Olive Mwihaki Mugenda (MS ’83, PhD ’89 Fam Env) shattered a glass ceiling when she became the first female vice chancellor to serve one of Kenya’s six public universities. As vice chancellor of Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Mugenda heads an institution with 20,000 students.

Mugenda says that she is up to the task. “I will share my vision ... so we can work together and transform the university,” she said.

The power of ‘mental velcro’

Learning that sticks

By Kevin Brown

An innovative method for teaching science to Iowa’s K-6 students has the potential to close the achievement gap between male and female students and improve student learning of science comprehension and skills at all levels.

The program, designed by education professors in the College of Human Sciences, also helps low-income and special needs students improve their science education skills. Those same students also showed marked improvement in language and reading scores.

It is a model that one administrator in the Woodward-Granger Community School District recently described as “mental velcro” — learning that sticks.

Recent data analysis on the program shows that students in grades 3–6 who receive special education assistance had a 25% increase in their science scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills compared to other students. A similar percentage increase is seen in both science and language measures for students who live at the poverty level.

Traditionally, the teaching of science for Iowa’s K-6 grade students was based on the memorization of materials outlined in a textbook. Students often missed the whys of what happened in the learning projects and focused largely on the answers sure to be asked on the multiple choice test. Students rarely understood the purpose of the experiment or the
In response, the Iowa Department of Education in 2004 initiated the three-year, $600,000 research study in six Iowa school districts on the new teaching method, called Science Writing Heuristic (heuristic means tool) or SWH. The new model mates writing and language arts to science. Led by Brian Hand, an affiliate professor of curriculum and instruction at Iowa State and professor of education at the University of Iowa, and Lori Norton-Meier, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at Iowa State, the project focuses on active student participation in the learning process.

“While the teacher supports and guides the students in their experiments, it is the students who develop the questions, test the hypothesis or theory, make the observations, arrive at claims to what they have experienced, prepare a report on the evidence, [compare] their results with others, and reflect on what they have learned,” Norton-Meier said about the SWH approach.

For example, she said, one experiment has students test which will sink first in a tank of water – regular or diet soda.

“The students begin by touching and feeling the weight of both cans of soda,” Norton-Meier said. “They are asked to then write down what they think will happen in the experiment and why. When the can of regular soda sinks quicker than the diet can (because of its sugar content), the students are asked to examine why that was the result. They are encouraged to talk to each other and suggest possibilities aloud. Then, they will make claims, examine the evidence, and prepare reports on the conclusions.”

Cheryl Achterberg, Dean
Norton-Meier said the program builds students' critical thinking and problem solving skills.

“Students are encouraged to do what actual scientists do,” she said. “The students prepare and defend an argument or position on an activity. They talk with their peers about it, they show what they have experienced and they write about it. The more writing and classroom discussions, the more intriguing the learning becomes. We also relate the experiments to the real-world and stress how science and chemistry are important at home, too.”

For example, she said, students are given a brown bag filled with candies. The students are each allowed to touch, shake and otherwise examine the bag and its mysterious contents. They then work together to determine what's inside.

Pam Armstrong-Vogel, director of curriculum and instruction for the Woodward-Granger School District, said that while the positive results on learning are significant alone, students also say that learning science is more fun.

“Just as important as the data is the fact that students are reporting to their teachers an increased enjoyment of science,” Armstrong-Vogel said. “Teachers using SWH say that students frequently ask, ‘Do we get to do science today?’ What better testament is there to learning?”

Norton-Meier said the researchers are working now to get specific results on student achievement.

Student center will be named for Sally Rapp Beisser

Human Sciences alumni unite to support better space for student learning and living

College of Human Sciences students will soon gather in a sunlit showcase overlooking central campus, thanks in part to generous gifts from alumni. Workers are transforming the main floor of MacKay’s east wing into the Sally Rapp Beisser Student Services Center.

The rejuvenated Human Sciences space will house student recruitment efforts as well as offices for new student orientation, academic advising, international programs, multicultural programs, and career services. Student services and University Teacher Education Program offices will share the space, which will also include work areas, interview rooms, a conference room, areas for student socializing and a high-tech general university classroom.

