

Colleagues

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Dean's Corner

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On the Cover: Jolanda Westerhof-Shultz

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The 2005-2006 academic year was a great year for the College of Education.

This past fall, we learned that Jolanda Westerhof-Shultz was one of approximately 800 faculty throughout the world to be selected for a Fulbright Scholarship in Croatia, helping faculty evaluate curriculum and human rights training needed to build a civil society in a newly emerging democracy. In this issue of Colleagues, I draw your attention specifically to Dr. Jolanda Westerhof-Shultz (cover) and her article highlighting her work in Bosnia. What is not stated in this article is that Dr. Westerhof-Shultz was also awarded the Grand Valley State University Outstanding Teacher Award. The Outstanding Teacher Award is presented to faculty members who exhibit excellence in the classroom. The award is based on several criteria: the ability to demonstrate resourcefulness and expand on textual material; the ability to demonstrate relevancy of course material; the ability to stimulate intellectual curiosity to challenge students; and the ability to serve as a role model.

And there are so many other individual success stories...

- At the Fall 2005 Commencement, Dr. Caryn King was awarded the GVSU Alumni Association's Outstanding Educator Award recognizing a GVSU faculty member who has had the most significant impact on the careers of alumni.
- In Spring 2006, Dr. Sean Lancaster (see "Wiki, Wiki, Wiki.... Textbook?") was awarded a GVSU Teaching with Technology Award. This award recognizes faculty who are demonstrating novel adaptation of instructional technology and teaching with technology in ways that are pedagogically sound.
- Again in the spring, we learned that Dr. Faite Mack was awarded the most prestigious academic award presented by GVSU – the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award. Faculty selected for the Niemeyer Award are honored for their excellence, enthusiasm and loyalty to teaching, scholarship and service.
- A second Niemeyer Award was presented to graduate student, Natalie James, who was recognized for excelling in the classroom and demonstrating a joy of learning as part of a community of scholars.

In recognition of the high caliber of faculty and students in the College of Education, I

include below a special tribute to our 2005-2006 faculty and student external award recipients.

Dr. Jolanda Westerhof-Schultz, Associate Professor in the College of Education, has the ability to run student concerns into motivation to learn.



Dr. Jolanda Westerhof-Schultz

Colleagues note that she knows her subject very well, is gifted at conveying information and promoting critical thinking, and above all, inspires and brings out the best in all of her students. Her sense of humor,

positive attitude, and teaching skills seem to turn student anxiety into student drive. One student comments, "It has been said that part of a teacher's success can be measured in 'Ah-ha' moments- Dr. Westerhof-Schultz has the whole class caroling 'Ah'has."

Dr. Caryn King, Professor in the College of Education, is well known as an innovative



Dr. Caryn King

teacher and developer of students who know how to reason and communicate. Her positive approach to instruction is clear and meaningful, and has inspired students to reach beyond the limitations of

their experience. She challenges future educators to achieve both academic and professional excellence, skillfully blending her own knowledge and positive motivation of students through a variety of leadership techniques. She consistently creates a classroom atmosphere where there is authentic learning, dialogue, and growth.

Dr. Sean Lancaster, Associate Professor in the College of Education, believes it necessary to equip his students, future K-12 teachers, with skills and experiences that will best help them understand how to integrate technology. He models best practices with regard to technology integration and believes in modeling many options for using technology in the classroom. He wants his students to view technology beyond commonly used

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Dr. Sean Lancaster

software to realize that technology can be a tool for teaching and learning when it is effectively integrated into the curriculum. He has been innovative in using technologies

that students will have available to them later as professionals, including an alternative discussion board to Blackboard's Discussion Board and "Podcasting" to supplement his lectures.

Dr. Faite Mack, Professor in the College of Education, teaches courses in Foundations, Curriculum, and Instruction units. Students characterize



Dr. Faite Mack

Dr. Mack as a caring, knowledgeable and committed educator. His hands on experiences in the field as a School psychologist at Kentwood Public Schools

for over five years, Public School Teacher for three years and current President of Education for Humanity Foundation in Thailand, (the first foreign NGO granted approval to provide services to orphaned and abandoned school children in Thailand) comes through clearly and is a major asset to his teaching. Of his Ed 225 class, one student wrote the following: "Dr. Mack, you are a true inspiration and brought more diversity issues to my awareness this semester that will truly help me in my future as an educator and also as a person. I hope that you continue to teach in the manner in which you do, because it truly changes lives and makes us better teachers and people." Indicative of the character of his work, Dr. Mack was the first faculty in the College of Education to be awarded a Fulbright scholarship. Over the last 30 years at GVSU, Dr. Mack has established a national presence through his publications and presentations, most recently authoring assessment resources for

teachers of young children. He has presented his work on the African-American male at international conferences such as the World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and his cutting edge research on issues of gender and sexuality at the International Conference on Sexualities, Genders and Rights in Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. Clearly, Dr. Mack's excellence, enthusiasm and passion for teaching and research, coupled with his genuine concern for quality education for all children are exemplary.

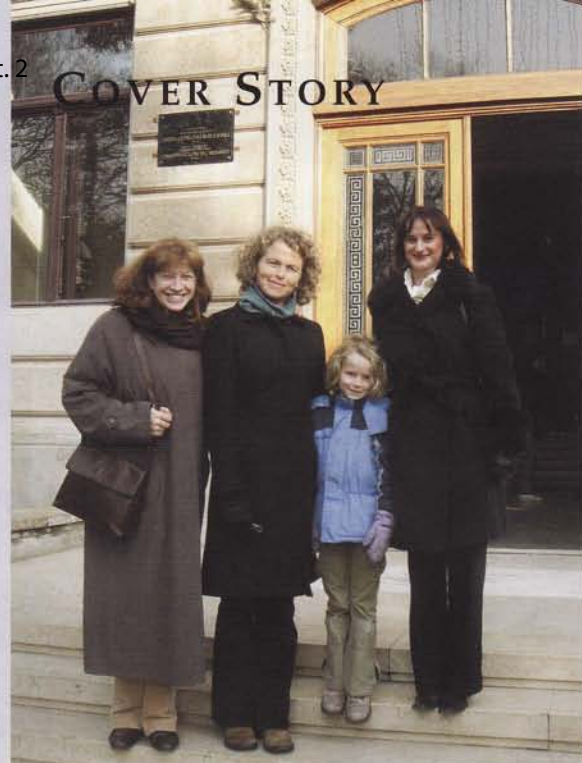
Natalie James, who graduated Spring, 2006 with a M.Ed in College Student Affairs Leadership, demonstrated excellence in both the classroom and in the workplace. In the classroom, Natalie was described as "conscientious, dedicated to her academic work, engaged in discussion and respected by her peers".



Natalie James

As a result, Natalie maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout her graduate coursework and was nominated as the 2006 College of Education outstanding graduate student. Outside of the classroom, Natalie worked as a graduate assistant in the College of Education's Student Information and Services Center. In this role, she was an integral member of the K-12 subcommittee of the West Michigan Area College Presidents' Implementation Group. This initiative involved partnerships between area colleges' faculty, staff and students to encourage minority students to prepare for college. Natalie has also worked with the Minority Teacher Education Cohort through the Office of Multicultural Affairs, helping minority students pursue their goal of becoming a teacher. ☺

Elaine C. Collins, PhD.
Dean, College of Education



Jolanda Westerhof-Shultz

Croatia, the former Yugoslavia, is a country in transition. Since the beginning of its post-socialist period in 1990, the education system has been under pressure to change. Jolanda Westerhof-Shultz was tapped to bring her expertise in interactive and cooperative learning to students and educators at the University of Zagreb.