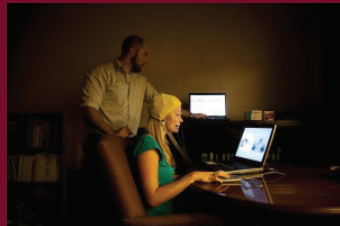


THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

# College of Social Work

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## Faculty Research Projects



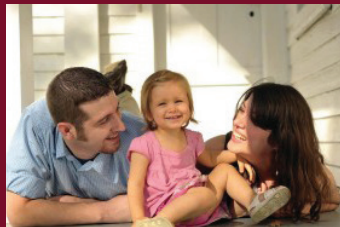
Substance Abuse &  
Behavioral Health

Health & Aging

Child & Family Welfare



Community Practice  
& Science



# Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health

**TITLE: Preventing depression in rural adolescents: TALKnTIME.**

**Principal Investigator: Kathryn Rost, MD, University of South Florida (formerly, FSU College of Medicine)**

**FSU Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. LaTonya Noel, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

## **PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

This primary objective of this study is to evaluate a culturally adapted version of a school-based targeted intervention to reduce depressive symptoms and prevent the onset of Major Depression among rural middle school preadolescent girls. The intervention was tailored to address the smaller social networks in rural adolescents groups and to make it more appealing to minority youth in these communities. Second, the intervention was tailored to middle school preadolescent population as previous research had focused primarily on high schoolers or did not produce replicable results, and finally, the innovation was tailored for rural program implementation feasibility, addressing the workforce and teacher limitations in rural communities.

## **Funding Sources:**

FSU Office of Research Council on Research and Creativity – Committee on Faculty Research Support (COFRS) Summer Awards, \$14,000 PI: LaTonya Noel, 05/2011-08/2011

FSU College of Medicine Seed Grant Funds, \$25,000(PI-Rost)

## **Co-Investigators:**

None

## **Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: The Relative Risk of Parent and Peer Alcohol Use on Underage Drinking**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Karen Randolph, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

## **PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

*Background and Purpose:* Traditional developmental theories posit that the influence of parent factors on important adolescents outcomes decrease and the influence of peer factors

increase as youth age. However, findings of one recent study suggest that this pattern may not hold in explaining adolescent cigarette smoking. Building on that study, the aim of our research is to examine trends in the influence of parent and peer factors on another important behavior—adolescent alcohol use. We employ the stages of change framework to assess the relative risk of parent and friend alcohol use on three patterns of adolescent drinking across time—not drinking to drinking initiation, experimental drinking to increased drinking, and continued drinking.

*Methods:* The sample includes 11,051 youth who participated in the first two waves of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health and whose parents completed interviews at Wave I (WI). Cases were divided into four mutually exclusive groups based on WI drinking behavior—non-drinkers, experimental drinkers, moderate drinkers, and heavy drinkers. Reported alcohol use at Wave II (WII) was used to determine drinking initiation among WI non-drinkers, increased drinking among WI experimental drinkers, and continued drinking among WI moderate and heavy drinkers. Relative risk ratios (RRs) were calculated and plotted across five age points ( $\leq 13$ , 14, 15, 16,  $\geq 17$ ) to evaluate associations between parent drinking and friend drinking at WI and adolescent drinking initiation, escalation, and continuation at WII.

*Results:* The risk of all drinking patterns—initiation, escalation, and continuation—is strongly related to parental and friend alcohol use. However, risk ratios are generally higher for youth whose friends drink relative to youth whose parents drink. For instance, non-drinkers whose friends drank at WI were 1.6 times more likely to start drinking by WII, relative to non-drinkers whose friends did not drink at WI, whereas non-drinkers whose parents drank at WI were 1.4 times more likely to start drinking by WII, relative to non-drinkers whose parents did not drink at WI. Plots of the parent and friend RRs for drinking initiation, escalation, and heavy drinker continuation displayed parallel lines across age points. Plotted lines of moderate drinker continuation RRs displayed an increased slope for youth with friends who drank and a decreased slope for youth whose parents drank as youth aged.

