



early developments Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

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Making It Real: Preparing Students to be Effective Practitioners

FPG Publications

Elevating the Educators: The Quest for Quality Begins with Effective Faculty

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Child
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news



The International Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children presented its 2002 DEC Service to the Field Award to Dr. Pamela Winton in ceremonies December 5 during the group's annual meeting in San Diego. The award was presented for her "significant contributions" and her "distinguished career as a researcher and leader in the area of family-centered practices related to both direct services and professional development."

natural resources

High-quality, free or low-cost resources related to early childhood and early intervention can be delivered to your e-mailbox by subscribing to Natural Resources, a weekly listserv. The service is provided by Natural Allies, an FPG project working with community colleges and universities to prepare personnel to provide quality services for all young children in natural and community environments. If interested, please visit <http://listserv.unc.edu/> Using the "Search for Lists" tool, find natural_resources and follow the directions for subscription.

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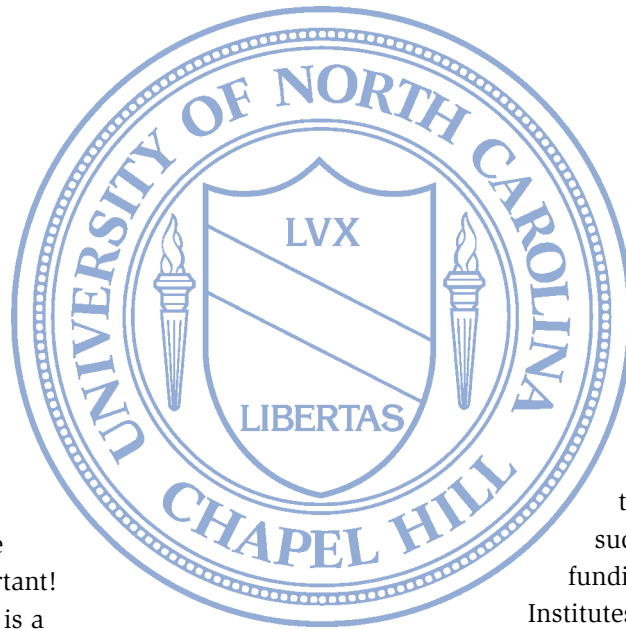
by Don Bailey, Director

THE QUESTION ALWAYS SURPRISES ME—"Is FPG a part of The University of North Carolina?" I guess some would say that being asked this question is a sign that the institute is so engaged in the world of practice and policy that it defies the "ivory tower" image of many universities. If that is the case, then perhaps we have accomplished something important! But the answer to the question is a resounding "YES!"

Organizationally, FPG is a "freestanding" institute at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. By freestanding, I mean that FPG is not a part of just one school or department at the university. As director, I report to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies. This arrangement gives us enormous flexibility in what we do and provides a high degree of both autonomy and responsibility.

Why is our university connection so important? I can think of at least three reasons. First, it provides the opportunity to address issues from a multidisciplinary perspective. When you think about the challenges facing children and families today, it is clear that they do not fall neatly under one discipline's responsibility. We are very fortunate to have investigators and fellows from many different schools, departments and other centers on campus. These include education, psychology (including developmental, clinical, school and neuropsychology), public health, nursing, pediatrics, anthropology, speech and hearing sciences, occupational therapy, audiology, biostatistics, social work, maternal and child health and psychiatry. Through these diverse perspectives we seek to integrate knowledge about children, families and systems of care so that we can better understand the big picture.

Second, a university expects its faculty to publish in the best and most scholarly journals. We want to be held to this standard, as high-quality research forms the basis for



our outreach and policy work. We are proud of our scholarly publications, many of which are listed in each issue of *Early Developments*. Although not all will be of interest to practitioners or policy makers, these publications provide the credibility for us to speak with authority on major issues of our time, and are necessary for continued success in securing prestigious federal funding from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the US Department of Education.

Third, by being a part of a university we have the privilege of working with bright and energetic students from a variety of disciplines. Our contribution to the university's teaching mission is primarily through providing students the opportunity to participate in every phase of research and outreach endeavors, including design, implementation, analysis, publication and grant writing. Students who work at FPG leave with a hands-on understanding of the research process and hopefully will become the next generation of leaders who study young children's development and learning and work to improve human services.

This issue of *Early Developments* highlights many of our activities at UNC, as well as the work we do to help other universities prepare professionals to work with young children and their families. By profiling a number of current and former students who have been affiliated with the institute, I hope you will have a better idea of the benefits and results of our university affiliation.

Chancellor James Moeser has set a high standard for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—to become the leading public university in the United States. FPG is proud to be a part of the nation's oldest public university, and we intend to play a key role in helping UNC expand its national influence. If FPG succeeds in helping UNC accomplish this goal, maybe the day will come when I will no longer be asked whether or not FPG is a part of the university!