

Spring 2011

Excellence in Education, Spring 2011

University of Northern Iowa. College of Education.

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Spring 2011

Excellence in Education



To Serve



To Lead



University of Northern Iowa College of Education

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Excellence in Education is published annually by the University of Northern Iowa's College of Education for its alumni, friends, faculty and staff. Comments, suggestions and letters to the editor are welcome by contacting Dean Dwight Watson at dwight.watson@uni.edu or 319-273-2717.

Please address all correspondence to:

Excellence in Education
c/o Dean Dwight C. Watson
College of Education
205 Schindler Education Center
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0610

Editor: Ruth Goodman
Art Director: Elizabeth Conrad
LaVelle

Mission of the College

The University of Northern Iowa's College of Education will be noted nationally and internationally as the premier professional college of education. We value leadership and excellence in the preparation of educational and human service professionals, innovations in best professional practice, and strong collaborative relationships with the professions and communities we serve.

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To Launch the Future, We Must Honor the Past

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I come from a rich heritage of African-American storytellers. In some African traditions, these storytellers or keepers of the culture were called *griots*. Griots were responsible for weaving the history of the past with the cadence of the present in order to pave the path for the future.

When I accepted the role as the dean of the College of Education, I knew I needed to tap into the wondrous cultural legacy of this place in order to establish the strategic initiatives for the future.

I have been on a quest since I arrived in July 2010 to meet as many people as possible. I told the faculty and staff that in order to understand the context, I needed to know the people and their stories. All too often, the first interface with a person is through a problem or concern, and I wanted to offset such an encounter by putting people first.

In connecting with people, I was intentional about talking to alumni and emeriti faculty because they were the griots. They held the stories of the past that could be linked to the future.

I was surprised to discover that there are 28 faculty members who started their academic journey as students at Iowa State Teachers College, the State College of Iowa or the University of Northern Iowa. One colleague has degrees from all three iterations of the university. With the support of Merrie Schroeder, assistant professor in the Office of Student Field Experiences, and Mary-Sue Bartlett, College of Education administrative assistant, we convened these faculty

members for a conversation about the past, present and future.

The first group consisted of those faculty members who attended the university as undergraduates between 1960 and 1979. Fifteen faculty members were noted, and their years of service totaled 380. The other gathering was faculty who attended the university from 1980 to 2010. There were 13 members in this group, and they provided 174 years of service. The picture on the back cover of this issue captures several of these legacy faculty members who represent 554 years of outstanding teaching, scholarship, service and leadership.

As we move into the future, it will be important to tap into this rich reservoir of knowledge and expertise to launch our initiatives, which are to *educate, serve and lead*. Inside

this issue, you will read feature articles that spotlight exceptional teaching, service and leadership endeavors emblematic of the work conducted by all faculty and staff in the College of Education at the University of Northern Iowa.

I am so very honored and humbled to be asked to lead this great college. My goal is to lead from vision to action and from action to impact.

Sincerely,



Dwight C. Watson
Dean
College of Education



Me? I am *Just* a Teacher

By Vickie Robinson, associate professor of educational leadership and postsecondary education

During my 20 years as a high school social studies teacher, society conveyed countless messages to remind me that I was just a teacher.

As an undergraduate, many of my nonteaching peers devalued my decision to pursue a teaching degree. Their favorite one-liner was “Those who can, do. Those who can’t, teach.” I understood their message – I am just a teacher.

Adults were a little more subtle and respectful in their approach to my career plans. “Vickie, what is your major?”

“I plan to teach social studies,” I would say.
“Oh.”

Then there would be a scratch of the head or a rub on the chin and the person would say, “I just imagined with your many talents and scholarship ability you would set higher goals.”

I understood the message: I was wasting my time and talents on kids. I am just a teacher.

The public also sent strong messages about my value as a teacher. Along with signing my first contract, I took a vow of poverty.

Five years into my career, I sat next to a John Deere personnel director at a job fair where we were both recruiting. We discussed employment opportunities at John Deere. That day, I could have been hired for a position at John Deere for three times my teaching salary. I wouldn’t have to work weekends manning the ticket booth at football games, supervise the lunchroom and break up food fights, or grade papers until midnight. But I loved teaching and didn’t take it.

The most hurtful public message was that I was to blame for just about every academic, social, economic and political problem in America. American students’ test scores are inferior to students in other countries – blame the teachers. American kids are disrespectful – blame the



Vickie Robinson is proud to say she has been an educator for 40 years.

teachers. The American work ethic is slacking – blame the teachers. And if my student doesn’t earn all A’s, it must be the teacher’s fault. I am just a teacher.

I am just a teacher in a society where nearly 30 percent of the children eat their only hot meal of the day at school. I am just a teacher in a country where out of more than 49 million public school students, 4.5 million have special needs; more than 1 million are abused, of which half are victims of neglect; and tens of thousands of families experience homelessness each night.

Teachers think their subject is the most important in a room where each child thinks he or she is the most important, and somehow, teachers make these two perspectives compatible. Teachers help students do more than answer questions – they encourage them

to question the answers. Teachers create a climate where time is precious, content is challenging, the tone is serious and the lesson is inspiring.

I wondered how many lives I touched in some way during my 20 years as a high school teacher. Using my best math skills and a calculator, I taught 4,050 students. What a responsibility and privilege to be part of the growing and learning experience for these students!

I now have the responsibility for preparing current teachers who aspire to become principals. I share my passion and wisdom with them and hope they will proudly say, as I do, I am still a teacher!

