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EducationFirst

The University of Iowa College of Education Newsletter

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Remarkable Firsts

China/UI Gifted Partnership First of Its Kind

Some of the most academically gifted students from China will attend The University of Iowa, thanks to a partnership between the Belin Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development and a company in Hangzhou, China.

The new collaborative program, the

China–Belin Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search (BESTS) program, is a first-of-its-kind program in China for its gifted students and eventually teachers. The UI was selected after the Hangzhou Harvest Consulting Company examined a number of prestigious U.S. universities and determined the Belin-Blank Center was the best match. The gifted Chinese students will be recruited through an academic talent search and chosen based on ACT test scores, English language proficiency, and their level of maturity.

“The concept of gifted education is relatively new in China, and it is an honor to be chosen to participate in this program,” said Professor Nicholas Colangelo, director of the Belin-Blank Center.

The program’s goal is to identify 50 high-achieving 11th grade Chinese students by March 1, 2008, from an initial pool of an estimated 2,500 students. These 50 students will then attend a three-week summer residential program for gifted students at the Belin-Blank Center in summer 2008. The program will include not only classroom instruction but also extracurricular activities that will give the students a true taste of life at a U.S. university.

From this pool of 50 students, the top 25 students who are most likely to succeed will be recommended for admission as undergraduates to the UI beginning in fall of 2009. These students will live in Daum, the honors residence hall.

Colangelo said that this partnership is significant for many reasons, especially the fact that the province where the consulting company will focus its recruitment efforts has a population of more than 47 million people.

“This will get the word out about gifted education and The University of Iowa to millions of people who might not otherwise know about our center and university,” Colangelo said.

Dean Sandra Damico said that the China–BESTS Program is a testament to the UI’s international reputation of excellence.

“This innovative program will help draw top-notch undergraduate students to our university from a variety of fields,” Damico said. “It is a wonderful example of collaboration that will benefit everyone involved.”

Turning Hobbies into Income

Yayuk Mardiaty, a doctoral candidate in Social Studies Education, received one of the first Kenneth J. Cmiel Human Rights Funded Internships for her work in Indonesia. With her \$2,500 award, Mardiaty taught housewives how to turn their crafts and hobbies into an income.

“Women in remote villages don’t know their rights at all,” she said. “There is so much to be done.”

Mardiaty went through the Jember University Center for Women’s Rights to find a group of women to participate in a workshop. Fourteen villages each sent two women who were considered poor. This meant that they had a “lack of clothing, housing, food—but also lack of knowledge too,” Mardiaty said. Her goal was to teach the women to be economically sufficient. “They have hobbies and skills that can make money.”

Mardiaty provided materials that are easily accessible to the women, such as bamboo, rattan, and coconut shells and encouraged them to express their creativity. Then she taught them how to make business plans, including proposals, cash-flow charts, and promotion plans.

Her internship in Indonesia has had an influence on her post-education career path and her outlook on life.

“I’m working on how universal democratic values, including human rights, can be explored in any culture,” she said, showing off a bird-shaped bamboo and coconut shell wind chime designed by one of her Indonesian students.

“This realization of reciprocity between the academic community and non-governmental organizations is a direct reflection of Ken’s belief in the value of working in common cause across barriers and in the UI’s mission of service to a broad, international community,” said Amy Weismann, deputy director of the UI Center for Human Rights.

—by Aris Dravillas



Mardiaty (upper left) increases human rights for Indonesian women.

Remarkable Accomplishments

Dean's Scholars



Dean's Scholars: Liu (L), Portman, Schuh

Dean **Sandra Damico** appointed three highly productive associate professors as Dean's Scholars with three-year appointments. They are: **William Liu**, **Tarrell Portman**, and **Kathy Schuh**.

"These exceptional faculty members are all pursuing diverse and dynamic areas of research," Damico said.

Liu's research includes multicultural competency, social class and classism, and men's issues. His professional interests include multicultural competence development, counselor training, research training, and men's therapy. His mentor is Professor **Elizabeth Altmaier**.

Portman's research focuses on counseling issues among gifted students in American Indian tribal schools. This research, Damico said, will make an important contribution to multicultural and gifted and talented literature. Her mentor is Professor **Nicholas Colangelo**.

Schuh's research involves exploring how students create meaning from the information they encounter in their classrooms and the personal experience and prior learning they bring with them. This qualitative research, and a follow-up quantitative study, will make valuable contributions to the educational psychology literature, Damico said. Schuh's research interests include contemporary perspectives of learning, implementing theory into practice, and children's meaning-making processes. Her mentor is Professor **David Lohman**.

