

# Education First

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ♦ COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ♦ NEWSLETTER

## Education Firsts

### College Ranked Among America's Best

*U.S. News & World Report* recently ranked five programs in The University of Iowa College of Education among the top 25 in the country. According to the "2002 America's Best Graduate Schools" web site and guidebook,

- **Counseling/Personnel Services** program ranked No. 11;
- **Educational Psychology** program ranked No. 13, in a tie with the Univ. of Maryland—College Park;
- **Secondary Education** program ranked No. 13;
- **Higher Education Administration** program ranked No. 18, in a tie with Texas A&M University—College Station; and
- **Special Education** program ranked No. 21, in a tie with Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., Indiana University—Bloomington and the University of Utah.

Overall, the College of Education was ranked No. 30 from among 182 schools granting doctoral degrees.

Top ranking granted to the College last year, which was carried over this year, includes **Rehabilitation Counseling** ranked at No. 3.



Ken Merrell

### Helping Teachers Work with At-Risk Students

Reaching classroom teachers around the state is a challenge faculty face, but thanks to technology and the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), Professor **Ken Merrell**

lit on an innovative solution.

Merrell designed a series of continuing education workshops for teachers held at various ICN sites around the state. In the workshops, educators learn about the best practices and the latest research for helping at-risk students. Since launching the project nearly four years ago, over 500 teachers have signed up to participate, and the numbers have increased each year.

Merrell says the workshops were a natural extension of his work in school psychology.

"I was interested in training teachers to deal with at-risk students, based upon my perspective as a school psychologist," Merrell said. "I wanted to come up with something they would find useful in their classrooms."

This year he also launched a web site at [www.uiowa.edu/~c07p199](http://www.uiowa.edu/~c07p199) that allows teachers to download information from the sessions. Topics covered range from developing safe campuses to alternative schools.

The sessions, which are broadcast from a studio in North Hall, generally run over a day and a half and are beamed to between six and ten locations around the state. Sessions are highly interactive with many breaks for group work and discussions.

"This is not something that is part of my regular load, but it is something that any instructor can propose," Merrell explained. "I do it because it is a really good way to reach teachers in communities outside the University." —by Natalie Pearson

### Excellence and Distinction

Associate Professor **Vilia Tarvydas** received a gubernatorial reappointment to the Board of Behavioral Examiners, the Mental Health and Family Counseling Licensure Board through 2005. "Dr. Tarvydas's appointment is another example of the great service provided to our state," Professor **Dennis R. Maki** said.

Tarvydas was pleased to receive this appointment. "I think this appointment is my most gratifying professional service activity in terms of both my contribution to the welfare of consumers and counselors, as well as in terms of my own learning," she said.

Tarvydas has also been appointed to the Ethics Committee of the American Counseling Association (ACA) for a three-year term. The ACA is the major national counseling organization representing over 50,000 counselors of all types nationwide.

In addition, she has also been selected to attend the Indiana University Poynter Center Teaching Research Ethics conference and has been invited to serve on a University of Iowa Ethics Advisory Committee to discuss the needs for teaching ethics across the University.

Striving for excellence in mathematics education for all children, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board of Directors appointed Associate Professor **Rose Mary Zbiek** chair of the Mathematics Teacher Editorial Panel. The organization is dedicated to serving the needs of students in pre-k-12 mathematics in the U.S. and Canada.

Associate Professor **Micheline Chalhoub-Deville**, and **Craig Deville**, coordinated the Spring 2001 Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC) in St. Louis. Professor **Robert Brennan** and five graduate students from the foreign language program did an excellent job representing the College when presenting their papers and topics.

Representatives from various parts of the world, including Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia commented that it was one of the most successful LTRC conferences they had attended.

For more information, visit the LTRC website at [www.uiowa.edu/~ltrc2001](http://www.uiowa.edu/~ltrc2001).

April 2001





## College of Education Grants and Awards

Many College faculty have been successful in achieving external funding for their projects. Listed below are some of the ongoing projects reported through the Grant and Research Services Center.

