Rudd Chair Annual Report, 2010

Harold D. Grotevant

University of Massachusetts - Amherst, hgroteva@psych.umass.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/rudd_annualreport

Part of the Clinical Psychology Commons

A Message From The Rudd Chair

Dear Friends,

2010 has been an exciting year for the work of the Rudd Chair. We have held conferences, mentored students and faculty, conducted significant adoption research, and developed deep collaborations with community organizations in western Massachusetts.

We have disseminated our work through research publications; international, national, and local conferences; web sites; traditional media; social networking sites; and in our everyday interactions with the community. All our activities serve our mission, which is to connect adoption research with policy and practice. It is through this mission that we make the world a better place for all whose lives are touched by adoption.

This year has also brought an unprecedented opportunity for furthering our work. Andrew and Virginia Rudd, who established the Rudd Chair with a generous gift in 2005, are so enthusiastic about the progress we have made so far that they want to inspire other donors to join in our goal of improving adoption practice and policy. With their gift, the Rudds are offering to match contributions made to the endowment in the next two years. Qualifying gifts and grants will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $250,000. We invite your consideration of this exciting opportunity – details are on page 18.

I invite you to review this report of our activities for 2010 and to see for yourself the exciting ways in which the Rudd programs have developed since its inception. As always, thank you for your interest and your support.

With Best Wishes

Harold D. Grotevant, Ph.D.
Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology
Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology

Annual Report 2010

The Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology is an endowed faculty position within the clinical division of the Department of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The activities of the Chair include the Rudd Adoption Research Program as well as the Chair’s teaching and research portfolios. This report focuses on the activities of the Chair from January, 2010 through December, 2010.

Rudd Adoption Research Program

The Rudd Adoption Research Program is one vehicle through which the activities of the Rudd Chair are carried out. The program is located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst Psychology Department and is closely affiliated with the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Families.

The mission of the Rudd Adoption Research Program is to link adoption research with policy and practice. Toward that end, the program has four goals:

- to advance knowledge about the psychology of adoption
- to provide evidence-based knowledge to inform adoption policy and practice
- to build capacity for excellence in adoption research
- to promote adoption research initiatives of emerging scholars

The program seeks to develop synergy among scientists, practitioners, and policymakers from varied disciplines who share interests in the many topics relevant to adoption. The ultimate goal of these activities is to contribute to evidence-informed practice in adoption and to provide research-based information that will influence policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

The Rudd Program is currently involved with two exciting university – community collaborations that cut across all four program goals: The Adoption Mentoring Partnership and the Re-Envisioning Foster Care Initiative.
Adoption Mentoring Partnership

This year has seen the creation and launch of the Adoption Mentoring Partnership (AMP), a collaboration involving the Rudd Adoption Research Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County, Adoption Journeys (a state-funded post-adoption service provider), the Amherst Regional School District, and the Psychological Services Center at UMass Amherst. The vision of this unique partnership stemmed from a grassroots effort by adoptive parents in the Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts. As the parents met informally over coffee and shared some of their joys and challenges in raising their adopted children, they began to see patterns among their stories. They observed that their children fared well in school until they reached early adolescence. However, middle school and high school often brought academic and social difficulties that continued. Some of the children did not graduate. Recognizing that the services to support their adopted children were not adequate, the parents began to think proactively about services that could be established. In the parents’ process of brainstorming support strategies, a vision was created and the Adoption Mentoring Partnership was born.

AMP draws on the successful Big Brothers Big Sisters model of mentoring. The unique feature of AMP is that the mentors are young adult college students, who, just like their mentees, were adopted. This means that the children in the program have the opportunity to have an older friend who navigated adoption successfully and is available to talk about it as needed.

Considerable time was devoted to creating a clear vision of what AMP would look like, establishing roles and responsibilities for the partners and developing a realistic time line. In spring, 2010, the recruiting process for college mentors began and involved making announcements in classes, distributing fliers, posting on Facebook and placing “wanted” ads in the UMass student run newspaper, the Collegian. This process yielded a dozen interested college students, half of whom went on to become mentors with the AMP. During the summer, six local adopted schoolchildren were matched with six adopted UMass students in one-on-one mentoring relationships. In nearly all of the matches, the mentors and mentees share not only a similar adoption story, interests and hobbies, but are also of the same sex and race.

During fall, 2010, the mentors and mentees met on a weekly basis to participate in activities such as baking cookies, attending Big Brothers Big Sisters events, playing basketball, creating art projects, visiting the Dakin Animal Shelter, attending UMass football games, and just chatting.

