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# EducationFirst

The University of Iowa College of Education Newsletter

October 2007

## Remarkable Accomplishments

### Regents Awards for Faculty/Staff Excellence

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, honored Professor **Ernest T. Pascarella**, the UI's Mary Louise Petersen Professor of Higher Education, with its Regents Faculty Excellence Award for his significant contribution to excellence in public education.

Pascarella was recognized as a role model for his commitment to teaching and service, and for his research that "virtually defines the intellectual terrain of the impact of college on students, moving easily between vast bodies of literature in psychology, economics, and sociology," Dean **Sandra Damico** and Associate Dean **David Bills** said in their nomination letter. "His book, *How College Affects Students (Vol. 2): A Third Decade of Research*, long ago became a benchmark for the field. His important and timely research, highly relevant to higher education and educational policy, has been cited over 3,250 times in an area where other well-known researchers have a fraction of that number."

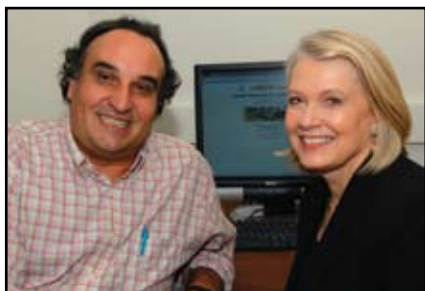


Prof. Ernest Pascarella

The Regents also jointly recognized **John Achrazoglou** (BA '81/MA '94/PhD '03), director for the Education Technology Center and **Rebecca Anthony** (MA '75), director of the Educational Placement Office, with its Staff Excellence Award for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the UI as well as to the state of Iowa.

"The ePortfolio™ that John and Rebecca developed has directly impacted the lives of over 3,000 graduates of the College of Education, K-12 administrators, teachers, and students in Iowa," Damico said in her nomination letter.

"Their work has made a real contribution to education on this campus and across the state."



Achrazoglou and Anthony recognized for their innovative ePortfolio™ project.

### Leading Iowa's Counselors

The Iowa Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (IACES) elected **Darcie Davis-Gage** (PhD '05) president and Assistant Professor **Susannah Wood** vice president. Assistant Professor **David K. Duys** is past president. The state organization fosters professional support for faculty and supervisors who are responsible for training and educating counselors across all specialty areas. It also promotes collaborative research and provides a collective voice for the specialty at the state level.

### Researching Immigrant Education



Wells' research receives national recognition.

The Association for Institutional Research (AIR) awarded \$15,000 to **Ryan Wells** (MA '04), doctoral candidate in Higher Education, as part of their 2007 Grant Program—Improving Institutional Research in Postsecondary Education Institutions—for research promising innovative contributions to postsecondary education.

Wells' research project is entitled, "The Effects of Schools on the Educational Expectations of Children of Immigrants."

"I'm pleased to see Ryan's work recognized both nationally and here at Iowa," said Assistant Professor

**Paul Umbach**. "AIR not only awarded him one of their most competitive fellowships, but also named his proposal one of the year's best. The accolades are well deserved. He's an exceptional student and is already building a solid scholarly record. I look forward to Ryan making a great impact on the field."

## Remarkable Firsts

### Whitt Named First Director

**Elizabeth J. Whitt**, a professor of Student Affairs Administration and Research and co-director of the Center for Research on Undergraduate Education (CRUE), was named The University of Iowa's first director of the Office of the Provost's Student Success Initiatives program.



Professor Elizabeth Whitt

Designed to enrich students' experiences, the Student Success Initiatives program offers courses focused on helping first-year and entering students make a successful transition to The University of Iowa.

**Thomas R. Rocklin**, senior associate provost for undergraduate education and dean of the university college, says the position will bolster the University's commitment to improving undergraduate student success.

"We have a wide variety of initiatives under way," Rocklin said. "Examples of current and emerging student success initiatives include enhancing living/learning communities, developing outcomes assessment plans for every undergraduate major, expanding experiential learning opportunities, and developing and deploying a clear message about what it means to be a student Hawkeye."

Whitt's research and teaching interests include college students and their learning, student affairs administration, and qualitative research methods. She has received several awards in recognition of her contributions to research and scholarship, including the American College Personnel Association's (ACPA) Annuet Coeptis Senior Professional Award and Outstanding Contribution to Knowledge Award. She is an ACPA Senior Scholar, an ACPA Diamond Honoree, and a member of the Iowa Academy of Education.

## Remarkable Partnerships

### Helping the Helping Professionals

The University of Iowa's Annual Summer School for Helping Professionals is the largest gathering of counselors and other helping professionals in the state. For decades, it has provided invaluable networking and continuing education opportunities through workshops that allow participants to stay up to date in their field while earning academic credit.

Participant **Liz Noyes** (MSW '87) said the 2007 session was no exception.

"It provides excellent instruction in relevant topics and is a series of fun workshops to boot," she said. "I learn interesting things that are relevant to my job and the instructors are phenomenally skilled."

Noyes, a social worker, said she's lost track of how many times she's attended the Summer School, but estimates her participation dates back at least 20 years.

Deidre Vick-Froehlich, a prevention specialist for Substance Abuse Services in Clayton County, said she's only missed one or two sessions in the past 17 years and keeps finding new and challenging workshops to attend.

"I learn a multitude of different skills that I apply to my work," she said. "The instructors do more than just present the information. They also provide guidance on how to apply these techniques in the field."



Summer school participants engage in valuable professional development workshops.

The program is sponsored by the College of Education in partnership with the State of Iowa's Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice in conjunction with its Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, as well as the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Substance Abuse Program Directors' Association.

## Remarkable Service

### Students Give Back to the Community

Members of the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) student chapter at The University of Iowa College of Education collected 94 books in a drive they hosted to benefit the Iowa City community.

**Susan Philos**, a member of the group's executive committee, along with her fellow student leader, **Julie Laidig**, and group advisor **Nancy Langguth** (PhD '96) organized the drive and said they were thrilled with the books College faculty, staff, and students left in boxes around Lindquist Center last spring.

The club distributed the books to the Johnson County Neighborhood Centers as well as the 4Cs Community Coordinated Child Care.

Lauren Keating, adult and youth educator at the Neighborhood Centers put the books to use right away.

"My adults were delighted to be able to pick out some books for summer reading. The teens were as appreciative as the adults," Keating said in a letter to ISEA.

Langguth said it's inspiring to watch her group members seek out community service opportunities.

"It's clearly indicative of the character and the commitment of the students in our Teacher Education program," Langguth said.

Philos, a Secondary Science Education student, said she and her fellow ISEA members do service projects because they see it as an extension of their mission as teachers.

"I think education fundamentally is about giving back and that is not only in the classroom, but outside of the classroom as well," she said. "It's a good idea for us to get out into our community and get to know it."



Teacher Education students lead book drive for local community.

Education **First** is produced monthly by The University of Iowa College of Education, Lindquist Center, Iowa City, IA 52242-1529.

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