

The National ACE News

Newsletter for the Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

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Director's Update



Gregory Mark, D. Crim., Director National ACE Coordinating Center

Welcome to the fourth in a series of newsletters that will highlight the National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Currently, the ten ACEs are: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (Urban Partnership Academic Center of Excellence—UPACE), Columbia University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University,

Meharry Medical College (UPACE), University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Riverside, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

The May 2008 Society for Prevention Research meeting in San Francisco was a rousing success. Chicago ACE PI, Dr. Deborah Gorman-Smith, was the conference chair and she did an excellent job organizing a thoughtful and high impact program. The ACEs were well represented and one of our highlights was the pre-conference policy workshop conducted by Annie Toro from the American Psychological Association.

The Coordinating Center continues to plan a Spring 2009 Congressional Educational Briefing on Capitol Hill. At the July 22, 2008 Hawai'i Delegation Congressional Briefing (see more on page 4), "Youth Violence Prevention: A Model of University-Community Partnerships", we were able to connect with U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye's office, which is helping to facilitate the Hill briefing.

Please contact me if you are interested in participating in the Hill presentation or if you are interested in organizing your own Congressional Delegation Youth Violence Prevention briefing.

Aloha,
Greg Mark

Highlighting the ACEs: Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center

The mission of the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center (HYVPC) is to work collaboratively to build community capacity for youth violence prevention in Boston.

Located at the Harvard School of Public Health, Center activities are based on the premise that effective prevention evolves from synergy between researchers, community members, and policy makers. Its active collaborations with multiple community agencies and organizations provide ample opportunities to bridge research and practice.

Led by principal investigator David Hemenway, Ph.D., the HYVPC has an outstanding multi-disciplinary staff with expertise in survey research, surveillance, program evaluation, and youth violence prevention. Violence prevention is only one of the many important, cross-cutting issues addressed by the Center, which include asset-mapping, community capacity building, and youth development.

HYVPC collaborates with 11 grassroots community partners as well as with the Boston

Mayor's Office, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Centers of Youth and Families, Boston Public Schools, and the Boston Police Department.

HYVPC helps to create a multi-layered surveillance system of youth violence in Boston that includes a biennial survey of public and private high school and middle-school students; a biennial survey of community adults; and Emergency department data on all violent injuries of youth serious enough to

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Community Mobilization and Intervention: Developing a Youth Center *by Caroline Glesmann*

Would Asian/Pacific Islander (API) youth benefit from a youth center that is targeted to their needs? In Oakland, California, this question is being addressed by a community mobilization effort called the API Community Response Plan (CRP) group. The CRP is convened by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) as part of the Center on Culture, Immigration and Youth Violence Prevention.

There are about 20 active CRP members, representing community-based organizations that serve API youth and families, local elected officials, and public agencies. The CRP helped determine the content of *Under the Microscope: Asian and Pacific Islander Youth in Oakland; Needs, Issues, Solutions* (2003; 2nd ed., 2007), an NCCD publication which indicates that API youth may face academic and social challenges.

Approximately 12,000 Asian youth (ages 5-17) live in Oakland, about 40% of whom are Southeast Asian. Southeast

Asian youth may experience more obstacles than youth of other Asian ethnicities, in areas such as language access and school performance. Pacific Islander youth also face challenges; Samoan youth have the city's highest juvenile arrest rate. In addition, API youth in Oakland are convicted and placed in institutions at higher rates than African Americans, Latinos, and Whites.

A recommendation in *Under the Microscope* was to start youth centers at schools where API students and families could access services. Working with a consultant, the CRP is now actively engaged in a process to plan a new youth center, targeted to API youth and open to all youth. The center will provide youth development and violence prevention services and be located in Oakland's Chinatown neighborhood.

The multiyear effort includes a 10-member Planning Committee, which provides oversight and guidance. "My organization is excited to be involved

in the youth center planning because we recognize that more services for youth are needed in the Chinatown area," said planning committee member Clifford Yee, who coordinates Asian Health Services' Youth Program. "This center will provide an empowering environment for youth to grow and thrive."



