 years old) - Free!



GVSU NIGHT WITH THE DETROIT PISTONS

BY ALUMNI RELATIONS

Friday, December 18, 2026, 6:00 - 10:00 PM
Little Caesars Arena, Detroit
Gather with other GVSU alumni to watch the Detroit Pistons take on the Cleveland Cavaliers. This special GVSU package includes your ticket to the game and an exclusive, co-branded windbreaker. Before the game, join us for an Alumni Social (more details and RSVP coming soon)

Proceeds from every ticket support the GVSU Student Support Fund. It's a great way to enjoy a night out while supporting a great cause. We hope to see you there!
Get tickets at **gvsu.edu/s/3S8**



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS



KEYNOTE: WALKING IN BEAUTY: REALIGNING MODERN HEALTH & WELLBEING

November 18, 6-8 PM, Pere Marquette (KC 2204 - Valley Campus)

Certified Diné Hataałii Traditional Practitioner Andrew James Sr. and apprentice Andreas James will share perspectives grounded in Navajo ceremonial life, ancestral knowledge, and the concept of Hózhǫ́, which can be described as a way of understanding balance, harmony, and beauty in our relationships with ourselves, others, and the world around us.
RSVP Here

INDIGENIZE GVSU WEEK



NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION (NASA) X MNO'CHIGEWIN: END OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH & SEMESTER GATHERING

November 30, 6-9 p.m., KC 1240 (OMA Multipurpose Room)
View the NASA x Mno'Chigewin event flyer.



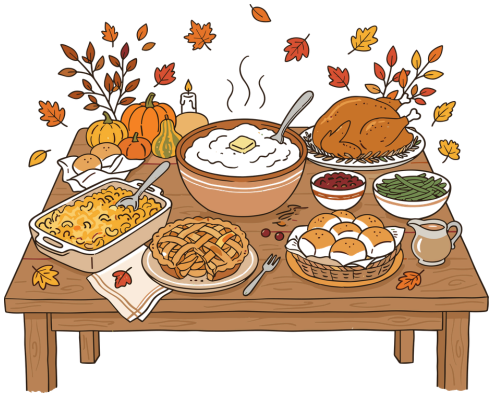
CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

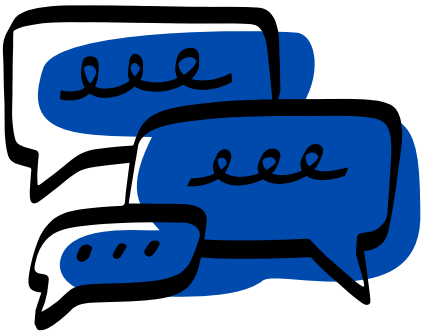
LAKER CLUB FRIENDSGIVING
BY LAKER FOOD CO.

Thursday, November 19, 11A-1:30P
Laker Club, Valley Campus

All you care to eat - $10 per person.

Menu:
- Roasted Herb Turkey Breast
- Turkey Gravy
- Hearty Mashed Potatoes
- Sweet Potato Casserole
- Roasted Carrots
- Garlic Roasted Broccoli





CONSCIOUS CONVERSATIONS: NEURODIVERSITY, PERIMENOPAUSE, AND OCCUPATIONAL BURNOUT
BY GVSU WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 2, 12P-1P, via Zoom

Join us for an engaging conversation facilitated by University of Michigan guests and MI-ACE members Kathleen Ignatoski, PhD, and Sandy Zalmout. **RSVP**

HERSTORY: KAREN GIBSON
BY GVSU WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 11A-12P
Pere Marquette (Kirkhof Center - Valley Campus)



The HerStory series welcomes the GVSU community to hear firsthand the stories of women in leadership positions and discover how these experiences contributed to their success. **RSVP**



TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL
BY RAINBOW RESOURCE CENTER

Friday, November 20, 2026, 6-8P
Seidman Center 1008, Pew Campus

Join us for a vigil in honor of Trans Day of Remembrance, in partnership with the GR Pride Center and GR Trans Foundation. There will be a program, free food, and community connection and support.



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS





CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS





CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS





HIGHLIGHTS













Diana Briggs of Occupational Therapy is always the queen of Halloween! This year, with a little help from AI, she made her week of costumes really come to life! “The last photo includes my colleague and T Rex Handler, Danielle Armstrong (Dr. Ellie Sattler) from the CSD department.”



HIGHLIGHTS

Allison Bazaire from the College of Computing will be traveling to New Orleans in November to present her graduate research at the National Communication Association Annual Convention. Her paper was also recognized as the Top Student Paper in the American Studies Division.

Allison is currently pursuing her Master's in Communication at GVSU while working as a Marketing and Communications Assistant and Assistant to the Graduate Programs in the College of Computing. She is excited for the opportunity to represent GVSU, share her research on a national stage, and connect her graduate studies with the work and perspectives she has gained as a PSS employee.

Paper title and information:

Cocreating Museum Spaces: A Postcolonial Approach in the American Midwest
Museums shape how we understand history, but whose stories are being told and who gets to tell them? This project explores how American Midwest museums are working with communities to address colonial legacies and create more inclusive, collaborative spaces. Through interviews and site analysis, it examines efforts like repatriation and co-curation, showing both progress and ongoing challenges.