**Funding Sources:**

None

**Co-Investigators:**

Ursula Weiss, MSW, FSU College of Social Work, Leah Cheatham, MSW, JD, FSU College of Social Work. Jaclyn Williams, MSW, FSU College of Social Work

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: Targeted Interventions with High-Risk Drinkers in Fraternities and Sororities: A Pilot Study**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Dina Wilke, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The purpose of this project is to pair two NIAAA evidence-supported prevention strategies: Brief Motivational Interviewing (Tier 1 – Evidence of Effectiveness) and Social Norms Marketing (Tier 3 – Promising Practice) into one integrated program. We intend to augment the existing campus-based social norms marketing campaign with a peer-facilitated brief (10-15 minute) motivational interview (BMI) strategy provided by trained peer educators from Thagard Health Center. This peer-facilitated intervention will be designed to reinforce the social norms marketing campaign and individually engage students in a conversation about behavior change. Peer educators conduct individual screenings at each of the selected intervention fraternity and sorority houses. Following the screening, the peer educator conducts a 10-15 minute BMI with the participating student. During the course of the BMI, the peer educator compares the participant’s drinking behaviors with the drinking norms at FSU and elicits discussion of their responses compared to campus-based norms. The peer educator attempts to lead the student to examine his/her alcohol use and encourage the student to decrease or eliminate the quantity and/or frequency of drinking, decrease high-risk behaviors, or increase protective behaviors. A standard pretest/posttest design is being utilized to evaluate the efficacy of the intervention. Analyses of these data will include paired-samples t-tests to assess pretest to posttest changes at the individual level and analysis of variance to assess group differences across a series of outcomes. Dependent variables include eBAC, alcohol quantity and frequency, and alcohol-related problems.

**Funding Sources:**

FSU Office of Research Council on Research and Creativity, Social Science Program Enhancement Grant, \$100,000 07/2010-12/2011

**Co-Investigators:**

Rick Howell, M.S., Associate Director, Florida Center for Prevention Research, Amy Magnuson, PhD, RD, LD/N, Assistant Director, FSU Thagard Student Health Center

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: A Social Norms Approach to High-Risk Drinking at Florida State University**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Dina Wilke, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Florida State University (FSU) has historically had an image of a “party school” and data from FSU students indicates a high prevalence of high-risk drinking. This multi-year project utilizes repeated cross-sectional design to test the effectiveness of a social norms marketing intervention designed to change misperceptions about peer drinking attitudes and behaviors

about high-risk drinking and related consequences. The intervention is based on social norms theory which posits that individual high-risk behavior results from misperceptions of peer group norms. Social norms interventions, which focus on the healthy choices the majority of students make, help to promote an atmosphere where positive health behavior becomes normative. In 1999 FSU launched The Real Project, a student group modeled after Florida's highly successful Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) program with the belief that student attitudes and behaviors are most effectively changed by their peers. The underlying principle of intervention development is reliance on student input at every level of the creative process. Annual data collected on the self-reported behaviors of FSU students are used to develop an advertising campaign by students for their peers that promote healthy choices.

**Funding Sources:**

The National Social Norms Research Center, \$457,000 2002-2005

The National Social Norms Research Center, \$328,000 2006-2009

The National Social Norms Research Center, \$47,000 2010-2012

**Co-Investigators:**

Stephen Brooks, MS, MBA, Director, Florida Center for Prevention Research, Rick Howell, MS, Associate Director, Florida Center for Prevention Research

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE:Evaluation of Student Clinical Skills in Online and Face-to-Face Classes**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Dina Wilke, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

This project seeks to evaluate the efficacy of online skill development classes in social work by using a blinded review of student videotapes of skill-based assignments. Two different classes, Crisis Intervention and Family Social Work Practice are being evaluated. The course is taught online and face to face by the same instructor using the same text, lecture material, and core assignments. Students are expected to submit a videotape to provide evidence of skill acquisition along with a narrative critique of their skills. Both assignments are graded by a doctoral student trained in the grading rubric without knowledge of the student's participation in the online or face-to-face class. Data collection is currently on-going.

**Funding Sources:**

None

**Co-Investigators:**

Craig Stanley, MSW, LCSW, FSU College of Social Work, Margaret Ashmore, MSW, LCSW, FSU College of Social Work

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: The Impact of Online Class Content on Mental Health Empirical Knowledge and Critical Thinking of MSW Students**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Tomi Gomory, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**Co-FSU Investigator: Sara Groff, MSW, FSU Doctoral Student, Craig Stanley, MSW, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Dramatic changes have occurred in the last decade or so regarding mental health research. Fundamental assumptions regarding the nature of “mental disorders” and their effective amelioration are under rigorous review. This project seeks to gain knowledge about what Masters level students understand regarding these issues prior to exposure to an online class (intervention) and how their knowledge base is impacted upon the completion of the class. The project uses

data from 8 semesters and 156 students. Relying on both qualitative and quantitative analysis and the detailed demographics (including GPA and GRE scores) available from university databases the project also will evaluate what elements of the class package impact on knowledge development and what elements enhance student critical thinking skills.

