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Jacobson Center celebrates 25 years of Reading Recovery in Iowa

More than 400 educators from across Iowa attended the fourth annual Jacobson Center and Reading Recovery Literacy Academy Oct. 20-21 at the Maucker Union on the UNI campus.

This event, sponsored by the Richard O. Jacobson Center and Reading Recovery Program of Iowa, featured keynote presenters Douglas Fisher, professor of educational leadership at San Diego State University and teacher leader at Health Sciences High and Middle College; Linda Dorn, professor of reading education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and Salli Forbes, associate professor of literacy education and director of the Richard O. Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy and the Reading Recovery Program of Iowa.

The Reading Recovery Program of Iowa celebrated 25 years of Reading Recovery in Iowa at the Academy and with a special reception at the Commons Georgian Lounge and Slife Ballroom on the evening of Oct. 20. The reception was attended by current and former University officials, legislators, members of the Board of Regents, Reading Recovery trainers from partner University Training Centers, Reading Recovery teacher leaders and teachers, site coordinators, education partners, and former Reading Recovery students and parents who shared their literacy journey with the audience.

Youth Academy Cafe discusses challenges facing area youth

The Institute for Youth Leaders hosted the Youth Academy Cafe event Dec. 2 at the University of Northern Iowa.

The Youth Academy Cafe included students and community leaders and was facilitated by Stacy Van Gorp, Executive Director at the R.J. McElroy Trust. Panelists at the event included Jeff Mickey, student ministry team leader at Orchard Hill Church; Angela Weekly, community inclusion manager at Veridian Credit Union; Umaru Balde, YWCA assistant director of Latino affairs; and David Goodson, founder of Bakari, Inc. Family Counseling Agency; Abubakarr Jalloh, research associate, Institute for Youth Leaders; and Theodora Jn Baptiste, research associate, Institute for Youth Leaders. Also in attendance were Christopher Edginton, R.J. McElroy Professor of Youth Leadership Studies; the Institute for Youth Leaders staff; community members from youth serving organizations in the Cedar Valley; and more than 40 UNI students.

The purpose of the Youth Academy Cafe was to provide a forum to hear and reveal the voices of youth. Six questions were explored in the Youth Academy Cafe: (1) What do you believe are the three major issues facing youth? (2) Can you discuss the ways you think the community can enhance the empowerment of youth? (3) In what ways do

Members of the community gathered to discuss challenges facing youth during the Youth Academy Cafe sponsored by The Institute for Youth Leaders.
Grant ensures qualified early childhood special ed teachers

Like many states, Iowa has a shortage of teachers qualified to teach birth to third-grade children with special needs. Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs, UNI’s Department of Special Education is working to change that.

The goal of this project is to identify teachers who hold temporary or conditional licenses and provide them with coursework and practicum experiences for endorsement in early childhood special education. A total of 72 teachers across the state of Iowa have completed this program since it began in 2009. Grant funds were used to pay teachers’ tuition costs and to support three or four full-time students per year to complete their MAE degree in Special Education. Participating teachers have become familiar with Universal Design for Learning, family centered practices and evidence-based practices related to instruction, assessment, and promoting children’s social-emotional competence.

Project director Frank Kohler, Special Education, and project staff will conduct a variety of follow up activities with graduates during the final year of the program. Teachers will be contacted and invited to participate in distance education professional learning groups to extend their knowledge and skills of evidence-based practices. Participating groups will register in webinars to become familiar with practices for monitoring children’s social-emotional competence, embedding learning opportunities in routine classroom activities, providing culturally responsive behavioral supports, and conducting home visits. After viewing the webinars, teachers will collaborate with other graduates of the grant and project staff to discuss ways to incorporate that practice into their routine work. Project staff will take an active role in facilitating these groups, supporting teachers’ adoption and implementation of practices, and collecting data to monitor the impact of teachers’ efforts.

COE conferences offer a variety of learning opportunities

Several groups within the College of Education are planning conferences in the coming months that will provide a wide variety of valuable opportunities for faculty, staff and students of COE and UNI as well as members of the surrounding communities.

The African-American Children and Families Conference will take place Feb. 4-5 with the theme of Educate, Collaborate and Participate in Supportive Experience of African American Children and Families. Learn more at www.vpaf.uni.edu/aac.


The second Educational Summit will take place March 10-11 and will center on topics related to literacy, S.T.E.M. and teacher leadership in Iowa. More information can be found at www.uni.edu/ed-summit.

