

Education First

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ♦ COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ♦ NEWSLETTER

Education Firsts

First Earn as You Learn Classmates Graduate

Currently, Iowa and the nation face a severe shortage of certified, well-prepared teachers to work with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD) students. To meet this critical need, local community educators in collaboration with Special Education Professor **Jo Hendrickson** developed *Earn as You Learn*, an innovative master's level teacher preparation program in behavioral disorders.

A federal grant from the Office of Special Education Programs funds full-time graduate students in the *Earn* program while they work in the community.

During the program, Iowa school districts benefit from having *Earn* students working as paraeducators for EBD students. In December, the first three *Earn* students to graduate from the new College program were **Kim Evans** (MA '01), **Joan Feller** (MA '01), and **Susan Hamel** (MA '01).

"The overall experience was great," Evans said. "I worked with students with various disorders who have many obstacles to deal with and who are really neat kids."

Hamel and Feller agreed. "The experiences I gained enhanced my desire and ability to work with challenging students," Hamel said. "Working with students with a wide variety of disabilities makes every day interesting."

"I felt support from the faculty in the College and benefited from their expertise in special education," Feller said. "The 'real world' experiences Prof. **Gary Sasso** shared were invaluable."

The *Earn* graduates are working to meet the diverse and challenging educational and social needs of EBD students.

Evans teaches a level 3 behavioral disorders classroom at Shimek Elementary School in Iowa City, Feller teaches in the Cedar Rapids Community School District, and Hamel is the grades 9-12 multi-categorical resource teacher at Mid-Prairie High School.

"We anticipate having a significant and positive impact on local teacher shortages in that 50 *Earn* teachers will complete their studies within the next two to three years," Hendrickson said.



Kim Evans



Joan Feller



Susan Hamel

College Outreach

Ethical Decision Making: A Process and a Promise

Sioux City area (AEA #12) school support personnel concerned about ethics in the workplace received

assistance through a free ICN workshop from Associate Professor **Kit Gerken** on the topic.

In "Ethical Decision Making: A Process and a Promise," Gerken advised school psychologists, social workers, and special education consultants on how to better handle ethic issues as they occur in the schools.

"Support personnel who work in the schools feel that ethical behavior sometimes goes unrewarded and even punished because school administrators and teachers may want to do what is cost efficient or less time consuming rather than what is the very best for a child or adolescent," Gerken said. "This is often the case because they may not have the funds or the services available."

During the workshop, Gerken asked the school support personnel to share their major ethical concerns. This included issues such as the appropriate handling of confidential information, teacher treatment of some children, being asked to alter documents, and placement of children without appropriate due process and evaluation. Then professional ethical standards or codes were discussed as well as why some persons do not follow them.

Gerken concluded with what school support personnel can do to make sure the best possible services are provided to the children and adolescents in an ethical, professional, and legal way.



Kit Gerken reaches out to western Iowa with an ICN ethics workshop.

PHOTO BY DOUG ALLAIRE



February 2002

Excellence and Distinction



Outstanding Teachers

The University recently selected Associate Professor **David Bills** and Professor **Walter Vispoel** to receive Collegiate Teaching Awards in recognition of their exemplary performance as teachers. This designation reflects the high esteem with which their colleagues and students regard the quality of their teaching. It also carries a stipend of \$2,000.



PHOTO BY DOUG ALLAIRE

Walter Vispoel / David Bills

Sanders Publishes Race Relations Article



PHOTO BY DOUG ALLAIRE

The State Historical Society's quarterly journal, *The Annals of Iowa*, highlighted an article written by Assistant Professor **Katrina Sanders** entitled, "The Burlington Self-Survey in Human Relations: Interracial Efforts for constructive Community Change, 1949-1951." In the article, Sanders describes a community self-survey that residents of Burlington conducted to monitor the town's racial climate.

The project was initiated locally by both black and white residents and drew on the resources of one of the nation's leading African American institutions of higher education. The citywide survey revealed discriminatory practices in Burlington,

initiated a dialogue between African Americans and whites on race-related issue, and supplied data that made it possible to secure support for community change.

Watt Selected as Emerging Scholar

The American College Personnel Association's (ACPA) Senior Scholars selected Assistant Professor **Sherry Watt** as one of the association's six Emerging Scholars. As an Emerging Scholar, Watt will receive \$1,500 in funding for her studies, work with a Senior Scholar mentor, and present the results of her research project at the association's annual convention.

"We think well of Dr. Watt and expect to see good things from her research," said University of Maryland Professor and ACPA Senior Scholar William Sedlacek.

Through the Emerging Scholars program, ACPA hopes that by providing assistance to young professors it will increase the likelihood of them staying in the field and encourage them to perform research on college students and personnel issues.



PHOTO BY JILL FISHBAUGH

Sherry Watt

National Contributions to School Counseling

Assistant Professor **Tarrell Portman** was appointed to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Guidance Counseling Standards Committee, where she will make important national contributions to the field of school counseling.

Williams Reaching Out to Iowa's Women Inmates

Assistant Professor **Rachel Williams** received a \$10,000 grant from Humanities Iowa to coordinate a project at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville that explores the structure of women's autobiographical writing through a series of writers' workshops.

"Women on the Inside," a project that will involve both women inmates and staff in the prison, will present an opportunity for the humanities to play a vital role in the lives of a community of women involved in violence, poverty, substance abuse and mental illness. Participants will have an opportunity to work with scholars and staff to write, read, and learn about literature, women's issues, culture, and history.

Their final written product will be compiled as an audio and visual narrative in the form of a DVD and a book. These materials will be distributed to more than 1,000 public libraries, cultural centers, colleges and universities throughout Iowa.

Humanities Iowa is a private, non-profit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to enhance the civic life, culture, and identity of Iowans. Drawing on history, literature, philosophy, law, and other humanities fields, it fosters lifelong learning, critical thinking, and community connections. *—by Jonathan Jordahl*



PHOTO BY JILL FISHBAUGH

Rachel Williams

Improving Our Workplace Award

The College of Education Social Committee received an Improving Our Workplace Award from the University for improving communications and unifying the College. Members of the committee include: **Chris Annicella, Bobbie Bevins, Deb Buss, Rachele Hansen, Doris Havel, Deb Kakavas, Wayne Kintz, Mary Schmidt, Virginia Travis, and Sue Wollrab.**

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.

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