The University of Northern Iowa College of Education prides itself on providing a wide variety of placements for teacher education students. The location in Cedar Falls provides a unique opportunity to experience urban, suburban and rural schools in a very close proximity.

Some Iowa school districts, however, cannot easily benefit from the partnership of a university. The CAL School District in north-central Iowa, located about an hour and a half from UNI’s campus, is far enough that field experience placements are difficult. So UNI and CAL personnel found a solution.

In November 2012, Denise Tallakson’s Methods of Teaching Visual and Performing Arts Integration in the Elementary Classroom class traveled for the first time to the CAL elementary school to spend the day in an immersive field experience through the Teacher Quality Preparation grant. The district, which is about 30 percent Hispanic, is a rural district with about 200 students. The dynamics give UNI’s students a unique opportunity.

The district and Tallakson’s class both enjoyed the experience so much, they did it again in the spring, this time funded by Dean Dwight C. Watson. The group centered their instruction around Earth Day activities. It was such a success, CAL administrators found the funds to invite the group back for two additional visits this fall. Tallakson’s class this time made two visits, on Oct. 30 and Nov. 20, to work with students during the CAL teachers’ inservice.

CDC Gains Reaccreditation

UNI’s Child Development Center has achieved accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The reaccreditation is required every five years or when a program changes venues.

The accreditation requires a rigorous self-study that looks at curriculum, administration, teacher qualifications and parent interactions. The self-study is followed with a visit by external reviewers who review the self-study materials and record observations on a majority of the classrooms, including the oldest and youngest groups.

“We’re proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Allison Pattee, director of the CDC. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible at the University of Northern Iowa’s Child Development Center.”

Earlier this year, the CDC also received a rating of 5, the highest rank possible, on Iowa’s Quality Rating Scale for child care programs.

Immersive Field Experience Gives Students Unique Opportunity

UNI students visit CAL School District in north central Iowa as part of a unique field experience that benefits both the teacher education students and the district.

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Fortgang Named to Honorary Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter of KDP

Stephen Fortgang, retired from educational psychology and foundations, was elected to the inaugural class of the honorary Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi. In addition to teaching, Fortgang led the UNI chapter of KDP for many years.

Election to the Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter is a lifetime award and is limited to 100 living members. Membership is decided by current chapter members. The chapter honors the men and women who have made significant and longtime contributions of service to KDP and demonstrated a commitment to its ideals and excellence in education. Fortgang was one of 21 individuals inducted into the chapter at Convo 2013.

Edginton Named Legend in His Field

Chris Edginton, health, physical education and Leisure Services, was recently named a Legend in the Field of Parks and Recreation by the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration. According to the organization, the Legends program acknowledges administrators and educators who have made outstanding contributions to the field of parks and recreation.

Edginton is Secretary General of the World Leisure Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with The United Nations. He has held direct leadership, supervisory and administrative positions in the recreation, parks and leisure services field. He is the founder of the nationally award winning Camp Adventure Child & Youth Services program.

TEE Room Gives COE 21st Century Space

It’s been nearly a year since room 303 in the Schindler Education Center was renovated. That is when the room became the Transformative Education Environment, or TEE Room. It’s been busy ever since.

The Iowa Teacher Quality Preparation grant provided the funds to upgrade the room. Originally, the plan was to purchase technology carts that would move from room to room, but that proved impractical for the needs of UNI’s faculty and students. The plans evolved into a space that was designed purposefully to use a variety of technologies in teaching and learning, the creation of an environment that allowed technology, content, and pedagogy to be fully integrated.

Monitors, laptop computers, iPads and other technologies are available for instruction in the room. The technologies can project to the three monitors, allowing for students to break into collaborative work groups or to work as one large group.

It’s not just about technology, though. The furnishings in the room are also designed to transform the learning environment. These include moveable tables and chairs, white board tables, and a small seating area.

The room is designed so preservice teachers can better prepare for the 21st Century learner. To learn more about the TEE Room, contact Dan Mourlam.
COE Connects with IASB

Several faculty and staff from the College of Education spent two days in Des Moines promoting the college’s programs and connecting with Iowa school board members and administrators.

The Iowa Association of School Board’s annual convention took place Nov. 20-21. UNI’s COE was the only 4-year institution with a booth at the event’s vendor fair. Numerous visitors stopped by the booth to learn more about how COE can partner with districts, the graduate programs available at UNI or to get information to help undergraduate students enroll.

