

MINCAVA STAFF

Dr. Jeffrey Edleson,
Director

Jemel Aguilar,
Administrative Fellow, VEP

Karen Zentner Bacig,
Administrative Fellow, VEP

Dr. Sandra K. Beeman
Faculty Associate

Anna Hagemester,
*Research Fellow, Link
Research Project*

Soma Sen Hawkins,
*Research Assistant, VAW
Online Resources*

Ann Kranz, *Director of
VAW Online Resources*

Jennifer LaPointe,
*Research Assistant,
VAWnet*

Rob Lebowitz,
Technical Consultant

Terri Mazurek,
*Research Assistant, Link
Research Project*

Lyungai "Liu" Mbilinyi,
*Research Assistant, Link
Research Project*

Cari Michaels,
Associate Director

Pat Wright,
Principal Secretary

MINCAVA Launches Five Discussion Forums Focusing on Violence

As internet use has increased during the last several years, online violence-related materials have become more prolific and accessible. Educators have moved beyond simply sharing materials and now seek to involve a wider audience of specialists in strategic curriculum reform.

Higher education institutions, policy-makers, working professionals, and other trainers play a unique role in adequately preparing our service providers to do their jobs, and communication across these agencies is essential.

In response to these interests, the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse announces five exciting, interactive discussion forums which can be found on our Electronic Clearinghouse at www.mincava.umn.edu/forum.asp.

The forums are designed to engage individuals from diverse fields and locations, promote timely conversation about specific violence-related issues, link MINCAVA's grantees, inform upcoming conferences and workshops, provide follow-up discus-

sion after professional training events, and provide technical assistance for an ever-growing pool of users. Professionals within each topic area moderate and guide participants.

Registering is easy! You will need to enter your name and a working email address. Please feel free to join any of the discussions described below. Your input and expertise are welcome.

Teaching about Violence in Higher Education

Discuss the most effective methods, materials, and classroom strategies for teaching about family violence, violence against women, corporate violence and other violence issues (Moderator - Barbara Keating).

Professional Licensing and Policy Issues

Learn about licensing and policy initiatives that affect how professionals are prepared to respond to issues of violence (Moderator - Cindy Conley).

Campus Violence Issues

Discuss campus violence prevention programs, campus crime and response to crime, and collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts to improve campus culture and policy (Moderator - Jamie Tiedemann).

The Link Between Child Maltreatment and Woman Battering

Learn about research, programs, and policy related to the link between child maltreatment and woman battering (Moderator - Anna Hagemester).

The Role of the Health Care Provider

Discuss pre-service and continuing education opportunities, screening and assessment, curriculum reform, and licensing issues for physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals (Moderators - Dave McCollum and Susan Hadley).

MINCAVA Funds Higher Education Projects

This year the Violence Education Project of MINCAVA awarded \$50,000 to Minnesota faculty to promote interdisciplinary, violence-related curriculum development. All grantees will present their curricula at MINCAVA's Spring Conference and post their materials on the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse.

Child Abuse Prevention Studies Program of the University of Minnesota, St. Louis County Child Protection, Duluth Human Development Center, Clay County Social Services, Clay County Public Health, Hennepin County Guardian Ad Litem, Minnesota Department of Health, and Anoka County Sheriff's Office provides access to a well-established child abuse prevention studies program by offering scholarships to service providers. Scholarship recipients participate in a one-year series of Child Abuse Prevention Studies at the University of Minnesota and are mentored by a professional in their field.

Saint Cloud State University Human Relations and Multicultural Education and Citizenship for Diversity Project, and St. Cloud Violence Prevention Council are providing graduate students with tuition assistance for a course to teach them effective, interdisciplinary ways to teach about violence.

Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, St. Cloud Hospital and the Central Minnesota Task Force on Battered Women created an experiential family violence training for family practice residents. The training consists of: (1) a series of workshops throughout the year for residents and physicians; (2) structured interaction between residents and victims of domestic abuse at a local shelter, and (3) half-day trainings for nurses working with residents and practicing physicians.

Saint Olaf College Department of Social Work, the Minnesota Intercollegiate Nursing Consortium, Northfield Hospital and Woman Safe Center sponsored a two-day workshop for social work and nursing faculty, college staff, and local nurses and social workers to help infuse violence content into curricula and programs. Instructors are implementing course changes and will evaluate their revised curricula.

Center for Violence Prevention and Control of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Police Department, Domestic Abuse Project, WomanKind, and Children's Health Care of Minneapolis developed a new, interdisciplinary violence education course for graduate students at the University of Minnesota. The course goal is to prepare professionals in public health, nursing, and other health-related fields to understand and address issues of violence and abuse.

Southwest State University and New Horizons Crisis Center developed a new undergraduate course for students in education, psychology, social work, and sociology. The course provides students in this rural area with a foundation of concepts related to violence.

Minnesota State University-Mankato Department of Educational Foundations, numerous campus departments, Kessel Institute for Peace and Change, Immanuel-St. Joseph's Hospital, and several community-based agencies have created a new, interdisciplinary course on violence which interfaces with discipline-specific courses in law enforcement, nursing, social work, psychology, and education.

