

The National ACE News

Newsletter for the Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

Volume 2, Issue 3

Fall 2008

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Director's Update



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

Welcome to the fall edition of *The National ACE News*, the official newsletter of the ACE Coordinating Center (CC). Thanks to all who contributed to the issue, and a special thanks to Bruce Link and the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention for their outreach efforts, research activities, and grounded leadership, which are featured in *Highlighting the ACEs*.

As part of the Coordinating Center's role in facilitating cross-center collaborations, the CC helped to organize presentations, poster board sessions, and a social event at the recent APHA meeting in San Diego. We look forward to further cross-center dissemination efforts throughout the year.

Recently, the ACE Steering Committee, CDC, and the CC have begun planning the March 2, 2009, reverse site visit in Atlanta. Our tentative plans include an informal networking reception on Sunday evening as well as some additional training opportunities on March 3rd and

4th, for the ACE Action Plan Analytic Tools and Policy & Practice work groups.

On October 15th, the CC and the Asian/Pacific Youth Violence Prevention Center organized a town hall meeting in Waimānalo for Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, where a number of youth and adults from community-based organizations and programs spoke about youth needs and program successes. The CC looks forward to continuing working with the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation and with other policy makers as well.

Aloha, Greg Mark

Highlighting the ACEs: Columbia University *by Jane Onoye*

This is the fifth 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 (CDC).

The Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP) is a multidisciplinary collaboration of researchers, policymakers, and community representatives committed to understanding and reducing youth violence.

Directed by Dr. Bruce Link, Principal Investigator, the CCYVP is a joint effort of the Mailman School of Public Health, the Institute for Child and Family Policy, the New York State Psychiatric Institute,

the New York City Department of Health, and community-based organizations serving families and neighborhoods in New York City.

Established in 2000 as an Academic Center of Excellence, the CCYVP's goals are to: 1) bring together researchers, practitioners, community representatives, and policymakers to foster an integrated approach to youth violence in the New York City metropolitan area, 2) monitor changes in youth violence in New York City, 3) investigate causes and consequences of this violence, 4) identify, support and evaluate promising interventions, 5) develop an integrated, multilevel, public health intervention plan to reduce youth

violence in the New York City metropolitan area, 6) train a new generation of violence researchers and practitioners, and 7) disseminate findings regionally, nationally, and internationally.

The CCYVP promotes an action-oriented, multi-level approach to youth violence through a "person-in-context-through-time" perspective. This perspective is based on the premise that there are multiple levels of influence on youth violence and multiple pathways through which such influence is expressed.

The CCYVP is engaged in research on risk and protective

(Continued on page 2)

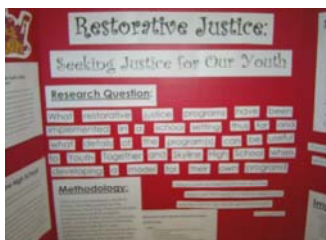
The University-Community Network: Training Undergraduates, Assisting CBOs

by Caroline Glesmann

In fall 2006, the Center on Culture, Immigration and Youth Violence Prevention launched the University-Community Network (U-C Network) internship program. The U-C Network is a two-semester program designed to train University of California, Berkeley undergraduates to do community-based research on youth violence prevention and to provide research assistance to community-based organizations (CBOs) located in Oakland, Calif. The training program, which recently began its third year, is a partnership of UC Berkeley, UC San Francisco, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and many CBOs.

Students, who are admitted to the program through a competitive application process, come from a variety of majors including ethnic studies, legal studies, public health, and sociology. There are an average of six students enrolled per year; students earn credit for completing required program elements.

Each student is matched with an internship at a CBO. As interns, students plan and conduct a small-scale research project on an aspect of youth violence prevention. Examples of recent projects include evaluating a teen dating violence peer education program and assessing a high school's needs related to implementing a restorative justice program.



U-C Network students created posters based on their research.

In addition to their internships, students attend weekly on-campus seminars, where they receive training in research methods and an overview of youth violence prevention literature. Students

also have opportunities to reflect on their fieldwork experiences through class discussions and writing assignments. Seminars are taught by a PhD student and are supplemented by guest lectures from professors and other graduate students.