Youth Advisory Council (YAC) members created drawings that showed what their ideal youth center would include.

Developing a youth center is also a priority for young people. A Youth Advisory Council (YAC), comprised of nine

youth ages 12-19 from diverse API ethnicities, is a vital part of the planning process. YAC members envision the center as a safe space which will provide youth with an alternative to hanging out on the streets and help prevent substance abuse and violence.

The CRP recently surveyed the community to learn what youth and parents would like to see in a youth center. Over 500 youth and about 50 parents completed surveys; four focus groups were also held. This data collection process helped the CRP and YAC develop the center's vision, mission, goals, and programming strategies.

"Moving forward, we want API youth to have access to options that will help them grow holistically," said planning committee member Kathy Ahoy, a nurse with the Alameda County Public Health Department. "Our goal is to develop a safe place for youth to realize their full potential."



David Hemenway, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center

Highlighting the ACEs: HYVPC *continued from page 1*

receive medical attention in Boston hospitals.

Data from the surveillance system have been used to determine individual and community risk and resiliency factors for youth violence, track the changing needs of Boston's youth and communities, help develop evidence-based prevention programs, and evaluate the impact of city and community policies.

Most recently, the Boston Youth Survey data are being put to use at the request of the Vietnamese community in Dorchester to explore cultural

among other risk factors for violence.

The Center also organizes an annual event to honor community members who have made significant contributions in violence reduction, hosts a conference for families of homicide victims, provides community members with training in an asset-based approach to community development, and works with partners to create neighborhood and city-wide community action plans to reduce violence.

A training component of the Center includes a mentorship

program, post-doctoral fellowships, research opportunities with community organizations, and formal training for graduate students, residents and other physicians, community leaders, and violence prevention personnel in state health departments.

For more information on the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center, visit www.hsph.harvard.edu/hyvpc/index.html. For information and links to the other ACE websites, visit the Coordinating Center website at www.nacecc.org.

Youth Violence Surveillance in Richmond, VA *by Diane Bishop & Saba Masho*

The Virginia Commonwealth University Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development is a CDC-funded National Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention. The Institute monitors trends of youth violence activities in the city of Richmond, Virginia.

In 2006, Richmond had an estimated population of 192,913 people; of which 35% were youth less than 25 years of age and nearly 55% were African Americans.

The Institute routinely collects data on violence activities and other violence-related indicators. Data encompass non-fatal and fatal outcomes and

determinants from vital records, emergency room visits, ambulance transports, justice service referrals, schools, and police incident reports.

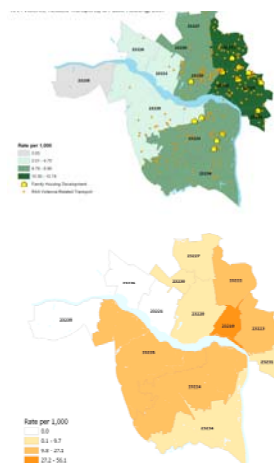
The Institute summarizes the data regularly and produces timely reports and fact sheets that are disseminated to researchers, community partners and residents. These reports contain trends and distributions of violence activity, population-based rates, and spatial analysis.

In 2005, the rate of homicide among youth 15-24 years of age was seven times higher than the national average. Youth between 20-24 years and 15-19 years accounted for most assault-

related injury visits.

The majority of assault and homicide victims across all years were male; however, an increasing trend in female referrals to justice services has been observed (31% in 2003 to 48% in 2006).

Spatial analyses show that the east and south side of Richmond are most affected by youth violence. Data on homicides, firearm injuries, ambulance pick-ups, ER visits and juvenile justice referrals indicate that youth violence activities are highly prevalent in low-income neighborhoods with a high concentration of public housing.



(top) violence-related injury visits of Richmond youth to the VCU ED; (bottom) rate of clients referred for services for violence-related offenses

Voices from the Community: East Bay Asian Youth Center *By Peter Kim*

On June 15th, 2008, 150 young people, parents, and community members came out to the Parkway Theater in East Oakland to attend the Streetside Productions 5th Annual Digital Arts Showcase, where our young filmmakers, photographers, and artists shared over 120 minutes of original, youth-produced media art.

