

Spring 2013

## COE Acclaim, Spring 2013, Issue 6

University of Northern Iowa. College of Education.

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## North Cedar Students “Travel” to China

During the past 20 years, **Tom Davis**, professor in the school of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, has visited Asia nearly 30 times, leading student tours, making presentations, and representing UNI and the health education profession. In June 2012, as president of the American Association of Health Education and an Executive Committee member of the Society for Public Health Education, he was invited to serve as a visiting professor at Hangzhou University in Hangzhou, Peoples Republic of China. His service commenced in February of this year.



*Tom Davis addresses students at the opening ceremony for spring semester 2013 at Hangzhou University in Hangzhou, Peoples Republic of China, where he is a visiting professor.*

While at the university, Davis taught classes in health education theory and planning, helped develop a competency-based health education professional preparation curriculum, had an opportunity to recruit students to UNI, and was able to connect Chinese and American students. As part of the ongoing collaborative relationship between the COE and North Cedar School in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Davis is partnering with the fourth-grade class of instructor Jill Brodahl. Prior to his China departure, Davis visited her classroom with several graduate students, including one health, physical education and leisure services graduate student from China. During the semester, the graduate students made return visits to North Cedar School to complement reading assignments and classroom discussions related to China. Additionally, they worked with Brodahl to help increase students' map-reading skills and knowledge of Chinese geography, language, history and culture.

The fourth-graders also participated in virtual travel to China with Davis by creating paper cutouts of themselves, which served as their travel surrogates. Davis took these cutouts with him this semester and photographed these travel surrogates at the various sites he visited. Learn more about his experiences and see the “students” travel at [www.facebook.com/NorthCedarSchoolGoesToChina](http://www.facebook.com/NorthCedarSchoolGoesToChina).

When Davis returned in April, he visited Brodahl's class to summarize his experience, discuss the cultural and historical importance of the sites he visited, and provide the students with souvenirs of their vicarious trip to China.

Davis' travel costs and living expenses were paid for by Hangzhou University.

## COE Hosts Visiting Scholars



**Beishenaliev Almazbek** is a visiting scholar in educational psychology and foundations and will be with the department until mid-May 2014. Prior to coming to UNI in February, Almazbek was the vice-chancellor and head of the foreign languages department at Vistula University in Warsaw. At UNI he is researching the effects of Gulen-inspired schools on the world's education. At

Bergische Universität Wuppertal in Germany he is researching changes (developments) in education in Central Asia since the independence (in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan).

Almazbek has authored one book and 13 national and two international publications in scientific journals and books. Other selected accomplishments include speaking at more than 50 international and national conferences, receiving the 2010 Education Recognition Award from the Educational Foundation Sebat and serving as founding president of the Association of Young Entrepreneurs, one of the top civil society organizations of Kyrgyzstan.

**Hafðís Guðjónsdóttir**, a visiting scholar in curriculum and instruction, is an associate professor of education at the University of Iceland School of Education. She worked for 25 years as a general classroom teacher and special educator in elementary and high schools. Her focus is on inclusion, multicultural education, curriculum development and differentiated instruction.

Guðjónsdóttir has collaborated with colleagues from Europe, Australia and the U.S. on teacher education and research projects that focus on inclusive practices and multicultural education; inclusion in teacher education; and self-study of teacher education practices. From the perspective of constant change, critical theory and pedagogy, she researches with teachers, their students, families and school personnel. Her research interests are in the area of inclusive practices, pedagogy and educational practices, teacher development, and professionalism. Guðjónsdóttir was at UNI through April 2013.

**Justo Gallardo** was a visiting professor in educational psychology and foundations from September 2012 through January 2013. For 30 years he has prepared English teachers at the Universidad de Tarapacá in Arica, Chile. He came to UNI to carry out research on teacher education and educational reform in the United States. Chile is currently undergoing significant changes in education not unlike those in the U.S.

Gallardo first came to UNI as a visiting professor, teaching Spanish courses from 1994-1995. He later returned to UNI to earn his Ed.D. in 2003.

