

# Faculty News



Christine Bachrach (MPRC) was elected President of the Population Association of America (PAA) during the most recent election cycle. She will serve as President-elect

during 2012 and as President during 2013. Before joining MPRC last year, Dr. Bachrach served as Chief of the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch in NICHD and then as Acting Associate Director of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and Acting Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at NIH.



# **Katharine Abraham** (Joint Program in

(Joint Program in Survey Methodology) was appointed as a member of President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisors early in 2011

and will continue to serve for a two-year term. Although our Center misses her participation, we know the country will benefit from this move. From 1993-2001 Katharine served as Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Another Faculty
Associate, **Judith Hellerstein** (Economics), has been tapped to serve on the staff of the Council of Economic Advisors. Judy has played important roles

as MPRC has developed over the years, including several terms on the Executive Committee and the advisory committee for training, and has been responsible for some innovative new data sets.

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# Center Meeting

Join us on Monday, September 12, 2011, at 12:00 noon, for lunch and a conversation about MPRC's goals for the coming year.

# Note from the Director

#### Welcome back to the University for Fall 2011!

In this newsletter we update you on activities for the fall. We also feature three newly funded projects, describe one that is getting underway, highlight the accomplishments of our existing faculty, and introduce our new faculty.

First, I would like to extend my congratulations to **Christine Bachrach**, who was elected President of the Population Association of America. She will be President-elect in 2012 and President during the 2013 meeting of the PAA. This is quite an accomplishment and recognition of her status in the field and her contributions to the field of population over the past several decades.



Second, I want to extend my congratulations to **Katharine Abraham**, who was appointed to the President's Council of Economic Advisors for two years and to **Judy Hellerstein**, who was called to serve on the staff of the Council for one year. See the Faculty News sidebar for more information on each of these faculty associates.

Third, this issue introduces you to 14 new faculty associates. These include Philip Cohen, Meredith Kleykamp, Christina Prell, and Michael Rendall in Sociology; Jessica Goldberg in Economics; Donna E. Howard, Public and Community Health; Klaus Hubacek and Julie Silva, Geography; David Maimon and Kiminori Nakamura, Criminology; Typhanye Penniman, Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Janet Rosenbaum, MPRC; Amir Sapkota, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health; and Jacqueline Wallen, Family Science.

Finally, I want to remind you that our annual meeting for MPRC faculty associates will take place on **Monday September 12** at noon in our conference room. This is a chance to get together to welcome the new school year, catch up on activities at MPRC, and ask questions. All in no more than one hour! Lunch is provided.

#### **Research Funding**

During Calendar Year 2010 MPRC faculty submitted 24 investigator-initiated research proposals valued at \$16 million (total costs) and resulting in \$570,000 in new funding as well as pending proposals potentially worth \$10.7 million.

#### **Newly Funded Research Projects**

Faculty are often frustrated by the lengthy review process and low funding levels of funding agencies. However, projects are being funded. In this newsletter we feature three new externally funded projects, two from NIH and one from the Gates Foundation. This shows the wide variety of research that is being conducted and funded.

Vivian Hoffmann (Agricultural and Resource Economics), is leading a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This project, entitled "Menstrual Management and Sanitation Systems," will take stock of current knowledge about women's menstrual management practices in developing countries and how these practices interact with sanitation systems through a comprehensive literature review and key informant interviews.

Other MPRC research also focuses on Africa. **Ken Leonard** (Agricultural and Resource Economics) is examining the responsiveness of health care providers in Tanzania to incentives to improve the quality of health care. **Raymond Guiteras** (Economics) is examining incentives to improve water and sanitation in rural **Continued on page 6** 

#### Faculty News, continued from page 1

MPRC Associate Director **Joan Kahn** (Sociology) and her collaborator at University of Maryland Baltimore, Dawn Alley, have received a \$74,818 seed grant to examine how the economic recession has affected the elderly. The research "combines epidemiological and demographic approaches to develop a model of the relationship between financial strain and health."



Sangeetha Madhavan (African American Studies) spent the summer conducting research in South Africa. With help from an MPRC Seed Grant, she is working with colleagues to

design a research protocol for a project to study "The Role of Fathers in the

# Population Working Papers Series

MPRC participates in the Population Working Paper Series project. Faculty Associates can make papers available to an audience of population researchers. Info: MPRC-support@umd.edu.

