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Colleagues,

While Dean Soman enjoys a well-deserved break this week, she asked me if I would step in and write the opening reflection to this newsletter during her absence.

As I considered what to write, the word reflection seems appropriate. As my time in the dean's office draws to a close this summer, reflecting has been something I've been doing plenty of over the past few weeks.

On August 5th, I will vacate my role as associate dean and return to the faculty ranks having spent the last 17 years in some form of administrative position at GVSU, I'm very excited about the opportunity but with it comes a level of trepidation.

The landscape of higher education has changed a great deal since I was last in the classroom along with our students, their needs and expectations. I remain constantly impressed with the innovative, high-quality teaching, learning and support our students receive from our talented CECI faculty and staff, evidenced weekly in my interactions with you and more recently at the Reach Higher Showcase. I hope you'll give me the grace (and time) when I come asking for help and advice as I



embark on a complete re-boot of my teaching assignments and research agenda.

I often say that few people are drawn into the career of higher education to become administrators and I certainly fell into that category. I joined GVSU in 2003 to teach and was fortunate to join an expanding team in HTM but unexpectedly found myself in a leadership position three years later. I have enjoyed the challenges presented to me in my administrative roles and in recent years, navigating a college merger provided a new set of opportunities. There is still work to do but I'm grateful to you all plus my colleagues in the Dean's Office for all their collegiality, work, and support over the last three years as we continue to navigate the integration of standards, policies, and best practices.

As I reflect on where we are at this juncture, the college is doing great work serving our respective communities, students and adding significant contributions to the overarching mission of GVSU. Thanks to you all for supporting me over the years, it's been a fantastic learning experience and a bonus to work with so many talented colleagues and make many great friends along the way.

Finally, I'd like to offer my very best wishes to Dr. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury as she takes over my portfolio. I know she'll do an amazing job.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all, once again, and wish you a Happy July 4th Holiday (still a sore subject for us Brits).

Paul

Celebrations

Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

Officer JP West, '97 Basic Police Academy graduate, is retiring from the Grand Valley State Police Department, after 27 years of service.

Laura Marsh, Criminal Justice & Legal Studies Internship Coordinator in the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies, presented Muskegon Chief Public Defender Fredrick D. Johnson Jr. a Certificate of Appreciation as he heads into retirement. Johnson has been practicing law since 1986 and was appointed as the Chief Public Defender at the Muskegon Office in 2013. During the past nine years, he has supervised and mentored approximately 200 interns, many of whom were GVSU students.



Recognitions

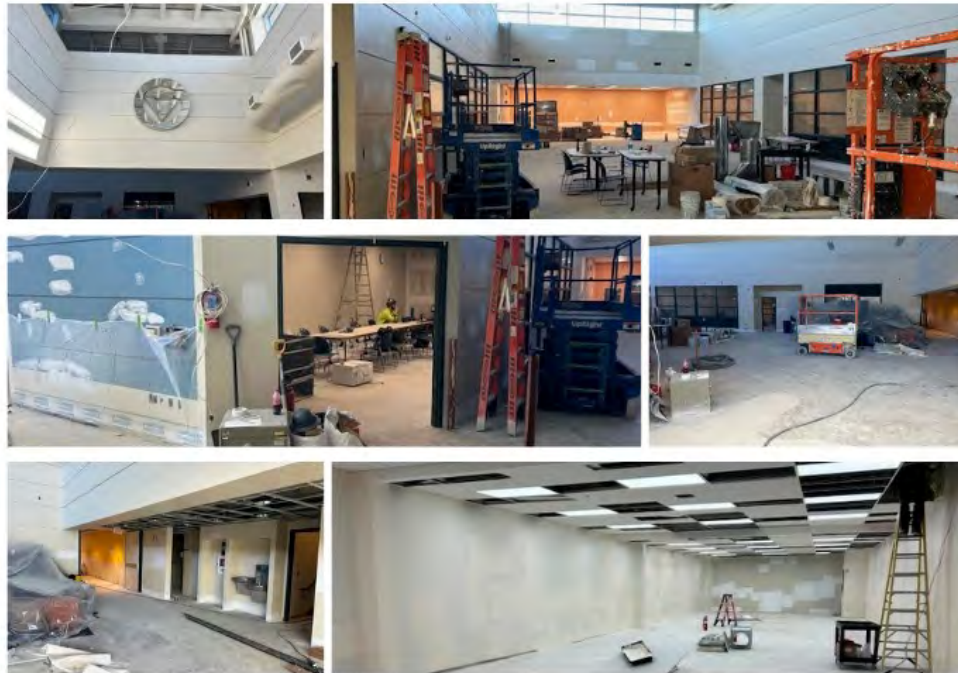
Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

Daniel M. Hyacinthe '13, Public and Nonprofit Administration, is CEO and Founder, with **Stephanie Kammeraad '01**, Master of Education, Author, Educational Consultant, and Tech Director of Wimee's World. [Both were featured](#), alongside other GVSU alumni, in the development and creation of what they hope is the next "Sesame Street".

