

WHAT DRIVES PARENTS? RESEARCH ON THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

by Kelly Draper Zuniga

Studies show that children walk to school much less frequently than they did in the past. This trend contributes to a number of problems, including environmental degradation, children's obesity-related health problems, and several groups' poor quality of life. Policy-makers address those issues by allocating substantial public resources to programs like *Safe Routes to School* that encourage children to walk. Supporting that policy objective, planning researchers study why parents drive their children to school.

Travel behavior research largely uses correlation studies to explain parents' travel mode choices for their children's school trips. The research focuses on opportunity-related obstacles to active travel such as travel distance, urban form characteristics, traffic danger, and stranger-danger. The research also considers socio-demographic factors such as gender, race, age, education and income level. Although correlational studies describe relationships between those factors, they fall short of explaining *why* some parents are more inclined to walk while others are more inclined to drive. As a result, the research is poorly equipped to guide active travel intervention.

My research examines parents' attitudes about the elementary school commute. I collected data at twelve



"Everywhere is Walking Distance if You Make the Time" Pizza Party 2008 Phillips Elementary (Photo: Kelly Draper Zuniga).

Denver elementary schools that participated in Colorado's 2007-2008 Safe Routes to School programs. I used qualitative methods and content analysis to capture parents' views and concerns about the daily trip at all of the schools. Later I used findings from the qualitative study for a sorting exercise with seven schools that used cluster analysis to group parents based on their attitudes about the commute. I argue that research that characterizes groups of people based on their attitudes has greater potential to effectively guide active travel intervention than research that categorizes people based on arbitrary (albeit easily measurable) demographic characteristics.

Findings from the sorting exercise include several clusters of parents at each of the seven participating schools. For example, data from Edison Elementary reveal three distinct clusters of parents. In the first cluster, parents express enthusiasm for active travel but acknowledge certain limitations such as the children's age. In the second cluster, parents emphasize the convenience of driving, but also show a positive attitude towards active travel. The third cluster of parents differs significantly from the first two because the parents express great concern about the physical and social safety of the children, and about time constraints that limit parents' ability to accompany children on the trip to school.



Walk to School Day 2008 Munroe Elementary (Photo: Kelly Draper Zuniga).

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we say goodbye to what we hope will be the last snowstorm this winter, we say welcome to several new people at CYE. Last Fall, Rebecca Colbert, Selena Paulsen and Laura Malinin joined the PhD program with research interests in children, youth and their environment. Melissa Surratt started as a new PhD student this Spring, after coming to CYE late last year as an administrative assistant, while Elsie was recovering from eye surgery. I'm glad to say that Elsie is doing much better and eagerly anticipating her return to CYE. We wish her all the best. Laura DeLuca is a postdoctoral scholar visiting with us this year while working on a film, "The Lost Girls of the Sudan" with award-winning director and producer Deborah Fryer.

I want to thank outgoing members of the Board of Directors, Peter Braun, Jim Smith, Christina Fiflis, and Bob Surles (chair) for their contributions over the last several years, which have helped CYE become a model program. I also welcome Shane DeRolf, David Mandell and Manuel Rupe as new board members. We are excited to have their involvement and look forward to working with them.

Although full installation of the intergenerational mural marking the entrance to the CYE Center will await Elsie's return, the art panels created by the school children and elder artists are now on display in the hallway of ENVD. This project, which depicts child-friendly environments from children's points of view, won the Elderberry Award. It was also featured as CU's Outreach project by the School of Continuing Education.

Another CYE project receiving wide acclaim is the TrailerWrap, which was selected as the winner of the national Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture 2008-2009 Collaborative Practice Award and also given the 2008 Architect's Choice Award by AIA Denver.

Since the last issue of "Growing the Future," CYE has submitted a record number of grant applications and has been successful with many of them. While these grants provide funding needed for specific projects, they do not fund operations. Therefore, we are especially pleased with a grant from the Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement to pay for a half-time administrative assistant through the end of this year.