Transition to Adulthood for Young Men in Urban Africa."

John Haltiwanger's (Economics) article "Job Creation and Firm Dynamics in the U.S." received a lot of attention from a variety of news sources, including a lengthy discussion by Steven Pearlstein in the *Washington Post*. The paper posits, among other things, that small business startups are the primary engines of job creation in today's America.



Janet Rosenbaum is working on a new two-year project funded by NSF-American Educational Research Association that will examine factors that interfere with student

completion of community college programs. She will use causal inference algorithms to analyze data from the Add Health data set.

Sonalde Desai and Reeve Vanneman (Sociology) have been very busy with the rollout of the second wave of the India Human Development Survey. The new wave will add a youth module to track 15-18 year olds and will incorporate geospatial coding.

# Research Profile Jack Sandberg

"Niakhar Social Networks and Health," NIH



Social network processes are thought to be key to understanding diffusion of innovation and adoption of new behaviors with regard to health. The project will field a longitudinal panel survey in two waves in a rural population in Senegal, West Africa. After extensive qualitative analysis, survey data on social networks and beliefs concerning health, illness and medical treatment will be collected from 2500 respondents in two survey waves, separated by 2 years. A sample of 1500 respondents will be taken from a census of 3 contiguous villages, enabling us to capture extensive inter-relationships of social network ties. The additional 1000 respondents will be drawn randomly from the larger population. This latter sample will

help us refine estimates of effects of network structure on health that are generalizable to the population as a whole. Experimental tests for the accuracy of the network data collected will be conducted between waves of the main survey. These will yield insight into the extent of biases in analyses using conventional social network research designs.

The fundamental innovation of this project is in linking network members cited by survey respondents to longitudinally collected data concerning their health behaviors in a surveillance system (which is a small scale population registration system). This will allow the project to gather data on up to 5 times more network members for each survey respondent than in conventional research designs, which usually constrain the size of social networks they collect data on to a few individuals for logistical reasons. It also provides more accurate information on a wider range of network members' health behaviors (such as their use of maternity clinics, anti-malarial prophylaxes and medical care for children among many other things) over time than is conventionally collected. For these reasons, this data will make possible better estimates of the effects of the structure of network ties, social learning and social influence on health than were previously possible. An added benefit of the research design is that it collects data concerning the strength of ties between respondents and their social network members as well as ideational elements such as attitudes and beliefs that are critical to the diffusion of information and adoption of new health technologies and behaviors.

# Welcome New Faculty Associates

We welcome the following new Faculty Associates who recently joined MPRC.

Philip Cohen, Professor of Sociology, will come to MPRC in December 2011. Besides working on a Sociology of the Family textbook, he is researching women in management in U.S. labor force markets and family structure. He plans to continue this line of research at Maryland, looking into the gender revolution and women's employment.

Jessica Goldberg, Assistant Professor of Economics, received her Ph.D. in Economics and Public Policy from the University of Michigan in 2011. Her research focuses on the ways that people in developing countries earn, spend, and save money and particularly in how financial market imperfections, behavioral factors, or other obstacles to borrowing and saving may distort decisions about working and consuming.

Donna E. Howard, Associate Professor of Public and Community Health, has concentrated on adolescent engagement in risk and protective health behaviors, with a directed focus on these behaviors among urban African American youth. She is interested in social networks and dating violence prevention. She also has a strong interest in community-based health education programs and has worked internationally and nationally. Her interest in adolescence led her to study adolescent health in south India to better understand teen risk and protective behaviors.

Before coming to Maryland in 2010, Klaus Hubacek, Professor of Geography, held appointments at multiple institutions, including the University of Cambridge, the University of Leeds, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, and McDaniel College. His main interests involve the modeling and analysis of socio-ecological systems. Keywords in his research are futures research, scenario analysis and integrated modeling, as well as participatory resource management and governance and sustainable consumption and production.

Meredith Kleycamp, Assistant Professor of Sociology, is currently examining post-military service labor market outcomes among recent veterans. She plans to focus on the consequences of serving in the military, including the examination of spouse labor force participation and outcomes, public attitudes toward returning veterans and the effects of military deployments on the timing of marriage and childbearing. She also hopes to engage in research on the longer-term

health consequences of military service.

