



Research Notes

By Stephen Russell

Cross-Ethnic Study of Parenting Practices and Adolescent Well-Being funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

A new project began at the 4-H CYD on August 1: "Cross-Ethnic Study of Parenting Practices and Adolescent Well-Being." Stephen Russell is co-Principal Investigator with Drs. Lisa Crockett, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and Dr. George Knight, University of Arizona. Anne K. Driscoll, Dr.PH (4-H CYD) will be a collaborator. The 3-year project, funded by NICHD, uses data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) to:

1 examine developmental patterns of psychological well-being and behavioral risk for adolescents from four ethnic/racial groups (Anglo Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans) and for subgroups of Hispanic and Asian American youth;

2 examine the equivalence of Add Health measures of parenting and adolescent psychosocial adjustment across these four ethnic/racial groups and across subgroups of Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans;

3 examine the relations between parenting practices and adolescent adjustment within and across ethnic/racial groups;

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Anne Driscoll, Dr.PH, Assistant Researcher, 4-H Center for Youth Development, UC Davis

Researcher Profile

By Ella Madsen

In November 2000, Anne Driscoll began working with Stephen Russell as an Assistant Researcher on a variety of projects. These include the study of ethnic differences in parenting, substance use and violence as they relate to sexual minority youth, how sexually active youth manage their sexual relationships, and a UC MEXUS project focused on preventing second pregnancies among Latino teen parents. Anne also holds an appointment at the Institute for Health Policy Studies in the School of Medicine at UC San Francisco where she is involved in research on reproductive health issues of Latino youth and youth from immigrant families.

Anne grew up in Syracuse, New York and attended the University of Rochester as an undergraduate. After working for several years in Washington, D.C. she entered the graduate program in Public Health at UCLA where she earned her Dr.PH. She worked as a Research Associate at Child Trends, a non-profit research organization in Washington, D.C. that focuses on issues of importance to children and youth before returning to California.

On a broad level, her research has focused on the influence of such factors as community environment, socioeconomic status, and family demographics and environments on adolescent sexuality and behavior across all racial and ethnic groups.

Past projects have included exploring the relationship between race/ethnicity, poverty and welfare status of young peoples' families and outcomes such as cognitive ability, behavioral problems, age at sexual debut, and teen parenthood.

Among Anne's specific areas of interest and research are youth from immigrant families—both foreign-born and native-born youth who have immigrant parents.

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4 test an ecological model of adolescent psychosocial adjustment within and across ethnic/racial groups.

In Phase 1, preliminary analyses will explore the measurement of ethnicity, parenting practices, and adolescent psychosocial adjustment. Ethnic differences in parenting practices, adolescent psychological well-being, and behavioral risk will be examined.

In Phase 2, the equivalence of the Add Health measures of parenting and adolescent psychosocial adjustment will be examined across ethnic groups and subgroups (different ethnic groups that make up Hispanic and Asian Americans). Ethnic/racial differences in the relations between parenting practices and adolescent adjustment will be examined. Anomalous findings will be explored in targeted focus groups with members of subgroups of Hispanic (Mexican, Chicano, Cuban,

Puerto Rican, and Central/South American) and Asian Americans (Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese). These focus groups will be conducted during year 2 (FY 2002-2003) in Central California.

In Phase 3, structural models that relate ecological variables to parenting practices and to adolescent psychosocial adjustment will be tested within and across ethnic/racial groups and subgroups.

The results of this study will provide a basis for understanding diverse parenting practices across ethnic and racial groups, and the implications of this diversity for adolescent development. Advisors that are interested in collaborating on the focus group interview portion of the study should contact Stephen Russell (strussell@ucdavis.edu). ☞

Researcher Profile (continued from front page)

She is especially interested in how adolescents are affected by the challenges of dealing with two cultures and adapting to a new culture. Within this context she has studied educational outcomes such as grades, educational expectations, high school graduation and college enrollment as well as various aspects of sexual behavior, i.e. age at first sex, contraceptive use, pregnancy and teen childbearing. Her research in this area has involved Asian and Latino youth. Recently, she has started research on sexual minority youth and how their status is related to various outcomes.

When Anne is not involved in her many work projects or commuting to Davis from San Francisco, she enjoys a variety of sports—tennis, soccer, basketball, biking and especially horseback riding. She is also an American history buff. ☞

We would like to welcome Colin Perez, our new student assistant at the 4-H Center. Colin is originally from the Bay Area and came to UC Davis to pursue majors in economics and psychology. Colin hopes to gain valuable work experience at the Center, joining us in a variety of interesting projects. When he's not working at the Center, Colin enjoys the outdoors and activities such as snowboarding and hiking. We are pleased with his great interest in technology.



4-H Center for Youth Development Contact Information

The 4-H Center for Youth Development is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located in the Department of Human & Community Development at UC Davis. Visit us in our main office at 3325 Hart Hall.