**Funding Sources:**

None.

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE:Has Graduate Social Work Education Made Progress in Promoting A Critical Approach In Mental Health Practice?**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Tomi Gomory, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work.**

**Co-Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Lacasse, MSW, PhD, Arizona State University.**

**FSU Co-Investigator: Daniel Dunleavy, MSW Student, FSU College of Social Work.**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The aim of the study is to gauge if mental health education in Social Work has incorporated the latest scientific research in mental health regarding the concepts of mental disorder, reliability and validity of psychiatric diagnoses, the validity of biological etiology, and drug treatment. We hope to compare these results with that of our previous study, published in the *Journal of Social Work Education* (2003). That study found that Social Work education has followed the explanations of biomedical psychiatry regarding problematic human behavior without offering to our graduate students those scientific findings that contradict its conventional claims, thereby limiting their ability to independently assess best mental health practice. In the fall of 2010, we identified courses where psychopathology including diagnostic assessment and the DSM were taught from all graduate schools of social work listed in the top-82 of the annual U.S. News and World Report rankings (2008). In the spring of 2011, after having received IRB approval, we searched course schedules at each institution and began requesting syllabi directly from MSW directors and instructors. Syllabi collection continued during the Fall of 2011 and Spring of 2012. We searched online to find

any publicly available syllabi and procured some syllabi through informal networking. We ended up with 95 syllabi, with at least one syllabi from 39 of the 50 top ranked graduate schools. Through content analysis we will evaluate whether social work graduate education has become more rigorous and thereby more scientific in the last decade. The analysis is scheduled to be completed in spring 2013

**Funding Sources:**

None.

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: The Reaction to and Coping with Hurricanes Katrina & Rita: A Cross-Campus Survey**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Amy L. Ai, MS, MA, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (H-KR) were among the most costly natural disasters in U.S. History. The devastation of African-American victims, in particular, as

depicted in the media, led to soul-searching among Americans across social strata regarding seeking answers for healing and for solutions regarding the disasters and for that of the future, as well as for emotional healing. Further, following H-KR, professional and lay volunteers served the needs of 386,000 evacuees, providing care for depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Under drastic conditions, social agencies for community services, especially around New Orleans, were partially paralyzed or even forced to close. The devastating *collective trauma* passed extraordinary public demands onto volunteer workers. For the present study, a sample of over 500 African-American and European-American students were recruited for this study at three months after H-KR, of which 94% had been heavily involved in altruistic volunteer actions. This study was conducted at three months after H-KR among student volunteers who heavily involved in disaster reliefs. Data were collaborated from five universities in the Deep South impacted by the disaster. We assessed coping strategies, level of trauma experienced, symptoms of depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse, use of spirituality and altruism to cope, and resilience with respect to positive attitudes and posttraumatic growth. Four articles have been published on the first wave data, and the fifth using structural equation modeling to demonstrate parallel pathway to resilience is in revision. These studies have demonstrated the similarities and differences between mainstream and minority volunteers. For example, African American respondents reported higher levels of symptoms and higher rates of recollection of prior traumas during H-KR than their European American counterparts. However, the latter group reported higher level of substance use. Hierarchical regression analyses found that previous trauma recollections predicted symptoms among European Americans but not among African Americans. Disaster related stressors affected African Americans more than European Americans. Minority race was associated with greater spiritual strength whereas white race was related to higher altruism, a relatively more secular strength. The follow-up wave data have been cleaned and are waiting for analysis and publications.

**Funding Sources:**

Deans' Offices, Schools of Social Work, Jackson State University, Louisiana State University, Southern University-Baton Rouge, University of Alabama, University of Houston, & University of Washington

**Co-Investigators:**

Varies with co-authors in the ongoing publication effort, mostly involve those at the five schools.

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: Will-Power Training**



**FSU Principal Investigator: Amy L. Ai,MS, MA, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**Co-Principal Investigator: Roy Baumeister, PhD**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The primary objective of this proposal is to collect preliminary data for a trans-disciplinary theoretical model, integrating psychological and biophysical mechanisms underlying the health function of self-regulatory care in hypertension or high blood pressure. The pilot clinical trial is a part of the ongoing effort to obtain larger grants, aiming to promote behavioral self-care strategies in managing chronic illnesses with high public health impacts, such as hypertension. This team, including leading scholars of the FSU, is built on multidisciplinary strengths in several colleges (Medicine, Social Work) and other departments (e.g., Psychology, Statistics). The pilot project capitalizes on their expertise and clinical/lab protocols developed in their previous projects. Individuals will be recruited and randomized to two training groups. Physiological and blood tests will be performed at the baseline and the 5-month follow-up. Assays will be performed at the Translational Lab. We will explore Baumeister's theory on "will power" as a mean to promote health and well-being.