David Maimon, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Miami in 2009. His interests include the effects of neighborhood social processes on health related outcomes (i.e. suicide attempts and substance abuse) and multilevel statistical models.

Kiminori Nakamura, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, is interested in issues of correction, reentry, and collateral consequences of criminal-justice intervention. He is also interested in the application of social network analysis to criminology and criminal justice problems to better understand the effects of peer networks on delinquent behaviors and longitudinal patterns of co-offending.

MPRC welcomes Prof.
Michael S. Rendall,
Sociology, a new
Associate Director with a
broad range of interests
and experience.

Typhanye Penniman, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, received her Ph.D. in Community Health Services from UCLA in 2009. Her research focuses on substance abuse, women's mental health and family adjustment to parental HIV, as well as racial/ethnic disparities in HIV/STI. She is very interested in the influential role of peer and family-based social networks and support on individual mental health outcomes and how those outcomes influence health behaviors (including adherence) and quality of life.

Christina Prell, Assistant Professor of Sociology, is currently leading a project on how the concept of social capital can inform a computer simulation model exploring network evolution, and she is completing two books on social networks and network analysis: Social Network Analysis: Methodology, Theory, and Practice (Sage) and, as co-editor, a book on Social Networks and Resource Management (Cambridge University Press). Her research interests lie in the role of social networks and network theories.

Michael S. Rendall, Professor of Sociology, comes to us from The RAND Corporation, where he served as Director of the Population Research Center and as Associate Director of the Labor and Population Program. His research areas include aging / life course transitions; child and adolescent health and wellbeing; environment; fertility; gender,

## <u>Research Profile</u> Feinian Chen

#### "Multidimensional Pathways to Healthy Aging Among Filipino Women," NICHD



Feinian Chen (Sociology) is working with a team from the University of North Carolina on an interdisciplinary study of biological, social, economic and environmental determinants of trajectories of health and functional outcomes in women in the transitional years from middle to later adulthood. The project goal is to identify early adult risk factors related to increased risk of chronic disease, disability, and cognitive decline and protective factors related to maintenance of heath and a high level of functioning in a cohort of Filipino women who were

participants in the Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey (CLHNS). This community-based study of mother-child pairs began in 1983 with the recruitment of 3,327 pregnant women (aged 14-47) from 33 randomly selected urban and rural communities of Metro Cebu, the second largest and fastest growing metropolitan region of the Philippines. Multiple surveys through 2007 provide a wealth of detailed community, household and individual level information. In 2007, women were 38-71 years old; 45% were 50-60 and 10% were >60 years old. The CLHNS is an important cohort for the study of aging in the context of the rapid economic and health transitions characterizing much of the developing world.

The study, entitled "Multidimensional Pathways to Healthy Aging Among Filipino Women" will use longitudinal analysis to maximize the utility of repeated measures of key outcomes and exposures over more than 25 years of women's adult lives. The study has the unique advantage of having baseline data collected prior to the development of aging-related disease and disability. It includes a very wide range of outcomes related to multiple domains of aging, including: (1) the presence or absence of chronic disease and its risk factors, including body composition; blood pressure; and biomarkers of inflammation, dysregulation of glucose metabolism, and dyslipidemia; (2) physical functioning and disability; (3) cognition; and (4) psychosocial aspects of well-being (e.g. depression, time allocation for leisure and work). Recognizing that healthy aging is influenced by a complex web of factors operating at multiple levels, we will focus our analysis of health determinants on the physical and social environment, as well as on individual behavioral factors.

work, and family; income inequality; intergenerational transfers and relations; migration / immigration; mortality / health; race and ethnic inequalities; and social policy.

Janet Rosenbaum, Research Professor, MPRC, studies the role of economic and educational factors in adolescent women's sexual decisions. She received a grant from the Spencer Foundation in 2010 to study whether school discipline policy predicts adolescent risk behavior. Her work has been published in *Pediatrics*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, and *Science*, and it has been covered by the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, and others.

