
CENTER UPDATE

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Notes from the Director: Learning for the Long Haul

—Marc Braverman

As the newspapers tell us, knowledge becomes obsolete these days at a faster rate than ever before. I thought about that the other day as I finally got around to throwing out some dusty documentation for *Wordstar* and a few other computer programs that I haven't used since the dark ages. With this sobering idea in mind, we need to be continually aware of what criteria we use in developing educational programs for youth so as to have the longest-lasting influence and benefit. As nonformal educators, we live with that question daily. In our design and delivery of educational curricula, it takes on practical importance.

UC Berkeley researcher Marcia Linn and her colleague Lawrence Muilenburg address the question of how to develop lifelong learning in the area of science in the current issue of the journal *Educational Researcher*¹. They describe their deliberations on selecting a model to use for teaching the concept of heat transfer to middle-school students. Should they teach an abstract "molecular kinetics" model based on the movement of molecules and kinetic energy, or should they teach a more pragmatic "heat flow" model based on everyday student problems such as how to keep lunch items cold? The authors taught such units to students in the 8th grade and interviewed them later in both the 10th grade and the 12th grade. They found that students who were taught the second, more pragmatic model were more likely to apply the ideas to solve other everyday problems and also went on to "refine and improve their scientific ideas over the next five years" (p. 23), including, for many of them, mastery of the molecular-kinetic model in a later grade as it became more relevant to their academic plans or their own personal interest. The significance of this research is that, from a scientific viewpoint, the molecular model is superior to the heat-flow model; it is more broadly applicable and more closely connected to critical explanatory chemistry concepts. It just turns out that from an educational viewpoint the superiority is reversed. The heat-flow model is more closely and intuitively connected to questions that the students face in their daily lives. Therefore, as the authors concluded, for most of the students it provided a better foundation for lifelong learning.

In his trainings and programs on science education for youth, my 4-H YD Specialist colleague Richard Ponzio has often stated that he places more importance on thinking processes related to "question-finding" than to particular "answers," that is, specific knowledge. I have always found this to be a useful idea to chew on because, after all, couldn't one argue that specific knowledge, as the logical outcome of the question-asking process, has a place of central importance? Not necessarily, if we use the past history of ideas as a guide—or even if we read the newspaper carefully every day. It generally turns out that a firm grasp on the question will take us farther than a firm grasp on the answer.

¹ Linn, M.C., & Muilenburg, L. (1996). Creating lifelong science learners: What models form a firm foundation? *Educational Researcher*, 25(5), 18-24.

Goodbye!

—Judy Wallace

It is hard for me to believe that the time has come to resign from my position at the 4-H CYD. As all of you know, the staff here are super, and I can't express how fortunate I feel to have had the opportunity to work with them, and to have become part of their "family." I know I will never find another group of co-workers as warm, intimate, or supportive as those here at the 4-H CYD.

On a larger scale, I wish to tell all of you how much I have truly enjoyed working with the YD Advisors, Program Representatives, Regional Directors, and leaders who make up the California 4-H Program. You are an extremely capable, creative, and talented group of individuals whom I not only admire, but whose energy and multiple abilities have inspired me. You really make a difference not only in the lives of the children you serve, but in your communities as well.

The California 4-H Program has given me a solid introduction to the difficulties that programs face in times of decreasing budgets and increasing populations in need. As I move back "home" to the New York metropolitan area, I feel well-informed and ready to begin the challenging pursuit of a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Housed within the School of Social Work, I will be learning and researching about Social Planning and Policy Analysis.

Although I am sad to be leaving, I am grateful for the opportunities I have had to work with you, to learn from you, and to grow with the CYD from its inception. It has been amazing to witness and to be a part of its accelerated, exciting growth.

Out and About Around the State...

—Judy Wallace

Regional Projects, Teams, etc.:

International Agricultural Visitors Address, UC Davis (5/2/96):

Anna and Judy presented the history of 4-H, the development of the 4-H Center for Youth

Development, and the operations of the State 4-H Program to a delegation of youth officers representing Korea's 4-H Central Unions.

