

A PUBLICATION FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL

Colleagues

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Spring 2002



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OUTSTANDING STUDENTS HONORED FOR 2002

Nine 2002 GVSU Education graduates were honored as the Outstanding Students in their respective disciplines during an April 8 awards banquet.

Undergrads receiving the honors included Craig Hoekstra (Elementary), Janna L. Helder (Secondary) and Richard Goszkowicz (Special Education).

Graduate honors were awarded to Linda E. Klein (General Education), Kimberly J. DeWeerd (Reading/Language Arts) and Kristin J. Bauer (Special Education). In addition, Patricia D. McCrea (Education Leadership), Kevin J. Schwemmin (College Student Affairs) and Ashley B. Sustae (College Student Affairs) earned honors for outstanding performance in their respective graduate studies programs.

CONVOCATION CELEBRATES LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS



Fred Wisniewski, left, and Lisa Corbett, right, join Dean Mulder at Spring 2002 Convocation

Convocation for Grand Valley State University 2002 Education graduates was held April 26 at Sunshine Community Church.

A total of 419 undergraduates received their teacher certification this spring, creating Grand Valley State University's largest-ever graduating class for teacher education.

Two alumni were honored for their contributions to education in their respective communities. Fred Wisniewski, Director of Student Services at Forest Hills Public Schools, received the Administrator of the Year Award. Wisniewski has overseen a program serving approximately 900 special needs students as principal of the Alternative High School where he has started many programs, including Autism, Severely Trainable Mentally Impaired, Emotionally Impaired and Pre-Primary Impaired. Lisa Corbett, a third-grade instructor at Grant Elementary, was honored as Teacher of the Year.

ON THE COVER: Participants in The School of Education's TESOL program, top, enjoy a moment in the sun on the Pew Campus in downtown Grand Rapids. Eleven GVSU pre-service teachers, right, line up in preparation for their trip to South Africa. At lower left, principal Roberto Garcia, GVSU's Ellen Schiller, left, and third-grade teacher Becky Maatman, right, create a caring learning environment for students as part of the VISIONS program at Buchanan Elementary School.

ANNE MULDER, Ph.D. DEAN'S CORNER

SHARING VALUES & RESOURCES FOR THE COMMON GOOD



Since its inception in the fabric of American life, the university has been deeply rooted in the concept of service to a community.

That alignment with the broader socioeconomic goals and values of the community it serves has been one of the university's greatest strengths.

The community draws upon the rich reservoir of university scholars who in turn provide consulting, mentoring, and directing endeavors to a wide array of community ventures.

Likewise, the community sees the university as a resource for the educated and trained professionals who emerge from our schools of education and business, medicine and social work.

In turn, the university perceives of the community as a living laboratory, a training field if you will, where scholarship is grounded in practice.

Our student teachers and student nurses, our intern social workers and aspiring accountants begin their journeys in the schools and hospitals, the agencies and corporations that comprise the very community of which they are a part. Nowhere is that more evident than in the professional schools of a regional university.

The School of Education at Grand Valley State University is no exception to this reality. The mutual benefits to the community and to the university are not without challenges, however.

As the community changes, the university must strive to be responsive to needs that may be far different from what they had originally surmised. And communities do change!

Universities and professional schools sometimes take refuge in outdated perspectives that no longer serve the needs of the people.

What has worked well in the past may not be what is needed today. We need to be fluid, prepared and willing to adapt to the often changing needs of our most important customer -- society itself.

The Task At Hand

The task then for the university and the community is to be about the business of constantly examining their shared values and commitments. In that way, the mutual benefits can be encouraged and continued.

This edition of *Colleagues* features a number of programs and projects that reflect GVSU School of Education's reach into a very broad and diverse community.

TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages) offers courses and workshops enabling teachers to meet the needs of a

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growing number of students for whom English is not their native language.

The SOE regularly engages our students in service learning projects that provide numerous experiences for mentoring children and teenagers who come from diverse backgrounds. Service learning programs create dual benefits. They are delivered to the community as extra-curricular enrichment activities for young students, while providing mentoring experience for pre-service teachers. The concept fosters a win-win situation for everyone involved.

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We believe that our mission, vision, and values must reflect a deep commitment to community. We see our role as sometimes leading, but always serving, a community that is constantly changing.

I am reminded of the words of James O'Toole in his book "Leading Change." He describes two paintings that "both manifest the common qualities of design, composition, tension, balance, and harmony. ...completely different in form, style, subject, and substance. ...and at the same time similar in that they are each so well composed, so well integrated."

I like to think that such synergy can exist as well between the university and the community it serves.

That is our ultimate goal.

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