



## December 2022

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## Holiday Traditions from the Dean's Office Staff

The best thing about the holiday for me is that I am able to spend time with my family. I spend the holidays in Jamaica visiting family and seeing the sights (which have not included a trip to the beach for many years). Our holiday meals usually include traditional Jamaican staples like curried goat, jerk chicken, rum cake and sorrel. Of course it doesn't hurt that there is lots of sunshine and not a snowflake to be found. ~Sherril



While I like to scowl and exclaim “Bah! Humbug” with a shake of my fist to gleeful children and anyone else who dare wish me happy holidays, it's all a façade. For me, the holiday break is an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends over comfort food, football, movies, and music. I enjoy football – both American and original varieties – and this season seems particularly promising with the World Cup taking place and the undefeated University of Michigan (Go Blue!) headed into the NCAA division 1 national championship playoffs. Heck, even the Lions are fun to watch. I'm also looking forward to revisiting some of the best classic holiday cinema ever: Gremlins, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, Scrooge, and – of course – Die Hard! ~Shawn

The things I love best about the holiday season are spending time with my family, “granddog,” and friends, watching ALL the holiday movies with my brother (The Grinch Who Stole Christmas with Jim Carey, A Christmas Story, and Christmas Vacation tie for my favorite), eating my mom's peanut butter fudge (among other delicious things she cooks), and giving presents. ~Amy

The December Holiday Recess for me is one of the few times I take vacation and I can truly switch off. As the university is closed and everyone else is away, the project deadlines, phone calls and particularly email demands almost disappear. As a result, I get to spend some quality time with friends and family either here in the US or back home in England. So, once the university closes, please leave me alone until January! ~Paul

For me, the holiday is a time of giving, celebrating the season with family and friends, decorating Christmas cookies with my grandson, and enjoying Michigan's winter wonderland! Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! ~Rita

My maternal grandparents were from the Slovak region of Austro-Hungary. I recall a few Slovak Christmas traditions that my family practiced when I was a child. Christmas eve dinner was always baked fish. Dinner was preceded by sharing oblátky, a wafer-thin unleavened bread stamped with religious images. As a child, the cardboard-like texture was unappreciated, although honey or jelly could improve things. The big holiday meal was on Christmas day. It centered on a large honey-baked ham, accompanied by pirohy, a dumpling made of potato flour and stuffed with either farmer cheese or lekvar (prune butter). My grandmother always made little pastries called kolache which had cheese, walnut, or poppyseed filling. For a nostalgic experience, I sometimes

buy a Polish variant, called kołaczki, from Lewandoski's Market, which is two blocks from my house on Grand Rapid's westside. ~Mark

When I was growing up in the 80s, there was a Christmas with Luciano Pavarotti special on PBS during one of their fundraising telethons. My family loved the music, but couldn't afford the VHS tape, so we put one of those old Sony tape recorders as close as we could to the TV and recorded the special. We began to play that tape every Christmas morning while opening gifts. Eventually, my mother was able to buy the actual VHS tape of the special, and we played that for years. Now, the whole special is on YouTube and we pull it up on the computer and play it that way. During the years that Santa has been extra good to us, we have had to restart the tape and play it over—literally no present can be opened without Pavarotti's serenade! My siblings and I are all grown adults now, but still love this tradition as it brings back memories of all our Christmas mornings. We have one grandchild in the family, my nephew, and now this is his tradition, too. ~Heather

The most dear part of the holiday season for me is the opportunity for the Humphrey Family Sleepover. Since the birth of my niece and nephews, my family has developed the tradition of an annual sleepover at my parents' home. This time always includes an evening of laughter over family games, such as a race to unwrap a gift while wearing kitchen hot mitts and a scavenger hunt to seek out a pair of holiday socks. This also affords us all the gift of waking up the following morning to the giggles and excitement of the kids as they discover their gifts under the tree. My favorite meal is the large brunch we all prepare together, which inevitably includes leftover ham from the evening before and our family's special chocolate cinnamon coffee cake. ~Katie

## Celebrations

### Celebrating our 2022 CECI Service Award Recipients!

**Congratulations on reaching your milestone anniversary!** We appreciate your many years of service to GVSU and the GVSU community!

*Congratulations!*

2022 CECI Service Award Recipients

2022 GVSU Service Award Recipients

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## Recognitions

### Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Student Achievements

#### Governor's Task Force

[Patty Sabin \(BS-Public Admin, 2006\)](#)

#### First Annual Teaching African American Studies Winter Institute

[Janelle Brawner \(Secondary Education GTC/MEd student\)](#)

#### 2022 NASPA Region IV-East Graduate Student Rising Star Award for the State of Michigan

Chad Novak, MEd student

#### 2022 NASPA Region IV-East Robert H. Shaffer Award for Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member

Laila McCloud, Educational Leadership and Counseling

#### GLACHE Regent's Faculty Award

Priscilla Kimboko, School of Community Leadership and Development

#### GLACHE President-Elect

[Raymond Higbea, School of Community Leadership and Development](#)

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## Important Updates

### Final Grades Due Dates

Due to the recent notification that there will be Banner maintenance Sunday, December 18th from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Banner will not be available to instructors, the final grading deadline will be noon on Tuesday, December 20. All instructors must report their final grades by this time.

