

IOWA ACADEMY OF EDUCATION
Fall Meeting, October 29, 2021
<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/97417096161>

Executive Council:

Carla Peterson, Past President
 Amanda Haertling Thein, President
 Michele Devlin, President-Elect

Liz Hollingworth, Secretary
 Jo Vaske, Treasurer/Executive Director
 Donald Hackmann, At-Large Member
 Jennifer Waldron, At-Large Member

Present: Marlene Strathe, Liz Hollingworth, Gabriela Olivares, Robert Reason, Carl Weems, Susan Etscheidt, Connie Hargrave, Anne Foegen, Amanda Thein, Jeff Weld, Lia Plakans, Jen Waldron, Denise Crawford, Greg Welk, Carla Peterson, Ann Thompson, Sherry Watt, members, and Jo Vaske, Executive Director. Guest: Alex Milona, grandson of Tom Urban.

Absent: Brian Hand, Dan Clay, Don Yarbrough, Megan Foley Nicpon, Michele Devlin, Nick Bowman, Saba Rasheed Ali, Susan Assouline, Won Chan Lee

- 9:00- 9:15 Welcome and remarks by Amanda Haertling Thein, President, Iowa Academy of Education. Amanda thanked Jo Vaske for helping with the agenda and Debbie Baker for setting up the virtual meeting. Amanda gave an overview of the plan for the meeting today. She recognized the pressures from the pandemic and invited members to introduce themselves.
- 9:15-9:25 Jo Vaske gave a brief history of the Thomas N. Urban Research Award which was created by the First in the Nation in Education (FINE) Foundation in 1997 (FINE closed in 2007). Tom Urban was a member of FINE’s governing board at the time. Recognizing Tom’s dedication to rigorous research in education, industry, and society, FINE named the research award in his honor. Tom served as a Chairman of Pioneer Hi-Bred for over 30 years, during which time the company became a giant in agricultural progress not only in the United States but internationally. The annual Thomas N. Urban Award is funded by Tom Urban’s family foundation, The Weathertop Foundation, and has been conferred 13 times. Descriptions of these awardees may be found on IAE’s webpage: <https://iae.education.uiowa.edu/>
 Dr. Shawn Datchuk, the 2021 awardee, is the 14th recipient of the award. In addition to the \$3,000 gift from the Weathertop Foundation, Shawn will be presented with an engraved crystal award from the Iowa Academy of Education. Sadly, Tom Urban passed away last year, but we are pleased that his grandson, Alex Milona, is here to represent the family. Jo introduced Alex to the Academy. He attended UI College of Law and is a practicing attorney in Des Moines. Alex thanked Jo for the introduction, greeted Shawn, and shared a favorite story of his grandfather: Tom once asked Alex to study the pizza place where they were having dinner and create a business plan for it.
- 9:25-9:30 Lia introduced Dr. Shawn Datchuk, recipient of the 2021 Thomas N. Urban Research Award. Shawn is an Associate Professor at the University of Iowa, and his research is in special education and elementary writing instruction. He is a former K-12 special education teacher.

9:30-10:30 Presentation by and discussion with Dr. Shawn Datchuk, Associate Professor of Special Education, University of Iowa: *Accounting for Levels of Language in Narrative and Expository Writing: A Skills Analysis of Second Grade Writing*. A link to the PowerPoint for the talk is here: <https://tinyurl.com/UrbanResearch2021>

Shawn began his presentation with a breakdown of writing development (words, sentences, discourse; and transcription, text generation, self-regulation) and the role of memory. He then talked about special education approaches to screening and progress monitoring for students who are struggling to write (e.g. Curriculum Based Measurement). Shawn described how to score student writing for research, giving an example using correct writing sequences (CSW) and correct minus incorrect writing sequences (CIWS).

Shawn then shared a recent manuscript analyzing second-grade students' writing to both clarify the relationship between multiple levels of language and investigate the heuristic for scoring to inform instruction. Shawn gave examples of scoring data and examined interscorer agreement for a large, randomized controlled trial. Research question 1 was: What are the common sentence structures and writing errors in the written connected text of second-grade students? Most common sentence structures were *incomplete*.