**Funding Sources:**

The FSU Office of the Vice President for Research: Council on Research and Creativity:  
\$25,000

**Co-Investigators:**

Eric Garland, MSW, LCSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work, Dan McGee, PhD, Department of Statistics, Cara Pappas, PhD, RN, College of Nursing, Mohamed Kabbaj, PhD, Richard Gonzalez-Rothi, MD, College of Medicine

**Community Collaborators:**

None

# Health and Aging

**TITLE:**African American Alzheimer's Caregiver Training and Support (ACTS)

**FSU Principal Investigator:** Robert Glueckauf MD, FSU College of Medicine

**FSU Co-Investigator:** La Tonya Noel, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work

## **PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The primary objective of this study is to compare the effects of a manualized telephone-based CB intervention to a traditional f-to-f manualized intervention on depression and perceived health for AA care givers of older adults with dementia. Within this study, I developed a sub-study in which the purpose was to do a pilot examination of the validity of depression measurement in African Americans (AAs), specifically interpretations of depressive symptoms and accompanying severity ratings on standardized screening measures for depression (e.g., *Patient Health Questionnaire-9*; PHQ-9;) This study will provide support for early phenomenon exploration, which NIMH encourages before submitting an R01 proposal in which extensive data are collected.

## **Funding Sources:**

NIMH R34, \$620,592 02/01/2008-01/31/2012

## **Co-Investigators:**

None

## **Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE:** The Florida Long-Term Care Research Partnership

**FSU Principal Investigator:**Jean Correll Munn, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work

## **PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

This project consists of the scientific development of a cohort of 230 long-term care facilities (initially 40 nursing homes followed by the inclusion of 199 assisted living communities) that will support future research in three specific areas: 1) end of life in long-term care; 2) hospice in long-term care; and 3) social work involvement in long-term care communities and will be known as the Florida

Long-Term Care Research Partnership (FLTCRP). Furthermore, the development of the FLTCRP will support multi-disciplinary research initiatives within Florida State University

in the field of gerontology and taking the lead in collaborations with other Florida academic institutions. This cohort will be modeled after the Collaborative Studies of Long-term Care (CS-LTC). The purpose of this effort is to increase the feasibility of conducting future research and obtaining external funding. The CS-LTC has supported over 60 studies involving 10,000 subjects and supported by over \$16,000,000 in grants from federal and private funders. At present, the FLTCRP sampling frame, of approximately 400 facilities, is being developed in conjunction with the Pepper Institute for Aging Policy at Florida State University.

**Funding Sources:**

FSU Office of Research Council on Research and Creativity – Committee on Faculty Research Support (COFRS) Summer Awards, \$14,000 05/2011-08/2011

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: Social Work Involvement at the End of Life in Long-Term Care**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Jean Correll Munn, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Despite growing numbers of older adults living and dying in long-term care, little is known about social work involvement at the end of life for these vulnerable elders. This study, funded by the John A. Hartford Faculty Scholars program, has been designed to address issues that emerged in Dr. Munn's dissertation, *Defining a Good Death for Residents in Long-Term Care*. Specifically the dissertation work identified an absence of social work involvement or generally negative comments regarding social workers in these settings. However, social workers were not the subject of that study. In response, the current study incorporates mixed methods, builds upon dissertation findings, and focuses on social workers and their involvement during this crucial time. The qualitative portion of the proposed project (completed) comprised three focus groups consisting of long-term care social workers who are associated with facilities included in the dissertation sample. The purpose of these groups was two-fold: 1) to compare findings with earlier focus groups held with residents, family and staff; and 2) to gain the social workers' perspectives on their roles at the end of life, supportive factors that enable them to fulfill those roles, and potential barriers to social work involvement. Focus group findings have been disseminated in a journal article: Munn, J., & Adorno, G. (2008). By invitation only: Social work involvement at the end of life in long-term care. *Journal of Social Work and End-of-Life and Palliative Care*, 4(4), 333-357.