Left to right: Tim Dillon, Gabriela Bishop, program graduate assistant Quade French, Becky Robillard, Director Harold Grotevant, Michael Abbate, and Maria La Pierre
Many of the “Bigs” bring their “Littles” to eat in the campus cafeterias, which remains a thrilling adventure for the mentees even after several months.

The matches seem to be working out well from the perspectives of the children, their parents, and the mentors, as seen in the following examples.

During a recent outing, the Little Brother turned to his Big Brother and casually asked, “So, you’re adopted, right?” The Big Brother responded that he was, which was one of the reasons they were matched together. The Big Brother then asked if he wanted to ask him any questions about his adoption story. The Little said, “No. I just wanted to know for sure,” and settled back into his seat with a contented smile on his face.

One mother told us that she could have never anticipated how meaningful the relationship would become to her daughter. Only a couple of weeks into the match, the “Little” chose to spend a Saturday with her Big Sister in lieu of a classmate’s birthday party. It gives the mother peace of mind to know that her daughter will have at least one positive and successful role model in her life who is also adopted.

In addition to meeting with their mentees, the mentors met together at UMass on a bi-weekly basis to learn about leadership in mentoring; child development theory; the role of race, ethnicity and culture in adoption; and the complexity of adoptive identity. During the seminar the mentors were able to apply the readings to their own adoption story and often shared how they related to the readings. There was also time to talk about the mentoring relationships and to share joys and challenges of the mentoring relationship. Their final assignment was to write a reflection paper at the end of the semester. Here are a few quotes from their papers:

“The thing I have taken away the most from this program is thinking about my own adoption and analyzing it more than I ever have.”

“I have now completed a semester of being a mentor and have learned that there is no gift or feeling better in the world than knowing that you have impacted a child’s life.”

“Before this program, I would barely talk about my adoption with anyone, but after each meeting I call my mom and talk to her about what I learned and ask her questions about my adoption.”

“This program has also helped me feel less alone as an adopted person.”

It is clear that the program benefits not also the children, but also their families and the children’s mentors. As the program is getting known in the region, it is also raising public awareness about adoption and the needs of adopted children. Early successes have led to a huge demand for the program, and we are working hard to identify suitable mentors for all the children who could benefit. In order to make sure that the program is maximally effective, the Rudd Adoption Research Program is also conducting research to document outcomes from the project.
Re-Envisioning Foster Care Initiative

The Rudd Adoption Research Program has partnered with the Treehouse Foundation, Friends of Children, and Fostering Media Connections to conceptualize and create the Re-Envisioning Foster Care Initiative. The Treehouse Foundation implements and supports innovative practices on behalf of children who experience foster care, including a multi-generational community in Easthampton, MA. The goal of the Re-envisioning Foster Care initiative is to change the culture and practice of how the community perceives and supports children and youth in the public foster care system in the Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin County region of Western Massachusetts and beyond.

On November 15, 2010, over 100 stakeholders including educators, parents, youth, staff of the Department of Children and Families, researchers, students, health professionals, therapists and other interested citizens from throughout the Pioneer Valley participated in a daylong conference at the Delaney House in Holyoke in an effort to enhance services that are being offered to youth and families experiencing foster care. The Rudd program was key to the planning and sponsorship of the conference. Three major areas focused the day’s discussions:

- Education: How can we do a better job of ensuring educational continuity for children who move from their family into one or more foster homes?
- Aging out / Transitions: How can we meet the needs of children who exit the foster care system without a permanent home?
- Permanence: How can we guarantee that every child is part of a life-long family that supports their growth and development?

The conference was videotaped and may be viewed on You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/user/FosteringMC#p/u

Conference participants had many positive things to say:

“It was a great opportunity to meet people with a shared passion for helping children in a real way.”

“This conference furthered my awareness of the issues in the foster care system and what needs to be changed. It also inspired me to help make a change and focus on foster care research in my future studies.”

In 2011, the Rudd Adoption Research Program will continue its partnership with Treehouse in an effort to realize our goal of re-envisioning foster care in western Massachusetts and nationally.
In addition to the two cross-cutting programs discussed above, significant progress was made in 2010 toward accomplishing Rudd Program goals.

