

DIRECTOR'S NOTES by James Grieshop, Ph.D.

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I am pleased and honored to become the fifth Director of the 4-H Center for Youth Development at UC Davis. The footprints of my predecessors will serve as guides and models for my work to take the Center into a new, exciting future. The Center has been a valuable resource for the talented group of 4-H Youth Development county staff throughout the state. The Center must continue to be responsive to these colleagues and other academics while working with the youth of California. The Center's staff members are a group of talented individuals who daily work to fulfill the missions of the 4-H Center for Youth Development.

It will also be my goal to ensure that the Center fulfills its missions and becomes an exemplary force for doing the work of youth development research in California. We in the Center will continue to strive to collaborate with Advisors in their applied research and evaluation efforts. We intend to seek ways to

enhance communication, both "high tech" and "high touch," with 4-H Youth Development staff. I also intend to work to ensure that the Center develops and carries out its own youth development research while collaborating with Advisors and others in the Extension system. Some great opportunities lie before us to lead the way for youth development research and extension that benefits the multiple communities and families in California. Success in this work will require strategically focusing on particular issues and topics. In the coming months I expect to be talking with and listening to Advisors, faculty, staff, and personnel of other organizations with the goal of creating that focus.

Getting to that focus is not the sole objective – we also have to learn, teach one another, and to have fun along the way. Thanks for this wonderful opportunity.

CYD welcomes Richard Ponzio, Ph.D. as new Associate Director

Dr. Ponzio, a 4-H Youth Development Specialist at UC Davis, has been a national leader in promoting science literacy and nonformal science education for many years. He led the development of the 4-H SERIES (Science Experiences and Resources for Informal Education Settings) project, which has been delivered successfully across the U.S. and in many foreign countries. He also was instrumental in the development of the Youth Experiences in Science (YES) program and other innovative curricula. Most recently he has been an investigator at UC Davis's Center for Biophotonics Science and Technology.

CYD Needs Assessment Survey

4-H CYD gathers valuable information from Needs Assessment survey

— by Ramona Carlos and Aarti Subramaniam

In March, the 4-H CYD sent a survey to all youth development program staff to gather feedback regarding the need and value of CYD's activities over the past several years. The CYD was also interested in seeking input about research-related program needs and strategies to strengthen collaborations with cooperative extension personnel on research and evaluation projects.

The on-line survey focused on the following issues: perceived needs for CYD activities and how well the CYD meets those needs, the usefulness of CYD activities in the past two years, the usefulness of the CYD publications, project ideas for research collaborations, and the successes or challenges in collaborating with the CYD.

Respondents included 24 Youth Development Advisors, 12 Program Representatives, 3 County Directors, 1 Specialist and 1 who did not indicate a title. The respondents represented all three regions, with more respondents from the Central Valley. Respondents indicated a great need for, and would like the CYD to give more attention to, the areas of creating multi-county research opportunities, developing county-campus linkages, providing opportunities to publish, and receiving training on research topics.

Areas of focus for possible future CYD-led research projects include: research to guide 4-H youth development (e.g., volunteerism in low income minority communities, studying the impact of participation

in short-term projects, research on English immersion, youth and animal science involvement, evaluation of the 4-H club program); ag literacy, science education, studying the link between ag-food-diet-health; technical assistance (e.g., IRB submission assistance and survey development); and assistance with publishing (e.g., locate journals appropriate for Advisor research papers, and create a special journal for Advisors to publish their work).

Overall, respondents indicated that they view the CYD publications as valuable and informative. Other successful CYD contributions included support of county-based work, participation in work groups and other statewide efforts, and support of individual Advisor research efforts. Challenges to successful collaborations with the CYD included a perception of projects being focused in certain geographical regions, and unavailability of staff when needed.

A more complete report of the needs assessment will be provided in the next *CYD Report*, to be published this summer.

We were quite pleased with the response to the survey and appreciate the time taken and thoughtfulness evident in the comments contributed by all respondents. The comments and suggestions will serve as a guide and resource in the planning of future CYD projects.

4-H Center for Youth Development

"The 4-H Center for Youth Development fosters collaborations in research and evaluation among UC Cooperative Extension professionals and UC campus-based scientists that deepen our understanding of youth development in the contexts of family and community."