Administration Office (530) 754-8432
FAX Number (530) 754-8440
fourhcyd@ucdavis.edu
<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>

Specialists

Marc Braverman, Ph.D.
Adolescent Health Promotion,
Program Evaluation & Educational
Research
(530) 752-7003

Richard Ponzio, Ph.D.
Science & Technology
(530) 754-8432 or (530) 752-8824

Stephen Russell, Ph.D.
Adolescent Development,
Youth and Families at Risk
(530) 752-7069

Research Associates

Ramona Carlos, M.S.
North Coast & Mountain Region Liaison
School/Community Gardening, &
Leadership Development
(530) 754-8435

Ella Madsen, M.S.
Central Coast & Southern Region
Liaison
Workforce Preparedness, &
Volunteerism
(530) 754-8755

Anne Driscoll, Dr.PH
Assistant Researcher
(530) 754-6537

Sally Stanley, M.S.
Central Valley Region Liaison
Asset Development, & Experiential
Learning
(530) 754-8434

Colin Perez,
Research Assistant
(530) 754-8432

CYFAR Project

Robyn Caruso, M.S.W.
CYFAR Project Coordinator/Evaluator
Program Administration & Evaluation
(530) 752-2766

Administration

Loran Hoffmann
Program Representative
Program Coordinator
(530) 752-9914

Carolyn McCain
CYD Assistant/Publications Coordinator
(530) 754-8433

California Cyfar Projects Enter Final Year

By Robyn Caruso

As we head into our fifth and final year of the California CYFAR Project, I thought it would be useful to provide a general overview of what is happening at each of our three county sites. In this last year of funding, we are focusing on strengthening our community collaborations, program evaluation and project sustainability.

Orland After-School Project (Glenn County)

- ❖ The Homework Club is set to start on September 10th. As in previous years the Homework Club will offer homework assistance and enrichment activities Monday through Thursday after school. The program is currently recruiting additional homework aides.
- ❖ Monthly Family Night Outs are currently being planned to provide positive child-parent interactions.
- ❖ Two additional afterschool enrichment programs, Mini Society and Animal Ambassadors, will also be offered during the school year.
- ❖ Extensive data collected from the 2001 school year is currently being analyzed. This data was obtained from Homework Club participants, their parents and the teachers who referred the students to the program.
- ❖ Fairview School, where the Homework Club is held, has a new principal who is very supportive of the project.
- ❖ Additionally, the collaborating school has just received a Healthy Start planning grant. Once CYFAR funding ends, the Homework Club will be sustained by some of the Healthy Start funding.

College Bound (San Francisco County)

- ❖ With support from a \$10,000 grant from the Goldman Foundation, College Bound was able to do a special summer family college program in which parents and their children attended local community college classes at no cost. Thirty-one adults, who took ESL and computer classes, and fifty-five children, who took science, math, art and creative writing, and computer classes, participated in this program. An evaluation of this program has shown that the program was successful in meeting its objectives.
- ❖ This year a parent education booklet will be created to assist parents in ways to help their children begin early preparation for college. The booklet will include information obtained from interviews with college students who attended ER Taylor.
- ❖ Data from the fall parent survey is currently being analyzed.
- ❖ Planning for the College Bound program this school year is currently underway. The emphasis will be on parent leadership and empowerment. Members of the parent leadership team will receive stipends to implement portions of the program, such as the parent workshops.
- ❖ The College Bound Coordinator will continue to explore ways to sustain the project once the CYFAR funding ends.
- ❖ As in previous years, the 4th and 5th graders at the collaborating elementary school, ER Taylor, will go on field trips to local universities.

GreenNet (Santa Barbara County)

- ❖ The new Family Opportunity Center is near completion and will enable families living in the housing complexes to learn new skills and obtain computer experience.
- ❖ An additional gardening site located at Arroyo Gardens is almost built. This fantastic new site has been transformed from an empty, overgrown lot to a gardening facility complete with a shade house, shed, an atrium, raised planters, a holding area for plants and a drip irrigation system.
- ❖ An evaluation of the GreenNet program has just been completed and the report is now available. Focus groups were conducted with participating children and individual interviews were held with GreenNet youth staff members.
- ❖ A field trip to the butterfly garden exhibit at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has been planned for the GreenNet children.
- ❖ The native plants project, started over four years ago, had been completed. The last of these plants have been delivered to the City of Santa Barbara for the Ellings Park restoration project.
- ❖ A pond and fountain at the Santa Barbara High School site is being constructed by GreenNet team members. The pond will enable the children to raise wetland plants, while the fountain will add some peace and beauty to the campus.



