

NEW FACULTY APPOINTED

The School of Education at Grand Valley State University announces 14 new faculty and staff appointments for the fall of 2002.

They include Rosemary Cleveland, Sally Hipp and Dennis Schultz (Graduate Teacher Certification); Roger Finlan, Louis Hilton III and Cynthia Mader (Foundations); Judy Donovan (Technology); Jay Cooper (College Student Affairs Leadership); Richard Geisel (Education Leadership); Dori Helder (Special Education); Phil Helzer (Secondary); Priscilla Hill Gregels (Elementary); William O'Neill (Special Education Administration) and Nancy Patterson (Reading).

TEACHER RUNS CHICAGO

On Sunday, Oct. 13, 2002, Kelly Holder, a GVSU Masters in Education (Reading) candidate, completed the 25th annual Chicago marathon. After 20 weeks of training in both race walking and running, she competed with 37,500 other marathoners and finished the 26.2 mile course in five hours, fifteen minutes. Holder is a fourth/fifth grade teacher at Shettler Elementary School in Fruitport Community Schools in Muskegon.

LIBRARY MEDIA CLASSES ARE OFFERED ONLINE

With a shortage of library media specialists in Michigan school districts, GVSU's School of Education is offering many of the classes toward a Library Media Endorsement online.

Of the 10 core courses required for the library media endorsement, six are being offered online, with additional offerings being added to the internet each semester.

The library media endorsement program — offered through Grand Valley's Continuing Education Department — adheres to NCATE and state standards.

Application and registration may be completed online. For additional information, visit the School of Education website (<http://www.gvsu.edu/soe>) or contact the Student Information Services desk at 616.771.6650.

IN REMEMBRANCE: DR. F. WESTON WOCHHOLZ

Longtime School of Education professor Dr. F. Weston Wochholz passed away Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2002, at the age of 76.

Dr. Wochholz was one of the first professors at the School of Education and taught classes until his retirement in 2000. He served the School of Education in many capacities, including Assistant Director and Program Coordinator, as well as teaching an array of courses such as Classroom Management, Secondary Student Teaching, Elementary Student Teaching, Teacher Assisting and Interaction and Analysis.

Dr. Wochholz is remembered for his friendly demeanor, booming laugh and outstanding ability to educate future educators. Dr. Wochholz is survived by his wife of 50 years, Lillian.

Wireless Technology Goes Online In Education Classes

The School of Education is offering technology a la carte. Or — as the case may be — on a cart.

Two classrooms at Mackinac Hall have been set up as mobile computer labs that provide access to the world wide web using wireless laptop computers in ED/205 Computers and Education classes.

The mobile lab provides a wireless hub that is wheeled into the classroom on a cart with all the benefits of a computer lab. It has served as a university model this fall.

Two classrooms in Mackinac Hall have been set up to accommodate the wireless, portable lab.

"It's just like being in a lab, but not having to physically be at the lab," School of Education Foundations & Technology Department chair David Bair said. "It provides anything that can be done in a regular computer lab — whether it be internet access or other wireless functions — and it is portable.

"As increasing numbers of students bring in wireless laptops, it makes it a lot easier to access computer technology and use it for virtually any course without having to go to the computer lab. It creates incredible flexibility and efficiency."

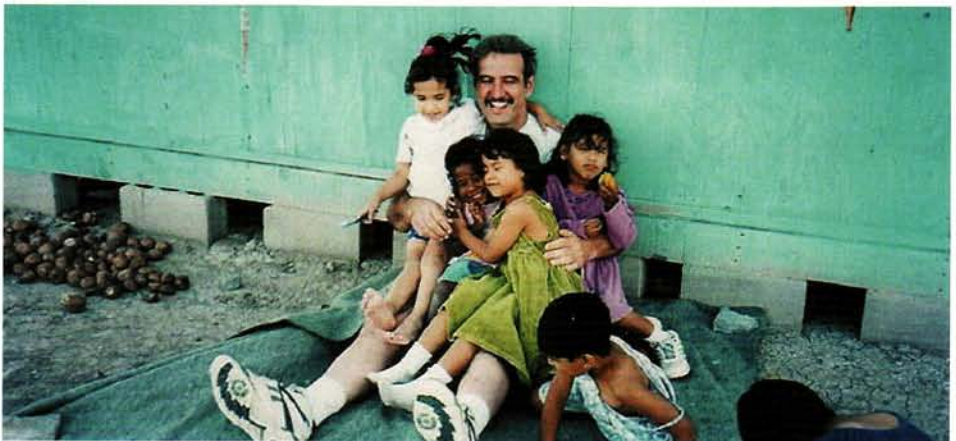
The portable lab accommodates 36 laptops and a server cart that is wheeled into the classrooms at 1142 and 1145 Mackinac Hall that have been equipped for wireless connections. The cart, which serves as a hub or airport, is plugged into a nearby wall and the laptops run on batteries, which are recharged after one or two class sessions.

"It's working great, and we couldn't be more pleased," said Professor Ron Postma, who teaches the Computers and Education classes, along with Judy Donovan and Russ Barneveld. "It's a model for the University."

In addition, an increasing number of online courses are being offered by the School of Education with additional offerings scheduled to go online next fall.

"We have the expertise to put these online courses together and we're moving pretty quickly on all of this," Bair said. "It's amazing what they are able to deliver online. Sometimes a great deal can be done online, even more sometimes than face-to-face interaction.

"We're trying to stay ahead of the curve. The underlying cause is how we can better serve the students."



Dr. John Shinsky is creating a home for children without parents.

'Building A City' For Homeless Children

Dr. John Shinsky is involved with a project that is very near and dear to his heart. The director of the Leadership & Human Services Unit for GVSU's School of Education is spearheading a project that is creating a school and home for 100 orphans in the financially challenged city of Matamoros, Mexico.

"We're building a city," Shinsky says. "We currently have 11 buildings there.

"We just had a septic system put in. It's been a good year."

When complete, there will be dormitories to house 100 children, with a workshop, medical building, dining hall and school. It is being built with private and personal donations and volunteer labor.

Shinsky, who was an orphan himself, began working on the project in 1999. He has been heavily involved ever since.

"I originally went down there and visited, and I went to the orphanage and asked what I could do to help," Shinsky said. "They had two acres that were donated, and I bought four additional acres and we started building.

"My wife and I made initial contributions and continue to make contributions. People have found out more about it and have given to the foundation."

A former Academic All-American football player and graduate of Michigan State University, Shinsky has taken two groups of spring break students to the city just over the border from Brownsville, Texas, to volunteer time and help with the construction process.

"I've always wanted to do something like this," Shinsky said. "It's been a dream of mine for 30 years."