**Funding Sources:**

John A. Hartford Faculty Scholars Program, \$100,000 09/2007-08/2009

**Co-Investigators:**

Sheryl Zimmerman, PhD, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, David Reed, PhD, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: Evaluation of the MEDS-AD Waiver Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Program, Sub-study 2. Qualitative Evaluation**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Leslie Beitsch, JD, MD, College of Medicine, FSU**

**FSU Co-Principal Investigator: Jean Munn, MSW, PhD, Amy L. Ai, MS, MA, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Qualitative Evaluation of the MEDS-AD Waiver Program 2011-2013.

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the benefits and value of the Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Program for certain aged and disabled recipients eligible for Medicaid through MEDS AD 1115 (a) Demonstration waiver during the waiver period from June 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013, utilizing qualitative methods to articulate participant and physician perceptions. The goals of the MTM Program are to improve the quality of care and prescribing practices based on best-practice guidelines; improved patient adherence to medication plans; reduced clinical risk; and lower prescribed drug costs and the rate of inappropriate spending for certain Medicaid prescription drugs for a high risk population of Medicaid beneficiaries. The proposed qualitative evaluation will employ rigorous interview methods and empirical analytical tools to enrich outcomes obtained through quantitative evaluation methods and report participant perspectives during the waiver period January 2011 through September 30, 2013. Specifically, the MEDS-AD qualitative evaluation will offer more detailed information that could not be addressed by quantitative evaluation. Therefore, it is the goal of the qualitative portion to examine and articulate underlying processes that influence health, psychosocial, and adherence outcomes from the perspectives of the key informants, care recipients, and primary care physicians. When integrated with the quantitative portion, these data will make the findings more understandable to all stakeholders in the MEDS-AD program. For example, the quantitative portion might provide data indicating a specific variable (e.g., age) is associated with withdrawal from the program. The interviews with participants can provide rich detail leading to conclusions regarding how the identified variable influences this outcome and address issues of best

practices and lessons learned. A final report is due to the Agency for Health Care Administration by April 2014. The interim and final reports will evaluate each goal of the program as appropriated to qualitative methods, and assess the extent to which goals will have been met.

**Funding Sources:**

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), \$893,270

**Co-Investigators:**

Heather Flynn, PhD, FSU College of Medicine  
Patty Ghazvini, PhD, FAMU, Department of Pharmacy  
Angela Singh, PhD, FAMU, Department of Pharmacy

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: Health and Mental Health Disparities among Latino-Americans and Asian Americans in the First National Database: Implications for Policy and Practice**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Amy L. Ai, MS, MA, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Latino-Americans and Asian Americans constitute a multi-ethnic subpopulation with varied ancestries from the vast land of Latin America and Asia. There is ample research demonstrating the disparities these minority populations face with respect to mental health in the United States (US). This study is a collaborative research effort between William E. Hefley, PhD, the Pitt Center of Latin American Studies, and the RAND Cooperation, and Amy L. Ai, PhD, College of Social Work, Florida State University, as well as other researchers in sociology and public health. There are tremendous socio-economic, genetic, cultural and environmental variations in the three major subgroups of Latino-Americans (Cuban, Mexican, and Puerto Rican Americans) in the NLAAS. Similarly, considerable cultural and ethnic differences exist among the three major subgroups of Asian-Americans (Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese) in this national sample. However, there is a dearth of analyses in the current publications concerning subgroup-related variations and pathways to their different patterns in mental health as well as in service seeking, using the advanced statistical modeling, as we proposed. We employ data from the first national representative sample on National Latino and Asian Americans Study (NLAAS). The NLAAS is the first national population-based mental health study of Latino and Asian Americans, which has only recently made available to the public. The questionnaire was available in six languages: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. The NLAAS was designed in coordination with, and a part of the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Studies (CPES) which includes NLAAS, the National Survey of American Life, and the

National Comorbidity Survey Replication. The present study presents opportunity to address gaps in the literature on the mental health disparities for the above subgroups using this valuable dataset, so as to inform future research, policy, and practice.