Mark your calendar for
MINCAVA's
1999 Spring Conference

Teaching about Violence in Higher Education

**Conference
t o p i c s
i n c l u d e :**

- × Effective teaching techniques
- × Model classroom exercises
- × Campus collaboration
- × Responding to victims and perpetrators in the classroom
- × New Minnesota courses

**April 12, 1999
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Radisson Hotel Metrodome
Minneapolis, MN**

To receive registration materials, contact
MINCAVA at (612) 624-0721
or visit the conference page
MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse at
www.mincava.umn.edu/center/conf99.asp

MINCAVA Websites Work For You

MINCAVA's websites act as a virtual office assistant available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Anticipating a multitude of resource needs, MINCAVA has compiled comprehensive, easy-to-find violence prevention information. To save valuable time and money, try logging on and reviewing these resources before beginning your next project. With only a few keystrokes, you can generate the following information in a matter of minutes:

- ✓ Develop a list of videos, books, and journals for a violence prevention resource library
- ✓ Find a list of upcoming workshops and conferences for professional development
- ✓ Identify funding sources for violence prevention projects
- ✓ Acquire compelling personal stories and artwork to use in a presentation
- ✓ Research model programs that effectively address violence issues
- ✓ Gather procedural protocols for police, prosecutors, and probation
- ✓ Locate research on the overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering

MINCAVA's three websites include:

- 1) **MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse**, providing a library of resources related to all types of violence;
- 2) **Violence Against Women Online Resources**, focusing on domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking issues; and
- 3) **The Link Research Project**, examining the overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering.

Advocates, administrators, police officers, medical professionals, teachers, and students will find MINCAVA's websites filled with usable material. Contact with other professionals currently involved in violence-related teaching, training, policy development or direct service can also occur through MINCAVA's online discussion forums at www.mincava.umn.edu/forum.asp (see front page article).

MINCAVA websites also feature searchable, online databases that can help you find training opportunities for health care providers, locate and order a particular film, research middle school curricula, or learn how others have developed college courses on violence at www.mincava.umn.edu/trainingdb. A separate database allows you to research specific articles about child maltreatment and battering at www.mincava.umn.edu/LinkData.

To initially familiarize yourself with MINCAVA's websites, browse the site's "table of contents" or click on "search" and type in a key term to see how these resources can work for you.

MINCAVA's Electronic Clearinghouse, part of the Violence Education Project, is an extensive collection of all types of violence-related resources, including course syllabi, current research, public papers and reports, training opportunities, personal stories, funding sources, and databases of curricula, films, videos, and numerous educational training materials.
www.mincava.umn.edu

Violence Against Women Online Resources is a collaborative project between the United States Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Grants Office and MINCAVA. This website provides law, criminal justice, and social service professionals with up-to-date information on intervention to stop violence against women.
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawgo
and then click on VAW Resources

The Link Project is a multi-year research and program demonstration project examining the experiences of families where both children and their mothers are abused. The project seeks to build collaborative relationships between child protection, domestic violence and court services.
www.mincava.umn.edu/Link

Link Research Project Progresses

The Link Research Project, currently funded by a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation's Center for the Future of Children, continues its research emphasis on understanding the links between child maltreatment and woman battering. The Principal Investigators for this project are Drs. Sandra Beeman and Jeffrey Edleson, faculty in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota.

As part of Phase II of the project, MINCAVA has actively collaborated with agencies in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Dallas, Pittsburgh, and San Jose to interview battered mothers about their experiences. To date, we have received calls from over 100 women, and have completed 95 anonymous telephone interviews. Phone interviews will continue through March 1999 in order to meet a goal of 150-200 interviews. Face-to-face, in-depth interviews will be conducted during spring and summer 1999.

In addition to research efforts, the project continues to connect researchers, practitioners, and families. To this end, a list of approximately 50 collaborative programs and training resources across the country has been developed. This new resource list can be found at www.mincava.umn.edu/link, where you can also find updates about this research project and an on-line searchable database specific to this topic. Feedback, additions, updates, and inquiries are invited.

MINCAVA Staff Changes

Jemel Aguilar, an Administrative Fellow, joined MINCAVA to assist in the management of the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse. Jemel is pursuing a Masters Degree in Social Work at the University of Minnesota. Before relocating to Minnesota, Jemel worked for AIDS-Related Community Services in New York.

Ann Kranz joined MINCAVA in 1998 to direct the expansion of Violence Against Women Online Resources. For the past ten years, Ann has worked in communications positions addressing violence against women.

Lyungai "Liu" Mbilinyi joined MINCAVA's staff as an interviewer with the Link Research Project. Originally from Tanzania, Liu is interested in international issues as well as sexual violence against women and its link to HIV/AIDS infection. Liu is currently a first-year doctoral student at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work.

We are sorry to say goodbye to two MINCAVA staff members. **Sharon Haas**, a Research Assistant with the Link Research Project, is moving on to work with Merrick Community Services in St. Paul's East side. **Jeff Pixler** has worked on a variety of MINCAVA projects as a Graduate Research Assistant. He is currently exploring opportunities to teach or practice social work in Europe. We thank both Sharon and Jeff for their work and wish them well in their future positions.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINCAVA
Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse

*386 McNeal Hall
1985 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108-6142
(612) 624-0721*

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