

CECI Connections

NEWSLETTER

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Colleagues,

Thank for your many contributions to advancing development of our students and programs in yet another productive semester. I hope you have a restful and wonderful break and look forward to seeing you in the January. This semester we conducted our inaugural Global Awareness Colloquium and I've asked Associate Dean Hoffman who was instrumental in delivering the colloquium to contribute some comments about the events.

~Happy Holidays – Sherril



Between November 6 and December 1, the inaugural Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium (GACC) offered the GVSU community activities that focused on Czechia, also known as the Czech Republic. The intent of the Colloquium is to focus attention on our economic, cultural, societal, and political relationship with one specific corner of the world. In doing so, we also want to bring together people from different corners of CECI and GVSU who do not normally interact.

Toward the bottom of this newsletter is a recap of our activities and acknowledgement of all those that helped with the various events. As we plan the next GACC which will feature Ghana, we would welcome ideas that would expand participation, volunteers to help organize activities, and suggestions for external contacts. We also want to look forward to future GACCs and welcome suggestions for regions to feature. If you have suggestions, please [fill out a survey linked here](#), contact your unit's CACC representative, or Dr. Dianne Green-Smith from Social Work.

One element that the Fall GACC lacked was students from Czechia. This will be different this Winter, as there are 10 students from Ghana in CECI and 11 more in other colleges.

~Mark Hoffman

Happy Holidays!

Thank you for the hard work everyone has done this past year. As we come to the end of the calendar year, we want to send our holiday greetings and wish everyone well during the holiday season and a new happy year!

~CECI Dean's Office

Celebrations

Graduate Student Celebration

On December 8, seventeen CECI graduate students received citations for academic excellence from the Graduate School at the Paul A Johnson Conference Center.

Academic Excellence in the Degree Program

Jose Capeles, MPA
Abbey Cook, MHA
Colleen Hill, M.Ed., Literacy Studies
Ashley Knaffle, M.Ed., School Counseling
Rueben Riley, M.Ed., Educational Leadership

Outstanding Final Project

Katie O'Dell, M.Ed., Special Education
Erika Scheu, M.Ed., Literacy Studies

Outstanding Publication

Sarah Hassan, MSW

Excellence in Service to the Community or Profession

Narelle Hickmon, M.S. Criminal Justice
Monica Patton, MHA
Kayla Poma, MSW
Kam Robles, MPA

Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU

Robyn Grant, MHA
Samuel Jacobs, MPA
Kelly McGuckin, MSW

Excellence in Promoting Diversity and Inclusion at GVSU

Katashia Berrien, MSW
John Jawara, MHA

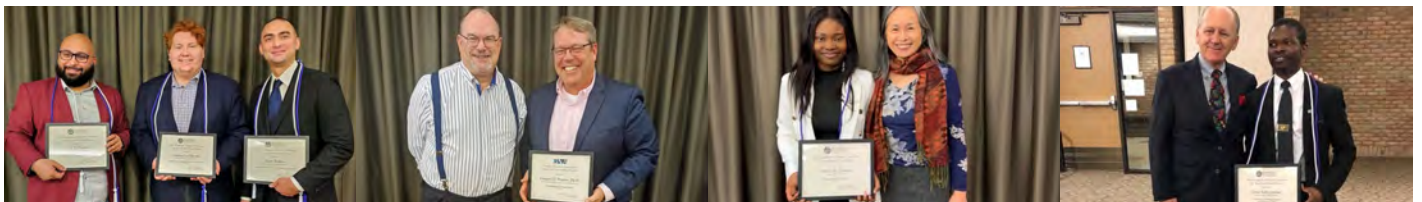
At the same event, the Graduate Student Association awarded two CECI faculty for demonstrating outstanding mentoring or teaching.