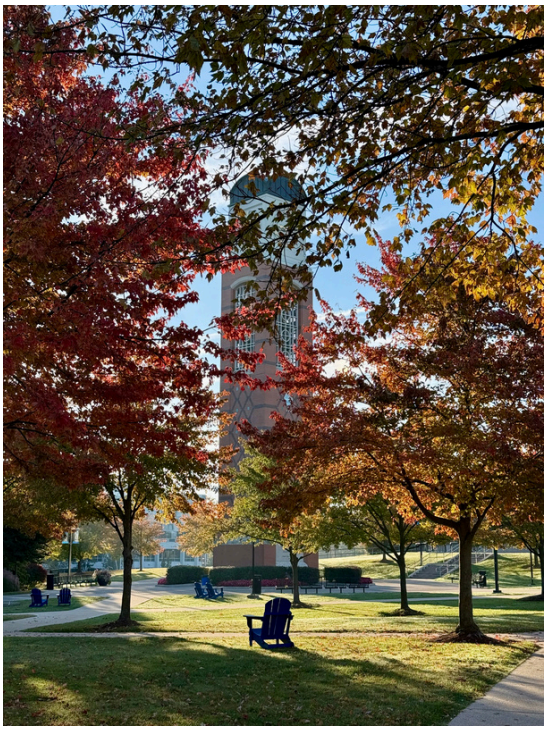






HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy these photos taken by **Audrey Kelly, Department of Writing**, during her walks on campus!















HIGHLIGHTS



"Memorial" - by **Nicole Brower, Athletics**

This has been a tough semester for me. Maybe you feel it, too. I am a natural "do-er," Yet I find myself grasping for ways to navigate the emotional challenges of this semester, searching for something meaningful to do when there are no easy answers.

This morning, I gathered some of the season's final flowers from my yard and brought them to the barricade standing in wait on West Campus Drive. It is the same barricade where Debby Smith lost her life last weekend while serving our university community.

I did not place those flowers to make a statement, either for or against university policies. I placed them to honor a life of service. Sometimes, when we don't know what to say or how to respond, a simple act is a place to start.

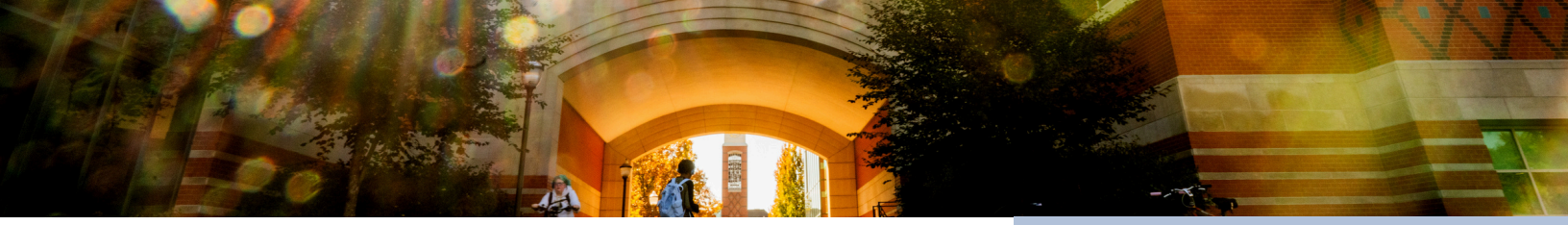
I did not know Debby Smith, but through what I have read, I learned that she was a 30-year employee of DK Security, an adjunct instructor at GRCC, a Grand Valley alumna, and a woman who deeply loved her family, including her husband of 49 years.

I did not know Debby, but I recognize someone who committed herself to hard work and continued learning.

I did not know Debby, but I recognize someone who understood that learning takes place far beyond the classroom and that life itself offers opportunities to grow, contribute, and make a difference.

And while I did not know Debby, I know that our university community is made up of people like her—people who show up, do their work, share what they know, care for others, and contribute to something larger than themselves.

Today, I placed flowers at a barricade. It was a small gesture, perhaps, but it was one way to acknowledge a life that mattered. I hope you will be encouraged to make a small act of kindness in your world today.



2026-2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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DEP, DEV 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

CAMPUS DATES
25TH - CAMPUS CLOSURE
26TH - 27TH - THANKSGIVING RECESS
GVSU.EDU/EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS
5TH - LOLITA SALINDONG
7TH - JO ANN BOON-SHELTON
19TH - SUE VOGEL
22ND - ERICKA ORDUÑA RIVERA
22ND - RHONDA LEMIEUX
28TH - TAMMY TOBAR

GVSU ANNIVERSARY
3RD - CARRIE SHOUP
6TH - AMANDA READER
7TH - SUE VOGEL
11TH - SHAWN EVANS
14TH - RONDA HUSTER

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
5TH - GINA RICKERT
20TH - LINA FIRE & BOB MCVAY



SHARE SOMETHING YOUR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER!

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