GVSU Women's Center

Education Release

POVERTY

Fall & Winter 2007-2008

WOMEN'S CENTER

Grand Valley State University

Poverty Here and Abroad

GVSU Academic Year 2007-2008

During the Fall and Winter semesters of the 2007-2008 academic year Grand Valley State University's Allendale campus will provide a variety of opportunities for students to engage in the topic of **POVERTY.** The Women's Center in conjunction with other GVSU departments including; LAS, CoIS, Integrative Learning, and the Community Reading Project will host a number of events designed to stimulate discussion about poverty on the local, state, national, and international levels.

The following provides a calendar of events utilizing the theme of poverty in different ways. This release also includes a number of educational and news items about poverty that we encourage you to share with your students.

Calendar

Calendar of Poverty Related Events for the 2007-2008 Academic Year

Upcoming events
Tuesday October 16, 2007 4:30 PM, Jonathon Kozol, Multipurpose Room-EC Author of *Death at an Early Age: The Destruction of the Hearts and Minds of Negro Children in the Boston Public Schools* and *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation.*
Wednesday October 24, 2007 4:00 PM Sustainability Week Lecture, Jed Horne, Grand River Room Author of *Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City* and *Desire Street: A True Story of Death and Deliverance in New Orleans*.
Thursday, November 1, 2007 7:00 PM, Class Dismissed: How TV Frames the Working Class 250 Kirkhof Documentary exploring the stereotypes and narrow images presented in the Media about those in the working class that perpetuate the myth of meritocracy.
Monday, November 12, 2007 2:30 PM and 6:30 PM* ACCESS Poverty Simulation, *Grand River Room An opportunity for students to encounter, first hand, the experience of what it is like to live in poverty. In order to participate in this unique experience, students must contribute a $5.00 donation to hold a spot. Donations will be given to a local community organization that works with homeless women and children.
Wednesday, January 16, 2008 Poverty Panel Discussion and Program, Grand River Room, Check Women's Center Website for Time, This panel will be comprised of individuals from the non-profit, business, education,

religious, and government domains. Their discussion will focus on regional poverty and the intersection of contemporary culture as it relates to education, housing, race, gender, and religion. The speakers will explore how our views about the poor are shaped by media messages.
Friday and Saturday March 14 & 15, 2008, LAS Symposium, "Persistent Divides: Marginalization and Social Exclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean"
Wednesday, March 19, 2008 Community Reading Lecture, Jeannette Walls Author of *The Glass Castle* about growing up with two eccentric parents and living in poverty. Currently a reporter for MSNBC.com
Wednesday April 2, 2008 3:30 to 5:30 PM, Community Reading Project Faculty Panel, Pere Marquette, KC
April 4 through April 12, 2008 Nickel and Dimed, GVSU Theater a stage play based on Barbara Ehrenreich's book about the lives of the working poor and whether a person can survive a minimum wage job.
More programs might be added throughout the academic year, so continue to look for upcoming program announcements!

Statistics

International to Local

- **International** More than 1 billion people throughout the world live on less than $1.00 a day according to the World Bank.
- **National** According to the U.S. Census Bureau 31.1% of female headed households in the United States live in poverty.

  For a family of 4, the Health and Human Services poverty guideline is $19,350.00.
- **State** Approximately 12.5% of individuals residing in the State of Michigan live in poverty.

  21.6% of families with children under the age of five live in poverty in the State of Michigan.
- **Local** In Kent County 40.2% of female headed households with children under the age of five live below the federal poverty guidelines.

  In Ottawa County 10.1% of families live on $24,999.00 dollars or less per year.

In the News

Notable Quotes from Recent News Articles about Poverty

U.S Economy Leaving Record Numbers in Severe Poverty by Tony Pugh

"The percentage of poor Americans who are living in severe poverty has reached a 32-year high, millions of working Americans are falling closer to the poverty line and the gulf between the nation's 'haves' and 'have-nots' continues to widen…The share of national income going to corporate profits has dwarfed the amount going to wages and salaries." -February 22, 2007 McClatchy Newspapers

Mother's Education Empirically Tied to Her Family's Economic Well-Being, Latest Study Shows

"Of the 16.5 million undergraduate students in the United States 2.2 million are single parents. Of that number, 70 percent is female and more than 50 percent of female single-mother students end up dropping out of college. ..those with a four year degree are three to 10 times more likely to live above the federal poverty line." - March 12, 2007 US State News