With the help of Leif Heimbold and Jeff Cushing, we are producing a video that will highlight CYE projects that illustrate our mission. It will also include interviews with the chancellor, dean, faculty and students.

We hope soon to reach agreement with UN Habitat on a multi-year contract for several projects and expect to have an update on this and other exciting prospects in the Summer issue. We always appreciate your interest and support and would like to hear from you.



*The Intergenerational Mural Project
(Photo: UCB Continuing Education)*

MELISSA SURRATT JOINS THE CYE STAFF



Melissa Surratt comes to us wearing a few different hats. She is a CU alumna, having earned a Bachelors in Environmental Design in 2003. After attending Cornell University for her Masters in Human-Environment Relations, in October 2008, Melissa joined CYE as an Administrative Assistant. This January, she began the PhD Program in Planning and Design.

Melissa's graduate research focused on urban community gardens, bringing together her passion for both community design and social justice. She plans to continue delving into this topic by examining effects of urban greenspace on the health and well-being of children. Melissa was drawn to CYE mainly for our strong emphasis on participatory action research; giving children a voice in shaping their world.

Melissa is a Colorado native and thrilled to be back working in the communities where she grew up.

CLUCKING IN THE HALLWAYS? *by Wynn Martens*

Some say they've heard giggling in the hallways this semester, others say the sound is more like a clucking. No matter what you hear or how you look at it, CYE's Urban Hens project means serious learning for local children, families and CU students.

With its grant from the Foundation for Innovation and Sustainability, CYE is developing a sustainable model for establishing chickens in urban settings by designing and building hen houses at area schools, senior centers, low-income neighborhoods and community gardens as well as creating an "ultimate urban hen house" kit for backyard coops. The first coop is being installed at Shawnee Gardens, an assisted living facility in Boulder, whose residents will share access with the children attending adjacent Blossoms Pre-school.

Urban Hens seeks to address some of the toughest issues facing our communities: local food, climate change, peak oil and conservation. Consider the global impact of Urban Hens:

*"If every U.S. citizen ate just one meal a week composed of locally and organically raised meats and produce, we would reduce our country's oil consumption by over 1.1 million barrels of oil every week. Small changes in buying habits can make big differences. Becoming a less energy-dependent nation may just need to start with a good breakfast." (Steven L. Hopp, in *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver)*

Backyard chickens can provide a local, healthy food source and bring a not-so-new dimension to communities and homes seeking



A local urban hen house. (Photo: Wynn Martens)

sustainability. The health benefits of farm fresh eggs compared to commercially produced eggs are well documented. Farm eggs contain one-third less cholesterol and one-fourth less saturated fat than commercially produced eggs, not to mention many important vitamins.

Further, by taking chicken waste from the coop to the compost pile and feeding the chickens garden and food scraps, community members will be able to reduce waste. According to the EPA's 2007 greenhouse gas inventory report, the largest source of human-caused methane is the biodegradable portion of landfills, everything from garden waste to leftover food and wood scraps.

So the next time you hear giggling and clucking drifting through the halls, ask yourself where your breakfast came from and what you did with the leftovers.

Wynn Martens and Jeanne McDonald are the coordinators and Rob Pyatt is lead designer for the project.

IDENTIFYING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS WITH YOUTH *by Tizai Mauto*

CYE is currently working with Assets for Colorado Youth, a Denver-based non-profit, on a youth engagement project in the Navajo Street Corridor in North West Denver. Through this project, entitled the "Quigg Newton Youth Project", I worked with a core group of five youth living in that area. We undertook an inventory of youth services and programs in the neighborhood, interviewed adults and youth, and developed a set of recommendations for how to make the neighborhood a better place for young people and their families. We plan to replicate the project in other Denver metro neighborhoods.

Additionally, I completed a preliminary analysis of responses gathered as part of the 10,000 Voices Campaign of Denver's Child/Youth Friendly City Initiative, of which CYE is co-founder. Initial results show that children and youth sometimes have widely different perceptions of Denver and, if in charge of the City, would focus their efforts on different priorities. For example, safety is much more of a concern for young people than for adults. On the other hand, adults are more concerned about education. Parks and open space are also the top priority for those under 10, but does not rank high for adults.