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Prologue . . . and Epilogue

Vickie Robinson shared these words in a speech given during UNI's Teacher Induction Ceremony in 2000. While one would think that educators and the field of education itself would have gained greater respect since then, that just hasn't happened. Yet Robinson is not deterred.

At any given time, between 2,500 and 3,000 UNI students are declared teaching majors. And of Iowa's 32 teacher education programs, UNI's is the largest, typically graduating 50 percent more teachers each year than the next largest program. Apparently, those graduates didn't get the memo that education isn't a "real" major.

"I wrote 'Me? I am *Just* a Teacher' because teaching should be treasured and to remind society that teachers impact so many," said Robinson. "As teachers, we have to believe we can make a difference. We have to walk with confidence and a deep sense that what we do matters. Anything we do at any minute of the day can make or break a student's spirit."

Robinson also believes that teachers need advocates to help build their efficacy. She was pleasantly surprised when the editors of "Education Week" and the "Chicago Tribune" ran her piece in their publications in May and November 2010, respectively. After reading her words, dozens of parents, educators and concerned citizens, some known by Robinson, some unknown, e-mailed and sent handwritten correspondence, thanking Robinson for sharing her story and for her commitment to education. Here are some of their comments.

Subject: Well-Written Words
From: Michael M.
To: victoria.robinson@uni.edu

As a 36-year educator, I'm thankful to see daily interactions between teachers and students that are likely the most solid, influential interactions that young people have with an adult in a 24-hour period. At the same time, I daily see these same inspirational educators being overburdened with paperwork and trivial state-mandated activities that detract from what they do best – teach. Our teachers show up, do their "six shows a day," create a positive outcome and make a difference for so many. Again, thanks for writing the article and helping this educator be a bit more reenergized.

Subject: Tribune Editorial
From: Kathleen M.
To: victoria.robinson@uni.edu

I taught high school social sciences for 35 years and have been retired for six. I am deeply concerned about the future of the teaching profession. Your thoughts and comments were ones that moved me to remember why I became a teacher. In recent months, there has been so much negativity about teachers, and it was refreshing to read your thoughtful words. Thank you.

Subject: Editorial
From: Anne H.
To: victoria.robinson@uni.edu

Thank you for your editorial in the "Tribune." As a nurse who was often asked why I didn't become a doctor, and the mother and mother-in-law of two wonderful teachers, your article was an acknowledgement of the joy and importance of teachers. Thank you.

*Victoria,
Thank you for a wonderful article, which I can definitely relate to through my 40 years of high school teaching.*

Since I am now retired, I am being contacted by many of my former students from the 1960s through 1990s, and I am finding out how I impacted their lives. Sometimes, Victoria, at the time you do not know the way you touched their lives, but now I do.

*Sincerely,
Pete*

Celebrating and Empowering African-American Girls

By Gloria Kirkland Holmes, associate professor of early childhood education

I grew up in a low-income area in Charleston, South Carolina, where I became actively involved with young people in my neighborhood. It was natural for me to gather all of the children, from toddlers to around 12 years of age, on the front steps of my family's home. I sang and introduced reading. We made toys, dolls and played school on a daily basis. At an early age, I was able to recognize children who needed extra or special attention. I knew I wanted to help them.

Today, I am continuing this tradition of helping children through the Shining Stars: Girls Looking Ahead program. This yearlong program helps girls in Waterloo build their self-esteem and successfully transition from girlhood to womanhood.

The idea for the program came about in 2009 after Rev. Michael Coleman, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Waterloo, traveled to Africa. During his trip he learned there are specific steps taken within the African culture as girls and boys come of age and pass from childhood into adulthood. Caring, compassionate adults prepare these youngsters for what it means to be women and men who participate in and contribute to the community.

I was honored when Rev. Coleman asked me to write the curriculum for the 2009 program, which was themed Rites of Passage. I had created same-sex programming at Roosevelt Elementary in Waterloo where I developed a cultural enrichment classroom, curriculum and assessment methodologies for African-American males. This experience, as well as my desire to give back to the community, was a perfect fit for bringing Rev. Coleman's vision to life.

Today's young women need positive, encouraging people and experiences in their lives. They are in need of vignettes – real-life situations and real solutions to help them survive in school, at home and in their communities. The Rites of Passage program provided these.

The 15 girls who participated came from several Waterloo schools, yet they quickly realized the similarities that existed when we shared ideas, school experiences and solutions to problems. They also learned that no matter what the school, respect, obeying the rules, studying hard, maintaining a positive attitude and staying out of fights are common to all settings.

During Rites of Passage, the girls participated in self-



Gloria Kirkland Holmes is helping kindergarten through eighth-grade girls make positive choices in the Shining Stars: Girls Looking Ahead program.

esteem-building activities, introduced themselves in letters they wrote to Oprah Winfrey, and listened to and pantomimed the Yolanda Adams song "Never Give Up." The girls were also given hypothetical situations, role-played how they would respond and processed the experience with program instructors. These activities and experiences were important because the girls often got in trouble at school, mostly because of their limited skills in making alternative decisions. They now had options.

Each week, Charlotte Coleman, UNI graduate student and an administrative assistant at George Washington Carver Middle School in Waterloo, and I monitored the girls' progress by looking at their school attendance; whether they completed school assignments, homework and tests; and, most importantly, how they behaved. We were specifically interested in suspensions, detentions and expulsions. At the beginning of the program, some of the girls were suspended from school once or twice a week. Monitoring their progress helped turn that behavior around.

I've come to realize we need to reach girls even before the elementary grades. Some girls are influenced by negatives so early that it's important to get them involved in the program as early as possible to have the greatest impact. With that in mind, the 2011 program, Shining Stars: Girls Looking Ahead, includes participants from kindergarten through eighth grade. The program focuses on helping girls stay in school, improve and expand their educational skills, and learn about culture, history and spiritual experiences.