A wall punctuated with views of central campus will border the center’s main corridor on one side. A curved screen of glass will offer views of gathering spaces and offices on the other.

Alumni have come together from both of the former colleges to support the renovations. Their collective pledges suggest great momentum for the larger college, now 39,000 alumni strong.

Barbara Palmer, who received a bachelor’s degree in household equipment from the former College of Family and Consumer Sciences, offered a challenge pledge of $200,000. Sally Rapp Beisser, and her husband, Kim Beisser, met Palmer’s challenge and also committed $200,000. Rapp Beisser holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education, a master’s degree in guidance and counseling, and a Ph.D. in
“I experienced an exceptional academic preparation for my professional life as a result of my Iowa State University education and am excited to commit to the development of the Student Services Center,” said Rapp Beisser. “Students are at the heart of the university mission and business at ISU. A well-orchestrated student center will serve many students, who will in turn, serve others with their skills, ambitions, and dispositions in order to develop human potential. I am grateful to be a participant in this endeavor.”

“It is important that these gifts came from both sides of the college,” said Palmer. “I have high hopes for the new college. I have known Cheryl Achterberg for some time and I want very much for this to be a success,” said Palmer.

“The pledges allow us to create a focal point for the college and serve students throughout their undergraduate careers — from their first campus visit through graduation. It will serve as a one-stop shop for advice, direction, internships, career counseling, and opportunities ranging from scholarships and credential files to student council programs and volunteer activities,” said Achterberg.

Administrative salary savings from the college’s inaugural year also support the project, which is slated for completion in the spring.

Students serve as national leaders

Yolanda Coil, a senior in health and human performance, learns from her faculty mentor, Joe Eisenmann, while analyzing cortisol levels in the pediatric exercise science laboratory. Coil was honored for delivering an outstanding research presentation at a national conference.

Outstanding presentation on health

Yolanda Coil, a senior in health and human performance, received first place for her oral presentation at the Annual McNair National Scholars Research Conference, in the Biological Science/Health division.

Elected leader in school nutrition

Janey Thornton, a doctoral student in foodservice and lodging management, has been elected president of the School Nutrition Association. Thornton is the child nutrition director for Hardin County School District in Elizabeth County, Ky.

Exceptional preservice science teacher

Suzanne Kehret, a senior in biology education from Norwalk, is the first preservice teacher ever named to the Teacher Preparation Committee of the National Science Teachers Association.

Exemplary student of the year

Melissa Wilmarth, a recent graduate in family and consumer sciences education and studies, was named Student of the Year by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Continued on next page
Measure for measure, a lonely human is a lonesome thing

By Lori Runkle

A lonely [hu]man is a lonesome thing, a stone, a bone, a stick, a receptacle for Gilbey’s gin, a stooped figure sitting at the edge of a hotel bed, heaving copious sighs like the autumn wind.

— John Cheever, 1912-1982

John Cheever, an American writer whose pen expressed the spiritual and emotional emptiness of life, captured the essence of loneliness with his imagery of gin and sighs. Dan Russell, a professor in human development and family studies, measures loneliness using the UCLA Loneliness Scale (Version 3).

“I have developed a lot of measures,” said Russell, a researcher in the field of personality and social psychology.

In addition to measuring loneliness, Russell has developed measures of causal attributions, social support, and attitudes toward breast feeding. As part of his dissertation research, he studied how people explain the causes of events in their lives. “If something bad happens to depressed people, [they see it as] their fault. If something good happens, they have nothing to do with it. Non-depressed people show the opposite pattern,” he said.

In 1980, Russell published the revised UCLA Loneliness Scale in the Journal Continued on next page
Measure for measure, continued

Dan Russell, a professor in human development and family studies, says that as college students age, the causes of their loneliness change.

Down in the dumps: What causes people to be lonely?

Have you ever felt blue, depressed, down in the dumps and lonely?

Like it or not, loneliness is part and parcel of the human condition.