Ben Kirshner, PhD - Faculty Affiliate

Picture a city council meeting where youth activists present policy suggestions based on the findings of their action research. Council members, impressed by their effort, thank them for their work to improve the community. But what happens next?

Ben Kirshner, a faculty member in UC Boulder's School of Education, claims that such events too often end in praise for the youth but little more. He argues that we need to elevate our expectations about what youth participation means – from making presentations to influencing policy. Towards that end, Ben carries out research, often in partnership with youth, to understand conditions that enable youth to impact policy in tangible ways.

Ben's research on youth activism was sparked by his work as an educator in a community organization in San Francisco's Mission District, where youth leaders restored green spaces and produced documentaries about city life. But when he began doctoral studies the extant research did not capture what he saw. In his dissertation, therefore, he carried out ethnographic research with three youth activism groups to understand participants' perceptions of sociopolitical issues and how they learned to become skilled activists. His work, published in *The Journal of the Learning Sciences* and in press at the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, found that apprenticeship methods were particularly effective in preparing youth to be effective political actors.

Ben has since developed a youth participatory action research (YPAR) project in partnership with Denver youth organizations and the Denver Public Schools. The project, "Tracing Transitions," studied the impact of the Manual High School closure on students. Youth researchers collected and analyzed data about the experience of their peers and shared recommendations with community members and policymakers, including the Congressional Hispanic and Black Caucuses in Washington, DC. Ben is in the process of writing about findings from this study.



Emily Wexler Love - PhD Candidate

Emily Wexler Love is a PhD candidate in the School of Education at UC Boulder. She joined CYE in the spring of 2008. Emily's research and teaching interests include immigrant education and education policy, with a particular emphasis on Mexican adolescent experiences in the



United States. Her publications include an examination of youth engagement in protest related to immigrant issues and state level special education response to intervention (RtI) initiatives. She also recently authored a chapter about the DREAM Act in *Current Issues in Educational Policy and the Law*.

Emily received her B.A. in Spanish and English from Tulane University in New Orleans. After attending university in Valparaíso, Chile and Guadalajara, Mexico, she worked for an educational nonprofit in the Bay Area where she created and administered GirlForward, a program designed to increase adolescent girls' self esteem through community engagement and dialogue activities.

Since joining CYE, Emily helped create a new program called Youth FACE IT - Fostering Active Community Engagement for Integration and Transformation, focused on engaging multicultural youth with their communities. One exciting aspect of Youth FACE IT involves youth-created media to communicate their experiences as multicultural youth in their community and their recommendations for positive change. Emily herself recently completed a workshop with the Center for Digital Storytelling in Denver and was able to create a digital story to bridge several important areas of her life, including a new awareness of how physical spaces impact our everyday lives; her recent trip to Tijuana to learn about border issues; and the birth of her son, Miles.

CYE provides Emily with a community in which to collaboratively investigate her interdisciplinary interests.

CYE PRESENTS IN CHINA AT WORLD URBAN FORUM IV *by Doug Ragan*

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is a bi-annual event hosted by UN HABITAT to bring together key players in the area of sustainable urbanization. It is the premier global event on cities. Over 10,000 people attended the WUF in Vancouver in 2006, and a similar number attended the most recent WUF held in Nanjing, China in November, 2008. CYE was well represented by Fidel Santos and me. We hosted a networking session entitled "Youth Engagement: Mapping the Cities of our Future." The session incorporated global indicator work by Fidel for his dissertation, and mapping work I am conducting in partnership with the International Centre for Sustainable Cities and UN HABITAT in East Africa, and Dr. Pamela Wridt, who is working with the City of Denver on mapping youth spaces. A website on Dr. Wridt's work can be found at umapthecommunity.org.

