

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

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**RSVP!**

In the last Director's Notes entry I used the expression "After all is said and done, more is said than done." The purpose of its use was to focus attention on our plans for a Youth Development Seminar series for the Spring Quarter at UC Davis to feature the research and outreach work of Youth Development Advisors. This Seminar series is now planned - thanks to Amy Van Scoik and Aarti Subramaniam - to begin on April 4 and to be followed by seven Advisor presentations through the end of May.

Nestled in the middle of this series is the May 4-5 "Youth in Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" Symposium to be held on the UC Davis campus. This Symposium is organized for the purpose of framing issues and opportunities related to youth development in the future and to provoke thinking and action on the part of our system related to youth development. Themes of "Youth and Engagement," "Youth and Health," and "Youth and Culture" will serve to organize the presentations. These will include relevant research and its implications for youth development work from two points of view: one, from a social-cultural, cognitive development perspective and a second from a youth/community engagement point of view.

We are also inviting youth to participate and present their stories related to health, culture and

engagement. Other presenters are to include nationally known researchers and youth development experts including Ana Mari Cauce of the University of Washington, Shep Zeldin of the University of Wisconsin, K.A.S. Wickrama of Iowa State University, Marc Braverman of Oregon State University (and UC Davis by the way). Presenters will also include Adrienne Nishina, Fe Moncloa, David Campbell, Deborah Stewart, M.D., Richard Enfield, and Sherri Zidenberg-Cherr from UC Davis and UCCE.

Youth Development Advisors, Program Representatives and other UC Youth Development academics are invited to participate in what is designed to be a timely and thought provoking event. We invite non-University Youth Development professionals to participate with the hope they will also help to further catalyze our thinking and networking. We also hope that students will participate. On Friday, May 5 we will have a breakfast and focused discussion to include your participation and those of the Advisors and others with the goal of moving the thinking along.

For information and registration links, please visit the following website: <http://groups.ucanr.org/Youthdevconf>. You are invited to this event.

## Specialist Focus

*With busy schedules, it is often hard to keep track of where everyone is; we thought it might be useful to periodically provide brief updates on the activities of the CE Specialists:*

**James Grieshop, Ph.D.**

**Specialist in Community Education Development writes:  
“From Youth Development to Tree Fruit to Avian Flu”**

In the past months, in addition to my work as Director of the 4-H Center for Youth Development, I have found myself engaged in work with Youth Development Advisors, Farm Advisors, and other Specialists. University students have also been a big audience since I am teaching a Winter Quarter hands-on course on social marketing and communication. This course involves students in digital storytelling and a project for designing a youth development social marketing campaign in conjunction with the Sacramento FACES program. I have also begun to expand the digital storytelling work with Advisors in several counties, all with an eye to the development of an organized effort to be labeled the Harvester program. This program, as it emerges, will seek to involve adolescents/teenagers in “harvesting” information and knowledge about their communities (with a particular focus on garden based learning) and the “packaging” it for dissemination through digital stories, videos and other media outlets. Early efforts, partially supported by a grant from the Irvine Foundation, are now underway with Rose Hayden-Smith in Ventura County, Dan Desmond, Advisor emeritus, and with graduate students from UC Davis. A youth development project is also underway in collaboration with Lynn

Schmitt-McQuitty in Santa Cruz-Monterey Counties and in the Seaside community in particular. This effort, supported by an internship grant from the California Communities Program, will eventually link Latino youth with health professionals from UCSF, the Monterey County Health Department, along with UCCE personnel in Monterey County. Speaking of Seaside, I am continuing a research project with Oaxacan immigrants begun during my sabbatical in Oaxaca. This work relates to the topic of food and culture with a specific focus on the transnational process of “envios.” Envios are packages of food and family items that are sent by community members in Oaxaca to family members in Seaside and surrounding communities and couriered by local residents. This practice provides insight into an interesting entrepreneurial phenomenon, transnational community living, and the power of food. I am also working with Farm Advisors in the Pomology area on an interesting new set of technologies labeled the Fruit Tree Technology Roadmap and in another area with the Master Gardener program. And, there has also been grant writing work related to Avian flu. It hasn’t been boring.

