



## Director's Notes

Spring is, by definition, a generative time. There is so much happening in the field of youth development right now that it is hard to keep up. It seems that the field of youth development—the intersection of science and practice around engaging youth in their development—is literally exploding.

The biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) has just concluded. Interest in and scholarship about youth development was prominent at SRA like never before. There were two pre-conferences on youth development. One focused on the new publication by the National Academy of Sciences: *Community Programs to Promote Youth Development* (2002). This new book is a MUST READ for all of us—it outlines what is known about the practice and science of youth development—and suggests avenues for future work (see the brief review in this quarter's *Research You May Have Missed...*). At the pre-conference, Rich Lerner (Tufts University), Stephen Hamilton (Cornell University), Bob Granger (William T. Grant Foundation) and I provided comments about the ways that we imagine this volume will inform research in coming years. There is no doubt that this report will critically shape the funding of programs and research in the years ahead. The chair of the NAS committee who wrote that report—

*continued on page 2*



*Katherine J. Conger, Ph.D.,  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Human &  
Community Development*

## CYD Profile

*By Ramona Carlos, M.S.*

When Katherine and Rand Conger decided to leave Iowa State University and come to UC Davis, it was a boon not only for the University, the Department of Human and Community Development and those graduate students and faculty who would have the opportunity for collaboration and collegiality, but also for those Californians who might benefit from the insights gained from the unique longitudinal research project which they began in Iowa. This project, begun in 1989, examines the connection between economic conditions and the risk of problem behaviors in adolescents.

After completing a bachelor's and master's degree in Child Development and Family Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Kathi taught preschool and kindergarten. During that time she focused on training student teachers to develop age-appropriate early childhood development programs. She then spent a number of years as a licensing

supervisor for child care and home day care programs in Illinois.

When Dr. Conger decided to continue her education and attend graduate school, she had developed an interest in adolescent development. She was particularly interested in family processes and how those processes influence the development of individuals. She earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Iowa State, studying the context of families and how they function, while also learning about methods for studying families. It was at Iowa State where she and her husband Rand Conger developed an idea for a longitudinal project about economic conditions and community influences on family functioning and individual well-being.

During the late 80s, particularly in the Midwest, there was an agricultural crisis unfolding which had a major impact on individuals and businesses connected to the agricultural industry. Knowing that Iowa was heavily dependent on agriculture, the Congers

*continued on page 4*

## Director's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

Jacque Eccles from the University of Michigan—is the new President of SRA. It is clear that we are experiencing a time when youth development research is on the national radar like never before.

With these changes in the field of youth development research are remarkable changes at the federal level that will influence youth development practice. A National Youth Development Summit has been planned for June 26-28 in Washington D.C. (see announcement, page 3), hosted by the Department of Health and Human Services. And in the last *Update* I mentioned the National Youth Development Research Response Task Force (funded by National 4-H Council). Following closely on the heels of 4-H's National Conversation, that report will be presented to key federal stakeholders in June by an advisory panel that includes representatives from land-grant universities, youth-funding foundations, and several federal agencies. Along with the NAS report, the Task Force agenda for land-grant research on youth development will serve as a major framework for the 4-H CYD as we plan our projects for coming years.

Here at the 4-H CYD we are preparing our recruitment for the two new Specialist in the Agriculture Experiment Station positions. The announcements went out on May 1, and applications will be reviewed beginning June 24, with start dates of September 1. Please share the enclosed position announcement with people you think would be interested and qualified to help lead the 4-H CYD research agenda in coming years.

Make note of the two coming national satellite conferences—one on *Healthy Teen Development* based at Iowa State, and the second on the University of Missouri *Maltreatment and Adolescent*

*Pregnancy and Parenting Program (MAPPP)*. The 4-H CYD is a co-sponsor of both satellite conferences. Our co-sponsorship of the Healthy Teen Development satellite provides for *free downlink from anywhere in California*. The cost to downlink the MAPPP conference is \$75 per site; the 4-H CYD will cover the costs for 10 sites in California (contact Carolyn McCain if you are interested, and provide a contact person, phone number, e-mail address, and location where the broadcasts will be downlinked: [cfmccain@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cfmccain@ucdavis.edu) 530-754-8433). Please share this information with your community colleagues who may be interested, or consider hosting a viewing of these conferences in your county.