Couch Potato Humanitarian by Jay Nargundkar

"Kiva (which) allows anyone to make direct loans through Pay Pal to specific entrepreneurs in Third World Countries. Small loans…are given to poor people, especially women, who traditionally have little access to capital…It's philanthropy on the cheap…programs like Kiva offer us college students an easy and affordable way to help people and become involved in humanitarian causes." - April 11, 2007 The Diamondback

Student Activism Goes Global; Youthful View; Crises Can't Wait Until Graduation by Moni Basu

"Rohit Malhorta wants every college student in America to join him in spreading the word about the MDGs…The Millennium Development Goals range from cutting extreme poverty in half to stopping the spread of HIV to getting all kids into classrooms by the year 2015."- February 17, 2007 The Atlanta Journal- Constitution

According to the World Bank over 1.1 billion people live on less than $1.00 per day…

Scholarly

Examples of Scholarly Journal Articles about Poverty

Keywords: Poverty, welfare, US, policy

Abramovitz, M. (2006). Welfare reform in the United States: Gender, race, and class matter. *Critical Social Policy, 26*(2), 336-364.

Krumer-Nevo, M. (2005). Listening to 'life knowledge': A new research direction in poverty studies. *International Journal of Social Welfare, 14*, 99-106.

Mailander Farrell, J. (2007, April). Who's killing the women on Juarez: *Latina*, 134-137.

Muennig, P., Franks, P., Jia, H., Lubetkin, E., & Gold, M.R. (2005). The income-associated burden of disease in the United States. *Social Science and Medicine, 61,* 2018-2026.

Volk, S. & Schlotterbeck, M. (2007). Gender, order, and femicide: Reading the popular culture of murder in Ciudad Juarez. *Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, 32, 53-86.

Resources

Online, Print, and Video Resources related to Poverty

Online

www.census.gov

www.npc.umich.edu

http://www.irp.wisc.edu/

Print

Agosin, M. & Kostopulos & Cooperman, C. (2006). *Secrets in the sand: The young women on Cuidad Jurez*. New York: White Pine Press (Bilingual Edition).

Bowles, S., Durlauf, S.N., & Hoff, K. (Eds.) (2006). *Poverty traps.* Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Danziger, S.H. & Haveman, R.H. (Eds.) (2002). *Understanding poverty*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Day, P.J. (2005). *New history of social welfare* (5th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Ehrenreich, B. (2005). *Bait and switch: The (futile) pursuit of the American dream*. New York: Metropolitan Books.

Ehrenreich, B. (2002). *Nickel and dimed: On (not) getting by in America*. New York: Holt Publishing.

Fitchen, J.M. (1991). *Endangered spaces, enduring places: Change, identity, and survival in rural America*. Boulder: Westview Press.

Harrington, M. (1997). *The other America*. New York: Touchstone.

Harvey, D.L. (1993). *Potter Addiction: Poverty, family, and kinship in a Heartland community.* New York: Aldine De Gruyter.

Held, D. & Kaya, A. (2007). *Global inequality: A comprehensive introduction*. Malden: Polity Press.

Keller, B. (2005). *Class matters*. New York: Times Books.

Lang, K. (2007). *Poverty and discrimination*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Mangum, G.L., Mangum, S.L., & Sum, A.M. (2003). *Persistence of poverty in the United States*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

McCourt, F. (1996). *Angela's ashes.* New York: Touchstone.

O'Conner, A. (2002). *Poverty knowledge: Social science, social policy, and the poor in the Twentieth-Century U.S. history.* Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Rank, M. R. (2005). *One nation, underprivileged: Why American poverty affects us all*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rank, M. R. (1994). *Living on the edge: The realities of welfare in America*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Rodriguez, T. (2007). *The daughters of Juarez: A true story of serial murder south of the border*. New York: Atria Books.

Seccombe, K. (2007). *So you think I drive a Cadillac? Welfare recipients' perspectives on the system and its reform* (2nd ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Sherraden, M. (1991). *Assets and the poor: A New American welfare policy.* New York: M.E. Sharpe.

Shipler, D.K. (2005). *The working poor: Invisible in America*. New York: Knopf Publishing Group.

Sidel, R. (1998). *Keeping women and children last: America's war on the poor* (Rev. ed.). New York: Penguin Books.

Video

Battle for Broad

Border Echoes

Bordertown

Born into Brothels

Everyone Their Grain of Sand

Outriders

The Perfect Life

Poverty Outlaw

Takeover

Teen Dreams

Waging a living: Opportunities For Action