Shining Stars Girls and Young Male Leaders help area youth

The Shining Stars Girls Program is an after school program with mostly girls from the Waterloo Community and sometimes Cedar Falls School Districts that works to combat the challenges of poverty and race which place children in vulnerable positions in their early years.

Gloria Kirkland Holmes, Curriculum and Instruction, developed a curriculum for a program for African American girls to help address these issues.

The group meets regularly in the Instructional Resource and Technology Services area of Schindler Education Center, providing access to thousands of books to read and computers to use. Many of the children in the program do not have computer access at home. We also have the benefit of as schedules allow, IRTS staff and students interested in learning more joining in the experiences.

Over the past year, the program expanded to include Young Male Leaders. While there is significant data sharing the importance of this type of programming for African American girls, the need is even greater for African American male students.

A key component of the program is allowing students to share their gifts and talents. This can reinforce their academic-learning skills through the use and enhancement of their talents.

The program continues jointly with support of the College of Education, Northeast Iowa Community Foundation, Guernsey Foundation and the Iowa Women’s Foundation.

Meskwaki youth spend week at UNI

This past June, the the first UNI Meskwaki Settlement Summer Camp hosted its first group of Meskwaki students from grades 5, 6, and 7. The 24 students, 12 male and 12 female, learned what life is like as a UNI student. They commuted to campus the first half of the week, lived on-campus in Dancer Hall from Wednesday until Saturday, as well as ate in Maucker Union and Rialto.

They engaged in a number of activities, such as rock climbing, exploring wind and solar energy, herbal and medicinal walk, flight simulation, a triathlon with UNI football players and healthy living and eating. All activities were created and executed with the focus of creating college, career and citizenry ready students.

Sponsorship was provided by the UNI College of Education, College of Humanities, Arts & Sciences, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Wellness Recreation Center, EpScore and the Meskwaki Settlement.

Youth STEM Camp

Area youth gathered at Becker Elementary in Waterloo in June to participate in a STEM camp sponsored by UNI’s College of Education. The camp was organized by Mary Stitcher, Department of Teaching, and several COE faculty joined in the instruction for the week.
Cedar Valley to host Leader in Me symposium April 23-24

FranklinCovey’s The Leader in Me Symposium Series, a professional-development conference, is set to make a stop in Cedar Falls April 23-24, 2015. It will be one of only 18 cities across North America to host the two-day educational leadership symposium.

The events attract educators, government and business leaders and community stakeholders looking to support schools in developing 21st-century leaders. The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation process. It teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to K-12 students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader. Several schools in the Cedar Valley use Leader in Me.

At the symposium event attendees will learn best practices from their peers at educator-led breakout sessions, visit Leader in Me schools to gain insight and ideas, and draw inspiration from thought leaders like Muriel Summers, Geoffrey Canada, Ron Clark, Erin Gruwell, Drew Dudley and more.

The symposium event is brought to Iowa in partnership with UNI, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, Hawkeye Community College, AEA 267 and CBE Companies. For more information, tuition, and to register visit TheLeaderinMe.org/symposium.

UNI’s Jacobson Center earns prestigious philanthropy award

The Richard O. Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy at UNI is the recipient of the 2014 Richard O. Jacobson Philanthropy Award. The award was presented to UNI President Bill Ruud and Jacobson Center Director Salli Forbes at a ceremony on Aug. 2. Selected by the Jacobson Foundation trustees, the center will receive a $50,000 gift provided by the Foundation and Board of Regents President Bruce Rastetter.

UNI’s Jacobson Center works with Iowa schools to improve literacy for all students. The center provides preparation for literacy coaches in the Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy model and preparation for Reading Recovery teacher leaders. Both the literacy coaches and Reading Recovery teacher leaders work to improve the teaching expertise and performance of teachers in the schools, which in turn improves literacy achievement for students.

The goals of the center are to:
- Close the achievement gap between diverse groups while increasing literacy proficiency for all students
- Increase teachers’ knowledge and instructional expertise through university-supported professional development
- Support teachers’ collaborative monitoring of student progress and instructional decision-making.
World-renowned opera singer Simon Estes, right, spoke at the Fall 2014 Teacher Education Induction Ceremony. Estes, who hails from Iowa and support education efforts in the state, shared his message of how education helped him. Rhys Talbot, left, a recent graduate from UNI’s music program, performed “Climb Every Mountain.”

