

4-8-2011

Grand Valley State University Community Reading Project Focuses on Poverty and Economic Justice

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/colleagues>

Recommended Citation

(2007) "Grand Valley State University Community Reading Project Focuses on Poverty and Economic Justice," *Colleagues*: Vol. 2: Iss. 2, Article 5.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/colleagues/vol2/iss2/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colleagues by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

WGVU visits Grand Rapids Public Schools



By Emily Maurin

WGVU's successful *Write. Create. You.* Program is wrapping up its second year. Made possible by support from Meijer and Chase, the program allows WGVU to host a series of creative writing workshops in each of the six middle schools that participate in the "Loop" after school program, available in the Grand Rapids Public Schools. At each school, students have the opportunity to attend six workshops, each hosted by local authors, illustrators, performers and writing professionals. Workshops feature topics ranging from comic book creation to journal writing and short stories to performance poetry.

Students in the *Write. Create. You.* Program have discovered that there are many forms of



Students eager to participate in the exciting *Write. Create. You.* Program offered by WGVU.

expression that they are already doing, including rapping, sketching and performing, never realizing they tied into creative writing. Giving them the courage to embrace all forms of writing and expression has been a main goal of the program throughout its sessions. When students take the time to honestly share their emotions and thoughts on paper, and especially when they share their work with the group, they gain an understanding of their own creativity and become empowered to use words to express themselves.

This summer, WGVU will pursue

additional funding to not only keep the program going, but also to expand it into more "Loop" sites. The station hopes to offer the program to elementary and middle school students next year, and to increase the number of workshops held in each school. If your child belongs to a "Loop" after school program, talk to the site coordinator about bringing the *Write. Create. You.* Program to your school. Visit wgvu.org to find out more about the program and instructors and to read writing samples from the students. ♾

Grand Valley State University Community Reading Project Focuses on Poverty and Economic Justice

The College of Interdisciplinary Studies and the University Library are pleased to announce the selection of the Third Annual Community Reading Book.

"Glass Castle", written by Jeannette Walls, has been called "a story of precision and grace [carved out of] one of the most chaotic, heartbreaking stories ever to be set down on page." The Atlanta Constitution declared, "Charles Dickens has nothing on Jeannette Walls. . . . Dickens' scenes of poverty and hardship are no more audacious and no more provocative than those in the pages of this stunning memoir."

Jeannette Walls was born in Phoenix, Arizona and her family lived in various southwestern towns before settling in Welch, West Virginia, when she was ten. Walls graduated from Columbia University's Barnard College with honors

and went on to become a reporter for *New York* magazine, *Esquire*, *USA Today* and *MSNBC.com*, where she currently works.

This year's community reading is part of the College of Interdisciplinary Studies 2007-2008 Focus on Poverty and Economic Justice. The College is inviting faculty, students, staff, and alumni to explore the issues surrounding poverty and economic justice from a multi-disciplinary perspective. A number of events are scheduled to create dialogue around the issues of poverty and economic justice. These include:

- **September 17, 2007** — Teresa Rodriguez, author of "The Daughters of Juarez" 7PM: Cook Dewitt Center, Allendale Campus; Coordinated by the Women's Center
- **October 16, 2007** — Jonathan Kozol, author of "The Shame of The Nation" 5-7PM: Eberhard Center, 2nd floor

- **October 24, 2007** — Sustainability Week Lecture, Jed Horne, Author of "Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City"
- **March 19, 2008** — Community Reading Lecture, Jeannette Walls, Author of "Glass Castle"
- **April 2, 2008** — Community Reading Project Faculty Panel, 3:30-5:30: Pere Marquette Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Alumni and community members who would like to participate in the Focus on Poverty and Economic Justice can contact the College of Interdisciplinary Studies at cois@gvsu.edu.

Alumni and community members who would like to receive updates regarding events and programming for the 2008 Community Reading Program, please contact crp@gvsu.edu. ♾