



Family Link

FALL 2010

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New Major Grant for Quality Childcare for Children and Youth of Military Families

Professor Lynne Borden has been awarded the Norton School and Frances McClelland Institute's largest federal grant to date – \$6 million to fund a three-year project to help military families obtain high-quality childcare and youth programs.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the grant will benefit children and youth, including those of military personnel engaged in frequent, long-term deployments of up to 18 months.

“That’s a long time to have a parent – and sometimes both parents – away from home and

in harm’s way,” said Dr. Borden, the project’s principal investigator, an Extension Specialist in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Professor in the Norton School, and senior advisor to the Frances McClelland Institute.

Borden and a research and outreach team will collaborate with the UA’s Cooperative Extension and other Land Grant Universities, which have expertise in early childhood education and youth development. “We have an extraordinary opportunity to take the lead in conducting outreach and research on behalf of the country’s military children, youth, and families,” said Soyeon Shim, professor and director of the Norton School.

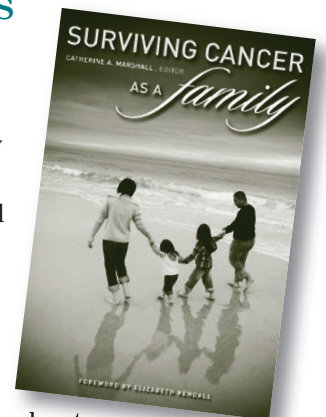
Other institutions involved in the project include the University of Nebraska, Purdue University, North Carolina State University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, and Washington State University.

New Book Helps Families and Caregivers Cope with Cancer

When most people hear a family member has cancer, they’re totally unprepared for the role of caregiver, regardless of how educated or affluent they are. That’s why Catherine A. Marshall, Ph.D., Research Professor at the Frances McClelland Institute and senior scholar with the University of Arizona’s National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health agreed to edit a book just released by Praeger Press called *Surviving Cancer as a Family and Helping Co-Survivors Thrive*.

The book blends practical information with emotional support and first-person stories by cancer survivors and

caregivers, which point out culturally sensitive issues that can compound the stress families experience when helping a loved one fight the disease. Chapters include information about helping parents understand cancer in children, helping children understand parental cancer, stories about children and grandchildren who have experienced cancer in their families,



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From the Director

Happy New Year!

At least that is what it feels like here on campus. And for most children and families the focus is on a new school year – new supplies, clothes, books, classes, teachers...

As is fitting for a new year, we have a number of new projects, several featured in this issue, and others that will be launched this fall that will be in the next issue of *FamilyLink*. Each of these projects provide insights into the well-being of today's children, youth, and families. I am particularly excited because the projects will connect us to several schools and organizations in the community. In addition, they are cross-disciplinary collaborations – a handful of new projects will connect us with colleagues in Education, Medicine, Public Health, Gender and Women's Studies, and English. We are excited about the diversity of the topics and of our partnerships across campus and in the community.

In the coming weeks we will release a policy brief about Arizona's new "sexting" law. This new law redefines the penalties for sending sexually explicit photos by text for minors; given how central texting has become for youth, it could affect nearly all youth, families, and schools. The policy brief will provide information about what sexting is, and why it is so compelling for teenagers. It will also provide recommendations for parents and youth. So look for that publication soon.

Thank you for your interest and support of our work.



Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., Director
Professor, Fitch Nesbitt Endowed Chair



New Book Helps Families and Caregivers Cope with Cancer

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copied with cancer in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families, and cancer's impact on Latino, American Indian, Asian and African American families. It also provides information about support groups, financial assistance and other untapped resources that can help families cope, celebrate life and thrive.

Some 1.5 million people in the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year, and Marshall says the goal of the book is to encourage a dialogue about cancer before families are touched by the disease. "Cancer is shifting from a life-ending disease to being viewed as a chronic illness that results in some type of disability," she adds. "It's okay to not to know how to be a caregiver or want to fill that role."

Please Join Us!

We hope you'll join us for a celebration of Dr. Catherine A. Marshall's book about cancer and families, and the release of our latest issue of *ResearchLink*. The Frances McClelland Institute will host an author's reception and book reading this fall; event details will be posted on our website and Facebook.