Both in class and at their internships, students wrestle with issues such as becoming comfortable in a fieldwork setting and the ethics of human subjects research. "I struggled to understand my role as someone researching a group of people who could have been my peers," said past participant Sarah Fong, who studied youth perspectives on violence at an organization which assists former foster youth. "I had to figure out how to handle my project in a way that was not dehumanizing or objectifying. In the end I chose to see myself as less of a researcher and more of a conduit through which participants' stories could be told."

The program's other key

constituency is Oakland-based CBOs. Due to limited resources, many direct service organizations are not able to devote significant staff time to research and evaluation. The U-C Network encourages organizations who do youth violence prevention work to identify a specific research need, and program staff work with both the intern and the organization to help meet that need.

"We had a very positive experience with our U-C Network intern last year," said Tatiana Colón, education and outreach program supervisor with the Family Violence Law Center. "The student did an evaluation of our Relationship Abuse Prevention peer education program and taught some leadership classes. In addition, she and I recently made a presentation, which drew upon her research, at a conference sponsored by the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma."

Highlighting the ACEs: Columbia University *continued from page 1*



**Bruce Link, Ph.D.,
Principal Investigator,
Columbia Center for
Youth Violence
Prevention**

factors at multiple levels to understand how youth violence mental health, and risk behavior are impacted by the family, school, home, neighborhood, and school-neighborhood contexts.

The CCYVP works with the UNIDOS Inwood Coalition, which is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to promoting youth development in Washington Heights/Inwood. Coalition members include representatives from schools, police, the District Attorney, multiservice organizations, youth service agencies, tenant organizations, residents,

and others. The coalition has been in existence since 1999 and predates the creation of the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention. The CCYVP joined the coalition in 2002 and is working on implementing a community mobilization plan that was developed in collaboration.

The Center is also involved in intervention research on intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, school violence prevention programs, family-based intervention programs, and the youth court system.

By fostering collaborations

between academic researchers and community partners, the Center is committed to developing, implementing and evaluating evidence-based interventions that are responsive to the evolving needs and concerns of culturally diverse urban communities.

For more information on the CCYVP visit

<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/sph/ccyvp/index.html>. For links to the other ACEs visit www.nacecc.org.

Waimānalo Town Hall Meeting with Youth *by Fa'apisa Soli*

Hawai'i Congresswoman Mazie Hirono paid a special visit to "God's Country" on Wednesday evening, October 15, 2008 to "talk story" with the youth of Waimānalo. The town hall meeting was held at the Teen Project with more than 50 youth in attendance from various community-based organizations and schools. This was an opportunity for the youth to share the significance of their program with Congresswoman Hirono and also with each other.

The town hall audience included representatives from God's Country Waimānalo, Ke Ola Hou, Hui Mālama o ke Kai,

Na Wahine Council, Country Girls' Softball, Job Corp, Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC), Kailua High School, Olomana School, and Waimānalo School. It is a rare occurrence for these groups to all come together under one roof.

Dr. Karen Umemoto of the APIYVPC facilitated discussion between the youth, community leaders and Congresswoman Hirono. The group from Hui Mālama o ke Kai opened the evening with an enchanting Hawaiian song that expressed the values and principles of their program. The youth from God's Country Waimānalo presented

about the various activities they are involved in which includes organic farming, building your own ukulele and family nights. A Ke Ola Hou member shared his experience of how the program turned his life around from being a trouble maker to a college student.

Ms. Francine Honda, Principal of Kailua High School, spoke of the partnership with the APIYVPC to research and address youth violence in school. Na Wahine Council leaders explained how they provide support to the young women of Waimānalo. Finally, Ms.

"I am impressed by the strong sense of community and growing frontline effort being made to protect Waimānalo's youth from violence," Hirono said. "I got a chance to listen to participants in these youth programs as they shared their personal stories and explained how these enrichment programs inspire and empower them to be leaders and stewards of Waimānalo."

Summer Institute Provides Training Experience

By Roxie Alcaraz



Summer Institute participants get a unique training opportunity in sunny La Jolla, California

A major component of our training and outreach core at the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) is engaging junior investigators. With this in mind we have held three Summer Institutes on Youth Violence Prevention - in 2002, in 2005, and the most recent this past August.

