

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

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TYFP

The headline of the last edition of the 4-H Center for Youth Development's Director's Notes was RSVP! And you did! Over 100 people responded to the invitation to register for the Youth in Development in the 21st Century Symposium held on the UC Davis Campus on May 4th and 5th, 2006.

Now: TYFP! Thank You For Participating! Nearly 100 people representing UC Cooperative Extension, UC Davis, and a variety of youth serving organizations participated for the two days of presentations, discussions and planning groups. As well, we had 10 youth representing Grant High School, Davis High School and the El Dorado County Youth Commission. According to a great number of comments, reactions, and evaluations the active and direct participation of these young adults in the Symposium was a strong feature of the event. They added much to our thinking, planning, and reflections. We thank them for their participation.

And, we thank each of you for your participation, contributions and continuing involvement in youth development work. The personnel of the 4-H CYD have begun to harvest the products from this Symposium, particularly from the break out groups that were featured on the second day. We are already looking ahead to the 2nd Annual Youth in Development in the 21st Century Symposium to be held in 2007. In

fact, please mark the dates of May 8, 9, and 10, 2007 during which the 2nd Annual Symposium will be held in conjunction with coordinated conferences with the California Communities Program and the Human Resources Program of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources. We are also discussing the Youth in Development Symposium with colleagues in the UC Davis School of Education and the Sacramento focused Youth Services Provider's Network.

Again, for all of you who participated in the May 4th and 5th Symposium, thank you. As well, please consider responding to the web-based Evaluation that you should have already received. Your reflections and thoughts on the past Symposium will be highly valuable for us in planning the next Symposium, as well as we craft our new efforts focused on youth in development and especially on youth led research work. You should also be advised that the power point presentations given by the excellent presenters can now be found on the 4-H CYD's web-site: (<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>). To locate these on the site, from the home page, click on "Symposium Notes" (under the Announcements title), then click on the first bullet "Youth in Development in the 21st Century Symposium Notes". The power point presentations follow the notes of the presenters' talks.

TYFP! And don't forget for the 2007 Symposium: RSVP!

Focus on Jonathan London

by Katherine Heck

Jonathan London joined the Department of Human and Community Development in January as a researcher in the California Communities Program. His work at UC Davis, also affiliated with the new Center for the Study of Regional Change, focuses on rural development, and he has a particular interest in community-based participatory action research, and projects that link universities more closely to communities.

In 1990, along with his wife, Nancy Erbstein (who is now at the CRESS center at the UC Davis School of Education), and Kristen Zimmerman, Jonathan founded Youth In Focus (www.youthinfocus.net), an organization that works with young people to develop community-based action-oriented research projects. Youth In Focus conducts trainings and otherwise assists young people and adult allies to lead research, evaluation, and planning efforts to create or change organizations, programs, or policies that affect youth in their communities. Youth In Focus works primarily in the Bay Area and the Central Valley, but has also done work in Plumas and Alpine Counties with Native American populations. Currently, the Central Valley projects in which Youth In Focus is involved are primarily focusing on connecting youth to ongoing efforts around issues such as increasing educational equity, community health, and changing the structure of the California Youth Authority.

Here at UC Davis, Jonathan is co-writing a book with Ted Bradshaw and Ed Blakely on innovations in rural community development. The book, which is a follow-up to a similar book by Bradshaw and Blakely published in 1979, will identify new practices in equitable, locally-driven, successful efforts in rural development. Jonathan is developing several research projects around environmental justice, particularly in Central Valley and immigrant communities. He is also working with two university-community-focused projects; one to increase service-learning and community participation within UC Davis, and one through several UC campuses to increase the involvement of community members in campus-based research.

Jonathan helped develop the youth panel at the “Youth in Development in the 21st Century” conference on May 4-5 and facilitated a breakout session on youth action research. His expertise in youth action research will be valuable for Advisors or others who wish to adapt a youth-action research model for their communities. Jonathan would like to be a resource, and invites people to contact him, for projects involving research, planning, community participation, and outreach to diverse populations.

Jonathan received his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 2001 in Environmental Science Policy and Management. He resides in Davis with his wife Nancy, their children, Maya (9) and Ben (6), and their cat Tomas.