June 27-28 will see the the Institute on Inclusion and Communication, in collaboration with the Second City Disability Studies in Education Conference in Des Moines. For more information, contact Amy Petersen at amy.petersen@uni.edu.
UNI faculty work with Waterloo schools for STEM education

The eSTEM Waterloo Grant targets grades three, four and five. A select group of Waterloo elementary teachers began working with UNI faculty members Jody Stone; Beth VanMeeteren, Curriculum and Instruction; Stephanie McCombs and Scott Greenhaugh to develop and field test signature units for each grade level as well as activities designed to teach the concept of a fair test. Each unit culminates with an engineering activity. Some of the units which have been field tested this year include Chemical Detectives, Energy on the Move and Magnetic Attraction. Year one of the program involved nine Waterloo teachers from four schools.

The Iowa Academy of Science is also providing funding for materials for the eSTEM activities.

Therapeutic Recreation students tour Mayo Clinic

Rodney B. Dieser, professor in the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, organized a trip for 12 students in the Leisure, Youth and Human Services program within the COE. The students, who have a career path of therapeutic recreation, and two visiting professors from South Africa, Marie Young and Cindy Kriel, learned how the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., used leisure toward healing.

The group met with therapeutic recreation specialists John Kasner and Kate Taylor who explained how TR is utilized in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Saint Mary’s Hospital. Students learned how TR assessment occurs and viewed a wood-working and ceramics area. Next, students had a guided tour of the extensive art displayed throughout the Gonda building and learned of the unique philosophy of a “healing environment” which combines beauty and function toward installing hope in patients. This philosophy dates to the first Mayo Clinic building that opened in 1914 and furthers the clinic’s mission to place the needs of the patients first.

Dr. Johanna Rain, Director of the Dolores Jean Lavins Center for Humanities in Medicine, explained to students how the arts and other expressions of human culture are integrated into the healing process via music, art and theatre programming and bedside programs like creative writing and music. Students also attended the Art & Ability exhibit that celebrated artists with disabilities and had a quick view of the Feith Family Statuary Park (an outside reflective park space).

Most students were thrilled to see how TR was utilized in a world-renowned medical institute. Nolan Swanson shared his reaction to the “blind fish” touchable sculpture created by a former Mayo Clinic patient who had an illness that caused him to go blind. Swanson shared, “Touching the fish and gaining a sense of hope [that one can continue to live after tragedy] is very cool and I can see why patients and families find it soothing.” Brandi Novotny outlined how the Mayo Clinic environment, via the creation of leisure spaces, allows an environment of solitude in a place that is busy 24-7. Kim Soukup stated that “it was unlike any medical facility I have ever been in.”
Awards and Honors

**Benjamin Forsyth**, Educational Psychology and Foundations, was invited to attend the 1st Annual Advances in Educational Psychology Conference (AEPC) put on by APA Division 15. The meeting was to discuss concerns central to the profession of Educational Psychology.

**Forsyth** was also an invited participant to the Liberty Fund Colloquium titled “Do Economics and Business Studies Advance Liberal Education and a Free Society?” The colloquium was held at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, in February.

**Nick Pace**, Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education, was inducted into the Iowa Academy of Education.

**Beth Van Meeteren**, Curriculum and Instruction, was named one of six members of the 21st Century Leadership Academy’s 2016 class, sponsored by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association.

Presentations

**Raine Allen, Diana Boeck, Devin Grant, Anna Phalen and Audrey Smith**, MAE students in the Department of Special Education, presented posters at the 30th Annual Conference for the Division of Early Childhood in October 2014. The group traveled to St. Louis to present research they conducted with faculty in the Department of Special Education.

**Paula Bennet and Deb Rich**, Curriculum and Instruction, presented “Reading with and to school age children” at the Waterloo, Iowa, YMCA; to Hartman Reserve Staff and Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Cedar Falls; and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Iowa - Black Hawk County, Waterloo.

**Kerri Clopton, Katheryn East, Stephanie Schmitz and Nicki Skaar**, all from Educational Psychology and Foundations, along with Ed.S. students **Paige Amundson, Hailey Christianson, Rachel Ellingson, Tess Garceau and Becca Mohnike**, presented at the National Association of School Psychologists Convention in Orlando, Fla., in February. The group had a total of seven presentations on topics such as adolescent online risk-taking, prosocial and health risk behavior, professional dispositions, social stories, mobile apps, Daily Behavior Rating Scale, and applying knowledge of child development in practice.