Conferences Offer Opportunities for COE Faculty, Students, Community

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. 27-28 with the theme of Empowering and Engaging the Voices of African American Children and Families. The third annual event will bring together groups from across campus as well as community leaders to celebrate and empower the African-American community as well as discuss ways to improve the lives of children. The keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Janice Hale, professor of early childhood education and Founding Director of the Institute for the Study of the African American Child (ISAAC) at Wayne State University. Learn more at www.vpaf.uni.edu/aac.

April 5th is the Multicultural Teaching Alliance Conference. It is free and open to all UNI teacher education students, staff, and faculty. The focus this year is “Challenging Stereotypes in the Cedar Valley: Exploring Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Differences.” Contact Stephanie Logan at stephanie.logan@uni.edu for more details.

The 46th Annual Elementary Literacy Conference will take place April 11 with keynote speakers Gary Kelley and J. Patrick Lewis. A preconference event will take place April 11 at the Hearst Center for the Arts, and will include the unveiling of a unique art piece created by Kelley just for the conference. The conference is free to UNI students and faculty, and registration is available at http://www.vpaf.uni.edu/events/elc/index.shtml.

June 23-24 will see the new dates for the Midwest Summer Institute: Inclusion and Communication for All. The event will include nine national speakers as well as presentations, panels and workshops featuring UNI personnel and renowned guests. For more information, contact Amy Petersen at amy.petersen@uni.edu.

Educate, Serve and Lead
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.
COE faculty present at AERA


Kathryn East, educational psychology and foundations, and Jodi Meyer-Mork presented “Reading a Set of Course Syllabi as a Text of Teaching Practice” and chaired a paper session titled “Self-Study as a Conduit to Creative Programming.”

Linda Fitzgerald, curriculum and instruction, chaired the roundtable session “What Is There for the Child to Figure Out How to Do? Contributions of Rheta DeVries to Early Education and Child Development.” Beth Van Meeteren, curriculum and instruction, participated in the session with “Designing Engineering Education From the Perspective of the Child.”

Benjamin Forsyth, educational psychology and foundations, and Brice Beck presented the paper “Demonstration of Selective Recall Via Stephen Pepper’s Mechanism and Organicism.”

Madalena Galloway, curriculum and instruction; Ping Gao, curriculum and instruction; and Leigh Zeitz, curriculum and instruction; and Robin Galloway participated in a poster session with “Empowering Gen Y Preservice Teachers to Become Change Agents for Technology Integration: Discovering Their Strengths.”

Melissa Heston, curriculum and instruction, chaired a roundtable discussion about “Self-Study of Teacher Identity.” Heston and Deborah Tidwell, curriculum and instruction, presented the paper “Transformative Moments: The Life and Times of a Fragile Spider.”

Sarah Montgomery, curriculum and instruction; Sarah Vander Zanden, curriculum and instruction; and Zak Montgomery participated in a roundtable session with “Interrogating the American Dream Through Participatory Photography and Dialogue.”

Michelle Tichy, educational psychology and foundations, presented “Inspiring Personal Leadership Across the Lifespan” with Michael Skivington; chaired the “Holistic Education SIG Business Meeting; and chaired the paper session “Teachers and Holistic Transformation.”

Tidwell and Kayla Lynn Becker presented “Self-Study of My High School Teaching Practice: Struggling Learners, Literate Identities, and High Absenteeism.”

Vander Zanden and Michelle Honeyford presented “Space, Identity, and Power: Adopting a Critical Spatial Perspective to Analyze Students’ Texts and Positioning.”

Michael Waggoner, educational leadership and postsecondary education, and Joanne Marshall chaired the session “Religious Tolerance In/Through Education.” Waggoner presented “Religion and Education.” He also chaired the “Religion and Education SIG Business Meeting.”

International Visitor

Mary Herring, right, talks with Thakur S. Powdyel, Former Minister of Education of Bhutan, during Powdyel’s visit to the University of Northern Iowa’s College of Education on Oct. 24. Powdyel met with the COE leadership team, heard about the programs offered by COE and visited Orchard Hill Elementary School in Cedar Falls to learn more about the work being done there.
Awards/Service

Several College of Education personnel received recognition for their work from the UNI Graduate College. **Deborah Rich**, Jacobson Center and curriculum and instruction, with advisor **Lynn Nielson**, curriculum and instruction, earned Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation; **Audrey Daniels**, health, physical education and leisure services, with advisor **Jullianne Gassman**, health, physical education and leisure services, earned Outstanding Masters Paper; and **Audrey Rule**, curriculum and instruction, earned Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award.