The program is wonderful. It encourages, motivates and helps girls know they are shining stars. It helps them realize that despite the odds, they must keep working hard and try to make it, because there are many doors that are open to them.

For more information on Shining Stars: Girls Looking Ahead, contact Gloria Kirkland Holmes at gloria.holmes@uni.edu or 319-273-2007.

A Visionary Leader with a Can-Do Attitude

By Julianne Gassman, Camp Adventure associate director

Leadership is about inspiring and encouraging the best in others. It's about challenging individuals to accomplish difficult tasks and providing others purpose, direction, focus and meaning in their lives.

Leaders have a strong bent toward action. They dream and do; they create vision and act with great will. These qualities best describe the leadership, character and abilities of professor Christopher Edginton, former director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services (HPELS).

Edginton came to UNI in 1999. His stewardship of HPELS resulted in the rapid growth of students, scholarship, extramural funding, facilities and the expansion of community service programs. He provided oversight for the development of the Wellness/Recreation Center, Human Performance Center and numerous updates to existing facilities.

"In the last decade, we have created [in the School of HPELS] a can-do, mustang-like work environment," said Edginton. "We are more entrepreneurial as a unit and have created a rising tide of expectations for our efforts."

Edginton's entrepreneurial spirit encouraged his faculty to pursue community and outreach programs. "HPELS must be linked to the community in order to be relevant and in touch; the community is our laboratory," said Edginton.

With that in mind, he worked feverishly in support of his faculty to establish a variety of programs, including Global Health Corps, the Institute for Youth Leaders, the National Program for Playground Safety, the Nutriactive Experience: Healthy Lifestyles for Young Children and many others. As founder of the nationally award-winning Camp Adventure™ Child & Youth Services program, his efforts have enabled more than 17,000 students from 80 colleges and universities to provide contracted services in 30 countries. All told, Camp Adventure serves nearly 750,000 children each year.

Through his can-do attitude and visionary leadership, Edginton brought HPELS to a level of national and international prominence. Former UNI President Robert Koob said, "Edginton has taken a department that is stereotyped as being the intellectually weakest and turned it into one of our most powerful programs."

During Edginton's tenure, HPELS became a main contributor of administrators to UNI and was viewed as one of the "cradles of academic leadership" for the institution.

Teaching excellence, scholarship and community service top Edginton's list of priorities. He has published more than 250 articles and 30 books. His academic work has been recognized, and his colleagues have identified him as the leading proponent of the application of



Chris Edginton, right, founded Camp Adventure Child & Youth Services™ to encourage global awareness, cultural sensitivity, diversity and inclusion. Julianne Gassman, left, is the program's associate director. Each summer, Camp Adventure students run day, overnight and sports camps at American military bases, embassies, and British Military installations.

contemporary management concepts in the park and recreation field. Additionally, he currently serves as secretary general of the World Leisure Organization and executive secretary of the American Leisure Academy.

Edginton not only inspires his faculty, staff and students professionally, he makes a difference in their lives personally. Tom Davis, professor of health promotion and education, said, "There are so many experiences Chris made possible for me that made me a better professor and a better person. The way my life has been enriched, I think I could now fairly be described as a citizen of the world."

Edginton is a great motivator, a visionary who has recognized and championed faculty excellence, enabling many ideas and concepts to become a reality. He is fond of paraphrasing Walt Disney, often saying, "If you can dream it, we can do it."

Edginton has had tremendous successes, unyielding optimism and a pursuit of innovation and excellence that is unmatched. To learn more about this inspirational leader, visit www.uni.edu/coe/hpels.

UNI's Very Own Jackie O

She's not the former first lady, yet she's No. 1 with her students.

By Leigh Martin, International Student Teaching Center coordinator

When Tipton native Jackie Osborn (English education '10) stated in her student teaching application that her aim was to be a multicultural educator, she did not yet know that just one year later, she would reach that goal.

From August to December 2010, Osborn taught English in one of the most culturally diverse American international schools in the world – the Singapore American School (SAS). The school, which was established in 1956, is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution that offers an American-based curriculum for preschool through 12th-grade expatriate students. The school is located in Woodlands, a district in northern Singapore. More than 50 different nationalities are represented among the school's 3,800 students.

Leadership came naturally to Osborn as a UNI undergraduate. She served as president and co-captain of the women's rugby club, was active in Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education and repeatedly made the Dean's list. It was no surprise that during her student teaching experience, she sought the additional challenges of navigating a new culture at SAS, a school so academically rigorous that many international teachers wait decades to be considered for a position.

Osborn described her SAS student teaching experience as a time of personal and professional growth. "From the endless collaboration with colleagues to the many opportunities for reflection, I've developed into the educator I always wanted to be. SAS provides an environment where



Jackie Osborn's winning personality attracts youngsters of all kinds, including the baby orangutan she met during her trip to the Bali Safari Zoo.

learning and taking risks in the classroom are not only accepted, but celebrated."

Osborn is currently in a long-term subbing position, teaching seventh- and eighth-grade English at East Central in Miles, about 40 miles southeast of Dubuque. In August, she will return to SAS, where she will teach high school English for one to three years.

"Along with the readiness to accept new things comes the ability to adapt quickly to your surroundings," said Osborn. "Because of teaching overseas, I've developed the ability to learn from my environment and take the necessary steps to assimilate quickly.

"The students really opened my eyes to different points of view,"

she continued. "In any given class, I would have questions thrown at me that I had never really considered because I was unaware of that perspective."