**Advancing Knowledge about the Psychology of Adoption**

Dr. Grotevant continued as Principal Investigator on the Minnesota / Texas Adoption Research Project (MTARP), a 20-year longitudinal research study that focuses on the consequences of variations in contact between birth and adoptive family members for all in the adoptive kinship network: birthmothers, adoptive parents, and adopted children, and for the relationships within these family systems. The MTARP lab was home to three undergraduate and three graduate students. Long-distance collaborations continued with colleagues in California, Minnesota, and Texas. For further details, see “Research Portfolio” section below.

Dr. Grotevant taught a senior seminar on the Psychology of Adoption at UMass Amherst. This course was taught in spring semester, 2010 (Psy 391AD); and in fall, 2010, it was offered as a special section for students in the Commonwealth Honors College (Psy 391AH). For further details, see the “Teaching Portfolio” section below.

The Rudd Adoption Research Program co-sponsored two important lectures, in collaboration with the Center for Research on Families:

Dr. Charles Nelson, Harvard Medical School and Children’s Hospital Boston, “Effects of Early Psychological Deprivation on Brain and Behavioral Development,” April 30, 2010

Debra Monroe, author of *On the Outskirts of Normal* -- a White adoptive mother speaking about raising her Black adopted daughter, October 6, 2010

**Providing Evidence-based Knowledge to Inform Adoption Policy and Practice**

The Rudd Adoption Research Program, in collaboration with the Center for Research on Families, sponsored the second annual Rudd Adoption Conference, “**New Worlds of Adoption: Linking Research with Practice**,” on April 7, 2010. The conference was attended by 161 people who came from 11 states as well as 3 countries outside the United States.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Richard Barth, Dean of the School of Social Work and professor at the University of Maryland. His address, “Toward Evidence Informed Pre and Post Adoption Practice,” highlighted risk and protective factors associated with adoption outcomes and different models for post-adoption services. He argued that adoptive families are more similar to than different from non-adoptive families and that best practice models should be developed to suggest effective post-adoption services. The conference also featured 17 poster presentations on a wide
range of topics including health expectations and developmental outcomes of international adoptees, post-adoption adjustment of birth fathers, attachment, openness, adoption competency training for mental health professionals, and permanency for youth in foster care.

The conference also featured a special presentation to honor Andrew and Virginia Rudd, whose gift to UMass Amherst created the Rudd Chair and provided funds for activities such as the conference. Ms. Rudd made a moving presentation about their family’s journey with adoption. She stated, “As we became more educated, we came to a deep realization of the absolute importance of research and access to it.”

Speaker – Virginia Rudd

The 2010 conference was jointly organized with the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, whose Senior Research Fellows and Senior Staff were also speakers. The Senior Fellows and Staff held their annual gathering at the Center for Research on Families on April 8, 2010 to discuss current trends and issues in the field. They included

Devon Brooks, Ph.D., University of Southern California
David Brodzinsky, Ph.D., Rutgers University and Donaldson Institute
Harold Grotevant, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Amherst
Jeanne Howard, Ph.D., Illinois State University and Donaldson Institute
Dana Johnson, M.D., University of Minnesota
Kerry Johnson, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
Tara Linh Leaman, J.D., Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
Ruth G. McRoy, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin and Boston College
Adam Pertman, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute Executive Director
Ellen Pinderhughes, Ph.D., Tufts University
Susan Livingston Smith, MSSW, Illinois State University and Donaldson Institute

The speakers addressed topics such as lesbian and gay adoptive families, preparing and supporting adoptive parents, ethnic-racial socialization in international-transracial adoptive families, and openness in infant and older child adoptions.

Conference participants felt they gained a great deal from the day’s activities:

“Very impressive group of scholars. Top people in field presented”

“Thrilled with the information provided! Would not miss this conference next year even with same speakers!”
“It was helpful to hear about the state of certain issues from leading experts.”

“A collection of wonderful minds on a complex topic that we have much more to learn about. A validation/confirmation of issues that need more study and important in the field.”

Plans are well underway for the third Rudd conference, “New Worlds of Adoption: Research-Based Interventions Promoting Attachment” to be held April 8, 2011 on the campus of UMass Amherst. Information about the upcoming and past conferences may be found at http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/conferences/
Dr. Grotevant also presented a keynote address, *Dynamics and outcomes of postadoption contact: A view from U.S. experience* and co-authored presentations with other colleagues and former students:

UMass Delegation to ICAR3:
Danila Musante, Hal Grotevant, Quade French, Morgana Flaherty, Tina Roth, Holly Grant-Marsney


Von Korff, L., & Grotevant, H.D.  *Pathway to adolescent and emerging adult narrative adoptive identity formation.*

Wrobel, G. M., & Grotevant, H.D.  *Relational underpinnings of the Adoption Communication Pathway.*

Complete lists of 2010 presentations and publications are included in the appendix.