**Funding Sources:**

The Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems, School of Social Work, \$10,000 07/01/10-06/30/11

**Co-Investigators:**

Ethel G. Nicdao, PhD, Pacific University, Department of Sociology

Fernando Rivera, PhD, University of Central Florida, Department of Sociology

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: The Long-Term Effect and Biophysical Mechanisms of Faith Effects on Cardiac Rehabilitation**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Amy L. Ai, MS, MA, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

This project is a follow-up of the NIH-funded large-sample clinical trial, designed by the PI. Cardiac surgery is a common life-altering event in older person as well as in many middle-aged individuals. Numerous studies have associated negative psychological factors (e.g., stress, negative affects or NA) with worse outcomes of cardiac surgery. Yet, faith researchers and positive psychologists have noted the protective role of faith factors (e.g., secure faith) and optimistic expectations (e.g., optimism) in health and wellbeing, including cardiac surgery outcomes. Evidence has linked certian neurohormone, immune/inflammation, and myocardial biomarkers with cardiac surgery outcomes, psychological stress, and optimistic expectations, respectively. These associations, however, have not been silmutaneously examined in patients who underwent open-heart surgery. The proposed interdisciplinary study aims at long-term postoperative outcomes of faith factors and optimistic expectations in these patients, counteracting risks of stress and myocardial biomarkers as well as NA, and potential physiological mechanisms underlying this mind-heart interaction. The study will capitalize on the preoperative psychosocial information and standardized surgical data gathered from a sample of 400+ cardiac surgery patients (recruited in 1999-2002 for a psychosocial study). Paired frozen blood samples are available for a few hundred patients. The current project enable us to (a) use blood samples to analyze stress and myocardial biomarkers, (b) employ multivariate analysis for the counter-risk, survival advantage of faith factors and optimistic expectations in long-term cardiac health, and (c) explore physiological mechanisms using the combined datasets. We hypothesize that certain faith factors would

optimize long-term postoperative outcomes, counterbalancing the risk of selected biomarkers and NA, and affect some outcomes through certain preoperative psychophysiological pathways (e.g., optimism, levels of biomarkers). The present study will be built upon medical and psychosocial data from an NIH funded study and cutting-edge knowledge in several disciplines. The outcomes will have the potential to contribute substantive new knowledge to areas of faith research, psychoimmunology, positive psychology, cardiac physiology/surgery and.

**Funding Sources:**

John Templeton Foundation, \$334, 14206/07-06/11

Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar Program, Gerontology Society of America, \$100,000 09/02-08/04

**Co-Investigators:**

Varies with co-authors at different universities, including those at the University of Michigan, in ongoing publication efforts

**Community Collaborators:**

None

# Children and Family Welfare

**TITLE: Special Improvement Project: Improving Child Support Outcomes through Supervised Visitation**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Karen Oehme, JD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The Special Improvement Project (SIP) Pilot Program was designed to help families who use supervised visitation programs by providing them access to Child Support Enforcement, employment resources, fatherhood programs and other community-based economic resources. The ultimate goal is to increase family stability by increasing family economic status and financial literacy. This project focuses on two pilot supervised visitation programs who receive subcontracts to connect clients with child support offices, local job placement agencies and other resources to improve family economic outcomes. The child support data for each participating client is tracked by the Florida Department of Revenue. The Institute also creates financial literacy information for the pilot programs and their clients, and follows the progress of the programs to develop a Replication Plan to help other supervised visitation programs replicate the successes of the project.

**Funding Sources:**

US Department of Health & Human Services, \$100,000 2010-2011

US Department of Health & Human Services, \$50,000 2011-2012

US Department of Health & Human Services, \$50,000 2012-2013

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

The Florida Department of Revenue

Subcontracts with: 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Children's Justice Center, Tampa, FL and the Judge Ben Gordon, Jr. Family Visitation Center, Shalimar, FL

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**TITLE: Law Enforcement Families Partnership**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Karen Oehme, JD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**



In 2008, Florida became the first state to unite all major criminal justice agencies in a project created to help reduce and prevent officer-involved domestic violence. The Law Enforcement Families Partnership (LEFP) within the Institute for Family Violence Studies (IFVS) is a collaborative effort of Florida State University, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Department of Corrections, and the Florida Highway Patrol. All partners work on the cornerstones of the LEFP: Florida's Model Police on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence and *Officer-involved Domestic Violence, A Prevention Curriculum*. The Curriculum is free and online, tied to an FSU research study. It educates officers and helps them recognize the warning signs of work-related trauma and abuses of power. It also encourages officers to proactively seek help so they do not become offenders. In 2012, the Verizon Foundation funded the IFVS to develop a new National Prevention Toolkit on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence.

