

The Bridge:

Bridging The Gap Between Today and Tomorrow

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Grand Valley State University
Educational Support Program

November 2010

The Case of Who Killed Mummy: Solved By: India Stanford

On Friday, October 15th students congregated in Kirkhof to attend the first cultural trip of the semester. After great anticipation, the time had finally come to solve “The Case of Who Killed Mummy”. While waiting to depart, conversations began to spark about student’s expectations of the murder mystery and excitement about the trip to Muskegon. Everything from the entertaining drive to Muskegon’s Frauenthal Theater, to the well-prepared three-course meal surpassed our expectations. Once the last fork sounded, the murder mystery began to unfold. The audience watched intently, asking questions and jotting down clues to help unlock the mystery. The interactive portion of the play maintained the audience’s attention and provided a chance for students Mareeta Sparks, Steven Eleazer, Dan Morrow, and Tiffany Faulkner to exhibit their impromptu acting talents. The very clever and detailed questions asked by our participants and other audience members made us successful in cracking the case. I am happy to report that over half of ESP’s participants matched the correct character with the crime. They hold the title of level 2 detectives! The Murder Mystery dinner was humorous, fun, and a great time. This was a great start off to the year, and we look forward to more exciting trips in the future.



Lets strike a pose !!



November, Oh, November!

By: Melanierose Straub

Geez, the month of October went by fast! November is approaching and soon we will be thinking to ourselves how quickly it went by. The month of November is filled with various events. Many events will be hosted by the Women's Center of Grand Valley State University. The Women's center hosts Her Story, a series of laid-back lectures (you can feel free to bring your lunch) given by women in successful positions who share their experiences. Her Story with Shelley Irwin will take place on November 8th from 12:00 - 1:00 pm at 2263 Kirkhof. Also taking place, thanks to initiatives supported by the Women's Center, is a nontraditional student meet-and-greet that will take place on Friday, November 12, 2010 from 9:00 - 10:00 am at the Women's Center (Kirkhof 1201). The Women's Center opened the doors of the GVSU Student Food Pantry in April of 2009. You can make donations or receive food by visiting the Women's Center at 1201 Kirkhof. Also, in November we get our first break since Labor Day... Thanksgiving recess will be from November 24th - 28th! Then come back rejuvenated to hit the books once again in preparation for final exams, which will only be two weeks away when we return. If you aren't as refreshed as you hoped, join the Yoga Club for a FREE yoga session on November 21 from 8:00 - 9:00 pm at 160 Field House. Classes end on December 11th, and exams will be from December 13 - 18th.

If any other interesting events will be taking place during the month of November, please share them with us by contacting someone in the office or posting a blurb on our FaceBook page!
www.facebook.com/ESPpeermentors

Cooking Corner

By: Marnie Parris-Bingle

Pumpkin Spice Cake

What You Need:

- 1 pkg. (2-layer size) yellow cake mix
 - 1 pkg. (3.4 oz.) JELL-O Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding
 - 1 cup mashed cooked fresh or canned pumpkin
 - 1/2 cup oil
 - 1/2 cup water
 - 3 eggs
 - 1 Tbsp. pumpkin pie spice
 - PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese Frosting
 - 1/2 cup chopped toasted pecans
- HEAT oven to 350°F.

BEAT first 7 ingredients with mixer until well blended. Pour into 13x9-inch pan sprayed with cooking spray.

BAKE 32 to 35 min. or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely.

SPREAD with PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese Frosting; sprinkle with nuts. Keep refrigerated.

Weird Facts

By: Ashleigh Zerbst

- Laughing lowers levels of stress hormones and strengthens the immune system. Six-year olds laugh an average of 300 times a day. Adults only laugh 15 to 100 times a day.
- The lion that roars in the MGM logo is named Volney.
- The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- There are more plastic flamingos in the U.S, than real ones!
- More money is spent on gardening than on any other hobby.
- The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language.
- China has more English speakers than the United States.

You've Got Questions? We've Got Answers!

By: Melissa Selby-Theut

If you have any other questions about the program that you would like answered, you can either submit them to frontesp@gvsu.edu or schedule an appointment with your ESP advisor. Remember, we're here to help! I will be answering those questions in the newsletter throughout the course of the year.

How long does it take the average student to graduate?

That's complicated! There's a couple of ways to look at it. First, students need *at least* 120 credits to graduate (though most graduate with more than that). If you take 120 and divide it by 4, you'll get 30. That means that, theoretically, if you take 30 credits per year (either 15 credits in the fall and winter or 12 in the fall and winter and 6 in the summer) you can graduate in 4 years. You just have to make sure that you have fulfilled all University and major requirements within those 120 credits. Keep in mind, though, that some majors require more than 120 credits to finish, which would automatically lengthen the time that it takes students in those majors to graduate.

In all actuality, the average full-time student graduates in 5 years. Between repeating classes, changing majors, or taking just taking it slow for one reason or another, earning a "4-year degree" often takes more than 4 years!

Your ESP advisor is your BEST resource for graduating as quickly (and with as little debt) as possible! She can work with you to develop an academic plan, and she'll always make sure that you're taking the right classes.

How long has ESP been at GVSU?

Interestingly enough, nobody knows! As it turns out the first ESP director wasn't a stellar record-keeper, and the administrators who were here when ESP began have long since retired. While your guess is as good as mine, I think that ESP has been here more than 30 years!

Money Talk

By: Vicky Powers

Paycheck Deductions

When you receive a paycheck, some funds are usually deducted for taxes. Most people pay four basic kinds of taxes:

1. **FICA.** These taxes are paid because of a law called the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. FICA taxes are contributions you make to Social Security and Medicare. You pay 6.2% of your income to Social Security and 1.45% to Medicare. The good news is that your total FICA contribution is really 12.4% to Social Security and 2.9% to Medicare. Your employer pays half of the contribution for you!
2. **Federal income tax.** These taxes are paid to the federal government. They are calculated as a percentage of your income. For federal taxes, the more you earn, the higher the percentage you pay. Currently federal tax rates range from 10% to 35%.
3. **State income tax.** These taxes are paid to your state government. They may be calculated in different ways, depending on the state you live in. Some states calculate state taxes as a flat percentage of your federal tax. Other states calculate your tax as a percentage of income. In Michigan our income tax is a flat 3.9%.
4. **Local tax.** Some individuals may also pay local taxes. These taxes vary depending on the city you live in. Some cities charge income taxes; others do not. Some cities may charge an "occupational tax," which you pay for the privilege of working in that city.

From Grand Valley to the Willy Wonka Chocolate Factory

By: India Stanford



To go along with Grand Valley's Homecoming theme of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, ESP will be hosting a Chicago Chocolate tour for its next cultural event. The event will feature a walking tour of the most incredible chocolate and pastry shops along the Magnificent Mile and Gold Coast in Chicago. This cultural event is sure to fill up fast, so we encourage

you to check your email and Facebook page so that you do not miss this amazing trip. All we ask you to bring is your appetite for delectable chocolate and a nice pair of shoes for touring the enchanting streets of Chicago! For more information contact the ESP office by calling 616-331-3401, or visit us on the web by searching ESP Mentors on Facebook, or check out

www.gvsu.edu/esp.



**Check Us Out on
the Web!**

[www.gvsu.edu/
esp](http://www.gvsu.edu/esp)

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