Dr. Grotevant, with Jen Dolan, Quade French, Holly Grant-Marsney, and Danila Musante, spent several months developing a major paper on the Dynamic of Affluence and Poverty in Child Adoption, for the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Poverty and Child Development*. In this chapter, they discuss ways in which poverty plays a key role in the movement of children from their birth families to their adoptive families and argue that adoption is a powerful intervention in the lives of children whose development might have been at risk because of poverty.
Building Capacity for Excellence in Adoption Research

Dr. Grotevant served on the psychology search committee that hired Dr. Jennifer McDermott as a new assistant professor. Dr McDermott’s research bridges developmental, cognitive, and affective neuroscience and focuses on how children learn to regulate their behaviors and emotions, with a special emphasis on the role of individual differences and influence of early experience. The primary goal of her research is to determine the manner by which regulatory abilities promote efficient learning and contribute to adaptive socioemotional outcomes in children.

Jen Dolan, M.P.H. is the Program Manager for the Rudd Adoption Research Program. Her undergraduate degree in social work and master’s degree is in public health contribute daily to our current work. She is completing her doctoral degree from the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts. Her dissertation research is focused on learning how white adoptive parents support their Asian born children around race related issues.

Dr. Lynn Von Korff completed her term as the first Rudd Adoption Research Program Postdoctoral Fellow in Psychology. Her research focused on interactions in adoptive families, narrative identity formation, and adolescent and your adult development. Lynn is now at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Rachel Farr, the new Postdoctoral Fellow from the University of Virginia, begins her affiliation in February 2011.

Dr. Grotevant and Jen Dolan met with numerous adoption scholars and practitioners over the past year, including the following from New England:

- Patricia Ramsey – Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology, Mt. Holyoke College
- Sarah St. Onge – doctoral student from Adelphi University
- Deb Shrier – Director of Post-Adoption Services, Jewish Family and Children’s Services, Waltham, MA
- Abbie Goldberg -- Associate Professor of Psychology, Clark University
- Martha Henry – Director, Office of Foster Care and Adoption, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester
- Michael McManus – Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Office of Foster Care and Adoption, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester
- Gretchen Hall – Director of Program Development, Office of Foster Care and Adoption, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester
- Marla Allisan – Director, Full Circle Adoption Agency, Northampton, MA
The Rudd Adoption Research Program convened the first meeting of the Rudd Adoption Scholars in 2010. The group includes faculty, post docs, and research staff from UMass Amherst, the Five Colleges, and several other nearby universities. Group members will share ideas and resources, develop collaborative projects, and design programs that will facilitate the development of adoption research and its dissemination.

**Promoting Adoption Research Initiatives of Emerging Scholars**

Dr. Grotevant has promoted adoption research initiatives of emerging scholars by supervising five graduate students, three undergraduate students (all in Commonwealth Honors College), interns at a local adoption agency and students working in the Rudd program office. The first Rudd postdoctoral scholar has completed her work, and a second is soon to arrive. The Rudd program partners with the Center for Research on Families in their many activities that support students and emerging scholars, including support for undergraduate and graduate student research and travel. Finally, the Rudd Adoption Scholars group is actively developing a plan for mutual mentoring among senior faculty, emerging faculty, staff, and community members, all of whom can teach and learn from each other.

**Communication and Dissemination**

The Rudd Chair has a strong presence on the internet, using the latest technology to inform and network with others. Here are just a few examples of current tech projects:

**ScholarWorks**

ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst is a digital repository for the research and scholarly output of members of the University of Massachusetts Amherst community, administered by the UMass Amherst Libraries. The Rudd Adoption Research Program has its own page, hosting information about its annual conference, doctoral dissertations, masters theses, presentations, and publications. [http://scholarworks.umass.edu/rudd/](http://scholarworks.umass.edu/rudd/)

**Facebook: Rudd Adoption Research Program**

The Rudd Program Facebook page includes current news about the program as well as links to internet news about adoption research, practice, and policy. [http://www.facebook.com/RuddAdoptionResearchProgram](http://www.facebook.com/RuddAdoptionResearchProgram)
Home Page: Rudd Chair