## Students Show Their Creative Side

**Sarah Vander Zanden** and **Sarah Montgomery**, both assistant professors from curriculum and instruction, received a Reaching for Higher Ground: The Search for An American Dream grant through UNI in fall 2012. The grant funds were used to work with **Ashley Jorgensen**, instructor in teaching, Zak Montgomery from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, and Mirsa Rudic from Carver Academy in Waterloo, Iowa, to coordinate a partnership between a class of sixth-grade students at Carver and a class from Wartburg. The partnership focused on interrogating the concept of An American Dream via writing and photography.

The semester-long partnership resulted in three culminating gallery events to showcase the students' work and raise questions about the implications of their hopes and dreams for educational stakeholders.



*Panel members (from left) Mirsa Rudic, English Language Learners teacher at Carver Academy in Waterloo, Vanessa Espinoza, UNI teacher education student, and Lucy Evans, principal at Carver Academy, spoke at the Reaching for Higher Ground event in December.*

## New Staff Members Join the College



**Amelia Holden-McMurray** has joined the college as marketing and communications coordinator. Prior to coming to UNI she was the interim director of grants at Wartburg College. She has also served as a communications specialist at Upper Iowa University, an editor and a reporter for the Daily Rocket-Miner in Rock Springs, Wyo., an adjunct faculty member at Riverland Community and Technical College in Austin, Minn., and a long-term substitute teacher at Albert Lea High School. Holden-McMurray will work with Dean Dwight C. Watson and department/division heads to develop, implement and maintain marketing, communication and promotional activities for the college.



UNI alumnus **Richard Webb** has joined the college as recruitment and retention coordinator. He is working with administrators, faculty and staff within the college and across the university to attract students from underrepresented populations to UNI. Webb will also assist those students in finding support services once they're on campus.

Webb's professional life has been dedicated to building positive relationships between people and creating a sense of belonging and inclusion for those who often go unheard as they experience educational communities. Prior to his current position, Webb was the cultural liaison for African-American Students and Families for the Robbinsdale Area Schools in Minnesota.

The new staff members are sharing office space in Schindler Education Center Room 170A, so feel free to stop by and introduce yourself.

## High Five for Child Development Center

UNI's Child Development Center received the top score of 5 in the Iowa Quality Rating System after its Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale/Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ITERS/ECERS) visit. These instruments assess the quality of early childhood and child care programs. The visit was conducted by Iowa State University.

The Iowa Quality Rating System (QRS) is a voluntary child care rating system for child development homes, licensed child care centers and preschools, and child care programs operated by school districts. The QRS was developed to raise the quality of child care in Iowa, increase the number of children in high-quality child care settings and educate parents about quality child care.

There are five levels, with five being the highest. Providers in levels three through five have made significant steps in meeting key indicators of quality in the areas of professional development, health and safety, environment, family and community partnership, and leadership and administration.



*An open house was held in the Child Development Center in early March. Dean Dwight C. Watson spoke during the event and attendees were given tours of the facility.*



## Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity Explored

Current research, scholarship and creative activity by UNI faculty and staff were showcased during the "Expanding Ideas of Scholarship in the 21st Century" symposium, which was held on campus in early February. The symposium also served to stimulate engaging dialogue on current topics related to scholarship in higher education. This biennial event was presented by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs with support from the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Faculty and administrators from Western Carolina University (WCU), a public, comprehensive institution similar to UNI, joined UNI faculty and staff for the event. The guests from WCU have been developing and publishing new ideas about various forms of scholarship for a number of years.

In addition to sharing their experiences and ideas in the Keynote Panel session, the WCU team facilitated discussion about how scholarship is being defined and assessed at UNI and across the U.S.