Outstanding Teaching Award

Greg Warsen, Educational Leadership & Counseling

Outstanding Mentorship Award

Laila McCloud, Educational Leadership & Counseling



MPA graduates Jose Capeles, Samuel Jacobs, and Kam Robles

Dr. Greg Warsen (right) with Associate Dean Mark Hoffman

MSW graduate Sarah Hassan (left) with Dr. Lihua Huang

John Jawara (left), Master of Health Administration, with Dr. Raymond Higbea

Fall 2023 Commencement

At the GVSU Commencement Ceremony at VanAndel Arena on December 9, Dean Sherril Soman congratulated 59 CECI students receiving graduate degrees and 119 receiving baccalaureate degrees. The student speaker was Megan Smith, who was graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry with a secondary education emphasis. The guest speaker was Shannon Cohen, an author, podcaster, and owner of an inspirational product line called Tough Skin, Soft Heart. Shannon earned her Master of Public Administration from GVSU in 2011.



Jackson Blanchard, B.S., Health and Physical Education, with President Philomena Mantella



Shannon Cohen, commencement guest speaker



Courtney Farber, M.Ed., Instruction and Curriculum, with President Philomena Mantella



Danielle Lee Groendyk, M.Ed., Educational Leadership with Dean Sherril Soman



Dr. Raymond Higbea, Dr. Lara Jaskiewicz, Dr. Kathy Bailey, and Dr. Donijo Robbins



Danielle Johnson, M.Ed., Literacy Studies



Jesse Jones, B.S., Criminal Justice



Megan Smith, commencement student speaker



Dean Sherril Soman

A. Scott Rood, associate professor in Hospitality & Tourism Management, is the recipient of the Excellence in Research Award and was announced at the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association's National Conference.

During Giving Tuesday (November 29), the Grand Valley community focused on ensuring all Laker students succeed in the classroom through donations of food and personal care items donated to Replenish, the student food and basic needs bank, and through monetary gifts to the Replenish Student Food Resource Fund. These efforts will help more than 1,000 GV students with food security concerns. THANK YOU to all who gave! Lakers helping Lakers, it's what we do!



As a community, GV faculty and staff donated over 2,500 food and personal care items this year! That is a 150% increase from last year!

The photo shows the generous donations from the School of Social Work faculty and staff. Way to give!

Recognitions

Faculty/Staff, Alumni, Students

Personal tribute for **Greg Cline** from the Director for School of Community Leadership and Development, Raymond Higbea:

I met Greg Cline about 10 years ago when he was on the team that hired me for my position at GVSU. While we were cordial and friendly the first couple of years, there were two events, I do not recall which event came first anymore, that moved us from friendly to friends. He invited me to attend our national healthcare conference in Chicago with him which I readily accepted. During that conference and subsequent ones, we spent a lot of travel time and conference time together where we began to deepen our friendship by talking and sharing personal and professional stories. Our personal and professional friendship deepened even further after I invited him to join me as co-author for a textbook I was writing. We then spent almost every Friday over the next three years trading off time at each other's houses, writing, and sharing the kind of talk and stories that only friends share and keep to themselves. During these years, my personal and professional admiration for him grew and deepened. Greg has now come to the point in his career where he has decided to retire at the end of the Fall 2023 semester. I wish you well my friend. I will miss your smile, dry humor, and brutal honesty. Keep in touch and enjoy your retirement years.

Chris Gale, PNA '11, is the new [executive director of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater](#)

[Philadelphia](#). Chris moves to the Bicycle Coalition after a long career working with marginalized communities through organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs and North10 Philadelphia.

Officer Minh Lien, CJ '99, retires after serving 22 years with the Grand Valley Police Department.

Shane Scherer, MPA '11, was named the [new director of Military and Veteran Resources Center](#). Scherer earned a master of public administration degree after retiring from the army.

Sam Jacobs, MPA '23, and **Mayra Sedano-Rodriguez**, CJ '23, were featured in GVNext's article titled, "[Commencement stories: Graduates reflect on becoming Lakers](#)."

