

FACES IN EDUCATION



NAME: Bill Worfel
POSITION AT GVSU:
 Visiting Professor
RESEARCH: Urban
 Education and At-Risk
 Issues
**WHAT EXPERIENCE
 HAS TAUGHT ME:**
 Be sincere, patient and
 flexible. I can't change
 complex issues, but I

Bill Worfel

might be able to help some people improve
 their lives.

BIGGEST PROBLEM(S) FACING

EDUCATION: The complexity of the stu-
 dent population is changing much faster than
 the educational institutions.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: Treat others as you
 wish to be treated. Don't take yourself too
 seriously

FAVORITE PASTIME: Sunsets and long
 walks with my wife and dogs.



NAME: Sherie Williams
POSITION AT GVSU:
 Assistant Professor
NOTABLE: Chosen by
 students as Professor of
 the Year chosen of
 Educational Support
 Services
RESEARCH:
 Classroom manage-
 ment/organization and
 student behavior

Sherie Williams

**WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT
 ME:** All problems have solutions, we just
 might not like our choices

REASONS FOR BEING IN EDUCATION:
 There is no greater responsibility in the world
 than helping to shape a child

FAVORITE SAYING: "Perfection is over-
 rated!!"

NAME: Douglas Busman
POSITION AT GVSU:
 Assistant Professor,
 Middle and Secondary
 Education, and Director
 of the Student
 Information Services
 Center, College of
 Education

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Teaching and Learning
 and Planned Change in School Districts

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME:
 Where you are is exactly where you are sup-
 posed to be.

REASON FOR BEING IN EDUCATION: I
 believe that everyone has gifts. The educator
 helps a child find these gifts. When you
 help one child succeed you have a positive
 impact on the child's family and all the peo-
 ple in the generations that follow.

HOBBIES: Fly fishing, back packing, and
 kayaking.



Douglas Busman



A world of experience is working as part of the College of Education's Grants Team for Funded Partnerships. Spanning the globe are, from left to right, administrative coordinator Darlene Zwart (Canada), graduate assistant Sarah Cox (Wales), student worker Jorge Flores (Mexico) and student assistant Yuan Tian (China).

Grants Team Has International Flavor

The Teacher Academy office is celebrating one
 year of an expanded role of bringing together
 most of the College of Education's governmentally
 sponsored programs under one umbrella.

With the direction of Dr. Loretta Konecki, the
 Teacher Academy has facilitated and written
 grants, hosted dozens of workshops, hosted more
 than 100 teachers and administrators from Kent,
 Ottawa, Muskegon, Allegan, Montcalm and
 Broward (Fla.) counties and carried out support-
 ing activities for related projects.

The Teacher Academy is dedicated to foster-
 ing sponsored partnership projects, bringing
 together GVSU faculty and students to work with
 local teachers, schools, school districts and other
 educational organization to address identified
 needs.

This year, the office features an international
 staff. Canadian-born Darlene Zwart serves as
 Administrative Coordinator for all the sponsored
 projects and leads an international team that
 includes graduate assistants Yuan Tian (China)
 and Sarah Cox (Wales) and student worker Jorge
 Flores (Mexico).

"Their diverse backgrounds really bring a
 unique international perspective to what we do
 here," Konecki said.

Currently, five grants are operating through
 the Academy. The longest running of the grants

— The Urban Teacher Academy for Elementary
 Science and Mathematics — is a federally funded
 program that supports professional development
 of elementary teachers from Grand Rapids and
 Kentwood public schools in the area of science,
 which integrates mathematics and literacy.

The Cross Cultural Student Teaching pro-
 gram offers GVSU students opportunities in
 Borward County, Fla. In addition, the GVSU
 Teacher Academy Partnership with the Holland
 Public Schools is a professional development pro-
 gram helping middle school mathematics instruc-
 tors meet student needs through differentiated
 instruction.

SUCCESS — Strategies for Understanding
 Content and Connections in English Language
 Arts & Social Studies — has been a success. The
 two-year project is funded under the No Child
 Left Behind initiative focused on middle school
 achievement in English/Language Arts and
 Social Studies by increasing teachers' understand-
 ing of content, curriculum development, assess-
 ment and instruction.

The West Michigan Middle Start Initiative,
 originally launched in 1994, continues its mission
 through funding by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation
 with support from GVSU. It provides a model for
 establishing more effective learning environments
 for all students.

Outgoing Professional Partnership Director Honored

Claudia Sowa-Wojciakowski, Director of the
 College of Education's Community Outreach
 Office, was recently honored for her work as coor-
 dinator of Professional Development Partnerships.

She was appointed as an associate faculty
 member for the College of Education's new coun-
 seling program and has turned over the PDP
 duties to Leslie Bateman.

Sowa-Wojciakowski took over as coordinator
 for the PDP office in 2000 and played an integral
 role in the program's growth. She also served as a
 liaison between Continuing Education and the
 College of Education, facilitating communication
 and developing partnerships to bring quality pro-
 grams throughout Michigan via distance educa-
 tion.

During the past academic year, PDP enroll-



Sowa-Wojciakowski

ment totaled over 600 stu-
 dents. Professional Devel-
 opment Partnerships is a
 Continuing Education pro-
 gram that provides partners
 with academic credit and
 State Board Continuing
 Education Units for profes-
 sional development work-
 shops and training pro-
 grams. The program allows
 GVSU to work with school districts to meet their
 immediate needs for training teachers and admin-
 istrators. For academic courses, PDP processes
 approvals, registration and grades, and reimburses
 a percentage of tuition based on enrollment num-
 bers of each class.