



Family Link

SUMMER 2009

<http://McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu>

Dear Friends of the Frances McClelland Institute:



Stephen T. Russell

I am pleased to present this first semiannual issue of Family Link, designed to keep you up-to-date about the accomplishments and activities of the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families. Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary research on children, youth, and families at the University of Arizona.

Frances McClelland was committed to finding ways to improve the lives of children, youth, and families. She believed in human potential: that when opportunities are accessible, particularly to people who are vulnerable, all people can reach their potential for a productive future. Our research initiatives address questions important to the development and well-being of contemporary children, youth, and families, with the goal of improving basic understanding of how to enhance their lives.

We envision communities that support and value children, youth, and families, and in which the highest-quality research is brought to bear on issues important to them. We are mindful of the extraordinary challenges facing all sectors of society. We will continue to draw strength from Frances McClelland's vision and commitment as we seek to extend the reach of the institute's work to families and communities across Arizona and beyond.

We encourage you to explore our Web site for more in-depth information about our research and the many programs we co-sponsor with other academic departments and organizations throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support.

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



Netzin with a gorilla

Summer School Students Plan to 'Monkey Around'

Actually, it's more like gorilla. This summer, UA students and researchers will use the McClelland Institute's Lang Lab and its sophisticated video software analysis system to catalogue and review decades of tapes made of mountain gorillas in Rwanda's Virunga Mountain Region.

The research, under the direction of internationally acclaimed primatologists and authors H. Dieter Steklis, Ph.D., U.A. psychology professor and interim associate dean for academic affairs at U.A. South, and his wife, Netzin G. Steklis, a lecturer with the Department of Anthropology, will focus on the mountain gorilla's

family structure and parenting traits. The project is a part of our Fathers, Parenting, and Families Initiative research.

According to Dr. Steklis, there are fewer than 400 mountain gorillas left in the wild. "Gorillas are closely related to us, and live in family groups with silverback males attending the young. Most primate males don't (take care of offspring), so they stand out against others and we believe we can learn from them."

The Steklises have spent more than 15 years with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International in Rwanda, and return there each year to continue their research. In fact, Steklis says, both their children have accompanied them to Africa during their work.

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Institute Receives \$200K Ford Foundation Grant

The Frances McClelland Institute has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Ford Foundation for a two-year study that will analyze how student sexuality, gender and conformity norms impact school systems.

According to Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., director of the Frances McClelland Institute and the Fitch Nesbitt Endowed Chair in Family and Consumer Sciences, past research has focused on the connection between student sexuality and gender norms, and overall health or student well-being. The McClelland Institute study will use existing data from student and teacher surveys compiled over the last decade, plus supplemental research, to examine how schools, districts and state education systems can implement programs and policies to improve student safety and create social change.

“We’re seeing a surge in the number of states and communities that are developing comprehensive student anti-bias and safety laws, and the formation of strong

coalitions of nonprofit organizations that work in this arena,” Russell says. “We believe our research will help identify gaps in knowledge that could provide the basis for inclusion of more attention to gender and sexuality in school curriculum, policy and research.”

Russell, a leader in research on adolescent sexuality, has studied bias in schools and its effect on students and school climates for the past 10 years. He will lead the research team, which will include a full-time postdoctoral trainee, part-time graduate research assistants, undergraduate research assistants, who will earn course credits for participation in the project, and a project coordinator.

“Our hope is that this research will set the stage for development of a network of scholars and advocates who will work together to influence the enforcement of policies ensuring the safety and well-being of all school children, regardless of their gender, sexual identity, race or ethnicity, religion or social class,” Russell says.

Summer School Students Plan to 'Monkey Around'

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They were approached about joining forces with the McClelland Institute by

Bruce J. Ellis, Ph.D., the John & Doris Norton Endowed Chair in Fathers, Parenting and Families. “The research by the Steklis team is important because it adds to our understanding of the role of males – fathers – in families,” Dr. Ellis says.

“We saw this as an opportunity to get students involved in our research,” Steklis adds, “and we hope to make it a really meaningful experience for them as we move forward with this project.”

For more information about mountain gorillas, please visit: www.gorillafund.org



NIH Awards \$375,000 Grant for Telenovela

McClelland Institute affiliated faculty Andrea Romero, Ph.D., associate professor, Mexican-American Studies, and Janice D. Crist, R.N., Ph.D., associate professor, College of Nursing, have been awarded a National Institutes of Health R21 grant for their study “A Telenovela Intervention to Increase Mexican American Elders’ Home-Care Use.”