Due to the holiday break that begins on December 22, it is imperative that grades be posted on time to give the Registrar's Office sufficient time to finalize grades prior to the break.

However, **beginning Winter 2023, the Dean's Office will be requesting final grades to be due by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following exam week.** We hope this gives the units additional time to communicate with their instructors to make sure grades are posted on time.

## Digital Measures Update

Per the Lakers Ready newsletter, the University has a contract with the Watermark company for Digital Measures, the system that we have been using for several years, designed to organize, store and report on faculty teaching, research, and service activities. Recently, Watermark has rebranded the system as "Faculty Success," as you will see when you go to their login page. However, for now at GVSU, we will continue to refer to the system as "Digital Measures," or "Digital Measures/Faculty Success." In addition, Watermark has added a "CV Imports" feature that can pull activities from a vita to add to the system.

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## Publications/Presentations

**Ellen Schiller**, professor and chair for teaching and learning, gave a presentation, "Spheres of Understanding," at the National Science Teaching Conference in Houston, Texas.

**Salvatore Alaimo**, associate professor of nonprofit management, was recently interviewed by Wallet Hub for his insights on charitable giving. [Wallet Hub interview](#)

**Erica Hamilton**, associate professor of literacy studies and assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, co-produced a podcast to provide a complement to their students' readings. [Forum article](#)

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## Governance

### **\*UNIVERSITY SEATS AVAILABLE\***

The **University Assessment Committee (UAC)** is a standing committee of the University Academic Senate that supports and promotes program- and unit-level assessment at GVSU. The committee meets in full session every other week during the academic year (Mondays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.). A representative is needed from SCLD, SCCJLS, or SSW for a one-year term.

The **Graduate Council** is a faculty-led governance standing committee of the University Academic Senate. The committee meets monthly during the academic year (Fridays, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.). An education faculty member is needed for this one-year vacancy.

### **\*COLLEGE SEATS AVAILABLE\***

The **Faculty Governance Committee** has two vacancies available: a LEFT faculty member for a two-and-a-half-year term, and an ELC faculty member for the Winter 2024 semester.

The **Staff Executive Committee** needs a T&L staff member for the winter semester.

If interested in serving in either of these capacities, contact Emily Nichols, Faculty Governance Chair, at [nichoem1@gvsu.edu](mailto:nichoem1@gvsu.edu).

## **COLLEGE**

### **College Advisory and Communication Committee - Jamie Langlois, Chair**

The College Advisory and Communication Committee (CACC) mission is *to act as liaisons to find strategic opportunities for building a more collaborative, inclusive, and connected CECI community*. In December, we are discussing a CECI flow chart, university awards, the Allendale Laker Club, Pew Campus fitness center, and brainstorming social events for the winter semester. Do you have ideas for us? We want to develop, partner with, or promote social and networking opportunities. Reach out to your CACC representative to share your ideas, questions, or input:

[Lynda Bykerk-Rupke](#), ELC

[Wei Gu](#), T&L

[Alex Jacobsson](#), OCA

[Patty Janes](#), SCLD

[Laura Kastler](#), CECI UAC

[Christopher Kierkus](#), SCCJLS

[Jamie Langlois \(Chair\)](#), SSW

[Rui Niu-Cooper](#), LEFT

[Wendy Swalla](#), CEP

[Nicole Von Oesen](#), Graduate Student Representative

Our upcoming committee meetings are on December 14th and January 11th in DeVos 302C at 10:00 a.m.

### **CECI Governance Committees**

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

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

Resources

[Organizational Chart](#)

[CECI Connections Guide](#)

[CECI Newsletter Repository](#)

[Experts Directory](#)

[Acronyms and Initialisms](#)

## Experts Directory

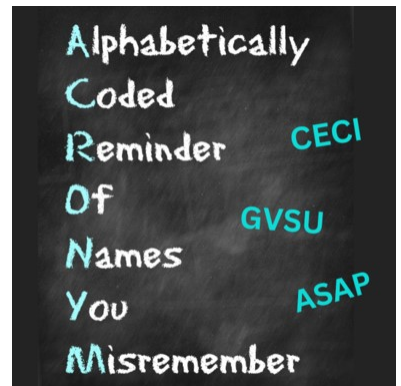
A webpage has been created to assist community-based nonprofit organizations, local governments, schools and school districts, healthcare providers, tourism agencies, and other entities seeking expertise from our CECI faculty and staff. These faculty and staff are available to provide insights into issues in their area of expertise.