Yolo County Drug Diversion Program Consultation, UC Davis (5/8/96):

Marc and Anna consulted with this local community agency that works with drug offenders. They provided service by recommending methods and suggesting evaluation strategies that would measure the impact of the agency's services.

USDA Civil Rights Review of California 4-H Program, Oakland (5/9/96):

Marc and Steve Mendivil provided information on statewide 4-H activities pertinent to the program's success in reaching diverse audiences of youth and families throughout California.

4-H Curriculum Committee Meeting, UC Davis (6/10-6/11/96):

Marc serves on the Curriculum Committee which develops procedures for developing and reviewing curriculum that can be used by the California 4-H Program.

California Focus Program Oversight Hearings, Sacramento (7/2/96):

Ramona attended this meeting for the California 4-H Focus Program and participated in the judging of youth action plans, designed to involve communities in citizenship activities. California Focus is a study travel program within 4-H.

National Meetings:

National Decisions for Health Network, Minneapolis (5/13-5/15/96):

Judy attended this national planning conference as the UC representative on the National Decisions for Health Network (NDHN). It provided an opportunity to further define the purposes and roles of individual agents and states represented on the NDHN, as well as the workgroups. The 4-H CYD

participates on the evaluation committee of this network.

Points of Light Foundation Conference, San Francisco (6/10/96):

Judy participated on a panel which discussed "Cross Cultural Matching in Mentoring Programs" at this international conference. The Points of Light Foundation hosts an annual training conference to support the efforts of volunteers and nonprofit organizations.

Cooperative Curriculum Development Training, Chicago (7/11-7/13/96):

Ella and Anna attended this national training on how to create, write, and adapt youth development curriculum. It was offered by the National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System (CCS).

National Decisions for Health Network, Vermont (upcoming 7/30-8/1/96):

Marc will attend this national planning conference, convened by CSREES/USDA. It will be a working meeting where Extension participants will plan multiple evaluation strategies that will assess the overall CYFAR (Children, Youth, and Families At Risk) Initiative, the individual networks comprising the CYFAR Initiative (such as the National Decisions for Health Network), and the capacity of these networks to communicate electronically. The meeting is part of a continuing project to develop a multi-level evaluation strategy that will measure and monitor the ongoing effectiveness of CYFAR funded activities.

Conferences, Trainings, and Lectures:

Undergraduate Guest Lecture, UC Davis (5/8/96):

Marc delivered a guest lecture on "Tobacco Prevention and Project 4-Health," to Human Development 141 ("Field Studies With Children").

State Leadership Conference Planning, UC Davis (6/1/96):

Anna attended this planning meeting in preparation for the upcoming 4-H State

Leadership Conference to be held at UC Davis August 3-6, 1996.

Undergraduate Guest Lecture, UC Davis (6/5/96): Marc delivered a guest lecture on "Preventing Adolescent Substance Use," to Human Development 100B ("Middle Childhood and Adolescence").

Training Staff to Succeed with Volunteers, Sacramento (6/26-6/27/96): Ramona and Ella attended this train-the-trainer workshop, offered by the Non-Profit Resource Center with past 4-H Center for Youth Development speaker, Betty Stallings.

Center Receives Grant from the National Network for Child Care

—Anna Otto Sherlock

The 4-H Center recently received a \$10,000 grant from the National Network for Child Care for a project titled *Caring for Kids: Workforce Preparedness in Child Care Career Tracks*. This program will be designed for high school aged youth in 4-H programs, as well as other nonformal youth programs and school-based programs. It will provide a curriculum to explore various careers in the child care field. (The child care field is defined broadly to include a wide array of child-related career options). Anna Otto Sherlock will serve as the project director. Work on the project began May 15, 1996 and will conclude by June 1, 1997. Additional expertise will be provided to the project through collaboration with UC Davis faculty and staff at the Family and Child Studies Center and UCCE staff in the School Age Child Care workgroup.