Graduate Research Associate Receives National Research Award



Kali S. Van Campen, a graduate research associate with the Department of Family Studies and Human Development and the Frances McClelland Institute has been selected recipient of the Jessie Bernard 2010 Outstanding Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Proposal Award by the Feminism and Family Studies Section of the National Council on Family Relations. Van Campen was recognized for her project, "Family and Cultural Influences on Latina Adolescents' Sexual Agency," and will receive \$750 for research expenses and travel funds to attend the NCFR's national conference Nov. 3 – 6 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Institute Professors' Opinion Column Addresses Arizona Immigration Issues

On June 2, the *Arizona Daily Star* published a public appeal from Stephen T. Russell and Andrea J. Romero to engage in “a rational, healthy dialogue so that we can find humane ways of addressing immigration reform — for the sake of the (state’s) children.”



According to the Arizona Department of Education, 41% of children in Arizona schools are Latino. They and their families may be wrongly targeted, Russell and Romero wrote, in spite of the fact that 92% of Latino children in the

U.S. are citizens, according to the National Council of La Raza. Arizona has a duty to ensure the safety and health of its children, they said, “meaningful reform must consider the dignity and complexity of family life, and the health and safety of children.”

Dr. Russell, director of the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families and Dr. Romero, an associate professor of family studies and human development; and Mexican-American and raza studies at the UA, said that “meaningful reform must consider the dignity and complexity of family life, and the health and safety of children.”

The editorial attracted almost 200 quick responses from newspaper readers, both for and against the law. “What does all of this mean for children and families?” they asked. “This emotionally charged law is already having negative impacts on children and parents on all sides of the immigration debate.”

Tucson is less than an hour from some of the most controversial sections of the United States border with Mexico, and it is defined by the cultures of both countries, they said. “Our research shows that discrimination and prejudice are already pervasive, insidious, negative influences on the health of children. It also shows that perceived lack of safety is associated with children's worsening mental and physical health, and poor school performance.”

Building Partnerships for Youth Welcomes New Project Director



Amanda Abens, MC, is the new Project Director for the Building Partnerships for Youth project under the direction of Dr. Stephen T. Russell and Dr. Lynne Borden. She has transitioned into her new position after first serving as Program Coordinator for the CYFERnet (Children, Youth, and Families Education and Research Network

program) project with Dr. Borden. Amanda is an alumna of the University of Arizona and also has her Masters in Counseling from the University of Phoenix.

Before joining the University in October 2009, Amanda directed programs at *Big Brothers Big Sisters* and has worked with homeless families and youth at both the City of Tucson's Housing Department and New Beginnings for Women and Children. At Big Brothers Big Sisters, Amanda's focus on improving program quality earned the Tucson program national recognition. While working for the city she helped launch the VASH (Veteran's Administration Supportive Housing) program utilizing the Housing First model to assist homeless veterans and their families acquire stable housing arrangements.

National Grants Fund Research To Help Children, Youth, & Families at Risk



Lynne Borden, Ph.D., has been awarded almost \$2 million dollars in grants from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to fund a series of research projects that will support programs for children, youth, and families at risk.

As part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's CYFERnet SEARCH program (Children, Youth, and Families Education and Research Network: Supporting Evaluation and Research Capacity Hub), Dr. Borden and her team will develop interactive, web-based evaluation tools for assessing and improving CYFAR programs across the nation. CYFERnet and its website, www.cyfernet.org, is designed to provide comprehensive information regarding children, youth, and families and can be accessed by anyone including: educators, researchers, parents, youth agency staff, community members, human services and health care providers, students, policy makers, youth and media.

Borden Named To U.S. Fish and Wildlife Post

The institute's Lynne Borden, Ph.D., has been appointed as the only higher education member of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The council advises the Secretary of the Interior on nationally significant recreational fishing, boating, and water conservation issues.

During her term, which runs through 2012, Borden said she hopes to expand the impact of Norton School's research and expertise on community programs and public policy. She received the appointment because of her extensive background in youth development programs, and says she believes the council can play a role in "building knowledge and expertise among today's youth with regard to both enjoying and respecting natural environments."

"This funding gives the Norton School a great opportunity to work with the federal government to make a difference in the lives of children and families across the country," said Lynne Borden, member of the Frances McClelland Institute's strategic team, Extension Specialist, and professor with the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Vision of CYFERnet

CHILDREN will have their basic physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs met. Babies will be born healthy. **YOUTH** will demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behavior necessary for fulfilling, contributing lives. **FAMILIES** will promote positive, productive and contributing lives for all family members. **PARENTS** will take primary responsibility for meeting their children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs and provide moral guidance and direction. **COMMUNITIES** will provide safe, secure environments for families with children.