Research question 2 was: Is there a difference in sentence structures and writing errors between high and low risk students in their written connected text? Results indicated a statistically significant difference between high and low risk students in spelling errors and total writing sequences.

Findings: levels of language are related but semi-independent. Implications: there is need for high-quality core instruction that benefits all writers.

A second study looked at the level and trend of writing sequences, which was based on 15 single-case experimental design students. Explored how writing interventions affected writing skills.

Questions from the Academy:

Jeff Weld wondered about the implications for large scale assessment around genre preferences for students. Shawn responded that another study found that it would require 15 test administrations to get an accurate evaluation of student writing skill. There is a debate about how to assess student writing or can it even be done well.

Lia Plakans asked about the teaching and assessment of the writing process. Shawn said CBM is a fluency assessment tool to look at as a first draft, not a process.

Liz Hollingworth asked what is next in the field. Shawn said teachers spend only 20 minutes a week teaching writing. The focus is on reading. Shawn is planning to do some national advocacy for a discussion of increasing the time for writing instruction. He is also looking into preparing pre-service teachers for instructing writing. Ultimate goals are to work on a scoring system that is automated and research computer-based instruction.

- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-10:50 Anne Foegen introduced Dr. Jeanne Connelly, recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Dissertation Award. Connie Hargrave and Anne served on Jeanne’s dissertation committee at Iowa State University. The dissertation used a three-paper format. Jeanne is a former special education teacher with expertise in emotional- behavior disorders.
- 10:50-11:50 Presentation by and discussion with Dr. Jeanne Connelly, Assistant Professor, Special Education Department, Metro State University, Denver: *Cultural work: Whitepower-normalcy and knowledge-power intersections in special education practice and scholarship*. Dissertation available here: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/etd/18480/>

Jeanne’s research focuses on inequitable outcomes in special education and a critical interrogation of the school structures that allow disproportionality to continue. Her work used Disability Critical Race Scholarship (DisCrit), a new theoretical approach (2016), which states that race and disability are social constructions. She then talked about the cultural work ideology that centers Whiteness rather than race and Normalcy rather than ability.

Study 1 centered on Black family advocacy in Special Education. Jeanne focused on women in four families. She examined the different kinds of capital held by the families, including aspirational, navigational, resistant, social, familial, and linguistic.

Study 2 looked at the technologies of behavioral intervention (PBIS, FBA, TIER2), which use technical data to show “progress” through abstractions. These data are then used to marginalize people and constrain teachers. The implications for special education teachers include ethical decisions of care and a holistic view that is asset-based.

Study 3 examined the power dynamics within an Ethics Review Board. Jeanne’s use of critical race theory triggered an additional layer of review by the Institutional Review Board. This was an autobiographical study of how the rules were applied to her work. The IRB considered that ethics are considered an outcome, not a process. This study raises the questions: Is IRB procedural monitoring or ethics monitoring, and how do scholars resist the system in order to be a critical scholar?

Jeanne explained how to integrate this knowledge in teacher education. She said that tacit intentionality names disparities in educational outcomes as the logical outcome to distribute access and opportunity. She cited Gorski’s use of structural ideology as a counter ideology to ask teacher educators to help pre-service teachers develop a language to problematize deficit narratives of race, ability, and goodness.

Kathy Whitmore joined the meeting for Jeanne’s presentation and was greeted by Amanda. Kathy is a former UI professor and is the Department Chair of Jeanne’s department at Metropolitan State University in Denver.

Questions from the Academy and guests:

Shawn Datchuk asked about disability advocates who argue for keeping special education “special” or upending the problematic structures. Jeanne talked about the

people who are excluded in the system and how disproportionality in behavior education is interrogated and studied.

Ann Thompson, chaired of the Outstanding Dissertation Committee, remarked that the dissertation was innovative and well-written. Ann asked what Jeanne learned from the interviews with the families. Jeanne responded that she learned about balancing the power knowledge dynamic when conducting research. She talked about how aware the Black families were of the structural inequities in the education system. Jeanne heard their stories of how hard it was for the families to access the services the students needed.