Upcoming Dates for Collaborative Grants Program Recipients

—Judy Wallace

The first 4-H CYD Collaborative Research Grants Program is coming to the end of its cycle. The seven grantee teams will be finishing project activities by June 30, 1996.

Recipients, please remember to submit your Final Project Reports on or before September 30, 1996. These will then be analyzed,

summarized, and distributed in a compiled report form. Good luck wrapping up your projects!

Leadership Exploration Workshop

—Anna Otto Sherlock

Ella Madsen and Anna Otto Sherlock are in the process of designing a presentation for youth attending the 4-H State Leadership Conference in August. Using an interactive approach, the 90 minute workshop will help youth explore the world of leadership. Youth will discover what motivates them and others, learn about Total Quality Management (TQM), and explore other leadership topics.

Teen Leadership Curriculum Workgroup Update

—Anna Otto Sherlock

The Teen Leadership Curriculum Workgroup met over breakfast during the 4-H CYD Spring Conference. Plans were set to establish a *listserv* for electronic communication. Also, members of the workgroup are reviewing some of the leadership materials obtained from 4-H programs in other states. The Center is in the process of identifying and obtaining additional training materials. Since our June meeting, the following curricula have arrived in our office:

- *Teens Take the Lead...: 4-H Teen Leadership and Community Service Project (Years 1-3, Support Materials, and Adviser's Guide)* (WV)
- *One on One: 4-H Teen Mentor Project* (OH)
- *4-H Club Teen Leadership* (OH)
- *Multi-Level 4-H Teen Leadership* (OH)
- CA SC (California association of Student Councils) 1996 Staff Development Program

Contact either Ella Madsen or Anna Otto Sherlock if you are interested in reviewing any of the leadership materials.

4-H Leader Trainings

—Anna Otto Sherlock

Thanks to all of the Advisors who responded to our call for presenters for our leader trainings to be held in September and October. We are working to finalize the presentations for each of

the four trainings. Each training will be held on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please remind leaders about the following training dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Location</u>
9/28/96	Southern	Walnut (L.A. Co.)
10/5/96	N. Central	Davis
10/12/96	Northern	Red Bluff
10/19/96	S. Central	Fresno

County Spotlight: From Humboldt County ...The Lindsey Creek Stewardship Program

—Judy Wallace

The Lindsey Creek Stewardship Program was a three year project of the Fieldbrook 4-H Club, developed under the guidance of 4-H Youth Development Advisor, Teresa McAllister. Its primary goal was to restore Lindsey Creek to its natural state of usage after years of deterioration. The Fieldbrook 4-H Club realized that through educational stewardship of the creek, 4-H members, with assistance from adult volunteers and local Fieldbrook community members, could help clean and preserve the area. The project serves as an excellent example of how young adults developed a program idea that ultimately evolved into an entire community collaboration project.

Who was involved and how?

There were a number of people, representing various community groups, who were involved with the project. Specifically, there were 12 4-H adults, 12 4-H teen members (13-16 years old), 60 students (in the 3rd and 4th grades), and 6 landowners. In order to begin the restoration project, 4-H volunteers and teens met with California Fish & Game staff to develop a written plan of action with proper safety components. They then searched for land owners adjacent to Lindsey Creek who were also interested in "cleaning up their own backyard." These property owners contributed equipment and supplies to facilitate clean-up activities. Additionally, the California Fish Action Council was a major resource for information regarding the project's implementation plan. Science teachers at Fieldbrook Elementary School also assisted by conducting a fish incubation project

with 3rd and 4th grade children, and an educational program for 2nd and 3rd grade students.