Community Update

by Jenny Simon, MC, LPC
Internship and Outreach Coordinator



This semester we will have more than 20 Family Studies and Human Development undergraduate students placed into Tucson- area community agencies as interns! Our students are learning professional skills and contributing to the valuable work of our community partners. Read more about the rewarding experience of our Shirley Joe Taylor "Externship" recipient, Julie Jackson, on page 6.

Professor Bruce Ellis Wins Second George A. Miller Award from American Psychological Association



Professor Bruce J. Ellis, Ph.D., John and Doris Norton Endowed Chair in Fathers, Parenting and Families at the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families, was named winner of the 2010 George A. Miller Award, at the American Psychological Association's annual convention,

Aug. 14, in San Diego. This is the second time in five years that Dr. Ellis has received the coveted award, which recognizes the best recent theoretical paper in psychology.

The article appeared in the journal, *Human Nature*, and is titled "Fundamental Dimensions of Environmental Risk: The Impact of Harsh versus Unpredictable Environments on the Evolution and Development of Life History Strategies."

In their report, Ellis, and contributing authors Aurelio Jose Figueredo, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of Arizona; Barbara H. Brumbach, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Northern Arizona University, and UA graduate student Gabriel L. Schlomer, synthesize theory and data from the field of life history evolution to advance a new theory of variation in human development. They examine how harshness (externally caused levels of death and disability) and unpredictability (variation in harshness over time and space) influence the varying rates at which individuals physically develop and reproduce. The theory proposes answers to questions such as why some adolescents complete puberty in the fifth grade, while others are relatively undeveloped in high school; what leads some youths to become sexually active before

others; and why some parents are more heavily involved in the well-being of their children, while others may be abusive or neglectful.

Soyeon Shim, Ph.D., professor and director of the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, home of the UA's Frances McClelland Institute, said this article "underscores the mission of the McClelland Institute and is an example of the impact that our cross-disciplinary approach to research can have not only on university faculty and students, but also on families and organizations that work with them in communities across the nation."

"This landmark paper will impact the thinking and research in several social science fields. It highlights and integrates several previously unrecognized factors that affect how fast individuals grow up, the extent to which they engage in risky sexual behavior, the levels of investment they devote to their children, and how many children they have."

– University of Minnesota professors Jeffrey A. Simpson, Ph.D., professor of psychology, and Vadas Griskevicius, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Carlson School of Management, who nominated the work for the award.

Noel Card featured in *New York Times* Article about Impact of Childhood Bullying

According to a recent *New York Times* article, featuring the institute's Noel Card, Ph.D., new research suggests that antagonistic relationships between children can present them with opportunities for social and emotional growth.

The article mentioned two studies by Dr. Card related to the dynamics involved in friendships and antipathy brought on by peer rejection and bullying, including a recent article

of his published in the journal *Developmental Psychology*. In that journal article, Card described the results of his review of 26 studies involving more than 23,000 children and adolescents. According to Card, the results "indicate that 35 percent of children have an antipathetic relationship" which can lead to internalization of problems, low academic achievement, low prosocial behavior, victimization and rejection by peers, among other factors.

Internship Insights

by Julie Jackson

Maricopa County Cooperative Extension



This summer I was fortunate enough to intern for the Teen Interactive Theater Education (TITE) program, with Associate Agent Ruth Carter and Maricopa County Cooperative Extension.

The objective of the TITE program is to educate others through acting. My responsibilities included helping the youth memorize plays, writing monologues, and using live performance to educate adolescents. During my internship I became close to several of the teen participants when they confided to me about their lives. Being available to guide and support these youth was especially meaningful to me because after graduation I plan to attend graduate school and become a Marriage and Family Therapist.

I would like to thank Dr. Shirley Jo Taylor and the Frances McClelland Institute for generously funding the "Externship" summer opportunity. The experience has left me confident about my post-graduation goals and reinforced my strong desire to positively influence youth and their families.

In the next issue...

- **Homecoming features new study abroad opportunity** with institute faculty, Dr. Dieter and Netzin Steklis. They will present film footage from their latest trip to Rwanda and discuss plans for a new undergraduate study abroad opportunity to begin in summer 2011.
- Drs. Stephen T. Russell and Adela Licona (UA Department of English) introduce the **Crossroads Collaborative: Youth, Sexuality, Health, and Rights**
- International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) **Mini-Conference to be hosted by Emily Butler**, the chair of the institute's Health, Emotions, and Relationships (HER) initiative.
- **Institute to host international summer school** with scholars from around the world. They will gather at the Institute for a week-long research workshop in May 2011.
- **Noel Card receives funding to study adolescent aggression**

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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.



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