Carla Peterson asked what the research means for educator preparation curriculum. For example, what kinds of experiences will help pre-service teachers work with families, and what is the role of connecting with families for special education. Jeanne said the idea of teachers as cultural workers is unusual in teacher education. She believes there is a need to provide teacher candidates firsthand interactions with people from marginalized identity groups and a need to help teachers become critical consumers of textbooks.

Anne Foegen asked about the differences in student demographics at Metro State and Iowa State and what might be possibilities for moving the work forward with more diverse populations.

BREAK

12:05-1:00 Lunch – During lunch, each IAE member shared recent research and scholarly activities.

Liz Hollingworth shared that, after David Bills' passing, she assumed the role of Designated Education Officer at UI. She talked about David's influence on her and others in the College of Education and that he is sorely missed. Ann Thompson suggested that to honor David's memory members could all step up for the IAE and be more like David. Carla remembered David's statement on *Education as a Public Good*, and Bob agreed that Academy should do something more with that statement.

Bob Reason is an associate dean at ISU. He reported that his book with a colleague from Michigan State has been published and that he has an edited book under review. He is now starting a research project on rural students going to college. He is creating a set of tools to be used in communities to improve college access. Bob also recommended reading the recently-published book, *What Universities Owe Democracy*, by Ronald J. Daniels, Johns Hopkins University Press (2021).

Carl Weems said that he has been thinking about IAE's website as a resource for the work IAE members have been doing that might be useful to educators in Iowa. He is working on a systematic review of anti-racist programming for schools. He is also expanding *Parenting: It's a Life* curriculum.

Carla Peterson is working on home visiting research. She is using coaching positive parent child interactions. She wrote a chapter for a new textbook on working with parents of infants and toddlers.

Lia Plakans is in her fifth year as department chair. She is working on an invited piece on writing assessment with multilingual learners. The field has not been actively anti-racist in the past. She is wrapping up a grant with pre-service and in-service teachers in supporting multilinguals in the classroom. She is also working on a study of the FAST test, used in Iowa, and the dual language school districts that have been using the Spanish-language version of the test. Teachers are saying the Spanish FAST norms are inaccurate for their populations. Lia has been working with a district to do benchmarking in their district.

Marlene Strathe expressed concern about the politicization of public schooling in Iowa and our inability to stop the intrusion of politics. The Department of Education is no longer asked to provide background and research to the Iowa Legislature. Bob mentioned there is a PAC in Ames supporting school board candidates. Carla said Governor Reynolds publicly supported some suburban school board candidates. Marlene then asked about campus push back on Critical Race Theory (CRT). Amanda reported that at UI the legislation says CRT cannot be talked about in mandatory training for staff and faculty. In teaching, instructors have academic freedom. Bob said that at ISU instructors are told to be careful in required courses. He added that according to General Counsel at ISU race, gender, and sex are germane to the study of education. Lia said that Young Americans for Freedom are posting syllabi from classes. There is concern about the impact on our faculty of color and on our schools. Carla talked about the administrator preparation program's school improvement program assignments. There was some concern about clinical students doing professional development around race. It was decided it would not be ISU's responsibility to determine whether or not it was "mandatory education."

Amanda Haertling Thein stated that she is now Dean of the Graduate College at Iowa.

Ann Thompson thanked the 2021 dissertation committee members and explained that at the last minute, the member from UI was unable to serve. An emeritus member from UI served in her place. Ann suggested the Academy consider how to involve emeritus members in ways like this.

1:00 – 3:00

Business Meeting

1. Call to order by President Amanda Thein.
2. Approve minutes of Spring 2021 Meeting (sent prior to the meeting). Amanda asked if there were any questions or amendments. Denise Crawford moved to approve the minutes. Susan Etscheidt seconded. All members approved: Yes (13), No (0), Abstain (0)
3. Approve Treasurer's Report by Jo Vaske (sent prior to the meeting). Amanda asked if there were any questions or amendments. Jo reminded people that the Academy has received the 2021 gift from UNI; it is no longer an "estimated income" as shown on the report. Carla moved to approve the report. Susan seconded. All members approved.
4. Ryan Brooks, financial advisor, Cambridge Investment Research (CIR), joined the meeting to give an update on our investments and answer questions.