## 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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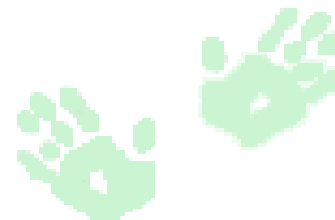
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**Lenna Ontai-Grzebik, Ph.D.**

**Human Development Assistant CE Specialist writes:**

I have been keeping busy with my work as chair of the Families with Young Children workgroup as well as my independent research projects. The FWYC workgroup has been busy designing and implementing an impact evaluation for the “Creating Healthy Families” series which delivers parenting information relevant to establishing healthy feeding routines. Twelve counties are taking place in

the evaluation which will continue through August. I am also spending time completing data collection on a project examining early mother-child interaction precursors to verbal communication patterns. Specifically, I am examining how moms and children interact during the preverbal period predict children’s and mother’s verbal behaviors during interactions 6-

months later. This information will help to inform support programs of new families about optimal patterns of non-verbal interactions that will promote later competencies. I am also using data from a multi-state regional project to explore community and individual factors that contribute to parent efficacy in low-income women living in rural communities.

**Nicki King, Ph.D.**

**CA&ES CE Specialist writes:**

I have been working on revising and resubmitting two articles for publication: one that describes the results of a series of focus groups with teenagers conducted by the Workforce Preparation Workgroup; and another that describes the application of ecological systems theory to the workforce preparation behavior of low-income minority youth. The focus group

article has a number of interesting findings, including that many of the respondents were already in foreclosure about their futures, and that many of them had role models who were public figures rather than people who were actually known to them, and with whom they could interact. The second article grew out of an attempt to develop a theoretical

construct that supported the findings from the focus group study, and reviews literature related to the contextual factors associated with vulnerability and challenges faced by many low-income minority youth. Drafts of both articles are available in the “myspace” area of myucdavis.edu. I would welcome your comments.

**Richard Ponzio, Ph.D.**

**Human Development CE Specialist**

**Associate Director (Education), Center for Biophotonics writes:**

This past few months I have been busy with work on the Center for Biophotonics Science and Technology (CBST) science curriculum materials for after school settings. The materials for children ages 5-8 (grades K-2) have been field tested and revised and used with success in several different settings. The primary sites for field testing were in Davis and Dixon after school child care. The more recent applications have been with Colusa County 4-H teen and adult leaders adapting and using the materials in a camp setting in addition to after school. Liz Dawley, Colusa County 4-H Program Representative was the driving force in that

application. The primary materials were also used successfully in a Migrant Worker Camp setting in Dixon, with Loran Hoffmann, Ella Madsen and Gloria Widner responsible for the program (and evaluation) led by UC Davis undergraduates.

Presently the CBST materials for children ages 8 - 11 (grades 3 - 5) are in their second round of field testing, and being prepared as a final draft to be used in an undergraduate course Pam Castori and I will be teaching in the Fall. The Human Development course will see the undergraduates trying out the materials in Davis, Dixon and

Woodland after school sites. We hope to recruit some 4-H sites around the state to try out either the primary or intermediate level materials.

As this is being written, Michael Marzolla and I are attending and presenting at the Annual World Water Conference in Mexico City. We are also hoping to form a collaborative effort with Mexico on the development of a water-related curriculum that builds on the earlier success of bilingual 4-H SERIES and YES projects and combines science literacy with language literacy for both Spanish and English speakers.

