

FACES IN EDUCATION



Monte M. Czuhai

FACULTY PROFILE
NAME: Monte M. Czuhai
CURRENT FIELD: Visiting Instructor, School of Education
AGE: 61
EDUCATION EXPERIENCE: Teacher, Fulton-Middleton High School;

Elementary Principal for 25 years for Kenowa Hills Public Schools

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME: Hasty decisions spell disaster.

FAMILY: Married to Nancy; youngest of 15 children in family of immigrant parents who stressed importance of education

FACULTY PROFILE

NAME: Jerry Victor
CURRENT FIELD: Visiting Instructor, School of Education
AGE: 64

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE: Principal for American School of the Philippines; Principal at East Kentwood High School; Assistant superintendent Kentwood Public Schools
BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING EDUCATION: Lack of high expectations for students and lack of resources for some schools
MOST RESPECTED PERSON: Winston Churchill for his determination and ability to lead a nation at a crucial time in history



Jerry Victor



Sherry Collins

FACULTY PROFILE
NAME: Sherry Collins
CURRENT POSITION: Assistant Professor, Advanced Studies in Education
WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME:

When working with people, relationship building is the most important concept to learn

BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING EDUCATION: Inequity in our economic society that creates unequal opportunities for poor children compared with those in the middle class

WORDS TO LIVE BY: I'd rather see sermon any day, than hear a sermon

HOBBIES: Gardening and reading

STAFF PROFILE

NAME: Suzanne Gilfillan
AGE: 39

POSITION: Office Coordinator, Advanced Studies in Education

EDUCATION: Pursuing degree in business management with emphasis in human resources

WORDS TO LIVE BY: Children have more need of role models than critics

FAMILY: Two daughters, Tracy (15) and Lauren (11)



Suzanne Gilfillan

Celebrate Literacy: A Story-Teller's Delight

It sounds as if Liz Storey has the perfect name for someone in charge of arranging Grand Valley State University's Celebrate Literacy Conference. For the past three years, Storey has coordinated the event, which has become an annual story-teller's showcase in West Michigan.

This year's Celebrate Literacy Conference — hosted by the School of Education and English Department — was geared toward writing strategies. In 1999, the focus was on literature circles.

"There is a different theme each time," Storey said. "Each year, we bring in different speakers."

Keynote speakers for the Oct. 20 and 21 event at GVSU's Kirkhof Center featured Dr. Tom Romano from Miami (Ohio) University and the husband-and-wife writing and illustration team of David Small and Sarah Stewart.

Romano has authored several books, including *Writing With Passion* and *Clearing the Way: Working With Teenage Writers*. Small and

Stewart have collaborated on such works as *The Gardener*, *The Library*, and *The Money Tree*.

In addition to the keynote speakers, a luncheon and series of related sessions were held each day focusing on areas of elementary, middle school and secondary literacy issues. The sessions were complemented with panel discussions led by literary experts and authors.

The conference was attended by students, classroom teachers, librarians, aspiring writers and university people from other campuses.

"What we're really trying to do is offer to the people in West Michigan area a chance to hear some of the leaders in the literacy field, as well as meet authors and illustrators who have written the books that they're sharing with the children in their classrooms," Storey said. "It enables them to make a personal connection and take it back to the classroom and share it with the kids, and exposes teachers to new books and new things they can use in their classrooms."

Lickona To Address Character Education Seminar

Character education is one of the cornerstones of educational reform for the new millennium. Incorporating character building into the core curriculum is becoming an important component for successful teaching and learning.

In an attempt to further advance the skills and update the knowledge base for educators interested in a commitment to character building, the School of Education has teamed up with Holland Public Schools to offer a day-long conference on Nov. 29 at the L.V. Eberhard Center in downtown Grand Rapids.

The all-day conference, entitled "Creating Schools and Communities With Character," features character education guru Dr. Thomas Lickona, who will hold a special meeting for superintendents and community leaders. Lickona — a professor of Education at the University of New York at Cortland — is one of America's foremost authorities on character education. He authored what is considered to be the definitive work in the field with his book

Educating for Character: How Our Schools Can Teach Respect and Responsibility, and is a frequent consultant to schools on the subject.

The Character Education Conference, an outgrowth of the School of Education's 1999 Lecture Series, also features a series of workshops led by Michigan teachers and administrators who are implementing character education in their curriculum.

"We had a lot of requests for a conference like this, and once we were able to put a staff and resources together it has worked out really well," School of Education Dean Robert Hagerty said. "The committee of about 30 teachers and administrators hopes that the conference can serve as a catalyst for school districts, teachers and curriculum people to integrate character education in their schools."

The cost to attend the conference is \$75. Registration forms may be obtained by telephoning Amy Moore at 616.895.3508.

Pre-Teaching Delegation Headed For South Africa

A group of School of Education students will travel to South Africa in the spring of 2001 to conduct six weeks of pre-teaching in the city of Cape Town.

After 10 weeks of course work on GVSU's campus, the students will travel to Cape Town, South Africa, where they will be placed in classrooms Monday through Friday mornings, teaching, tutoring and working with groups of children to fulfill the pre-teaching component of their education requirement. In the afternoon, they will take classes on the culture and language of South Africa, and be involved with service-learning and after-school projects working with in the community.

"The students are learning about a culture different from their life experience, so they're creating a sensitivity to working with different people," says Barbara Lubic Doumanian, who is coordinating the project for the School of

Education. "They will get a greater understanding by living the experience and a greater understanding of education worldwide about similarities, differences and struggles."

The School of Education at GVSU has established a link with several South African universities, including the University of the Western Cape, the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch and opened doors for an international exchange. Dr. Harold Herman, a distinguished visiting scholar to the School of Education from the University of the Western Cape in the School of Education this year, will mentor the group before their departure.

"There is quite a lively interest in South Africa here at Grand Valley State, and we're seeing if we can expand that linkage," Herman said. "These exchanges are extremely good for people from Michigan, particularly teacher education students, graduate students and faculty."