Amir Sapkota. Assistant Professor, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, has primary interests in the area of exposure assessment and environmental epidemiology. He is interested in utilizing personal as well as population level exposure assessment methods to understand risk of respiratory diseases. Current ongoing projects include 1) indoor air pollution from solid fuels and lung cancer risk in Nepal, 2) traffic exposure and risk of asthma exacerbation, and 3) climate change and respiratory diseases among a representative sample of the U.S. population. He is interested in linking environmental data with population-based survey data.

Julie Silva, Assistant Professor, Geography, is currently serving as an elected member of the Association of American Geographers' Economic Geography Speciality Group committee. Her research interests include economic globalization, uneven development and global justice, human dimensions of global change, and spatial econometrics. Her research investigates the regional effects of globalization on poverty, inequality, and social exclusion in both advanced and developing countries. She is currently studying ecotourism in Africa.

Jacqueline Wallen, Associate Professor of Family Science, is the author of *Balancing Work and Family: The Role of the Workplace* (2003). Her interests include mental health, global health, paraprofessional health care workers, HIV / AIDS and TB. She is also interested in health and human services research; disparities in access to services; life review in the elderly; and cultural competence and diversity training.

# Grant Submissions

Center scholars have been busy during the first part of the year. So far, MPRC Administrative Core personnel have helped Principal Investigators and their collaborators to propose over \$12 million in new funding.

#### Feinian Chen, PI

Race/Ethnic Differentials in the Health Implications of Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren, NICHD

#### Laurie DeRose, Pl

Fertility Implications of Declining School Enrollments in Response to HIV/AIDS, NICHD

#### Sonalde Desai, Pl

India Human Development Survey: Social Geography, NICHD

#### Jessica Goldberg, Pl

Experimental Estimations of the Elasticity of Labor Supply in Rural Malawi, NSF

#### John Ham, Pl

Late Career Research Productivity and the Timing of Retirement, NIA (Subcontract with Ohio State University)

#### Judith Hellerstein, PI

Aligning Economic Concept and Measurement in Administrative Records, Business Surveys, and Linked Data Sets, NSF

#### Sandra Hofferth, PI

Time Use Data Access System, NICHD

#### Sandra Hofferth, PI

International Perspectives on Time Use Conference, USDA / ERS

#### Meredith Kleykamp, Pl

CAREER: Understanding Veterans' Reintegration into Civilian Life, NSF

#### Kenneth Leonard, Pl

The Influence of Fathers across the Early Life Course on Adolescent Well-Being in Urban South Africa, NIH

#### Sangeetha Madhavan, Pl

The Influence of Fathers across the Early Life Course on Adolescent Well-Being in Urban South Africa, NICHD

### Melissa Milke, Pl

Collaborative Research: Mother-Child Time Together, Social Status, and the Well-Being of Children and Adolescents, NSF

#### Janet Rosenbaum, Pl

Health Risk Behavior of Community College Students (Supplement), Learning Point Associates

#### Janet Rosenbaum, Pl

Marginalized Men, Disadvantaged Women, WT Grant Foundation

#### Kevin Roy, PI

Disadvantaged Young Fathers in the Transition to Adulthood: A Qualitative Study, NICHD

# Research Profile

# Vivian Hoffmann

# "Menstrual Management and Sanitation Systems," Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Expanding and improving access to sanitation services is recognized as a critical challenge to improving global public health, although debate continues about which sanitation strategy is most appropriate under which conditions. One aspect of sanitation that has received relatively little attention to date is women's menstrual management. This project will take stock of current knowledge about women's menstrual management practices and how these



practices interact with sanitation systems through a comprehensive literature review and key informant interviews. The size of the potential global market for menstrual management products (MMPs), and the overlap of this market with various sanitation systems, will be estimated through analysis of secondary data on demography and global sanitation coverage. The knowledge base on women's menstrual management and, in particular, the interaction of these behaviors with sanitation systems, is expected to be thin. To address this gap, detailed case studies will be conducted in three locations, each chosen to represent a promising sanitation system. In each site, focus group discussions and household surveys will be conducted to collect information on menstrual management and waste disposal practices. Interviews with system personnel and direct observation of waste disposed of through the sanitation system will be conducted to characterize the impact of menstrual waste on the system. Both to understand women's needs for menstrual solutions and project future demand for MMPs, women in each case study site will be offered the opportunity to test and then purchase alternative products. Data collected through this exercise will be used to develop predictions about the evolution of market demand for MMPs and assess welfare impacts of access to these products, including time savings, mobility, workforce participation and school attendance.