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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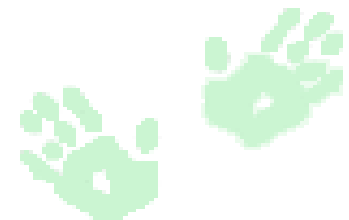
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Youth Development Seminar Series Update

by Amy Van Scoik

This spring the 4-H Center for Youth Development tried a new method of outreach to the campus community by offering a two-unit course for academic credit through the Human Development and Community & Regional Development departments. This course was open to undergraduate and graduate students, and its purpose was to increase student awareness of youth development efforts currently underway through the University of California Cooperative Extension and to demonstrate how these efforts tie into the field of youth development as a whole.

Students in the course gained knowledge about youth-centered programs and research from a positive youth development perspective. The seminar covered a wide range of topics, including: the history of youth development in Cooperative Extension, theory and practice of youth development, experiential education and life skills, assets and

community collaboration, youth in governance, Latina teen pregnancy research and prevention, garden-based education, foster youth, and after-school programs. The class of thirteen students was diverse in their interests, with majors including human development, community development, education, psychology and sociology. Students were required to read materials provided by the speakers before their presentations, in order to grasp the material with more depth and to ask more thought-out questions, which were submitted via an online discussion board. Our seminar was unique in that it encouraged student engagement with the speakers through a specially designated time for discussion. Students are also preparing research papers inspired by the various seminar topics.

We had the honor of hosting thirteen professionals from University of California Cooperative Extension to present to our seminar

audience. We would like to thank Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty, Richard Enfield, Patsy Eubanks-Owens, Shelley Murdock, Carole Paterson, Fe Moncloa, Rose Hayden-Smith, Daniel Desmond, Steve Dasher and Keith Nathaniel for their contributions to the seminar series. The course instructor was Jim Grieshop, and the course organizers were Aarti Subramaniam and Amy Van Scoik.

The Spring 2006 Youth Development Seminar has been a great success and we look forward to offering it again next year. Next year, we are also interested in opening up the seminar to presentations by other non-UCCE professionals working with youth. If you are a UCCE advisor or other professional working with youth and are interested in presenting or attending the next seminar series, please contact the 4-H CYD. Look forward to information on our next youth development seminar series; we hope to see you there!

Grant High School Projects Update

by Kate Wright

The past year I've been working with Grant High School, in Sacramento, with their after-school group, *Grant Environmental Organization* (G.E.O). Their mission is to "engage youth in entrepreneurial garden and environmental stewardship projects where they develop skills and knowledge to obtain employment, access higher education, improve their health and actively contribute to their community." I have collaborated with Ann Marie Kennedy who is the Garden Coordinator to develop

meaningful activities with the youth that incorporate garden-based and experiential learning. With a small group of youth, we created a calendar displaying community gardeners and their stories. The G.E.O. group interviewed and photographed gardener's throughout the community to learn about their history and experiences in gardening. Using the resources they had developed we were able to create a calendar that can be sold and distributed for promotion and

outreach. Additionally, the calendar format will continue to be used, making the process easier and more easily implemented into class curriculum, an ultimate goal of the project. The youth had fun learning about the history and culture surrounding gardening in the community in addition to the technological skills they developed through the process of creating the calendar. I am currently in the process of working with Ann Marie and Aarti Subramaniam (of the 4-H

CYD) to develop a service learning project/study which we hope to incorporate this summer. The project would be with the City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation program called *Work Recreation*, which hires low income local youth to do community

service over the summer. The youth spend a few hours a week at Grant High, working in the garden and then cooking food they picked from the garden and learning about healthy eating. The goal is see if this activity would be more

meaningful by adding an experiential service learning project which would include community asset mapping of healthy living resources, interviewing gardeners, volunteering at a food bank, visiting farmers markets and reflecting on and presenting their experiences.

Teenage Driving Research Project by Katherine Heck

In partnership with the 4-H CYD, several 4-H YD Advisors have been working with high schools in the Central Valley to gather data on teenage driving. So far they have

collected 277 surveys from high school seniors about driving, driver's education and driver's training. The workgroup is also gathering data from older 4-H members on driving.

Please encourage 4-H participants in your county who are ages 15 and older to respond to the online survey. The brief survey is located at: <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=1288>.

Upcoming conference

Society for Research in Child Development **2007 SRDC Biennial Meeting**

To be held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Thursday, March 29, 2007, through Sunday, April 1, 2007

Submission Website is open now: <http://www.srkd.org/submissions2007/>
2007 Call for Submissions

* POSTER submissions: **July 28, 2006**

* NONPOSTER SUBMISSION FORMATS: **August 4, 2006**



update

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