

## FACES IN EDUCATION



Konecki

### FACULTY PROFILE

**Name:** Loretta Konecki  
**Current field or profession:** Graduate Education - Curriculum; Middle & High School  
**Research or special interests:** New Zealand Curriculum and Education;

Educational Issues; Educational Reform; Science Education; Teacher Education; Director for GVSU's School of Education initiative NCATE accreditation in 1989; GVSU's first Graduate Teacher Certification Director  
**Biggest problem facing education:** Thinking of education as a product that can be "audited," instead of a process and set of experiences that provide students with greater understandings and insights that advance their abilities and interests in learning.

**Most notable success of education:** Every child. Every student. Each person's quality of life.

**Favorite public figure:** Martin Luther King because he reminded us that with a "Dream" we can work to make the dream come true but without a dream we may be left to whim or our current circumstance.

**Most respected person and why:** Eleanor Roosevelt because of her concern for people, her willingness to rise above any prejudices to make a difference for people--particularly children and women

**Hobbies, interests, family information:** Traveling around the world, working in my garden and pond, going to movies, reading novels, knitting and being with my daughter, Rea and my husband, Don.

### FACULTY PROFILE

**Name:** Clay Pelon  
**Current field:** Program Coordinator / Counselor - Graduate Studies in Education  
**Research/special interests:** Alumni and development, academic administration



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**What experience has taught me:** Serve well, but make sure to take time and reflect on accomplishments and future directions.

**Reason(s) involved in education:** Ability to truly assist people in opening up new opportunities. Also, working in higher education is rewarding because you are assisting the future leaders of our community.

**Biggest problem facing education:** The deterioration of the family and lack of parental responsibility in education

**Favorite book/author:** J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings"

**Hobbies, interests, family:** Family owns boarding facility for horses & competed nationally at horse shows; Eagle Scout; Active in Michigan State University Alumni band; Former president of the Council of Graduate Students at MSU, represents nearly 9,000 students

## West Michigan Character Education Conference Scheduled For Nov. 29

An extensive array of guest presenters and workshops are scheduled for the second annual West Michigan Character Education Conference on Nov. 29, 2001.

This year's keynote speaker is Hal Urban, an award-winning teacher of 34 years, author of "Life's Greatest Lessons: 20 Things I Want My Kids to Know" and internationally noted speaker who will be presenting two sessions on the topic "Good News, Kind Words and Funny Things."

The event, held at the L.V. Eberhard Center at GVSU's downtown campus, is hosted by The School of Education, Kent County and Muskegon intermediate school districts, Comerica Bank and Character Unlimited.

A fast-paced interactive day will feature 16 breakout session speakers representing a broad range of expertise from elementary through graduate education and the business community.

Topics for the breakout sessions include Why

Business-Why Character?; Freshman Focus/Career Pathways; Family Involvement in Character Education; Respect-Developing Life Skills for Tomorrow; Integrating Values in Post-Modern Culture; Once Upon A Story Time; Girls On The Run; Kinds, Character And the Classroom; Character(s) in the Middle; Creating a Story Corner in Your Classroom; The 201 in 2001 Initiative; Ethics in the Nonprofit Sector; Passport to Learn-Leadership Activities and Character Development; Success For All; and Integrating Character Education Without Changing Your Curriculum.

The cost for program is \$95. The fee includes breakfast and lunch, and participants will receive a conference binder with information from the sessions and complete networking list for follow up.

Registration information may be obtained by calling (616) 895-3554, or via e-mail (moorea@gvsu.edu).

## Read All About It: Celebrate Literacy A Success!

The School of Education teamed up once again with the GVSU Library and English Department to sponsor the fourth annual Celebrate Literacy Conference on October 19 and 20 at the Allendale campus.

More than 250 educators, librarians and students attended the two day conference that features authors and illustrators from throughout the United States. It was the largest turnout the conference has had.

The featured speaker was author Gijsbert van Srankenhuyzen, author of "Adopted By An Owl."

"The conference just continues to get better and grow stronger," CLC coordinator Liz Storey said. "I think the word is spreading that it's a great conference for a reasonable price."

"People right here in West Michigan have access to a lot of key people in the field of literacy, and one-on-one access to a lot of authors and illustrators."

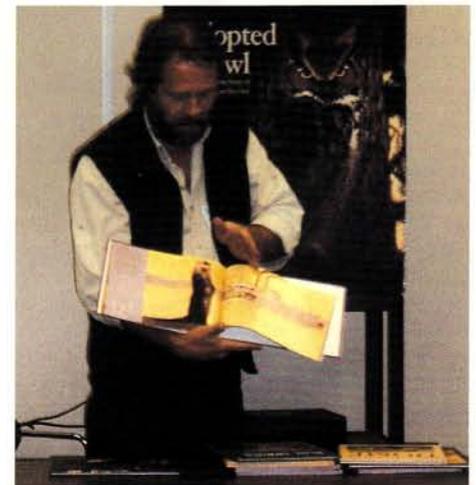
Along with the presentations and workshops, this year's conference also included a drawing for a free conference registration won by GVSU student Nicole Kirksey. A visit to an area school in November by author and illustrator Jane Stroschin was also presented.

In the presentation of the Celebrate Literacy Award, Sleeping Bear Press of Chelsea, Michigan, was awarded the honor for the publisher's outstanding collection of children's books which promote literacy in the state. In addition, Sleeping Bear Press is a main sponsor of the March is Reading Month initiative in the state of Michigan.

## South Africa Hosting Pre-Service Teachers

For the second consecutive year, GVSU's School of Education is sending students to Cape Town, South Africa, to conduct their pre-service teaching.

The program, which included eight pre-service teachers during its first year in 2001, has been expanded to 12 students. They will be completing the teacher assisting portion of their education requirements in an elementary or high school



Author Gijsbert van Srankenhuyzen makes a presentation as featured speaker at Celebrate Literacy luncheon.

The fifth anniversary of the Celebrate Literacy Conference is scheduled for Oct. 18-19, 2002.

Over a dozen authors and illustrators will share ideas and stories with participants. Nationally known presenters will discuss key literacy issues. A free registration will again be awarded, and a classroom visit from illustrator Tom Woodruff will be the grand prize drawing.

For more information -- or to be put on the registration mailing list -- contact Storey at The School of Education at (616) 486-6494, or via e-mail (storeyl@gvsu.edu).

classroom. The GVSU students will also perform service learning in disadvantaged or impoverished township schools.

Supervising the group for their six-week stay that begins March 14 will be Education professors Bob Hagerty and Ram Chattulani.

"It provides and opportunity to work and teach in a culture that is completely different from the U.S.," Hagerty said.