Technology Methods Lab receives makeover

The Schindler Education Center Technology Methods Lab (TML) received a much needed makeover recently when the rows of stationary desks were replaced with colorful mobile tables with attached white dry-erase boards, and stationary desktop computers were replaced with carts full of Chromebooks and MacBooks.

The tables and chairs are designed to be easily repositioned and reconfigured to best support students’ collaboration and individual learning styles. Three additional televisions were added to the opposite walls, making it possible for students facing in different directions to see the instructor’s displayed materials. Also, the mirroring software installed in the room allows individual students to project the content of their laptops on the TV screens.

The vision was to create a technology enriched environment that is conducive to learning and visually appealing. With a growing number of 1:1 schools in Iowa where all students have laptops or tablets, including public schools in Cedar Falls, College of Education wants its preservice teachers to be prepared in the best possible way.

“We want our students to see that their classroom does not have to resemble the old fashioned layout” said Magda Galloway, Curriculum and Instruction. “We wanted to create a playground for preservice teachers where they can experiment with the pedagogy and 21st century tools and learn with their future students in mind.”

HPELS grad gives back to program

Chad Rinehart, UNI alumus with the class of 1997 in physical education and sport psychology and who now plays for the NFL San Diego Chargers, recently gave back to a program that helped launch his success by contributing $5,000 to the UNI strength and conditioning program in School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services (HPELS).

Jed Smith, assistant director of the program, said it is an honor to receive such a generous donation from a man who already gives so much.

Smith said Rinehart has given back to the UNI community and the strength and conditioning program for years. Since 2008, Rinehart has spent his summers in the UNI Wellness and Recreation Center weight room. There, he takes time assisting Smith in helping current UNI athletes polish their craft and become better athletes. Overall, Smith says, “he is all around a lot of fun to have here at UNI.”
Construction begins on school funded by COE student group

Art for El Salvador, a non-profit student organization active within the College of Education, has reached some significant milestones this fall.

The group has been working for the past three years to raise funds to construct a seventh through ninth grade school in the El Salvadoran community of Caserio Mediagua. Most children within this community stop attending school after the sixth grade, and this new building will make it possible for them to advance in their education.

On September 12, the organization officially reached its fundraising goal of $27,000 and construction of the school began at the end of September. This accomplishment was made possible by the hundreds of people across the state who have invested in this project. The funds raised will cover the cost of all materials, and the parents and community members are providing the labor to construct the school. The community is working so diligently that the construction supervisors are having a hard time keeping up with work for them to do. The school will be completed and ready for the students to attend at the beginning of the El Salvadoran school year this January.

For Art for El Salvador, this project signifies the beginning, not the end, of its work as an organization. Members are currently working to raise funds for a renovation project of Caserio Mediagua’s current K-6 building, which will include a new roof and windows for the school. They also hope to someday fund the construction of a library, provide scholarships for students to attend high school and to partner with other communities to enhance children’s opportunities to go to school throughout the country.

The organization is anxiously preparing for a trip to El Salvador at the end of this May where they will dedicate the school, paint a mural on the new building, visit the homes in the community, and spend lots of time building relationships with the children.

International Dance Theatre spreads German culture

Each Fall semester the International Dance Theatre is invited to Oktoberfests all around the state as special guest performers. This Fall they were invited to both the Dubuque and the Amana Colonies Oktoberfests, where collectively they shared their rare knowledge and talents of German folk dances to thousands of people. The International Dance Theatre

As a part of the Dubuque Oktoberfest they helped them raise more than $25,000 for Camp Albrecht Acres to support its mission of helping those with special needs. It’s a great sight to see UNI students in traditional German dress and performing exciting, advanced level German folk dances.
Awards/Service

Mary-Sue Bartlett, COE Dean’s Office, was named Representative Citizen by the City of Cedar Falls in honor of her numerous volunteer activities in the community, including co-chairing the College Hill Arts Festival and serving on the board of the Sturgis Falls Celebration.

Mary Donegan-Ritter, Curriculum and Instruction, was recently elected President of the Iowa Division for Early Childhood for 2014-2015.

Christopher Edginton, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award and Order of the Eagle Exemplar by the United States Sports Academy 2014.