Amanda welcomed Ryan. He said he has sent copies of the documents he is sharing to Jo for distribution to the Academy. Ryan said he first came three years ago to talk with the Academy about investment philosophy. Since then the investment world has changed considerably. He provided background on how CIR does investments. The majority is asset allocation, not timing the market. A year ago, because of uncertainty, many areas of market were unpredictable. CIR transitioned to maintaining the IAE account conservatively. Currently, 37% of the portfolio is in cash. YTD performance is literally 50% of the portfolio is realizing a 5.1% return, and 40% is a cash drag. Because the markets are doing extremely well, it appears that our account is not doing as well as it should. CIR is acting cautiously given the current inflation, which seems unpredictable, and may last through 2023, and because they are expecting a correction in the market. It seems there is optimism for the future. Interest rates should increase a little in the next year He is recommending we add commodity with this coming year. At this time, he does not recommend bonds because of low interest rates. He recommends investing, for a short period of time, in certain large companies with low volatility (such as Coca-Cola, 3M, Walgreens). In short, Ryan's understanding is that the IAE is trying to make some money but not at a high risk. He is trying to achieve some yield from secure companies. We have quite a few already (Kraft, Verizon...). Lastly, he shared YTD, real estate was our highest performing asset class (commercial). He reviewed the different kinds of investments in our portfolio. Some areas had negative growth. The good news is that we are sitting on a lot of liquidity. When the market adjusts, we should be able to get into some areas at a reasonable price.

After Ryan left the meeting, Bob asked if the IAE has an investment philosophy; e.g. social choice or environmental? Some investments (e.g., oil) might not align with that. No one recalled that we had ever talked about an investment philosophy, but there seemed to be agreement that we should have that discussion. A subcommittee, Bob and Carla, agreed to work on this. Others are welcome to join the sub-committee if interested. Bob is going to look up guiding philosophies, related to where we invest. It was suggested that we need to inform Ryan of our concern before he invests more. The committee will put something together and send it to members via email. The Academy will discuss it and vote. Carl suggested we keep the long game in mind.

5. Executive Director's Report by Jo Vaske (sent prior to the meeting).

Amanda asked Jo for highlights. Jo said there was a lot of activity this year. She thanked the officers for serving for two terms (not the usual one term) in these difficult times. In the EC report, Jo reported that David Bills was the only individual (other than the Executive Director) who had authority to write checks for the Academy. With David's passing, Liz agreed to serve in this role. It is advantageous to have a UI member in this role since our bank and the trophy place that engraves new member plates are both located in Iowa City.

Support Services, Item C. Jo reported that the three committees were busy this year and thanked them for their work. We added one new member and named recipients for both the Urban Research and Outstanding Dissertation awards.

Item E, Taxes. We have a tax consultant with integrity who determined we could submit a post card rather than a complete 990. Our annual cost for tax preparation fell from \$300 to \$100.

Item F, Gifts to the IAE. The financial agreements with the three universities expired at the end of 2020. They were renewed in 2021. ISU and UI renewed their agreements for a period of three years. UNI requested a one- year contract, renewable each year. The Executive Council discussed the request and agreed to this condition. Carla thanked Jo and the Executive Council for giving us more information this year on the Urban Award and Tom Urban.

Item G, Executive Council. Jo reported that the Executive Council has been especially busy this year. The Council approved three proposals to present to the full Academy. These proposals will be discussed and acted upon later in our business meeting.

6. Discussion and vote on recommendations proposed by the Executive Council:

Amanda read all three proposals and then went back and asked for discussion of and vote on each one:

- a. Should the Iowa Academy of Education rename the annual Outstanding Dissertation Award (created by David Bills who passed away suddenly this summer) to The David Bills Outstanding Dissertation Award?

Amanda called for discussion. Carla supported the proposal, stating that the Outstanding Dissertation competition was David's idea, and he chaired the Outstanding Dissertation Committee several times. Renaming the award would be a nice tribute to David. Carla moved to name the award after David. Bob seconded. 13 votes in favor (all present).

[Note: One member was present and voted affirmatively on each of these items. He was unable to use his camera, so his vote was not seen or recorded. His vote has now been added to the tally of votes.]

- b. Should the Academy amend the Constitution in order to grant emeritus status to David Bills?