Tenure and Promotion

The University recently approved the promotion of **Gregory Hamot** and **Kathryn Whitmore** to full professor, the promotion of **Sherry Watt** to associate professor with tenure, and granted tenure to Associate Professor **John Northup**.

Obermann Graduate Fellows

Three outstanding College of Education graduate students were selected Obermann Graduate Fellows to play a crucial part in the Obermann Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy. The Fellows met with nearly 30 scholars and community leaders to develop their own projects—exciting efforts that will bring intellectual and artistic work into conversation with communities beyond the university.

The Fellows are **Valerie Nyberg**, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Culture and a Principal Certificate in Educational Administration; **Patrick Rossmann**, a master's student in the Student Development Program who works for the Office of Residence Life developing educational programs in the dormitories; and **Ryan Wells**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Higher Education Program.



Fellows: Rossmann (L), Wells, and Nyberg

Tarvydas Elected

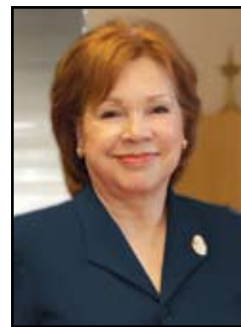


Prof. Vilia Tarvydas

The American Association of State Counseling Boards elected Professor **Vilia Tarvydas** president elect. Tarvydas, one of the group's founding members, is the first rehabilitation counselor to be elected into the organization's leadership.

Rehab Research Recognized

Associate Professor **Jodi Saunders** and Assistant Professor **Noel Estrada-Hernandez** received the 2007 American Rehabilitation Counseling Association Research Award, for the project Saunders led entitled, "Predictors of Employment Outcomes for Persons with Disabilities: An Integrative review of Potential Evidenced-based Factors."



Dean Sandra Damico

Damico Elected

The Council of Academic Deans from Research Education Institutions elected Dean **Sandra Damico** to its executive committee as a member at large.

SAAR Students/Faculty Soar

The American College Personnel Association (College Student Educators International) and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators recognized Professor **Elizabeth Whitt** with their prestigious Contribution



Prof. Elizabeth Whitt

to Knowledge Award. The award recognizes Whitt's outstanding contributions to the profession's body of knowledge.

The Association also honored Student Affairs Administration and Research (SAAR) student **Angie Kellogg** with the Burns B. Crookston Doctoral Research Award for

her qualitative study, "Critical Incidents in the Racial Identity Development of Multiracial College Students."

SAAR doctoral students **Angie Bong** and **Lucas**



Killian (back left), Bong; Christain (front left), Stahlman

Christain were awarded the William (Bill) J. Brennan 2006 Graduate Assistant Fellowships, sponsored annually by the National Order of Omega.

SAAR doctoral students **Brandy Killian** and **Sara Stahlman** won the Iowa Student Personnel Association's case study competition.

Remarkable Accomplishments

Counselor Ed Honored

“Dr. Jepsen has been compared to the North Star, a point of reference that everyone looks toward to orient themselves in the right direction,” the American Counseling Association said when they awarded Professor Emeritus **David Jepsen** with their prestigious Fellows Award for his significant and unique contributions in professional practice, leadership, and scientific achievement in the counseling profession.

“For over 30 years, David Jepsen has answered the questions and investigated ideas that are concerned with problems of interest and significance to the counseling profession,” Professor Bradley T. Erford wrote in his nomination letter. “His results and conclusions have led to important applications of career development theory, which have enhanced our understanding of the development of young and middle-aged adults, and the impact of his research is buoyed by the observation that his research makes its way into many career development texts and applications.”



Prof. David Jepsen



Carol Smith

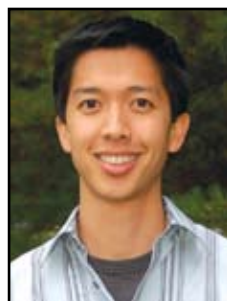
The National Career Development Association (NCDA) selected Counselor Education doctoral student **Carol Smith** as one of 12 of the country’s most promising career development leaders to attend the Career Development Academy.

“It is a tremendous honor to attend the academy,” said Assistant Professor **David Duys**, who nominated her. “She will obtain national visibility and the support and mentoring from the field’s leaders for the Academy.”

The Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Research awarded a Grant Award to **Anita San- kar-Gomez** (MA ‘02/PhD ‘05) and Amy Reynolds for their project, “The Development of Social Justice Orientation in Counselors: A Qualitative Study.”