What causes people to be lonely? What is it about their social relationships that cause them to be lonely? These are two questions that Russell spends a great deal of time trying to answer.

According to Russell, loneliness varies from person to person based on each individual’s expectations regarding social relationships and their actual relationships with others, or their social network. The causes of loneliness often change as people get older and the types of relationships that are important to them change.

“Loneliness is different than being alone,” Russell explained. “In general, people who are lonely have fewer close friends. But this isn’t always the case. Lonely people can have many close friends; whereas, people who aren’t lonely may not know anyone.”

Loneliness and college students

If you try to predict loneliness in college students, Russell said that as students get older, the causes of their loneliness are likely to change.

“If you are talking about freshmen and loneliness, it’s the lack of friends. If you are talking about seniors and graduate students, it’s the lack of a romantic dating relationship.”

This is a developmental shift from social loneliness to emotional loneliness. The state is the same, but what leads college students to be lonely changes based on their stage in life. “Older students are facing leaving college and adult relationships,” he said.

In a study at UCLA, Russell discovered that when new students first started college, 75 percent of those in his study said they were lonely after only two weeks on campus. After the spring quarter, however, only 25 percent were lonely.

“So much for loneliness being a personality trait or entirely genetically determined,” he commented. Events like going off to college can influence our level of loneliness. Moving to a new place, losing a family member, breaking up with a partner all affect levels of loneliness.

“What this all indicates is the importance of interpersonal relationships,” Russell said. “In my own life, in terms of social support, I try really hard to be supportive of friends and family.”

“Ideally, we want to help people cope with bad living situations…”

Dan Russell
Professor

Vulnerability and resiliency in African American parents

Russell is currently studying vulnerability and resiliency in African American parents in Iowa and Georgia. “Most of [this type of] research is done on white populations,” he said, so it is important to include other ethnic groups.

Russell and his research team began the longitudinal study ten years ago by videotaping interactions within 900 African American families. “The kids were 10 or 11 years old when we first started the study, and we were very interested in parenting [techniques],” he said. “We videotaped interactions between the parents and their kids and also between the parents themselves. It’s observational data, and it boils down to measuring warmth and hostility among the family members.”

The effects of neighborhood characteristics — such as crime or violence — on the parents and their children is also something the study measures.

In this study, Russell said as the years passed, they waited to see who succumbed to drinking, drugs, and depression. “We have been doing the study for 10 years, and are seeking funding for another five years,” he explained.

Continued on next page
Faculty and staff honors

Great cross-disciplinary research
Susan Hegland, Kathlene Larson, Lesia Oesterreich, Gayle Luze, and Carla Peterson received the Dean's Research Recognition Award from the College of Human Sciences for their study on preschool quality.

Distinguished service
Larry Ebbers, University professor of higher education, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Council for the Study of Community Colleges.

Incomparable mentoring
John Schuh, Distinguished professor of higher education, received the Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Exceptional educational research
Gary Phye, professor in curriculum and instruction, will be inducted into the Iowa Academy of Education.

Extraordinary guidance
Cindy Frederickson, academic advisor in health and human performance, was voted Advisor of the Year by the College of Human Sciences.

Admirable champion for equity
Carlie Tartakov, assistant professor emerita in curriculum and instruction, will be inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame.

Leadership in multicultural efforts
Yanira Pacheco-Ortiz, multicultural programs coordinator in the College of Human Sciences, received a CYtation Award from Iowa State, for establishing learning communities.

Alumni to receive awards

Alumni and friends, students, faculty, and staff will celebrate eight College of Human Sciences alumni who will be honored for outstanding achievement and service. These alums will be recognized at an all-university honors and awards ceremony on October 20.

Awards from the College of Human Sciences: Alumni Achievement Award, Mary (Mincer) Hansen (PhD Hg Ed ’93); Helen LeBaron Hilton Recognition, Bernard Henning (PhD Nutrition ’82); Lagomarcino Laureate Award, Christine Knupp (M.S. PRST ’90, PhD ’94); Outstanding Young Professional, Amanda R. Hastert Carter (El Ed ’03), Robert Reason (PhD Hg Ed ’01).