People came out to support the youth of Streetside Productions as they presented their documentary movies, photography slideshows, art installation pieces, murals, and digital stories. By the end of our 2-hour event, people left the Parkway inspired and impressed, and students left feeling proud and validated, as folks were handing out praise for all their hard work.

Typically, the young people that come through Streetside Productions are youth offenders, many of whom are not successful in school, if attending at all. With a direct pipeline with Juvenile Probation,

Streetside has been working directly with kids on probation for the last 8 years, and offers these youth an opportunity to learn real technical skills within a job training context.

Probably more importantly, Streetside offers them a chance to be successful. "All kids want to be successful, all kids want to feel proud of what they do," explained Melanin Buford, one of the Streetside instructors. "Here, we give these marginalized youth a chance to do that."

A program of the East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC), Streetside Productions is EBAYC's way of directly addressing the disconnect that occurs between high-risk youth and the schools.

Often in the classroom, youth with poor academic skills and a record of behavior issues will often fail within the rigid structure of lectured lessons and rote learning. Streetside attempts to use digital media and media arts as the means to

engage youth, particularly high-risk youth, and as the medium through which they're able to express themselves and share their perspectives on the communities they live in.

"I had no idea Chester was capable of doing any of this," said one mother. "The fact he made a movie is one thing, but actually getting on camera and talking about his sister and the feelings that he's been holding inside... that's what I'm blown away about." Seventeen-year old Chester, a Streetside student for the last year and a half, lost his sister to gun violence this past March, and had the courage to share his story in a short 3-minute documentary. At the end of the short piece, Chester is seen saying, "At first, I wanted to go get a gun... but then knew I didn't want no other family to feel what my family felt and went through. That's not what a man does." In this way, his movie was not only a media art project, but a tool for emo-

tional processing, healing, and closure.

The sound of sniffing and tears were heard throughout the piece *Dear Mama*, a collection of 9 video "letters" from the girls in Streetside Counseling, EBAYC's Case Management program for high-risk youth. The girls, most of them gang-impacted Latino youth from Oakland High School, wrote letters to their mothers expressing previously unspoken feelings, and then read these letters aloud over a slideshow of family photos that each girl prepared. Incredibly personal and honest, these video letters were meant to open new lines of communication and dialogue between the girls and their mothers.

A project of the Streetside Beginner Filmmakers Workshop, *Visions of a Healthy Oakland* set out to show what folks in our community are doing to make the Town safer

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NYC Alliance and Columbia ACE Release Dating Violence Results *by Leslie Davidson*

The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, in collaboration with the Columbia University Center for Youth Violence Prevention, announced on the steps of City Hall the results of a three-year, comprehensive research project on sexual and dating violence among New York City high school students, and the health impact of that violence on those victimized by it.

Preliminary results of the study were included in a 4-page summary released at the announcement entitled, "Partners and Peers: Sexual and Dating Violence Among NYC Youth, Research Summary."

The New York City Department of Education granted researchers permission to enroll New York City high school students anonymously with their parents' consent and their own permission with the agreement of school principals and district superintendents. Students from four schools in Manhattan and Brooklyn, reflecting a range of those in New York's cultural groups,

were asked to participate. In all, 1,454 high school students ranging in age from 13-21 participated in the study. The majority of participants were 15 or 16 years old. Some of the findings in the study include:

- * One in six participants (16.2%) report having experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives;
- * The percentage of New York teens reporting sexual violence is more than twice the national average (nationally, between 7% and 10.2% of 12-17-year-olds report having experienced some form of sexual assault.);
- * 89% of those who have experienced sexual violence knew the person who perpetrated the victimization;
- * More than half (56.5%) of those with a dating history report having experienced one or more episodes of physical dating violence;
- * Among those who experienced physical dating violence, more than one quarter (27.4%) reported having been pushed or shoved by a dating partner, and 17% reported having been

slapped or hit;

* Almost 10% of student who reported having a dating partner in the last year said that their partner touched them sexually when they didn't want to be touched and 6.7% said they were forced to have sex against their will;

