

## FACES IN EDUCATION



**NAME:** Bill Worfel  
**POSITION AT GVSU:**  
 Visiting Professor  
**RESEARCH:** Urban  
 Education and At-Risk  
 Issues  
**WHAT EXPERIENCE  
 HAS TAUGHT ME:**  
 Be sincere, patient and  
 flexible. I can't change  
 complex issues, but I

*Bill Worfel*

might be able to help some people improve  
 their lives.

### BIGGEST PROBLEM(S) FACING

**EDUCATION:** The complexity of the stu-  
 dent population is changing much faster than  
 the educational institutions.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** Treat others as you  
 wish to be treated. Don't take yourself too  
 seriously

**FAVORITE PASTIME:** Sunsets and long  
 walks with my wife and dogs.



**NAME:** Sherie Williams  
**POSITION AT GVSU:**  
 Assistant Professor  
**NOTABLE:** Chosen by  
 students as Professor of  
 the Year chosen of  
 Educational Support  
 Services  
**RESEARCH:**  
 Classroom manage-  
 ment/organization and  
 student behavior

*Sherie Williams*

**WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT  
 ME:** All problems have solutions, we just  
 might not like our choices

**REASONS FOR BEING IN EDUCATION:**  
 There is no greater responsibility in the world  
 than helping to shape a child

**FAVORITE SAYING:** "Perfection is over-  
 rated!!"

**NAME:** Douglas Busman  
**POSITION AT GVSU:**  
 Assistant Professor,  
 Middle and Secondary  
 Education, and Director  
 of the Student  
 Information Services  
 Center, College of  
 Education

### SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Teaching and Learning  
 and Planned Change in School Districts  
**WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME:**  
 Where you are is exactly where you are sup-  
 posed to be.

**REASON FOR BEING IN EDUCATION:** I  
 believe that everyone has gifts. The educator  
 helps a child find these gifts. When you  
 help one child succeed you have a positive  
 impact on the child's family and all the peo-  
 ple in the generations that follow.

**HOBBIES:** Fly fishing, back packing, and  
 kayaking.



*Douglas Busman*



*A world of experience is working as part of the College of Education's Grants Team for Funded Partnerships. Spanning the globe are, from left to right, administrative coordinator Darlene Zwart (Canada), graduate assistant Sarah Cox (Wales), student worker Jorge Flores (Mexico) and student assistant Yuan Tian (China).*

## Grants Team Has International Flavor

The Teacher Academy office is celebrating one  
 year of an expanded role of bringing together  
 most of the College of Education's governmentally  
 sponsored programs under one umbrella.

With the direction of Dr. Loretta Konecki, the  
 Teacher Academy has facilitated and written  
 grants, hosted dozens of workshops, hosted more  
 than 100 teachers and administrators from Kent,  
 Ottawa, Muskegon, Allegan, Montcalm and  
 Broward (Fla.) counties and carried out support-  
 ing activities for related projects.

The Teacher Academy is dedicated to foster-  
 ing sponsored partnership projects, bringing  
 together GVSU faculty and students to work with  
 local teachers, schools, school districts and other  
 educational organization to address identified  
 needs.

This year, the office features an international  
 staff. Canadian-born Darlene Zwart serves as  
 Administrative Coordinator for all the sponsored  
 projects and leads an international team that  
 includes graduate assistants Yuan Tian (China)  
 and Sarah Cox (Wales) and student worker Jorge  
 Flores (Mexico).

"Their diverse backgrounds really bring a  
 unique international perspective to what we do  
 here," Konecki said.

Currently, five grants are operating through  
 the Academy. The longest running of the grants

— The Urban Teacher Academy for Elementary  
 Science and Mathematics — is a federally funded  
 program that supports professional development  
 of elementary teachers from Grand Rapids and  
 Kentwood public schools in the area of science,  
 which integrates mathematics and literacy.

The Cross Cultural Student Teaching pro-  
 gram offers GVSU students opportunities in  
 Borward County, Fla. In addition, the GVSU  
 Teacher Academy Partnership with the Holland  
 Public Schools is a professional development pro-  
 gram helping middle school mathematics instruc-  
 tors meet student needs through differentiated  
 instruction.

**SUCCESS** — Strategies for Understanding  
 Content and Connections in English Language  
 Arts & Social Studies — has been a success. The  
 two-year project is funded under the No Child  
 Left Behind initiative focused on middle school  
 achievement in English/Language Arts and  
 Social Studies by increasing teachers' understand-  
 ing of content, curriculum development, assess-  
 ment and instruction.

The West Michigan Middle Start Initiative,  
 originally launched in 1994, continues its mission  
 through funding by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
 with support from GVSU. It provides a model for  
 establishing more effective learning environments  
 for all students.

## Outgoing Professional Partnership Director Honored

Claudia Sowa-Wojciakowski, Director of the  
 College of Education's Community Outreach  
 Office, was recently honored for her work as coor-  
 dinator of Professional Development Partnerships.

She was appointed as an associate faculty  
 member for the College of Education's new coun-  
 seling program and has turned over the PDP  
 duties to Leslie Bateman.

Sowa-Wojciakowski took over as coordinator  
 for the PDP office in 2000 and played an integral  
 role in the program's growth. She also served as a  
 liaison between Continuing Education and the  
 College of Education, facilitating communication  
 and developing partnerships to bring quality pro-  
 grams throughout Michigan via distance educa-  
 tion.

During the past academic year, PDP enroll-



*Sowa-Wojciakowski*

ment totaled over 600 stu-  
 dents. Professional Devel-  
 opment Partnerships is a  
 Continuing Education pro-  
 gram that provides partners  
 with academic credit and  
 State Board Continuing  
 Education Units for profes-  
 sional development work-  
 shops and training pro-  
 grams. The program allows  
 GVSU to work with school districts to meet their  
 immediate needs for training teachers and admin-  
 istrators. For academic courses, PDP processes  
 approvals, registration and grades, and reimburses  
 a percentage of tuition based on enrollment num-  
 bers of each class.