Need for Expertise Leads to Another Busy Summer

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.

Summer Program Offers Opportunities To Connect Students with Arizona Communities

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:

1. Link Research to Practice
   Students integrate academic training with real-world experiences

2. Critical Reflection
   Students will transition from academic habits to career readiness

3. Build Personal and Professional Competence

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.

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

The University of Arizona
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.

FSD 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**


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!
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.

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.”
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 RESEARCH LINK 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

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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.

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