Professor **Larry Bartlett** received \$152,000 for his four-year contract from the Iowa Department of Education for his project on special education administrative law judges and mediators.

Professor **Nicholas Colangelo** received \$150,000 from the Chicago Public Schools for his project titled, "Project ACHIEVE—21<sup>st</sup> Century." He also received \$9,000 from the AmerUs Group Charitable Foundation in support of the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development.

Associate Professor **Anne DiPardo** received \$12,500 from the National Council of Teachers of English for her project titled, "Cross-Generational Literacy: Seniors and Adolescents Reading and Writing Together."

Professor **Douglas Grouws** received \$767,801 from the U.S. National Science Foundation for his four-year project titled, "Mathematics Through Technology and Internet Modules."

Assistant Professor **Laura Koehly** received \$33,917 for her three-year subcontract from the University of Texas—M.D. Anderson Cancer Center for her project on the psychosocial aspects of genetic testing for Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colon Cancer.

Assistant Professor **Cynthia Lewis** received \$45,000 from the National Academy of

Education for her two-year project titled, "Engaging from a Distance: Euro-American Teachers Read and Respond to Multicultural Literature."

Associate Professor **Scott McNabb** received \$61,195 from the US Action—Peace Corps for The University of Iowa Peace Corps Recruitment Program.

Associate Professor **Joyce Moore** received \$73,402 for her subcontract from Vanderbilt University for her project titled, "Inventing to Prepare for Learning: Web Environments that Increase Student Readiness for Deep Understanding in Mathematics."

Professor **Paul Retish** received \$60,000 from the U.S. Department of State for his project on educational development in East Timor.

Professor **Chet Rzonca** received \$933,051 for his six-year contract from the Iowa Department of Education to provide curriculum development for health occupations programs on the secondary, post-secondary, and adult and continuing education levels.

Professor **Harold Schoen** received \$813,999 as a five-year subcontract from Western Michigan University for Phase II of his Core-Plus Mathematics Project.

Associate Professor **Leslie Schrier** received \$3,858 for her subcontract from the University of Maryland for her work

on the "Langnet Project," a web-based system designed to allow language learners to receive programming customized to their language needs.

Assistant Professor **Anne Helene Skinstad** received \$85,396 from the Wellmark Foundation for her project titled, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell: The Role of Health Professionals in Dealing with Substance Abuse." She also received \$1,591,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration over three years for the Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center.

Professor **Gerald Stone** received \$1,034,914 over 17 years from the Iowa Medical and Classification Center for Psychological Services provided.

Associate Professor **Bonnie Sunstein** received \$5,000 from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation for her project, "Fieldworking Online: A Web-community Archive for Cultural Conservation."

Associate Professor **Vilija Tarvydas** received \$9,985 from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation for her project titled, "Preparing Rehabilitation Counselor Educators through a Distance Learning Experience." She also received \$135,104 over the past five years for the doctoral level rehabilitation counseling training program and will receive \$500,000 over the next five years from the U.S. Department of Education.

Assistant Professor **Rachel Williams** received \$500 from the Iowa Arts Council for her mural project, "Behind Walls."

Professor **Robert Yager** received \$76,740 for his Korean earth science teachers workshop and \$66,004 for his Korean physics teachers workshop projects titled, "Korean Science Teachers Overseas Training Program" from the Ministry of Education—Korea.

Associate Professor **Rose Mary Zbiek** received \$619,414 for her five-year subcontract from Pennsylvania State University for the Computer Algebra Systems Intensive Mathematics Project.

Education First is produced monthly by The University of Iowa College of Education Office of External Relations, Jill Fishbaugh, director. Send items of interest to her at The University of Iowa/ College of Education/452 Lindquist Center N/Iowa City, IA 52242-1529 or by e-mail to [educationatiowa@uiowa.edu](mailto:educationatiowa@uiowa.edu).

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