* Less than half (41.3%) of the students who self-identified as having experienced physical or sexual dating violence told someone about those experiences;

* New York City high school students were most likely to tell their friends about sexual or dating violence. 71.8% told friends first. Only 12.8% first told a parent about the violence; 11.5% first told another adult;

* Only 24.4% of youth experiencing sexual or physical dating violence sought help from a health professional, teacher or guidance counselor;

* Both victimization and perpetration of physical and sexual dating violence were linked with adverse health outcomes

for these youth. Victims of sexual dating violence reported more frequent pain and illness symptoms that resulted in high physical discomfort (31%) and higher emotional discomfort (28%) than teens who did not experience sexual dating violence (20% and 18% respectively); and

* Victims of physical dating violence also reported fair to poor health status (28%) and low self-esteem (25%).

Dr. Vaughn Rickert, Ph.D., professor at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health said, "These data highlight the need for early identification, treatment, as well as prevention."

The research summary is available online at www.nycagainstrap.org. A full report of the findings, *Peers and Partners: Sexual and Dating Violence among NYC Youth* will be published in early August and will be available from Monalisa L. Paredes at mlp2151@columbia.edu or from the NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault.

Briefing the Hawai'i Delegation on Youth Violence Prevention *by Greg Mark*



Attendees of the July 2008 youth violence prevention briefing for the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation

On July 22, 2008, the Coordinating Center and the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center conducted a briefing to the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation. The

briefing entitled "Youth Violence Prevention: A Model of University-Community Partnerships Briefing" was hosted by the office of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and attended by representatives from the offices of Senator Daniel Akaka, Congressman Neil Abercrombie, and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono.

The briefing's major focus was to highlight the model of university-community partnerships of the National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACEs), in particular the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence

Prevention Center (APIYVPC), that works towards a solution to the problem of youth violence in the U.S.

The hour-long meeting also showcased one of the APIYVPC's community partners, Hui Mālama o ke Kai, which is a Native Hawaiian after-school program for 5th & 6th graders in Waimānalo that focuses on preventing and reducing youth violence and substance use, and increasing Hawaiian cultural values. In a heartfelt testimony, Hui Mālama founders Sharon Majit-Gorion and Nani Akeo described the creation of the program and its impact upon

Native Hawaiian youth and the community.

One outcome from the briefing included plans for a Kailua/Waimānalo town hall meeting with Congresswoman Hirono and Hawai'i State legislators later this fall to discuss youth violence prevention efforts in this community. A potential second outcome is planning a Pacific Islander youth conference partnered by the APIYVPC and Congressman Abercrombie, possibly to overlap with the Youth Summit in Waimānalo in July 2009, which is being coordinated with the UC Berkeley and Harvard ACEs.

Publications, Presentations, and Products

- Lai, M.H. (2008). Community mobilization efforts to reduce and prevent youth violence. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 34(3S), S48–S55.
- Le, T.N., & Stockdale, G. (2008). Acculturative dissonance, ethnic identity, and youth violence. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 14(1), 1-9.
- Le, T.N., & Ettekal, I. (May 29, 2008). Discrepancy of youth and parent endorsement of individualism/collectivism and delinquency. 16th Annual Meeting of Society for Prevention Research. San Francisco, CA.
- Sawyer, A.L., Bradshaw, C.P., & O'Brennan, L.M. (2008). Examining ethnic, gender, and developmental differences in the way children report being a victim of “bullying” on self-report measures. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 43(2), 106-114.

IRT TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Analytic Tools Group of the ACE Action Plan will be coordinating a training on Item Response Theory, hosted at UC Riverside. This training is tentatively scheduled for February 2009. Some additional limited space may be available for other interested individuals for this training. Contact Dr. Earl Hishinuma at hishinumae@dop.hawaii.edu for further information.