The Rudd Chair home page in the Department of Psychology contains up-to-date information about the activities of the Chair, including news about current and past conferences.
http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/
http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/conferences/

The Voices Project

The Voices Project presents interviews with leading researchers, practitioners, physicians, professors, and clinicians in the field of adoption. This provides adoption community members with a direct link to the top minds in the field, who talk about their past research, current focus, and thoughts about the future of adoption research.
http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/voices-project/

In continuing to fulfill the Rudd Adoption Research Program's goals of connecting the community with researchers and policymakers, we have begun The Voices Project, in which we interview leading researchers, practitioners, doctors, professors, and clinicians in the field of adoption, and publish their responses here. In this way, you and the rest of the adoption community have a direct link to the top minds in the field, and can hear about their past research, current focus, and thoughts about the future of adoption research.

We begin with the adoption researchers who were keynote speakers at the Third International Conference on Adoption Research, held in Leiden, the Netherlands, July 2010. The originator of this project and the interviewer is Mr. Quade French, doctoral student in clinical psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Click on a name to the left to see their interview.
Teaching Portfolio

Dr. Grotevant continued to offer the senior seminar he created, *The Psychology of Adoption*. In 2010, the seminar was offered to psychology majors (Psy 391AD) and to the members of the Commonwealth Honors College (Psy 391AH).

After participating in this course, students should be able to meet the following course objectives:

- think critically about the knowledge base upon which our understanding of adoption rests
- identify strengths and limitations of different kinds of evidence that provide insight about adoption (e.g., personal experience, case studies, quantitative research, qualitative research, meta-analyses)
- understand adoption from the perspective of its multiple participants: adopted persons, birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoption intermediaries
- argue and evaluate different points of view with respect to controversial adoption issues
- listen to and respect diverse points of view which may not coincide with their own
- understand the psychology of adoption within the cultural, historical, geopolitical, and economic contexts in which it is embedded
- understand ways in which multiple disciplines contribute to the understanding of adoption
- identify the major contributions of some of the key adoption research projects discussed in class

Further information about the course, including a copy of the syllabus, may be found at

[http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/teaching/](http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/teaching/)

Research Portfolio

Dr. Grotevant continued to serve as the Principal Investigator on the Minnesota / Texas Adoption Research Project (MTARP), a longitudinal research study that focuses on the consequences of variations in openness in adoption arrangements for all members of the adoptive kinship network: birthmothers, adoptive parents, and adopted children, and for the relationships within these family systems. The project was begun in the mid-1980s in collaboration with Dr. Ruth G. McRoy, Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professor Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professor in the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

With support from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Science Foundation, and the William T. Grant Foundation, Dr. Grotevant and colleagues recently completed the third wave of this longitudinal study. In two prior waves of research, 190 adoptive families were studied when the target children were in middle childhood and adolescence. The most recent wave followed the study's participants across the transition into young adulthood (age 20-28) and asked how the quality of children's relationships while growing up predict the quality of their close relationships outside their families, their social adjustment, and their sense of adoptive identity as young adults.
One MTARP paper recently published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* (Grotevant, Rueter, Von Korff, & Gonzalez) examined predictors of problem behavior among adolescent and young adult adoptees. According to one theory, contact between children and their birth relatives could be confusing for the children and potentially lead to problems with self-esteem and identity, ultimately resulting in behavior problems. A contrasting theory proposed that contact with birth relatives would benefit children by giving them a better understanding of their past, supporting their sense of identity. Other factors believed to contribute to problem behavior included the way adoption was discussed in the family and the family’s satisfaction with its unique contact arrangements. This study revealed that families having more birth family contact were more satisfied with the contact and communicated more openly about adoption within their family than did families with no contact. Adolescents whose family members were satisfied with their contact arrangements, whatever they are, were less likely to exhibit problem behavior than adolescents in families that were not satisfied. These findings were consistent with previous results which suggested that, in terms of birth family contact, one size does not fit all. Over time, families tend to negotiate a pattern of contact that works for them, and finding such a workable pattern is associated with positive behavioral outcomes for their teens and young adults.

