

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

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Then, Now, and Tomorrow

It has now been a year since I was named the Director (the fifth) of the 4-H Center for Youth Development. In the past year, the staff and affiliated students and I have worked to continue to meet the goals of the Center and to position the Center for new opportunities related to youth development. We have continued to support the work of Advisors and county-based extension educators in their workgroup and Core Issues projects as well as to develop collaborative applied research efforts. The Publication series including the *Update*, *Research You May Have Missed* and *Monograph* has continued to be produced providing important sources of useful information and outlets for Advisors to publish their work. The CYD staff organized and hosted a two day Youth in Development Symposium which brought together county and campus personnel, along with other youth experts from inside and outside California. This Symposium also provided an opportunity for youth from Sacramento, El Dorado and Davis to participate and teach us about their own work. The CYD staff and students also organized and hosted during the spring quarter the first UC Davis Youth Development Seminar Series that brought Advisors to campus to present their work to undergraduate and graduate students in Human and Community Development.

That is where we are now. But, where will be tomorrow?

We expect to continue the publications, to hold the 2nd Annual Youth in Development Symposium, as well as a spring quarter Youth Development Seminar Series, and to support specific Advisor projects and work. Within the Center, specific research efforts continue to be organized and expanded (see the updates in this issue.) We also are working to develop and support on a continuing basis useful research that contributes to the field of youth development (e.g., a focus on youth led research).

In the future, both immediate and long term, major challenges loom and face not only the Center but all UCCE Youth Advisors and the Cooperative Extension system. Academic staffing, at both the county level and the statewide Specialist level, is obviously a major and immediate problem that impacts county and state programs, as well as the Center. Our responses to this reality include discussions with the Program Council and the campus leadership about the immediate need for Youth Development Specialists. Departmental discussions and action are also needed to position the Center and its work. The Center for Youth Development also has begun to explore and activate closer, mutually beneficial ties with the Statewide 4-H program and office.

The longer-term future, at best, is uncertain and fuzzy. To ensure certainty and clarity, we need ideas, input, and creativity. We need to hear from you now! ■

Service Learning with Workreation

-by Aarti Subramaniam

The 4-H CYD was involved with the City of Sacramento's Workreation program, which is a summer job and career development program for high school youth in Sacramento. Kate Wright and Aarti Subramaniam worked with Annemarie Kennedy from Grant High School to create a service learning program where 90 youth participants of Workreation were involved in activities centered around community improvement and food security over a period of six weeks. In addition to the gardening and nutrition activities that the participants were involved in at the Grant High School garden,

the service learning component of the Workreation program included making community asset maps of their neighborhoods (nine in all), visiting community gardens and interviewing gardeners, visiting farmers' markets and activities related to hunger and food security with visitors from the Hunger Commission. The 4-H CYD is interested to see if the participants' enthusiasm for the service learning as suggested through their high engagement and feedback, is reflected in changes in attitudes and knowledge about community resources and attitudes towards food, health and leadership. ■

Lenna Ontai reports on current projects:

In collaboration with the Families with Young Children Workgroup, I am completing the impact evaluation of the *Creating Healthy Families* series designed to incorporate parent education into nutrition programming. The results from the evaluation will be available in the winter. Efforts are now underway to develop a companion DVD and on-line content related to the series for educators.

I have also been involved with a multi-state, longitudinal research project aimed at studying rural

mothers on welfare. Analysis of the data has focused on the importance of parent support to parenting in this high-risk sample. Papers from the analyses are currently being submitted.

Finally, I have been working with the California Families Project (led by Dr. Rand Conger) which aims to follow Mexican immigrant families over 5 years to study the factors that keep their children well adjusted and healthy during the critical transition to adolescence. Data collection for this project will begin this fall. ■

Funding Opportunity for Bay Area Residents

Based in San Francisco, the Koret Foundation funds youth development and K-12 education programs in Bay Area counties, including youth docent programs at science and wildlife museums. For more information, visit their website at: <http://www.koretfoundation.org/grants/programs.html>.

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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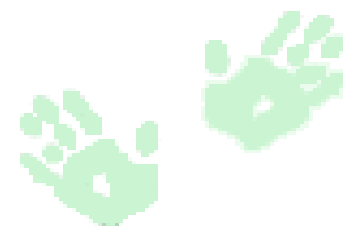
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IN PRINT

King, N.J., & Madsen, E.R. (in press). Considering a phenomenological approach to career development for low income African American youth. *Journal of Career Development*.

Ontai, L.L., & Thompson, R.A. (in press). Attachment, parent-child discourse and theory of mind development. *Social Development*.

Peterson, K., **Ponzio, R.**, Castori, P., & Galloway, R. (2006). Getting creative with assessments. *Science and Children*, 43(8), 52-55.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Life Lab Science Program ANNOUNCES'

The Growing Classroom Workshop: An Introduction to Garden-Based Learning

September 28 - September 29 (Thursday and Friday) 2006

www.lifelab.org

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom - 2006 Conference

October 19-21, 2006 at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center

<http://www.cfaitc.org/Conference/Conference.php>

CYFAR 2007 Conference

May 1-4, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Chicago, IL

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/announcement.html>

Deadline for proposals: November 1, 2006

Service-Learning Award Opportunities

- State Farm and Youth Service America are offering grants of up to \$1,000 to support youth ages 5-25, teachers, or school-based service-learning coordinators in implementing service-learning projects for National and Global Youth Service Day in April 2007. Grant applications are due October 16, 2006.
- The 2007 Harris Wofford Awards will recognize achievements of youth (ages 12-25), organizations, and media for contributing to the goal of making service learning a common expectation and experience of young people. The awardees will receive \$500 and travel to the 18th annual National Service-Learning Conference in Albuquerque, NM in March 2007. Nominations are due October 19, 2006.

For more information about both of these opportunities, see

http://www.ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm



update

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