



Family Link

SUMMER 2010

<http://McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu>

Need for Expertise Leads to Another Busy Summer



Stephen T. Russell

While summer seems like a time when things might logically slow down in Tucson, institute faculty are deeply involved with several new projects, and we have various grant proposals in development. As if that weren't enough, Arizona's passage of an emotionally charged bill related to illegal immigration underscores the need for a research-based organization that focuses on the well-being of children and families in Arizona.

You'll be hearing more about the institute in the coming months as we embark upon various media-related and community outreach activities to highlight our work and the legacy of Frances McClelland.

Every day in Arizona and around the world there are economic and policy changes that affect children and families; as a result, many of today's families face significant obstacles. Frances McClelland believed that when opportunities are accessible, particularly to people who are vulnerable, all people can reach their potential for a productive future.

We are guided by this vision, and confident that our research and community programs can provide the knowledge and opportunities needed to enhance the lives of the people of Arizona and the world.

Thank you for your interest and support of our work.

Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.

Director, Professor, Fitch Nesbitt Endowed Chair

Summer Program Offers Opportunities To Connect Students with Arizona Communities



Outstanding emeritus faculty, alumna, extension specialist and youth educator, Shirley Jo Taylor devoted her career to 4-H by zeroing in on key social issues such as healthy adolescent relationships.

The Norton School of Family & Consumer Sciences is proud to announce the Shirley Jo Taylor Externship. This annual program is funded through a generous gift from former Norton School faculty member and Cooperative Extension Specialist, Shirley Jo Taylor, Ph.D.

Following her retirement, Dr. Taylor sponsored an endowment for Family Studies and Human Development (FSHD)

student scholarships, citing her desire to "give back after many happy years as a student, alumni, and employee" of the department. She envisioned the funds would support an "Externship" – the pairing of FSHD undergraduates with internships at Cooperative Extension sites throughout Arizona. The Frances McClelland Institute matches these funds with scholarships that cover summer tuition and assist with participant living expenses.

THE SJT SUMMER EXTERNSHIP IS DESIGNED TO:



Summer Program Offers Opportunities

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Cooperative Extension is the outreach arm of the University of Arizona. It is dedicated to "taking the university to the people" by serving as a statewide network of knowledgeable faculty and staff who provide a connection between the citizens of Arizona and the research, information and expertise of the University of Arizona.

FSHD major Julie Jackson has been selected as the program's first student and will work with Ruth Carter

in Maricopa County. Ms. Jackson is a dean's list student who will be working with the Teen Interactive Theater Education Program. Look for an update on her Externship experience in our next issue!

For more information about the externship program, please contact Jenny Simon at jsimon@email.arizona.edu or (520)621-7138.

New Book Debunks Myths about Parenting Practices of Asian Americans

Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., has contributed chapters to and edited a new book titled "Asian American Parenting and Parent-Adolescent Relationships," which debunks myths about parenting practices.

According to Dr. Russell, what most people in the United States consider good parenting is based on middle-class European American behaviors and attitudes such as displays of warmth and closeness balanced with monitoring and control.

"There is growing research that suggests important links between ethnic differences, parenting styles, and the quality of relationships between parents and adolescents," Russell said.

Parents in most cultures make sacrifices for their children, yet this feature is not highlighted in studies of European American families. In Asian American cultures, both parents and children highly value the sacrifices parents make; that is, meeting children's daily needs and helping them succeed in school. It also suggests that existing ideas about parenting may not fit all populations of youth and their families. Russell and his colleagues suggest that when studying parenting practices, other factors besides warmth

and control are important to consider, such as parental sacrifice.

"Our research is not suggesting that somehow Asian American parenting is radically different from European American parents," says Russell. "We're trying to show that parenting practices that lead to optimal development for adolescents can differ by culture in important ways."

Recognizing and considering cultural differences in parenting styles is crucial for policy makers, Russell says.

The book is part of a series titled "Advancing Responsible Adolescent Development." The most recent addition in the Frances McClelland Institute's *ResearchLink* series is titled "Cultural Differences in Parenting Practices: What Asian American Families Can Teach Us." It provides a consumer-friendly summary of the book and can be found free-of-charge on our website.



Winner of Undergraduate Research Grant Passionate about Adolescent Issues

University of Arizona junior, Michelle Harris, received a \$1,500 Undergraduate Research Grant from the Honors College for her study titled, "Personalities of Bullies and Victims." Harris' project developed while working as an undergraduate research assistant with Elisabeth Morgan Thompson, Ph.D., director of the Gender, Sexuality, and Conformity in Schools Project, and her faculty advisor, Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., director of the Frances McClelland Institute. Congratulations Michelle!

FSHD Undergraduate Leaders Appointed to New Advisory Group

This spring, the Frances McClelland Institute selected high-achieving Family Studies and Human Development undergraduate students, who have demonstrated a commitment to undergraduate research, as members of an advisory group that will promote research experiences to other students.

