CONVOCATION HONORS GRADUATES & ALUMNI

The School of Education's 2003 Convocation was held Friday, April 25, at the Welsh Auditorium.

A total of 575 students — from the Grand Rapids, Allendale, Traverse City and Petoskey campuses — were awarded among the 2003 graduates earning certification in Elementary, Secondary and Special Education, as well as Masters of Education in General Education and Master's of Education in Reading.

Receiving Outstanding Student Awards were Renee Kane in Secondary Teacher Education, Natalie J. Selmon in Elementary Teacher Education, Michelle Smith in Special Education and Terri L. Westra for Master's In Education in Reading.

Lois Vanbroekhoven was the recipient of the Niemeyer Outstanding Student Award.

In addition, Exceptional Service to Education Awards honored Allendale Schools superintendent Catherine Ceglarek and Baldwin Schools superintendent Nick Ceglarek as Outstanding Administrators, Jenison special education instructor Dan Shine as Outstanding Teacher and former GVSU Board of Trustees member Donnalee Holton for Outstanding Service.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARDS ARE PRESENTED

Several members of the School of Education faculty have received awards for distinguished service.

Julie Chlebo, Ph.D., received the Pew Teaching Excellence Award.

B. Lorraine Alston, Ph.D., was nominated for the 2002-2003 Outstanding Teacher Award. An assistant professor in the School of Education, Alston also is the program coordinator for the College Student Affairs Leadership (CSAL) program.

Jay Cooper, Ed.D., received the Michigan Campus Compact Award for outstanding commitment to community service and service learning.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IS FEATURED ON RADIO

Radio station WGVU is airing a program each month that features people and issues affiliated with the School of Education at Grand Valley State University.

The School of Education Radio Show airs the second Thursday of the month on WGVU stations 88.5 or 95.3 FM, and 1480 or 850 AM.

The topic-driven show — which features guests or people affiliated with the School of Education — is hosted by Fred Martino.

ON THE COVER: Elaine C. Collins, Ph.D., is looking forward to becoming the Dean of GVSU's School of Education. Collins comes to GVSU from West Shore Community College, located in Scottsville, Mich. See story, Page 3.

ANNE MULDER, PH.D
DEAN'S CORNER

COMMITTED TO GOING FROM GOOD TO GREAT

Hellos and Goodbyes . . . that is surely one thing that academics understand.

Each semester or each school year we say "hello" to a new group of students, and at the conclusion of the class or the term or the year, we say "goodbye" once again. It is a ritual that is repeated countless times. There is a bittersweet quality to these comings and goings to be sure.

We invest so much of ourselves in the greetings and the partings and in all the days in between. We build a bond with those we embrace during these times, a bond that often lasts a lifetime. Many of us as educators still know the students we had 10, 20, 30 or 40 years ago. It is particularly gratifying to meet a student years later and share the memories of a life long past. Those are the singular joys of teaching.

I have thought a great deal about hellos and goodbyes just recently. Just two years ago, I came as the Interim Dean of the School of Education. I had anticipated that it was a year-long assignment, but one year stretched into two.

I look with pride at our time together — from our "hello" of two years ago until now. As I anticipate the "goodbye," I am grateful that I had the opportunity to be part of this School and the Grand Valley community.

What has been most gratifying is discovering and working with a group of committed men and women who comprise the School of Education. Willing to challenge the status quo, willing to develop a culture of excellence, willing to continue to be learners as well as teachers, willing to be totally committed to students, they represent what great teachers and staff should be. I am certain that many of you as alumni already knew this about them. It was my pleasure to learn this as well.

I recently read Jim Collins' book *Good to Great.* He discusses those things that take organizations from being just good to greatness. Collins notes that great organizations understand three principles: First, great organizations understand what they can be best at in the world and, equally important, what they cannot be best at in the world. Second, they understand what drives them. Third, they stay focused on what they are deeply passionate about.

I see striking evidence that the School of Education at Grand Valley represents an organization moving toward greatness. The willingness to examine mission, vision and values, and to determine where they are going — as well as how they want to get there — is evidence of understanding what you can be. The willingness to be student-and-community driven is evidence of another kind of understanding. The willingness to pursue passionately their discipline as educators — no matter who the detractors in the field may be — is evidence as well. There is a lesson there for all educational entities.

It is not easy to stay committed to greatness, especially amid the critics of education. But it can be done, and, indeed, if public higher education — and most particularly Schools of Education — are to survive and flourish, they must stay focused on moving toward greatness. I believe the School of Education at Grand Valley is poised to do just that.

My "goodbye" wish is that as educators, we shun just being good at what we do and we move positively, confidently and assuredly toward greatness.

To all of you who have been part of our journey these past two years ... Goodbye and Thank You.

(Anne Mulder is the Interim Dean of GVSU's School of Education. She may be accessed via e-mail at muldera@gvsu.edu)

Grants Enhance Learning At West Michigan Schools

The School of Education at Grand Valley State University has teamed with three West Michigan school districts for education grants funding four separate programs.

A Visions Eisenhower grant was awarded to enhance science and mathematics at nine elementary schools in the Grand Rapids Public Schools district. A related parent education program is also underway at each school.

The Urban Teacher Academy for Elementary Science and Math involves five schools in the Grand Rapids district and Bowen Elementary in Kentwood. The $200,000 grant is earmarked to develop teacher leaders and mentors in elementary science.

The DREAMSS NCLB Title II grant is intended to foster middle level inquiry for science teaching and learning at Northeast Middle School and Burton Middle School in Grand Rapids, and Steele Middle School in Muskegon.

The most recent program is the Middle Start II West Michigan Network. The $200,000 grant program began in January 2003, and is establishing a regional middle school network. The network will include an annual conference and support participating schools with a mission of carrying out middle level assignments, global development, team learning and implementation strategies to enhance learning practices.