

MCCREA RECEIVES PEW AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



McCrea

School of Education Associate Professor Linda D. McCrea, Ed.D., is one of eight Grand Valley State University faculty members to receive the 2002 Pew Teaching Excellence Award.

The award — which represents teaching excellence, innovation and exemplary performance — is presented annually to a member of each academic division at GVSU.

McCrea served as the head of the School of Education's undergraduate program and as coordinator of elementary student teachers during the past year.

The award was presented to McCrea by Catherine Frerichs, Director of the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center at GVSU, during an April ceremony at the Kirkhof Center.

SHERI WILLIAMS NAMED PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Sherie Williams, who joined the School of Education faculty for the 2001-2002 academic year, received the 2002 Educational Support Program (ESP) Professor of the Year Award.

The university wide award is based on student nominations. Williams was selected for the award because of her commitment to the success of first-generation college students.

T.C. STUDENT RECEIVES GLENN NIEMEYER AWARD

Gail Matesich, an Elementary Education student at GVSU's Traverse City campus, was named one of two undergraduates to receive the Glenn Niemeyer Award for the Spring of 2002. The university wide award — given for outstanding achievement by a nomination from deans — is named in honor of the former GVSU provost.

ED BIRCH RETIRES FOR A THIRD TIME

Ed Birch, Ph.D., has retired and then un-retired as many times as a champion prize fighter.

This spring, Birch will "retire" for the third time when he steps away from his position as Special Education Coordinator for the School of Education. He has been at GVSU since 1998.

Prior to that, Birch was Coordinator of Training at the National Academy of Principalships of Special Education at Indiana University from 1989-1998. He also served as Director of Special Education Services for the Michigan Department of Education (1981-1989).

Birch is a former officer in the United States Army and an associate professor in the School of Education at Indiana University.

Third Doctoral Cohort Begins This Fall

Fifteen administrators have been selected to participate in the third cohort of the Grand Valley State/Eastern Michigan University Educational Leadership doctoral program, beginning in the fall of 2002.

The Educational Leadership Ed.D. cohort begins this fall at GVSU's L.V. Eberhard Center in downtown Grand Rapids with weekend classes delivered by EMU instructors.

The cohort includes Roger Thelen, Ryan Kelley, Joy Washburn, Chris Lewis, Chris

Plouff, Wallace Boeve, Tonia Shoup, Michael Stearns, Brett Geier, Scott Korpak, Andrea Vanderlaan, Janet Fisher, Michele Coyne, Greg Warsen and Amanda Reenders.

The Educational Leadership Ed.D. partnership with Eastern Michigan University began in 1998 as the first doctoral program to be delivered entirely in West Michigan.

Last fall, Lori Tubbergen Zahrt became the first student to successfully earn the Ed.D. degree from GVSU/EMU.

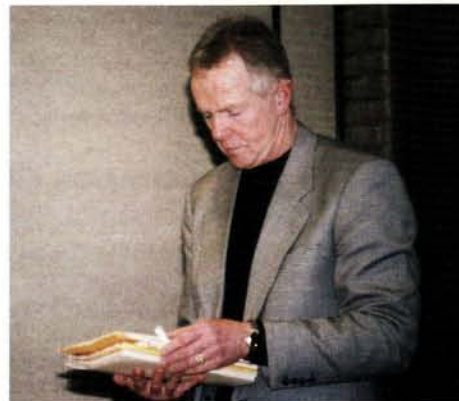
Character Education Conference Returning

The third annual West Michigan Character Education Conference is scheduled for Nov. 21, 2002, at the Eberhard Center on GVSU's downtown campus.

Hosted by the School of Education, the day-long event features presentations by nationally renowned experts in the field with 16 breakout sessions.

The 2001 conference featured Hal Urban, an award-winning teacher and author of "Life's Greatest Lessons: 20 Things I Want My Kids to Know." Urban, considered one of the nation's leading experts in the field of character development, conducted two presentations at the day-long conference that featured breakout sessions on developing, maintaining and incorporating character education issues into everyday lesson plans.

The cost to attend the 2002 West Michigan Character Education Conference is \$99 with a



Hal Urban provided keynote address at the 2001 West Michigan Character Education Conference

\$10 discount for early-bird registration. Registration information may be obtained by contacting special projects coordinator Amy Moore at the School of Education (moorea@gvsu.edu).

Reading Programs Modified To New Standards

Reading programs in both the undergraduate and graduate divisions at GVSU have recently undergone changes to accommodate provisions of Michigan's Public Act 497 of 2000.

At the undergraduate level, Barbara Reinken, Ph.D., redesigned the ED320 reading course to accommodate the proposed standards for teacher certification candidates. Those standards include six semester hours for initial elementary certification and three hours for secondary levels.

The new course content focuses on Assessment and Corrective Instruction. While

the course number will remain ED320, the new course title is "Reading: Assessment and Corrective Methods."

In addition, the School of Education now offers three reading endorsements at the graduate level, including Elementary Classroom Teacher, Secondary Classroom Teacher and Reading Specialist. The Reading Specialist Endorsement requires completion of a Master's degree, plus additional coursework.

In October, 2002, the state of Michigan will begin offering the new reading endorsement tests and issuing the new certificates.

Teacher Breakfast Draws Record Numbers

A record number of educators attending the annual Cooperating Teachers Breakfast congregated at Grand Valley State University's Allendale campus in March.

More than 400 teachers, administrators and field coordinators attended the morning sessions. The breakfast -- hosted by the Inter-Institutional Teacher Education Advisory Council -- is held each semester as a token of thanks to school districts for accepting students into their buildings and classrooms.

The council is comprised of eight cooperating West Michigan colleges or universities working toward improving teacher education across the board. The organization has been in existence for

more than 30 years.

"The larger the programs become, the more new cooperating teachers we have," said School of Education undergraduate chair Linda D. McCrea, Ed.D. "It is an opportunity for them to network with peers from other schools within their districts and from completely different schools."

The organization also hosted a Fire Up Conference for student teachers in the spring. More than 800 prospective teachers attended the day-long session at the GVSU Fieldhouse.

In addition, a University Supervisor's Conference is held annually for the participating institutions.