**Doris Corbett**, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, delivered the keynote address during the VII International Scientific Congress on Sport, People and Health in St. Petersburg, Russia, Oct. 27.

**Chris Curran and Amy Petersen**, both Special Education, and L. Chen presented “Collaborative research to inform, influence and implement Universal Design for Learning” proceedings paper and presentation at the 2nd Universal Design for Learning Implementation Research Network Summit, Gulfport, Miss.

**Curran and K. Chen** presented “Practices in Accessibility in 1:1 Technology Programs – A Pilot Study” at the Assistive Technology Industry Association Annual Conference, Orlando, Fla.

**Curran and Kim Miller**, Special Education, along with L. Sink, C. Harris, and V. Goshon, presented “The ABC’s of Accessible Books” at the Learning Disabilities Association of America Annual Conference, Chicago.

**Deborah Deemer**, Educational Psychology and Foundations, discussed ways to integrate issues of sustainability into a preservice teacher education course on human development at the 2014 Association for Moral Education conference in Pasadena, Calif., “Thriving Individuals, Thriving Communities: The Role of Moral Education in Human Flourishing.”

**Amy Lockhart and Curt Nielsen**, Department of Teaching, presented “Applications of Co-Teaching Across Teacher Preparation Field Experiences in Classroom Settings” at the AILACTE Conference in Atlanta.

**Christopher R. Edginton**,


**Edginton** and M.K. Chin presented “Global Perspectives of Best Practice in School Physical Education and Health: From Practice to Theory,” a keynote address at the Global Forum for Physical Education Pedagogy 2014, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa.


**Edginton** presented “World Leisure Organization,” a keynote presentation at the 2014 World Leisure Taipei Chapter International Conference at National Ilan University, Taiwan, Republic of China.


**Benjamin Forsyth**, Education Psychology and Foundations, presented at the American Education Research Association in April. The title of the presentation was “The influence of epistemic beliefs on reading processes.”

**Forsyth** also presented research at the European Association for Research in Learning and Instruction in Limassol, Cyprus, in August. The title of the research was “Epistemic beliefs effect on eye movement patterns in reading.”

**Julianne Gassman**, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, presented “To Start or Not to Start My Own Organization - Understanding the Legal Framework” at Alliance Management Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah, in January.

**Maryam Ghayoorrad**, Curriculum and Instruction, presented “Collaborative Learning & Teaching in Google Communities” at the 2015 Statewide Teaching & Learning Conference at Hawkeye Community College, April 8-10.


**Mary Herring**, Curriculum and Instruction, co-presented in the following presentations: “Leading Up! Associate Deans Roundtable on Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives;” “Change Process to Integrate Transformative Learning Qualities within a Teacher Education Program;” and “Assessing Transformational Leadership Qualities to Develop TPACK Ready Teacher Candidates” at the Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, Atlanta, Ga.

**Herring** and John Lee from North Carolina State University co-led the Informal Learning Strand at the 2014 National Technology Leadership Summit in Washington, DC.

**Herring**, A. Donaldson, S. Smaldino, L. Luetkenhans, K. Persichitte, T. Dousay and L. Mellish presented “Walking in their Footsteps (or High Heels): AECT Women Discuss the Influence of the Women who Paved the Way” at the Presidential Session Presentation at Association for Educational
Communications and Technology.

Herring, S. Smaldino and K. Graziano presented “Reconsidering the road to change: A model for measuring leadership in developing TPACK ready teacher education programs” at the Association for Educational Communication and Technology.


Herring presented Technology Enhanced Instruction Workshop at Central China Normal University in Wuhan, China.

Catherine Hunter, Shuaib Meacham, Sohyun Meacham, all Curriculum and Instruction, with K. Smith, N. Tucker-Smith, and D. Watson presented “Developing candidates’ professional voice and academic language through technology-enhanced clinical learning experiences” at the AACTE 2015 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Ga.

Leasha Henriksen, Department of Teaching, and Dan Mourlam presented “Supporting teacher education candidates: Mitigating barriers to edTPA implementation” at the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education 2015 Annual Meeting.

Herring, Mourlam, and Dwight C. Watson presented at the same conference on the “Change process to integrate Transformative Learning Qualities within a teacher education program.”