The following COE faculty members presented their research at the symposium:

### Curriculum and Instruction

- **Jill Uhlenberg** and graduate students **Harun Parpucu** and **Zaid Alkouri**: Contents and Containers
- **Jill Uhlenberg, Zaid Alkouri**: Problem Solving Framework in Toddlers

### Educational Psychology and Foundations

- **Anthony Gabriele, Elana Joram**: Teachers' Metacognitive Monitoring of Their Judgment Accuracy Predicts Classroom Learning
- **Nicole R. Skaar, Katie Lawrenz** (graduate student): Direct Behavior Ratings: Continuing to Study Teacher Acceptability and Validity
- **Michelle Tichy**: Living at the Intersections – Academic Pathways of Students Caught in the Middle of the Immigration Debate

### School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services

- **Travis Ficklin**: Windmilling Mechanisms for the Generation of Ball Speed in Softball Fast-Pitching
- **Kevin J. Finn**: The Physical Activity Patterns of Hungarian Adults Residing in Northwest Hungary
- **Kelli Snyder**: Development of an Ankle Function Model
- **Jennifer Waldron**: Predictors of Hazing in College and High School Athletes
- **Catherine Zeman**, HPELS, Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center; Ioan Bocsan, Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy; Jennifer Hall, University of Iowa: Environmental Impact of the Roma Recycler

## A Heart for Art

On Feb. 10, the student organization Art for El Salvador held Art from the Heart, an art/variety show that featured works and performances by UNI students and other contributors. More than \$1,000 was raised during the event, which was held in the Maucker Union ballroom. The organization is advised by **Denise Tallakson**, curriculum and instruction, and sells original art to raise funds to build a school in El Salvador. The organization also helps shed light on life in El Salvador, especially family life and education.

UNI students Maria and Niah Howard and their younger sister, Sarah, created Art for El Salvador in summer 2010 in their hometown of Dallas Center, Iowa. They sold artwork at their local farmers market, which included decorated boxes made by Sarah. After their local success, Maria and Niah brought Art for El Salvador to Cedar Falls when they became UNI students.

Art for El Salvador took on new meaning after the sisters were involved in a car accident, which Sarah did not survive. Art from the Heart is now held in honor of Sarah to raise money to build a school in El Salvador, which will be named La Escuela de Sarah Lana, in Sarah's honor.

"I got to know Maria last semester when she was a student in my course, Methods of Teaching Visual and Performing Arts Integration in the Elementary Classroom," said Tallakson. "When she introduced herself the first day of class, she mentioned she had a charity called Art for El Salvador. After she told us about it, I saw such a great connection between her mission and our class. We all decided to help. It has added such a meaningful service opportunity to my course."

Learn more about Art for El Salvador by contacting Tallakson at [denise.tallakson@uni.edu](mailto:denise.tallakson@uni.edu) or 319-273-2540.

## Finn Receives Fulbright Research Award

**Kevin J. Finn**, associate professor in health, physical education and leisure services, received the 2012-13 Fulbright Research Award to Hungary. During fall semester 2012, Finn trained graduate health promotion students at the University of West Hungary in Győr to conduct interviews with adults using physical activity and weight history questionnaires. The students conducted more than 400 interviews during a four-week period.



*Finn, center, traveled to Hungary with daughter Carmen, son Ryan and wife Karyn. During their visit, the Finns met with Laszlo Vass, former assistant to the Hungarian minister of foreign affairs.*

## Awards/Service

**Kelsey Boyce**, graduate assistant, educational leadership and postsecondary education, received the Rising Star Graduate Student Award at the annual Iowa Student Personnel Association conference at Grinnell College. Individuals are chosen based on their commitment to service and dedication to students and the student services profession. Boyce is in her final semester in the postsecondary education: student affairs master's program.

**Jean Donham**, School of Library Studies, was appointed to the Committee on Accreditation for the American Library Association. This committee executes accreditation and formulates standards of education for library and information studies in the United States and Canada. Her four-year term will begin in June.

**Chris Edginton**, health, physical education and leisure services, is a member of the editorial board for *African Journal for Physical, Health Education, Recreation and Dance*.

**Salli Forbes**, curriculum and instruction, and **Dwight C. Watson**, dean, are members of the board of directors for the Reading Recovery Council of North America. Forbes is president of the council this year and chaired the National Conference Planning Committee. As chair, she chose and invited keynote speakers, oversaw all conference decisions, provided introductions for national speakers, gave welcome and closing remarks at the general sessions, and chaired the board of directors meeting immediately following the conference.

