

The Bridge

Bridging the Gap Between Today and Tomorrow

Vol. 24 Issue 1

**Grand Valley State University
Educational Support Program**

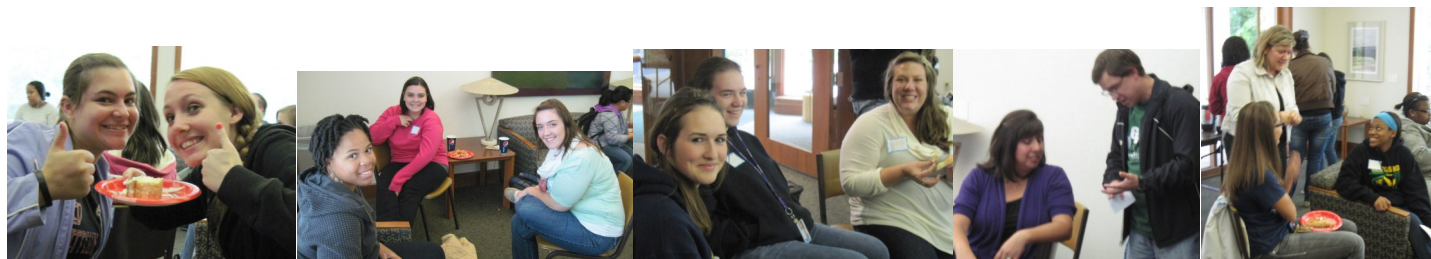
October 2011

Open House 2011

By: Natosha Beaman

Wednesday, September 14th ESP held its annual Open House inside the Cook-DeWitt lounge. The Open House was filled with excitement and fun, with lots of students socializing and meeting new people. There was pizza, cake, and music for everyone to enjoy. Returning ESP members were able to meet the new peer mentors and catch up with their advisors. New members had a chance to get to know everyone, as well as learn more about the Educational Support Program and the services and fun activities that we offer to our members. This year the Open House was especially exciting because of the big raffle that we had for free winter semester textbooks. Our lucky winners were Samara Woolfolk and Jessica Cronkhite. Congratulations to them! We also asked students to fill out a notecard with any questions they had about the program or about the university. The advisors will answer these questions in the newsletter this year, so look forward to that. Also, keep a watch out for our cultural and social service trips that will be coming up soon.

Thank you to all who came to enjoy the Open House. If you were not able to attend, you were greatly missed and we hope to see you soon!



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

By: Melissa Selby-Theut

The 2010 Open House was a great success! During the Open House, we had students submit questions for the program. I will be answering those questions in the newsletter throughout the course of the year.

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!

How do I sign up for tutoring for a class?

Great question! You can sign up for tutoring in the Student Academic Success Center. ESP is in the Student Academic Success Center too, so you can just stop at the big desk that you generally bypass to get to ESP. Someone there will be able to get you signed up. And don't worry, it's really easy!

Tutoring is free and is located in the Tutoring Center, which is also within the Student Academic Success Center; it's available for almost all 100- and 200-level courses. If you need help signing up or there are not tutors available for the class that you've requested, let your ESP advisor know! She can help with that!

Are we going back to the murder mystery dinner theater?

For all of the ESP newbies, we attended a murder mystery dinner at the Frauenthal Theater last year for our first trip of the season. . . and it was AWE-SOME! That one will definitely go down in ESP history!

While we won't be doing that same trip this year, we're in the midst of planning brand new trips that will be just as fun! We take at least three trips every year, so make sure that you're checking your e mail. We'll be advertising our first trip of 2011/2012 soon!

MEET LOLITA, OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR !!

By: Ashleigh Zerbst

Where are you from? *Philippines (originally); I've been living 18 years in Michigan & lived 12 years in San Diego.*

What do you look forward to in ESP? *To be of assistance with our students.*

Do you have a family? *I have one son who is 21 years old and my elderly father who is 88 years old, and they are both living with me.*

What hobbies do you have? *Gardening, playing tennis & riding bicycle during summer time. I hibernate during winter time!*

Have you travelled locally or farther away? *Locally, yes* . My favorite place to travel to is the *Grand Canyon and Yosemite*

What is your favorite Movie/Show? *Two And-A-Half Men, Dancing with the Stars, So You Think You Can Dance, Fringe & Matrix*

What do you like about working with college students? *Their dedication and seeing them become successful with their chosen career path.*

What's your favorite plant? *Delphinium*

Do you have any pets? *No*

What is your most memorable moment? *My son entering college for the very first time!*



Anyone interested some volunteer hours? A high school program that helps at-risk kids get into college needs some help. The program is looking for college students who can tutor kids for the ACT. So, if you're good at Reading/Writing, Science, or Math and want to help out a needy kid, call the office and ask to speak to Melissa.

616-331-3401.

Remember this a great Resume booster.

Recipe of the Month

By Marnie Parris-Bingle

Apples are quickly coming into season here in Michigan and There's no better way to enjoy them then to dice them, throw them in batter, fry them, and then top off with a powdered sugar glaze !! YUMMY !! The following is an easy recipe I found (and tested) for Apple

Fritters. Enjoy !!!

Fritters

- 2 Cups All Purpose Flour
- 1/2 cup Sugar
- 3 Tablespoons of Sugar
- 2-1/4 Teaspoons of Baking Powder
- 1-1/4 Teaspoon of Salt
- 2 Teaspoons of Ground Cinnamon
- 2 Whole Large Eggs
- 3/4 Cups Whole Milk
- 2 Teaspoons Vanilla Extract
- 2 Tablespoons Melted Butter
- 2 Whole Granny Smith Apples. Peeled and Diced
- Powdered Sugar (Optional)

Glaze

- 1-1/2 Cup Powdered Sugar
- 1/4 Teaspoon Salt
- 1/4 Teaspoon Vanilla
- 1/4 Cup of Milk

Preparation: In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. In a separate bowl, beat eggs with fork then add milk, melted butter and vanilla. Gently fold dry and wet ingredients together until just combined (don't overmix). Fold in apples. Add enough apples to make a very chunky batter. You want the apples to shine through!