Awards from the Iowa State Alumni Association: Alumni Merit Award, Ann K. Cooper (H Ec Jrlm ’71); Impact Award, Gary Thompson (Phys Ed ’57); National Service Award, Sandra Hart Horton (Child Dev ’62).

For photos and more information, check out the Human Sciences Matters web site at www.hs.iastate.edu/news/hsmatters.

According to Russell, the practical applications of his research include helping people cope with bad living situations, creating effective intervention strategies for at risk youth and adults who are addicted to drugs and alcohol, teaching people to hone their coping skills when they find themselves in difficult situations, and training family members to support one another when a crisis or a negative life event unfolds.

“Ideally, we want to help people cope with bad living situations like neighborhoods with a lot of crime. This could involve developing support systems in their neighborhoods or helping people move [out of that neighborhood],” he said.

Programs earn national spotlight

Distinguished service to families
The Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14 has been named a Program of Distinction by the National 4-H, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Outstanding impact on health
The Lighten Up Iowa project received the Jeanne M. Priester Award from the National Network for Health. The award recognizes one state or multi-state extension project per year for positive impact on the health of people across the United States.
Overweight women exercise at higher exertion levels

Study may explain why heavier people are less likely to stick with a fitness program

An Iowa State University study suggests that overweight women choose to exercise at higher exertion levels than their normal weight counterparts, and thus find workouts more strenuous and less enjoyable.

The study by Panteleimon Ekkekakis, an associate professor in health and human performance, and masters student Erik Lind, was published in the April issue of the International Journal of Obesity.

The exercise intensity gap between women who are overweight and those of normal weight held true, even when exertion levels were prescribed by the researchers and were based slightly higher than each participant’s chosen exertion level.

Ekkekakis speculates that the higher exertion levels may help explain why overweight women are less likely to stick with prescribed exercise programs. With higher exertion comes a greater sense of displeasure, and that may lead exercisers to discontinue their program, he said.

The study suggests that overweight women should choose their own exercise exertion rate, rather than relying on a trainer to choose it for them.

For the study, Ekkekakis and Lind studied 16 overweight women and nine women of normal weight. Each of the women was 43 years old and healthy. All were sedentary before the study.

To read more about the study, go to the Human Sciences Matters web site at www.hs.iastate.edu/news/hsmatters.

A penny for your thoughts...

Well, actually we’re not giving away money. But we do want to capture your thoughts. Or, more precisely, your memories.

In preparation for the Iowa State University Sesquicentennial Celebration, a College of Human Sciences committee is collecting stories from people like you who share history with the college.

Stories you enter will be considered for publication on a web collection to help celebrate the rich history leading up to the College of Human Sciences.

Enter your story on the Stories web site at www.hs.iastate.edu/stories.

Or, send your story to Dynette Mosher, dmosher@iastate.edu, 38 MacKay Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1121.

And get ready to celebrate 150 years of excellence at Iowa State.
Kunz leads AESHM
Apparel expert succeeds Gregoire

A textiles and clothing expert is leading the Department of Apparel, Educational Studies, and Hospitality Management (AESHM). Grace Kunz, an associate professor of textiles and clothing, is serving as interim chair of the department.

Kunz served on the faculty at Iowa State from 1970 until she retired in 2002. She was promoted to associate professor in 1994. Her teaching and research focuses on apparel technology, assortment planning, merchandising, product development, and global issues. She has written or co-written several textbooks, including “Merchandising: Theory, principles, and practice.”

AESHM is the eighth largest academic department at Iowa State, with enrollment of 628 undergraduate students and 90 graduate students.

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AESHM is the eighth largest academic department at Iowa State, with enrollment of 628 undergraduate students and 90 graduate students.

Kunz succeeds Mary Gregoire, who has served as founding chair of AESHM since 2001, when the department was established by combining the former departments of textiles and clothing; hotel, restaurant and institution management; and family and consumer sciences education and studies.