Finally—soon we will have our new Web site! It has been a long time coming, and we look forward to your feedback. In a short while, information about all the people and projects at the 4-H CYD will be online. Ultimately, our Web site will include links to the NAS, SRA, and the National Youth Summit Web sites. You will hear from us when it is online—by the end of May. Meanwhile we have a temporary Web site through ANR: <http://groups.ucanr.org/4hcyd/>. There you will find the announcement for the Specialist in AES positions. ☞

*Stephen T. Russell*



Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.,  
Director, 4-H Center for  
Youth Development,  
Department of Human and  
Community Development,  
UC Davis



### 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 and 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  
<http://groups.ucanr.org/4hcyd/>

#### Director

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

#### Specialists

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

Richard C. Ponzio, Ph.D.  
Science & Technology  
(530) 752-8824

#### Research Associates

Ramona Carlos, M.S.  
School/Community Gardening, &  
Leadership Development  
(530) 754-8435

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

Ella Madsen, M.S.  
Workforce Preparedness, &  
Volunteerism  
(530) 754-8755

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

#### ASA&T Project

Melina Bersamin, Ph.D.  
Project Coordinator/Evaluator

#### CYFAR Project

Robyn Caruso, MSW  
CYFAR Project Coordinator/Evaluator  
Program Administration & Evaluation  
(530) 752-2766

#### Administration

Loran Hoffmann  
Program Representative/Coordinator  
Communications Chair  
(530) 752-9914

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

Colin Perez  
Research Assistant  
(530) 754-8432

## CYD to Co-sponsor National Satellite Conference on Violence and Teen Pregnancy

By Robyn Caruso, MSW



YOU ARE INVITED to participate in a satellite conference, Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle of Abuse for Young Parents and their Children, presented by the Maltreatment and Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program (MAPPP). The interactive conference will take place on September 19, 2002 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m PST.



Goals of the conference are to increase awareness of violence and teen pregnancy, to foster sensitivity to cultural issues as they relate to maltreatment and adolescent pregnancy, and to learn ways to apply the presented material to the teen pregnancy and parenting programs in your community. Participants will be able to phone or fax in questions for the live expert panel.



This is a unique learning opportunity to network with other professionals in your community, learn about violence and teen pregnancy, and to gain knowledge to enhance your current programs. CEUs are available for conference participants. For more information, please go to the satellite conference website: [www.outreach.missouri.edu/hdfs/satconf](http://www.outreach.missouri.edu/hdfs/satconf)

## Workforce Investment Board Designs Programs for Disadvantaged Youth

By Ella Madsen, M.S.

"All Youth-One System" is the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) slogan driving the effort to develop workforce preparation programs designed to provide a comprehensive array of services for disadvantaged youth. The goal of the WIB Youth Councils is to coordinate existing county resources and services as well as to create services. Elements of a comprehensive local youth-serving system are:

- ❖ academic excellence
- ❖ career preparation
- ❖ youth development and support
- ❖ youth leadership, and

- ❖ a comprehensive approach through our expertise in developing youth leadership, adult-youth partnerships, and program-based research and evaluation.

For information about other youth workforce preparation efforts underway, go to the Web site of the California Youth Council Institute (a collaborative effort of the California Workforce Association and New Ways to Work under the direction of the WIB) <http://www.nww.org>.

The 4-H CYD and the ANR Workforce Preparation workgroup are excited about the possibilities that collaborations with the WIB Youth Council offer. This year we have conducted a number of focus groups with youth in Youth Council sponsored programs.

Please contact Ella Madsen, [ermadsen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ermadsen@ucdavis.edu), to learn more about our collaborative efforts and how Advisors in the state are involved in WIB Youth Council endeavors. ☚

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES →

**CYFAR 2002 • Hilton Riverside**  
May 29-31, 2002 • New Orleans, Louisiana

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

**National Youth Summit • Washington DC Hilton**  
June 26th-28th, 2002 • Washington DC

**People and Technology: Connecting at the Speed of Youth**  
July 24-28, 2002 • University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus

**Maltreatment and Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program (MAPPP)**  
September 19, 2002 (See above for time and details.)

**National Society of Experiential Educators**  
October 1-4, 2002 • Las Vegas, Nevada

**Healthy Teen Development: Families, Communities, Decision Making, Sexuality**  
October 17, 2002 (See page 4 for time and details.)