This \$375,000, two-year grant will fund the production and testing of a short film, “Todo Ha Cambiado” (Everything has changed). It portrays an elder and her family’s decision to use home-care services to help her manage her chronic conditions while keeping the culturally important family central to her experience.

Special thanks to the ENCASA Community Advisory Council, consultants, internal reviewers, and the Office of Nursing Research.



Frances H. McClelland Institute for Children

UA Dedicates Institute To Frances H. McClelland

Several hundred people gathered March 6 for the formal dedication of the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families, at the Ira Fulton Auditorium at McClelland Park, the new home of the John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences. The Institute was named in honor of the late UA graduate and businesswoman, who devoted her life to improving the lives of children and enhancing the well-being of families in Arizona.

“I think it is fitting that our Institute is now aligned with Frances McClelland’s name, who believed that through excellence in research we can improve the lives of children, youth, and families in Arizona and the world,” says Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., director of the Frances McClelland Institute and Fitch Nesbitt Endowed Chair in Family and Consumer Sciences. “We are grateful for the McClelland family’s ongoing support of the university and unwavering belief in the importance of using high-quality research to advance the well-being of our society.”

Frances McClelland graduated from the university in 1944, and was instrumental in numerous efforts to strengthen families, which she believed are the foundation for a successful society. In 1946, she joined her parents in the

family business, Shamrock Dairy. Over the years, Frances and her brother Norman helped grow it into Shamrock Foods Co., which operates throughout the western United States. She served on the institute’s inaugural advisory board, and on the University of Arizona Foundation Board. In 2003, the university presented her with an honorary doctorate degree. She passed away in 2005.

Frances and Norman (class of 1949) provided early seed money for the institute and also made substantial gifts to the John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the university’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

As treasurer of Shamrock Foods, Norman says Frances never forgot her family’s immigrant roots and search for freedom from religious persecution, which brought the Scotch-Irish group to America. “We have a special bond with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,” says Norman McClelland. “Over the years our family and Shamrock have received the benefit of new ideas and products they have developed. Frances and I thank you.”

A reception at the school’s Lakin Family Plaza concluded the dedication.

Research Link Makes Debut at the Institute Dedication

The first six issues of *Research Link*, a publication designed for “putting research to work for children and families,” made its debut at the Institute dedication in March. “We believe knowledge becomes more powerful when you share it broadly,” says Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., director of the Frances McClelland Institute. “So our faculty have begun posting the first of many reports they are producing, called ‘*Research Link*,’ in the hopes of getting valuable information into the hands of anyone who has an interest in helping enhance the well-being of Arizona families.”

Here are the titles of the Institute’s first six *Research Links*:

- Preventing Latina Teen Pregnancy: Challenges and Solutions for Practitioners
- Aggression Among Teens: Dispelling Myths About Boys and Girls
- Early Experience with High-Risk Fathers Changes Puberty in Daughters

- Youth Programs Foster Citizenship
- Teacher-Child Relationship Quality and Classroom Adjustment: Does Gender Matter?
- Living in Two Cultures: Implications for Latino Adolescent Health

“Everything we do is geared toward improving the quality of life for people of all ages, and I am confident that *Research Link* will become an increasingly important tool in our education, research and outreach efforts,” says Russell. The publication is designed to translate the research of the Institute into a user-friendly format suitable for parents, teachers, policy makers, and youth and family professionals. Copies of *Research Link* are available by contacting the Institute, or may be downloaded from the Institute website.



Nadine Mathis Basha Receives Vision Award at Dedication

Nadine Mathis Basha, founder of the Children's Action Alliance and chair of First Things First, received the Frances McClelland Institute's inaugural Vision Award at the Institute's dedication in March. The Vision Award will be presented every two years to a community member who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership on behalf of Arizona's children and families.

Mrs. Basha also was presented with an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from the university during the 140th Spring Commencement ceremony on May 15, in recognition of her contributions to the UA and the state.

In remarks during the Institute's dedication ceremony, Mrs. Basha stressed the importance of university research

and its potential impact on children and communities. She originally planned to become a speech pathologist, but says she quickly changed her mind after she stepped into a classroom and realized she could make a difference in the lives of children.

In addition to her work with First Things First and the Children's Action Alliance, she has served on numerous boards and other entities involved with early childhood education and development, including WestEd, a regional educational research and development organization; the Center for the Future of Arizona; the Ellis Center for Educational Excellence; and as a trustee of the Committee for Economic Development.