Further information about the project may be found at [http://www.psych.umass.edu/adoption/](http://www.psych.umass.edu/adoption/)

**Service to the University and Profession**

During 2010, Dr. Grotevant provided service to a number of university, professional, and community organizations:

- Steering Committee, Center for Research on Families, UMass Amherst
- Distinguished and Chaired Professors Committee, College of Natural Sciences
- Faculty and Staff Awards Committee, College of Natural Sciences
- Personnel Committee, Department of Psychology (chair 2010 – 2011)
- Executive Committee, Department of Psychology (ex officio)
- Information Technology Committee, Department of Psychology

Editorial Boards / Consulting Editor Positions:

- *Adoption and Fostering*
- *Adoption Quarterly*
- *Family Process*
- *Identity: International Journal of Theory and Research*
- *Journal of Early Adolescence*
- *Journal of Family Psychology*
- *Journal of Research on Adolescence*

- Advisory Board for Adoption Competent Mental Health Professional Credential, Center for Adoption Support and Education, Baltimore, MD
- Strategic Planning Committee, Treehouse Foundation
- Academic Program Committee, 3rd International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR3)
Rudd Program Personnel

Faculty:
Harold D. Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology

Staff:
Jen H. Dolan, Program Manager, Rudd Adoption Research Program
Beckett Dunning, Program Assistant
Laura Oestreicher, Intern
Carla Williamson, Events Coordinator (with Center for Research on Families)

Postdoctoral Research Scholar:
Lynn Von Korff

Graduate Students:
Quade French, Clinical Psychology; Adoption Mentoring Partnership Program and Research Coordinator
Holly Grant-Marsney, Clinical Psychology
Danila Musante, Clinical Psychology

Undergraduate Students:
Morgana Flaherty, Psychology and Commonwealth Honors College
Matthew Lyle, Psychology and Commonwealth Honors College
Christin Pinto, Psychology and Intern at Full Circle Adoptions
Christina Roth, Psychology and Commonwealth Honors College
Kristin Schiff, Psychology and Intern at Full Circle Adoptions

Adoption Mentoring Partnership – Mentors:
Michael Abbate
Gabriela Bishop
Timothy Dillon
Maria LaPierre
Lila Nair
Rebeka Robillard
Rudd Program Partners and Collaborators

University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Department of Psychology
- Center for Research on Families
- College of Natural Sciences
- Psychological Services Center
- Commonwealth Honors College

Adoption Journeys
Amherst Regional Public Schools
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County
Boston College Graduate School of Social Work
Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
Fostering Media Connections
Friends of Children
Treehouse Community at Easthampton Meadow
Treehouse Foundation
University of Maryland School of Social Work

Contact Information

Rudd Adoption Research Program
623 Tobin Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
135 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003

adoption@psych.umass.edu
(413) 545-0547
http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/

For information about supporting the Rudd Adoption Research Program, please contact Laurie Benoit, Director of Principal Relationships, in the office of the Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations. She may be contacted at (413) 577-4712 or lbenoit@admin.umass.edu
TRANSFORMATIVE GENEROSITY

Andrew and Virginia Rudd established the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology with a generous gift in 2005. They are so enthusiastic about the progress that has been made to date that they want to inspire others to join them in raising the program to a new level of excellence. To that end, the Rudds have pledged another $250,000 with the promise to match dollar for dollar every contribution made within the next two years to increase our endowment.

Gifts made to the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology support the priorities of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. Donations will build the endowment, increasing the annual income over time in support of programs such as the annual conference, the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, Re-Envisioning Foster Care, adoption research training, graduate student and post-doctoral scholar stipends, and visiting scholars.

For further information about this unique opportunity, please contact Laurie Benoit, Director of Principal Relationships, in the office of the Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations.

- E-mail: lbenoit@admin.umass.edu
- Phone: (413) 577-4712
- Secure website: You may choose to make your gift on our secure website at https://www.umass.edu/development/give/

  Be sure to select “Rudd Adoption Research Program” in the Gift Allocation section of the giving page to ensure that your contribution goes directly to our program and the match is applied.

Harold D. Grotevant, professor of psychology and first to hold the Rudd Chair, praised the Rudds for their vision and their generosity. “This gift and the matching funds will significantly enhance our ability to produce the very best adoption research and connect that knowledge with adoption policy and practice. The ultimate beneficiaries will be the many family members whose live have been touched by adoption.”
APPENDIX

Publications, 2010


Research Presentations, 2010


Grotevant, H.D. (2010, October). Infant Adoption Training Institute, Las Vegas, NV. 4 presentations:
- Openness in adoption: How are the children?
- Openness in adoption: Family dynamics in adoptive kinship networks
- Diversity in adoption: Same sex and transracial adoptions
- Post adoption contact agreements and kinship adoption