The 2008 Summer Institute was held August 4 - 8 at the University of California, San Diego Eucalyptus Point Con-

ference Center and was a collaborative effort between our Center at UCR and the University of California, Berkeley ACE (the Center for Culture, Immigration and Youth Violence Prevention).

The overarching goal of the Summer Institute is to present a unique training opportunity for advanced doctoral students from across the country by 1) providing exposure to professionals with expertise in various areas of youth violence prevention that students might not otherwise be exposed to in their own university environments, and 2) to stimulate discussion and research ideas in the area of youth violence prevention that will be relevant to the graduate students' future plans for research and evaluation in the area of youth violence prevention.

Demand for this type of training is high. Each Summer Institute has drawn between 70 and 80 applicants for 15 to 20 slated spots. For 2008 we re-

ceived 78 applications from which 24 graduate students from 18 universities in 14 states were selected to participate. Students' areas of discipline were diverse - psychology, clinical psychology, human development, sociology, criminology, criminal justice, and anthropology were represented.

This year's training focused on five areas - the nature and distribution of youth violence; proximal social contexts; preventing youth violence in a multicultural society; design, evaluation, and transition of research into practice; and engaging communities in youth violence prevention.

Speakers and presenters throughout the week included UCR ACE faculty consortium and partners: Nancy Guerra (UCR), Rob Parker (UCR), Lyndee Knox (Community Partners/LA Net), Cheryl Maxson (UC Irvine), Tom Backer (Human Interaction Research Institute), David Schwartz

(University of Southern California); Cristina Jose (Latino Health Access), Rosa Toro (UCR), and Roxie Alcaraz (UCR). UC Berkeley ACE faculty and partners included Frank Zimring (UCB), Deborah Lustig (UCB), Thao Le (Colorado State University), Barry Krisberg (National Council on Crime and Delinquency), and Howard Pinderhughes (UC San Francisco); and other guest speakers Tamara Haegerich (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Elena Grigorenko (Yale), Nikki Jones (UC Santa Barbara), Samantha Hurst (UC San Diego), Meda Chesney-Lind (University of Hawai'i), Victor Rios (UC Santa Barbara), and Fran Jemmott (Jemmott Rollins Group, Inc.).

Student comments throughout the week-long training as well as on program evaluation forms were consistently positive. For example, one student wrote, "Great

(Continued on page 7)

Community Television Forum on Teen Dating Violence and Youth Violence Prevention

by Jane Onoye

To increase public awareness about the problems of teen dating violence and other forms of youth violence on O'ahu, Hawai'i, Dr. Susana Helm, from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center coordinated a series of talk shows through the use of public access television 'Ōlelo.

This partnership with 'Ōlelo began as a chance conversation about the community television station's interest in the topic areas of dating and youth violence. As a strong proponent of community dissemination, Dr. Helm quickly mobilized state and community partners to appear on three segments which were being organized—teen dating violence, sex assault and sexual violence, and youth violence prevention.

The goal of the forum was

to increase public awareness of local actions, services, and resources to prevent teen dating violence, sex assault and other forms of violence among youth.



'Ōlelo talk show guests Michele Hoover (CDC), Keli Byers & Nichole Edwards (Teen Alert) discuss the issue of teen dating violence with host Susana Helm (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa).

Guests on the segments reflected a range of national to local perspectives on the issues, as well as adult and youth viewpoints.

Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

staff were part of a diverse panel that included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Tula'i Project, Teen Alert Program (Domestic Violence Action Center), Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and students from Kailua High School.

Each of the segments introduced its topic with a description and prevalence of the problem, and guests provided useful information about national and local resources for youth, parents, and the community. Some of the research findings discussed in the segments brought up the concerns about the role of technology in dating violence and cyberbullying. Tips for teens, specific steps for parents and families to take to address these types of violence, and a focus on prevention were presented.

Each of the half-hour programs aired four times over the 'Ōlelo network for a total of 12 showings throughout the summer in July and August. The 'Ōlelo network broadcasts over six television channels as well as over the Internet, and serves a broad and diverse viewership from rural to urban communities.

Research findings are often slow to make its way back to the people and communities who need these results the most; therefore it is important to consider alternative media for dissemination efforts, such as free access to PEG (public, education, and government) programming.

For more information about this project, contact the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center at (808) 945-1517.