CYE staff prepared several papers presented at WUF in Nanjing. Dr. Willem van Vliet-- wrote "Creating livable cities for all ages: Intergenerational strategies and initiatives" as a background paper for the Global Dialogue on Harmonious Cities for All Ages and co-authored, "The Place of Children: Poverty and Promise." I also co-authored a paper for UN HABITAT entitled "Ideas to Action! Best Practices in Youth-led Development".

CYE was also involved in the implementation of the



Fidel Santos presents at a networking session. Photo: Doug Ragan

3rd annual World Urban Youth Forum which brought together over 500 youth to discuss and propose ideas on how to engage and recognize the work of youth in urban sustainability. The multi-year Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth Led Development was launched at this event. "It was of great value for myself and the College to be involved in this global conference," states Santos. "Being one of the largest conferences of its kind, this was a great platform for us to present our cutting-edge work."

CYE would like to thank the UN HABITAT staff and interns who made CYE's participation possible: Dr. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, Anantha Krishnan, Mutinta Munyati, Hawa Diallo, Paul Wambua, Christabell Opudo, Kirsten Jensen, Louisa Gikonyo, and Inger Jakobsen.

CYE FALL SPEAKER SERIES *by Louise Chawla*

In the fall of 2008, CYE hosted two guest lectures for the College of Architecture and Planning. In October, Tony Arnold represented CYE in the college's Fall Lecture Series, talking about "The Vitality Principle for Children and Youth." Professor Arnold is Chair of the Center for Land Use and Environmental Responsibility at the University of Louisville School of Law, with a special interest in how land use decisions affect young people. As a follow-up to his lecture, he has given his law students the project of collecting land use regulations that promote child-friendly design and planning. The final report will be posted on the CYE website.

Also in October 2008, CYE collaborated with the Departments of Planning and Design and Landscape Architecture to bring David Hawkins and Karen Payne to talk about "Wild Zones: Letting Kids Play Off-Leash." Hawkins and Payne have worked internationally to engage chil-

dren in gardening, ecological restoration, and adventure play. Their contributions include the Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley and youth involvement in the Eden Project in the United Kingdom. In communities on the West Coast, they are currently engaging children in creating Wild Zones for adventure play with natural materials.



The Wild Zones Project (Photo: Ed Worrell)

There have been several changes to the composition of CYE's Board of Directors. Last Fall, Bob Surles has decided to step down from the CYE Board of Directors. Although he reaffirmed his commitment to CYE in the time ahead, his resignation enables him to give more attention to other demands in his life related to work, studies and family. Meanwhile, Bob just passed his comprehensive PhD exam. We wish him continuing success and thank him for his steadfast support as an early and strong champion of CYE.

We also thank Jim Smith, Peter Braun and Christina Fiflis for service provided to CYE as Board members during the important four-year start-up of the Center. We are grateful to them for the support and advice they have given, which has helped take us to where we are now, creating a solid foundation for further development. I'd also like to introduce and welcome two new board members: Shane DeRolf, Manuel R. Rupe and David Mandell.

Shane DeRolf, author of six children's books, brings more than 25 years of international brand building, children's publishing, television production and licensing expertise to his role as CEO and Chief Creative Officer of BIG GREEN COMPANY. His unique talent for molding ideas into successful ventures has led to a powerful track record in creating and building three successful start-ups in children's media, toys and games. Prior to founding BIG GREEN COMPANY, Shane served as founder and president of Random House Entertainment, where he wrote the popular children's book, "The Crayon Box That Talked" and created and produced "The Crayon Box," a national children's television series. Shane began his career in children's television by creating the groundbreaking and critically acclaimed "Zazoo U" for Fox Kid's Network in 1991. Shane then led the branding effort for this young network, helping it become the #1 children's television network in the world in two years. Shane's zeal for social justice and education has led him to produce award-winning children's television programming and PSA's for the Ad Council, including Emmy nominated "Watts On Your Mind," the largest national children's communications campaign in the history of the Ad Council and the EPA. His work has caught the attention of the Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe and U.S. News and World Report. Shane is the proud father of three great sons and lives in Denver.

