

GRADUATES ARE HONORED

Six 1998 graduates received high honors from the School of Education last spring.

Undergraduate honors were awarded to Renee S. Rinzema in Elementary/General Education; Cheryl L. Klunder in Secondary/General Education and Larry Thayer in Psychology/Special Education.

Graduate-level honorees included Kathleen Alexander in General Education, Susan Doolittle in Special Education and Lara M. Johnson in Reading/Language Arts.

MATHIS GROUP WINS OUTING



Professor Joseph Fisher hits a tee shot at No. 17 during S.O.E.'s Annual Golf Outing.

The four-person team of Peg Mathis, Greg Jones, Steve Muenzer and Blaine Lugten shot an 8-under-par 64 to place first at the annual School of Education Golf Outing at The Meadows. They edged the team of Dave Annis, Kent Fisher, Dave VanderWall and Roland Sherman by one stroke.

Closest to the pin honors went to Marcia VanEss and Ron Sherman, longest drives were hit by Jack DeLeew and Melody Sedov and most accurate drives were hit by John VanEss and Liz Storey.

Remember, it's not too early to begin practicing for next summer's event!

HAVE YOU READ ...

Caryn King, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Education, recently co-authored a book with Peg Sudol titled "Fusing Science with Literature: Strategies and Lessons for Classroom Success." The book provides step-by-step lesson plans that incorporate literature into the science curriculum. The books and lesson plans, which were field tested in Holland Public Schools, cost \$19.95 and may be purchased through the Wright Group at 1-800-523-8329.

Robert J. Cross, Ph.D., is the author of "Transporting Individuals With Disabilities." Cross is a professor of Special Education Administration at GVSU. His work covers pertinent terminology and provides insights into understanding disabilities, behavior patterns, preparations for transporting a disabled student and responding to emergency situations. The book and training manual are published by the National School Transportation Academy.

Bair and Price Travel To Ghana

GVSU School of Education professors Joseph Price and David Bair traveled to the west African country of Ghana over the summer as part of a delegation participating in a Fulbright Short-Term Seminar. Also from GV was Brenda Robinson, Dean of International Affairs.

Bair, who teaches educational diversity and multicultural education, and Price, a special education professor, toured several cities and regions of Ghana, exploring the country's culture and history.

"It is truly a third-world country that is quite poor and economically strapped, but it is a country that is very rich in spirit," Price said. "The people have made a commitment to democracy and free enterprise. That is encouraging. They still have a long way to go, but it is a highly unified nation, and the work ethic and spirit of its people made some powerful impressions."

The Fulbright grant enabled K-12 educators and higher education faculty to learn more about Ghana and bring information back to the United States to share with students. During the month-long trip, the group studied students, their beliefs, the way they worship and how they conduct their daily lives.

"It is another way of living life and seeing the world," Bair said. "There were masses of people in different places with some people living very comfortably and others who were incredibly poor. But people seemed comfortable even though some had no electricity or indoor plumbing. It just wasn't something they needed for their daily lives."



An array of drums provides a way to beat the beat near the water front.



David Bair attends a classroom session in Ghana.

"There are so many things we take for granted here, as opposed to what they don't have, and it makes you think."

Bair is currently working on creating a demonstration unit for students in order to convey his experience through photographs and artifacts he collected on the trip.

"There were some beautiful things there and an incredible generosity among the people — even those with very little in their own lives," Bair said. "It was one of the best experiences of my life."

"Ghana is something I've heard about, thought about and studied about for years. Now, the challenge is conveying that to students." ◆

Technology Certificate and Physics Among New Offerings

Although schools have invested billions of dollars in both computer hardware and software, the investment in training teachers to use the technology has been meager. In many schools, state-of-the-art equipment is underutilized because teachers have not been trained to integrate technology into the instructional program.

Beginning this fall, Advanced Studies in Education will begin offering a nine-credit sequence of three courses, culminating in a Certificate of Computer Technology Competency. These courses can be taught in local school districts using the same computers that

teachers use in their daily classes.

Dr. Sheryl Grove will provide the training. Interested school district officials or teachers should call the office of Continuing Education at (616) 771-6610.

New M.Ed. offering in Physics

A Physics concentration has been added to the Masters of Education in Adult, Secondary and Higher Education. The program — which incorporates 15 credit hours of physics courses — is specifically tailored to help strengthen the teaching of physics concepts at the middle and high school levels. ◆