Specific project outcomes

Adult and teen leaders, with the assistance of local agency resource persons and the local elementary school, accomplished several activities that will have long-term impact on Lindsey Creek. These include:

- organizing a three mile walking survey of the creek and identifying spawning sites as well as bank erosion from cattle,
- planting 1300 evergreen trees on private land where cattle had deforested property,
- presenting a slide show for the community on fish species, identification, and habitat requirements,
- coordinating an elementary school fish incubation project,
- releasing incubated fish at specific sites and walking the creek to increase understanding of habitat needs,
- planting 700 deciduous and evergreen trees on privately-owned, company land,
- preparing materials for mapping the watershed,
- assisting Fish & Game staff with a fish survey (involving the collection, identification, and releasing of fish),
- evaluating three individual parcels for possible future restoration needs, and
- conducting an impact evaluation survey.

Upon the completion of most of the above activities, Teresa developed an impact evaluation survey to distribute to program participants. She asked the Fieldbrook 4-H Club members what they would want to know from participants, finalized the evaluation form, and then solicited club members to pass out evaluations to significant people who had worked on the project. Of the 30 forms that were distributed, 14 were returned (48% response rate), and results were positive. Youth reported important and exciting learning experiences (e.g., observing the salmon life cycle), and adults reported challenging but positive learning experiences as well (e.g., the slow but rewarding nature of streamside stewardship; the knowledge that children gain from such a project; the eagerness of community

members to get involved through awareness of 4-H club activities).

Reaping the benefits

In total, it is estimated that the Lindsey Creek Stewardship Program has benefited approximately 800 members of the Fieldbrook community. The project has already been selected by the California 4-H Association as a 1996 state award winner, and is progressing on to the western states and then to the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-H) for consideration. We wish Teresa and the Fieldbrook 4-H Club lots of luck and congratulations!

Have news you wish to share? Is something exciting or interesting happening in your county? Are you proud of a particular project and want to tell the state? Has an event occurred in your region that you think others could learn from or should know about? If you've answered "YES!" to any of these questions, please contact Katherine Robinson [916-754-8432 or ktrobinson@ucdavis.edu] to be featured in our next County Spotlight. We'll conduct the phone interview and write up your story. All you do is the talking. Thanks for volunteering to share!

Spring Conference Wrap-up

—Ramona Carlos

We were very pleased that so many YD staff were able to attend the CYD's second annual Spring Conference, which was held at the UC Davis University Club on June 4-5. We feel we were able to arrange an informative, varied program, with interesting speakers who presented their material in a dynamic way, sharing techniques and methods which were practical and applicable to work in which Advisors and Program Representatives may be involved. In developing the program for the conference, we took into consideration the feedback we received following last year's conference. One suggestion was the desire to have time devoted to working group sessions. In light of this suggestion, we structured our conference program this year in a manner which would allow time for processing the material presented by the speakers. Two of the workshops were structured by the speakers to

last the full two hours, so there was no processing time after the session by Betty Stallings, *"Managing and Strengthening a Volunteer Program"* or the session by Specialist Rich Ponzio, *"Curriculum Development Strategies for Experiential Learning."* From reviewing the participant feedback forms from the conference, it appears that most people appreciated having this time. The overall average rating of the processing sessions was 4.29 (on a 5 point scale). Before the conference we had created a list of questions to assist the facilitation of the processing sessions. Generally, however, the second hour of the workshops became a time for questions and answers, and an opportunity to further explore some of the key issues raised during the first hour. Ratings and comments indicated that while some people would have preferred the processing to follow a more rigid structure, most people were happy with how the sessions progressed.

Conference highlights

- **Keynote address— Giovanna Stark, Executive Director of the Child Development Advisory Committee for the Governor and State Legislature** presented a provocative address that stimulated thought and discussion on how our program activities relate to state policy issues.

- **Children's Experimental Garden Tour—**"Terrific, useful information," "An outstanding presentation!" were some of the comments given about the tour of the children's garden. The tour was highly rated on the evaluation forms (an average rating of 4.66 on a 5 point scale) and apparently enjoyed by everyone who attended. **Carol Hillhouse, project director,** was an effective tour guide, committed to developing a memorable interactive gardening experience for children.

