

# CFRN *otes*

Child and Family Research Network

August 2015 Newsletter

<http://cfrn.uncg.edu/>



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## From the desk of....Susan Calkins, CFRN Coordinator



When we first launched the Child and Family Research Network, the goal was to support faculty research, particularly research that crossed disciplinary boundaries. Doing that meant getting people out of their “silos” and into settings where they could begin to learn about the work going on outside their buildings at UNCG. These initial efforts to bring people together were challenging, but ultimately, I think, successful. And, in the years since, and by working with faculty in every unit on campus, we’ve learned a great deal about what facilitates successful collaborations and interdisciplinary work.

Although interdisciplinary scholarship is inherently complex and intellectually challenging, two fundamental things seem key to growing any interdisciplinary collaborative effort: building relationships and providing incentives. Relationships are key because they are the vehicles through which trust is built. And, without trust, collaborations ultimately fail. Asking faculty to commit to working on a project that

involves multiple people from different perspectives is difficult. Asking them to do that when they don't know one another is nearly impossible. However, UNCG is unique in that we are just large enough to have strengths in lots of different disciplines, but also small enough that it is possible for people to get to know one another relatively easily. CFRN has worked hard to provide opportunities for people to build relationships. Attend a CFRN lunch this year and what you will see, on any given day, are 40-50 people (out of almost 200 members) who greet one another warmly and have both scholarly and personal relationships, many of which have led to new and successful collaborations.

Incentives are also another key to successful collaborations across disciplines. But, identifying and providing incentives present their own challenges. Despite UNCG's commitment to interdisciplinary work, we are still structured into "units" that represent groups of disciplines that often seem to be competing for scarce resources. This arrangement leaves many faculty with the impression that, although everyone wants cross-discipline work to take root and flourish, obtaining the appropriate incentives and rewards for that work is often difficult. We have come a long way from where we were several years ago with this particular challenge. Shifting attitudes about the value of working collaboratively versus independently have acted as one incentive; faculty are less concerned than they used to be that their collaborative efforts won't "count." More significantly, though, the support we have received from the Provost's Office, the Office of Research and Economic Development and several of our Deans and department heads/chairs has been critical to our progress, enabling us to fund workshops, small meetings, and conferences, and to provide salary and support for summer research. These kinds of resources make interdisciplinary collaborations much easier to engage in and increase the success of these partnerships.

So, where do we go from here with our interdisciplinary collaborations? We hope that UNCG will continue to put resources towards these efforts by directly supporting our interdisciplinary networks. For our part, CFRN will try to provide as many opportunities to build relationships and provide resources and incentives as we can. In fact, our next event, our Fall CFRN Social, is designed to do just that. It's a purely social event scheduled for the end of the work day, with food and drinks, and an opportunity to rekindle old relationships and establish new ones. It's our modest way of showing our appreciation to those of you have stayed with us all these years and encouraging faculty new to our group to get to know us better. We hope to see you there: Monday, August 31, 4-6 pm in the Faculty Center.

Wishing you all a productive and pleasant 2015-2016 academic year.

Best,  
Susan Calkins  
*CFRN Coordinator*

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# RECENT Events



## **CFRN/RISE Interdisciplinary Conference: Developmental Perspectives on Learning from Birth to College**

This one day interdisciplinary conference brought together educators, researchers, advocates, and leaders to discuss developmental perspectives on learning from birth to college. This conference featured key note speaker Dr. Oscar Barbarin, The Lila L. and Douglas J Hertz Endowed Chair in Psychology, Tulane University and highlighted the work of several UNCG research teams. Over 75 individuals, including faculty, staff, students and community members attended the conference.

Last year, we hosted two lunches focused on:

- "World of possibilities for funding".
- "Advancing UNCG: CFRN welcomes Vice Chancellor Jan Zink and UNCG development directors."



SAVE THE DATE

### **CFRN Social**

August 31st, 4pm - 6pm - Faculty Center

Come meet or get better acquainted with other members! We've been told multiple opportunities to speak facilitates effective collaboration.

### **CFRN Lunch Series**

October 22nd, 11am - 1pm- Kirkland Room, EUC

Topic to be announced

This lunch will be a discussion...

*Please RSVP to [CFRN@uncg.edu](mailto:CFRN@uncg.edu) by October 13<sup>th</sup>*

# CFRN Spotlight



The Supporting Immigrant Families group is a shining example of interdisciplinary collaboration at UNCG that spans across units at UNCG and Wake Forest University. The group includes Gabriela Livas Stein (Clinical Psychology, College of Arts and Science, UNCG), Laura Gonzalez (Counseling and Educational Development, School of Education, UNCG), Andy Supple (Human Development and Family Studies, School of Health and Human Services, UNCG), and Lisa Kiang (Developmental Psychology, Wake Forest University). Since 2009, these researchers have partnered to understand how immigrant youth and their families navigate adolescence across developmental, clinical, and educational outcomes within a family systems perspective. They have tackled issues of ethnic identity, familial cultural values, school engagement, parent-child relationships, and culturally-based stress as critical factors in the lives of Latino and Asian youth and their parents. This collaboration has resulted in productive partnerships with school districts where team members have been called to provide information to school personnel regarding meeting the needs of this emerging population in North Carolina. In addition, the team has published more than a dozen publications across disciplinary journals and submitted a grant that has received favorable scores. The research has involved 8 graduate students and more than 20 undergraduate students. The group is grateful for the support from UNCG and Wake Forest internal grants that have been used for pilot data collection.

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## A challenge to you...

As discussed in the last year, we must play a role in educating the public about the great work being conducted at UNCG. We challenge every CFRN member to submit at least one lay summary this academic year. Please email Pam Baldwin ([cfrn@uncg.edu](mailto:cfrn@uncg.edu)) a copy so we can keep a record of the success of the initiative. The submission that most successfully summarizes research in an interesting and non-technical manner will be featured in our spring newsletter and on the front page of the UNCG Research and Engagement Webpage. We have collected example lay summaries and draft press releases from CFRN members. You can see these examples by clicking on each member's name below. Special thanks to our members who drafted these examples:



[Julie Mendez \(New National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families\)](#)

[Jennifer Etnier \(Physical Activity Protects against Alzheimer's Disease\)](#)

[Denise Côté-Arsenault \(Nurse Researcher Seeks Ways to Help Couples through Precious Pregnancies\)](#)

[Lynne P. Lewallen \( Internet Use by Childbearing Women\)](#)

[Jonathan Tudge Gratitude, wellbeing, and the decline of materialism: A cross-cultural study of character formation in children and young adolescents](#)

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**RESOURCES**

### NIH Updated BioSketch Information:

#### [New Form](#)

Download the form and fill it out:

#### [My Bibliography](#)

To get started, go to this [link](#) and log in to myNCBI, run author search, select your publications, click “send to” then “my bibliography”.

Contact Aubrey Turner  
at [aubrey.turner@uncg.edu](mailto:aubrey.turner@uncg.edu) if your department, center, or research team would like to schedule a short workshop or Q&A regarding the new NIH Bio format.

**MEMBERS**  
— in the —  
**NEWS**

We have a new feature on our [website](#). Please help us by emailing [cfrn@uncg.edu](mailto:cfrn@uncg.edu) when your work is cited, featured, or discussed in the media. Direct links to the source, whenever possible, would be ideal.

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**Tell us what you think. Please email Pam Baldwin ([cfrn@uncg.edu](mailto:cfrn@uncg.edu)) if you have feedback on the structure or content of our newsletter or if you have ideas for future newsletters**

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