Mrs. Basha chaired the Arizona State School Readiness Board from 2003 to 2006 and was appointed by the governor to the Arizona State Board of Education from 1999 through 2005.

Adolescence in the 21st Century Subject of Pre-Dedication Event

A two-day academic conference called "Adolescence in the 21st Century" preceded the formal dedication of the McClelland Institute, and brought together faculty, researchers, students and community leaders from across the nation to examine recent advances and promising interdisciplinary research on the emotional and physical health of adolescents.

It took place at the university's Park Student Union and included the following presentations: Alice Schlegel, Ph.D, Professor Emerita, Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona, whose presentation, "An Anthropological Perspective on Adolescence," was followed by panel presentations on "Adolescents in Cultural Context." Jacqueline Eccles, Ph.D., Professor, Departments of Psychology and Education, the University of Michigan, presented "The Social Contexts of Adolescent Development: Stage Environment Fit," which was followed by panel presentations on "Aggression and Problem Behavior." Donna Spruijt-Metz, Ph.D., Professor, Keck School of Medicine, the University of Southern California, discussed "Wanting Our Cake and Eating It Too: A Decade of Pediatric Obesity Research."

The keynote presentations provided previews of a special issue of the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, "A Decade Review of Research on Adolescence," which will be

released in early 2011. Co-edited by Stephen T. Russell and Noel Card of the Norton School, and Elizabeth Susman of Pennsylvania State University, it also will be published as a 20-chapter book that reviews theory, methods and important findings in adolescence research.

The conference was also the formal kick-off for the institute's Adolescent Health and Development Initiative. At a follow-up meeting in May, more than 35 scholars from seven UA colleges met to discuss ongoing research taking place across the university, and potential research collaborations.

Institute dedication featured in UA Alumni Magazine

The spring special edition of *Advancing Arizona/Alumnus* magazine, the combined publication of the UA Alumni Association and the University of Arizona Foundation, featured a story on the dedication of the Frances McClelland Institute, as well as a story on the Frances McClelland Vision Award and its first recipient, Nadine Basha.

Evolution Institute Adolescence Workshop Coming to McClelland Institute in the Fall

The Frances McClelland Institute will host an Evolution Institute Workshop on adolescent risk behavior, Oct. 30 - Nov. 2, according to Bruce J. Ellis, Ph.D., who is hosting the workshop.

Ellis is the John & Doris Norton Endowed Chair in Fathers, Parenting and Families, and leads the Institute initiative that has the same name. He has raised more than \$20,000 in sponsorships for the event, which he says will be more of a think tank than a conference.

It will kick off with a dinner and end before noon on Nov. 2, and will include faculty and researchers with an interest in an evolutionary perspective of adolescent behavior. Nine scholars from Arizona and around the world have been invited to participate. "They were chosen to bring a variety of different areas from an evolutionary perspective, and have expertise in prevention-intervention research, the influence of peers on adolescent risk behavior, the influence of family environments on adolescent risk behavior, hormonal and neural bases of adolescent risk behavior, risky decision-making in adolescence, cross-cultural approaches to adolescence, person-environment fit and adolescent adjustment," Ellis says.

Attendees also will include donors, Norton School faculty members, co-organizers from the University of Arizona Department of Psychology, and Evolution Institute directors David Sloan Wilson and Jerry Lieberman. The few remaining open slots, Ellis says, will likely go to local participants and graduate students with a serious interest in the topic. For additional information or to express an interest in participating, please contact Dr. Ellis.

Forum, Photographic Exhibit Examine Poverty, Education

The McClelland Institute co-sponsored a free month-long photographic exhibit and a public forum in April. Titled "The Missing Story of Ourselves: Poverty and the Promise of Higher Education," the exhibit was at the Pima County Joel D. Valdez Library, in Tucson, and included 24 portraits with narratives written by single women who are welfare-eligible parents facing the challenges of family life, work, and attaining degrees in higher education.

The exhibit is part of a national tour and is the work of feminist scholar and curator Vivyan Adair, professor of women's studies at Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y. Dr. Adair was invited to Tucson by the newly formed Feminist Action Research in Rhetoric (FARR), a coalition of students and faculty in the Rhetoric, Composition and Teaching of English Program at the university, who seek to engage in public discussions and events about gender and identity in academic and community contexts.

"Research shows that anything that impacts the ability of students to succeed has a ripple effect on the local community and beyond," says Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., director of the McClelland Institute. "We were pleased to support FARR in their public dialogue about issues facing our students and families."