Currently, the Constitution states: "emeritus status is granted by a majority vote of the Members to Members who:

1. request such status; or
2. move their permanent professional position out of Iowa."

In David's case, neither criterion was met.

In order to grant emeritus status to David Bills, Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution should include a third condition; e.g.,

3. are members in good standing who have made substantial contributions to the Academy but were personally incapable of requesting such status.

Bob and Amanda liked the addition of the phrase “members in good standing who have made substantial contributions” but suggested including it as part of the introduction to the article rather than as a third criterion. In addition, Carl suggested deleting the words “for reasons such as death or significant impairment” from the proposed language for criterion 3.

The revised Article III, Section 3 reads:

Emeritus status is granted by a majority vote of the Members to Members in good standing who have made substantial contributions to the Academy and who:

1. request such status; or
2. move their permanent professional position out of Iowa; or
3. were personally incapable of requesting such status.

Marlene moved to approve the motion to amend the Constitution, Article III, Section 3; Anne Foegen seconded.

The vote was unanimous. Yes (14), No (0), Abstain (0).

c. Should the IAE grant emeritus status to David Bills?

Bob moved to approve the motion; Carla seconded.

The vote was unanimous. Yes (14), No (0), Abstain (0).

7. Nomination and Election of Officers conducted by President Amanda Thein. Three offices need to be filled: President-Elect from ISU (three-year term); Secretary (two-year term); and one at-large member to serve on the Executive Council. Jennifer Waldron will be serving in her second year on the council. Donald Hackmann has retired and moved to Emeritus status. We need to elect a member to fill this opening.

Carla nominated Bob Reason for the office of president elect. Carl seconded it. Bob accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous. Yes (14), No (0), Abstain (0).

Jen nominated Gabi for the office of secretary. Susan seconded it.

Gabi accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous. Yes (14), No (0), Abstain (0).

Liz nominated herself for the at-large member of Executive Council. The vote was unanimous. Yes (14), No (0), Abstain (0).

8. Amanda announced the President’s appointments of 2021 Committee Chairs and Members:
- a. Membership Committee
 1. Chair: Bob Reason, ISU
 2. Members: Nick Bowman, UI, and Susan Etscheidt, UNI
 - b. Urban Award Committee
 1. Chair: Marlene Strathe, ISU

2. Members: Won-Chan Lee, UI, and Jennifer Waldron, UNI
 - c. David Bills Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee
 1. Chair: Ann Thompson, ISU
 2. Members: Jeff Weld, UNI, and Megan Foley Nicpon, UI
9. Reports from 2021 committee chairs.
 - a. Bob Reason, Chair, Membership Committee, reported that we currently have 26 active members: 12 from UI, 9 from ISU, 5 from UNI. The Constitution limits the number of active members to 30. We have four open positions to fill. When nominating new members, Bob encouraged members to focus on diversification of our membership in all its forms, including considering qualified individuals from non-Regents institutions. Criteria include outstanding scholarship related to teaching and learning, respect and recognition among peers, and a significant contribution to education.
 - b. Marlene Strathe, Chair, Thomas N. Urban Award Committee, reported there was only one nomination this year. The committee agreed that the nominee's work was worthy of the award. Because a question came up this year, Marlene affirmed that the nominated research needs to have appeared in print. It cannot be "in press."
 - c. Ann Thompson, Chair, Outstanding Dissertation Committee, reported there were three nominations this year. She encouraged members to begin thinking about possible nominees for 2022.
10. Induction of new member.

Liz Hollingworth introduced new member Sherry Watt, University of Iowa, and presented her with her engraved plate. Sherry was nominated by David Bills. She shared some of her memories of David. Sherry is working on a book that looks at identity research to address difficult conversations. She has been examining "ways of being" that help people to stay present in difficult dialogues and have the stamina to sit with the hard conversations. It is a framework to create ongoing, productive success. Members introduced themselves to Sherry and warmly welcomed her into the Academy.
11. Set Spring Meeting date. The Spring meeting will be held on **Friday, April 15, 2022, at the University of Iowa**. Liz will work with Deb Baker to make meeting arrangements.

2:30 Adjourn

Submitted by Liz Hollingworth, Secretary