



January 2023

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New Year, New You!

For this edition of the newsletter, we asked random CECI faculty and staff to share their new year's resolutions.

Mary Bair, LEFT

Open mind, open heart.

Mark Hoffman, CECI Dean's Office

Not to procrastinate on minor household repairs.

Patty Janes, SCLD

Learn to say "no".

Laura Kastler, CECI UAC

Make her newly purchased house feel like a home.

Christopher Kierkus, SCCJLS

Continue to practice self-care.

Jamie Langlois, SSW

To eat healthier – less fried food and less simple carbs (breads, pastas, etc.)

Breeann Mann, CECI UAC

To travel more – take more trips and make more memories.

Cathy Meyer-Looze, ELC

The definition of resolution is to “stop doing something” or to be “resolute or determined.” A couple of decades ago, I opted to live my life from an intentional and aspirational lens because it felt more positive and forgiving should I not be able to be “resolute” in what I set/planned for myself in the new year.

Thus, the intentions and aspirations that I have for 2023 include the following:

- Coordinate a beautiful wedding for my daughter, Tacey, without adding debt to the plate.
- Continue the path of optimum health, wellness and fitness.
- Prepare my family (in all ways) for Tacey's eventual move to Florida for graduate school.
- Identify my next learning adventure (i.e., Naturopathy medicine, Business Administration, Higher Ed Leadership, Process Communication Level III - all three?).
- Bring the best version of me to the table - professionally, personally, and spiritually.

Kel Nemetz, OCA

Finding a new routine during her first semester as a new graduate student.

Rui Niu-Cooper, LEFT

Continue to be involved in her community.



Wendy Swalla, CEP

My goal for 2023 is to meditate more.

Annukka Thelen, OCA

To be more intentional with my time and enjoy the moment. Now that both of my kids are teenagers, every moment is important, they will be off to college to soon.

Nicole Von Oesen, CECI UAC

To journal more.

Betsy Wessel, CECI UAC

To purge more things out of my house and continue with last year's resolution to organize!

Celebrations

Faculty and Staff

Pew Teaching with Technology Award

Richard Vandermolen, Educational Leadership and Counseling

Pew Teaching Excellence Award

Joseph Fisher, Teaching and Learning

Internationalization Award

Paola León, Social Work

Outstanding Community Service Award

Priscilla Kimboko, Community Leadership and Development

Faculty members will be recognized during the Faculty Awards Convocation being held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 - 4:00 p.m., Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center.

Newly Endowed Professor of Civil Discourse

[Greg Warsen, Educational Leadership and Counseling](#)

"Five Star" Designation for her LIFT Evaluation in her Fall Section

Assistant Professor Julia Snyder for EDS 495.01 Diagnostic & Interpretive Procedures

The "Five Star" designation indicates the section had:

- high satisfaction rate
- high challenge level
- 3+ credit lecture or lecture/discussion course

- enrolled with 15+ undergraduate or 10+ graduate students
- 50%+ LIFT response rate

CECI Newest Staff Member

The CECI Undergraduate Advising Center welcomes **Melanie Rabine-Johnson**. Melanie is no stranger to GVSU, having graduated with a bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature and a master's in education degree, specializing in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She has worked in student mentorship for over 10 years, and has developed a passion for reaching students on an individual level by building connections through conversation, collaboration, and curiosity. Through her work in writing centers and libraries in higher education, she has been able to support students in a variety of ways and is excited about discovering what new innovative solutions students are looking for now.

Outside of her work in higher education, Melanie is also a professional musician and graphic recorder. In her free time, she loves writing, watching movies/tv, and spending time with her friends and family.

Strengths: Intellection, Individualization, Achiever, Relator, Input



Graduate Students - Fall 2022

This celebration recognizes graduate students for their excellence in academic performance and graduate faculty who have distinguished themselves in mentoring and supporting our students.

The College of Education and Community Innovation is extremely proud of the accomplishments of all of our graduate students.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

Allison Achenbach-Kramer, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership

Ryan Martin, Health Administration

Lisa Newberry, Literacy Studies

Julie Nyenbrink, Social Work

Stevie Parcell, Public Administration

Natalie Thomas, Criminal Justice

OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT

Matthew Schmude, Instruction and Curriculum

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION

Tamara Van Kampen, Health Administration

Erin McIntosh, Public Administration

Melissa Rozema, Social Work

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU

Emily Brenner, Public Administration

Garrett Heaney, Health Administration

Abena Pinamang, Criminal Justice

EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU

Haak Betiem, Health Administration

Zahabia Ahmed-Usmani, Public Administration

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

Jakob Bigard, Public Administration

Recognitions

Faculty/Staff, Alumni, and Students

New Social Work Unit Head

Paola León will assume duties from outgoing unit head, **Scott Berlin**, effective Fall 2023. Paola has been with the university and in the School of Social Work for the past 10 years. Since 2020, she has held the role of MSW director. Thank you, Scott, for your leadership during your tenure as unit head.

