COLLEGE OF EDUCATION APPOINTS NEW FACULTY

The College of Education welcomed four new faculty members in the fall of 2004.

Claudia Sowa-Wojciakowski, the director of the COE Community Outreach Office, accepted a tenured faculty assignment as associate faculty professor in the new School Counseling program.

In addition, William Worfel joined the Foundations and Technology unit as a visiting professor. Mary Dekker was appointed visiting professor in the Reading program for certification curriculum instruction and Sharon Kalee became an affiliate faculty member in Traverse City with initial certification program.

ANNIS SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS EDUCATORS

A new scholarship has been established by the College of Education aimed toward assisting education students with degrees who are seeking initial certification.

The David G. and Mary L. Annis Education Scholarship helps provide financial assistance to students who have already received their bachelor's degree and are seeking initial certification. Recipients must be full-time graduate students meeting the College of Education grade point average requirements. Financial need is also considered.

David Annis has been employed at GVSU since 1987. He has served as Department Chair for Advanced Studies in Education, and as compliance officer and field representative for the University's charter school office. Before coming to GVSU, he served as superintendent of Allendale and White Pigeon Community Schools, as well as administrator in the Forest Hills and Northview districts.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the College of Education at 616.331.6650.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOSTS ROUNDTABLE

More than 80 GVSU education students attended a fall semester roundtable session for future teachers hosted by the College of Education Alumni Association.

The roundtable consisted of 11 current educators — all GVSU alumni – and included topics such as placement prospects, differentiation and dealing with classroom issues.

Another roundtable is being planned by the Alumni Association for the 2005 winter semester.

ON THE COVER: Dottie Johnson may be "retired" as President of the Council of Michigan Foundations, but her philanthropic work is far from over, Page 7. Author Gordon Korman, upper left, is passionate about celebrating literacy, Page 3. Gary Pritchard, upper center, is 10 years into his second calling back to the classroom. College of Education professor Pam Page, upper right, delves into passages from "The Sorcerer's Stone" during the College of Education's 2004 Reading Marathon featuring Harry Potter.

ELAINE C. COLLINS, PH.D.
DEAN'S CORNER

NAME CHANGE REFLECTS GROWTH AND VISION

On July 8, 2004, a ceremony was held at Grand Valley State University's Eberhard Center to celebrate our official transition from a School of Education to a College of Education.

Among the faculty, staff and invited guests in attendance was former Director of Education, Ty Wessell, who served in that capacity from September 1979 through September 1985. Ty spoke eloquently of his reminiscences during his tenure. It served as a true testament to many visions that have now been realized.

Here is what Ty said:

"Twenty-five years ago, the School of Education was quite different. We had a very small faculty with only one faculty member assigned to each of our graduate programs. We were then a part of the College of Arts and Sciences, and had not yet received NCATE accreditation. Our undergraduate program was greatly controlled by the content area departments and I recall that we were significantly underfunded.

"But we were proud, proud of our programs and proud of our staff. We had a vision, and we began the process of developing a regional and state reputation for teacher training, professional development and school services.

"We dreamed about becoming our own college – and you've done it. We dreamed about having NCATE accreditation – you've accomplished that. We dreamed about having a faculty with recognized experts in all of the program and foundation areas – you've more than accomplished that. We dreamed about a School Services Program to provide services to area schools and to promote partnerships between K-12 and GVSU – you have earned a reputation as being a vital part of the K-12 community. You represent excellence in teacher education and you are leaders in professional development. Grand Valley State University, and the entire community, can be proud of its College of Education. Congratulations."

Clearly, the College today has evolved in scope and size potentially even beyond the initial vision of its founders.

Consider this:

- This fall, the College of Education is being staffed by 68 full-time faculty, 95 part-time faculty, 11 administrative professionals and 11 clerical personnel.
- Enrollments are steadily increasing, with 4,000 students currently matriculating through College of Education programs.
- Space has presented the College of Education with new opportunities. For the first time in its history, College of Education personnel will all be located downtown – with offices in our new Fulton Street facility, and in the DeVos and Eberhard Centers on the Pew Campus.
- College of Education planning expands its six priorities for the 2004-2005 academic year: The first priority will be to continue to implement our unique niche of social responsibility and community outreach, both internally and externally, as we advance the mission and vision of the college. We will continue to develop financial (e.g., grants and contracts) and human (e.g., Alumni Association) resources needed to advance COE priorities. We will also continue our work in promoting and integrating diversity and creating a strong technological infrastructure. We will continue to foster partnerships according to high ethical principles and in ways that promote the enrichment of our communities. Finally, we will continue to offer strong academic programs. To this end, we will be working diligently to complete a comprehensive curricular review using quality standards.
- College of Education grants now exceed past history of grant funding in the past 15 years by approximately $1 million.
- The College of Education's unique professional development model provides new possibilities for national recognition.

Although the college has undergone many changes, what has not changed is the spirit that is central to its faculty and staff – the college remains focused on quality education, intellectual achievement, and service in local and world communities. And most importantly, the college remains focused and committed to its students.

In closing, the transition from school to college belongs to everyone who has helped bring this transition to fruition. I hope that you (like me) are filled with a sense of pride in our rich history, our current strengths and our future promise. As Emily Dickinson once said, "We turn not older with years, but newer every day."

(Elaine C. Collins, Ph.D., is Dean of the College of Education at Grand Valley State University. She may be accessed via e-mail at collinse@gvsu.edu)

Video Highlights 'Cool' West Michigan Cities

The College of Education was instrumental in the production of a highlight video showcasing West Michigan cities.

The project was a directive of Leadership West Michigan, which brings together community leaders to promote their cities. It is part of Governor Jennifer Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative. College of Education Dean Elaine Collins, Ph.D., is part of the Leadership West Michigan committee.

The video — which highlights the cities of Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Holland and Muskegon – was produced by Community Outreach Assistant Director Clay Pelon and GVSU student Justin Reusch and graduate assistant Randy Mack. Copies available at 616.331.6240 or email pelon@gvsu.edu.