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# COE Faculty: Honoring the Memory of Julie Chlebo

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# Honoring the Memory of Julie Chlebo

By Dottie Barnes, GVSU Staff



The Grand Valley community is mourning the death of Julie Chlebo, a longtime professor in the College of Education, who died March 19.

Chlebo, associate professor of early childhood education, came to Grand Valley in 1997. She was known for her caring attitude with students.

“Julie was an exceptional professor who always went the extra mile with her students,” said John Shinsky, Interim Dean of the College of Education. “She had high expectations and cared about the success of her students; she kept their needs at the forefront. Julie will be deeply missed by her students, colleagues and everyone who had the opportunity to know and work with her.”

Her scholarly interests included Waldorf Early Childhood Education, Head Start and Jewish Early Childhood Education.

GVSU staff member Suzanne Rogers said, “Julie was one of the most

intentionally encouraging individuals I have ever met. She took every possible opportunity to share positive, uplifting words of encouragement.”

Chlebo earned a bachelor’s degree from Taylor University, a master’s degree from Grand Valley, and a doctorate from Indiana University.

“Julie Chlebo was always a bright light in a dark room with the unique ability to share a positive comment to make you feel just marvelous. Julie became one of my

favorite colleagues and a highly successful scholar, co-presenter at international conferences, and a dedicated leader in early childhood education. She was a close friend, more so a “family” member. She leaves a void that will be difficult to fill,” said Dr. Faite Mack, faculty.

A service was held March 22 at Muehlig Funeral Chapel in Ann Arbor and a COE memorial was held on campus on May 17.