**Funding Sources:**

Florida State University Council for Research & Creativity SSPEG, \$100,000 , 2008  
Florida Police Chiefs Association, Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Police Benevolent Association, \$45,000, 2009  
Florida Police Benevolent Association, \$5,000, 2010  
Verizon Foundation, \$50,000, 2010  
Florida Police Benevolent Association, \$5,000, 2011  
Verizon Foundation, \$50,000, 2011  
Verizon Foundation, \$140,000 2012

**Honors:**

Prudential Davis Productivity Award of Distinction 2010  
Prudential Davis Productivity Certificate of Commendation 2011  
Prudential Davis Productivity Certificate of Commentation 2012

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

Florida Police Chiefs Association, Florida Sheriff's Association, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Highway Patrol, State Law Enforcement Chiefs Association, Bureau of Administrative Services – Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement, Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Office of the Attorney General – Advocacy & Grants Management, Florida Department of Corrections, Florida Police Benevolent Association, Florida Public Safety Institute, Verizon Foundation

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**TITLE: Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Karen Oehme, JD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation (Clearinghouse) provides technical assistance to all of Florida's supervised visitation and monitored exchange program with a grant from the Florida Department of Children and Families. The goal of the Clearinghouse is to keep vulnerable families safe. Supervised visitation programs provide parent-child contact in child abuse, neglect, and family violence cases. The Clearinghouse maintains a database on supervised visitation data (on which scholarly articles are based), leads in the development of standards for safe and effective operation of these programs, and serves as a liaison between the courts, child protection agencies, the Florida legislature, and all supervised visitation programs in the state.

**Funding Sources:**

Florida Department of Children and Families, \$420,000 08/31/2012-06/30/2015

Florida Department of Children and Families, prior funding totaling over \$1,000,000 01/1997-present

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

The Florida Supervised Visitation Standards Committee, mandated by Florida Statute 753.03.

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**TITLE: Florida's Initiative for Family Engagement**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Karen Randolph, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

*Background and Purpose:* Evidence of the benefits of parent involvement in preventing youth substance abuse has led to a proliferation of family-based prevention programs over the past decade. Yet, getting parents to attend these programs continues to challenge service providers. Some suggest that a broader public health effort is needed, reaching out to the larger parent community through environmental strategies (e.g., social marketing) to strengthen prevention-based parenting practices. Similar to efforts at reducing auto accident fatalities by promoting seat belt use, environmental strategies targeting parenting practices may have a positive impact on preventing youth substance abuse and other problems by influencing community norms and beliefs about family management and bringing parenting

behaviors into better alignment with the principles of effective prevention. The aim of this multi-year study was to develop and test a population-based, universal preventive intervention to promote effective parenting, with a particular focus on preventing underage drinking.

*Methods:* To establish a baseline for the development of the population-based model, we a) synthesized relevant literature across multiple disciplines; b) employed mail and telephone procedures to survey a randomly selected sample of parents (N = 1,153) about their parenting practices; c) administered a web-based survey to gather information from other stakeholders (i.e., directors, policy makers, and researchers) about their experiences with environmental strategies for promoting parenting practices; and d) conducted focus groups with highly engaged parents to explore their perspectives on strategies for engaging families in prevention activities. These findings were then used to develop a model that depicts our theory of change. However, at the end of the second year of funding, the funder requested that, instead of completing the original project, we develop a tool to measure parent views on underage drinking, which we did.

**Funding Sources:**

Florida Department of Children and Families, \$437,000 1/1/2006-12/31/2009  
FSU Office of Research Council on Research and Creativity, Planning Grant, \$10,000 2006

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE:**New Mothers' School Attendance: The Influence of Public and Private Supports

**FSU Principal Investigator:**Melissa Radey, MSSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

This project seeks to provide a descriptive picture of which single mothers seek additional schooling postpartum and how they finance their educations in the post-welfare reform era. The empirical analysis examines the role of public and private supports in allowing single mothers to attend school and provides preliminary analysis on how school financing influences degree completion. The analysis considers how educational attendance varies between mothers with diverse backgrounds.

**Funding Sources:**

FSU Office of Research Council on Research and Creativity – Committee on Faculty Research Support (COFRS) Summer Awards, \$14,000 5/11-8/11

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

None

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**TITLE: Victims' Voices**

**FSU Co-Principal Investigators: Linda Vinton, MSW, PhD, Dina J. Wilke, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Working from the premise that service providers need to hear from consumers in regular and structured ways, we listened to 82 survivors of domestic violence. We met with a diverse group of 55 individuals who resided at nine domestic violence shelters and communicated with 27 domestic violence survivors who chose to use an anonymous website or 800 number. We asked survivors if their abuse-related needs were met and what advice they would give planners of domestic violence services. Understanding, support, counseling, and respectful treatment, particularly from domestic violence shelter staff, were mentioned as often as the need for tangible resources.