**Frank Kohler**, special education, **Magdalena Galloway**, **Lynne Ensworth**, **Ping Gao**, **Jill Uhlenberg** and **Leigh Zeitz**, all of curriculum and instruction, and the Dean's Office coordinated the 2013 Up Close Event in February with the support of Up Close Planning Committee members.

**Leigh Martin**, student field experiences, and **Tim Gilson**, educational leadership

and postsecondary education, in conjunction with the Office of Continuing Education and Special Programs, created the first UNI MAE for Teacher Leaders in American International Schools. The initial cohort began in January 2013 and is comprised entirely of teachers in Mumbai, India. Applications are now being accepted for a more "global" cohort to begin in summer 2013.

## Presentations

**Jean Donham**, School of Library Studies, presented "A Leadership Academy for Teacher Librarians: AASL/ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant" at the American Association of School Librarians Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. She also presented "Deep Learning: Concepts in the Iowa Core" during the Heartland AEA Teacher Librarian Workshop in Des Moines.

**Kevin J. Finn**, health, physical education and leisure services, presented "Addressing the Obesity Problem in Hungarian Adults" during the Eisenhower Day of Fellowship at Budapest University of Technology and Economics in Budapest, Hungary. In addition, he presented "Monitoring Physical Activity in Hungarian Adults: Preliminary Findings" at the International Conference on Movement and Health at Hans Selye University in Komarno, Slovakia.

**Mary Herring**, associate dean, co-presented on the following topics at the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education conference in Orlando: "Drawing a Line in the Water: Considering Ethics and Social Media Use in Education" and "Embedding Technology in Teacher Preparation Programs: Revolution or Evolution?" At the same conference, Herring and **Dwight C. Watson**, dean, presented "Daring Ventures: Innovative Use of Clinical Placements and Performance Assessments." At the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education conference in Orlando, he presented "Resourcing Partnerships in Teacher Preparation: Leveraging Situational Assets to Achieve University Valued Outcomes." Herring and **Nadene Davidson**, student field experiences, also

presented "Collaborative Rural School Partnerships: The Student Voice."

**Dewitt Jones**, educational leadership and postsecondary education, was a presenter for the Negotiations Track at the fall Iowa Superintendents Finance and Leadership Consortium in Des Moines. He was also an invited member for the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners Workshop in West Des Moines, which dealt with alternative licensing for superintendents.

**Rick Knivslund**, teaching, presented "Architecture: A Place-based Semester High School Course" at the National Art Education Association's Convention in Ft. Worth, Texas.

**Nick Pace**, educational leadership and postsecondary education, presented an overview of promising anti-bullying practices in use in Iowa schools at the Mallais Alliance International Links Conference in Horsham, UK. The presentation allowed UK educators to connect with Iowa teachers, counselors and principals engaged in unique and promising initiatives to improve school culture, climate and learning.

**Sarah Vander Zanden**, curriculum and instruction, and M. Honeyford presented "Space, Identity & Power: Adopting a Critical Spatial Perspective to Analyze Students' Texts and Positioning" at the American Educational Research Association's annual meeting in San Francisco. At the same meeting, Vander Zanden, **Sarah Montgomery**, curriculum and instruction, and Z. Montgomery presented "Interrogating the American Dream Through Participatory Photography and Dialogue."

**Dwight C. Watson**, dean, presented "Literacy as Access: Exploring Concepts of Cultural Competency" at the 2013 National Reading Recovery and K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference.

## Publications

**Jean Donham**, School of Library Studies, published "Text Sets, Deep Learning and the Common Core" in *School Library*

*Monthly.* Donham and L. Johnson authored "Reading by Grade 3: How Well Do School Library Circulation Policies Support Early Reading?" in *Teacher Librarian*.

**Christopher Edginton**, health, physical education and leisure services, **Abubakarr Jalloh** and **Thomas M. Flack**, graduate assistants, health, physical education and leisure services, and R. Coles authored "Leisure, Health and the Built Environment" in *International Leisure Review*. In the same publication, Edginton, Chin, Flack, and **Bin Ruan** and **Kristine M. Fleming**, health, physical education and leisure studies graduate assistants, authored "Leisure, Physical Activity and Community Healthy Living."