PCVPC Photo/Drawing Contest Engages Youth *by Cami Hilsendager*



Winner of the 1st prize in age category 12 and under by K. Burnside



Winner of the 1st prize in age category 13 and older by B. Holland

The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) recently held a Photo/Drawing Contest in our target communities in West/Southwest Philadelphia. Community members were asked to submit photographs or drawings which reflect the promotion of violence prevention, conflict resolution and/or good decision making skills.

PCVPC worked closely with one of our community outreach workers to promote the contest in community centers and to engage a larger number of contestants, primarily targeting youth. The vast majority of entries received were submitted by youth ages 9 to 16.

The final entries were reviewed by a panel of PCVPC

members, and winning drawings were selected based on three criteria: creativity, artistic appeal, and an ability to promote violence prevention.

Five drawings (including one Grand Prize winner from each of three age categories: 12 and under, 13 – 16, and 17 and over) were selected to receive prizes donated by corporate and individual sponsors. PCVPC recognized all of the contestants at our Community Symposium in October. The drawings will also be incorporated into PCVPC's new web-site.

The contest provided an exciting opportunity to engage youth in positive, artistic activities, as well as to encourage youth to actively identify the

resources and activities that can be used to avoid and prevent violence in their own communities.



1st Prize Winning waterpainting entry in the adult category by J. Sears

Publications, Presentations, and Products

Farrell, A.D., Erwin, E.H., Bettencourt, A., Mays, S., Vulin-Reynolds, M., Sullivan, T., Allison, K.W., Kliever, W., & Meyer, A. (2008). Individual factors influencing effective nonviolent behavior and fighting in peer situations: a qualitative study with urban African American adolescents. *Journal of Clinical Adolescent Psychology, 37*(2), 397-411.

Ybarra, M.L., Diener-West, M., Markow, D., Leaf, P.J., Hamburger, M., & Boxer, P. (2008). Linkages between internet and other media violence with seriously violence behavior by youth. *Pediatrics, 122*(5), 929-37.

Guerra, N., & Knox, L. (2008). How culture impacts the dissemination and implementation of innovation: a case study of the Families and Schools Together program (FAST) for prevention violence with immigrant Latino youth. *American Journal of Community Psychology, 41*(3-4), 304-13.

Brady, S.S., Gorman-Smith, D., Henry, D.B., & Tolan, P.H. (2008). Adaptive coping reduces the impact of community violence exposure on violent behavior among African American and Latino male adolescents. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, 36*(1), 105-15.

Calendar of Events

NOV 2008	DEC 2008	JAN 2009	FEB 2009	MAR 2009	APR 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov 6-7 5th Annual International Bullying Prevention Association Conference Indianapolis, IN www.stopbullyingwork.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.nilc.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 San Francisco, CA www.youthtoday.org/detail/event.cfm?event_id=232&id=103 • Dec 9-11 Boston, MA Interaction Institute for Social Change: Facilitative Leadership www.youthtoday.org/detail/event.cfm?event_id=229&id=103 • Dec 5 Internet webcast: Public Health Grand Rounds—Youth Violence: It's a Public Health Issue www.mipreparedness.org • Dec 10-11 Supporting Children Living with Grief & Trauma: a Multidisciplinary Approach Los Angeles, CA www.sei2003.com/ovctac2008/LA-SupportingChildren.htm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 7 6pm –8 pm Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City Community Justice Series — Juvenile Delinquency: Community Engagement, Next Steps UMB Biopark Auditorium, Univ of Maryland www.ofbpa.com/flyers/attorney.PDF • Jan 22-24 NASPA Mental Health Conference 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/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb 11-14 Preventive Medicine 2009 Conference Los Angeles, CA www.preventivemedicine2009.org/ • Feb 11-14 Beyond School Hours XII Conference: the Winter Institute Burlingame, CA www.foundationsinc.org/events/conference/beyond12/default.asp • Feb 20-21 1st National Conference on What Works in Education Partnerships Phoenix, AZ educationpartnerships.asu.edu/conference • Feb 21-25 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) 2009 Annual Conference Washington DC www.amchp.org/events/Pages/default.aspx • Feb 23-24 23rd Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse Corpus Christi, TX www.preventchildabusetexas.org/nextconference.html?id=uqkrlzlr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 2 National ACE Meeting Atlanta, GA • Mar 1-4 Conference Track on Community-Based System of Care Development 22nd Annual Research Conference Tampa, FL rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/ • Mar 6-9 3rd International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health Albuquerque, NM www.cps.ca/English/ProEdu/IMICH.htm • Mar 11-14 National Conference on Juvenile Justice Orlando, FL www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1150/347/ • Mar 30-Apr 4 17th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Focusing on the Future: Strengthening Families and Communities Atlanta, GA For questions, email 17conf@pal-tech.com or contact by phone at (703) 528-0435 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr 2-4 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting Denver, CO www.srcd.org • Apr 29-May 2 Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's 11th Conference "Creating the Future We Want to Be: Transformation Through Partnerships" Milwaukee, WI www.ccpah.info/ • Apr 30 Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce Today Maritime Institute Conference Center Baltimore, MD Sponsored by the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, The Mayor's Office of Employment Development and Multiple Workforce Partners Contact: Ms. Donnice E. Brown for additional information or if interested in being a presenter (410) 396-6727 or dbrown@oedworks.com