Elana Joram, Educational Psychology and Foundation, presented a paper entitled “The Effectiveness of Portion-Size Estimation Aids for Estimating Portions of High Calorie Snack Foods in College Students” at the 2015 Iowa Governor’s Conference on Public Health in Cedar Rapids in April.

Sohyun Meacham, Curriculum and Instruction, presented “Preschool teachers’ questioning in sociodramatic play” at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas, and at the 64th Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Marco Island, Fla.

Nielsen presented at the National Association of Professional Development Schools Conference in Atlanta, Ga., in March.

Debra Rich, Curriculum and Instruction, presented “Teaching academic vocabulary in complex expository texts” at the Jacobson Center and Reading Recovery Literacy Academy, UNI, and at Arkansas K-8 Comprehensive Literacy Academy and Reading Recovery Conference, Little Rock, Ark.


Denise Schara, Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education, presented a session on Engaging Adult Learners at the International Conference in Education in Chicago May 26-27.

Kathy Scholl, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, and A. Davison presented “Nature as a mechanism to enhance mindfulness” at the Iowa Therapeutic Recreation Conference, Cedar Falls. Scholl and Davison also presented “Positive Networking: Don’t leave without one new professional contact” at the Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation, St Louis, Mo.

Jamie Workman, Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education, and Gary D. Ballinger from Indiana State University were selected to present the educational session “#ConsiderChange: Successful Strategies for Evolving Careers in Higher Education” at the American College Personnel Association Annual Convention in Tampa, Fla., in March.

Workman presented along with a group of colleagues at the American College Personnel Association’s Annual Convention in Tampa, Fla. The program,
entitled “Consider Change: Evolving Careers in Higher Education” was sponsored by the organization’s Mid-Level Community of Practice.

Leigh Zeitz, Curriculum and Instruction, presented an ISTE webinar entitled “Global Collaboration in Higher Education” on Dec. 9. His co-presenters were in Connecticut, Taiwan and Australia. They discussed the role Global Collaboration can take in Higher Education and then shared global projects engaging students.  http://tinyurl.com/ISTEwebinarresources.

Publications


Chris Curran, Special Education, published “Mobile assistive technologies” in Encyclopaedia of Educational Technology.


Edginton, Sam Lankford, Susan Hudson, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, and D. Larsen published “Managing Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services: An Introduction (4th ed.).”

Edginton and P. Chen published “Leisure as Transformation (2nd ed.).”

Edginton and M.K. Chin published “Physical Education and Health: Global Perspectives and Best Practice.”


Edginton published “Youth Work and Youth Development” in International Leisure Review.


Edginton published “Agrios, Chen, Klers, Schroeder and Sivan elected as New Members of WLO’s Board of Directors. Uvinha and Williams named Vice-chair and Treasurer” in World Leisure Journal.

Edginton published “10 Years as WLO’s Secretary General: Reflections for a Lifetime” in World Leisure Journal.

Edginton and Jalloh published “Leisure for Children and Youth ~ A Global Perspective” in Hong Kong Recreation Review.

Edginton published “Managing, Programming and Leadership for Leisure Services” in International Leisure Review.

Edginton, Lankford, J. Tan and E. Dong published “Risk-Taking Propensity and its Relationship to Achievement Motivation: A Study Among Park & Recreation
Directors” in *International Leisure Review*.


Edginton published “New World Leisure Professional Staffing Assignments” in *World Leisure Journal*.


Todd Evans, Kelli Snyder and Peter Neibert, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, published a manuscript titled “Developing a framework for ankle function: A Delphi study” in the *Journal of Athletic Training*.


Mary Herring, Curriculum and Instruction, and Daniel Mourlam had a chapter titled “Exploring the Intel Teach Elements in Teacher Education” published in the book *ICT in Education in Global Context: Comparative Reports of Innovations in K-12 Education*.

Neibert and Windee Weiss, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, published a manuscript titled “Changes over time in the predictors of athletic training program commitment” in *The Athletic Training Education Journal*.

Kathleen Scholl, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, and G. Gulwadi published “Recognizing Campus Landscapes as Learning Spaces” in *Journal of Learning Spaces*.


Waldron and T. Butryn, N. LaVoi, K. Kauer and T. Semerjian published “Walking the line: A generational cohort’s perspectives on the disciplinary boundaries of sport psychology and sport sociology” in *Sociology of Sport Journal*.

