

GOOD NEWS

Friday, 12/5/2008

Every week we share with you all of the good things that are happening to HDFS faculty members, students, alumni, and friends. Please send us your **GOOD NEWS:**

It seems as if it should be the last week in the semester, although we know there is one more to go . . . Have courage, faculty, staff, and students – the end is near. This has been a good semester thus far, so let's end it with a bang!

Revised and Resilient

Professor **Mark Fine**, Co-chair and Professor **Larry Ganong**, and former MU HDFS faculty member, **David Demo** (now at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro), recently revised their chapter, "Divorce: A Risk and Resilience Perspective." This chapter will appear in the third edition of *Families and Change*, a book edited by Sharon Price of the University of Georgia and published by Sage. Congratulations, **Mark, Larry, and Dave!**

Dr. Cooney and the Supremes

On November 19, Dr. **Terri Cooney** participated in an invited panel on "Aging, Death and Dying," which was part of a Summit on Marriage and Family sponsored by The Supreme Court of Georgia. Terri provided the social/behavioral science view on how changing demographic and family patterns are impacting caregiving and death in the United States. Dr. Christy Green, of Emory University, addressed legal and ethical issues, and Amy Zietlow, the Chief Operating Officer of the Hospice of Baton Rouge, offered a practitioner's views. The conference was held in Atlanta. Way to go, **Terri!**

Milestones, Degree Completion Version

In addition to **Xing Ru** (advisor, Dr. **Marilyn Coleman**), who completed her masters earlier this semester, **Graham McCaulley (Marilyn Coleman)**, **Will Smith (Marilyn Coleman)**, **Tyler Jamison (Larry Ganong)**, and **Hitoshi Harima (Larry Ganong)** all completed defense of their master's degree projects this week. Congratulations **Graham, Will, Tyler, and Hitoshi!** I think probably congratulations go to **Marilyn and Larry** as well!

Alumni Are Busy

We heard from three HDFS alumni this week. They got various degrees from HDFS in different periods of time, but all share great accomplishments in their respective careers. First off, a new graduate:

Chae Kingsley graduated from HDFS in May with a Bachelor's degree in Child Life. She recently passed the Child Life Professional Certification Exam and she is now a Certified Child Life Specialist! **Chae** is currently employed as a Child and Family Development Advocate for Central Missouri Community Action, although she is seeking a child life position somewhere in the Midwest. **Chae** writes, "Thank you all HDFS faculty for helping me get one step closer to achieving my dream career!" Congratulations, **Chae**, for your accomplishment and good luck in the future!

And now a news article on the 25th Judicial Court's web site about a fairly recent MA alumnus, **Sarah Raaf Traub**:

The 25th Judicial Circuit will offer a new parent education program starting Jan. 1.

The new program, called **Focus on Kids**, will be administered by the University of Missouri Extension. Its purpose is to teach parents going through a separation, divorce or custody modification ways to cope with their legal problems without negatively affecting their children.

"The main purpose of **Focus on Kids** is to help parents learn how to nurture and support their children during and after a separation or divorce," said University of Missouri Extension Human Development and Family Studies Specialist **Sarah Traub**, who will be teaching the program in Phelps and Pulaski counties. "The parents are making huge changes in their lives and are going through a lot, and it affects children the same way."

Focus on Kids will replace the circuit's current parent education program, Children's First, which is administered by the South East Missouri Community Treatment Center. The change was made at the recommendation of a seven-member Parent Education Committee, which was asked by the court to review the circuit's current program and possible alternatives.

"I think that **Focus on Kids** is a more current program," said Parenting Education Committee member Emily Woodward, an attorney with the Rolla law firm Thomas, Birdsong, Mills & McBride. "At times we can all lose sight of what is in the best interest of our children, and this program helps put the focus on handling parenting in a way that's appropriate for the children and helps ease them through the legal process as painlessly as possible."

As part of the 25th Judicial Circuit's unified family court program, parents seeking a legal separation, divorce or custody modification must participate in a two-and-a-half hour **Focus on Kids** session within 60 days of filing with the court. The circuit also will offer an online course called Children in The Middle for parents unable to attend a **Focus on Kids** session.

Both programs will offer information and resources to help parents minimize the negative affects their legal situations can have on their children.

"Unfortunately, people involved in a divorce or separation have a lot of emotions involved and a lot of bad feelings toward one another," said Parenting Education

Committee member Terry Daley Schwartz, prosecuting attorney for Maries County. "These feelings spread throughout the court proceedings and their lives. Parents really need to know that their children are being affected by their emotional reaction and their anger."