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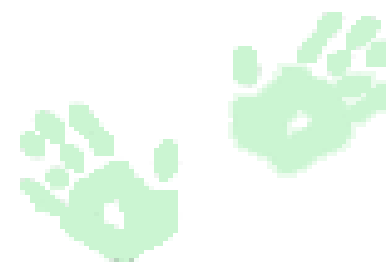
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4-H CYD hosts successful one-day ‘Think Tank’ — by Ramona Carlos

The 4-H CYD hosted a one-day conference to examine issues of youth development research specifically for UC Cooperative Extension programs in Southern California. Held at the UCLA Sunset Conference Center on May 12, 2005, the conference was attended by Christine Duchene (Youth Development Advisor, San Bernardino), Rose Hayden-Smith (Youth Development Advisor, Ventura), Michael Marzolla (Youth Development Advisor, Santa Barbara), Keith Nathaniel (Youth Development Program Manager, Los Angeles), John Pusey (Youth Development Advisor, Los Angeles), Deirdre Thompson (Youth Development Advisor, Los Angeles), Mignonne Pollard (Assistant Director, 4-H Youth Development Program), Karen Varcoe (ANR Human Resources Program Leader), Chanda Gonzales (Assistant to Karen Varcoe), Lenna Ontai-Grzebnik (UCCE Family Development Specialist), Jim Grieshop (UCCE Community Development Specialist), Nicki King (CAES Youth and Family Specialist), Marc Braverman (Director, 4-H CYD; UCCE 4-H Specialist) and Ramona Carlos (Academic Coordinator, 4-H CYD).

The one-day ‘think tank’ was an opportunity for a roundtable discussion about issues facing Advisors and Specialists in 4-H youth development programmatic research.

The following presentations were made:

- Lenna Ontai-Grzebnik: *Concepts of parenting in immigrant Latina mothers*
Nicki King: *Understanding volunteerism in Latino communities: Conducting community-based research with Cooperative Extension Advisors and Specialists*
Ramona Carlos: *Findings from the CYD Needs Assessment*
Jim Grieshop: *Reflections on assuming the directorship of the 4-H CYD, and closing comments for the day*

In addition to the presentations, Karen Varcoe and Chanda Gonzales described a new 4-H camp developed for the children of parents who have been deployed to Iraq.

The topics for discussion, in addition to the discussion generated by the presentations, included the role of workgroups in conducting and promoting research, leveraging funds, and promoting professional development; ideas to address how the CYD can help promote the research activities of county personnel; a review of the research topics and/or projects of the conference participants; and a listing of promising Extension research topics for Southern California.

If anyone would like additional information about the conference, please contact Ramona Carlos at rmcarlos@ucdavis.edu.

4 - H CYD IN ACTION !

Ramona Carlos presented “Findings from the CYD Needs Assessment”, as part of a one-day conference hosted by the 4-H Center for Youth Development titled ‘Research for the 4-H Youth Development Program in Southern California: A 4-H YD Think Tank’, on May 12, 2005 at the UCLA Sunset Conference Center.

Marc T. Braverman, L. Cooksy, J. Elmen presented “Determining the Best Evaluation Instruments for

Evaluating your Project’s Objectives”, on April 20, 2005 at the Statewide Tobacco Prevention Conference, sponsored by the California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section.

Marc T. Braverman, L. Cooksy, and J. Huddleston presented “Making Evaluation Design Decisions with your Project’s Available Resources in Mind”, on April 20, 2005 at the Tobacco Prevention Conference.

Marc T. Braverman presented “Print and Online Resources for Evaluation”, on April 21, 2005 at the Tobacco Prevention Conference.

J. H. Huddleston, Marc T. Braverman, L. J. Cooksy, J. D. Elmen, T. Yao, H. Tang and D. Cowling presented “Benefits of Internal vs. External Evaluation for County-Based Tobacco Control”, on May 6, 2005 at the National Conference on Tobacco or Health.

4-H C Y D I N A C T I O N !

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Marc T. Braverman presented “Disseminating Your Evaluation Results”, on June 7, 2005 for a Teleconference hosted for county-based Local Lead Agencies (tobacco control projects).

Marc T. Braverman and J. K. Slater presented “Young People as Change Agents in Health Promotion Interventions: A Youth Development Theory Perspective”, on June 29, 2005 at the Childhoods 2005 Conference in Oslo, Norway.

Lenna Ontai-Grzebik presented a paper: “Parenting and Value Transmission by Immigrant Mothers of Preschool-Age Children”, in April 2005 at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference in Atlanta, GA.



update

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