Waldron and B. Hawkins and J. Kalin published “Psychological needs profile, motivational orientation, and physical activity of college students” in *Global Journal of Health and Physical*
Jamie Workman, Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education, authored two articles accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals. “Exploring Living Learning Community: Aiding Undecided Students’ Decision Making or Simply a Residence Hall Option?” was published in the Learning Communities Research and Practice journal. “Exploratory College Students’ Experiences with First Year Academic Advising” was published in the National Association for Academic Advising (NACADA) journal.

Elizabeth Zwanziger, Department of Teaching, published two world language textbooks. APPrenons (2nd edition) is a Secondary Advanced Placement French textbook; Conversemos juntos is a beginning to intermediate level Spanish textbook to exercise the Interpersonal Mode.

Grants and Contracts Completed

Rob Boody, Educational Psychology and Foundations, completed a five-year contract with the Council Bluffs Community School District for program evaluation. The program, funded by the Iowa West Foundation, was intended to raise school outcomes through (a) curriculum revision and alignment, (b) changing instructional practices, (c) developing principals as instructional leaders, and (d) implementing a coaching model for teachers.

Frank Kohler and Donna Raschke, both Special Education, are in their fifth and final year of a personnel preparation grant that is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The project addresses the critical shortage by providing coursework and tuition support for teachers who are operating on conditional early childhood special education licenses in the state of Iowa.

Community Involvement

Don Bishop and Todd Evans, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, were interviewed by Ron Steele from KWWL television news and featured in a 2014 edition of “The Steele Report” regarding sports concussions.

Bishop and Travis Stueve, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, were interviewed by KWWL television news about concussions suffered by football players and how UNI protects its players.

Rob Boody, Educational Psychology and Foundations; Vickie Robinson, Dean; and Terri Lasswell, Department of Teaching, assisted in the data analysis for, and writing of, the impact report for Leader Valley. Leader Valley is FranklinCovey’s The Leader in Me® program as implemented locally by the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber. Under the direction of UNI alumna Melissa Reade, Leader Valley is doing nationally-recognized work to help students, parents, teachers and schools.

Boody was a member of the Iowa state review team examining Maharishi University of Management teacher education programs for accreditation.

Nadene Davidson, Department of Teaching, was elected for the position of president-elect/president/past-president of the Advisory Council of State Representatives for AACTE. She will have a seat on the AACTE Board of Directors for the next three years.

Michele Devlin, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, was selected by the U.S. Army War College as a Senior Leader to participate in its National Security Seminar. Devlin spent a week at the Army War College in Carlisle, Penn., working and learning with colonels and generals on the intersection of international security and civilian issues.

Devlin participated in a competitive Senior Leaders Seminar at the U.S. Army War College in June 2015. Devlin worked closely with generals and colonels in the military and discuss key strategic challenges affecting the nation and world.

Maryam Ghayoorrad, Curriculum and Instruction, has been selected as one of the
Quality Matters research colleges through 2016. The Quality Matters Program is a program with the mission of improving the quality of online education and student learning.

Tim Gilson, Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education, and Leigh Martin, Department of Teaching, were in Mumbai, India, in November as their first cohort of graduate students defended their graduate portfolios. They also celebrated with their students, hosting a graduation ceremony at the American School of Bombay. Gilson and Martin attended the Near East South Asia Leadership Conference in Abu Dhabi in October. They represented the UNI Master’s program for Teacher Leaders in International Schools with an exhibit booth.

Mary Herring, Curriculum and Instruction, completed her three years as Chair of the AACTE Committee on Innovation and Technology, one of seven AACTE Standing Committees.

Sherry Hester, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, coordinated and led a unique community campus partnership between UNI, the Black Hawk County Health Department, and Kyungpook National University (KNU) in Daegu, Korea. The UNI Health Promotion Internship program will sponsor two Korean nursing students as they earn UNI academic credit for serving with Black Hawk County Health Department in January and February, 2016.

Debra Rich, Curriculum and Instruction, was elected President of the Board of Directors for Area Education Agency 267 this past fall. On April 6, she was elected to the state unified Board of Directors for the new Iowa Association for Area Education Agency State System, beginning July 1.

Rich serves as a member of the support and strategy team of the Cedar Valley Campaign for Grade Level Reading (led by the Cedar Valley United Way and R.J. McElroy Trust).

Rich serves as a member of the National Reading Recovery Conference Planning Committee Leadership strand.

Schindler Education Center renovation
The renovation of Schindler Education Center continues. Several walls have been removed, ceiling tiles are down in many areas, including the large auditorium. Large amounts of rubble have already been removed.