Edginton received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award from the World Leisure Organization.

Edginton was named Honorary President of the Hong Kong Curling Association.

Edginton was named President Elect of the Iowa Academy of Education for 2013 – 2014.

Julianne Gassman, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, received the UNI Graduate College Milestone Award for “outstanding mentoring of graduate students.”

Gassman was recognized with the College of Education’s award for Outstanding Performance in Professional Service.

Tim Gilson, Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education, received the Ross A. Nielsen Professional Service Award at UNI.

Robin Lund, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, received the Class of 1943 Award for Teaching Excellence at UNI.

Ripley Marston, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, received the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence at UNI.

Presentations

Chris Curran, Special Education, and Chen Kong, graduate student in the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, presented on behalf of the Technology and Teachers: Promoting Accessible Learning (T2PAL) lab at the Assistive Technology Industry Association conference. Curran, T2PAL director, and Kong, T2PAL technology coordinator, presented a poster session entitled “Collaborative Use of AT in the General Education.”

Curran and Kong presented a lecture session entitled “Promoting Accessible Learning: A Model of AT Skill Development in Preservice Teacher Education” at the Council for Exceptional Children annual convention.

Curran; Kong; Ian Hubrig, undergraduate student; and Danielle Stubbs, graduate student in Special Education and T2PAL graduate assistant; presented at the 2014 Midwest Summer Institute: Inclusion & Communication for All. Their presentation was on “ACCENTing Learning and Life: ACcessible Learning and ENGaging Technology Tools for Inclusion.”

Michele Devlin and Mark Grey, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, were the keynote speakers at the annual Iowa School Health Nurse Association in October. They addressed the growing issue of working with low-income children in Iowa’s schools, and also provided cultural guidance on providing health education and screening to West African immigrant families in the state during the Ebola outbreak in America.

Devlin; Catherine Zeman, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services; Michael Walter; and Brett Irving formed a panel discussion about ebola on the UNI campus.

Mary Donegan-Ritter, Curriculum and Instruction, presented a research poster, “Factors that Support the Engagement of Preschool
Children with Special Needs in S.T.E.M. Learning Centers” at the International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families in St Louis.


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


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


Kevin J. Finn, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, delivered the introductory lecture on the Hungarian National Youth Fitness Study at the International Conference in Physical Education in Budapest, Hungary. Finn also served on a panel discussion with members of the Cooper Institute and Hungarian School Sport Federation. This international program was part of the dissemination process for a partnership between the Hungarian School Sport Federation and the Cooper Institute where Finn served on the research team. Finn contributed to the planning of a new national fitness test battery (titled NETFIT) and oversaw quality control of laboratory and field testing of a national sample of Hungarian children in 2013. In addition to the conference, the Cooper Institute brought fitness assessment experts from across Europe to participate in a pre-conference summit to discuss the potential of an International FitnessGram Test Battery.

Magda Galloway, Ping Gao, Nikki Lyons, Melissa Mulder and Leigh Zeitz, the Instructional Technology team, presented at the Iowa Technology and Education Connection (ITEC) conference. Topics included helping students with information literacy skills; creating webinars for social connections and 21+ digital learning tools every 21st century teacher should know. Zeitz also arranged and facilitated a series of virtual meetings where conference audience and virtual attendees connected with speakers from Shanghai, Sydney, Chicago, Atlanta and Torrance, Calif. These speakers engaged the audience in a wide range of topics including maker rooms, badging, flipped classrooms, coding for kids and digital apps.

Deockki Hong, School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services presented with undergraduate students Nick Echols and Zachary Cole at the Iowa Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) conference.
The presentation was titled “Pre-service teachers’ perspectives on performance-based assessment in physical education.”

Hong also presented at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS) conference in Portland, Ore. The title of the presentation was “Benefits and challenges of using visual diary in examining adolescent males’ body image.”

Julianne Gassman, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, presented “I’m Engaged, I’m a Leader, How Much Does it Matter?” at the Alliance Management Institute, Chicago.

Gassman presented “Intergenerational and Cross-sector Collaborations: Can We All Learn to Get Along?” and “Downturn Survival: Are we Learning or Reacting?” at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organization and Voluntary Action in Hartford, Conn.