The FSHD Student Advisory Board for Undergraduate Research has the following goals:

- Reduce barriers students perceive when considering research at the undergraduate level (how to find/ask faculty, receiving academic credit, comfort using lab facilities, and working with subjects)
- Increase awareness and excitement about research opportunities for the FSHD major

- Facilitate outreach to the community
- Increase communication among fellow FSHD students

“We anticipate this group of ambitious students will develop into a prominent student-run organization that will help increase FSHD research visibility on campus and in the community,” said Jenny Simon, Internships and Outreach Coordinator.

The group has created a Facebook page and will be producing a short film highlighting the role of research assistants. Starting this fall, the group will participate in peer-to-peer workshops about the benefits and opportunities of undergraduate research experiences.

UNLV Law Professor to Create Pima County Kids’ Court School



Rebecca Nathanson, Ph.D., James E. Rogers Professor of Education & Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is coming to the Frances McClelland Institute as a research professor. She will be collaborating with professionals and faculty at the Norton School, Cooperative Extension, and Bureau of

Justice to establish Pima County’s first “Kids’ Court School.”

The program uses an empirically-based curriculum developed by Nathanson and Karen Saywitz, Ph.D. to assist children ages 4–17 to better understand courtroom procedures and to help decrease anxiety among youth who are asked to participate in legal proceedings.

Nathanson received her doctoral degree in special education from the University of California at Santa Barbara and her training in the area of children’s testimony as a research fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine. Her research combines these areas to examine the capabilities and limitations of child witnesses with disabilities.

“It is an honor to have Dr. Nathanson join the institute. I am particularly excited that we can play a role in establishing the Pima County Kids’ Court School in Tucson,” said institute director Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D. “This focus on supporting child witnesses, especially those with disabilities, will be a great service to children and families in Pima County. And research on the program will help build our focus on early childhood and disabilities.”

Postdoc Launches Free Stats Consulting Program



Katerina Sinclair, Ph.D., is a post-doctoral scholar and primary statistician for the Gender, Sexuality, and Conformity in Schools Project under the direction of principal investigator, Dr. Stephen T. Russell. Since arriving in January, Dr. Sinclair has developed a short-term consulting program for methodological and statistical analysis.

The statistical consulting program is available through the McClelland Institute, free of charge. It is aimed at helping

graduate students and junior faculty in the social sciences to develop their emerging research interests. More information about consulting sessions can be found on our website.

Sinclair earned her Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies and M.S. in Applied Statistics from Penn State. Her dissertation was titled, “Sexual Orientation Victimization, Minority Stress, and Adjustment in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth.” Her research interests include factors affecting the development of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, such as sexual attraction and identity, relationships with family members and peers, victimization on the basis of sexual orientation, and mental health and suicide risk.

Institute Insights

by Carmin Chan, M.Ed., Program Coordinator



Many great things are happening around the institute! Watch for more information about the establishment of a “Kids’ Court” in Pima County and the expanding circle of friends

of the institute. Finally, be sure to find us on Facebook and stay up-to-date on all of our latest news. We appreciate the valuable support of our partners in the community. Thank you!



Coming up in the next issue...

- Sexting: The legal implications of Arizona Senate Bill 1266 for our children
- “Surviving Cancer as a Family and Helping Co-Survivors Thrive,” a public book reading and signing with primary author and institute faculty, Dr. Catherine Marshall
- New study partners FMI researchers with Tucson’s Flowing Wells School District to understand how family, neighborhood, lifestyle, etc., affect adolescent social development
- Norton School awarded \$2 million Department of Defense grant to create a rapid-response task force addressing emerging issues affecting military families

FSHD Grad Student, Robby Harris, Receives NSF Honorable Mention
Congratulations to Family Studies and Human Development first year graduate student, Robby Harris, who received an honorable mention for his National Science Foundation pre-doctoral fellowship application.

ONLINE RESOURCES AND NEWEST EDITION OF RESEARCHLINK AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

Be sure to check <http://McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu> for updates on our upcoming events, faculty profiles, project descriptions, research resources and online data sets, recent journal publications, *ResearchLink* and *FamilyLink*, and much more!

FRANCES MCCLELLAND INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Stephen T. Russell, Director

Angela Taylor, Division Chair, Family Studies and Human Development

Lynne Borden, Extension Specialist, Cooperative Extension

Bruce Ellis, Initiative Chair, Fathers, Parenting, and Families

Noel Card, Initiative Chair, Adolescent Health and Development

Emily Butler, Initiative Chair, Health Emotions and Relationships

Carmin Chan, Program Coordinator

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD SPRING 2010

Julie Jackson

Jenna Rogers

Jacque Zilla-Baze

CONTACT US:

Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families

The University of Arizona

P.O. Box 210078

Tucson, AZ 85721-0078

Phone: 520.621.8067

Fax: 520.621.4979

E-mail: families@ag.arizona.edu

Website: McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu

The Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families is housed in The John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona. The institute serves as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary research dealing with children, youth, and families.



P.O. Box 210078 • Tucson, AZ 85721-0078



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