Being at SAS gave Osborn the opportunity to reflect on the unique nature of her home culture of Iowa in relation to her new home in Singapore. "Comparing two dissimilar things, such as Iowa and Singapore, is pointless since neither place is in any way like the other," she said. "This has helped in my teaching to look at new methods or strategies as different, not any better or worse than what I learned in college or in my field experiences."

During her four years at UNI, Osborn believes she was taught not only the different methods and strategies to use in a classroom, but the importance of taking risks and trying new things.

"Without the challenging class discussions and numerous field experiences, I never would have become the confident risk-taking educator I am today," said Osborn. She is forever grateful for the solid foundation UNI provided her on her journey to become a multicultural educator.



Outside the classroom, former UNI rugby player Jackie Osborn taught the SAS students a thing or two as coach of the under-14 boys rugby team.

Giving Back, the Kari McCann way

Put Kari McCann in a room with 100 other people and you'll have no trouble picking her out. She's the one with boundless energy, a contagious smile and the ability to make everyone feel like they've known her for years.

Not every 22 year old has these kinds of skills. But then again, McCann, a leisure, youth and human services major, is not like any other 22 year old. She served American military children in Naples, Italy, through Camp Adventure™ Child & Youth Services; served as sponsorship chair and executive director of UNI's Up 'til Dawn program to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; and was president of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance where she was instrumental in raising more than \$20,000 to take 23 students to the American Humanics Management/Leadership Institute in January 2011. She also gives tours to prospective students and their families as a UNI Student Admissions Ambassador; she planned and implemented UNI's annual Volunteer Fair; and, not surprisingly, she received the 2010 Mayor's Outstanding Emerging Volunteer Award from the Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley. Her list of activities and accolades goes on and on.

McCann's interest in nonprofits was piqued as a teenager when she became part of a youth philanthropy initiative, Youth Answering the Call of the Community, in high school. During this experience, she learned to effectively manage and govern a nonprofit organization, worked alongside adults in the community to address local issues, and helped peers discover the power of their time, talent and treasure.

"My goal is to serve as the adult in that situation who works with youth and educates them about



Kari McCann's volunteer experiences have taken her to Italy and Germany, yet this Iowa native still finds there's no place like home. "I love this community," she said. "I could definitely see myself staying here to live and work in the Cedar Valley."

giving back, volunteering and working with nonprofits," said McCann, who will graduate in May. As a Creston native who fell in love with UNI and the Cedar Valley, she hopes to stay on campus to earn her master's degree in philanthropy and nonprofit development.

As she waits to learn of her acceptance into the program, McCann is putting the finishing touches on her bachelor's degree by completing a full-time, 500-hour internship in Waterloo, coordinating the nomination process and awards celebration for the R.J. McElroy Trust's Gold Star Award program. Each year, 10 teachers in the Cedar Valley who demonstrate excellence in the

classroom are honored with the Gold Star Award.

"Kari is motivated to learn, engaged in her work, a seeker of knowledge and a student who cares about making her time at UNI the most valuable it can be," said professor Julianne Gassman, executive director of UNI's Nonprofit Leadership Alliance and associate director of Camp Adventure. "The alliance has risen to new accomplishments, and much of this success can be attributed to Kari, her determination and her attractive leadership style."

McCann says the "attractive" part of her leadership style comes from her lighthearted personality. "I'm a joker," she said with a smile. "I like to keep things light and still get things done. I've also learned the importance of understanding each person's communication style. You may be able to email one person, while another person doesn't want to communicate that way. Recognizing that early and using their preferred style throughout your time working with them is important."

As she looks toward her future, McCann would like to be a grantmaker for a community or private-family foundation. "If I can find one that's focused on youth and education, that would be my ideal spot because I care deeply about education," she said.

"I always wanted to be a teacher when I grew up, and I definitely see myself teaching at the college level in the future too. There are all kinds of people who need help, whether it's youth or college-age students. It's all about service, giving back and finding ways to help others."

Lending a Helping Hand

“There are always good candidates for the teaching profession who can use some extra help with the financial side of earning that degree,” said Larry (math education ’61) and Carol (Gilbert) Bowen (reading education ’64). “Now that we’re retired, we want to give back to those who follow.”

In 2010, the Bowens established a scholarship for junior or senior elementary education majors with financial need, which will be given annually for five years.

Carol taught in the Cedar Rapids elementary schools from 1964 to 2000. Larry began teaching and coaching in Traer in 1961. The following 37 years were spent teaching, coaching and being a counselor in Cedar Rapids. Larry retired in 1999.

“We were fortunate to have chosen the education field and are thankful for our fine preparation at UNI,” said Carol. “It makes us feel good that we can help in this manner.”

Learn how you can help students in need by contacting the college’s Director of Development, Andrea Elliott, at 800-782-9522 or 319-273-6778.



Growing Tomorrow’s Teachers

As a master gardener and Des Moines Botanical Center volunteer, Mary Kaiser-Smith (reading education ’49) loves to watch things grow and develop. She received that same joy watching children grow and develop during her 38 years teaching third through sixth grade in Des Moines.

In 1994, Kaiser-Smith established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) to support a scholarship endowment she and her husband established in her name. She made UNI the beneficiary of the CRUT so that when she passes, her legacy and love of teaching will live on.

Kaiser-Smith grew up on an Iowa farm and requested that the funds be used to provide scholarships for junior education majors with a similar background. “I get satisfaction knowing that students are being helped,” said Kaiser-Smith. “I even receive letters from some of these students. I know after hearing from them that they really needed the financial support.”

