

reaching out



LSU Prof. Terry Blackwell grateful for the University, College support.

## College Helps Gulf Coast Faculty Displaced by Katrina

The College has opened its arms and resources to Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Rehabilitation Counseling Professor Terry Blackwell whose school was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to an office, a computer, and the academic technology to offer his classes online to his two dozen displaced students, he has also been given access to the University libraries and other resources so he can continue his research and course preparation.

"It is our pleasure to be able to provide for his needs both personally and professionally," Professor and Chair Dennis R. Maki said.

Blackwell says the College has gone above all his expectations.

"The support and compassion has been outstanding," Blackwell said.

## Young Inventors Shine at State Fair

Thirteen participants from this year's Invent Iowa convention were selected to showcase their inventions in The University of Iowa's booth at the 2005 Iowa State Fair.

Over 325 Iowa students in grades 3-12, representing 141 Iowa cities and towns, participated in this year's Invent Iowa convention. To reach the state level, students were encouraged to develop inventions to make life easier for people while meeting general U.S. patent requirements. The inventions ranged from devices for pets, home, and farm to inventions to aid the elderly and the physically disabled.

*Invent Iowa is cosponsored by the UI and ISU colleges of engineering and organized by the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development.*



Ottumwa fourth grader Bryan LaRue, demonstrates his invention, the "Handicapped Hunters' Tray."



Audubon fifth grader Rachel Hansen, demonstrates her invention, the "Messless Chef '05."

education firsts

## Alumnae First Female Athletics Director in Illinois



Barbara Chiles

Barbara Chiles (BS '70) prepares students for life. As a role model and motivational physical education teacher, she pushes herself and her students to excel.

"It has been said that 'sports is an awareness of the universe that lies within,'" Chiles said. "I feel it's up to me to help my students grow and reach their full potential."

This philosophy took students at Westmer Community School District in Joy, Illinois—where Chiles taught students at all levels for 35 years, further than they ever dreamed.

Chiles started high school girls' athletics in the early '70s and coached volleyball and basketball. She was the first female athletic director in charge of boys and girls athletics in the state of Illinois. She also developed and taught a junior high wilderness survival course for nearly 20 years.

"Barb teaches by example. Her character, dedication, and goals speak louder than words," Superintendent William Heitman said. "She does a tremendous job working with kids. If you visit one of her classes, you'll see that she teaches 100 percent of the time."

Her extraordinary efforts and personal commitment have been recognized with numerous awards during her career, including a Milken National Education Award, and a "Those Who Excel" merit award and a Distinguished Educator award from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Chiles retired in May and hopes the legacy she leaves as an educator is one of success.

"I try to show students that we go where our thoughts lead us," she said. "I hope I make them see that self motivation is essential to success."

## Belin-Blank Center Studies "Twice Exceptional" Students

In partnership with the Iowa Department of Education, The Connie Belin and Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development is pioneering a research project to help elementary and secondary schools meet the needs of academically promising students with learning disabilities.

The "Twice Exceptional" project, funded with a three-year, \$904,772 federal Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program grant, teams the Belin-Blank Center with Iowa's Area Education Agencies.

Belin-Blank Center Assoc. Director **Susan Assouline**, who directs the research, said, "The coordinated program of scientifically based research to help students

with special education needs make the most of their academic gifts.

Judy Jeffrey, director of the Iowa Department of Education, said the partnership will be an important element in the state's ongoing commitment to support and enhance the quality of Iowa's teaching staff.

"This kind of high quality professional development is a good investment because we know quality teachers have the biggest impact on how much and how well students learn," Jeffrey said. "Educators will be eager to gain new tools to help more students reach their highest potential."



U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, was instrumental in winning passage of an expansion of Javits funding under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The Iowa Department of Education was one of only 14 grant recipients this year.

## Lagos Lavenz Receives Leadership Award



Assoc. Prof. Susan Lagos Lavenz

The Greater Cedar Rapids Area Council on Youth Leadership awarded

Educational Administration Associate Professor **Susan Lagos Lavenz** its 2005 Visionary Youth Leadership Award.

"She is role model who always makes a difference," said Board Member Lura McBride.

## Phillips Honored



Prof. Ken Phillips

Professor Emeritus **Ken Phillips** received the Robert M. McCowen Memo-

rial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Choral Music, the highest honor granted by the Iowa Choral Directors Association. Phillips is currently director of Graduate Studies in Music Education at Gordon College (north of Boston), where he has designed and implemented a new Master of Music Education degree.

## IAE Selects Whitt



Prof. Liz Whitt

The Iowa Academy of Education, supported by the First in the Nation in Education

(FINE) Foundation, selected Student Development Professor **Elizabeth Whitt** for membership in their academy.

Whitt was recognized for her research and scholarship on college students and educationally effective colleges and universities.

## Ansley and Liu Recognized as College's Best



Professor Tim Ansley

The College selected Measurement and Statistics Professor **Timothy Ansley** and Counseling Psychology Assistant Professor **William Liu** to receive its Collegiate Teaching Award in recognition of their exemplary performance as teachers.

"Dr. Ansley's design course is not only popular all over campus, it's famous," writes a first-year doctoral student **Su Zhang**. "He has the gift of being able to

explain complex concepts and ideas in plain language that everyone understands."

"Prof. Liu is so much more than a motivating teacher," writes fourth-year doctoral student **Joyce Goins**. "He respects his students, makes time for them, pushes them to do well, offers support, and is one of the main reasons I am still here."



Assist. Prof. Will Liu

excellence  
distinction

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