To prepare for **The Bellamy Creek Program**, GVSU's new prison education program, **Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin** (School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies), **Aaron Yore-VanOosterhout** (Johnson Center for Philanthropy), **Quincy Williams** (School of Community Leadership and Development), **Michelle Rhodes** (Associate Vice President for Financial Aid), **Francesca Golden** (Associate Director of Financial Aid), and **Sean Lancaster** (Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs) attended the National Conference for Higher Education in Prison in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Bellamy Creek Program is housed in our college and will offer a B.S. in Public and Nonprofit Administration to students incarcerated at the Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility in Ionia, MI. Classes are scheduled to begin in Fall 2024.

Publications/Presentations

A. Scott Rood, associate professor Hospitality & Tourism Management, has published the 13th Annual Issue of the [Journal of Tourism Insights](#). The publication is hosted by GVSU Scholarworks and have had 180,000 downloads over the past 12 years!

Salvatore Alaimo, associate professor in the School of Community Leadership and Development, presented, "The Evaluation Capacity of Czech Nonprofit Social Services Nonprofit Organizations," at the annual conference of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) on November 18, 2023, in Orlando, Florida.

Additionally, he also presented virtually, "The Evolution of the Statue of Liberty: Determining Factors for Hyperion Status," at the 14th Annual International Conference on The Image on November 16, 2023. The conference was held in Zaragoza, Spain.

He was also a guest on the podcast, "Nonprofit Vision with Gregory Nielsen." The episode is titled, "[Sal Alaimo: Evaluation Capacity Building](#)," where they discussed Salvatore's research in the Czech Republic and the parallels for U.S. nonprofits.

Shinyoung Park, MPA '16, is a doctorate candidate at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. She presented at the annual conference of the Association for Research for Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA). Park's presentation was titled, "Who Verifies Nonprofit Information: Understanding Trust Mechanisms in the Nonprofit Sector," research she is conducting with assistance from The Beautiful Foundation of South Korea. **Dr. Salvatore Alaimo** had the privilege of chairing the session.

Estefany Paniagua-Pardo, M.Ed '22, and **Karyn Rabourn**, associate professor in Educational Leadership and Counseling, presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Conference. The presentation title was, "Resilience in the Shadows of the Ivory Tower: Undocumented Students' Strategies for Higher Education Success."

Joshua Bishop, assistant professor of social work, along with four students: **Kelsey Anna Lantis**, MSW; **Ariana Deherder**, BSW; **Alexis Emelander**, BSW; and **Hannah Noorman**, BSW; published their article titled, "[University students willingness to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in the United States](#)," in the *Journal of American College Health*.

Adrienne Wallace, MPA '08, associate professor of advertising and public relations, gave three presentations at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference in Washington, D.C. Wallace also was named editor-in-chief of the Journal of Public Relations Education at the conference.

Adrienne also received the Best Refereed Paper Award for "From Classroom to Career: Closing the Awareness Gap with Client-Based Projects for Career-Readiness Competencies" at the Marketing Management Association Fall Educators Conference.

A blue rectangular banner with a black border. The text "Community Engagement" is written in a white, cursive script font, centered within the banner.

Savor and Soar Event

Approximately 50 students from area high schools within Grand Rapids Public Schools attended the Savor and Soar event held at the Amway Grand Plaza. This showcase event was organized by Experience Grand Rapids and designed as a way to introduce students to the many exciting career opportunities within the hospitality and tourism industry.

The event consisted of two parts. During the morning, students were given access to a behind the scenes tour of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel learning about banquet and catering set ups, audio visual for staging events plus tours of the rooms and the kitchen /bake shop. Along the way, students were able to learn some hands-on skills, plus were able to taste food being made by the skilled staff at the hotel. The morning program was followed by a boxed lunch and panel discussion with industry experts.

The second phase took place later that evening with students invited back to the hotel with their parents to attend a meet and greet with area employers, community members and our own hospitality and tourism management faculty and students, which included Associate Dean Paul Stansbie, Director Kristen Jack, professor Gail Zeommol, and professor Duane Zuber. This was followed by another panel discussion, a five-course dinner and raffle drawings.

