

**MARY M. JACOBS**

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**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

1030 East Burlington St.  
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**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.** Language, Literacy, and Culture  
(May 2013) The University of Iowa, College of Education  
Chair: Dr. Kathryn Whitmore  
*“Get Up and Get On”: Agency, Identity Work and Literacy in the Lives of Families Residing at a Homeless Shelter*

**M.A.** Developmental Reading  
(July 2007) The University of Iowa

**B.A.** Elementary Education  
(December 1995) The University of Iowa

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE: COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY**

Assistant Professor of Education: Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA  
Fall 2013-present

Courses:

- Theoretical Foundations of Elementary School Mathematics
- Methods of Elementary Mathematics
- Methods of Elementary Language Arts and Reading
- Exceptional Learner
- Student Teaching Supervision

Adjunct Instructor: University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA  
Summer 2014

Course: Literacy Learning and Teaching I (EDTL: 3160)

Fall 2011-Spring 2013 Adjunct Instructor: Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA  
December 2011 *Foundations of Education*  
February 2012 *Educational Psychology*  
April 2012 *Interdisciplinary Theory and Practice for the Elementary Classroom*  
May 2012 *Educational Psychology*  
January 2013 *Educational Psychology*  
February 2013 *Human Relations*

- Fall 2009-Fall 2011      Instructor: University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA  
*Reading and Writing Processes and Instruction*  
 Supervisor: Dr. Linda Fielding  
*K-12 pre-service and in-service teachers expand their knowledge of literacy teaching methods and assessments with a focus on miscue analysis, think aloud, analysis of student writing, classroom discourse and instructional conversations.*
- January 2009-May 2009      Instructor: Grant Wood Area Education Agency  
 Mark Twain Elementary School, Iowa City, IA  
*Strategically Improving Comprehension Through Think Aloud*  
 Every Child Reads, Iowa Department of Education
- A course designed for K-6 in-service teachers to expand existing knowledge of reading comprehension, metacognition and the use of think aloud as an instructional method, a reading strategy and an assessment tool.*

#### **CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSURE**

- Fall 2011 (renewed)      State of Iowa teaching license: Reading K-12; Elementary classroom K-6
- 2012-2013      Comprehensive Intervention Model, Richard O. Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy, College of Education, University of Northern Iowa
- 2004-2005      Reading Recovery certification, Iowa City Community School District

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE: K-6**

- 2010-2013      Title I/Reading Recovery: Grades K-2, Mark Twain Elementary, Horace Mann Elementary, Iowa City, IA
- 2008-2010      Literacy Coach: Grades K-6, Mark Twain Elementary, Iowa City, IA
- 2004-2008      Title I/Reading Recovery: Grades 1-2, Mark Twain Elementary, Iowa City, IA
- 1996-2004      Classroom teacher: Grade 1, Mark Twain Elementary, Iowa City, IA  
 Classroom teacher: Grades 2, 4, and 5 Taylor Elementary, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 Title I teacher: Grades K-5, Harrison Elementary, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 Classroom teacher: Grade K, Sigourney Elementary, Sigourney, IA

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

literacy, power, and inequality  
 identity and agency in teaching and learning contexts  
 classroom discourse  
 language and literacy development (in and out of school)  
 culturally responsive pedagogy

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- February 2012-May 2013      Principal Investigator: “Get Up and Get On”: Agency, Identity Work and Literacy in the Lives of Families Residing at a Homeless Shelter  
The University of Iowa  
*This qualitative study examines the literacy practices of families residing at a transitional shelter in the context of their schooling, literacy and life histories. Counterportraits, stemming from the methodology of portraiture, allow for the narratives of the participants to reveal the broader context of the struggles families face, countering the official portrait of homelessness.*
- Fall 2010-present      Researcher: Narratives at a Transitional Shelter  
The University of Iowa  
*This long-term study uses ethnographic methods to examine the narratives of local writers residing at a transitional shelter. Literary and narrative inquiries allow for the research team to understand issues of identity and agency in the writing compositions of the participants.*
- Fall 2008-May 2009      Research Assistant: Department of Teaching and Learning  
The University of Iowa  
Dr. Christine Moroye  
*The research team examined how the themes of aesthetic education influence classroom teaching and learning contexts; encouraging imaginative and critical thinking in students as well as fostering aesthetic flow experiences for both teachers and students.*
- May 2006-May 2007      Research Assistant: Language, Literacy and Culture  
The University of Iowa  
Dr. Kathryn Whitmore  
Puertas Abiertas: An Ethnographic Study of Literacy, Language, and Home – School Relationships in a Multicultural Community  
*The purpose of this research study was to understand how productive relationships between home and school can help children develop as readers, writers, and speakers.*