Traub said **Focus on Kids** will use a video that portrays several true-to-life situations that can occur in families going through a legal situation. Examples of behaviors that can be detrimental to children include belittling another parent in front of them, involving them in financial matters or using them as a go-between to communicate with another parent.

"We think it's a big help to provide education to parents so that they can realize these things are detrimental," Schwartz said.

Focus on Kids also offers parents a list of books and other helpful literature, as well as contact information for agencies that can provide additional help, such as counseling.

Sarah is doing a lot of great programming in the south-central part of Missouri. **Focus on Kids** is an educational program developed by MU HDFS faculty a dozen years ago (updated periodically), that is now in 40 counties in Missouri. More than 29,000 individuals have been through **Focus on Kids** training. Way to go, **Sarah!**

Finally, we hear from Dr. **Joan Vaughn** (PhD, 1978), one of the earliest doctoral candidates in HDFS history in the mid-1970s. She also taught in the **Child Development Lab** at Mizzou and then went on to teach for many years at Stephens College. Joan recently moved to California and she has written a book on grandparenting (see attached). She writes, "In presenting suggestions for fun ways to relate to grandchildren, it draws heavily on the approach that I learned at the MU **Child Development Lab.**" Congratulations on the book publication, **Joan!**

HDFS Students Help Others

President **Hailey Stout** has announced that the **MU Council on Family Relations** organization is requesting your help to provide a holiday meal and gifts for a local family in need. In the past, the students and faculty in the department have contributed to this worthy cause. The family they are helping consist of two parents and 2 male children (ages 15 and 16 years old). Financial contributions can be made to **Tyler Jamison** (Gentry 309). The money will be used to buy a holiday meal and gifts for the family. We will be shopping for clothes and household items as gifts per the family request. If you prefer to buy a gift, please contact **Tamara Coon** for more specific information. The goals are \$200 for gifts and a grocery store gift card. Please make donations now through December 12th.

GOOD NEWS **Friday, 12/12/2008**

Every week we share with you all of the good things that are happening to HDFS faculty members, students, alumni, and friends. Please send us your **GOOD NEWS:**

This is Reading Day at Mizzou. Used to be Stop Day. Put your own punch line here:

_____.

Faculty Publications

Dr. **Melissa Herzog**, Research Specialist for the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Adjunct Assistant Professor for HDFS, is a chapter contributor for the fourth edition of the book, *Families and Change*. Her chapter is "Families, Stress, and Intervention." **Melissa** originally co-authored in the 3rd edition with her dissertation advisor at ASU, but she is going it alone this time. Congratulations, **Melissa!**

Jennifer Faddis, Sr. Information Specialist for MU, wrote the following news release about Dr. **Mark Fine**'s latest book, mentioned in an earlier edition of Good News:

MU Researcher Helps People See Beyond the "Typical" Divorce

COLUMBIA, Mo. – According to a University of Missouri family researcher, there is no "typical divorce." Realizing this, friends and family members of people experiencing divorce should be aware of the appropriate type and amount of support needed, according to **Mark Fine**, professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the MU College of Human Environmental Resources. In his new book, "Beyond the Average Divorce," **Fine** examines divorces beyond the "norm."

Fine developed a new theoretical model – the Divorce Variation and Fluidity Model – to explain the difference in how various people adjust to divorce. The model explains why some people quickly return to their previous level of function and others do not. It also shows divorce as a very fluid process in which the outcome is influenced by a multitude of factors, such as race, gender, economic conditions, cultural values, legal context and sociohistorical context. The model also demonstrates the many pathways a divorce can take, which all have an effect on the final outcome.

"There is a fluid nature in divorce and a variability in responses to divorce, which often are ignored because so much attention is paid to the so-called 'typical or average' divorce," **Fine** said. "The implications of this new model are that there is no one certain way to deal with or help people experiencing a divorce of any type. Considerations must be made to be sensitive and responsive to the variety of needs and experiences of divorced adults and their children."

According to **Fine**, divorce can happen in the legal sense, but it also occurs in a large subset of couples whose relationships may not be dissolved legally, but have actually dissolved in reality. Some couples physically stay together due to socioeconomic status or legal costs, but are still going through the same things as a divorced couple, including trading custody of their children.

Fine also discusses divorce rates among subsets who are not legally married. Heterosexual couples who cohabit and gay or lesbian couples cannot marry, and thus, cannot divorce. However, the dissolution of these nonmarital relationships sends people, and sometimes children, through the same cycle divorced couples face.

“Most people who study divorce only look at the typical case but not the multitude of variations,” **Fine** said. “In this book, I am not interested in the mean but rather the variations.” **Fine**’s book, co-authored with David Demo, professor of human development and family studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, will be published in 2009.