"All About Literacy" Podcast

[Erica Hamilton, Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology](#)

New Hauenstein Director

[Megan Rydecki \(MPA '09\)](#)

Student Employment's Student of the Month

[Megan Snoeyink, CECI Undergraduate Advising Center](#)

Community Engagement

Michigan Social Work: Virtual Bridges to Employment

The School of Social Work and GVSU Career Center are hosting a state-wide conference, the *Michigan Social Work: Virtual Bridges to Employment*, for graduating social work students and alumni on February 7, 2023. After more than 10 years, we are opening the event to other schools of social work across the state. Our goal is to prepare graduates for the next stages in their professional careers: *résumés*, employment, social work licensing, and more. Here is a link with all the breakout information: <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/school-of-social-work-virtual-bridges-to-employment-303.htm>.

Important Updates

CECI Winter Meeting

Our Winter Meeting will be held on **Monday, April 17 in Seidman 1008**. More details to come.

Faculty Workload Report (FWR)

Use Digital Measures/Faculty Success to input your activities for your FWR. This report, along with your current vitae, are **due no later than February 1**. If you have any questions, or are unsure if you are required to submit a FWR, please contact your unit head.

Admitted Student Days

With the amount of students being admitted for Fall 2023, Admissions has created a morning and afternoon session to accommodate the number of admitted students. These sessions will be held in the Pere Marquette Room of the Kirkhof Center.

Friday, February 17 & 24

Friday, March 14

Morning Session:

10:00 a.m. - Setup

10:30-11:30 a.m. - Academic Fair

Afternoon Session:

2:00 p.m. - Setup

2:30-3:30 p.m. - Academic Fair

If you are a faculty member interested in volunteering for any of these sessions, please contact your unit head.

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-and-a-half 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-and-a-half year vacancy.

The [General Education Committee](#) provides guidance and support to the university community regarding the aims, philosophy, achievements, and problems of the General Education Program. The committee meets weekly during the academic year (Mondays, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.) A representative is needed from SCLD, SCCJLS, or SSW to fulfill this two-and-a-half year term.

COLLEGE SEATS AVAILABLE

The **Faculty Governance Committee** has a vacancy available for an ELC faculty member for the Winter 2023 semester.

The **Staff Executive Committee** has vacancies for a SSW staff member for a one-and-a-half year term and a T&L staff member for the Winter 2023 semester.

If you are eligible and interested in serving in either of these capacities, contact Emily Nichols, Faculty Governance Chair, at nichoem1@gvsu.edu.

COLLEGE

College Advisory and Communication Committee - Jamie Langlois, Chair

Share, share, share! Please let your CACC representative know if your unit has an event that you would like to open to the rest of the college, or you have a new idea to improve connections and collaborations across units. Also, we have heard that some of our units would like to participate in a personality profile and processing session. We are collecting information to assess the interest.

[Lynda Bykerk-Rupke](#), ELC

[Wei Gu](#), T&L

[Patty Janes](#), SCLD

[Laura Kastler](#), CECI UAC

[Christopher Kierkus](#), SCCJLS

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

[Kel Nemetz](#), OCA

[Rui Niu-Cooper](#), LEFT

[Wendy Swalla](#), CEP

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

Our upcoming committee meetings are on January 11th in DEV 302C at 10:00 a.m. and February 8th at 10:00 a.m. in DEV 303C.