Manuel R. Rupe has enthusiastically agreed to serve as a CYE Board Member. He serves as Associate Univer-

sity Counsel and lead counsel for the Colorado Springs campus. He has considerable experience serving on non-profit boards, including service on a non-profit board for a summer youth camp in northern Michigan that hosted thousands of youth campers each summer. Manuel has a strong commitment to the types of programs supported by CYE, and as a father of two young children and the husband of an elementary teacher, is dedicated to providing healthy, supportive, and engaging environments for all children. Manuel has a Ph.D. from Western Michigan University in Educational Leadership with a higher education concentration, a J.D. from DePaul University College of Law, and a B.A. from Kalamazoo College. He was previously Assistant General Counsel at Ferris State University in Michigan (2001-2006), and began his practice of law in a large law firm in southwest Michigan (1998-2001).

Also joining the Board is David Mandell. David is an entrepreneur and senior marketing professional who has launched several companies and brands. Most recently, he was founder and Vice President of Marketing for OneRiot (formerly Me.dium). David also served as the Managing Director of Global Communications for Deloitte Consulting, where he helped launch and manage global brand development, competitive positioning and communications strategy following Deloitte Consulting's separation from Deloitte & Touche. Prior to Deloitte Consulting, David served as the Executive Vice President, General Manager for Cohn & Wolfe, N.Y., a mid-sized public relations agency, where he managed the introduction of BMW N.A.'s Z3 Roadster in conjunction with the James Bond 007 Movie, Golden Eye. David is a mentor for TechStars, a mentorship-driven seed stage investment fund located in Boulder, Colorado which is quickly becoming one of the country's top startup hubs. He is a frequent speaker and contributor on the evolution of social media. David lives in Boulder, CO with his wife and two young children and is determined to do what he can to make the world a better place for his kids.

We are excited to have Shane, Manuel and David as strong new Board members and look forward to working with them in the years ahead. After these changes, the Board of Directors now comprises eight members: Shane DeRolf (Denver), Leif Heimbold (Evergreen), Chris Jacobs (Boulder), Richard Louv (San Diego), David Mandell (Boulder), Manuel Rupe (Denver), Lynda Simmons (Boulder), and Suzanne Arkle Wilson (Denver).

Do PhD Students Ever Finish? Actually Yes!

Congratulations to George Awuor and Susie Strife for successfully completing their PhD degrees.

George Awuor, a CYE PhD student in the College of Architecture and Planning, successfully defended his dissertation in December, 2008. George conducted a qualitative study about youth involvement in community development based on the environmental clean-up activities of Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) members in the slums of Nairobi. He discovered that parents and MYSA members gain personal knowledge about environmental cleaning, toxic waste and recycling through their involvement. By joining MYSA, young people also enhance their social networks, learn new skills and gain confidence. George hopes his dissertation will contribute to understanding how youth participate in programs designed to increase their community involvement and help recognize the capacity and abilities of young people to meaningfully participate in improving their lives. George is currently a Policy Analyst at the Bell Policy Center in Denver, a nonprofit organization committed to identifying and promoting policies that help individuals and families access opportunities and move toward self-sufficiency.

Children, Youth and Environment's Book Review Editor, **Susie Strife**, successfully completed her dissertation defense in December, 2008. Through 50 in-depth interviews with urban children (ages 10-12), combined with child-drawn maps and several child-led neighborhood tours, Susie's dissertation examined children's experiences of nature, awareness of environmental problems, and environmental concerns. Her research aimed to voice children's experiences and feelings about nature and environmental problems with special attention to minority children growing up in environmentally degraded and low-income neighborhoods. After recently teaching "Environmental Justice" at Middlebury College in Vermont, Susie is now teaching several undergraduate service learning courses at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She is looking forward to graduating from the Environmental Studies PhD program this upcoming May and was recently hired as Boulder County's Sustainability Education/Outreach Specialist. And, of course, she still greatly enjoys being a part of the CYE community!