Learn how you can help students in need by contacting the college’s Director of Development at andrea.elliott@uni.edu.



On behalf of Iowa’s children, students at Malcolm Price Lab School thank Des Moines businessman Richard O. Jacobson for his \$11 million gift to create the Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy. The center will focus on educating, coaching and mentoring teachers and administrators.

Thank You for Your Generosity

The following list recognizes donors who made cash contributions to the College of \$250 or more between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010. The names listed in purple indicate Dean's Inner Circle members who gave \$1,000 or more to the Dean's Fund For Excellence.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

Did you know that only around 54 percent of the total cost to educate a student is covered by tuition? And nearly 85 percent of UNI students receive some type of financial assistance, but the average student still graduates with \$24,100 in debt.

Scholarship support allows students to concentrate more on their studies and ease their worries about mounting tuition bills. With continued declines in state appropriations and tuition increases, your investment in UNI students has an even greater impact.

The road ahead will not be easy, but with your continued support, UNI will become a national leader in pre-K through 12 issues and continue to enhance the economic, social and cultural development of the state.

With Warm Regards,

Andrea Elliott
Director of Development
College of Education



Faculty Highlights

Jody Brucker, assistant professor, health, physical education & leisure services, received the 2011 Athletic Trainer Service Award from the National Athletic Trainer's Association.

Tom Davis, professor, health promotion, is president of the American Association for Health Education. The association works to advance the profession by serving health educators and others who strive to promote health through education and other strategies.

Susan Etscheidt, professor of special education, was welcomed into the Iowa Academy of Education in October 2010. The IAE is composed of scholars whose work has earned respect and recognition among peers for making a significant contribution to the field of educational studies.

Anthony Gabriele, associate professor, educational psychology & foundations, co-authored a chapter with Ed Rathmell, professor of mathematics, titled "Number and Operations: Organizing Your Curriculum to Develop Computational Fluency." The chapter will appear in the book *Special Education and Mathematics: Helping Children with Learning Difficulties Achieve Mathematical Proficiency*, which will be released in 2011.



Tim Gilson, assistant professor of educational leadership, was an invited presenter at the 2011 Association of Teacher Educators' national conference.

Gilson spoke on "Educational Law, Past and Present: Preparing our Next School Leaders." The ATE is devoted to the improvement of teacher education for both school and campus-based teacher educators.



Instructors (from left) **Barbara Heitzman**, **Mary Stichter** and **Denise Tallakson**, curriculum & instruction, along with Amy Hunzelman from the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center (GBPAC), presented "Arts Integration with Pre-Service Teachers" at the Kennedy Center National Arts Partnership Conference in February. The presenters spoke about the partnership between the GBPAC and UNI's Department of Curriculum & Instruction course, Teaching Expressive Arts in the Elementary School.

Susan Hudson, professor of health, physical education & leisure services, is teaching at Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok, the oldest teacher education university in Thailand. While there, she has given the following keynote addresses: "Trends in World Leisure" at the National Ministry of Sport and Tourism National Planning Session; "The Future of Community Recreation" at Srinakharinwirot University's annual conference on recreation and sport; and "Therapeutic Recreation in the United States" at the national meeting for therapeutic recreation professionals at Kassart University.



Nick Pace, associate professor of educational leadership and postsecondary education, received the 2010 Friends of Iowa Civil Rights

Award for his consistent and sincere focus on issues connected to diversity

and equality. Pace established and co-directed the Minorities in the Leadership of Education (MILE) program; expanded opportunities for school leaders of color; co-produced a DVD distributed to every Iowa school district that highlighted the changing demographics of Iowa schools; and published his 2009 book *The Principal's Challenge: Learning from Gay and Lesbian Students*.

Deborah Tidwell, professor, curriculum & instruction, was elected chair for Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices, a special interest group of the American Educational Research Association. AERA's primary goal is to advance educational research and its practical application.

Mike Waggoner, coordinator of the graduate program in postsecondary education: student affairs, collaborated on the book *Sacred and Secular Tensions in Higher Education: Connecting Parallel Universities*, which was published in March 2011. Waggoner wrote the Preface, Chapter 1 and the Afterword. The book illustrates the importance of cultivating multiple worldviews at public, private and faith-based colleges and universities in the interest of academic freedom, and intellectual and moral dialogue. Additionally, Waggoner was recently elected chair of the American Educational Research Association's special interest group Religion and Education.

Barry Wilson, educational psychology, **Frank Kohler**, special education, **Vickie Robinson**, educational leadership and postsecondary education, and John Henning, former assistant professor in educational psychology, wrote the book *Improving Teacher Quality*, which addresses innovation and change in teacher preparation.

Catching up with former UNI Professor Jo Duea

Professor Joan (Jo) Duea taught a range of elementary education classes at UNI and worked with hundreds of field-experience students and student teachers. Prior to coming to UNI in 1965, Duea taught elementary school at Kingsley and Whittier in Waterloo and at Linn-Mar in Marion. Duea moved to Cedar Falls in 1965, joined the Department of Teaching faculty and taught kindergarten through seventh-grade students where she was instrumental in developing the concept of multiage, team-taught units. In 1989, Duea was transferred to the Department of Curriculum & Instruction and taught education methods courses until her retirement in 1997.

Duea and her husband, Jerry, met at Iowa State Teachers College when they were both working on their master's degrees. Their daughters, Jill and Joy, attended UNI and are educators in Cedar Falls and Johnston.

Vickie Robinson, associate professor of educational leadership and postsecondary education, caught up with Duea and learned what she's up to now.

Vickie Robinson: What have you been up to lately?