Heat a couple of inches of canola oil over medium to medium-low heat. When it gets hot, drop a little batter into the oil. If it sizzles immediately and rises to the top the oil is ready; if it burns quickly, turn the heat down. Drop teaspoon of batter into the hot oil, six or eight at a time. Sometimes they'll flip over by themselves, sometimes you need to flip them. Just make sure they don't get too brown, but cook long enough so the batter is cooked about 2 to 2 and 1/2 minutes total.

Remove and drain on paper towel. Dust generously with powdered sugar or dip them into the glaze.

Serve warm..... May be heated in oven next day at 350 for 8 minutes.

The Becoming of Halloween

By Mackenzie Kindel

When Halloween comes around do you think of costumes, candy, and fun or do you celebrate different superstitions? This day originates with the Celtic Festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in), which marked the end of the summer harvest season and the dark season, cold winter; the time of year was associated with human death. For centuries Halloween has been thought of as a time when the dead can return to Earth. To honor the event, Druids, otherwise known as Celtic priests, would build huge sacred bonfires and wear costumes consisting of animal heads and skins to ward off the roaming ghosts. But by A.D. 43 the Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. They ruled the lands for four hundred years where two festivals of Roman origin became intertwined with the traditional Celtic celebration. One of those festivals was a day honoring Pomona, the Roman Goddess of fruit and trees; her symbol was the apple, which explains the tradition we now have of bobbing for apples.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, America became flooded with immigrants, especially those fleeing Ireland's potato famine of 1846. These immigrants helped form Halloween by starting the tradition of dressing up in costumes and going door to door asking for food or money, which eventually became the ritual of "trick-or-treat". Eventually, Halloween parties became the most popular way to celebrate this day for both children and adults; these parties focused on games, food, and costumes. They focused away from the scary superstitions about witches gathering and black cat.

The tale of the Jack-o-lantern comes from an Irish man named Jack who tricked Satan into climbing a tree. Jack carved an image of a cross at the trunk, trapping the devil at the top agreeing only to let him down if Satan promised to never tempt him again. But after Jack died he was denied entrance to Heaven because of his evil ways and Hell because of tricking the devil himself, he was given a single ember to light his way through the darkness which was placed inside a hollow-out turnip to help keep it glowing longer. This tradition originally was the turnip, but was "upgraded" to the hollowed-out pumpkin when the immigrants came to America.

Originally trick-or-treating was a relatively inexpensive way for the entire community and families to share the Halloween celebration. Today Americans spend an estimated \$6.9 billion annually on Halloween. This makes it the second largest commercial holiday in America.

Money Talk-Paycheck Deductions

By: Vicky Powers

Have you ever wondered what the deductions are from your paycheck? Why is this "FICA" getting part of your pay? 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. *Note: If you are a Grand Valley student employee you do NOT pay FICA tax!*

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. The amount that you pay for state income tax varies based on how much money you make.

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.

Even though it can be disappointing to see what your paycheck could have been, taxes are an important part of our economic structure. Every person in the United States benefits, in some way, by the taxes each of us pay. Taxes fund the Pell grant, for instance! There are great calculators on the internet to help you know what your paycheck will be **before** you ever get one! Try www.paycheckcity.com and enter in the information it asks. Remember, if you have questions about your paycheck, ask! Don't assume that it has been done correctly because mistakes can happen.

EVENTS

By Saulo Ortiz

October 4th → 2PM - 4:15PM

Tres Vidas: A Hispanic heritage month celebration event: Cook-Dewitt

October 11th

Study Abroad Fair – 10AM - 4PM

Career Fair – 1PM - 5PM

October 15th

GVSU Football at Lake Erie College

October 16th-23rd

Campus Sustainability Week: Presentations and events throughout week

October 18th →10AM - 4PM

Michigan Community Blood Center Mobile Blood Drive: Kleiner Commons

October 18th→ 5PM - 6PM

How to Ace the Interview: Kirkhof 2266

Oct 9th →10AM - 5PM

Grand Rapids Applebutter Festival: Grand Rapids, MI

October 22nd →7pm

GVSU Football hosts Ferris State University: Luber Stadium

October 23rd to 29th→ All Week Events

GVSU, you put a spell on me Homecoming Week

October 29th→7PM

Homecoming Game - GVSU vs. Michigan Tech: Luber Stadium

October 27th

12:00pm - Magical Musical Chairs: Pere Marquette Room

9:00pm - Lip Sync: Field House

October 28th →8PM

Homecoming Concert: Field House

October 24th & October 31st - 9PM - 9:45 PM

FREE Fitness Classes in Your Living Center – Niemeyer

October 31st→All Day

Halloween

ESP Staff Directory

Melissa Selby-Thuet

Director

Marnie Parris–Bingle

Advisor

Victoria Powers

Advisor

Lolita

Office Coordinator

SSO Staff

Mackenzie Kindel

Saulo Ortiz

Natosha Beaman

Ashleigh Zerbst

The Bridge

Written and edited by the ESP & SSO staff.
Published by **Ashleigh Zerbst**

This Publication and all activities are federally funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Check Us Out on the Web!

www.gvsu.edu/esp

Add us as your Friend on Facebook: ESP Peer Mentors

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

239 STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING

ALLENDALE, MI 49401