

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXTENDING ITS REACH

The GVSU School of Education Alumni Associated is holding its elections of officers for 2004-2005 in April.

Inaugural officers include Teresa McDougall (chair), Tricia McCrea (vice chair), Susan Laninga (special events), Beverly Rannow (secretary/treasurer) and Dennis Schultz (recruitment/retention).

There are more than 15,000 GVSU graduates currently in the teaching field, and the School of Education is in the process of expanding its base of Alumni Association members.

For more information about upcoming events or joining the Alumni Association, contact Clay Pelon (pelonc@gvsu.edu) at the School of Education's Community Outreach office.



Dr. David Whitehead, left, collaborated with School of Education professor Dr. Caryn King, right, during her recent visit to New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND LITERACY SCHOLAR COMING TO GVSU

Dr. David Whitehead, an internationally renowned literacy scholar from the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand, is scheduled to arrive in the United States to teach a summer class for the School of Education at Grand Valley State University.

Whitehead is scheduled to teach the Issues and Trends in Literacy (EDR 621) in the summer 2004.

BEST PRACTICES WORK- SHOP SCHEDULED FOR JULY

The School of Education is hosting a Best Practices in Education Workshop for K-12 educators this summer.

The workshop series provides leading edge strategies for improving student achievement.

Featured speakers and sessions include Martha Kaufeldt (Begin With the Brain), Jacquelyn Melin and Sharon Wells (Strategies to Respond to the Needs of All Learners), David Whitehead (Learning to Think Through Literacy), William Stepien (Problem Based Learning) and Jim Grant (Strategies That Support Differential Instruction).

The five-day workshop is scheduled for July 19-23 at the GVSU Eberhard Center.

For additional information or to make a reservation on the "Best Practices" Teacher Conference, call 616.331.6650.

Education Program Hits The Airwaves

The School of Education is being showcased on a new radio segment hosted by the WGUV Morning Show.

The topic-driven radio show, which is hosted by award-winning, on-air personality Shelley Irwin, airs 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on WGUV-AM (1480 and 850) and WGUV-FM (88.5 and 95.3).

The School of Education is featured the second Thursday each month. Subjects range from current events in education to programs, highlights and events. Guests include School of Education faculty, staff and members of the community who work with them.

"We have about 15 regular guests each month and the School of Education is a nice

addition to our programming," Irwin said. "Our mission here with the Morning show is obviously to inform, educate and entertain. Our guests are passionate about what they are doing and want to talk.

"Thanks to the School of Education, we can talk education. We try to focus on timely and topic oriented issues."

Irwin recently was named as the Gracie Allen Award Winner by the Foundation of American Women in Radio and Television for Individual Achievement for her role as program host of The Morning Show. Irwin will be honored at the Market Awards Luncheon of the Gracie Allen Awards on June 21 in New York City.

Celebrate Literacy Moves Downtown For 2004

The response and attendance for the School of Education's Celebrate Literacy Conference has grown so large that the 2004 showcase of authors, illustrators and literacy experts is moving to the Eberhard Center in downtown Grand Rapids.

A record attendance eclipsed 500 for the 2003 conference at the Kirkhof Center on GVSU's Allendale campus. The first six Celebrate Literacy Conferences – which annually attracts some of the top children's authors and illustrators in the country – were held at the Kirkhof Center.

"We have just grown too large for where we have been having it," event organizer Liz Storey said. "We had to move to a place where we can accommodate more people."

Widely regarded as one of the most enlightening and entertaining professional development conferences in Michigan, the seventh-annual Celebrate Literacy Conference is scheduled for Oct. 22-23, 2004, at the Eberhard Center.

Friday's featured children's author is Gordon Korman, who is renowned for his trilogy of stories "Dive," "Island" and "Everest." Korman also authored "Son of the Mob," "D- Poems of Jeremy Bloom" and "Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire."

An additional 30 authors, illustrators and educators – including literacy comprehension expert Nell Duke from Michigan State University -- are also expected to make presentations and showcase their works.



Author Patricia Polacco displays the "Keeping Quilt."

"The Friday sessions will focus more on comprehension and literacy strategies and Saturday's focus is more on the children's authors and illustrators," Storey said.

The cost for the two-day conference is \$80 per teacher. Special events include a book signing and reception Friday evening and an author and a special illustrator luncheon on Saturday. Students may register at reduced rates.

Additional information and registration forms for Celebrate Literacy can be found online on the School of Education web site (www4.gvsu.edu/soe/clc).

Current Practices Sessions Update Teacher Assistants

Elementary teacher assistants and their coordinators take time participate in four Current Practices Days per semester.

Earlier in the winter 2004 semester, Marilyn Holmes discussed Learning Styles with students, who were provided the opportunity to construct learning aides to assist and accommodate visual, tactical and kinesthetic learners in their classrooms.

Additional presenters discussed different issues at other sessions throughout the semester.



Monte Czuba leads a discussion during a Current Practices Day session.