**PUBLICATIONS**

- October 2014  
(forthcoming)      *Literacy and inequality in the quest for the American dream: Assimilation and resistance narratives from families at a homeless shelter*  
2<sup>nd</sup> annual special theme issue: *Critical Questions in Education*  
Missouri State University

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS/INVITED TALKS**

- October 2014  
(forthcoming)      *Curricular Mindedness in Teacher Education*  
American Association for Teaching and Curriculum (annual conference)  
Tampa, FL

- November 2014  
(forthcoming) *Stories from inside a shelter: Families and veterans in homeless circumstances resist deficit narratives and enact literate identities*  
National Council of Teachers of English (annual conference)  
Washington, D.C.
- October 2013 Rotary at Noon Literacy Party, Iowa City, IA  
Invited talk on grant funding for family art and story hour project at Shelter House
- July 2013 *“Get Up and Get On”*: Agency, Identity Work and Literacy in the Lives of Families Residing at a Homeless Shelter; Presentation: Literacies for All  
Summer Institute of the National Council of Teachers of English  
Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY
- May, 2011 and 2012 *Community Stories Writing Workshop Public Reading*: Prairie Lights Bookstore  
Iowa City, IA
- June, 2011 and 2012 *Reading and Writing Processes and Instruction*: University of Iowa  
Guest lecture: *Reading Assessment Methods and Strategy Instruction*  
Iowa City, IA
- March 2010 *Foundations of Education*: Cornell College  
Guest Lecture: *NCLB: The Challenges and Celebrations of a School in Need of Assistance*  
Mount Vernon, IA

#### **CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Early Warning System Training, Des Moines, IA, August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE), Dubuque, IA, April 2014
- American Association for Teaching and Curriculum (AATC), Chicago, IL, October 2013
- Cornell Writing Group (ongoing monthly meetings)

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Course Development, Summer 2014

- Reading endorsement Courses EDU 340 & EDU 360
- Writing Course EDU 230 (W)

January 2014, Reviewer: Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue, Information Age Publishing

Co-Advisor: SKY Fraternity, Cornell College, appointed Spring 2014

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

September 2013- present	Facilitation of service opportunities at Shelter House, Iowa City, Iowa for Cornell College students:
September 2013	Service Day, Cornell College
December 2013	Children's room clean up, book sort for Shelter House annual book sale
February 2014	Nonprofit Career Tour, Office of Civic Engagement, Cornell College
February 2014	Valentine cards with school-aged children
May 2014	Garden project; garden prep for Culinary Starts program at the shelter

Summer 2014:

Garden project: Facilitate preparation and maintenance of vegetable and herb gardens at the shelter for the purposes of supplying the shelter kitchen and Culinary Starts program with fresh produce. Two Cornell students are volunteers on the project.

Summit Street Dinner Crawl: Deluxe Bakery, Iowa City, Iowa; fundraising event donated at Shelter House Spring Gala; responsible for food preparation, serving guests at dinner

Summer 2011-November 2013 *Family Art and Story Hour*, Shelter House, Iowa City, IA

Founder and Facilitator

- Weekly planning of materials, activities and literature for participant families
- Management of ongoing donations to the book collection in the children's room and its organization and distribution to families
- Assist in the literacy needs of families such as homework support and the selection of book collections for family rooms
- Facilitate performances, readings and celebrations for participating families
- Consult with community donors on grant writing for the children's room at Shelter House
- Collaborate with staff members and shelter donors on the various needs and proposals for literacy sponsorship of families residing at the shelter
- Facilitation of pairing volunteers as reading tutors/buddies with children residing at the shelter

Fall 2010 to Fall 2011 *Community Stories Writing Workshop*, Shelter House, Iowa City, IA

Workshop Co-Facilitator

- Design weekly curriculum; select readings, construct writing invitations, and respond to drafts
- Facilitate weekly group workshops and work one-on-one with writers on revisions
- Work with writers to construct and revise narratives
- Collaborate with local bookstores and other venues for public readings
- Collaborate with various organizations to provide publication opportunities for writers, including Times Club of Prairie Lights Bookstore, Center for the Book at The University of Iowa, the NCTE National Gallery of Writing, Iowa Arts and Poetry

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS/ACADEMIC AWARDS**

2014-2015                    Gaarde-Morton Junior Faculty Award; Cornell College  
2014-2015                    McConnell Travel Grant; Cornell College  
Summer 2012                Graduate College Summer Fellowship, University of Iowa  
Fall, 2010 and 2012        Teaching and Learning Merit Award, University of Iowa

**COMMITTEES/CONSULTING**

2014-2015                    Reaccreditation Committee, Cornell College  
2011-present                Children/family programming, Shelter House, Iowa City, IA

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

*National Council of Teachers of English*

*Rethinking Schools*

*International Reading Association*

*American Association for Teaching and Curriculum*

*National Council of Teachers of Mathematics*