

## FALL CONVOCATION HONORS GRADUATES

Convocation for Fall 2003 Education graduates is scheduled for Friday, December 5, at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids.

Being honored at the ceremony will be Kevin Murphy, a principal at Kelloggsville Middle School, and Tom Ebels, a veteran educator in the Grand Rapids Public Schools System. Murphy is the recipient of the Outstanding Administrator Award, while Ebels – who has served as an adjunct professor at GVSU for the past five years – will be acknowledged for his contributions to education after being part of the pioneer class at Grand Valley.



New School of Education faculty members line a stairway at the Eberhard Center. From top to bottom are Douglas Busman, Richard Geisel, Sally Hipp, Pamela Garriott, Jung-ah Choi, Amy Croel-Perrien and Victoria Kamps.

## SCHOOL OF ED WELCOMES NEW DEAN AND FACULTY

Several new appointments have been made to the School of Education for the fall of 2003.

Elaine C. Collins, Ph.D., took over as dean of the School of Education in July. Collins replaced interim dean Anne Mulder, Ph.D., who is now semi-retired and living in Florida.

In addition, five tenure track faculty have been appointed. They include Dr. Douglas Busman in Secondary Education, Dr. Jung-ah Choi in Foundations, Dr. Pamela Garriott in Special Education, Dr. Richard Geisel in Educational Leadership and Dr. Sally Hipp in Elementary Education.

The School of Education also welcomes affiliate faculty member Victoria Kamps in Early Childhood/Elementary Education, visiting faculty Amy Croel-Perrien in Reading and Larry Spencer in Educational Leadership/Special Education Administration.

**ON THE COVER:** Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, shown making an appearance at GVSU after taking office in January, returned for a Town Hall Meeting in October to promote her "Great Start" program and the importance of Early Childhood Education. The event was hosted by WGVU. See story, Page 3.

ELAINE C. COLLINS, Ph.D.

DEAN'S CORNER



## PRIORITIZING OUR MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

I celebrate the privilege to lead the School of Education at Grand Valley State University. It is truly an honor to work with a team of such dedicated faculty and staff, and a pleasure to enter an organization at a time when much of the foundational framework needed to position the school for the future is in place.

That framework includes:

- A newly crafted mission, vision and values statement
- A newly restructured School of Education with three service and three academic units, promoting additional collaboration
- A newly integrated graduate and undergraduate faculty, creating a more efficient organizational structure

Our task this year will be to actualize our new mission, vision and values, and to operate seamlessly as a School of Education. To accomplish this task, it will be necessary to create collectively and implement a planning process that will lay the framework for the GVSU S.O.E. for the next five years. Six priorities will be included in this planning process.

Our first priority is to build a strong School of Education community where respect is a key value and all voices are heard; where collaboration is frequent and decision making is shared. Additionally, we will continue to work on the identification of a unique niche that distinguishes the GVSU S.O.E. from other schools of education and builds upon what we are currently doing well to design our future success.

Our second priority is identifying and securing resources needed to advance the new mission and vision of the School of Education. Our plans include the growing of our School of Education Alumni Association to help identify friends who can volunteer "time, talent and treasure." Additionally, we are working diligently to build a culture of grant writing that will help us further our S.O.E. mission and vision.

The third priority is a continued effort of

reaching out to our minority communities. Our plans include the fostering of an inclusive community by continued participation in diversity efforts, increased student participation in cultural awareness programming and the development of meaningful partnerships with minority organizations.

Our fourth priority is developing a technology plan that outlines S.O.E. intentions for replacing hardware, for outfitting faculty and staff with cutting edge software and for providing faculty with professional development to assist the integration of this potential into S.O.E. courses.

Fifth, we will create action plans in the area of professional development. Our goal is to ensure that we have adequate support mechanisms in place for quality professional development, to systematize a mentoring program with detailed procedures and policies and to host national speakers of interest to the S.O.E. and broad community.

Finally, our sixth priority is to continue challenging ourselves to exceed quality standards. Quality initiatives will foster collective support for the value of high expectations and of raising the bar. Our ultimate aim will be to raise expectations for our students and to examine all S.O.E. decisions in relation to excellence.

It is my hope that in the year ahead, we will create a comprehensive and thoughtful planning document with students at its core. Clearly, students are our ultimate priority. As such, I look forward to a great year full of opportunities to create plans, design strategies and implement ideas that will positively enhance student lives. I invite you to participate in our upcoming planning efforts welcome your comments and sincerely appreciate your help in shaping our future journey.

*(Elaine C. Collins, Ph.D., took over as Dean of the GVSU School of Education in July, 2003. You may access Dr. Collins via e-mail at [Collinel@gvsu.edu](mailto:Collinel@gvsu.edu))*

## Input Being Sought About GVSU Reorganization

As Grand Valley State University continues to proceed through its Reorganization Plan, requests for comments are being solicited.

In the proposed plan for reorganization, the School of Education will be replaced as the College of Education. The plan will put students in different majors under one umbrella, according to Dr. Linda McCrea, the School of Education's chair for Curriculum & Instruction.

The Reorganization Plan for the University places the School of Education as a College of Education, and will represent a broader educational focus, which includes CSAL, school counseling, educational leadership, technology, library media careers in addition to teaching.

The proposed plan facilitates more direct communication at the dean's level with all the major departments from which students receive their degrees.

"It won't change a lot about how we do things, but it sends a different message by providing a broader perspective," McCrea said. "We will be able to facilitate more direct communication for majors with one large unit in the College of Arts & Sciences.

"It will help streamline the way business gets done."

Comments about the reorganization may be made by accessing [www.gvsu.edu/reorganization](http://www.gvsu.edu/reorganization) on the Internet.