

Education First

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ♦ COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ♦ NEWSLETTER

Education Firsts

PHOTO BY DOUG ALLAIRE



Hamann receives highest score on Colorado's oral rehabilitation counseling exam.

Rehabilitation Counseling Grad Receives Top Colorado Score

After master's student, **Scott Hamann**, took the oral exam for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for a rehabilitation counselor position in Colorado, his phone wouldn't stop ringing. With the No. 1 score, he was in

high demand and was given the opportunity to pick and choose the place he'd like go.

Hamann credits his success to his educational experience at *U.S. News & World Report's* No. 3-ranked Rehabilitation Counseling program at Iowa. "I had the opportunity to learn from 'the best' in the respective fields of rehabilitation and counseling. The instructors have high standards and expectations for themselves and the students they mentor."

Hamann says because his professors were diligent in administering their information in a concise and relevant developmental-based program, students are able to reach these expectations.

"In the beginning of the program I was uncertain about my ability to perform at this level. In the middle of the program I was tired and at times very frustrated with the amount of work and the never-ending stress of one deadline for another. Now, at end of my program, I look back and am grateful

for the opportunity to have been a small part of such a wonderful program."

"I am a better counselor and a better person because of the training I received at Iowa."

Scott Hamann

Hamann accepted a position as a Rehabilitation Counselor I with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation with the state of Colorado's Department of Human Services, in Alamosa, Colo. He plans to graduate in May.



Incorporating Diversity into Study and Practice

This February, the College of Education Diversity Committee hosted its third annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Research Symposium, giving students conducting research on diversity in education a chance to present their work.

"It's been exciting to watch the definition of diversity broaden," says committee member **Laurie Croft**, who advocates for gifted education diversity for the Belin-Blank Center.

Through colorful posters, this year's 16 participants addressed issues ranging from social values in basal readers to homophobia in the classroom.

Rehabilitation Counseling student, **James Bethea**, presented his work to raise consciousness of spiritual diversity. "Acknowledging the role of spirituality in the African American community is a great way to promote diversity as well as foster optimal working alliances with African American consumers," he said.

Language, Literacy, and Culture graduate student, **Michelle Holschuh Simmons**, participated to increase awareness of

technology as a social justice issue. "Technology is a powerful area where women are falling behind," she said, pointing to the diverse ways in which men and women perceive computers.

The Diversity Committee's graduate assistant, **Dirian Valdes-Guada**, said that she has found the symposium to be an empowering vehicle for students to find their scholarly voice—a voice much



Bethea discusses his first-place project at the 3rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Research Symposium.

PHOTO BY DOUG ALLAIRE

encouraged by King himself, who wrote that "education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false."

"It is our hope that the community will be able to see that there are students in the College of Education thinking about diversity in their studies and in their practice," Valdes-Guada said, who heralded the event as a success.

—by Elyse Fields

March 2002

Reaching Out ... Reaching Out ... Reaching Out ... Reaching Out ...

PHOTOS BY JILL FISHBAUGH



Cochran and Liu



Counseling Psychology doctoral students (L to R): Kwesi Dunston, Nicholas Larma, Scot Boespflug, Tari Mellinger, and Cisco Sanchez

Cultivating Campus Communities: Diverse, Creative, and Strong

Helping students build skills that will help them later in life is a primary focus for university counselors. “Rekindling young people’s community involvement in their educational experience is important,” keynote

speaker and University Associate Counsel Ann Rhodes said. “We need to keep them looking outward, as being part of a group, centering on company, connections, communication, and compassion—these are lifetime skills.”

As the host of the 2002 Big Ten Counseling Centers Conference, many opportunities to learn how to create the kind of campus

communities where students, faculty, and staff prosper were provided through concurrent sessions. In one session, led by Clinical Professor and University Counseling Center Director Sam Cochran and Assistant Professor William Liu, five Counseling Psychology doctoral students presented their work on nurturing men in our communities and understanding male socialization in the counseling process.

“This cutting-edge material is important in helping to understand why men are the way they are,” Cochran said, “and hopefully, if we are more empathetic toward men, men can be more empathetic toward the community.”

Nearly 150 Big Ten university counselors attended the three-day conference.

Getting Kids Excited about Science

Iowa State University and The University of Iowa joined together with a common goal—getting kids excited about science.

In a combined ICN broadcast in-service presentation to science and math teachers throughout the state, engineering and education faculty, staff, and students focused on ways to prepare Iowa’s children for careers in technology.

“It’s important to get students involved in science and technology early,” UI College of Educ. Lecturer **John Achrazoglou** said. “We are even developing models for K-12 and higher education to help students with disabilities increase their access to academic and career paths in science, engineering, and mathematics.”

The hope is to make Iowa known for math, science, and technology. “We are anxious to partner with Iowa’s school teachers,” ISU Engineering Dean Jim Melsa said, “and find better ways to make Iowa the place that stands out as doing better than the rest of the nation in science and math education.”

PHOTO BY JILL FISHBAUGH



UI and ISU colleges of Engineering and Education collaborate in ICN presentation (L to R) UI engineering Professors David Wilder and Andrew Williams, UI engineering Dean Barry Butler, and education lecturer John A.

Enhancing Teaching and Learning through Collaboration

In 1984, Science Education Professor **Ed Pizzini** successfully applied for the initial round of Dwight D. Eisenhower funding. Now, 18 years later, he has just been notified that his 15th Eisenhower proposal was funded—the last round of the Eisenhower Program. This collaboration with the Iowa Board of Regents has led to \$1,228,180 for partnering with AEAs and



Pizzini enhances teaching and learning.

PHOTO BY DOUG ALLAIRE

local school districts in Iowa, which have resulted in over twenty publications, numerous presentations, and “most of all,” Pizzini says, “exciting collaboration with various school districts.”

The projects included talented and gifted in science, problem solving, science standards and reforms, and inclusion in the science classroom. “The most significant contribution made,” Pizzini said, “has been the opportunities for collaboration in identifying the challenges science teachers face daily, providing funding to alleviate those problems through professional development and technical assistance, and designing appropriate instructional strategies and curricula reform to enhance teaching and learning.”

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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