Under Gregoire’s leadership, graduate student enrollment in AESHM tripled, undergraduate enrollment grew by one third, and research funding rose 800%.

Gregoire will become food and nutrition services director at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

Food science college bowl team places 2nd in national championship

A team of students from Iowa State University’s Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition placed second in the Institute of Food Technologists Student Association’s Knowledge Bowl national championship competition in Orlando, Fla., June 26.

The finish secured a $750 cash prize to the Food Science Club. This is the highest finish any Iowa State team has ever earned at the Institute of Food Technologists annual contest.

Six regional winners competed for the national title. This year’s competitors also included the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; University of California, Davis; Pennsylvania State University, University Park; Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.; and University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Iowa State’s team, coached by Anthony Pometto III and assisted by Mark Love, has qualified for the national competition three of the last six years. The team qualified for the competition after winning the North Central Region IFT College Bowl in Missouri in March.

Food technologist will receive Iowa State’s highest award

A food science and human nutrition alumnus will receive the university’s highest award. Iowa State University President Geoffroy will present James L. Oblinger (MS Food Tech ’70, PhD ’72) with the Distinguished Achievement Citation in April.
New leadership team announced

Dean Achterberg notes complexities of combination, promise of complementary expertise

Cheryl Achterberg, dean of the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University, has named a new cadre of leaders for the college.

The three new associate deans are Thomas Andre, professor of curriculum and instruction and psychology; Jackie Blount, professor of curriculum and instruction; and David Whaley, professor of curriculum and instruction. JaneAnn Stout will continue to serve as director of ISU Extension to Families and associate dean in the College of Human Sciences. The appointments became effective on August 16.

The new administrative team presents an optimal balance of experience to help move the college forward, through intricacies and opportunities arising from the combination, said Achterberg.

“The challenges of accomplishing a college combination, initiating multiple research initiatives, mounting a strong development program, and integrating a new budget model are prodigious and will take time. The progress we made our first year in the College of Human Sciences is remarkable,” said Achterberg.

“Further progress will rely on a strong leadership team whose members work well together and with faculty, complement one another, and share a common vision of excellence,” continued Achterberg.

**Thomas Andre** is serving as associate dean for research and graduate education and director of the Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education, each half-time appointments. Andre is a cognitive educational psychologist who joined Iowa State University in 1974. He served as chair of curriculum and instruction from 2001 until August 16, 2006.

Andre has taught courses in educational psychology, human development, adolescent development, technology in education, introductory psychology and research methods. His research focuses on teaching and learning that leads to understanding and transfer, effective conceptual change and knowledge development in science education, applications of technology to science education, and attitudinal and motivational development in science education and in adolescence. He has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on 31 funded grants or contracts. Andre is a past president of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association.

“Dr. Andre has established an excellent record of administrative leadership in the university. He will play an important role in establishing college research initiatives and implementing the strategic plan,” said Achterberg.

**Jackie Blount** is associate dean for undergraduate education. Blount is a scholar of historical, philosophical, and comparative studies in education whose research focuses on the history of gender and sexuality in educational employment and leadership. She has served on the Iowa State University faculty since 1993. Blount served as associate dean for teacher education and research in the College of Education from 2000 until 2003. Blount twice received the Critics’ Choice Book Award from the American Educational Studies Association for her books, “Fit to Teach” in 2005, and “Destined to Rule the Schools” in 1998. She has received a number of awards for research and teaching, including the Davis Award for the best article published in Educational Administration Quarterly in 2004.

“Dr. Blount is that rare individual with a true multidisciplinary background in music, teacher education, physics, history and higher education. She is also a renowned scholar, deeply dedicated to improving undergraduate education pedagogy and content. She will be an asset to the college,” said Achterberg.