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.

Empowering and Connecting Grassroots Youth Violence Prevention Efforts

By Alice Hausman

This is an 18-month project that has been funded by the Barra Foundation. Co-Investigators Alice Hausman and Julie Becker (Temple University), and Terry Guerra (AchieveAbility) will be developing and pilot-testing a program that will support informal community resources already working to prevent violence through positive youth development.

The impetus for this project came from the results of a series of focus groups the investigators (Hausman, Becker, and Guerra) conducted in West and Southwest (W/SW) Philadelphia as part of the formative first year of the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC).

During the spring of 2007, we conducted four focus groups with various constituencies in W/SW Philadelphia to obtain information that would assist with the development of PCVPC's centerpiece violence prevention project.

The groups were: community-based providers of youth services in W/SW Philadelphia, parents, community leaders,

and community residents. Three themes relevant to this proposed project emerged across the focus groups: mentoring, utilizing existing community strengths, and networking for mutual support.

We met individuals who either had benefited from or who were providing youth with close personal relationships with adults in their community who provided a safe place and life guidance. We met and heard about key individuals in youths' lives who were, on their own initiative, offering support (from decision-making help to a new refrigerator) and advocacy on a continual basis.

These individuals were not part of any organized program, but rather, chose to on their own, help those they could. We heard about adults who would open their houses after school and on weekend evenings to groups of teenagers, where they would eat pizza, listen to music, and some would get help with homework or a family problem. We met a woman who was holding "faith dancing" classes in her home to provide an alternative after-school program for small groups of teens.

Across the focus groups, it was evident that these types of resources were well known throughout the community and participants clearly acknowledged their positive value and their need for support. Such support included financial resources, but also assistance in the form of volunteered effort, surplus goods to distribute, and simple recognition.

Our focus group participants and community partners in PCVPC also strongly advocated for the integration of these truly community-based resources into any violence prevention initiative. These private individual efforts are key community strengths and should be brought to the fore in any initiative that seeks to improve the community.

From the provider perspective, individuals in our focus groups who were engaged in these "services" expressed the need to be linked to other resources where they might find the material or personnel support they needed.

This concept of networking among community-based efforts is one that we have heard repeated over the years in different parts of the city. While some of these providers were actively seeking 501(c)3 status to gain access to grant dollars, others just wanted to know what was available around them and what they could connect to as a way to support their activities.

These initial findings led the investigators to the current proposed program. Building on the PCVPC findings, we will explore further the diversity of these private individual initiatives and their goals. We will also explore how these efforts can be supported to reach their goals and develop an intervention to get them there.

This intervention will be built with their involvement and investment to increase eventual ownership and sustainability. The intervention will be piloted with a small group of these individuals and evaluated to assist with replication. We hope to learn a lot about these important community efforts and to find effective ways to assist them in what they do.

Waimānalo Town Hall Meeting *continued from page 3*



The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center and the ACE Coordinating Center helps organize a town hall meeting with Congresswoman Mazie Hirono

Deanna Gonda, Ms. 'Ilima Ho-Lastimosa, and Mr. Gordon Mattos shared their proposal to establish a Waimānalo Collaborative One-Stop Youth Center.