### PAA 2011

Twenty-nine MPRC Faculty Associates and Student Research Affiliates presented their research at the 2011 annual meeting of the Population Association of America, held in Washington DC.





# Research Profile Bo Xie

#### "Understanding and Improvinging Older Adults' E-health Literacy," NIA / NIH

Through a grant from the National Institute on Aging of the NIH, Faculty Associate Bo Xie, Assistant Professor, College of Information Studies, is working with the Prince George's County (PGC) Memorial Library System in Maryland and the District of Columbia Public Library System to identify learning styles of older adults. The three-year R01 grant will explore collaborative vs. individualistic learning styles and environments in an attempt to discern optimal ways for helping seniors access reliable health information on the Internet.

The PGC and DC Library Systems both serve a significant number of ethnic minority and lower income households. In previous studies of the PGC library system, Professor Xie found that 66 percent of participants were African Americans / Black, and approximately 20 percent of participants came from households with incomes of less than \$20,000 per year.



and Brittany McGill.

In this R01 research, Xie (Principal Investigator) and her co-investigators (Co-Is), Professor Greg Hancock from the College of Education and Professor Bonnie Braun from the School of Public Health, will test ways of improving older adults' e-health literacy, or the ability to access, understand, and use electronic health information to inform a health-related decision. These interventions focus on training older adults – who may have more or less prior computer experience – to use NIH online resources for reliable health information. Two learning conditions will be tested: individualistic learning where students learn from an instructor and work individually toward learning goals with little or no interac-

tion with other students, and collaborative learning where students learn from both an instructor and other students and work in small groups toward common goals. The impact of group composition based on prior computer experience (experienced, new, and mixed) as well as length of time after the intervention will also be tested.

The instructional task of this experimental study will involve four weeks of training using the curriculum developed by NIA to learn to use the NIHSeniorHealth.gov and MedlinePlus.gov Web sites to access reliable health information. This study will be conducted in public libraries. By tapping into the well-established public library infrastructure and NIH online resources, this intervention research has great potential for scaling-up and significant social and economic implications. Health literacy is a critical issue for our rapidly aging population and the results of this grant will help identify better ways to make sure that the older population is informed about how to obtain reliable health information online.

# Student News

**Dr. Abby Alpert** (Economics) graduated in August 2011 and has accepted a position as Associate Economist at RAND Corporation.

**Dr. Colleen Vesely** (Family Science) completed her program in May 2011 and has taken an Assistant Professor position at George Mason University.

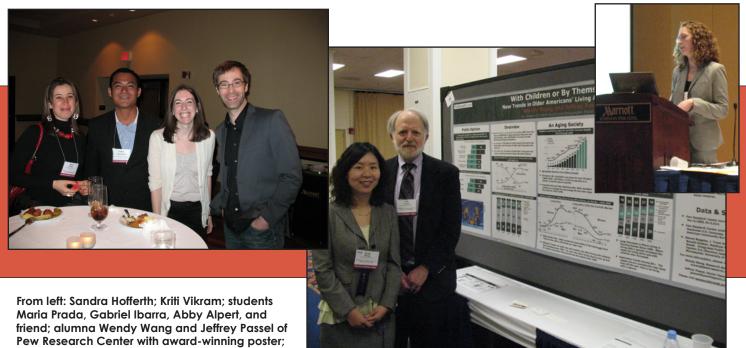
**Dr. Brittany McGill** (Sociology) graduated in May and has taken a position as senior researcher at the social policy research and consulting firm Insight Policy Research, Inc.

**Dr. Amanda Berger** (Family Science) gaduated in May 2011 and took a position as Research Scientist at Child Trends, Inc.

The following MPRC Student Research Affiliates contributed to the American Sociology Association annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, in August: Megan Benetsky (Sociology), Karin DeAngelis (Sociology), and Ui Jeong Moon (Family Science). And at the PAA annual meeting, 11 students participated, including: Megan Benetsky, Amanda Berger, Mark Gross, Graciela Jaschek, Brittany McGill, Tannistha Samanta, Ashwini Sebastian, Gheda Temsah, Betsy Thorn, Kathryn Vasliaky, and Kriti Vikram.