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## Youth Development Seminar Series for Spring Quarter

The 4-H Center for Youth Development is organizing a seminar series for Spring quarter at UC Davis. The seminar aims to cover a range of topics on youth development research and practice through presentations by UCCE staff. Through these presentations we hope that seminar participants will gain an understanding of the different youth development efforts in California co-

operative extension and in addition, how these efforts tie into the field of youth development as a whole. The classes are meant to be interactive and generate discussion about key issues in youth development research and practice.

The seminar will be held on Tuesdays from 11:00-12:50 in the Memorial Union on the UC Davis campus. Undergraduate and graduate

students will receive 2 units of credit for participating in the series. The public, other students, faculty and program staff are also invited to join us for a brown bag lunch

For more information on course schedule and topics please visit: <http://fourheyd.ucdavis.edu/events/seminar06%20.pdf>

## Update on Teen Driving Project: Surveys for high school seniors, parents, and older 4-H members —by Katherine Heck

The Life Skills for Teens preliminary workgroup (formerly known as ROAD, Risks of Adolescent Driving) has been conducting research in four counties to learn more about the ascertainment of the life skill of driving in late adolescence. We have conducted several focus groups with teenage boys and girls and with parents in an effort to learn more about the driver's education and training process, the influence of peers and family members on young

people's driving, and the driving challenges and high risk driving experiences that young people report. Results from the focus groups will be presented on March 25 at the Society for Research on Adolescence conference in San Francisco.

The next phase of this research will involve surveys of high school seniors at the schools and their parents to provide more accurate numbers about the information sought in the focus groups. In addition, we

are planning a very brief survey of older 4-H members, ages 15 and older, to learn more about the impact of driving on 4-H participants. Once this survey has been approved by the UC-Davis Human Subjects Review Board, we will send out a link to the 4-H staff list. We would appreciate it if 4-H Youth Development Advisors and Program Representatives would encourage their older members to participate in the survey. Thank you!

## Recent Publications

Heck, K. E., Braveman, P., Cubbin, C., Chavez, G. F., & Kiely, J. L. (2006). **Socioeconomic Status and Breastfeeding Initiation Among California Mothers.** *Public Health Reports*, 121(1), 51-59.

Schmitt-McQuitty, L., Subramaniam, A., & Stanley, S. (in press). **Encouraging Positive Youth Development with Youth Leadership Summits.** *Journal of Youth Development: Bridging Research and Practice*, 1(1).



# 4-H CYD Involvement with Workgroups

## Assets

The 4-H CYD has worked with the Applied Developmental Science Workgroup, also known as the Assets Workgroup, for several years. The Assets Workgroup has evaluated four

community collaboratives in Santa Clara, San Luis Obispo, Pasadena, and Sacramento that have come together to promote the importance of assets in positive youth

development. 4-H CYD employees involved with the Assets workgroup include Katherine Heck and, previously, Stacey Doan.

## 4-H Camp

The 4-H Center has been involved with the 4-H Camp Evaluation team in all stages of a two-year collaborative evaluation project to assess and improve 4-H Camps. Through surveys, focus groups and on-site observations, the team has gathered

information about the supports and opportunities offered by 4-H Camps from youth's own perspectives and shared these with adult and teen staff who are planning their next summer camp. There will be a follow-up in

the next year to see if there are any improvements. The team is currently working on disseminating findings from the first year of camp evaluation. Aarti Subramaniam has been involved with this workgroup.

## Youth in Governance

Members with a Civic engagement focus from the Adolescent workgroup have successfully completed two phases of their research identifying best practices in youth-adult partnerships and youth in governance

within the 4-H YD program. The first two phases included understanding attitudes and opinions about as well as correlates of successful youth in governance and youth adult partnership programs

from program staff, adults and youth. The next phase involves in depth focus group interviews from youth and adults from nominated programs. Aarti Subramaniam has been involved with all phases of this project.



# update

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- Richard Ponzio, Ph.D., Associate Director
- Ramona Carlos, Editor
- Carrie Matthews, Publications Coordinator

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