**30th Annual Association of Experiential Education International**  
November 7-10, 2002 • St Paul, Minnesota

**Healthy Communities Healthy Youth • Search Institute**  
November 7-9, 2002 • Minneapolis, Minnesota

## CYD Profile: Dr. Katherine Conger

(Continued from page 1)

were curious about how the downturn in the agriculture economy impacted families in Iowa. In 1989 they targeted eight counties in central Iowa and recruited 451 two-parent families, each with at least one child in 7th grade and a near-age sibling, to become a part of their study on how macro-economic influences affect family relationships and adolescent adjustment. In 1991 a sample of about 100 single mothers with a 9th grader and another sibling were added to the sample. Their questions center on finances, attitudes and feelings about the economic situation, the relationships within their family and their own relationship with other family members. Families are visited every year by a research team member and given a set of questionnaires to complete. Two weeks later, the interviewer returns and videotapes the parents and children talking about their home life and solving a problem through a series of four interaction tasks. At another point siblings are videotaped while they answer a set of questions, followed by a discussion by the couple or an interview of the single mother.

A Family Stress Model has been developed to guide the research. The model suggests that there are three primary routes of influence within the family: parents' emotional distress, marital conflict, and harsh-inconsistent parenting. Parents answer questions that focus on whether they are able to have the kind of life they would like to have: whether they are able to go on vacations, pay their bills, have they given up things they have enjoyed doing? Answers to these types of questions are summarized in an index of Economic Pressure which provides an explanation of how these parents' psychological well-being has been

influenced by the economic situation of their community. Their psychological distress, in turn, impacts their marriage and their ability to parent in an effective manner. This has been a central piece of the research project.

Many of the original families continue in the project. The original 7th graders are now in their early 20's and they, along with either a spouse, partner and any children have been incorporated into the study. The current number of people participating in the project number exceeds 800 (including partners and children), representing about 90% of the original sample. Although the Congers moved from Iowa to California in 2001, they have a well-established staff in Iowa who continue the data collection, observational coding, and analysis. Kathi is excited about the possibility of extending their Family Stress Model to study families of various ethnic groups in California.

In addition to parent/child relationships and adolescent development within a family, a particular focus for Kathi's research is on sibling relationships and sibling influences on behavior. By examining the videotaped data to learn about how siblings influence one another during their interactions, Kathi's research examines the specific processes and mechanisms that either promote or inhibit the development of anti-social behavior. There is currently very little data that examine this aspect of sibling relationships, and results should prove invaluable for informing future research as well as the development of prevention and intervention programs. This particular phase of the project was implemented in January and the coding and analysis of data is taking place here in Davis.

## UPDATE

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

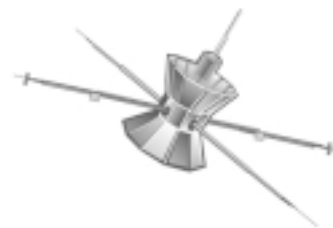
**Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.**, Director

**Loran Hoffmann**, Communications Chair

**Carolyn McCain**, Production Coordinator

The value of the data that emerges from longitudinal studies is immeasurable as it allows researchers to begin to make some predictions about how particular processes change over time, how those processes will affect the individuals and families in the study, and by extension, others in similar situations. Kathi Conger's work will continue to add to our knowledge about adolescent development, siblings, and families as this study offers a unique opportunity to understand how family relationships have an impact on individual adjustment across time. ☞

### National Satellite Series



### You're Invited. . .

#### HEALTHY TEEN DEVELOPMENT: FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, DECISION MAKING, SEXUALITY

A NATIONAL SATELLITE SERIES DESIGNED FOR EXTENSION STAFF, COUNSELORS, TEACHERS, VOLUNTEER LEADERS, AND OTHERS WHO WORK WITH TEENS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WILL BE PRESENTED ON:

OCTOBER 17 AND 24, 2002  
FROM 1:30 TO 4:00 P.M. PST

PLEASE SEE DIRECTOR'S NOTES, THIS ISSUE AND THE FLYER ENCLOSED WITH THIS PUBLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

TO REGISTER AS A LOCAL DOWNLINK SITE TO VIEW THE SERIES OR FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A DOWNLINK SITE, CONTACT **RAMONA CARLOS**, 4-H CYD, 530-754-8435 • [RMCARLOS@UCDAVIS.EDU](mailto:RMCARLOS@UCDAVIS.EDU)



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  
[CYDdirector@ucdavis.edu](mailto:CYDdirector@ucdavis.edu)

The University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures, or practices. The University is an affirmative/equal opportunity employer.