AERA Awards

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) selected Measurement and Statistics Assistant Professor **Andrew Ho** as recipient of the Mary Catherine Ellwein



Prof. Andrew Ho

Outstanding Quantitative Dissertation Award. The National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) also selected Ho to receive the **Brenda H. Loyd** (PhD ‘80) Outstanding Dissertation Award. Loyd made indelible contributions to NCME and the field of educational measurement. Ho’s dissertation is entitled, “Comparing Score Trends on High-Stakes and Low-Stakes Tests Using Metric-Free Statistics and Multidimensional Item Response Models.”



Prof. Noga Admon

The 2007 AERA Division J – Postsecondary Education Dissertation of the Year Committee selected Visiting Assistant Professor **Noga Admon** as the recipient of the Commendation Honors Award, for her dissertation, “Hispanic Students and the Decision to Attend a Community College.”

AERA Division H – School Evaluation and Program Development appointed Measurement and Statistics doctoral student **Vernita Morgan** as a representative to the its Graduate Student Council.

Last year, **Karen Wohlwend**, doctoral candidate in Language, Literacy, and Culture, received AERA’s first-ever Emerging Scholar Award from the Language and Social Processes Special Interest Group. This year, Wohlwend was named a finalist for the Outstanding Student Research Award at the 2007 National Reading Conference, awarded for a paper based on her dissertation research, entitled “Kindergarten as Nexus of Practice: A Mediated Discourse Analysis of Reading, Writing, Play, and Design in an Early Literacy Apprenticeship.”

ePortfolio™ Finalist for Iowa Prometheus Award

The popular ePortfolio™ was named a finalist for the Top Government Technology of the Year category at the Technology Association of Iowa’s 2007 Prometheus Awards.

Created in 1996, the ePortfolio™ is an innovative, Web-based portfolio for recording and tracking education students’ progress toward meeting academic and state licensing requirements. The framework allows students to develop their skills, reflect on their practice, and showcase their strengths – in the form of text, photos, and multimedia – to faculty, assessors, and prospective employers.

Buchheit Named Iowa’s Student Employee of the Year

Rehabilitation Counseling student **Jill Buchheit**, who has worked tirelessly to provide services to sexual assault victims, has been named The University of Iowa Student Employee of the Year. Buch-



Jill Buchheit

heit works as a rural counties assistant with the Rape Victim Advocacy Program.

Karla Miller, RVAP executive director, said, “Jill has led many new initiatives, including researching, developing, and distributing new materials for individuals with disabilities and those who face unique barriers in rural communities. Based on the skills and knowledge she has gained in her UI coursework, she has provided new insights into our work.”

During her time with RVAP, Buchheit has co-facilitated an at-risk girls’ group at an area high school, provided ongoing counseling for sexual assault survivors, developed a curriculum on health relationships and safe dating for several area high schools, and established an interlibrary loan system for RVAP library books to be loaned to small libraries in Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, and Washington counties, just to name a few of her many accomplishments.

Also recognized was **Stacy Duffy**, an elementary education student from Cedar Rapids, who received a certificate of appreciation for her work as a tutor in the UI America Reads Program.

College of Education Ranks
19th Best Public, 28th Best Overall



In its 2008 report on the nation's best graduate school programs, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked The University of Iowa College of

Education 19th best among public schools granting doctoral degrees. Among all schools assessed, both public and private, the College ranked 28th.

Specialty programs within the College of Education also continue to rank highly, according to the 2008 *America's Best Graduate Schools*. Top ranking programs as compared to other public universities include:

- Rehabilitation Counseling #4
- Higher Ed Administration #12
- Counseling/Personnel Services #12
- Educational Psychology #15
- Psychological and Quantitative Foundations #20

"The University of Iowa strives continuously to distinguish itself academically among public universities, and rankings such as these only underscore how successful many of our colleges and programs have been at achieving excellence," UI Interim President Gary Fethke said.

"The rankings are really a tribute to all the people in these programs, including the deans, department heads, faculty, staff, and students. I am grateful to all of them for their efforts to make the University of Iowa distinctive."

John Keller, dean of the Graduate College, said he's pleased that a number of the university's graduate program offerings have again been recognized as among the best in the nation.

"Not only have our traditionally strong

programs maintained their top rankings," Keller said. "This recognition, amongst other indicators, reflects well on the strength and breadth of the graduate program offerings at the University of Iowa and is a tribute to our students and faculty."

This year, *U.S. News & World Report* surveyed graduate programs at 277 schools based on two types of data: expert opinion about program quality and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students.

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/459 Lindquist Center North/Iowa City, IA 52242-1529 or by e-mail to educationatiowa@uiowa.edu.

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