

# Education First

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ♦ COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ♦ NEWSLETTER

## Education Firsts

### Iowa Alumna Receives First NCACES Research Award



Asst. Professor Jackie Lewis

The first research award given by the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (NCACES) was awarded to **Jacqueline Lewis** (PhD '96). The award was created to promote the knowledge and development of best counseling practices.

"I am honored that our study received the award," said Lewis, who teaches classes in Student Affairs and Counseling at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She and her colleague, Professor Diane Coursol, will lead a research project on cybercounseling—investigating the application of e-mail, video-conferencing, and text-based chat in mental health services. They plan to examine the problems counselors consider appropriate for cybercounseling and study the relationship between counselors' comfort with technology and their willingness to engage in this relatively new practice.

Lewis has long been interested in the relationship between technology in counseling and student affairs. She has been involved in research projects ranging from studies on the cyberlife of college students to technology competence in Counselor Education programs. "Technology is an integral part of our lives today," she said, "and it brings up practical, ethical, and legal questions. I believe these are important questions that require serious investigation by counselor educators."

Lewis's experience at Iowa has helped her approach questions in an award-winning way. "The faculty with whom I worked were always encouraging of attempts to think outside the box," she said. "From them I learned not to be afraid to push the boundaries of knowledge."

As the NCACES has acknowledged, the boundaries Lewis wishes to push are important ones. A better understanding of how online mental health services might be implemented will assist not only mental health practitioners, but persons with disabilities, older persons, and others who are in need of counseling but are unable to leave their homes. —by Elyse Fields



## Interdisciplinary Collaboration Advances Policy and Instruction

By bringing their distinct areas of expertise together, two College of Education faculty will reach beyond traditional research boundaries. Through their interdisciplinary research project, Curriculum and Instruction Associate Professor **Carolyn Colvin** and Education Policy and Leadership Studies Assistant Professor **Katrina Sanders**

tional experiences of diverse populations," Sanders said.

Their project, "Migrant/Immigrant Educational Efforts in Iowa, 1925-2000: A Curricular, Policy, and Historical Analysis," combines Sanders's historical and archival research skills with Colvin's migrant and immigrant contemporary educational contexts. They plan to determine if historical education

efforts to provide literacy/education instruction to migrant/immigrant Spanish-speaking families in selected Iowa communities are likely to inform present work with immigrants. The researchers' undertaking is important because there are few references regarding such



PHOTO BY DOUG ALLAIRE

Sanders (L) and Colvin (R) collaborate on immigrant educational efforts in Iowa.

hope to make a difference in migrant/immigrant educational and literacy work.

The project began when Sanders discovered a rich collection of papers at the Iowa Women's Archives about Shirley Sandage, a woman who did significant work with a migrant education program in Iowa during the 1960s. Knowing Colvin's work as director of an immigrant adult literacy program and interest in the topic, and sharing the papers with her, the two decided to join efforts.

"The papers spoke to both of our interests in the educa-

efforts in Iowa or across the United States.

"If it is possible for us to learn from our historical traditions in this state," Colvin said, "our project may illuminate some areas of greater understanding of current policy and instructional practice implications."

To fund their project, Colvin and Sanders received an Interdisciplinary Research Grant from The University of Iowa Obermann Center for Advanced Studies.

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## Students Recognized for Excellence

The University recently recognized several outstanding College of Ed. students.

**Aaron Kampman**, an elementary education student, received one of the University's most prestigious awards—the Robert F. Ray Faculty Representative Award—for his outstanding academic excellence, athletic excellence, and leadership.



Aaron Kampman

Kampman, captain of the Hawkeye football team, is a three-time Academic All-Big Ten, a two-time Verizon Academic All-American, and was awarded the Forest Evashevski Scholastic Achievement Award in 2001. Last fall, he was named First Team All-Big Ten after leading the conference in sacks. Green Bay drafted the defensive lineman in the NFL's fifth round.

For their excellence in teaching, four graduate students received Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards. They are **Dan Carrell** (Ed. Psych.), **Renita Schmidt** and **Amy Shoultz** (Lang., Literacy, and Culture), and **John Wolfe** (English Education).



(L to R) Carrell, Wolfe, Shoultz, and Schmidt receive recognition for excellence in teaching.

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## Facilitating Communication Through Art

"I've always seen art as a visual treat for the soul..." **Sheila Sitterly** (BFA '94/MA '98) said, "...a way of celebrating beauty."

Sitterly, a survivor of several traumatic brain injuries, also celebrates art as a way to heal. "After my initial injury in 1989, I didn't do much art," she explained. "I had trouble just walking, talking, and eating. Motivation was a problem—I knew I had so much to relearn."

In her efforts to prompt her daughter to communicate more, Sitterly's mother put a drawing table in the middle of her room. A few days later, she put out supplies. "One day I finally sat down at the table," Sitterly admitted. "I ended up drawing a portrait."

From that moment on, Sitterly has considered art integral to the rehabilitation process. With her drawing, sculpting, and print making, she earned two art degrees and learned to trust her visions—including those of rising above physical challenges. "Art facilitates innovative communication methods," she said. "It allows us to transcend our systemized ways of approaching things."

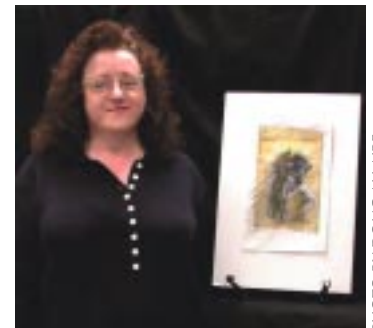
This includes a way of approaching emotional as well as physical scars. Her master's series, "Discrimination," was exhibited in the College during the Rehabilitation Counseling's Spring Colloquium and Advisory Board meeting.

Addressing the emotions that might be experienced by an individual when he or she is discriminated against, Sitterly created it not only to come to terms with her own experiences of discrimination, but to give the community a focal point around which to discuss issues and search for inner peace.

Today, Sitterly continues to explore the relationship between art and healing as a Rehabilitation Counseling student. "I know from experience what it's like to feel trapped and not be able to talk," she said. "I think I'd be good at helping other survivors, their families, and their friends."  
-by Elyse Fields



Pace Del Mio—A Prayer for Peace—by Sheila Sitterly



Sitterly exhibits her art work in the Ed. Placement Office.

PHOTO BY DOUG ALLAIRE

## Iowa Students Dazzle Ida Beam Professor

In an effort to bring issues of ethics and dealing with world events into academics, Melba J.T. Vasquez, Ph.D., one of the top people in the field of counseling



Melba J.T. Vasquez, Ph.D.

psychology, was invited to campus as an Ida Cordelia Beam Visiting Professor.

Vasquez said she was impressed with the quality of Iowa's program. "I have enjoyed interacting with the faculty and students," she said. "They are bright, energetic, and enthusiastic."

Vasquez discussed various reactions among children to school violence and terrorism—reactions that she's found vary according to age (elementary to high school) and according to each student's personal history in coping with difficulty or trauma. "There are various emotional, cognitive, behavioral and physiological reactions to trauma, and the focus is on helping people understand the variety of 'normal' responses to 'abnormal' events," she said.

Vasquez provided suggestions for helpful re-

sponses from parents, teachers, counselors, and others who deal with children. She also discussed a variety of issues related to multicultural counseling.

"Her presentations and workshops were most timely, given the Sept. 11 tragedy," said Professor **John Westefeld**, coordinator of the visit.

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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