Workforce Preparation Activities at the Center

By Ella R. Madsen

- Data from the *Preparing Adolescents for the World of Work* research project continues to be a rich source of information about the career exploration and decision making process during adolescence. In May a workshop presentation at the Visions 2001 conference provided an opportunity to share findings and explore their implications for 4-H Youth Development Programming with Advisors from California, Arizona, and Nevada. Articles have been submitted for publication in the California Agriculture Journal.

- Focused discussion groups have been conducted over the summer with high school and college-age youth in order to clarify and expand our understanding of what young people believe would really help them in making decisions and planning for the future. This data along with other information will be used by the Workforce Prep Workgroup to develop a report that should be a worthwhile

resource for Workforce Investment Board Youth Councils, School-to-Career Programs, and other community programs and youth development agencies involved in helping youth prepare for the future. The report will be available for distribution in late spring of 2002.

- The Workforce Preparation Workgroup and the Center continue to be involved with the National Workforce Preparation Initiative. Currently, the initiative is moving from a general community asset development approach to an approach that will target the needs of three specific audiences—youth, agriculture, and welfare-to-work. Richard Ponzio and Center staff will coordinate the efforts for youth workforce preparation.

- Although still in the formative stages, we are very excited about an opportunity to pilot a web-based career exploration and planning system in an afterschool setting. The program, Career Locker, developed by Vocational Technologies, will be



piloted at one of the Los Angeles ASAP sites that serves teens. We will be exploring the effectiveness of providing career planning help outside of the traditional school counseling/career center context.

- In October, workforce preparation will be one of the topics featured at the Resource Fair for K-12 Teachers sponsored by the College of A&ES.

- In an effort to expand our circle of relations with other groups and agencies interested in adolescent workforce preparation issues the Workforce Preparation Workgroup has joined the California Workforce Association. ☘

The W.T. Grant Foundation Shifts to an Asset Approach

By Sally Stanley

In an attempt to create circumstances and environments in which young people can thrive, the W. T. Grant Foundation announces a shift to an asset-based approach in their 2001 report. Whereas the Foundation's emphasis in the 1990's was in seeking



solutions for the problems of youth, they have decided to focus on positive youth development in the new millennium. This shift to positive youth development is anticipated to widen options for both young people and adults. As part of their new plan they have developed a *Visiting Scholar Program* and have welcomed Peter L. Benson, Ph.D., President of Search Institute in Minneapolis, MN as their first visiting scholar. Benson is nationally recognized for the implementation of an asset approach in many communities nationwide. Over the next three years, Benson will be

working to develop activities that emphasize an asset approach and to advance dialogue that will encourage a society that values young people. The Foundation intends to focus on young people aged 8 to 25 and programs that influence the will and capacity for change. Their Program Blueprint, *Enabling Youth To Reach Their Potential* is encouraging research in three areas: youth development, systems affecting youth and the public's view of youth. To apply for W. T. Grant Foundation funding, go to <http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/wtgrant/appguide.html>.

CDPAC Meeting Focuses on Mentoring and the Importance of Quality Childcare



By Sally Stanley

The Child Development Policy Advisory Committee (CDPAC) assists state and local policy makers in developing policies and programs that are beneficial to children and families in California. It provides a forum for public input and makes recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Secretary of the Office of Education. The committee is made up of twenty-two appointed citizens and representatives of five State Departments. At the meeting in June, Jim Kooler from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research presented information on the Governor's Mentoring Partnership. Kooler invited other youth advocates to partner with their office in researching a "best fit" for mentoring in an after-school setting. He also announced that the University of California at Santa Barbara, School of Education has agreed to conduct case studies and interviews and report on their findings. For more information on mentoring visit the Governor's website <http://www.governor.ca.gov/state/govsite/gov> and the website of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at <http://www.opr.ca.gov/> as well as the mentoring website at <http://www.adp.ca.gov/cf/GovernorsMentoringPartnership/default.htm>.



Dr. Marie Kanne-Poulsen, Vice-Chairperson and child development specialist, presented information on the importance of quality early

childcare for positive child development. She emphasized that early care provides the building blocks to success in the classroom, in the neighborhood and in the family. These same building blocks also make a difference in adolescent outcomes. Reducing adolescent crime, teenage pregnancy, school dropout and gang membership needs to start early. She stressed that effective childcare characterized by caregiver emotional availability and guidance, good nutrition, experiential opportunities and a harmonious non-stressful environment leads to resilience and optimum brain development. Several county participants voiced economic concerns that created barriers to these goals. In reply, Bill Lockyer, California State Attorney General, stated that the government is attempting to translate the new information on children's brain development into programs that start earlier than 5 years of age. Mr. Lockyer affirmed that visiting nurse programs, quality childcare and after school programs are currently the three most successful strategies the state has for creating change.



