



School of Ed is getting ready "Fore!" another fun outing.

## OUTING LINKS GOLF AND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The 1998 School of Education Annual Golf Outing scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, at The Meadows Golf course is designed to turn a fund-raiser into a "fun" raiser.

School of Education alumni, faculty, area educators and friends are invited to join in the 18-hole, four-person scramble event with proceeds benefitting both the Faite Mack and Joe Reid Scholarship funds.

The cost is \$65 per person or \$240 for a foursome and includes golf, carts, practice, and lunch. A silent auction and raffle, along with prize competition, will also take place during a day that will feature dazzling shots, perilous putts and the beautiful Meadows mystique.

Plan to attend now by contacting Liz Storey at the School of Education, or Kent Fisher at GVSU Alumni Relations.

## SOE STAFFS SUMMER CAMPS

Rising Star Camp, a six-week summer program for learning disabled children, is scheduled to begin June 22 at Grand Valley State University. Nearly 100 participants attended the camp in 1997, where students received tutoring in language arts, participated in physical education classes and took part in "Odyssey of the Mind" activities.

Rising Star Camp is staffed by special education professionals and includes full-day and residential options.

The School of Education also offers a field practicum course in conjunction with the Godfrey Lee school district. Graduate students taking the course (EDR 685) work one-on-one with students attending summer reading school, providing both a community service to youth while helping instructors to fulfill teaching certification requirements.

## WANTED: GRAD ASSISTANTS

A number of M.Ed. graduate assistant positions are available to assist faculty and administrators with research, writing, data analysis, computer projects, grant proposals and student services.

Eligibility requires admission to an M.Ed. degree program, outstanding academic achievement and enrollment in at least six graduate credits. Applications and further information are available from Advanced Studies in Education.

# Classroom Lessons Getting WILD

Bridget Reiths has some WILD ideas for teaching her fifth grade class at Ada Elementary School. Several of her lessons are generated from Project WILD activities.

Project WILD is an interdisciplinary education program for grades K-12 focused on themes such as awareness and appreciation of wildlife, conservation, ecological systems, alternatives and consequence and cultural and social interaction with wildlife.

The activities — ranging from games to special projects — are vast and varied. They integrate lessons for science, math, reading, literature and writing with themes of conservation, habitat, migration, ecosystems, land use and pollution.

"There's a big difference between reading a concept from a book or exploring it through games or other activities," Reiths said. "We do the projects and game, but always have a discussion afterward.

"Project WILD provides an awareness to issue, but takes no political stance on any. It's all based on awareness."

Two textbooks for beginning Project WILD activities with objectives for specific ages are available for K-12 teachers. They are the Project WILD K-12 Activity Guide and Project WILD Aquatic Education Activity Guide.

Although not a required part of any curricu-

lum, two Project WILD workshops are sponsored annually by GVSU's School of Education. The workshops provide insights and interactive demonstrations on how to deliver Project WILD lessons. The workshops are held once during the fall and winter semesters and are open to new or veteran teachers.

"It's an enrichment tool that can be integrated into every curriculum," said Connie Widdis, School of Education field coordinator and driving force behind Project WILD workshops. "By not taking sides, it presents opportunities to hear different points of view and take different points of view and provides an active experience in concepts of balance of nature and animal behavior."

Reiths, along with Lynn Kappon, a teacher at Stepping Stones Montessori School in

Grand Rapids, were the presenters

at the workshop for GVSU students on January 31.

"It's a nice thing for a new teacher in a classroom, because sometimes it becomes overwhelming putting together the lessons," Reiths said. "This gives you some material under your belt."

Project WILD, based in Bethesda, MD, was founded in 1983 and is offered in all 50 states. Additional information for Project WILD Michigan may be obtained by telephoning 517.355.1712, or by e-mail at mipwild@msu.edu.



Participants get in step with activities at School of Education's Project WILD workshop.

## Grants Target Minority Math & Science Teachers

A consortium of West Michigan educators has received funding through an Eisenhower grant to increase the number of minority math and science teachers. One of the goals of the program is to improve preparation of prospective math and science teachers studying at Grand Rapids Community College and GVSU with a focus on teaching in urban settings.

The West Michigan Alliance — consisting of representatives from GVSU's Math Department and Office of Minority Affairs, Grand Rapids Community College Math & Science Division and Grand Rapids Public Schools — received an \$87,000 Eisenhower Grant to recruit minority math and science teachers for Grand Rapids Public Schools. GVSU has committed an additional \$35,000 of support for the program.

### Aquatic Education Workshops Offered

A series of teacher workshops on aquatic education is being offered to inservice and preservice teachers throughout West Michigan by Grand Valley State University's

Water Resources Institute. The project is aimed at strengthening the GVSU teacher training program by enhancing the skills needed for "hands-on" science education.

The year-long initiative — called Building a Learning Community Through Aquatic Education — is aimed at increasing the number of minority math and science teachers and is funded through the Dwight D. Eisenhower Higher Education Professional Grant Program.

Workshops will involve experiences aboard the research vessels D.J. Angus and W.G. Jackson. Networking activities, field trips and research support will provide teachers with information on how to facilitate project based science using the common theme of water. At the conclusion of the workshop series, participants will have a clear action plan for using project based science in their classrooms.

Teachers, teacher candidates and graduate students are encouraged to attend future workshops by contacting Water Resources Institute program manager Janet Vail at 616.895.3048 (e-mail vailj@gvsu.edu).