**David Whaley** holds the newly created position of associate dean for teacher education. Whaley is a scholar of science and mathematics education, assessment of teacher candidates’ disposition, and admission and retention policies. He comes to Iowa State from Colorado State University, where he has been a professor of education and director of the Educator Licensing Program. He has also served as the academic policy officer for teacher education at the Colorado Commission on Higher Education since 2004. He has advised statewide accreditation reviews, helped rewrite Colorado’s teacher education policy, and revised the state’s protocol agreement with the National Council for Accreditation of

Continued on next page
Teacher Education. Early in his career, Whaley taught junior high and high school agricultural education classes.

His recent research focuses on measuring the disposition of teacher education candidates and admission and retention policies in teacher education. Whaley has conducted grant-funded research to enhance mathematics literacy and achievement, reform science education, measure effectiveness of teachers, and assess teachers’ job satisfaction.

“Dr. Whaley is an excellent scholar and administrator with outstanding communication and political skills,” said Achterberg. “He will lead the university’s teacher education programs to a new level of prominence.”

Roger Smith will serve as special assistant to the dean in the College of Human Sciences and associate chair of educational leadership and policy studies, both half-time positions. He served as an associate dean of academic affairs in the College of Education, from 2000 until 2005, and most recently as associate dean for undergraduate programs and student services in the College of Human Sciences.

“We have all benefited from his dedication, experience, and ‘can-do’ attitude and we shall continue to do so in his new roles,” said Achterberg.

Daniel Russell completed a term appointment as associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Human Sciences in June. He will return to teaching and research in human development and family studies and continue as a researcher with the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research.

“We are deeply grateful to Dr. Russell, who helped initiate a new office of research, graduate and distance education. He was a valuable member of the dean’s cabinet,” said Achterberg. “We look forward to his continued success with his research program,” she said.

Achterberg voiced enthusiasm for the new team and confidence that the college’s future is bright.

“I am excited and proud to announce this new team,” said Achterberg. “We all have much to look forward to, and of course, much to do! Please join me in welcoming our new administrators.”

Faculty promotions

The College of Human Sciences congratulates faculty members who were promoted for the 2006-07 academic year.

Promotion to professor (already tenured)

Ann Marie Fiore, Apparel, Educational Studies and Hospitality Management.

Promotion to associate professor with tenure

Panteleimon Ekkekakis, Health and Human Performance.

Frankie Santos Laanan, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

Gregory Welk, Health and Human Performance.

Smith heads curriculum and instruction

Carl Smith will serve as interim chair of curriculum and instruction, effective August 16.

Smith came to Iowa State University in 2004, after serving on the faculty at Drake University for 14 years. A professor and advocate for at-risk youth, he teaches in the areas of behavioral disorders and special education. His current research focuses on positive behavior and mental health among youths, and reducing student drop-out rates.

Thomas Andre, who has served as chair of curriculum and instruction for the past six years, will become an associate dean in the College of Human Sciences.

A formal search for a new chair of curriculum and instruction will begin fall semester, said Cheryl Achterberg, dean.
Coincidence or kindred convictions?

Sisters’ ideas converge to create opportunities for students, tribute to parents

Call it a sixth sense. Chalk it up to a sisterly bond. Or consider that great minds often think alike. Whatever the driving force, something led two sisters living 1000 miles apart to think strikingly similar thoughts.

When Carol Alexander Phillips of Ames hit upon the idea of honoring the memory of her late parents with everlasting scholarships for College of Human Sciences students, she phoned her sister in Washington, D.C. and asked her to join in. To Carol’s delight, Elizabeth Alexander was not only willing — she had already talked with her spouse, Mark Tushnet, about establishing such a scholarship.

The sisters, together with Carol’s spouse, Dean, contributed $210,000 from the parents’ estate to establish endowed scholarships in their parents’ names. The scholarship for students in early childhood education or elementary education is named for Orva Stanford Alexander, a loving mother who taught elementary school. The scholarship for students in secondary education is named for Neil Alexander, a caring father and high school history teacher.

Orva and Neil passed on to their daughters a deep respect for the value of higher education. “When growing up, there was never a question of whether we would go to college, but where we would go to college,” Carol recalled. “Since our family is from Chariton, it makes sense to designate these scholarships for students who are graduating from Iowa high schools.”

The gifts will support students with

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