Dan Galpern, Senior Policy Analyst, California Budget Project, announced the release of a report examining California's subsidized childcare system. The principle findings of this report showed that the demand for childcare is rising because of the rise in the number and percentage of parents in the paid work force.

Families increasingly depend on childcare. Yet, the supply of childcare has not kept pace with the demand. Besides the growing need for infant and toddler care, thousands of school-age children in California are without childcare or other adult supervision in the after-school hours when, as Mr. Galpern states, "they may be the most vulnerable." The childcare that parents utilize may be of low quality. The quality childcare available is "prohibitively expensive" even for families with moderate incomes. In California, for a two person working family, childcare for two preschoolers may exceed more than a quarter of median monthly gross income. California has tried to expand their funding for childcare. Much of the expansion money is derived from federal sources including the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and transfers from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Yet, more than half of the budgeted childcare funds are from the state General Fund. His report states that approximately 280,000 children are still in need of subsidized care in California. Mr. Galpern concluded his report with several recommendations that would require substantial additional state resources. For a copy of this report entitled *Lasting Returns: Strengthening California's Child Care and Development System* go to the California Budget Project's website at <http://www.cbj.org>. For more information on CDPAC meetings go to their website at <http://cdpac.ca.gov>. ☞

CA&ES Hosts Resource Fair for K-12 Teachers

By Loran Hoffmann



The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is sponsoring a Resource Fair for K-12 Teachers on Saturday, October 6th at the new Heidrick Agricultural Center across from the Student Farm. More than one hundred K-12 teachers from primarily inner city schools serving under-represented disadvantaged students have been invited to attend this first-time campus event. Resource Fair participants will gain new agricultural knowledge and skills by visiting gardening learning centers, attending interactive workshops, and dialoging with campus and industry representatives showcasing programs and materials available through the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The 4-H Center for Youth Development is working with the Dean's Office to provide "hands-on" learning opportunities and a broad array of agriculture and natural resource activities that educators can incorporate into their classroom curriculum.

"Communities Working Together to Utilize University Resources" is the focus of the educational workshops that will be held at Hart Hall. Stephen Russell, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Human and Community Development and Sharon Junge, County Director, Placer and Nevada Counties will moderate a panel of school and university educators that will highlight proven methods of building successful school, community, and university partnerships. Through this effort, teachers will gain knowledge of existing partnerships, identify potential areas for collaboration, and learn the elements of successful collaborations. In addition, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences faculty and Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources youth development professionals will showcase project-based

educational programs that complement classroom learning.

Interactive Workshops will highlight experiential activities designed for school age learners that feature gardening, nutrition, science literacy, workforce preparation, teens as teachers, and textiles. Participants will explore each of the areas offered through "hands-on" experiences and activities on the web and CD Rom. Teachers will receive copies of sample activities along with a comprehensive list of K-12 agriculture and environmental literacy resources available through the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Featured resources and presenters include:

- ❖ Teams with Intergenerational Support (TWIGS)-Marilyn Johns, 4-H YD Advisor, San Mateo County
- ❖ Youth Experiences in Science (YES) - Sharon Junge, County Director, Placer/Nevada Counties
- ❖ Eat-FIT Nutrition Education-Shirley Humphrey, Department of Nutrition, Davis Camps
- ❖ Junior Master Gardener Program-Carol Martin, 4-H Program Rep, El Dorado County
- ❖ Developing the Workforce of Tomorrow-Ella Madsen, Post Graduate Researcher, 4-H CYD
- ❖ One Book at a Time - Ann Brosnahan, 4-H YD Advisor, San Joaquin County

In addition, on-line resources will be demonstrated and a list of websites that include teacher/student activities.

- ❖ Shining Cloth: Dress and Adornment that Glitters - Professor Victoria Rivers, Department of Design
- ❖ Virtual DNA Fingerprinting Laboratory- Barbara Soots, Education Coordinator, CEPRAP

UPDATE

is a newsletter of the 4-H Center for Youth Development at the University of California, Davis.

Carolyn McCain
Publications Coordinator

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE) 30th Anniversary Conference
October 24-27, 2001 Hyatt Orlando (near Walt Disney World)

29th Annual Association for Experiential Education (AEE) International Conference,
Charleston, West Virginia,
November 1-4, 2001

Summit on Mentoring at the Disney Resort on October 16-18, 2001 hosted by First Lady Sharon Davis

CDPAC Local Child Care Planning Conference 2002,
February 5-8, 2002, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento

Children's Institute International, Los Angeles County Prop 10 and the state Office of Child Abuse Prevention on "Children and Violence: Moving from Trauma to Healing" at the Pasadena Hilton on June 1, 2002



The 4-H Center for Youth Development
Department of Human and Community Development
University of California • One Shields Avenue • Davis, CA 95616-8523
Phone 530/754-8432 • Fax 530/754-8440 • fourhcyd@ucdavis.edu