



Focus on STEM Research



Empowering Iowa's Math Teachers

Professors **Vicki Burketta** and **Walter Seaman** have entered the second phase of a research project that aims to improve student achievement in mathematics by providing professional development experiences for teachers.

EMPOWERR II, an acronym for Elementary Mathematics Partnership Opening Windows to Excellence, Rigor, and Relevance, is a follow-up to the \$450,000 grant EMPOWERR I project the two worked on from 2008-2011. Both projects were funded through grants from *No Child Left Behind's* Mathematics and Science Partnership Fund, and administered by the Board of Regents State of Iowa and the Iowa Department of Education. The latest project chapter is a one-year grant for \$132,000.

The money goes toward training approximately 65 mathematics teachers at three local elementary schools who also participated in EMPOWERR I.

"In the first grant, we generated a fair amount of student and teacher mathematics achievement data and information that told us teachers were implementing reform teaching practices in math classes they teach," Seaman said. "In EMPOWERR II, we're trying to get some quantifiable data about how much, how often, and what type of reform they have been implementing."

The work also includes teacher training and fostering teacher leaders to continue the work past the grant period.

Seaman and Burketta are quantifying implementation results and plan to publish findings about the impact of the project on teaching practices, teacher mathematics knowledge, and student achievement. They will also investigate the transferability of the project model to other schools or other settings.

College Recognized for Online Excellence

U.S. News & World Report recognized the College of Education several times in its 2012 edition of Top Online Education Program rankings.

The College of Education ranked No. 4 out of 171 institutions in the area of "Admissions Selectivity" for graduate programs in education and No. 62 in the area of "Student Services and Technology."

The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, which has the option of obtaining a Principal Licensure, is offered exclusively online, and currently enrolls 18 students.



Learn more about the College's online learning opportunities at:

www.education.uiowa.edu/distance_ed.

Perspectives

“When their worlds are filled with scheduled activities and they have little or no downtime, they miss out on relaxing and on learning how to entertain themselves,” Linebarger said, adding that “downtime is key for re-energizing one's self and moving forward.”

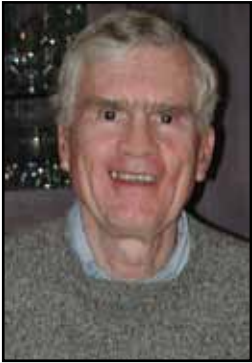


Associate Professor **Deborah Linebarger** commenting on how children need a little boredom because it provides opportunities to be creative, invent things to do and “relax a bit and dream.” (*Des Moines Register.com Jan 20.*)

Read more at www.education.uiowa.edu/news

Public Engagement

Hood Establishes University of Iowa's Senior College



Professor Emeritus Al Hood encourages lifelong learning.

Student Affairs Professor Emeritus **Al Hood** helped start an adult learning program ten years ago that has been a source of enjoyment and intellectual stimulation for hundreds of seniors in eastern Iowa and beyond ever since.

Hood, who retired in 2001, initiated the Senior College, which offers courses on a variety of topics for seniors. In its first semester, the program offered four courses. This spring, the Senior College is offering 10 courses on topics such as astronomy, architecture, economics, Shakespeare, and even college

basketball's March Madness.

Hood, along with three other College of Education retirees, continues to be a board member. Professor Emeritus **H.D. Hoover** (MA '67/PhD '69), **Judith Hendershot** (BA '57)—the College's former placement director, and Professor Emeritus **Bea Furner** (MA '63/PhD '67) are on the committee, as was Professor Emeritus **Dick Dustin** previously.

Hood said the purpose of the program is to provide seniors with a chance to remain intellectually active.

He said he likes having the courses offered on campus whenever possible so that traditional students and senior students can rub elbows.

"It's great for the younger students to see people still interested in learning," he said.

Hendershot said Senior College is one of her favorite activities in retirement.

"It certainly proves that retirees don't quit learning," she said, noting that the program recorded over 800 course registrations last year.

Furner said she enjoys her committee involvement.

"It's a group of people that care about learning, cares about the University, and is interested in learning new or revisiting topics," she said. "I enjoy meeting and interacting with new participants as well as seeing familiar faces."

Furner noted that one of the Senior College's strengths is its instructors. The program draws from the best of the best in the community and on campus,



With the wide variety of courses, the Senior College has something of interest for everyone.

Photo courtesy of UIAA



Professor Emeritus Bea Furner organizes Senior College courses.

Photo courtesy of UIAA

including many retired professors, and gives them a chance to teach a topic they care about to an exceptionally interested, engaged audience.

Hoover has taught two courses for Senior College—one on the history and art of maps and one on the history of testing in education.

"They're wonderful classes to teach," Hoover said. "I taught at the UI a long time. I was a statistics professor and I loved it, but I've never had better students than these seniors. They want to learn something."

Although the program is closely tied with the University of Iowa—the Emeritus Faculty Association and Retirees Association are cosponsors and the UI Alumni Association provides support—Hood

said it's a misconception that attendees must be affiliated with the university.

