

## FACES IN EDUCATION

### FACULTY PROFILE

**Name:** Antonio Herrera, Ph.D.

**Age:** 61

**Current Position:** Professor, Advanced Studies in Education

**Notable:** Taught first class at age of 16 at a one-room, dirt-floor school

**Biggest Challenge Facing Education:** The child's journey from the living room to the classroom. There is often a missing link between the child's home environment and the schools.

**Favorite Saying/Words to Live By:** "To be and to live is to change."

**Hobbies:** Languages, soccer and horses



Herrera



Field placement coordinators from left to right, Jacquelyn Melin, Nancy Dausman, Thom Hornik and Tina Watson attend a faculty and staff meeting at Kirkhof Center. Not pictured: Gary Sickels.

## S.O.E. Bolsters Field Placements

Responding to an expanding growth rate of student teachers, the School of Education has enlisted a team of five visiting faculty members to work as liaisons to schools within GVSU's student teacher placement radius. It enables The School of Education to serve its students and area school districts in a more personalized manner.

GVSU student teacher field placements have increased 35 percent over the past five years. Each field placement coordinator brings diverse knowledge of the K-12 systems.

Thom Hornik, a recently retired elementary principal from Reeths-Puffer Schools, will be working with districts located northwest of GVSU's Allendale campus. Jacqueline Melin

brings more than 30 years of teaching and administrative experience from Rockford Public Schools. Tina Watson, a seasoned elementary teacher from Grand Rapids Public Schools, will be working with that district. Gary Sickels is the former principal at Holland High School, and will be working with districts southwest of campus. Nancy Dausman, a former Jenison High School teacher who also taught art to GVSU's prospective special educators, will be the main contact for districts located southeast of campus.

These five professionals bring not only a wealth of knowledge to their new positions, but are also exemplary role models for GVSU students preparing to enter the teaching profession.



Widdis

### FACULTY PROFILE

**Name:** Corinne (Connie) Widdis

**Current Position:** Field Coordinator for Student Teachers

**Research/Special Interests:** Schoolyard wildlife habitats, Outdoor classrooms

**What Experience Has Taught Me:** Student teachers are people in process

**Biggest Challenge Facing Education:** Teaching respect and responsibility for self, others and the earth

**Reason(s) Involved in Education:** Education gives life meaning, purpose and joy

### STAFF PROFILE

**Name:** Suellen Terry

**Age:** 55

**Current Position:** Office Coordinator, Teacher Education

**Special Interests:** Member of GVSU clerical bargaining unit, involved with MEA bylaws/constitution and participant in union's "School To Work" program

**What Experience Has Taught Me:** Try to see the bright side in whatever comes

**Hobbies, Interests, Family:** Married to Michael for 34 years with two children



S.Terry



M.Terry

### ALUMNI PROFILE

**Name:** Michael Terry

**Age:** 59

**Current Position:** Technology/Science teacher at Grandville High School

**GV Degrees:** M.Ed., GVSU, 1980

**Special Achievements/Awards:** Named 1999 Teacher of the Year by Neil Fonger American Legion Post No. 179

**Research/Special Interests:** Working with Grandville students to research, develop and construct electric powered vehicles

## Like Mother, Like Daughter

It took a while before Tricia McCrea realized what her mother — GVSU School of Education associate professor Linda McCrea — knew all along. Teaching is in her blood.

"At first, I didn't want her following in mom's footsteps," Linda McCrea says.

"At first, I didn't want to go into education just to be like my mother," Tricia said. "After volunteering in a lot of classrooms, I found that I enjoyed being part of the life of a child."

Now, her journey toward a degree has hit the homestretch. Tricia is completing her student teaching in a sixth grade classroom at Forest Hills Public Schools and graduates in December.

Tricia McCrea won the 1999 Charles Van Riper Outstanding College Student Award, presented annually to an outstanding undergraduate student for strong leadership and commendable service to students with disabilities. As president of Chapter 908 of the Michigan Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children, her unit was named the Outstanding Student Chapter in Michigan.

Although she never had her mother as a professor, Tricia has gained invaluable experience from their relationship. For her part, Linda McCrea has been a mother, mentor, friend and



Tricia McCrea, left, is following a similar career path as her mother, School of Education professor Linda McCrea.

colleague, not to mention fountain of information and outstanding resource when it comes to education issues.

"I've seen her in action and she's a much better teacher than mom ever was," Linda McCrea said.

Tricia has attended several professional conferences with her mother over the years, at first tagging along carrying bags and equipment. Eventually, she started to take part in workshops. Now, she co-presents with her mom. As a team, they have become somewhat like "The Judds" of education.