Milestones (Graduation)

Three more graduate students completed their master’s degrees this week: **Stephanie Schindler** (Dr. **Duane Rudy**, advisor), **Eva Sutton** (Dr. **Larry Ganong**), and **Emily Dephillips** (Dr. **Russ Ravert**). Congratulations, **Stephanie, Eva, and Emily!**

Advances (and More Work)

Dr. **Christine Proulx** was approved for Doctoral Faculty status, which means that she may now advise doctoral student dissertations. Congratulations, **Chris!**

Good News from the Center for Family Policy & Research:

Since becoming a Regional Training Center for Devereux Early Childhood Initiative - the Center for Family Policy & Research has reorganized their training division and it is now called the Institute for Professional Development. **Kathy Wallace** and **Jan Frost** are the certified trainers for the preschool DECA (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment). Soon, **Janice Lundquist** and **Angie Wendt** will become Infant/Toddler certified trainers in the DECA. Please see the Center’s website for a link to the Institute for training dates in 2009. In addition to DECA, the Institute has also forged a relationship with the authors of the ELLC (Emerging Language and Literacy Curriculum) to provide the training on the ELLC curriculum. Dr. Shirley Patterson is one of the authors of the ELLC. Details will be forthcoming soon for training dates.

For the holiday season, the staff at the Center for Family Policy & Research adopted a single mother and four children to provide them with gifts for Christmas and a holiday dinner. The Center staff will be wrapping all of the many presents the afternoon of December 16th. Staff will also celebrate November and December birthdays at this time with lots of holiday cheer and refreshments.

Terri Tatum was sworn in on December 8 as a Boone County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). CASA volunteers are required to undergo several weeks of extensive training, attend court proceedings and family support team meetings before being sworn in as an officer of the court. **Terri** looks forward to beginning her first case and hopes she can make a difference in the life of a child and their family.

GOOD NEWS **Friday, 12/19/2008**

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Today is the last day of the Fall, 2008 semester. That alone is Tremendous News. Graduation for HDFS and the College is tomorrow. Your next Good News from HDFS will be next year. Have a wonderful rest of 2008 and a terrific start to 2009.

Milestones, Graduation Edition

Winter 2008 graduates in HDFS are **Bradley Rathert, Jenna Soendker, Laura Callahan, Abbie Hedgepath, Erica Christie, Danielle Nadler, Candace Lawhon, and Natalie Stillman.** Congratulations **Brad, Jenna, Laura, Abbie, Erica, Danielle, Candace, and Natalie!** Good luck and best wishes to you in the future. Thanks for coming to Mizzou and being part of us.

Milestones, Employment Edition

Dr. **Tanja Rothrauff**, who completed her doctorate in HDFS in August, accepted a position as Assistant Research Scientist at The Center for Research on Behavioral Health and Human Services Delivery at the University of Georgia. **Tanja** will be a full-time researcher with no teaching obligations (her preferred type of job, by the way). She will prepare research manuscripts for professional publication, analyze quantitative data, and help conduct behavioral health services research with other members of the Center staff. The focus of this Center is on issues surrounding Substance Abuse Treatment Centers (not the individuals who seek treatment). Congratulations, **Tanja**, and good luck!

Did You Know?

Human Development and Family Studies is a relatively small department at MU (actually, we are somewhat mid-sized when it comes to majors). Our department is probably bigger than you think, and our programs are probably more diverse than you know. Here are some current facts about HDFS at MU that you may not have known:

In addition to 17 faculty members at the rank of instructor to professor, HDFS (including all of our programs – the **Child Development Lab, the Center for Family Policy and Research,**

HDFS Extension) has an emeritus professor, 9 assistant instructors, 10 adjunct faculty members, 30 Graduate Assistants, and about 70 other full-time and part-time employees.

This fall semester we have **55 graduate students** and **171 undergraduate students** enrolled in classes. Each year we teach over 2500 students, both online and face to face.

This year, faculty members (**Schramm, Thornburg, Gable, Ganong, Coleman**) are bringing in nearly \$2,000,000 in grants and contracts for research and service programs designed to help individuals and families in Missouri and around the nation and world.

In 2008, Focus on Kids was offered by faculty and graduate students to over 700 divorced and separated parents in Boone County alone. Statewide, Focus on Kids served more than 1,000 parents through the work of Regional Specialists. Every county in Missouri benefits from the expertise of HDFS Extension in multiple ways.

The **CDL** serves nearly 100 children from infancy to school age and their families, and 17 academic units utilize the CDL for research and teaching purposes.

I could go on, but I won't. The point is – we are more than you think. Have a peaceful and bountiful 2009.