Calendar of Events

AUG 2008	SEP 2008	OCT 2008	NOV 2008	DEC 2008	JAN 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 4-7 8th Annual School Health Interdisciplinary Conference (SHIP) Ellicott City, MD cf.umaryland.edu/csmha/confreg/ Aug 14-15 Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Sustainable Schoolwide SEL Implementation Training Chicago, IL casel.org/pub/training.php Aug 18 & 29 White House Conference on Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Sacramento, CA (18th) Dallas, TX (29th) http://www.dtiassociates.com/fbci/index.cfm Aug 26-28 National Conference on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention New Orleans, LA www.nationalcac.org/professionals/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=122&Itemid=118 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sep 16-18 Providing Culturally Competent Services to Victims of Crime Lincoln, NE www.sei2003.com/ovcttac2008/ProvidingCulturally.htm Sep 17-20 10th Crime Mapping Research Conference New Orleans, LA www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps/ Sep 18-19 Children's Health & Environment Annual Conference Philadelphia, PA www.gwu.edu/%7Emacche/philadelphiaconference08/index.html Sep 21-24 Community Leadership Institute Springfield, IL www.centerforcommunityleadership.com/static/centerforcommunityleadership/institutes.php Sep 25-27 Center for School Mental Health Annual Conference Phoenix, AZ csmh.umaryland.edu/conf_meet/AnnualConference/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 3 Robert Wood Johnson (RWJF) Health & Society Scholars Program Application deadline www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20241&c=EMC-FA135 Oct 11-14 American Academy of Pediatrics' National Conference Boston, MA www.aapexperience.org/ Oct 15-18 Safe Kids Worldwide: 2008 Child Injury Prevention Conference Washington, D.C. www.safekids.org/conference2008/ Oct 25-29 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting San Diego, CA www.apha.org Oct 28-30 Alliance for Children & Families Annual Conference Baltimore, MD www.alliance1.org/Conferences/National2008/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov 6-7 5th Annual Int'l Bullying Prevention Association Conference Indianapolis, IN www.stopbullyingworkd.org/ Nov 14 Vulnerable Populations in the Juvenile Justice System: a Research & Policy Conference Princeton, NJ www.futureofchildren.org/ Nov 14-15 10th Annual Youth & College Leadership Summit: Transforming Youth to Ignite Change Baltimore, MD www.nlhc.org/home.html Nov 16-18 Public Education Network (PEN) Annual Conference San Francisco, CA www.publiceducation.org/events.asp Nov 20-21 Maryland's 2nd Restorative Justice Conference: Opportunities for Impact www.restorativejustice.org/conferences/opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec 2-3 2008 Kids Count in Indiana Conference Indianapolis, IN www.iyi.org/conferences.aspx Dec 2-4 Interaction Institute for Social Change: Facilitative Leadership San Francisco, CA www.youthtoday.org/detail/event.cfm?event_id=232&id=103 Dec 8-9 AMCHP Data Training Workshops Atlanta, GA www.amchp.org/topics/a-g/2008mchepi_datatraining.php Dec 9-11 Interaction Institute for Social Change: Facilitative Leadership Boston, MA www.youthtoday.org/detail/event.cfm?event_id=229&id=103 Dec 10-11 Supporting Children Living with Grief & Trauma: a Multidisciplinary Approach Los Angeles, CA www.sei2003.com/ovcttac2008/LA-SupportingChildren.htm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 22-24 NASPA Mental Health Conference Indianapolis, IN www.naspa.org/events/detail.cfm?id=288 Strategies Conference: Alcohol Abuse Prevention & Intervention www.naspa.org/events/detail.cfm?id=289 Jan 26-30 23rd Annual San Diego International Conference on Child & Family Maltreatment San Diego, CA www.chadwickcenter.org/ Jan 28-31 15th National Joint Conference on Alternatives to Expulsion, Suspension, and Dropping Out of School San Antonio, TX www.uwgb.edu/outreach/alternatives/

For a more comprehensive and updated list of upcoming events, conferences, training opportunities, we recommend linking to <http://www.jhsph.edu/preventyouthviolence> and subscribing to the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence Items of Interest newsletter.

A Centerpiece of the PCVPC *by Stephen Leff, Nicole Thomas, & Duane Thomas*

Early aggressive behavior creates a host of problems for youth, their parents, and the community, and is very costly to society. The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) and our centerpiece community-based participatory research project (Centerpiece Project) seek to develop new ways in which researchers and community members can work together to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive violence prevention programs for youth age 10-14 years old and their parents who are residing in high-risk urban communities.

