CECI Connections

NEWSLETTER

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Colleagues,

Top of mind for me this month is how we support our students. This may not be surprising, considering that our students have been vocal in the past few weeks about how we are not meeting their needs. Their actions have given me pause for deeper reflection about student voice and advocacy and the spaces where we explicitly include our students. While the graduation rates for CECI students are improving, see below, during the townhall as I looked around the room and thought about the disparity in graduation rates, it occurred to me what while the room was full to overflowing, approximately half the students in that room may not be here next year considering the existing trends in retention rates. This is a very sobering thought.

Graduation rates of FTIAC students who started in CECI programs				
		graduated within:		
		4 years	5 years	6 years
	2015	35.6%	58.8%	65.6%

	year	2016	33.7%	63.8%	68.4%
	started:	2017	34.1%	61.4%	
		2018	42.3%		

Our institutional analysis website is rich with data regarding student outcomes. For example you may review data on parity in graduation rates to see how different factors such as first generation status, Pell eligibility, sense of belonging and other factors are correlated with student retention and graduation at GVSU.

On a more positive note, a preliminary report from the registrar's office shows that 533 of the 668 CECI students who were invited to participated in commencement will be joining us at the ceremony. It's not to early to complete your RSVP if you have not yet done so. It is always wonderful to have our faculty and staff in attendance to support our students on this milestone achievement. I look forward to seeing you there!

~Sherril

Celebrations

Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

GVSU's Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honors Society) members attended the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and Alpha Phi Sigma meetings in Chicago from March 19 - 23, 2024. The students took second place in the Crime Scene Investigation Competition. Competing against a pool of talented participants, our students demonstrated exceptional skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, and professionalism throughout the competition, as a result they were awarded a $250 prize for their accomplishments. Special recognition to Dr. Jina Lee (Faculty Advisor for Alpha Phi Sigma) who assisted our students as they prepared to join the fun at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

In the left picture below: Marisa Huggler, Michael Paul, Melissa Jackson, Christina Owens, Chloe Upton, and Nicole Mazur.

Recognitions

Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

Ebony Crane, CJ '13 and MSW '18, and **Sonja Forte**, HTM '03, were two of the six Grand Valley State University Alumni who are finalists for the 2024 West Michigan Woman Brilliance Awards.

Publications/Presentations

Faculty, Staff, and Students

A. Scott Rood, associate professor in the Hospitality and Tourism Management program, was featured as an expert on a recent Marketwatch article. He was highlighted in the article that was titled, "The Ultimate Guide to Traveling Solo."

John Lipford, affiliate professor in the Hospitality and Tourism Management program, was featured in a National Geographic article, where he gave input regarding various airport security methods. The National Geographic article was titled, "PreCheck, Global Entry, CLEAR: We explain U.S. expedited travel programs."

Christina Ponzio, assistant professor with Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology, recently co-authored an article titled, "Transnational Youth Expressing Religious Being and Belonging through Writing: Youth Writers' Purposes, Audiences, and Formal Choices across Public U.S. Secondary Classrooms, 2015 - 2020.." The article was released in the *Research in the Teaching of English*, November 2023, Volume 58 Issue 2, pages 156 - 192.

Neal Buckwalter, associate professor of Public Administration, was one out of three guests featured in the new mini podcast series, "Reflections on Patriotism". This series is a discussion from diverse voices from the Grand Rapids community as they explore what patriotism means to them.

Chief Brandon DeHaan, director of Public Safety, at GVSU CJ '85, and **Brian Hedberg**, accreditation manager at GVSU's Public Safety, CJ '05 and current student in the MPA program, both spoke about using police body cameras as a tool for transparency and the protocols that go with it.

Community Engagement

Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium Wrap-Up

The Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium sponsored seven events in March. Three webinars had a combined attendance of 138 individuals, excluding the speakers and hosts. The webinars will be transcribed and placed on YouTube for future use.