Jo Duea: After I retired in 1997, I continued to serve as director of the Iowa Mathematics and Science Coalition. I also served on the Sartori Foundation board and became a consultant and sample manager for Doncaster, a women's apparel collection. I held numerous roles within the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra Guild and am the current president of Chapter R of PEO.

My husband, Jerry, passed away in 2009. At that time, I found a need to reorganize my life. I went back to my educational roots in instructional design skills and started writing "lesson plans for life." I took what I did for years in the classroom and applied it to a new life.

VR: What does your new life include?

JD: My present life includes living in a home on a golf course in Cedar Falls and having a cabin on Ten Mile Lake in Minnesota. I enjoy traveling and have been to visit friends in Florida and Arizona since Christmas. With five grandchildren, ranging from a freshman in college to a 2 year old, I spend as much time as possible with family. I enjoy attending UNI events on campus and volunteering for community activities, such as the Festival of Trees and the Sartori May Breakfast.



Joan Duea taught at UNI from 1965 to 1997.

VR: What are your fondest UNI memories?

JD: There are so many, like the times we set goals by making toilet-tissue-tube time capsules, visiting senior students as they participated in schools prior to student teaching, and writing curriculum with UNI III and Price Lab School (PLS) math department colleagues. This curriculum was used throughout the United States. My administrators and colleagues at PLS encouraged me to share education initiatives locally and at state and national meetings and conventions. Having this experience introduced me to national leaders and publishers of educational

materials. I was invited to serve on the National Science Teachers board (I was the Council of Elementary Science international president), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (I sat on the Project 2061 board) and the Children's Television board (I was a consultant to 3-2-1-Contact). I also published educational materials with six publishing companies, mostly in the areas of science, mathematics and social studies.

Receiving federal grants allowed me to work with colleagues in developing problem-solving materials. Using these materials, a team from UNI went to Davenport and worked with sixth-grade students struggling in mathematics. We prepared them to teach problem solving to second-graders in their respective elementary schools. A day of great memory was when this Minorities in Teaching project was concluded by the sixth-grade teachers and the second-grade learners and their parents. The outcome was learning for everyone!

VR: Why are these memories special?

JD: Memories become special because they represent special relationships with students and colleagues. I can become teary when I encounter a student or teaching friend and we begin to reminisce about our time together. Teaching was not my career nor my work; it was my life and I loved every minute of it.

VR: What words of wisdom can you offer educators?

JD: Have a passion for building strong relationships with learners. Be creative, cutting edge and seek continuous improvement.

Class Notes

1940s

Vera Stutsman Smith (reading education '39) has written weekly columns in the Malvern Leader and Tabor Beacon about the joys of middle age for the past 34 years. Smith lives in Malvern. **Elaine Shannon Train** (M.A., guidance and counseling '63) taught for 26 years and spent eight of those years as a guidance counselor at Cedar Falls High School.

1950s

Betty Roberts Crist (2-yr. certificate '55) of Wheat Ridge, Colo., retired after nearly 29 years as manager of liability and property insurance claims for the state of Colorado. She also worked for five years for the State Senate as an assistant to the minority party leader. **Shirley Dutton** (physical education '55) was inducted into the Wyoming Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Hall of Fame in 2010. She taught in Newton and lives in Douglas, Wyo. **Robert Huckins** (M.A., student personnel services/elementary guidance counseling '62) traveled to Washington, D.C., as a member of Honor Flight South Dakota, a trip to honor veterans of WW II. He lives in Pierre, S.D. **Ronald Roskens** (M.A., counseling '55) received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, from His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Roskens lives in Omaha, Neb. **Warren Morris** (physical education '54) invented the Morris Boot to help treat lower-leg injuries. He and his wife, Debbie, own Morris Technologies in Bozeman, Mont. **Jeanne Bishop Struck** (physical education '58) is an adjunct in reading and ESL at Pima Community College and teaches in Arizona State University's teacher education program. She lives in Tucson.

1960s

Jo Giles (early childhood education '68; M.A., special education '79) retired from the Winterset Community School District after 42 years of teaching and lives in Winterset. **Tom Hughes** (education counseling '68) retired after 19 years as a computer science professor at the University of Kentucky. He lives in Frankfort, Ky. **Judith Nelson McKee** (reading education '61) of Winnetka, Ill., is a monthly columnist on post-retirement for NSTA Reports, published by the National Science Teachers Association. McKee is an education consultant and clinical supervisor for UNI student teachers in the Chicago area. **Carolyn Smith Schnobrich** (reading education '66) retired after 41 years of teaching elementary education and lives in Adair. **Sandi Thompson Phillips** (reading education '65) retired from teaching in 2001 and now works for Sigler Companies in Ames.