- **Panel presentation—**We are very proud to have had an engaging group of presenters for our panel **"Community-Based Innovations for Youth Programming."** Each presenter described a unique method of involving youth from all backgrounds in either their community or in challenging programs which would bring

youth personal feelings of success. Comments on the evaluation forms reflect respondents' appreciation for the panel: "very good selection of presenters"; "excellent," "engaging, stimulating!"

- **California 4-H Association—**The CA 4-H Association was instrumental in the success of the conference. Funding from the Association enabled us to offer the session on volunteer management by Betty Stallings as well as the session on resiliency by Bonnie Benard. The Association also hosted a reception for all conference attendees. We really appreciate the contributions from the Association. We would also like to extend a thank you to those participants who brought a display of county and statewide activities. These presentations are informative and valuable and allow for the sharing innovative ideas with colleagues throughout California.

Participant Feedback Forms results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the participant feedback form. We have analyzed the ratings and comments, and in general, the sessions were rated very highly (4 or higher on a 5 point scale). We are very pleased that, overall, the conference was rated very highly. The top three rated sessions were:

<u>Session Title</u>	<u>Average Rating</u>
"Managing and Strengthening a Volunteer Program"	4.78
"Children's Experimental Garden Tour"	4.66
"How to Focus a Program Evaluation"	4.51

We appreciate knowing your opinions on the strengths and weaknesses of the conference. The most often voiced strengths of the conference were the ability to network with 4-H YD staff and the choices in the topics offered for the sessions at the conference. People appreciated the opportunity to interact with colleagues from around the state and commiserate about work related issues. Also, comments indicated that the session topics were

appropriate and useful and that there was a diversity in the choices. On the critical side, some respondents felt that the topics were redundant of offerings from other local conferences, that the general level of training could have been higher, and that there wasn't enough time for dialogue on youth development. A few respondents questioned whether the session topics were appropriate for 4-H Program Representatives. Some comments indicated that because most Program Representatives are not involved in research, many of the sessions were not appropriate for their work. A suggestion was made that perhaps there should be specific sessions planned for Program Representatives.

It is unfortunate that only 26 participant feedback forms (out of 63 attendees) were completed. We value the comments given on these forms, and we will use them in developing future training sessions and conference workshops. We want to know your opinions! Let us know how we can continue to work toward the goal of providing a training conference that is informative, stimulating, challenging and timely to the work of the YD staff. For those of you who took the time to respond, thank you!

From the California 4-H Foundation:

The California 4-H Foundation's Fourth Annual Fund Raiser

—Marian Cohen

On Sunday, September 8, 1996, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., the California 4-H Foundation will present its fourth annual benefit for the 4-H Youth Development Program.

Guests will enjoy live entertainment and line dancing lessons by the Country Music Association of American's 1996 Female Vocalist of the Year—the popular and crowd-pleasing Shelley Streeter!

“Classico Nella Caverna Goes County!” features a festive array of activities throughout the renowned Kautz Ironstone Vineyards facility in historic Murphys, a Calaveras County gold

rush town nestled in the Sierra foothills. A western-style barbeque that includes buffalo for the adventuresome palate, draft horse teams (with wagon rides for guests), western poetry readings, 4-H displays, and children's activities are just a few of the other activities available. A silent auction will showcase many exciting items such as vacation getaways, outdoor adventures, culinary specialties and diversions for the sports enthusiasts.

Advance tickets are \$40 each, \$15 for youth (16 or under) and children under 5 are free. \$25 of each adult ticket purchased is a tax-deductible donation to 4-H and admission includes the barbecue, live entertainment and all activities. A “Family Package” (2 adults and 2 youth) is available for \$95.

Fund Raising Opportunity for County 4-H Clubs and Councils

The Foundation will return 10% of the purchase price to each county that sells a minimum of 20 adult tickets. The balance of the ticket price supports 4-H statewide through the efforts of the 4-H Foundation. Take advantage of this fund raising opportunity by selling tickets to our event. Tickets may be obtained from Pat Dean, Stanislaus County, at (209) 847-3215 or from the Foundation at (916) 757-8504.