

# Advisory Board Notes

March, 2005

## Presentations—

**Professor Charles Super** and **Professor Sara Harkness** presented “Collaborative International Projects: Strengths and Challenges for Cross-Cultural on Children and Families” at the Society for Anthropological Science and the Society for Cross-cultural Research, in Santa Fe, NM on February 24-27.

**Lily Alpert, Graduate Student** and **Professor Preston Britner** presented “Social workers’ attitudes toward parents of children in protective services: Evaluation of the Family Development Credential Curriculum” at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA on March 12.

**Lily Alpert, Graduate Student** will also present “Family Preservation as Security: Family-Focused Casework and Implications for Child Welfare Policy” at the NCFR Public Policy Conference in Washington, DC, April 14-15.

## Miscellaneous—

Welcome **Roehama Ros**, a Master’s student at the University of Amsterdam, visiting this term at the Center for Culture, Health, and Human Development. Roe is working with Professor Sara Harkness and Professor Charles Super.

**Professor Preston Britner** has been asked to serve on the Mentoring Leadership Council that guides the Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, which is a program of The Governor’s Prevention Partnership.

On March 8, **Meg Galante-DeAngelis** and **Associate Professor Jane Goldman** testified at a legislative hearing on a bill that has been raised by Higher Education and Workforce Advancement. This bill (Bill 1098: An Act Concerning the Professionalization of the Early Childhood Education Workforce), is focused on forming a committee that will create an alternate route to certification for Human Development and Family Studies majors who have concentrated in the Birth-Early Education Program.

Two main issues were addressed in the day’s testimonies. As the need for certified B-K teachers is expanding in the state, few undergraduate programs accredited to certify B - K teachers. Our students have most of the necessary coursework preparing them for certification but must go on to a Master’s/Certification

## Recent Publications—

**Britner, P. A., & Kraimer-Rickaby, L.** (2005). Abused and Neglected Youth. In D. DuBois & M. Karcher (Eds.), *Handbook of youth mentoring* (pp. 482-492). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Program at another school to be certified. The number of our students who switch into Elementary Education at the Master’s level is attributed in large part to the time and expense of this certification process. At a time when the need for professional teachers in B-K is finally beginning to be recognized, we cannot afford this Early Childhood Education (ECE) “brain drain.”

Also, qualified Master’s Level teachers who have been the backbone of the ECE system in Connecticut for years have been left out of the new certification system. Testimony supported a grandfathering of experienced, degreed classroom teachers so that their wisdom and expertise would not be lost to the next generation of teachers. As certification now stands, these experienced teachers, who for years have been the mentors of new ECE teachers, are not allowed to supervise student teachers who are in certification programs because these Master Teachers lack certification.

Other issues of testimony included problems facing long-time teachers who hold Associate degrees and Articulation difficulties. If the bill passes, a committee will be convened to address these issues and to make proposals for workable changes in the certification process.



**Associate Professor in Residence Leslie Strong, Jennifer Bush, Graduate Student & Chad Quenson, Graduate Student**, spent much of Wednesday, March 9 at the Capitol talking with state Senators and Representatives. The purpose of the visit was to provide the students with an experience in political advocacy by engaging them in the process of lobbying

for passage of a bill. This bill if passed, will create a process by which Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) can receive Certification from the Department of Education. The

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Certification will provide qualified MFTs with a credential that will allow schools to add MFTs to their present human services staff to work with children and families and assist in resolving conflicts between parents and schools.

**Professor Ron Rohner** was cited in the article entitled “*To paddle or not to paddle? It’s still not clear in US schools.*”, Stacy A. Teicher, Christian Science Monitor, March 17, 2005.

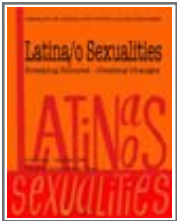
**Professor Stephen Anderson and Shirley Higgins, Graduate Student** from the **Center for Applied Research** conducted an evaluation of the PEP (People Empowering People) program, from October 2002-April 2004. A total of 122 individuals from various locations throughout Connecticut participated in this program. Two of the three areas emphasized in the PEP program (personal strengths, and parent family relationships) were found to be significantly improved after the program.

**Upcoming Events—**

The **Center for the Study of Culture, Health and Human Development** presents its Spring 2005 Colloquium Series.

Speakers & dates:

- **3/24-** Robert Sternberg, Ph.D.- “Culture and intelligence”
- **4/14-** Carol Worthman, Ph.D.- “How to get a life: cultural models, individual differences, and the problem of habitus among youth in western North Carolina
- **4/21-** Lee Pachter, D.O.- “Effects of parenting styles, maternal depression, neighborhood and poverty on children of diverse ethnic groups”.



**Associate Professor Marysol Asencio** is coordinating a conference titled “Latina/o Sexualities: Breaking Silences, Creating Changes”. Date: **Friday, April 8 at Dodd Auditorium**. Time: **9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** The event is free.

HDFS Honors Students Poster Exhibit & Reception- **HDFS students** who are graduating this year will present the results of their honors theses in a poster session. Everyone is invited to come and see what these students have been doing and talk to them about their work. Date: **Tuesday, April 19-** Family Studies Building, first floor (Reception to follow in the Deans’ Lounge), from **4:00 p.m.– 5:30 p.m.**

**“WE ALL SCREAM FOR...**

Come to the SFS Ice Cream Social. Date: **Wednesday, April 27**. Time: **3:30 p.m.- in the Deans’ Lounge**.



The School of Family Studies **Alumni Society** invites you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juvenile Justice Conference, “Leading Change: Rethinking Juvenile Justice”. Date: Tuesday, **May 10-** Watch for upcoming registration and brochure!

**Save The Date—**

- 3/24-** CHHD Colloquium Series
- 4/8-** Latina/o Sexualities Conference
- 4/14-** CHHD Colloquium Series
- 4/19-** HDFS Honors Poster Exhibit
- 4/21-** CHHD Colloquium Series
- 4/27-** Ice Cream Social

Commencement Ceremonies-

- **5/7-** Graduating Masters & doctoral Students
- **5/8-** Undergraduate Students

- 5/10-** Juvenile Justice Conference
- 6/9-** SFS Annual Meeting/Dinner