

SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM IS SET TO BEGIN

The School of Education at GVSU will launch a new master's level school counseling program beginning in 2004.

The Masters of Education in School Counseling program was endorsed and approved by the GVSU Board of Trustees in October, 2003. The first students will be formally admitted to the program beginning in the winter of 2004.

The School Counseling degree will allow graduates to work as school counselors in K-12 public, private and charter schools.

"There is a need on a national level for more school counselors, because it affects academic, career and personal development in our schools," said Claudia Sowa Wojciakowski, the School of Education's director of Community Outreach. "School counselors and programs have a substantial affect on students. We have developed educational programs with collaboration of administrators and teachers to assist students and student learning."

Sowa Wojciakowski said that there is a shortage of school counselors in the United States and the profession is expected to experience a faster growth rate than the average for other school related occupations until 2010.

To learn more about the graduate program, contact Sowa Wojciakowski via e-mail at sowac@gvsu.edu.



Amy Moore, right, 'High Fives' teammate, Shawn Evans.

CHARITY BALLGAME A HIT FOR CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Students, staff and children representing GVSU's School of Education recently took part in a charity wiffle ball game at Fifth Third Park to benefit the Grand Rapids Children's Museum.

The Aug. 12 charity event was named "Have a Ball: Backyard Baseball Bash" and included teams from GVSU and Aquinas College, as well as a celebrity game that included members of the Grand Rapids police and fire departments, Grand Rapids Rampage and Griffins players and several local "celebrities."

Teams were sponsored by local businesses. Proceeds were donated to the Children's Museum. The event raised more than \$10,000 for the museum.

The School of Education team, coached by Amy Moore of the Community Outreach Office, included teachers, staff members and children between the ages of 5 and 12.



Gijsbert and Robbyn van Frankenhuyzen autograph books at 2003 Celebrate Literacy Conference.

Authors and Illustrators Help Celebrate Literacy

West Michigan continues to Celebrate Literacy with the School of Education at Grand Valley State University.

The School of Education, in conjunction with the West Michigan Regional Literacy Council, EDCO Publishing, KRESHA and Harcourt School Publishers, hosted the sixth annual Celebrate Literacy Conference on Oct. 14-15 at the Kirkhof Center on GVSU's Allendale campus.

Touted as fun, informative and affordable professional development for K-12 educators, Celebrate Literacy featured several nationally renowned children's authors and illustrators,

including Jeffrey Wilhelm, Patricia Polacco, Kevin Kammeraad and the husband-and-wife team of Gijsbert and Robbyn van Frankenhuyzen.

The two-day conference featured speakers discussing "Best Literacy Practices" during Friday's sessions and "Celebrating Children's Literature" on Saturday.

Session topics included "Strategies for Quality Literacy Instruction," "Early Literacy," "State Literacy Initiatives," "Working With Struggling Readers," "Poetry," "Adolescent Literacy" and "Storytelling," as well as segments in writing, English as a Second Language, assessment integration and technology.

Reading Marathon Tackles Tolkien's 'Lord of The Rings'

In an attempt to promote reading habits, the School of Education sought out hobbits to conduct a 24-hour "Lord of the Rings" marathon.

Readers – ranging from students, to faculty, to local dignitaries – took turns reading J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy for 24 consecutive hours on Oct. 9-10.

With the recent big-screen success of "The Lord of the Rings," Tolkien's books – originally published in the 1960s – have enjoyed a renewed popularity.

"Millions of people have read these books and they are extraordinarily popular for people to read them over and over again," organizer Nancy Patterson said. "It's about the power of the written language."

Volunteers solicited pledges and read for 10 minutes throughout the day and deep into the night and beyond in front of the Carrollon Tower on GVSU's Allendale campus. The journey took them every step of the way through Tolkien's trilogy of "The Fellowship of the Ring," "The Two Towers" and "The Return of the Ring."

Warm, sunny daytime temperatures and a spell-binding, bright, full moon created a near perfect setting for the reading "wizards," who



School of Education professor Rick Geisel reads from the pages of J.R.R. Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings.'

made their way through nearly 1,000 pages of the trilogy.

"We started at the beginning and got to the end with some creative editing," Patterson said.

Among those participating in the reading marathon were School of Education Dean Elaine C. Collins, Ph.D., Grand Rapids mayor-elect George Heartwell and GVSU Provost Gayle Davis.

Nearly \$2,500 in pledges was raised and donated to Grand Rapids Public Schools for materials to enhance high school science and math classroom libraries.