The proposed intervention hopes to impact aggression across different aspects of the local urban community and to take systematic steps to develop comprehensive, cost-efficient, and culturally responsive primary prevention strategies to decrease aggression and its co-morbid behaviors among urban youth.

There are several unique aspects of our Centerpiece Project. First, the approach focuses on primary prevention, to start early to prevent violence from scarring the lives of young people. Second, it brings together academic institutions

across the city of Philadelphia (The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Drexel University, Temple University and University of Pennsylvania). Third, our approach to development of the intervention is founded upon principles from community-based participatory research (CBPR), in which researchers take empirically-based best-practice programs and adapt them for use in the West and Southwest Philadelphia community in partnership with community members and community-based organizations.

Our community-based partners, members of the Philadelphia Area Research Community Coalition (PARCC), share equally in the planning, leadership, analysis and dissemination of research results. In this manner, PCVPC and the Centerpiece Project are founded on a commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of violence prevention programs in the community.

Over the past two years, the Centerpiece Project has developed an aggression prevention program that combines ten sessions of problem-solving skill and leadership enhancement for youth with an intensive four-session parenting/family out-

reach program.

The youth intervention teaches strategies needed to become a leader to prevent violence in one's community, to identify when one is getting angry, to stay calm in challenging situations, to better understand other's perspectives, and to evaluate one's choices in potential conflict situations. The youth intervention culminates in a leadership promotion/service learning project over the last two sessions.

The parent/family program guides parents to develop their own identity separate from their children and deal with their own levels of stress, offers communication and behavioral management strategies with their children, and helps them become an advocate for their child across different systems (e.g., school, legal, welfare).

We will target youth between 10 and 14 years of age and will perform a systematic trial of the program across at least six neighborhood venues (e.g., recreation centers, faith based centers, or after school programs). Our outcome measures include aggression reduction, and in-

creases in problem-solving skills and leadership at the individual, parent/guardian, and community level.

We created an organizational/venue assessment tool in order to determine how well different venues matched with the centerpiece intervention project. Our researchers and community partners used this 36-item semi-structured interview, visiting 22 sites including recreation centers, churches, housing programs, public libraries, the YMCA, community service programs/agencies, police athletic leagues, and a host of other community-based venues. Based on an overall match score and ratings on other key items, six venues will be invited to be part of our design for Years 3-5 of the study. All selected venues will receive each aspect of the interventions but at different time periods over the course of three years.

This will allow us to determine both the initial effectiveness of the interventions as well as the sustainability of the interventions over time as researchers work in partnership with community members to develop programs that can be continued by venue staff with limited support by the researchers.

Training Highlight: Virginia Commonwealth University *by Rosalie Corona*



Amie Bettencourt, a 5th year graduate student in Clinical Psychology at the VCU Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development

Ms. Amie Bettencourt from the VCU Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development was recently awarded a pre-doctoral training award (F31) from the National Institutes of Health to support her dissertation research.

Ms. Bettencourt's dissertation uses a novel technique, the Articulated Thoughts in Simulated Situations (ATSS) paradigm, to understand how youth who differ in their level of adjustment (e.g., well-adjusted, neglected, aggressive-victims, passive-victims) process social stimuli and enact responses to verbal victimization.

Middle school students ($n = 120$) will be recruited to participate. The ATSS method will involve having participants listen to audiotapes of situations read by youth in a local theater group and talk out loud about their reactions to the situation. The content of the scripts was developed through qualitative studies to identify situations urban adolescents find challenging.

It is hoped that this study will provide information about social information-processing of verbal victimization that will inform prevention efforts.

Ms. Bettencourt's research interests include violence prevention programming targeting peer/verbal aggression among adolescents. The pre-doctoral training grant will provide her with the opportunity to further hone her clinical research skills, will provide her with advanced training in statistical techniques, will facilitate her growth as a clinical researcher, and will bring her closer to her career goal of conducting research in a medical center or academic setting.