Edginton and M.K. Chin authored "Is Current Research Failing to Address the Challenges of the Epidemic of Obesity and Overweight?," "Promoting Best Practice," "A Focus on Health and Physical Education Pedagogy" and "Together We Can Make A Difference" in *The Global Journal of Health and Physical Education Pedagogy*. In the same publication, the two authors, along with M.S. Tang, wrote "School Physical Education and Health: A Model of Best Practice ~ Integrating Local Context with Global Trends." Edginton, Chin and R. Naul also published "Global Forum for Physical Education Pedagogy 2012 (GoFPEP 2012)" in this same journal.

Edginton, Chin, B. Ruan and M.M. Mok wrote "The Development and Validation of the Core Competencies Scale (CCS) for College and University Students" for

*Journal of Applied Measurement*.

Edginton, R. Coles, and A. Jalloh authored "Africa and the World Leisure Organization" for *African Journal for Physical, Health Education, Recreation and Dance*.

**Ping Gao**, curriculum and instruction, published two peer-reviewed articles: "Developing Teacher Identity from Technology Field Practice" in *International Journal of Continuing Engineering Education and Life-Long Learning*.

Gao and G. Mager authored "Constructing Embodied Understanding of Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge: Preservice Teachers Learning to Teach with Information Technology" in *International Journal of Social Media and Interactive Learning Environments*.

**Stephanie Logan**, curriculum and instruction, **Terri Lasswell**, student field experiences, **Yolanda Hood**, youth collection librarian, and **Dwight C. Watson**, dean, authored "Guide to Selection of Queer Adolescent Literature for Language Arts Teachers and Librarians" in *Universitas*, Volume 8.

**Nick Pace** and **Tim Gilson**, educational leadership and postsecondary education, completed the manuscript "Champion or Chump: Using a Book-Length Case Study to Evaluate a Mythical Principal" for *The Education Leadership Review*.

**Sarah Vander Zanden**, curriculum and instruction, authored "'Doing Right' by Melissa: An Inquiry into School Spaces" in *Language and Literacies*. She and M.

Honeyford authored "Bending Boundaries: A Critical Spatial Analysis of Students' Texts and Identity Work" in *Critical Literacy: Theory and Practice*.

**Dwight C. Watson**, dean, and **Chris Edginton**, health, physical education and leisure services, co-wrote "Experience-Based Learning and Teacher Preparation: Camp Adventure Child and Youth Services" in *On the Move*, the official magazine of the Military Child Education Coalition.

**Leigh Zeitz**, curriculum and instruction, and graduate student **Maryam Ghayoorrad** presented the poster session "Using Second Life Virtual Reality in Education" at the John Deere e-Week in Waterloo. Zeitz and graduate students **Dan Mourlam** and **Heather Klenke** presented the session "Using the Technology Integration Matrix to Facilitate Learning" at the EdCampIowa in Bettendorf.

## Grants/Contracts Completed

**Ping Gao** and **Leigh Zeitz**, curriculum and instruction, received Institutional Review Board approval for research about preservice teachers' perspectives on using social media for learning and teaching, and discovery of their tech-savvy strengths. They also received a small-scale research grant from UNI's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. They presented their research results at the American Educational Research Association Conference in San Francisco.

## Celebrating Literacy, Diversity

**Kimberli Boyd** tells a story through words and dance during the seventh annual African-American Read-in that was held on UNI's campus in February.

Boyd, who lives in the Detroit area, is CEO and founding artistic director of Dancing Between the Lines. This solo performance company and arts as education organization uses movement and personal storytelling as tools to engage, educate, empower and inspire.

The read-in event focuses on reading and sharing African-American books by African-American authors and illustrators. First-grade students from Becker, Irving, Kingsley, Kittrell, Lowell and Orange elementary schools in Waterloo and Janesville Elementary School participated in the event.

**Gloria Kirkland Holmes**, curriculum and instruction, helped organize the event, which was held in conjunction with the African-American Children and Families conference.