To learn more about FARR, please e-mail professor Adela C. Licona at aclicona@email.arizona.edu.



SRCD Honors Noel A. Card for Research Contributions

The Society for Research on Child Development presented Noel A. Card, Ph.D. with its 2009 Early Career Contributions Award in recognition of his research into child development, which the organization said "is exemplary and has the potential to make a significant contribution to the science of child development." Dr. Card is Assistant Professor of Family Studies and Human Development, and the chair of the Adolescent Health and Development initiative at the Institute.

The award, which was presented in April at the biennial meeting, was one of six presented to researchers for early-career work. It cited Dr. Card's "programmatically and interrelated lines of research on aggression, victimization, aggressor-victim relationships, and antipathetic relationships; for developing and applying advanced best-practice quantitative methods to developmental science; for contributing critical meta-analytic reviews of the forms and functions of aggression in childhood and adolescence; and for high quality and unselfish service to the field of developmental science."

Above: Dr. Card is pictured with Dr. Elizabeth Susman, Jean Phillips Shibley Professor of Biobehavioral Health at the Pennsylvania State University.



Recent Publications

- Crockett, L. J., Brown, J., Iturbide, M. I., **Russell, S. T.**, & Wilkinson-Lee, A. (2009). Conceptions of parent-adolescent relationships among Cuban American teenagers. *Sex Roles*, 60, 575-587.
- Brumbach, B.H., Figueredo, A. J., & **Ellis, B. J.** (2009). Effects of harsh and unpredictable environments in adolescence on the development of life history strategies: A longitudinal test of an evolutionary model. *Human Nature*, 20, 25-51.
- *Jackson, J.J., & **Ellis, B. J.** (2009). Synthesizing life history theory with sexual selection: Toward a comprehensive model of alternative reproductive strategies. Commentary in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 32, 31-32.
- Kenyon, D. B., & **Koerner, S. S.** (2009). Examining emerging adults' and parents' expectations about autonomy during the transition to college. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 24, 293-320.
- Koerner, S. S.**, Kenyon, D. B., & Shirai, Y. (2009). Caregiving for elder relatives: Which caregivers experience personal benefits/gains? *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 48, 238-245.
- *Shirai, Y., **Koerner, S. S.**, & Kenyon, D. B. (2009). Reaping caregiver feelings of gain: The roles of social support and mastery. *Aging and Mental Health*, 13, 106-117.

Upcoming Presentations

- Curran, M.**, *Young, V., *Totenhagen, C., & *Corkery, S. (2009, November). *Comparison of relational sacrifices across relationship stages*. The National Council on Family Relations, San Francisco, Calif.
- *Muraco, J., & **Curran, M.** (November 2009). *Marital meaning and reasons for not marrying*. The National Council on Family Relations, San Francisco, Calif.
- Russell, S. T.**, Ryan, C., Heubner, D. M., & Diaz, R. (August 2009). *Family Acceptance in Adolescence and the Health of LGBT Young Adults*. Annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Toronto, Canada.

Russell, S. T., *Toomey, R., & Ryan, C. (November 2009). *Family Acceptance and the Healthy Adjustment of LGBT Young Adults*. The National Council on Family Relations, San Francisco, Calif.

*Van Campen, K., Liu, W., & **Russell, S. T.** (November 2009). *Chinese Parents' Perspectives on Sexuality Education for Adolescents*. The National Council on Family Relations, San Francisco, Calif.

*Young, V. & **Curran, M.** (November 2009). *Sacrifices for the partner and relational commitment during the transition to parenthood for pregnant, unmarried, cohabitators: A pilot study*. The National Communication Association 95th Annual Meeting, Chicago, Ill.

McClelland Institute **faculty**; *graduate student trainee

Institute Transitions

This spring we said good-bye to Helen Gaebler, the Assistant Director for Outreach, and Jennifer Chavez, our Program Coordinator. They made the dedication a huge success; we wish them both well in their new endeavors.

We are pleased to welcome Carmin Chan as our new Program Coordinator, starting at the end of July. Born in Canada, Carmin grew up in Phoenix, Ariz., and graduated from New York University with a double-major in Sociology and History.

Following graduation, Carmin worked as a Program Assistant for the Social Science Research Council, then joined Teach for America (TFA) and taught for two years in an underperforming school in Glendale, Ariz. She completed a Master's degree in Special Education in May.

Carmin is looking forward to drawing from her experiences in education research and the classroom to help inform the work she will be doing at the McClelland Institute.



Carmin Chan

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