• *Ghana-US Relations: The Higher Education Platform A conversation with Professor Kweku Osam and Dr. Thomas Haas* was hosted by Dr. Richard Yidana, Associate Professor of Sociology. (Watch webinar recording, passcode: XZ2#6bMf)
• *Sounds from the Other Side: African Popular Music in the Age of Technoculture* was hosted Joseph Amartey, master's student in Public Administration and music producer. The guests worked in Ghana's music scene as musicians, songwriters, producers, and record label talent developers. (View recommended playlist as a spreadsheet, or on Amazon Music)
• *The Global Challenge of Textile Waste: Initiatives in Ghana and Grand Rapids* was hosted by Chelsea Duball, Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Management. Guests were Samuel Oteng, Community Engagement Manager from the Or Foundation in Accra, and Janay Brower, Founder and CEO of Public Thread in Grand Rapids. (Watch webinar recording, passcode: 0eErVNzp)

March's Big Byte was *Experiencing Ghana through Virtual Reality: Cape Coast Castle and GVSU* with Jakia Marie, assistant professor and program coordinator of African & African American Studies and Jacob Fortman, Emerging Technology Research Analyst. They shared preliminary results of a project creating a virtual reality experience for Ghana's Cape Coast Castle and Assin Manso Last Bath. The session explored

the impact virtual reality could have on education and the opportunities at GVSU. ()

GVSU's Ghanaian students hosted two Saturday events. On March 23 the Film and Pastry Matinee screened *Beasts of No Nation.* On March 30, the closing GACC Celebration occurred at the Niemeyer Living Center, Multi-Purpose room. Ghanian food was available at both events. The later also included karaoke, dancing, and a fashion show.

CECI students, faculty, and staff offer 43 posters and presentation at three annual GVSU events in April

Twenty-six CECI students will have research posters or presentations at **Student Scholarship Day** (Henry Hall and Kirkhof Center, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) on April 10, 2024.

Five CECI graduate students will have research posters at the **Graduate Student Showcase** (DeVos Center's Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.) on April 23, 2024.

Over 30 CECI faculty, staff, and students will be part of poster presentations at the **Reach Higher Showcase** (various locations in DeVos Center) on April 12, 2024. Please support our students and your colleagues as your time allows.

To assist you in finding our people at these events, please use the guide to CECI participants at 2024 SSD, Graduate Showcase, and Reach Higher Showcase.

First Super Saturday Event

Detroit Public Schools Community District's Office of Exceptional Student Education's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Department hosted their first ever Super Saturday event on March 9, 2024. Super Saturday is a completely free enrichment opportunity for gifted and talented students enrolled in Detroit Public Schools Community District between 3rd and 5th grades. The event was held at Golightly Education Center, where over 75 students from the first four GATE pilot schools gathered for a day of deep connection and exploration through a wide range of interests. Students spent the day exploring topics outside of the typical school curriculum by participating in dynamic sessions that were designed to appeal high ability students through advanced content, higher level thinking, interdisciplinary connections and authentic, interactive, hands on experiences. **Kelly Margot**, associate professor in Teaching and Learning, is a CO-PI with the grant that sponsored this event and stems from a partnership with the Matter of Equity 2.0 Gifted and Talented Project, and the Department of Education Jacob K. Javits Grant.

Students Leaving a Mark - Service Trip 2024

The student organization, Students Leaving a Mark (SLAM), went on their service trip to Oklahoma City in March 2024. Their mission is dedicated to providing its members with academic, cultural and social opportunities to enrich the students' professional leadership potential in the field of nonprofit management, leadership and social entrepreneurship.
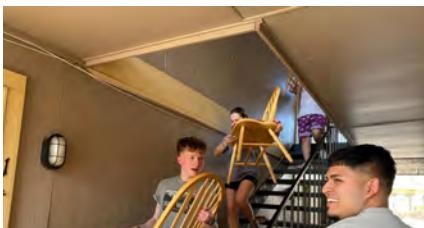
On Saturday, March 2, 2024, ten students from the Master of Public Administration degree program joined other graduate students from Indiana University, DePaul University, Central Michigan University, and Rutgers University to participate in a competitive simulation on the topic of refugee resettlement. The event was hosted at Grand Valley State University, with faculty members, Dr. Rich Jelier, Victor Cardenas, City Manager of Novi and former GVSU trustee, and Dr. Mark Hoffman serving on the panel of judges.

University Governance

University Curriculum Committee

• There is no longer an approval process to offer a course in hybrid or online format. This will be a scheduling decision made by the unit. The form has been removed from SAIL. The Registrar's Office will continue to enforce the training requirement for faculty teaching an online or hybrid course.

• Course size will no longer be included in course proposals. This will be a scheduling decision.

• The SAIL forms for the new program prospectus and new program proposal are being revised to reduce duplication and streamline the process of submitting a new program proposal after the prospectus is approved.

College Governance

All committee agendas and minutes are posted on our website.

College Curriculum Committee

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the College Curriculum Committee met 13 times - reviewing 59 proposals (program changes, new courses, and changes in existing courses). Please reach out to A. Scott Rood (CCC Chair) with any questions.