CECI Governance Committees

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

Resources

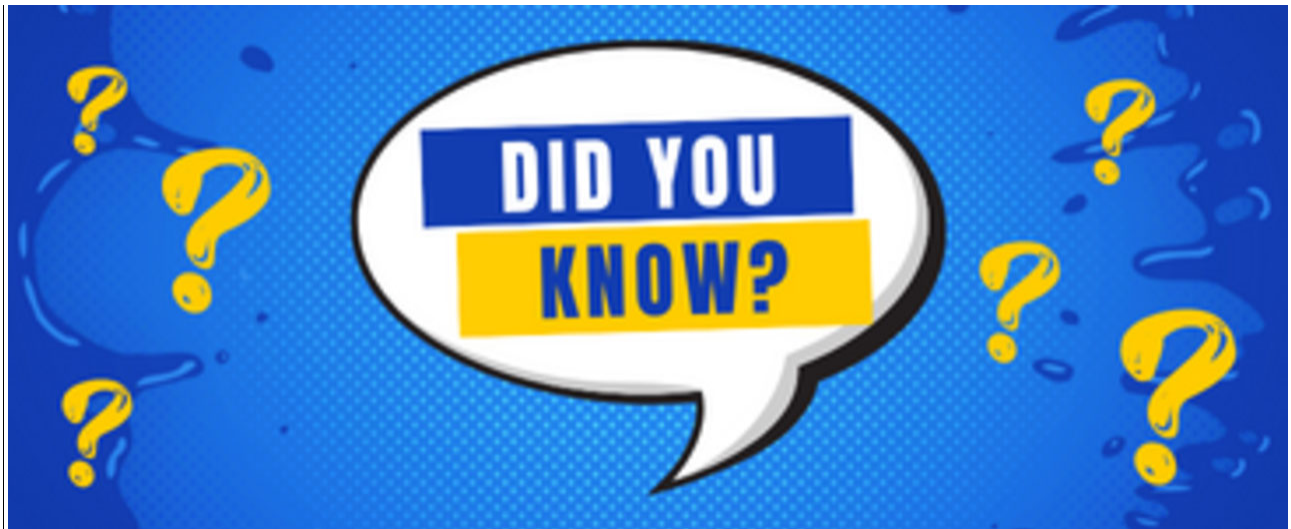
[Organizational Chart](#)

[CECI Connections Guide](#)









[CECI Newsletter Repository](#)

[Experts Directory](#)

[Acronyms and Initialisms](#)



GVSU Retro Video Games

These fun games can be found while you are on the GVSU website. Enter in the following sequence:         ba and let the games begin!

Be the first person to identify what game the code is from to win a cool CECI prize! Email cecidean@gvsu.edu with your answer.



January 9 – 13 - Digital Creator Lab Grand Opening Events

January 14 - International Student Event (see below for details)

January 16 - [MLK Day](#)

January 30 - [Big Byte Webinar](#)

February 1 - FWRs are Due

February 14 - [Faculty Awards Convocation](#)

February 17 - Admitted Student Day

February 24 - [18th Annual GVSU Art & Science of Aging Conference](#) and Admitted Student Day

February 27 - Mid-Term Grades Due by 5:00 p.m. and [Big Byte Webinar](#)

March 5 – 12 - Spring Break

March 14 - Admitted Student Day

March 20 - [Big Byte Webinar](#)

April 17 - CECI Winter Meeting and [Big Byte Webinar](#)

April 28 – 29 - Commencement

May 1 - Final Grades Due by 5:00 p.m.

Big Byte Webinars

In preparation for Blackboard Ultra, our Ultra Pioneers will share their insights and expertise to assist others for a successful transition. Upcoming webinars are:



January 30 at 10:00 a.m. in DEV 303C

TOPIC: Blackboard Ultra Migration: Wisdom and insights from Ultra Pioneer faculty

February 27 at 1:00 p.m. in DEV 303C

TOPIC: Blackboard Ultra Migration: Wisdom and insights from Ultra Pioneer faculty

March 20 at 1:00 p.m. in DEV 303C

TOPIC: Ultra Pioneer Experiences: What have we learned about grading in Ultra?

April 17 at 1:00 p.m. in DEV 303C

TOPIC: Blackboard Ultra "Work Session"

More workshop videos are available on the [Tech Committee and Resouces webpage](#).

You're Invited!

The CECI international students invite you for a thrifting and antiquing tour around Grand Rapids from **1:00 to 5:00 p.m. this Saturday, January 14.** (We had to cancel November's excursion because of snow.)



This is an opportunity to find bargain clothes, Michigan-themed souvenirs, and all kinds of other fun stuff, or you can just look around. We will be carpooling from DeVos Center. We will stop at New 2 You Shoppe, the Goodwill Store, The Salvation Army Family Store, Estate Sales Warehouse, ReNew Upscale Thrift, Uptown Cheapskate, Warehouse One Antiques, and Century Antiques.

We will end the trip with food at [Char](#).

Please let [Mark](#) know ASAP. You are welcome to invite a friend.



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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