ACCLAIM FOR PHILA IMPILO! LIVE LIFE! by Louise Chawla

In the summer of 2008 CYE partnered with Young Insights for Planning, a South African nonprofit, to create *Phila Impilo! Live Life!*, a booklet that describes art and role-playing activities to engage children in identifying how to make hospitals more humane for young patients. The book is based on a program for AIDS-affected children in Durban led by Jill Kruger, an anthropologist, child rights activist, and former Associate Editor of the CYE journal. A DVD of the same name accompanies the booklet. CYE took Jill's program report and the children's artwork and integrated them into a colorful booklet relevant to hospitals and clinics everywhere that treat children who need long-term care.

The booklet and DVD are being widely acclaimed and utilized. They were featured in stories in a South African magazine, *Children First*, and an international journal for development practitioners, *Participatory Learning and Action*. They have been endorsed by health care leaders in the provinces of Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, and the Eastern Cape, and are being used in workshops and round tables to train hospital/clinic staff and public health officials in participatory processes for consulting with children and

engaging them as partners in identifying best practices to promote well-being and healing. Hospital staff have been responding to what they call "the Phila Impilo approach" by introducing more child-friendly practices, such as songs, story telling, collecting children's books, celebrating birthdays, outdoor play, and health education. The booklet has been included on a CDROM with other primary resources in "A Toolkit for Children's Palliative Care Programmes in Africa" Aug 2008, compiled by the Hospice Palliative Care Assoc of South Africa.



Children at an arts workshop in Durban.

CYE BRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILMS TO CAMPUS AND KIDS *by Illène Pevec*

To increase understanding of the social situations in which children around the world find themselves, CYE established an international film series in Fall 2008. We collaborated with the campus International Film Series, the Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society (ATLAS), Mothers Acting Up, the Boulder International Film Festival, and a variety of campus departments to choose films of several genres. All the films show children in feature roles and portray challenges children face worldwide and the extraordinary resiliency they demonstrate. In the fall we offered on-campus activities following a free morning matinee.



*Children with their Red Balloon at CU.
(Photo: Illène Pevec).*

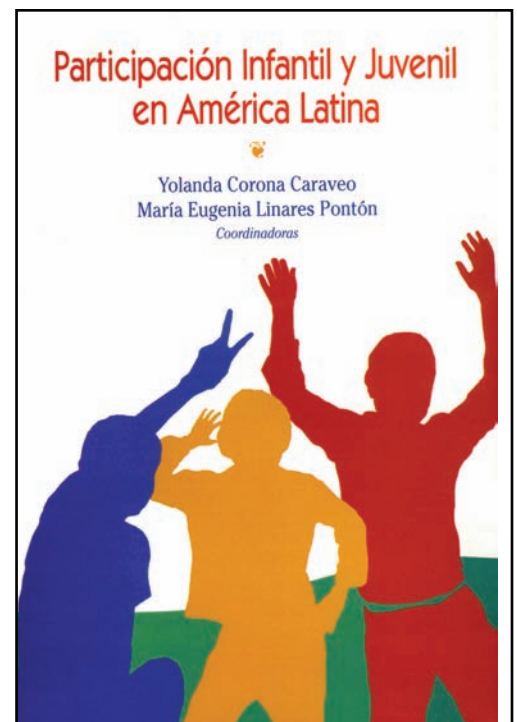
We opened the series with *Spirited Away*, a Japanese animated story of a girl faced with rescuing her parents and the earth. After seeing the French classic, *The Red Balloon*, all children got a red helium balloon, and with the help of CYE interns, worked in groups to make short films with the balloons. Our last fall film, *Blindsight*, documented blind Tibetan teens climbing in the Himalayas with the blind Colorado climber, Erik Weihenmayer. Truly inspiring, this film speaks to the children's ability to overcome extraordinary difficulties to achieve a dream. The film's producer and one of the sighted climbing guides attended our presentation to answer questions from a large audience.