College Advisory and Communication Committee

• We've been busy revising and collecting nominations for college awards. The selected honorees will receive their awards at the all-college meeting on April 15th and posted in the May newsletter.

• A college-wide email went out on March 20th seeking submissions for this year's gallery walk during the April 15th all-college meeting. If you missed it, it's not too late. Complete this form to let us know you are interested in sharing your work (poster, scholarship, collaborations, conference proceedings, projects, and publications).

• Faculty Council (FC) charged CACC with reviewing and revising our bylaws. We completed this work and

shared it with FC. Faculty and staff should have an opportunity to vote on the changes before the end of the year.

• Our next meeting is April 10th at 9 a.m. This meeting will be remote. The primary agenda items are finalizing the all-college meeting agenda and electing next year's CACC chair.

• Please reach out to your committee representative if you have input or questions.

College Personnel Committee

Here are a few friendly updates from your neighborhood CPC:

• The CPC reviewed (3) candidate portfolios for the Winter 2024 semester.

• Terms are ending for multiple CPC committee members this year; please watch the election cycle for open seats on the CPC, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the committee!

• Jackie Doyon-Martin will be stepping down as Chair of the CPC as she moves into the Unit Head position for SCCJLS. A new Chair will be elected by the committee before the close of the 2023-24 AY.

• The CPC hosted a Digital Measures training session in February 2024; a second session will be offered if there is faculty interest. **Are you interested in participating in a Digital Measures training session (in person, or via Zoom)? Be sure to contact CPC Chair Jackie Doyon-Martin directly ASAP.**

Reminder: beginning in Fall 2024, personnel portfolios will be reviewed in Digital Measures only; Winter 2024 is the last semester that CECI faculty may use Blackboard for personnel reviews.

And finally, remember that your CPC representatives are here to support you! Should you ever have any questions related to personnel processes, portfolios, etc., please do not hesitate to reach out.

CECI Tech Tidbits

Big Byte Webinar

Watch the latest Big Byte talk on ***Experiencing Ghana through Virtual Reality: Cape Coast Castle and GVSU***. Subscribe to the GVSU Education Programs channel on YouTube to get notified of future Big Byte webinars. Also, check out the Technology Committee's website for past webinars.

CECI Technology Committee Meeting

Join the upcoming Year-End CECI Technology Committee meeting on April 17, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. in DEV 107C University Club.

Did you know? Is Education AI-ready?

Watch Professor Rose Luckin of University College London discuss the current stage of AI's application in education and the ways in which AI has supported teachers and learners during the pandemic. Professor Luckin also considers how AI could be used to support a transformation that seeks to enable all learners to achieve their full potential. In this Turing Lecture, Professor Luckin provides examples from different AI systems to illustrate what is happening in the present and what could happen in the future.

Generative AI + Education: Will Generative AI Transform Learning and Education

Generative AI is already challenging educators and students to rethink how we teach and learn in the classroom and beyond. Key questions in this keynote include: what role could and should generative AI play - both in and beyond the classroom - in supporting effective, engaging, and equitable learning for people of all ages? What tasks confront educators seeking to equip learners for a world in which generative AI is ubiquitous.

Taking Blackboard Ultra and Microsoft 365 to the Next Level

In May 2024, the eLearning Technologies team will celebrate the first anniversary of the completed Blackboard Ultra migration. In their ongoing efforts to provide faculty with best practices and new features in Ultra, eLearning Technologies, in collaboration with Disability Support Resources and University Libraries, are

hosting an event featuring dedicated pedagogical topic tables for group discussions and opportunities for hands-on immediate application. Please visit their [website](#) for more information about the event, including details on the various table topics and official registration. The last date to register for the event is April 19, 2024.

Upcoming Faculty Learning Training Schedule

[Email Management in Outlook (Windows)](#)

April 18, 1:00 p.m.

[Microsoft Bookings Essentials](#)

April 10, 1:00 p.m.

[Getting Started with Microsoft Teams](#)

April 16, 11:00 a.m.
April 25, 1:00 p.m.

Now is the Time to Think About Summer 2024 Classes

This is a great time to begin thinking about Summer 2024 classes. Many faculty wrap up finals in April and then scramble. If they can begin revising their course schedules and have their first couple of lectures ready to go, this will help ease the transition. They can also book time with GVSU Digital Studio if they would like to pre-record several lectures at once. The instructors who take advantage of this absolutely rave about the experience. It also gives them the flexibility to take a little time off.