The most up-to-date information about Center activities can always be found on the website:

www.popcenter.umd.edu



# Seed Grant Update

Joseph Richardson has completed the data collection for his study, "Exploring the Nexus of Exposure to Violence, Psychological Stressors and Criminal Justice Involvement among Victims of Violent Injuries in Baltimore City," funded in part by a Center Seed Grant. He is conducting the analysis now and reports two interesting findings thus far that are predictive of recurrent violent trauma among young black men in Baltimore. He found that social mobility (the more times a person moves) is predictive of recurrent trauma and believes this is probably a result of weak social ties in new neighborhoods. The second finding suggests that if peers within an individual's social network have been previously injured there is a greater likelihood that an individual will experience recurrent violent trauma. He notes that "There is an additive effect when you add acquaintances who have been previously injured as well."

Sunmin Lee's pilot study, "Improving quality of life in Chinese and Korean breast cancer patients or survivors" has generated one manuscript and a K07 proposal to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) that is currently under review. She and her research team have completed nine interviews with breast cancer patients / survivors, three interviews with oncologists, and three interviews with breast cancer patient caregivers. Data analysis of all these collected data has been completed and summarized. They found some interesting results that are unique to Chinese and Korean women. These will inform a culturally tailored intervention program to improve quality of life in Chinese and Korean breast cancer patients / survivors. The findings were presented at the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (NCI) conference in July 2011 and received an Outstanding Poster Award.



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Ghana. These projects demonstrate the public health significance of the social and behavioral research conducted by MPRC researchers.

MPRC research also has a more basic science focus, though it could lead to important new understanding of information sources and how they influence and motivate health behavior. Jack Sandberg (MPRC) has been funded by NIH to study Social Networks and Health in Niakhar, Senegal. Social network processes are thought to be key to understanding diffusion of innovation and adoption of new behaviors with regard to health. The current proj-

ect will establish a unique



Jack Sandberg (front, left) with interview team in Niakhar, Senegal.

source of individual level social network data, addressing fundamental problems in conventional social network research designs. It will have wide ramifications for epidemiological, public health and social analyses. The project will field a longitudinal panel survey in two waves in a rural population in Senegal, West Africa.

A study newly funded by NICHD examines the early life factors associated with later life health in the Philippines. **Feinian Chen** (Sociology) is working with a team from the University of North Carolina on an interdisciplinary study of biological, social, economic and environmental determinants of trajectories of health and functional outcomes in women in the transitional years from middle to later adulthood. The study, entitled "Multidimensional Pathways to Healthy Aging Among Filipino Women" will use longitudinal analysis to maximize the utility of repeated measures of key outcomes and exposures over more than 25 years of women's adult lives.

And Bo Xie received a grant from NIA that will begin a study of learning behaviors in older adults in tandem with a health literacy program in the Washington DC public library system. The three-year R01, "Improving Older Adults' E-health Literacy," will use NIH health data as a standard for researching collaborative vs. individualistic learning styles.

#### **New Project**

A new project is planning a program of research on the impact of the wars of the twenty-first century on military personnel, their families, and communities. *The Development of a Longitudinal Research Program on the Impact of Wars of the 21st Century*, headed by David Segal (Sociology), involves Meredith Kleykamp and Jill McLeigh (Sociology), and Sandy Hofferth (MPRC).

#### **Working Group Meetings**

MPRC will host several informal meetings in September. The first, September 8 at 12:30 p.m., will focus on research on school and neighborhood effects on youth and the transition to adulthood.

The second meeting, on September 15 at 12:30 p.m., will focus on Networks, Technology, the Environment, and Social Change. It will also discuss linking survey data with administrative, geographic, environmental, or other data.

### Mentored Grant Workshop

We would like to know which faculty are interested in a mentored grants workshop this year. The new workshop will start at the end of September/beginning of October for the new academic year. Please note that it takes at least 3 to 4 months to develop an NIH or NSF proposal. The goal is to develop proposals to submit in February or June 2012 at the earliest. Please contact MPRC Director Sandy Hofferth if you are interested in participating.

For more updates, keep checking the MPRC website at www.popcenter.umd.edu.

- Sandy Hofferth