

Partnership Pact Continues Between GVSU And Sarajevo

After a 10-year hiatus because of war and civil strife, Grand Valley State University and the School of Education have resumed a partnership with the University of Sarajevo.

The partnership, spearheaded by former university president Arend D. Lubbers III, dates back to the 1960s. Civil war in Yugoslavia during the 1990s interrupted the partnership, but the contract between the two universities was re-signed in May of 2001.

The GVSU contingent to Sarajevo included Lubbers, professors Antonio Herrera and Donna Brooks and former School of Education professor and dean Allan TenEyck. Lubbers was granted an honorary citizenship to Sarajevo.

The School of Education has been an active participant since the early roots of the exchange. Herrera published a book, "Education for the



Among those who traveled to Sarajevo with former GVSU president Arend D. Lubbers III, center, were Allan TenEyck, left, and Antonio Herrera, right, from The School of Education.

21st Century: From Traditional Education to Technological Revolution," co-written by the late Petar Mandic, a professor at the University of Sarajevo. It was published in Belgrade in 1999.

"It has been perhaps one of the most extensive exchange programs Grand Valley has ever

had, and the School of Education has been the most active of all the units there," Herrera said. "With the breakout of war in the 1990s, we couldn't do anything, but now we're back with the contract re-signed and we're ready to go again."

New Zealand Program Offers Sights, Sun And Graduate Credits

A new Graduate Studies in Education study abroad initiative is headed "Down Under" to New Zealand in the Spring/Summer of 2002.

In cooperation with GVSU's Study Abroad program, The School of Education has developed a program to send teachers to New Zealand and allow participants to earn up to six credits toward a masters degree or continuing certificate.

Professors Loretta Konecki and Caryn King will travel with a group of 25-30 students to North Island of New Zealand and take part in one or two classes based on the concept of "differentiated instruction," where detailed educational concepts can be applied to an area of concentration specific to their field of study. Those fields include Curriculum Design, Reading, Technology, Elementary or Secondary Education and/or Administration.

The program will explore curriculum devel-



Auckland Harbor awaits 2002 Study Abroad participants to New Zealand.

opment with teachers who are implementing New Zealand Curriculum framework, research organizational strategies, teaching strategies, technology and other educational issues, and observe how inclusion is implemented and adhered to on one of the world's most beautiful continents.

"This program offers a unique opportunity that will impact not only how a person would teach, but how one would think," Konecki said.

As part of the coursework, pre-trip and post-trip classes are scheduled in Grand Rapids.

An informational meeting is scheduled Dec. 6, 2001, from 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., at the Eberhard Center at GVSU's downtown campus in Grand Rapids. The application deadline is Jan. 11, 2002. For additional information, call (616) 771-6650, or contact Konecki or King via e-mail at (koneckil@gvsu.edu) or (kingc@gvsu.edu).



Faite R-P Mack, Ph.D., left, at Komonwittayakhan Elementary School, Thabo, Thailand.

Professor Establishing Doctoral Program in Thailand

Professor Faite R-P Mack, Ph.D., continues to strengthen his ties with Thailand.

Mack, the chairperson of Graduate Studies in Education at Grand Valley State University, is a world traveler who has spent summers sharing his professional expertise overseas in countries such as Turkey, Ghana, France, Greece, Vietnam, Malaysia, Australia, Brunei, Laos, Thailand and Taiwan. He returned to Thailand during the summer of 2001 where he was invited to teach at Srinakharinwirot University. Mack, a former Fulbright professor, is helping the university begin a doctoral sequence for special education, and has been asked to return to teach again in 2002. He awaits notice of a possible second Fulbright professorship at the university.

Mack has become a contributing member in

the development of the first doctoral program in special education in Thailand, a consultant for faculty in the medical school and a presenter at several regional education districts.

During the summer of 2001, Dr. Mack and Dr. Emily Lin collaborated with the administration of the Srinakharinwirot University to establish a teacher visitation program in Thailand. The School of Education has sequenced the Thailand program to be offered in the summer of 2004.

Dr. Mack has collaborated with VonMany Norasing to establish a foundation that provides assistance for school children in Thailand. Starting with an initial group of 10 children, the foundation now provides assistance for approximately 35 children with a goal of assisting 100 children in the year 2002.