**Ariel Aloe**, educational psychology and foundations, was one of approximately 50 participants asked to join an event at Harvard University focused on developing statistical methods for synthesizing the results of quasi experiments. He was also asked to present to the group about effect size.

**Don Bishop**, health, physical education and leisure services, was recognized at the Collegiate Athletic Trainer of the Year by the Iowa Athletic Trainers’ Society.

**Michele Devlin**, health, physical education and leisure services, and **Mark Grey** were awarded the 2013 Iowa Civil Rights Award and the 2013 Immigrant Champion Award, two state awards for their diversity efforts.

**Jean Donham**, curriculum and instruction, was awarded the Iowa Library Association Member of the Year award.

**Susan Etscheidt**, special education, was selected to serve on the Iowa Department of Education’s Special Education Advisory Panel.

**Rip Marston**, health, physical education and leisure services, received the Ross A. Nielsen Professional Service Award presented by the UNI Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

**Robert Smith**, Educational Opportunity Center, was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

**Jody Stone**, student field experiences, received the National Science Foundation Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching.

Presentations

**Dianna Briggs**, student field experiences, and **Don Briggs**, health, physical education and leisure services, presented “Motivating Factors of Seniors Who Participate in the Adventure Activity of Ice Climbing” at the International Adventure Conference at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Highland, Scotland.

**Kerri Clopton**, educational psychology and foundations, presented with the Military Child Education Coalition at the UNI Military and Veterans Conference.

**Jean Donham**, curriculum and instruction, presented a paper entitled, “College Ready? What do first-year college assignments tell us?” at the American...

**Eileen Hail**, graduate assistant, presented “Not Your Mom’s Transgender 101: The Advanced Session for Passionate Professionals” at the Association of College and University Housing Officers International Annual Conference and Exposition.

**Mary Herring**, associate dean, presented “Technology Integration Overview” at Fujian Normal University and Minnan (Zhangzhou) Normal University, both in China.

**Audrey Rule**, curriculum and instruction; **Phyllis Gray**, graduate assistant; **Julie Klein**, graduate assistant; and Ksenia Zhbanova gave a poster presentation regarding fourth- and fifth-grade students learning about animal skulls through the integration of science, art and paper engineering during the 2013 STEM Teacher Educators’ Conference “Innovation in Preparing Teachers in STEM.”

**Mary Herring**, associate dean; J. Michael Spector; Barbara B. Locke; and Sharon Smaldino edited a book titled *Learning, Problem Solving, and Mindtools: Essays in Honor of David H. Jonassen*.


**Beth Van Meeteren**, curriculum and instruction; and Rosemary Geiken were interviewed for a piece in *New America Foundation* entitled “Using Blocks to Build Tomorrow’s Engineers” regarding the Ramps and Pathways program.

**Dwight C. Watson**, dean; Gevonee Ford and Apostle Lesley Ford Jr. published “Reclaiming Our Children’s Education: Building a Fortress of Support for Children of African Descent” in *Religion & Education*.

**Teacher Education Induction**

Teacher Education students from across campus pledge to commit themselves to improve the lives of young people during the Fall 2014 Teacher Induction Ceremony.

Watson 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.


Grants/Contracts Completed

Ariel Aloe, educational psychology and foundations, was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for a project titled “Collaborative Research: Partial and Multilevel Effect Sizes in Meta-analysis.”

Ping Gao, curriculum and instruction, and Leigh Zeitz, curriculum and instruction, were awarded two mini grants by the Iowa Distance Learning Association. The grants were used to fund “Beyond the Classroom,” a request to purchase two video streaming cameras for recording 21st Century Learning in Iowa Classrooms, and “Alumni Connections,” a series of webinars where instructional technology alumni will discuss their careers with current students.

Amy Staples, special education, and Deborah Tidwell, curriculum and instruction, received a grant from the UNI Capacity Building Large Scale Project Grant competition. The will studied young children’s writing development during a writing activity called Big Paper.

COE Visit Day Garners High Numbers

Personnel from across the College of Education participated in the first College of Education Panther Open House visit day on Oct. 11, and saw some outstanding results. The event drew more than 400 visitors to campus, the highest number seen for a single visit day. This included more than 150 prospective students.