1970s

Carol Blaisdell Allbaugh (middle/junior high education '71; M.A., special education '82) is a project manager for the San Bernardino Community College District in California. **Kevin Bash** (physical education '75) has been a U.S. Postal Service worker in Waterloo for the past 17 years. **Jerry Bauer** (elementary education '74), principal at Whittier Elementary in Bozeman, Mont., received the 2010 KTVM-TV Gold Star Award for Excellence in Education. **Margaret Prince Brinton** (elementary education '71) released her fifth teacher resource book, "100 More Little Reading Comprehension Lessons." She and her husband live in San Diego, Calif. **Carol Woodin Boyce** (library science '72) teaches at Orange Elementary in Waterloo. In 2010, she received an Excellence in Science Teaching award from the Iowa Academy of Science. **Gloria Hoffmeier Casey** (elementary education '77) lives in Manson and is a third-grade teacher at Manson Northwest Webster. **Barbara Chaney** (elementary education remedial reading '73) retired in 2009 after 21 years as a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and now teaches there part time. **Joyce Holton Crawford** (M.A., education psychology - teaching '76) released "Don't Call Me Michael" in December 2009, a book about bullying, friendship and forgiveness. "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down," a story about inappropriate touch, will be released in 2011. She lives in Charles City. **Alice Kracke Greimann** (elementary education remedial reading '75) retired in 2010 after teaching in the Iowa Falls Community School District for 35 years. **Neal Hadden** (elementary education '77; M.A., administration supervision '85) retired in 2010 after 20 years as an elementary school principal in Oskaloosa. His wife, **Marcia Sparks Hadden** (elementary education remedial reading '77) is a guidance counselor. They live in Oskaloosa. **Ellen Haley** (elementary education '72) retired from the Western Dubuque County Community School District after 37 years of teaching. She lives in Dubuque. **Ken Huelman** (physical education '70) retired after 40 years of teaching and coaching in the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School System. **Debra Guenther Hyland** (physical education '73) retired in 2010. She and her husband, Michael, live in Galena, Ill. **Susan Katzer** (middle/junior high education '75) works at Antech Diagnostics, a vet reference lab in Southaven, Miss., and lives in Memphis, Tenn. **Janet Schott Koch** (elementary education '72) lives in Urbandale and teaches universal preschool

for the Des Moines Public Schools. **Randall Krejci** (physical education '76; M.A., administration supervision '83) was inducted into the Iowa Girls' Coaches Association Hall of Fame for his high school coaching and officiating accomplishments. He lives in Cedar Rapids. **Susan Burns Lance** (elementary education '73) and **William E. Lance** (elementary education '71) retired from Manatee District Schools after 36 years in education and live in Bradenton, Fla. **Karen Howick Nesvold** (elementary education '74) received certification as a qualified dementia care specialist through the Dementia Care Professionals of America. She has been the housekeeping manager for Orchard Park Assisted Living in Bellingham, Wash., for the past seven years. **Doris Thompson Perkins** (elementary education remedial reading '74) retired after 36 years with Anderson County Schools in Tennessee. She lives in Jefferson City, Tenn. **Denny Perry** (middle/junior high education '72; M.A., middle/junior high education '96) retired after 33 years of teaching. He lives in Spirit Lake. **Perry Phillips** (middle/junior high education '75) retired from teaching math after 35 years, his last 31 at Southeast Polk. He lives in Altoona. **Bonnie Sloth Raasch** (library science '72) retired in 2010 after nearly 39 years as library media specialist at Vernon Middle School. In 2010, she received the Linn County Educator of the Year award. Raasch and husband James live in Cedar Rapids. **James Raasch** (physical education '71) retired in 2010 after 21 years as an auditor for the Iowa Department of Transportation. **Cheryl Ross** (middle/junior high education '76) retired after 34 years of teaching secondary math in Hudson, Dike and Mason City. She and her husband, Fred Heinz, live in Mason City. **Carol Sorenson** (physical education '73) retired in 2010 after 37 years in education. She served in Titonka and Waukee and at the University of Iowa and Southeast Polk. She lives in Pleasant Hill. **Pam Larsen Wessely** (elementary education '74) received the Excellence in Education award for the Blue Valley Schools in Kansas. Wessely is an elementary self-contained special education teacher and has taught for 36 years in Iowa and Kansas. **Davetta Williams** (M.A., college student personnel services '73) completed a two-year course in holistic education at Cal State San Bernardino in 2010 at the age of 75. She'll use the skills learned for the prevention of mental health issues among children, youth and adults. **Lynn Dietz Wilson** (recreation - program supervision, therapeutic recreation '79) works at Sparc in Springfield, Ill.,

visiting developmentally disabled children and adults in their homes.

1980s

Marietta Bittner Altman (elementary education '89) is a special education teacher and former Peace Corps Volunteer. She lives in Mesa, Ariz. **Jeff Anderson** (M.A., college student personnel services '81) works with the Johnson County Community College International Service Learning Project, based in Las Pintas, Mexico. He lives in Olathe, Kan. **Diane Pralle Evans** (middle/junior high education '88) is a technology specialist at Charlotte Latin School and lives in Charlotte, N.C. **Joel Greenlee** (physical education '89) was inducted into the UNI Athletics Hall of Fame for his contribution to the 1986-89 wrestling teams. He lives in Athens, Ohio. **Heather Keeney Harmon** (elementary education '89) is the librarian and after-school programs coordinator at Kimball Public School in Kimball, S.D. Her husband, **Tim Harmon** (Ed.S., education psychology '92) completed his master of divinity degree at United Theological Seminary and is a pastor at First Presbyterian and First Lutheran in Lake Andes, S.D. The Harmons live in Kimball, S.D. **Grant Hunget** (community recreation '85) has worked at the J. Wilbur Company in Kansas City, Mo., for the past 15 years. **Timothy Johnson** (elementary education '84) is in his 26th year of teaching elementary education. Johnson, who received his master's in elementary education and his principal's license, lives in Littleton, Colo. **Ann Kness** (elementary education '82) teaches fifth and sixth grade at Webster City Middle School. She recently obtained her master's in curriculum and technology from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz. **Joni Graham Krejchi** (elementary education '84) received the Art Educators of Iowa 2010-11 Outstanding Elementary Art Educator award. She teaches at St. Patrick Catholic School in Cedar Falls. **Juli Ihry Kwikkel** (elementary education '81; M.A., administration supervision '94) is principal at Storm Lake Elementary and the Storm Lake East Early Childhood Center. She and her husband, David, live in Storm Lake. **Sue Joseph Mattison** (M.A., health education '87) is director of the School of Health, Physical Education & Leisure Services at UNI. **Anne Taylor Phillips** (elementary education '80) retired from the Waterloo Community Schools after teaching for 30 years. She lives in Cedar Falls. **Darla Onken Richardson** (early childhood education '86) teaches kindergarten; her husband, Will, teaches sixth-grade social studies for the Alvin Independent School