**Funding Sources:**

Previous funding by the Florida Department of Children and Families

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) certified domestic violence centers

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**TITLE: Case Management in Domestic Violence Shelters**

**FSU Co-Principal Investigator: Linda Vinton, MSW, PhD, Dina J. Wilke, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Numerous statewide domestic violence needs assessments have shown residents of domestic violence shelters and their children have multiple unmet needs. The need for case management services appears evident, but it is unknown how often case management is

offered through shelters. The frequency and nature of these services will be explored along with the factors associated with case management availability.

**Funding Sources:**

Not funded

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

National Coalition against Domestic Violence (NCADV) domestic violence centers

# Community Practice and Science

**TITLE: Volunteer Florida Project**

**FSUPrincipal Investigator: Eyitayo Onifade, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Volunteer Florida partners with FSU College of Social Work on a Statewide Evaluation of AmeriCorps Programs. The survey highlights are a validation that AmeriCorps programs throughout Florida help to demonstrate how AmeriCorps and its community partners work toward sustaining needed services with volunteers.

**Funding Sources:**

Americorps: Volunteer FL grant \$28,000, 1/05/2012-12/31/2012

Previous funding annually since 2008

Non competitive annual renewal

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

Volunteer Florida

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**TITLE: Risk Mapping Project**

**FSUPrincipal Investigator: Eyitayo Onifade, MSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Risk assessments like the YLS/CMI that predict delinquency outcomes based on proximal risk factors may benefit from an incorporation of distal risk factors in their prediction models. This study utilized a juvenile probationer sample and block group SES data in exploring the differential predictive validity of the YLS/CMI with youth of similar person-centered risk levels from different criminogenic neighborhood types. The study entails an exploratory factor analysis of block-group socioeconomic variables, which will be used in a cluster analysis to create criminogenic neighborhood typology system.

**Funding Sources:**

None

**Co-Investigators:**

None

**Community Collaborators:**

Ingham County Family Court

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**TITLE: Pathways to Recidivism among Women Prisoners with Histories of Victimization: Implications for Assessment, Transition Planning and Reentry. Community Based Research with North Carolina Department of Corrections Prisoners**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Stephen Tripodi, MSSW, PhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The purpose of this project is to assess the influence of childhood physical and sexual victimization on recidivism for a random sample of women prisoners in North Carolina. Social support, mental health, and substance abuse are used as both moderating and mediating variables. The researchers interview women soon to be released from prison every three months, using the following measurements to collect information on victimization, mental health, substance abuse, and social support: Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, Experiences of Sexual Victimization, Abuse Behavior Inventory, National Violence Against Women Survey, Substance Abuse Module, Abbreviated Addiction Severity Index, Social Support Survey, Important People Drug and Alcohol Interview, and MINI-Abbreviated. The researchers will receive recidivism data – whether or not the participant has returned to the North Carolina Department of Correction - one year after data collection is complete. The research team will use structural equation modeling to assess the relationships between previous victimization, mental health and substance abuse, and recidivism. Additionally, the researchers will use survival analyses to determine the influence of victimization, mental health, and substance abuse on time to recidivism for those who recidivated. When this project is complete, the research team hopes to receive federal funding to conduct a multi-state study assessing the influence of victimization on recidivism, with the aim of developing a women-specific prisoner reentry program based on predictors of recidivism specific for women prisoners.

**Funding Sources:**

Advanced Center for Behavioral Health Services & Criminal Justice Research, NIMH Grant# 5p30 MH079930, \$100,000 8/1/2010-7/31/2012

**Co-Investigators:**None

**Community Collaborators:**

**TITLE: College of Social Work Arts & Athletic Community Outreach Project**

**FSU Principal Investigator: Nick Mazza, MSWPhD, FSU College of Social Work**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Building on the College of Social Work's commitment to community service, a new initiative is being developed for outreach to local youth. This program combines Arts and Athletics as vehicles to teach and enhance leadership development, academic achievement, socialization and other life skills for youth with limited social and economic opportunity. A service-learning component will involve FSU students from various disciplines participating as mentors, while also gaining additional leadership and community service experience. The first 2-week summer camp (pilot project) was successfully launched in June 2012. This project includes a significant program evaluation component to determine its effectiveness, identify areas for improvement, disseminate promising practices, and contribute to the knowledge base on the use of the arts and athletics in community-based practice.

**Funding Sources:**

Private Donators: (The Spearman Family) \$50,000

**Co-Investigators:**

**Stephen Tripodi, PhD**

**FSU Collaboration:**

The College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, The Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE), and the FSU Athletics Department.