



From the Regional Math & Science Center at Grand Valley State University

Fall 2025, Volume 32, Number 1

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## STEM K-12 Education Opportunities

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### New At The Zoo: Assembly-Style Travel Zoo

John Ball Zoo is excited to announce a new opportunity for schools! **We'll bring the Zoo to you**, with our assembly-style travel zoo! These programs are designed for groups of less than 60 students in a larger space. We are able to bring larger, more dynamic animals to these programs.

See what we can bring to your school!

[Click this link to learn more.](#)

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### Statistics Poster Competition Kicks Off!

K-12 students, show off your creativity and data skills!

It's time to enter this year's Statistics Poster Competition. Last year, we reviewed 155 impressive entries, check out the winning posters from each grade category [HERE](#) for inspiration! This year, you could take home a cash prize and an honorary plaque for your school. Don't miss your chance to combine art, data, and storytelling into one winning creation!

[Click Here to Register!](#)

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### Upcoming STEM Events For Your Student



# Grand Rapids Girls Robotics Competition - Allendale

**Sept 13th, 8am - 5:30pm**

An Event Agenda can be found online, but make sure you come early to see the "Ladies in Tech" Career Panel Discussion featuring local west Michigan female professionals at 8 am. The GRG is an

off-season FIRST Robotics competition that features female-only robot driver/operator, human player, and pit crew. FIRST off-season events are free and family friendly. Bring out your future engineers to meet Rexi the Dinosaur and see robots compete in Reefscape. Located at Allendale High School. More Details at <https://girlsrobotics.org/>

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## Tech Week Grand Rapids Student Tech Showcase

**Sept 16th, 9am - 3pm**



The Student Tech Showcase is an interactive all-day event focused on strengthening our region's future tech talent pipeline. Come visit the College of Engineering booth where you can build, test, and tweak a Ring Wing Glider. A well-tuned design might score some GVSU swag! More Details at [techweekgr.com](http://techweekgr.com)



## Tech Week Grand Rapids Future Innovators Zone

**Sept 20th, 10am - 5pm**

Join GVSU's STEM-sational team from Engineering, Computing, and the Regional Math and Science Center in the Confluence Festival's Future Innovator's Zone. This is an all-ages event with an emphasis on inspiring the innovators of tomorrow! Attendees will be invited to learn about design thinking, art, technology, math, and more through engaging in hands-on projects and activities. More Details at [techweekgr.com](http://techweekgr.com)

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## Chemistry At The Museum Lakeshore Museum - Muskegon

**Oct 11th, 11am - 3pm**



Let's celebrate National Chemistry Week with a family friendly fun & free event all about the Science of Spices! Fun activites, demonstrations, and lots of Chemistry for your future Chemist & the Chemistry Enthusiast in your life. Hosted by American Chemical Societies Western Michigan Local Section.

Learn more at [Chemistry at the Museum](#)

Located at the Lakeshore Museum  
Muskegon, 430 W Clay Ave, Muskegon MI 49440

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## West Michigan Robotics Invitational Zeeland East High School

Oct 18th, 7am - 4pm

West Michigan FIRST and Five host teams (85 – Team B.O.B – Zeeland, 107 – Team R.O.B.O.T.I.C.S. – Holland Christian, 141 – WoBot – West Ottawa, 1918 – The NC Gears – Newago County and 2771 – CodeRed Robotics – Grandville Community) welcome the community to a fun and free day of Reefscape robotics. Event schedule can be found online at [WMRI.org](#)



## Statistics Career Day 2025 Allendale

Nov 17th, 9am - 3:00pm

GVSU's Department of Statistics, with the ASA Southwest Michigan Chapter and Career Services, will host the seventh Statistics Career Day on Monday, November 17, 2025, at GVSU Kirkhof Center. High school and college students can explore careers in statistics and data analytics through company exhibits, breakout sessions, and networking with professionals and alumni. The event features a keynote by ASA Executive Director Ronald Wasserstein and presentations from organizations like Meijer, GM, Biogen, and Henry Ford Health. Registration is required at [www.gvsu.edu/stat](#). Questions? Email Phyllis Curtiss, [curtissp@gvsu.edu](mailto:curtissp@gvsu.edu)

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## Project Day Innovation Design Center - Grand Rapids

Dec 4th, 9am - 11am

Grand Valley State University's Padnos College of Engineering invites high school students, prospective students, and community members



to Fall Project Day 2025. Attendees can interact with GVSU college students, learn about programs within the College of Engineering and department of Occupational Safety and Health Management, and vote for their favorite projects! Located at the innovation Design Center, 227 Winter Ave, Grand Rapids. For details visit [PCE Project Day](#).