If you would like to be added to this list, please email our office at [cecidean@gvsu.edu](mailto:cecidean@gvsu.edu).

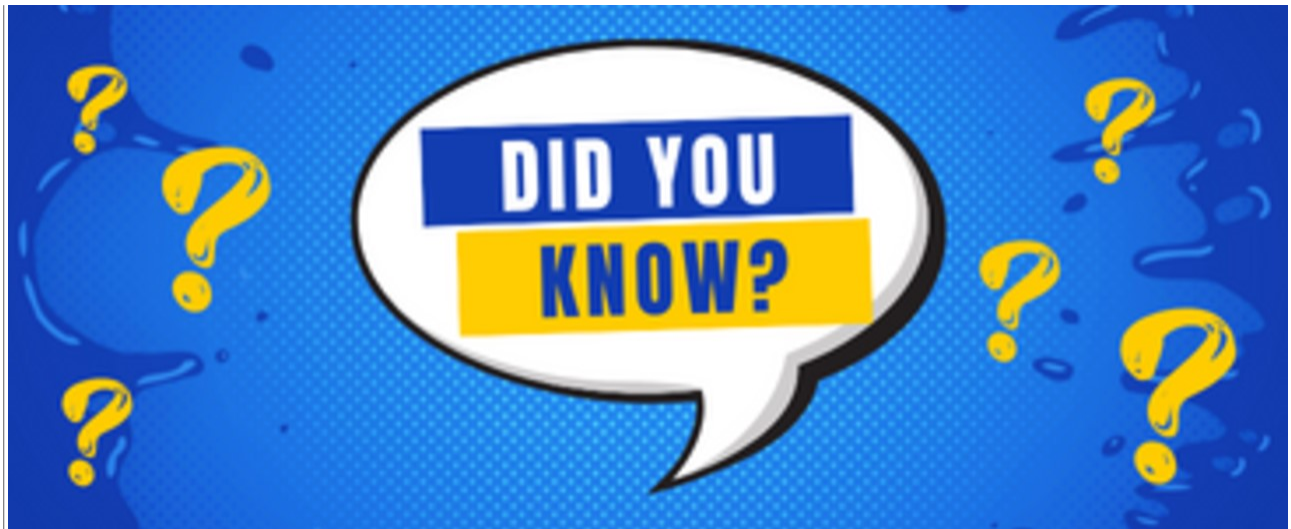


## Acronyms and Initialisms

Wondering what all the different acronyms stand for? A webpage has been created just for that and is now available on the CECI website. Check it out using the link above.







## Student Posters

The Dean's Office showcases our student posters from Student Scholarship Days on various floors of the Eberhard Center, as well as the second floor of the DeVos Center. So if you have students creating posters in your classroom, please let us know at [cecidean@gvsu.edu](mailto:cecidean@gvsu.edu). We would love to showcase their work!

## Digital Creator Lab

The University Libraries and Information Technology (IT) are collaborating on a new digital literacy and creation service: [the Digital Creator Lab \(DCL\)](#). Opening as an expansion of the Knowledge Market in Winter 2023 on the 2nd floor of the Mary Idema Pew Library, the DCL will provide a lendable hardware program, including cameras, microphones, lighting, and access to creator booths that can be used for podcasting and voiceover recording. Digital skills consultants will help students with questions around digital content creation, digital ethics and literacy, digital project approach, and data visualization. This effort meets the evolving academic research needs and educational trends while removing barriers that might arise for access to equipment, increasing educational equity.







**December 10 - Classes End and [Commencement](#)**

**December 22 – January 3 - Winter Break**

**January 9 - Classes Begin**

**January 9 – 13 - Digital Creator Lab Grand Opening Events**

**January 16 - [MLK Day](#)**

**February 24 - [18th Annual GVSU Art & Science of Aging Conference](#)**

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The School of Social Work invites you to join the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign!

This is a global campaign that takes place each year from **November 25th (International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10th (International Human Rights Day)**. The campaign brings awareness to gender-based violence as a human rights violation. This year's slogan is: Push Forward to End Gender-Based Violence.



A [calendar of activities](#) has been created so you can participate from the comfort of your own space. Bookmark the calendar and plan your participation! Use your networks and social media channels to spread the word!

## Ultra Pioneers Experiences

The Tech Committee continues to present informative and relevant workshops, most recently with our CECI Blackboard Ultra Pioneers.

If you were unable to attend this workshop, view the YouTube video [here](#). More workshop videos are available on the [Tech Committee and Resources webpage](#).

## CECI Social Photo Gallery

What a great event! Well attended with great food and conversations with colleagues.



Photo Gallery



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

[cecidean@gvsu.edu](mailto:cecidean@gvsu.edu) | (616) 331-6821 | [gvsu.edu/ceci](http://gvsu.edu/ceci)

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**Connect with us!**







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