Pädagogische Hochschule Schwäbisch Gmünd (PHSG) has been partners with GVSU since 2006, to allow students to engage in 6-week K-12 school placements in the area of Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany. GVSU students can take courses in either English or in German. Featured below is Kathryn Ohle, associate professor in Teaching and Learning, with two classes of students.



On February 23, 2024, the [Board of Trustees](#) had approved moving the **GVSU Police Academy** to the Holland Campus to help meet increased demand for the academy's law enforcement education and training. The move includes a renovation of the campus building for classrooms, scenario rooms, a multipurpose room, an exterior drive track for training and performance, and more.



Publications/Presentations

Laila McCloud, assistant professor in Educational Leadership and Counseling, was a co-author of an article, "[Hope and Obstacles in Black College Students](#)," published in the Journal of College Student Development.

Erica Hamilton, associate professor of Literacy, Education Foundations, and Technology, was a co-author of a book, "[Widening the Lens: Integrating Multiple Approaches to Support Adolescent Literacy](#)", published by Teachers College Press.

Community Engagement

The **PK12 Advisory Council** is comprised of regional birth through grade 12 building and district administrators and directors, who meet twice annually with GVSU education program faculty and staff for information, feedback, and to guide CECI educator preparation. On June 17th the Advisory Council hosted 22 local administrators and fourteen GVSU staff and faculty for a rich dialogue. The group welcomed Dr. Lisa Perhamus and Dr. Greg Warsen of the Padnos/Sarosik Center for Civil Discourse, and they led administrators in a conversation on relevant challenges faced by educators and administrators in the current social, cultural, and political climates of today. Participants engaged in feedback sessions on CECI teacher candidate data, draft advanced program surveys, and networked throughout the day.





On May 16, 2024, the **Groundswell Stewardship Initiative** hosted over 400 students, educators, families, and friends for its [14th annual Student Project Showcase at GVSU](#). Attendees enjoyed an outdoor picnic, crafts, raffles, yard games, and most importantly: learning from student scholars. Beautiful weather made the evening a fantastic event for the community to come together to celebrate our scholars and teachers' stewardship efforts.



College Governance

All committee agendas and minutes are posted on our [website](#).

College Advisory and Communication Committee

CACC held its annual planning retreat last month. Some highlights included the chair election, the planning of the CECI Fall Give Back Project, the Fall and Winter Global Awareness Colloquiums, and the Giving Tuesday Food Drive.

Please reach out to your CACC representative if you have a project, grant, class, or event where you are seeking partners from other departments.

CACC Representatives:

Paul Bylsma (ELC)
Jade Bowman (OCA)
Kelly Lormand (T&L)
Raymond Higbea (SCLD)
Rui Niu-Cooper (LEFT)
Jamie Langlois (SSW)
Christopher Kierkus (SCCJLS) - Chair
Mei Mah (CEP)
Melanie Rabine-Johnson (UAC)
Hannah Chiu (SSW Graduate Student)
Rita Cooper (Dean's Office)

College Personnel Committee

Here are a few friendly updates from the CPC:

Jackie Doyon-Martin will be stepping down as Chair of the CPC as she moves into the Unit Head position for SCCJLS. Carrie Buist (SCCJLS) will be moving into the Chair position for the 2024-25 academic year. Jackie

would like to offer her sincere thanks to the college and committee for the opportunity; she has enjoyed serving the college in this capacity over the past several years. A huge **thank you** to Carrie for stepping into this role!

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.

Following elections in Winter 2024, the CPC will be represented by the following faculty:

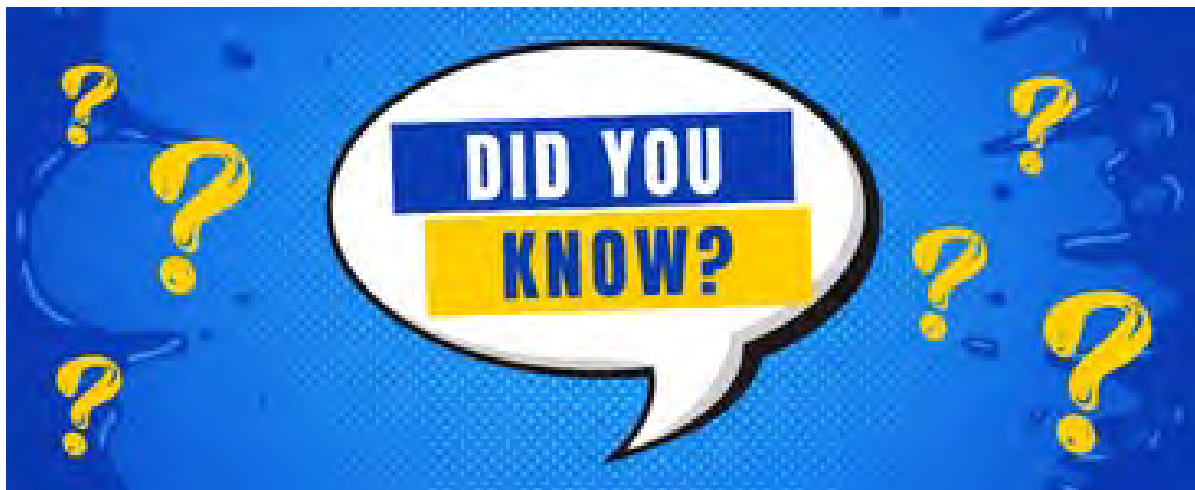
David Bair (LEFT)
Scott Rood (SCLD)
Melissa Villarreal (SSW)
Sherie Klee (T&L)
Carrie Buist - At-Large JEDI
Rick Geisel (ELC)
Joshua Sheffer (SCCJLS)

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.

--The CECI Personnel Committee



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



Graduate students' opinion of their online experience
from 2016-17 to 2022-23

FROM 2016-17 TO 2022-23

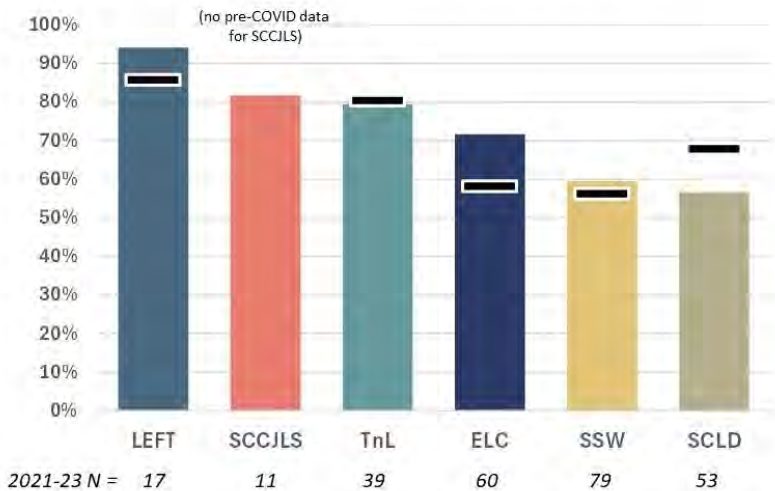
Percent of CECL, CCPS, and COE graduating master's students responding "excellent" or "very good" to the question: "How would you rate the educational quality of the online components of your course(s)?"



From the annual Graduate Degree Completion Survey conducted by the Graduate School

Graduate students' opinion of their online experience, by unit, 2021-23

Percent of graduating master's students responding "excellent" or "very good" to the question: "How would you rate the educational quality of the online components of your course(s)?"



Pre-COVID, 2016-19

From the annual Graduate Degree Completion Survey conducted by the Graduate School



July 9 - [Academic Affairs Staff Appreciation Event](#) - 3:00 p.m., Atrium, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

July 22 - [Academic Affairs Staff Appreciation Event](#) - 3:00 p.m., The Schowalter Family Terrance, 5th floor, DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health, Health Campus

July 23 - [Academic Affairs Staff Appreciation Event](#) - 3:00 p.m., Bonfire/Multipurpose Room, Holton Hooker Living Center, Allendale Campus

July 29 - [Academic Affairs Staff Appreciation Event](#) - 3:00 p.m., Regency Room, Pew Campus

August 2 - Classes End - 2nd 6 and 12 Weeks

August 5 - August 6 - Examinations: 2nd 6 and 12 Weeks

August 12 by Noon - Grades Due from Faculty - 2nd 6 and 12 Weeks

August 22 - Fall 2024 Convocation

August 26 - Fall 2024 Begins

Important Dates

Fall Kick-off Meeting

Monday, August 19, 2024

Professional headshots begin at 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. | Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

1008 Multipurpose Room, Seidman

Year-end Winter Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2025

1008 Multipurpose Room, Seidman



Resources

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

Thanks to all those who contributed to the July 2024 edition of CECI Connections:
Dean Sherril Soman, Associate Dean Mark Hoffman, Associate Dean Paul Stansbie, Mara Spears,
Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, and Victoria Stubbs.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or want to share your newsworthy information with us,

please use the link below.

cecidean@gvsu.edu | (616) 331-6821 | gvsu.edu/ceci

Connect with us!



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