Gassman presented an Education Lunch Talk at Grinnell College titled “Kids, Active Play, and Health.”


Gassman presented “2014 President’s Higher Education Honor Roll: Tips and Best Practices Webinar” for Campus Compact.

Gassman presented “Leadership Development: How a Student Organization Develops Leadership Skills for Career in the Nonprofit Sector” at the Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit in Dubuque, Iowa.

Gassman presented “Camp Adventure Child and Youth Services” and 8-hour workshop, for Leisure and Recreation Association of South Africa in Durban, South Africa.

Leigh Martin, Department of Teaching, was a guest lecturer at the International Educator’s Conference on Jeju Island, South Korea. The topic of her lecture was “Competent, Confident and Comfortable Global Educators.”

Sohyum Meacham, Curriculum and Instruction, presented the paper “Building a respectful and intellectually rigorous classroom environment within internally persuasive discourse” at the 8th The Korean Society for Early Childhood Education Biennial International Conference, Seoul, Korea.

Audrey Rule and Jean Schneider, both Curriculum and Instruction, and doctoral students Jolene Teske, Phyllis Gray, Mason Kuhn, Courtney K. Clausen and Latisha Smith presented at the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association (ITAG) annual conference in Des Moines on Oct. 13. The presentation was titled “Teacher-made Tactile Science Materials for Gifted Learners with Visual Impairments.” They made tactile diagrams for various science systems and challenging follow-on activities to stimulate critical and creative thinking. Two class members, Sukainah Alsubia and Maryam Ghayoorad, prepared materials and activities, but were not able to attend the conference.

Rule and Schneider also presented with undergraduate students Bridget Bryson, Kailyn Bettle, Lenora Caruso, Ashley Chase and Alyssa McKeone,
middle level education majors and members of the Student Association of Middle Level Educators (SAMLE). The group explained several stimulating activities they had generated in a presentation titled “Smartening up the Common Core: Increasing Complexity for Gifted Learners.” Five Students enjoyed several keynote addresses by Dr. Richard Cash and speaker Rick Wormeli. Denise Schares, Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education, presented “Answering the Call to Teach: One State’s Collaborative Effort to Address Alternative Licensure” at the 106th National Rural Education Association Annual Convention and Research Symposium in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 17.

Denise Tallakson, Curriculum and Instruction; Clare Struck, Department of Teaching; and Maria Howard, undergraduate student, presented at the ASCD Conference on Teaching Excellence in Dallas, Texas. Their presentation was titled “Community Service: A Higher Education Priority.”

Jolene Teske, graduate student in Curriculum and Instruction, presented at the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association Conference in Des Moines. The presentation was “Fostering Ethical Decision Making in Gifted Teens.”

Beth van Meeteren, Regents’ Center for Early Developmental Education, and Jill Uhlenberg, Curriculum and Instruction, participated on a panel discussion at the Region IX Head Start 4th Annual S.T.E.M. Conference in San Diego. The panel’s topics included how to increase and improve the development of S.T.E.M. in classrooms for young children. Van Meeteren also presented a session on her research “Engineering from the Child’s Perspective,” and Uhlenberg presented on her research “Infant and Toddler Problem Solving.”

Leigh Zeitz, Curriculum and Instruction, participated in an interview with KXEL radio host Gary Edwards regarding the ITEC Student Tech Fair hosted at UNI.

Catherine Zeman, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, presented “A General Overview of the Ebola Epidemic: Concerns for West Africa and for the U.S.” to the Parkersburg Rotary.

Publications


Chris Curran, Special Education, has an article in the Encyclopedia of Educational Technology (M.Spector, Ed.) by Sage Publications entitled “Mobile Assistive Technologies.”

Mary Donegan-Ritter, Curriculum and Instruction, had a manuscript, “STEM for ALL: Preschool Teachers Supporting Engagement of Children with Special Needs in Physical Science Learning Centers,” accepted for publication in Young Exceptional Children.

Christopher Edginton, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, published two books. Partnering with P. Chen, he co-authored Leisure as Transformation (2nd ed.). In conjunction with M.K. Chin, they edited Physical Education and Health: Global Perspectives and Best Practice (eds).