"We're open to all retired people," Hood said, "and we actually don't require anybody to be retired."

For more information about UI Senior College learning opportunities, visit:

www.iowalum.com/srcollege/

Photo courtesy of UIAA

Adult learners registered for over 800 Senior College courses last year.

Honors and Awards

2012 Obermann Fellows

Graduate Fellows

The Obermann Graduate Institute on Public Engagement and the Academy selected four College of Education doctoral students as Fellows. This opportunity allows them to explore how civic engagement can enhance teaching, research, and creative work.

Lenore Maybaum— Language, Literacy, & Culture

Maybaum's research is grounded in her classroom experiences with adult learners at Kirkwood Community College, where she teaches as a full-time faculty member in the English Department.



Maybaum aims to work with local G.E.D. students drawing on their literacy histories as the generative grounds from which "language experience stories" will be created and shared in a public reading.

disadvantage, the academic achievement gap between white and black students.

Onwuameze plans to implement a project that can link the University of Iowa and the community with academically at-risk high school students. She hopes that the university-community collaboration will serve as the platform for achievement and success for these students.

Nkechi Onwuameze— Schools, Culture & Society

Onwuameze's academic interests include studying risk factors associated with educational inequality and social



Wendy Miller— Art Education

Miller is a nationally board certified art teacher who has taught elementary art for 10 years in the public schools. She is now an instructor and graduate studies coordinator for Art Education at the University of Northern Iowa.



Her work currently focuses on socially engaged art practices with public school art teachers throughout Iowa. She also teaches art in places like the Iowa Juvenile Home. Her research interests include bookmaking with incarcerated women and girls, using technology with pre-service teachers for reflection, and collaborative art-making processes.



Kira Pasquesi—Higher Ed and Student Affairs

Pasquesi has coordinated civic engagement efforts at Colorado College, where she taught community organizing to student activists and supported faculty in

community-based learning and research. She organized a program where college students coached underrepresented middle and high school students to create student-led social action projects.

Her current research interests include the civic mission of higher education and democratic community partnerships.



UI's Mom of the Year Honored

In an Iowa tradition that dates back over 50 years, the University of Iowa named Mary Brown Mom of the Year. Brown was nominated by her daughter, **Beth Ackerson** (BM '00/MA '08).

Ackerson said her mother, who holds two master's degrees from the UI, continues to inspire and provide guidance and support as she completes her doctoral degree in educational psychology.

Ackerson has been an elementary music teacher in the Iowa City Community School District for over a decade. She said she became interested in educational psychology in her fourth year of teaching through an in-service about incorporating reading and reading strategies into the music classroom.

"After I graduate, I hope to develop new curricular materials for elementary students and continue action research in the classroom setting," she said.

"My mom's heroism is echoed in many University of Iowa students' parents," she said. "She represents the kindness, patience, strength, and support that all Hawkeye students need and deserve from their parents."

Undergraduate Fellow —Mackenzie O'Connor

The Obermann Center for Advanced Studies named **Mackenzie O'Connor**, who is majoring in English and Secondary Teacher Education with Talented and Gifted and Reading endorsements, an Undergraduate Fellow.



"Mackenzie's work with adult immigrant students is best described as an example of publicly engaged scholarship," Associate Professor **Carolyn Colvin** said. "She is the ideal teacher and student—engaged, curious, and anxious to learn more."

Honors and Awards

REACH Dorm Named Outstanding

The National Association of College and University Residence Halls recognized University of Iowa Stanley Residence Hall's 10th floor as its outstanding Community of the Month in October. Resident Assistants **Ericka Tank**, **Hannah Zimmerman**, and **Beth Cline** were noted for providing outstanding support for the residents.

Tenth floor Stanley is home to traditional students and the REACH (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes) community. REACH, a two-year transition certification program for students with intellectual, cognitive, and learning disabilities, teaches students how to become independent, career-oriented, and sociable.

RAs stressed community with their residents.

"We acknowledged we had two distinct communities and no matter how much each identity differs from another, we are still all one community: We are 10th floor Stanley. We are all University of Iowa students. We all want to feel accepted, and we all want to become friends," Tank said.

Traditional and REACH residents alike were curious about each other and wanted to find out more about the other. Both communities addressed their differences but really strived to support the community.



"When I walk through the halls or have my door open, I can hear all residents joking with each other, laughing together, and comforting each other in times of need," Tank said. "It is a great feeling—a feeling of unity, belonging, and hope for the future."

Tank says she also sees the residents support one another's interests and whatever paths they've chosen, and how they trust one another and seek each other for advice and comfort on decisions.

When walking to class the other day, two REACH residents and a traditional student could be seen greeting each other and stopping in the midst of students changing classes to talk.

"Our community really has become one big 10th-floor Stanley community," she said. "Although each resident has been able to maintain his or her own identity, they have also accepted each other's. All residents have truly gone up and out of their way to contribute to a united community."