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## Upcoming Events For Teachers

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### Why Join Michigan Science Olympiad? Virtual Session

**Sept 17th, 4:00pm - 5pm**

Since 1984, the Michigan Science Olympiad (MSO) has been igniting curiosity and inspiring excellence in middle and high school students through hands-on, team-based STEM competitions. Discover how MSO can enhance your students skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while opening doors to future STEM career pathways. This session will explore the benefits of starting a team at your school, share success stories from across the state, and highlight scholarship opportunities that can help your students, and your school succeed in MSO. Join via zoom and Earn 1 SCHECH credit. [Visit MSTA-mich.org](#) for details.

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### From 2D to 3D Transform Your Science Assessments Grand Rapids

**Nov 11th, 8:30am - 4:00pm**

Michigan Department of Education has challenged schools to change just 5% of an assessment to get a feel for what it takes to construct a 3 Dimensional assessment. MSTEP is now collecting baseline data for science as it officially rolls out as an operational test.

We can help you make the switch. Bring a team of teachers in your content (or on your own) and a current assessment/set of assessments to make a shift towards 3D. Formative and summative assessments are both welcome. Walk out of the work space with an assessment, or part of an assessment, to try in your classroom. All grades welcome!

**Location:** Kent ISD, Main Campus, KCTC West (Parking Lot 7) 1800 Leffingwell Ave N, Grand

Rapids, MI 49525

**Cost:** \$20

[Click Here to Register](#)

With questions contact: Wendi Vogel, [wendivogel@kentisd.org](mailto:wendivogel@kentisd.org) or  
Kari Parnin, [kparnin@muskegonisd.org](mailto:kparnin@muskegonisd.org)

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## Read & Reviewed

Book review column

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### Orbital Musings: A Luminous Love Letter to Earth from Space

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**Book review of *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey (2024).**

*By:*

**Bopi Biddanda**

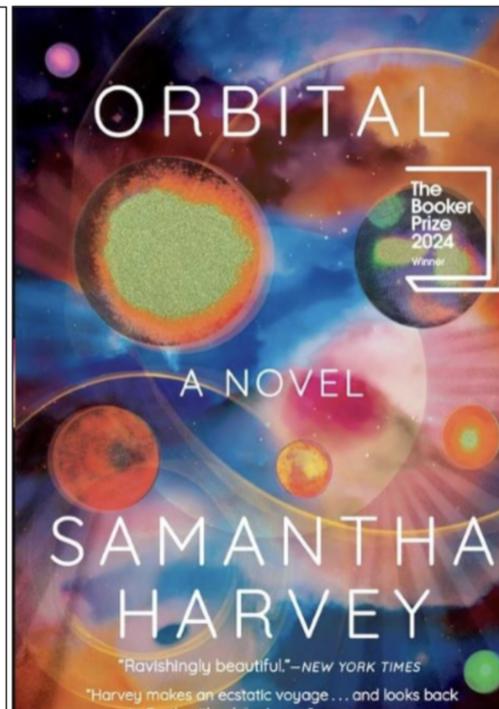
*Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University,  
Muskegon, Michigan, USA.*

**Juanma Medina-Sánchez**

*Departamento de Ecología, Universidad de Granada, Granada,  
Spain.*

*“The earth is the answer to every question... The earth is a mother waiting for her children to return” (p. 4). “They look down and they understand why it’s called Mother Earth. They all feel it from time to time. They all make an association between the earth and a mother, and this in turn makes them feel like children” (p. 11).*

*“We are one. For now at least, we are one. Everything we have up here is only what we reuse and share. We can’t be divided, this is the truth. We won’t be because we can’t be. We drink each other’s recycled urine. We breathe each other’s recycled air” (p.94).*



[Click Here To Read The Whole Review](#)

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## Thank You for Supporting the InterChange!

Thank you to those who completed our survey. We will be implementing those changes in our next issue released in December 2025!

1 Campus Drive  
B-3-226 Mackinac Hall  
Allendale, MI 49401

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