SAVE THE DATE: 
UPCOMING EVENTS
By: Melissa Selby-Theut

Winter semester is officially in full-force, and that can mean only one thing... the ESP Annual Banquet! Every year ESP celebrates the successes of its students – that means YOU! - at its Annual Banquet, and this year is going to be extra fun. The theme this year is all things carnival – that means elephant ears, and corndogs, and games, and prizes, and elephant ears. Did I mention the elephant ears?! Yum!

Invitations will hit the mail soon, but be sure to save the date in the meantime. Grab your phone or planner .... ..... it’s Friday, March 23rd from 12pm until 2pm in the Grand River Room. Be there!

And ESP is hosting a second cultural event this semester (hopefully more successfully than the blizzard nightmare that crushed our Chinese New Year dreams!). We’re going to see Jersey Boys March 25th. If you don’t know about Jersey Boys, you should. ...it’s the hottest Broadway play around! Winner of “Best Musical” and multiple other awards at the Tonys, Jersey Boys is set in the 1950s. So where better to eat than an authentic 1950s diner?! This one is sure to be fun (and blizzard free!). Sign up today at the ESP office!

See you there, ESP!

CONGRATULATIONS MARIO AND RAQUEL MI-CAPP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!
By: Marnie Parris-Bingle

On February 18, 2012, the Michigan College Access Programs & Personnel (MI-CAPP), a Chapter of the Mid-America Association of the Educational Opportunity Program Personnel held a dinner in Kalamazoo to recognize all the scholarship recipients across the state. Marnie Parris-Bingle, Program Advisor escorted two GVSU Educational Support Program participants who were awarded scholarships through MI-CAPP. Raquel Perozo, a junior and Allied Health Science major/Biology minor, won a $500 MI-CAPP scholarship for Academic Progress. The other winner, Mario Amaya-Velazquez, International Relations major, won a $1000 Study Abroad scholarship to study in Italy. Congratulations Mario and Raquel
Fun St. Patrick’s Day Dessert Recipe
By: Natosha Beaman

Mini Grasshopper Cheesecakes

Total Time: 1 hour Prep time: 40mins Cook time: 20mins

Ingredients:
• 18-24 chocolate and mint cookies (such as Keebler Grasshoppers or Girl Scout Thin Mints)
• 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
• 1 ¼ cups granulated sugar
• ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
• 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
• 3 large eggs, beaten lightly
• ½ teaspoon chocolate mint extract (or 1/4 tsp mint and 1/4 tsp chocolate extract or chocolate liqueur)
• 1 cup sour cream

Topping:
3 drops green food coloring
1 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:
Line regular muffin tins with cupcake liners and set 1 cookie into each tin. Preheat oven to 325°F. Beat cream cheese, sugar, cocoa powder, and flour together well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Stir in sour cream and extract. Fill tins and bake 20-25 minutes. Filling will still appear soft but won’t jiggle when cooked. Cool in tins 5-10 minutes. Combine topping and spoon onto each cake, then allow to cool completely still in the tins. (about 30 minutes). Chill well before serving.

TIP: Use extra cookies to garnish the tops of each (I crumble some of the extra cookies and pop a mint leaf into the top).
Financial Aid for Spring/Summer  
Vicky Powers

Even though Mother Nature is confused about the weather, summer classes will be here before we know it! For any Grand Valley student interested in receiving financial aid for the summer you must have the following in place:

1.) Have the 2011/2012 FAFSA on file with Grand Valley.
2.) Complete the Spring/Summer Financial Aid Application with the Financial Aid Office. This form will be available on March 19th at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid/summer.
3.) Enroll for a minimum of part-time status. If you are working on a bachelor’s degree this means at least 6 credits.

Financial Aid is limited to student loans only in the summer for the majority of students. If you have the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) from the State of Michigan please let your ESP advisor know! Your advisor can work with you on maximizing those funds.

St. Patricks Day-Around the World!  
By: Mackenzie Kindel

It all started back in the 4th century; at the age of sixteen St Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken captive to Ireland as a slave. Soon after his capture he escaped to Britain. Upon his return he joined the church in Auxerre in Gaul and studied to become a priest. In 432, he returned to Ireland as a bishop to teach, and it is there that the shamrock was used to explain the Trinity, causing the association of shamrocks to St Patrick.

Originally the color associated with St Patrick’s Day was blue, until 1798 when the Irish soldiers went on a rebellion to make a political statement by wearing full green uniforms on March 17th, hoping to get the attention of people in New York City. From there on green ribbons, clothing and shamrocks are worn for the celebration and festivities.

The first celebration of St Patrick’s Day took place in the U.S with the march of the soldiers. In 1848 New York Aids once again started the parade in NYC. Today this parade is the oldest civilian parade and the largest in the U.S with over 150,000 participants. Nowadays Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah celebrate with parades with 10,000-20,000 participants, and even festivities like dying a river green.

It wasn’t until 1903 when St Patrick’s Day became an official holiday in Ireland. Many do not know that at that time pubs and bars were banned from being open on March 17th, until the law was repealed in the 1970’s. Now in Ireland this holiday has turned into a 5 day long festival, with over 1 million visitors taking part in concerts, performances, fireworks, and dancing.

Not many people know that St Patrick’s Day is celebrated around the world, including Argentina, Canada, the U.K., Japan, New Zealand and Australia and South Korea. Most celebrate by attending parades and gathering at local Irish pubs but some do even more. Calgary Tower in Canada changes their top exterior lights to green, which almost resemble a Leprechaun’s hat. Britain does a few activities, one being the hold the largest St Patrick’s Day parade that covers over two miles, and Trafalgar Square fountains are dyed green. Japan celebrates the holiday for almost the entire month of March. Last but not least, the Sydney Opera House has been known to change their lights to green.

This year help out the Guinness World Record by making St Patrick’s Day officially ‘The Friendliest Day of the Year’. You can do this by going to www.facebook.com/guinnessnz and signing the pledge online stating you will celebrate true Irish friendliness this St Patrick’s Day.
EVENTS

March 1: FAFSA DUE
March 2&3: Griffin’s Hockey @ Van Andel 7pm
March 4-11: SPRING BREAK !!
March 12: Classes Restart
March 9: Drop Deadline with a W
March 16&17: Griffin’s Hockey @ Van Andel 7pm
March 17: St. Patrick’s Day
March 21: Blood drive 12-7pm @ Kleiner
March 23: Annual Banquet 12-2 Grand River Room
March 24: Allendale Craft Expo– Allendale Middle School 9am-7pm
March 25: Jersey Boys Cultural Event
March 27: Mars at the Museum @ GR public museum, 8:30-10pm FREE
March 30&31: Griffin’s Hockey @ Van Andel 7pm
March 31: Rock Against Rape Free concert in Fieldhouse, 6-10pm
All of March: Butterflies are blooming at the Fredrick Meijer Gardens

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