This spring we will show films from South Africa (*Angels in the Dust*), Iran (*Children of Heaven*) and Turkey (*Winds and Time*) on campus. We now also show films at local schools to match their curriculum needs. Students at New Vista High School in Boulder recently saw *Promises*, a documentary about Israeli and Palestinian children. A student commented, "It (the film) has helped me a lot because this gave me a true look into real life." Another said, "I now have a better understanding of both sides of the argument." Thank you to the CU Outreach Committee for funding. To find out more, go to <http://www.internationalfilmseries.com/schedule.php>

CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN LATIN AMERICA *by Louise Chawla*

In 2006 and 2007, the CYE journal published four special issues on the theme of child and youth participation in planning, design and community development, representing diverse initiatives and reflections from around the world. The special issue on Latin America was compiled by Yolanda Corona Caraveo and María Eugenia Linares Pontón, under the general editorship of Caitlin Cahill and Roger Hart. To make this work accessible to the Spanish-speaking world, these articles have now been published as a book in Spanish with the title *Participación Infantil y Juvenil en América Latina* ("Child and Youth Participation in Latin America," published by the Autonomous Metropolitan University of Mexico with support from Childwatch International Research Network of Norway and the University of Valencia of Spain).

For a region of the world where many nations were dominated by military regimes through much of the 20th century and where there are still great economic and social disparities, the editors see this book as an important contribution to the creation of more equal and just societies. Engaging children and youth in improving their communities is a vital way of developing democratic skills and values, and communities have much to gain from children's insights, creativity, and the social cohesion that can be built by child and adult partnerships. This book demonstrates how these benefits can be achieved, with examples from Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, and Costa Rica.



FOSTERING ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH MULTICULTURAL YOUTH

by Debra Flanders Cushing and Emily Wexler Love

Youth FACE IT (Fostering Active Community Engagement for Integration and Transformation) is a new CYE program designed to engage multicultural youth in community change. Through this program, Environmental Design students work with local high-school students to figure out how to make our communities more youth-friendly for an increasingly diverse population. Last semester we facilitated a photovoice activity, in which high-school students from Lafayette were lent digital cameras to document different aspects of their communities and determine if they accommodate the needs of diverse youth. The youth engaged in dialogue using their photos as prompts and wrote captions about what the photos represent to them. At the end of the semester, the participants organized an exhibit at the Lafayette Public Library to share their photos with their school and community

and make specific recommendations about how to make Lafayette a more youth-friendly community.

We are continuing this semester with a different group of UC Boulder students and high-school students in Boulder and Lafayette. Based on feedback from last semester, we have expanded the activities to include the creation of digital stories, short youth-created videos that communicate their experiences and recommendations for community change.



"A graffiti wall will keep kids off the streets. Being a graffiti artist, I see that the problem has been growing because more laws are being passed prohibiting graffiti. If we had space in Lafayette to help people know about graffiti, we could expose more people to it. Most people see graffiti as a crime but you'd be surprised what art it really is. Having a graffiti wall (like in Boulder and Longmont) could give graffiti artists the chance to take time and work on a piece. Graffiti helps me express myself and it's a lot better when people can see your work and understand where you're coming from instead of creating art where no one can see it."

Photo and Quote: Omar, Centaurus High School in Lafayette



CU students at the Youth FACE IT Photo Exhibit
(Photo: Bodh Saraswat).

KUDOS!

ENVD student **Cole Gehler** was given a Service-Learning Award for an undergraduate student on the Boulder campus for his work with Casey Middle School last fall and his involvement in other community outreach.

The Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement selected **Debbie Flanders Cushing** as the 2009 Graduate Student recipient for Serving Communities Award, presented by Chancellor Peterson at an official ceremony in March.

Willem van Vliet received the 2008 Award for Faculty Excellence in Service in the College of Architecture and Planning for service rendered to the community, the profession, and the University.

Sharon Read graduated in December magna cum laude in Environmental Design with an Honors Thesis that examined the rhetoric and reality of child-focused policies of Fortaleza, Brazil. Working with Willem van Vliet as her advisor and supported by an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant, Sharon conducted ethnographic fieldwork in a favela in the Fall of 2007 and the Summer of 2008, interviewing children and their mothers. Their responses provided a vivid picture of their daily living environment that contrasted sharply with the goals of child-friendly policies.

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