The opportunity to show these students the breadth and depth of meaningful careers within the industry was paramount and many left excited about job prospects and the chance to enroll in the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at Ottawa Hills High School as part of their 9-12th grade curriculum.

View the gallery of photos [here](#).



College Governance

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

Faculty Governance Committee

Thank you to all who participated in voting on our personnel policies and Faculty Governance Committee name change. We appreciate your contributions to shared governance.

Our most recent meeting was Friday, December 8, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Please note the [agenda](#).

Please see the CECI University Committee Representative [slideshow](#), which offers updates on the work going on around the university. If you have questions, please reach out to our CECI representatives.

CECI Tech Committee

[Watch](#) Stephanie Webber and Mai MohamedNour from eLearning Technologies provide an overview of the valuable services offered by their team. From course design enhancements to technology integration, eLearning is here to support you in creating engaging and effective online learning experiences for our students.

The [eLearning Technologies team](#) will be hosting virtual office hours for Winter course preps and to assist with end-of-semester questions. Use this [Zoom link](#) and bring your questions! If these dates and times don't work with your schedule, you are encouraged to contact your [eLearning Liaison](#) with questions or submit a [consultation request](#) through our service portal.

12/15/23 @ 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1/4/24 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1/5/24 @ 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For those teaching in Ultra for the first time this Winter, be sure to join our **Blackboard Ultra Essentials** webinars:

12/13/23 @ 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

12/14/23 @ 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

1/3/24 @ 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

1/4/24 @ 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Technology Committee will host its next CECI Technology meeting on January 24, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

Be sure to check out the [CECI Technology Committee website](#) for up-to-date information, which includes: Big Byte webinars, "Did you know?" segment, scheduling a discussion call with the Technology Teaching Specialist GA, and Upcoming Events.

College Advisory and Communication Committee

Thank you to everyone for participating in the CECI Global Awareness Collaborative: Czech Republic! The committee will debrief and make recommendations for the future. As we plan, we would love to hear from you – what did you like about this semester's events, what improvements could be made, and what country would you like to see celebrated next year? Please complete this [2-minute survey](#) to help us plan.

You can find our committee charges, agendas, minutes, and your committee representative information on the [college website](#).



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.



Recap of the Inaugural Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium

The inaugural Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium offered the GVSU community activities that focused on Czechia. Dr. Salvatore Alaimo from Community

Leadership and Development, Dr. Marlen Vavrikova (“Doctor V” to her students) from the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance in CLAS, and Dr. Mark Hoffman from the Dean’s Office were the organizing committee. In addition to CECI, we received monetary support from the Padnos International Center and the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

[Read More....](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13 - Engaging a Digital Generation by CECI Technology Committee;
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in DEV 107C University Club and virtually on Zoom

December 16 - Semester Ends

December 18 by 5:00 p.m. - Grades Due from Faculty

December 21 - Grades Available to Students

December 22 - January 2 - University Closed

January 8 - Winter 2024 Semester Begins

January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recess

Important Dates

SABBATICALS

September 1 - Sabbatical Leave Proposals due no later than 11:59 p.m.

September 23 - Revised sabbatical leave proposals are due

September 30 - Unit sabbatical recommendations due

November 15 - University Sabbatical Review Committee recommendations are due

December 15 - College Dean sabbatical recommendations are due

January 31 - Provost sabbatical decisions are due

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

Resources

- [Acronyms](#)
 - [CECI Connections Guide](#)
 - [CECI Newsletter Repository](#)
 - [Experts Guide](#)
 - [Organizational Chart](#)
 - [Student Support Flowchart](#)
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Thanks to all those who contributed to the December edition of CECI Connections:
Dean Sherril Soman, Associate Dean Mark Hoffman, Associate Dean Paul Stansbie, A.
Scott Rood, Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, Salvatore Alaimo, Joshua Bishop, Elizabeth
Stolle, Raymond Higbea, Karyn Rabourn, Pooja Gadige, and Jamie Langlois.

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

Connect with us!



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