UNI Celebrates Opening of UNI Center for Violence Prevention

On Friday, Jan. 28, UNI’s Center for Violence Prevention (CVP) celebrated its opening with a dedication program at the Center for Multicultural Education. The new center houses a Regents-wide training, curriculum and programming initiative focused on campus violence prevention. The CVP will share best practices for responding to and preventing interpersonal violence on university campuses, as well as in K through 12 classrooms, Iowa communities and the surrounding region. UNI’s Teacher Education program will infuse a violence prevention education curriculum into classes for aspiring teachers.

In addition to funding provided by the Department of Justice, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Waitt Institute for Violence Prevention, Verizon Wireless awarded a $10,000 grant to help support the center, specifically the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Leadership Institute. The institute provides an approach to bullying, gender violence and school violence that encourages young men and women from all socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds to take leadership roles in their schools and communities. For more information about the center, contact Annette Lynch at 319-273-2114, annette.lynnch@uni.edu or visit www.uni.edu/cvp.

Cedar Valley Students Participate in African-American Read-In

More than 400 first-graders participated in UNI’s annual African-American Read-In on Monday, Feb. 28. The students, from Edison/Black Hawk, Highland, Cunningham and Orange elementary schools, joined UNI student “celebrity” readers, along with African-American folktale storyteller Nothando Zulu. Zulu is the president and director of the Black Storytellers Alliance.

UNI hosts ‘I AM Retreat’

UNI hosted an “I AM Retreat” Feb. 19 and 20 for 45 East and West High School females. The events included several workshops and presentations aimed at tapping into students’ creativity while transforming them into responsible, educated and driven leaders.

The event was sponsored by the Waterloo Schools and the Suber-Sallis Foundation of Arts and Humanity. Monifa Samora Suber, creator of awakespiritmedia.com, and Nicole Sallis, an East High Waterloo graduate, formed the foundation to help youth enrich their minds and spirits through creative and artistic programs.

MPLS Whole Child in Action

Amy Lockhart, Clare Struck, Kim Miller and Mary Guenther, instructors at Malcolm Price Laboratory School, presented a session in March on how schools can make a commitment to teaching the “Whole Child” at the ASCD National Conference in San Francisco. MPLS received the 2010 ASCD Whole Child Award for ensuring that all students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Examples of MPLS programs include the following:

- **Health:** All K through 12 students at MPLS participate in daily physical education classes and a weekly health program. In August 2009, the school launched a breakfast and lunch program, “Grassroots Café,” which offers organic foods from local farms.

- **Safety:** The school’s counselors instituted a bullying prevention program for its elementary students, called “Be a Buddy, Not a Bully!” Schools worldwide have adopted the program.

- **Engagement:** MPLS engages students through project-based learning that focuses on topics of their choice. Courses are designed and centered around the Iowa Core’s 21st Century Skills.

- **Support:** All sixth- through 12th-grade students participate in cooperative advisory groups where advisors function as “school parents” who advocate for and mentor their assigned students.

- **Challenge:** Each MPLS student participates in a college preparatory curriculum.
College of Education offers “Hot Topics in Education Webinars”

The College of Education is offering a new professional development webinar series for educators. “Hot Topics in Education” are free one-hour webinars taught by faculty and staff September through May. Topics include classroom management, core standards, closing the achievement gap, technology in the classroom, and STEM education, among others. More than 300 educators have participated in these webinars. Although a high number of participants are from the Iowa area, the webinars also draw large numbers from Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and Michigan. For more information on the webinars, visit www.uni.edu/coe/webinars.

Faculty Acclamations

Awards/Service

Iradge Ahrabi-Fard, health, physical education & leisure services, was inducted into the Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame.

Jody Brucker, health, physical education & leisure services, received the 2011 Athletic Trainer Service Award from the National Athletic Trainer’s Association. He will be honored in June at the association’s annual meeting and clinical symposium in New Orleans, La.

Mary Herring, interim associate dean, received the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) Special Service Award for documented notable service, including AECT 2008-2009 president; Systemic Change Division president (two terms); Teacher Education Division (TED) president; AECT TED board representative; AECT executive committee board representative; Standards and Accreditation Committee chair; and Second Life Committee chair. Herring was also invited to join the AEA Online Advisory Council and was elected to the 2010-2011 Iowa Distance Learning Association board of directors.