Edginton; Abubakarr Jalloh, graduate student in School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services; Rodney Dieser, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services; M. Banhidi, X. Nie, and D.Y. Baek co-authored “A

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

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

Edginton and Jalloh wrote “Leisure for Children and Youth - A Global Perspective” which was published in Hong Kong Recreation Review.

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

Edginton; Samuel Lankford, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services; J. Tan; and E. Dong published “Risk-Taking Propensity and its Relationship to Achievement Motivation: A Study Among Park and Recreation Directors” in International Leisure Review.

Edginton, M.K. Chin and H. de Ridder wrote “Global Forum for Physical Education Pedagogy 2014 (GoFPEP 2014) - Physical Education and Health: Promoting Global Best Practice” which was published in The Global Journal of Health and Physical Education Pedagogy.

Edginton wrote “New World Leisure Professional Staffing Assignments” which was published in World Leisure Journal.

Edginton and J.H. Albrecht wrote “Reflections on WLO travels in China” which was published in World Leisure Journal.

Edginton, Iرادge Ahrabi-Fard, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services; and M.K. Chin wrote “Positive Feedback Can Change Life” which was published in The Global Journal of Health and Physical Education Pedagogy.

Suzanne Freedman, Educational Psychology and Foundations; Nicole Skaar, Educational Psychology and Foundations; and Amy Carlon, undergraduate student; published “Forgiveness Education and Bullying Prevention and Intervention: Benefits for Bullies, Victims and Schools” in the Journal of Educational Leadership in Action.

Julianne Gassman, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services; N. Dolch, A. Kinnell, S. Krick, R. Schaffer, S. Strom, S. Cruise, and R. Wade published Leadership Cases in Community Nonprofit Organizations Instructional Guide.

Gassman, D. Reed, and A. Widner published “Student association activities contribute to the leadership development of student in nonprofit management and leadership” in Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership.


Elana Joram, Education Psychology and Foundations; Oksana Matvienko, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services; N. Healy; S. Woolf; and K. Knesting wrote “The impact of an Intuitive Eating education program on high school students’ attitudes towards eating” which was published in Health Education.

Karla Krueger, Curriculum and Instruction, published “The school librarian role in the FIRST LEGO League team project,” a chapter in the book How to STEM: Science, technology, engineering, and math education in libraries.

Sohyun Meacham, Curriculum and Instruction; C. Vukelich; M. Han; and M. Buell published “Preschool teachers’ questioning in sociodramatic play” in Early Childhood Research Quarterly.

Meacham, M. Han, C. Vukelich and M. Buell published “A three-year follow-up of an Early Reading First intervention on
English Language Learners and Monolingual English-speaking Learners” in Early Education and Development.

Shuaib Meacham, Center for Educational Transformation; and Sohyum Meacham published “Shifting boundaries: Self-study, race, and the global dimensions of racist representations in children’s literature” as part of the Proceedings of the 10th International Conference of Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices, The University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Sarah Montgomery, Curriculum and Instruction, published the article “Critical Democracy through Digital Media Production in a Third-Grade Classroom” in the journal Theory & Research in Social Education.

Audrey Rule, Curriculum and Instruction, and Ksenia Zhbanova, Ed.D. program ‘13, co-authored an article in the journal Thinking Skills and Creativity. The article resulted from Zhbanova’s dissertation work and is titled “Construal level theory applied to sixth graders’ creativity in craft constructions with integrated proximal or distal academic content.”

Rule and Angela Naomi Webb, Ed.D. ’13, published an article in the Early Childhood Education Journal that reports a collaborative research study conducted during spring 2013 when Webb taught second grade for the Waterloo Community Schools District. The article is titled “Building student understanding of the cause of day and night: A study of literacy- and spatial thinking-integrated activities compared to a commercial curriculum.”

Grants/Contracts Completed

Disa Cornish, School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, was awarded a two-year contract by Iowa Department of Human Services to continue evaluation of the Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention grant program, a program seeking to prevent adolescent pregnancies in Iowa by funding local community coalitions to implement sexual education curricula, community outreach and other efforts to improves access to reproduction health services and supplies for teens.

College of Education Homecoming Brunch

On Saturday, Sept. 20, the College of Education hosted the first COE Homecoming Brunch. Alumni joined friends and family to enjoy a great time with TC and TK, and the F.R.E.D. cart served delicious, locally-sourced foods.

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.