District in Alvin, Texas. **Anne M. Sullivan** (elementary education '87) is assistant chief administrator/director of personnel of AEA 267. **Deb Vangellow** (health education, physical education '86) of Sugarland, Texas, is a 2009 U.S. Kids Golf Top 50 Teacher; Golf Digest also named her one of the 50 Best Women Teachers in America. Vangellow is vice president of the LPGA Teaching & Club Professionals and obtained Master Professional Status.

1990s

Barbara Havel Bohach (elementary reading language arts '94; Ed.D., education curriculum instruction '04) was granted tenure and a promotion to associate professor of education at Luther College. She lives in Spillville. **Jenny Lambertson Christensen** (early childhood education, elementary education '99) teaches pre-K in the Lincoln Central School District in Estherville. **Mike Dawson** (elementary education, middle/junior high education '93), principal at Branson Elementary West, was named Missouri's National Distinguished Principal for 2010. He has been an elementary principal in the Branson School District since 2003. **Joan Pemble Kimball** (elementary education '97) teaches fifth grade in Spencer. She and her husband, Kent, live in Evely. **Jason Lau** (leisure services '99; M.A., youth/human services administration '02) of Cedar Falls is CEO and co-founder of Global Competency Consulting LLC. He recently earned his Ph.D. in education policy and leadership studies from the University of Iowa. **Gabe McDonald** (elementary education '99) is a math teacher at Muscatine High School. **David Marchesani** (M.A., college/university student services '95) is an academic advisor and career development coordinator in the Office of Academic Advising at UNI. He recently received the Outstanding Advising award from the National Academic Advising Association. **Robin Lynch Risbeck** (elementary education '90) has 14 years of middle school teaching experience and has been an adjunct instructor for Vatterott College and Upper Iowa and Grandview universities. Risbeck is the director of education for the Des Moines campus of Vatterott College. **Matthew Robie** (elementary education '99) received the Yager Exemplary Teaching and Learning Award, recognizing exemplary science and mathematics teaching by UNI grads. He lives in Ankeny. **Diane Hrubes Rohan** (early childhood education, elementary education '97) teaches in the Spencer Community School District and lives in Spencer. **Amy Keller Sandvold** (elementary education,

middle/junior high education '94; M.A., reading education '98) of Cedar Falls published "The Passion-Driven Classroom: A Framework for Teaching and Learning." **Angela Swenson Schnurstein** (elementary education '93) teaches seventh-grade math at Hiatt Middle School in Des Moines. **Kristy Arnold Smith** (early childhood education, elementary education '96) is a school counselor for the Fort Dodge Community School District.

2000s

Timothy Green (elementary education '01) is dean of students in Carbon Cliff-Barstow District # 36 in Illinois. **Martha Olson Jensen** (M.A., special education '07) is an early childhood special education teacher in Rochester, Minn. She and her husband, Tony, live in Kasson, Minn. **Natasha Kauten** (early childhood education '09) teaches pre-K in the College Community School District in Cedar Rapids. **Molly O'Brien** (physical education '05) was inducted into the UNI Athletics Hall of Fame for her contribution to the 2000-03 volleyball teams. She lives in Waterloo. **Lisa Parsons** (health promotion '04) is the administrative assistant at the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and lives in Waterloo. **Jenna Uthoff Rokes** (early childhood education, elementary education '07) teaches first grade in the Pleasant Valley Schools. She and her husband, **Matthew Rokes** (athletic training '08) live in Le Claire. **Darrin Siefken** (M.A., leisure services: youth/human services administration '04) of Tripoli owns CrawDaddy Outdoors in Waverly. The company won the Main Street Iowa Business of the Year award in 2010. **Lindsay Wood Stanford** (early childhood education, elementary education '03) was inducted into the UNI Athletics Hall of Fame for her contribution to the 1999-2002 softball teams. She lives in Winterset. **Andrea Kaiser Townsley** (elementary education '03) teaches fourth grade at Benton Community Schools. Spouse **Eric Townsley** (M.A., education '09) teaches math and coaches football and basketball for the district. They live in Van Horne. **Rodney Zehr** (M.A., educational technology '02) teaches math at NIACC in Mason City and teaches classes in the Mastery Math program.



A Long, Productive Relationship

Twenty-eight College of Education faculty members were students at Iowa State Teachers College, the State College of Iowa or UNI. Several of them recently gathered at the Marshall Center School on campus, including (left row, front to back) Vicki Oleson, Kathy Oakland, David Christensen, (center left row, front to back) Iradge Ahrabi-Fard, Jill Uhlenberg, Nadene Davidson, (center right row, front to back) Diana Briggs, Leigh Martin, Bob Lee, (right row, front to back) Vickie Robinson, Tim Gilson, Nick Pace.

Faculty members unable to attend: Megan Balong, Aricia Beckman, Karen Breitbach, Dennis Cryer, Mary Doyle, David Else, Caroline Elser, Kevin Finn, Sherry Gable, Julianne Gassman, Mary Guenther, Curt Nielsen, Greg Reed, Susan Roberts-Dobie, Merrie Schroeder, Mary Stichter.

Magazine advisory committee

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