Upcoming Events

April 17 - Year-end CECI Technology Committee meeting in 107C University Club at 2:30 p.m.

The [CECI Happenings](#) is an informational form that can submitted by any faculty, staff, or student to promote an event, publication, etc. for our social platforms and newsletter.

Percent of students who are African-American or Black, Winter 2024

CECI undergraduate program	1st Year	Sophmore	Junior	Senior	Total
Public and Nonprofit Administration	**	7.1%	16.0%	22.2%	17.4%
Education Birth-Kindergarten	30.0%	**	**	**	15.2%
Criminal Justice	23.1%	9.0%	9.1%	7.7%	12.6%
Legal Studies	16.0%	14.3%	3.4%	7.5%	9.9%
Social Work	12.0%	10.8%	5.5%	5.4%	8.0%
Hospitality Tourism Management	20.0%	4.8%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%
Education	6.3%	4.1%	1.1%	1.7%	2.2%
Special Education	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CECI graduate program	Graduate				
M.S. Criminal Justice	40.0%				
M.H.A. Health Administration	23.7%				
Ed.S. Leadership	22.2%				
M.Ed. Educational Leadership	19.0%				
M.P.N.L. Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership	18.8%				
M.Ed. Adult & Higher Education	16.7%				
M.Ed. College Student Affairs Leader	14.3%				
M.S.W. Social Work	11.1%				
M.Ed. ICUR - Early Childhood Education	9.7%				
M.Ed. Special Education	8.9%				
Grad. Cert. English as a Second Language	6.7%				
M.Ed. School Counseling	4.5%				
M.P.A. Public Administration	3.4%				
M.Ed. ICUR - Secondary Level Education	2.8%				
M.Ed. Special Ed Administration	2.0%				
M.Ed. Literacy Studies	1.4%				
M.Ed. Educational Technology	0.0%				
M.Ed. ICUR - Elementary Education	0.0%				
M.A. Social Innovation	0.0%				
M.Ed. ICUR -Educational Differentiation	**				
GVSU College					
College of Education & Community Innovation	9.6%				
undeclared or nondegree seeking	9.5%				
Padnos College of Egineering & Computing	9.4%				
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies	8.8%				
Kirkhof College of Nursing	8.0%				
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	5.9%				
Seidman College of Business	5.5%				
College of Health Professions	4.6%				
** less than ten total students in this category					

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS

April 8 - [Student Awards Convocation](#) - 6:00 p.m., L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus
April 9 - [Student Scholars Day Keynote Speaker](#) - 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., 2204 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus
April 10 - [Student Scholars Day](#)
April 10 - [Climate Change Student Symposium](#) - Virtual Event
April 12 - [Reach Higher Showcase](#) - 4:00 p.m. - Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center
April 15 - Winter Year-End Meeting - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Seidman Center, Room 1008, with College Governance Committees following
April 16 - Coffee with the Dean - 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - University Club, DEV 107C
April 17 - [Toast to the Class of 2024](#), 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. or 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Eberhard Center
April 20 - April 27 - Exam Week
April 25 - GVSU Hospitality & Tourism Management Alumni Chapter Spring Celebration - 6:35PM - LMCU Ballpark - [Tickets through Eventbrite](#)
April 26 - April 27 - [Commencement Ceremonies](#)
May 15 - [Groundswell Student Project Showcase](#) - 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., DeVos Courtyard
May 23 - CECI Check-in Meeting with Provost Mili and Dean Soman - 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. TBD

Important Dates

WINTER PERSONNEL ACTIONS
January 8 - Winter Personnel Portfolios due to Unit Heads
February 23 - Unit Heads submit appropriate winter personnel documents to Dean
February 29 - Dean forwards winter personnel documents to CPC
March 29 - CPC submits winter personnel recommendations to Dean
April 19 - Dean submits winter personnel recommendations to Provost
June 1 - Provost makes winter personnel decisions and notifies all appropriate people

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Resources

- [Acronyms](#)
- [CECI Connections Guide](#)
- [CECI Newsletter Repository](#)
- [Experts Guide](#)
- [Organizational Chart](#)
- [Student Support Flowchart](#)

Thanks to all those who contributed to the April edition of CECI Connections:

Dean Sherril Soman, Associate Dean Mark Hoffman, Kelly Margot, Lara Jaskiewicz, Jamie Langlois, Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, Mara Spears, A. Scott Rood, Patrick Gerkin, and Emma Oresky.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or want to share your newsworthy information with us, please use the link below.

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Connect with us!