Congresswoman Hirono was captivated with the youths' candidness regarding addressing their struggles, fears, dealing with peer pressure and overcoming obstacles with help from the community organizations. She shared her "humble beginnings" as a Japanese immigrant who attended public school and went on to serve as Lieutenant Governor and now elected to Congress. She encouraged the

youth to dream big and challenged them to make a difference in their community. Congresswoman Hirono revealed she never thought she would be where she is today and reiterated that the future is what you make of it. She also commended the community and school leaders for their efforts and dedication to promote a promising future for the youth of Waimānalo.

The APIYVPC and the ACE Coordinating Center initiated the town hall meeting in part as a follow up to the educational briefing to the Hawai'i

Delegation earlier this summer to inform members of Congress about the prevalence of youth violence.

"I am impressed by the strong sense of community and growing frontline effort being made to protect Waimānalo's youth from violence," Hirono said. "I got a chance to listen to participants in these youth programs as they shared their personal stories and explained how these enrichment programs inspire and empower them to be leaders and stewards of Waimānalo."

Summer Institute *continued from page 3*

exposure to the concept of youth violence from criminology, public health, sociology, and race and gender perspectives." Another student commented, "The most valuable thing provided was the diversity of both the students' and experts' experiences, as well as the themes presented during the week." And from others, "This experience was very enriching"; "This training was absolutely invaluable"; and "It has really changed the way I think about things as a whole."

In addition to a vast amount of information, exposure to experts in the field, and tools for completing current projects or starting new ones, Summer Institute students take away another invaluable asset - a network of new academic peers and professional contacts.

Again from the voices of the

participants, "This is great for networking and making connections"; "It's so amazing to be able to connect with other young researchers attacking the same issue from different perspectives, to share ideas with them."



A celebratory closing luncheon for the Summer Institute participants.

It is too early to know how the 2008 students will utilize their newfound network, but past participants have regularly met at professional meetings, collaborated on book projects

and other publications with our Center faculty, and a group of four 2005 Summer Institute students competed in a research contest at the Society for Prevention Research Meeting in 2007. Amazingly, the advisor for one of this year's students was a 2002 Summer Institute participant!

The Summer Institute is indeed an intense experience for students, experts, and organizers alike. And although all come away mentally exhausted, at the same time there is a renewed sense of energy - an energy that is taken home to those 18 universities in those 14 states. The ideas, insights, and experiences gained at this training are passed on to others, and the field of youth violence prevention is that much more advanced, and that much more enriched.

IN FOCUS



Participants from the third Summer Institute on Youth Violence Prevention, sponsored by the University of California, Riverside & University of California, Berkeley ACEs.

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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NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER
FOR THE ACADEMIC CENTERS OF
EXCELLENCE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE
PREVENTION

ACEs Participate in Annual APHA Meeting *by Jane Onoye*

The recent 136th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo in San Diego, California, October 25-29th, featured the diverse work of the Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACEs) and their partners.

An interactive roundtable forum offered an informative discussion on youth violence prevention programs including participants from the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center and the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention.

ACE colleagues and APHA attendees also had the opportunity to interact at the dating and youth violence poster sessions which highlighted work on ethnocultural perspectives on teen dating violence (Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center), methodological issues in school surveys of adolescent dating violence

(Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention), community assets as protective factors for preventing youth violence (Nashville Youth Violence Prevention UPACE), and policies on electronic aggression (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).



ACE and CDC colleagues enjoy an opportunity to catch up at the dating and youth violence poster session.

Following the poster session was an oral symposium that featured the work on dating violence by the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Vi-

olence Prevention Center, and the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention.

In addition to the above sessions, there were many other presentations by individuals from the various ACEs and partners. For a list, please visit the www.nacecc.org website.

Along with informal networking opportunities at the various sessions, several ACE and CDC colleagues were able to connect further during an organized evening social hour that followed the dating violence symposium on Tuesday.

These presentations were part of an ongoing collaborative effort by the ACEs to bring attention to the problem of youth violence as a public health issue and to showcase the common work in which the ACEs are engaged. The APHA Meeting is a venue in which many of the Centers participate, so be sure to look for the ACEs again next year!