Voices from the Community: EBAYC *continued from page 3*

and healthier. This 27-minute documentary takes a trip throughout Oakland – from the Deep East to the Far West and all in between – as our youth interview different people on a diverse range of topics including the Mayor's plans for Oakland, healthier living habits, sexual health/STDs, teen dating violence, and better nutrition.

Maybe most impressive was *I Ain't Leavin'*, a 20-minute documentary produced by Streetside's Advanced Filmmaker Crew. Told through the lens of Cambodian-American youth, *I Ain't Leavin'* tells the story of the Oak Park Apartments in the Murder Dubbz neighborhood of Oakland. Despite that their immigrant parents fought to reform the tenements they lived in, these young people discover that they are no longer welcome in the place they've always considered "home". A story of migration, immigration,

and gentrification, this documentary is ultimately a story of displacement. *I Ain't Leavin'* brought out over thirty young people and their families from Oakpark, who were in attendance to cheer on as the credits rolled.

In the end, the event accomplished what it had set out to do – bring young people and older folks together and build community. By showcasing the time, energy, and hard work of our Streetside young artists, we were able to highlight the positive and focus on the success of young people, and if only for an afternoon, discard the negative images of delinquent youth that we see daily on our TVs and hear on our radios. Young people were given the stage and their faces were seen, their voices heard... and the future looked bright.

Streetside Productions is a Digital Arts program that provides young people with hands-on training in Video Production, Documentary Storytelling, Digital Storytelling, Photography, Mural and Installation Art, and Sound Editing. A program of the East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC), Streetside Productions has worked with more than 400 youth over the past 10 years and has produced over 200 digital art projects – mostly video documentaries. The program targets high-risk youth in Oakland, with its goal to provide high quality, hard skills training within a youth development context of soft skills training, mentoring, and relationship building. Its ultimate aim is to provide youth with the skills, means, and opportunities to develop THEIR voices and tell THEIR stories.

For more information, contact Peter Kim, Managing Director, at pkim@ebayc.org or (510) 533-1092 ext 33.

IN FOCUS



Students from EBAYC's programs Streetside Productions and Banteay Srei.

The ACEs

Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention

Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center

Johns Hopkins University Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence

Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention

Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention

Virginia Commonwealth University Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development

The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center

Nashville Youth Violence Prevention UPACE

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YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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Web: www.nacecc.org

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Training Academic & Community Partners *by Susan Kildea McCrea*

The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) recently held a training session to introduce both its academic and community members to the Philadelphia Neighborhood Information System (NIS), a database available online through the University of Pennsylvania's Cartographic Modeling Lab (<http://cml.upenn.edu/>).

The NIS uses Geographic Information Systems, or GIS, which is computer software that ties data to maps. The NIS consists of four applications: crimeBase, muralBase, neighborhoodBase, and parcelBase. The first three of these applications are completely free and available to the public.

For the last, parcelBase, city employees, nonprofit organizations, community groups, academic institutions, and other public entities can apply for authorization to obtain a pass-

word to use this database for free as well. These NIS applications are used to create maps that display data, look at charts and tables of information, and look at trends of data over time.

Much positive feedback was received by both researchers and community members on the training. "I found the training session quite helpful in familiarizing participants with the site. I think the CML has a wealth of information available for researchers. It provides a good foundation for one to take a specific research question and begin navigation through their resources in an effort to locate specific databases/indicators. I think the introduction is a good overview to get someone started," said Alex Hanlon, PhD, member of PCVPC's Information Core.

"The CML training was excellent and this resource is empowering for community leaders. It is

very helpful to have a source of information at your fingertips when preparing proposals and presentations and even making people aware of what's happening in a particular community to encourage legislation being written. I'm working on a project right now that this training will be helpful for. I would love to see this training offered more often," said Alia Walker, Core Director of PCVPC's Information Core and Community Representative.

The CML training session offered an exciting opportunity to actively incorporate the principles of CBPR into the PCVPC's center training activities. This training brought together both academic and community partners to learn about a valuable free data resource available for public use, and provided a foundation of knowledge beneficial to both researchers and community members.



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