Mike Waggoner, educational leadership, counseling & postsecondary education, began his third term and 11th year as editor of the peer-reviewed journal Religion and Education.

Publications


Edginton and M. Banhidi authored “Creativity for an Inventive Future” for the Cultural & Creativity Industry and City Branding International Forum 2010 in Beijing, China.


Mary Herring, interim associate dean, and Barry Wilson, educational psychology & foundations, published “Enhancing Student Learning Through Evidence, Self-Assessment, and Accountability: Closing the Loop” in the Journal of Assessment and Accountability in Educator Preparation, 2010.


Karla Krueger and Greg Stefanich, curriculum & instruction, co-authored “The School Librarian as an Agent of Scientific and Information Inquiry for Students with Disabilities,” which will be published in Knowledge Quest, the Journal of the American Association of School Librarians, 2011.
Audrey Rule and Sarah Montgomery, curriculum & instruction, published “Integrating the arts: Pre-service elementary teachers make African masks of six cultures for social studies lessons with primary grade students” and “Reflections of pre-service elementary teachers after learning about an African culture through mask making” in Social Studies Research and Practice, 2011.

Mike Waggoner, educational leadership, counseling & postsecondary education, edited the book Sacred and Secular Tensions in Higher Education: Connecting Parallel Universities, which was published in March 2011 by Routledge Books.


Barry Wilson, educational psychology & foundations, co-authored with Frank Kohler, special education, Victoria Robinson, educational leadership, counseling and postsecondary education, and J. Henning “Improvement of Teacher Quality” by Rowman and Littlefield, 2010.

Betty Zan, interim director and associate professor, Center for Early Developmental Education, collected papers from UNI’s SEED (STEM in Early Education and Development) Conference in May 2010. The papers were recently published in an online journal, Early Childhood Research and Practice.

Presentations

Iradge Ahrabi-Fard and Kevin Finn, health, physical education and leisure services, will present “Science-based On-court Conditioning of Volleyball Players” at the National Final Four Convention.

Jessie Blohm and Christy Olson, child development specialists in UNI’s Child Development Center, will present their around-the-world curriculum, Different Places, Different Faces, One World, at the 39th Annual Conference of the National Coalition for Campus Children’s Centers in San Diego.


Tim Gilson, educational leadership, counseling & postsecondary education, was an invited presenter at the Association of Teacher Educator’s national conference in Orlando, Fla., in February. Gilson presented “Educational Law, Past and Present: Preparing our next school leaders.”

Mary Herring, S. Smaldino and A. Donaldson presented “Applying AECT’s Code of Ethics to Cyberlearning Opportunities” at the 2010 Association for Educational Communication and Technology international conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Mary Herring and Nadene Davidson, department of teaching, presented “Defining and Applying Emerging Attributes of Effective Teaching” at the 2011 American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education preconference workshop in San Diego.

Susan Hudson, 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.

Rick Knivsland, instructor, Malcolm Price Laboratory School, presented “ARCHITECTURE: a place-based high school Art course” at the National Art Education Association Conference in Seattle in March.

Lea Ann Shaddox, health, physical education & leisure services, will present “A Comparison of Face-to-Face and Online Instructional Delivery Methods in Large-group Settings in a University Undergraduate Wellness Course” at the IACON Distance Learning Conference in Altoona in April.

Rick Traw, curriculum & instruction, will present “Small-Town and Wide-Eyed in a Big Town School” at the National Professional Development School Conference in New Orleans, La., in March. His presentation will cover the COE’s Literacy Education Professional Development partnership with Waterloo’s Lincoln Elementary, as well as the college’s focus on helping elementary education majors who participate in the partnership learn about teaching in diverse settings.

Dwight C. Watson attended the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AECT) conference in February. He was chair of the Program and Planning Committee that organized the conference in San Diego. Watson presented “A Story of Addressing Disproportionality as told by a Culturally Congruent Coalition.”

Grants/Contracts Completed

Christopher Edginton received a grant for an International Sports Programming Initiative from the American Councils for International Education to train youth sport coaches from Tajikistan.

Kevin Finn received a competitive seed grant from OSP for his project, “Physical Activity and Nutritional Policy and Practices in NE Iowa Child Care Centers.”