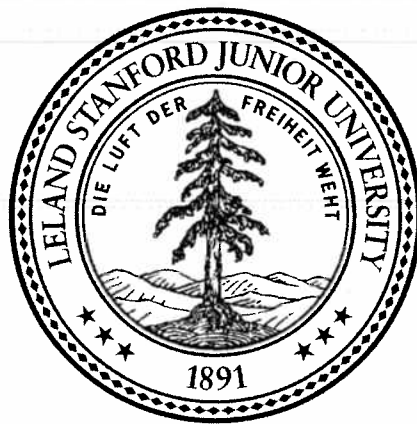


Positive Youth Development in Our Time
The Age of Purpose



A Stanford Center on Adolescence Symposium
May 11, 2006
3:00 – 5:30 pm

"Good luck is another name for tenacity of purpose." ~Ralph Waldo Emerson.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The Stanford Center on Adolescence invites you to attend a lively set of presentations and discussions on youth development today. The experience may change the way you think about young people and the role you can play in fostering youth purpose.

Members of the audience will participate in the discussion and are welcome to attend whatever parts of the symposium they like.



Positive Youth Development in Our Time: The Age of Purpose



Three young people share their stories,
hopes, and expectations for the future



A Dialogue on Youth Purpose

with

Peter Benson

and

William Damon



Comments by Pamela Ebstyne King, Jacques Benninga,

Margaret Beale Spencer, and Robert Emmons



A reception in the CERAS lobby will follow the symposium

William Damon serves as Director of the Stanford Center on Adolescence and is a professor of Education at Stanford University. Damon is the author of 16 books and numerous book chapters and articles on education and human development, especially in the area of moral development. Some of his books include *The Moral Child* (1988), *Greater Expectations: Overcoming the Culture of Indulgence in Our Homes and Schools* (1995) which won the Parent's Choice Award, and *Some Do Care: Contemporary Lives of Moral Commitment* (1992), written with developmental psychologist Anne Colby. Damon has also worked with Howard Gardner and Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi on the Good Work Project studying exemplary leaders and practitioners who were both highly successful and highly ethical. Damon coauthored *Good Work: When Excellence and Ethics Meet* (2001) with Gardner and Csikszentmihalyi. Damon is also the editor-in-chief of *The Handbook of Child Psychology* (Fifth and Sixth Editions, 1998 and 2006).

As director of the Stanford Center on Adolescence, a campus-based research center that focuses on character and civic education, Damon is currently working on a large project focusing on the development of youth purpose. This research explores how young people develop purpose in their work, family and community relationships. Damon's research has led to a number of widely recognized educational methods, such as community youth charters and mid-career training programs in the field of journalism.



Peter Benson is president of Search Institute, a non-profit research organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of children and adolescents. Benson is widely recognized as one of the leading contributors to the fields of child and adolescent development. His research on how communities can unite and mobilize to raise healthy and caring youth has spawned both a new way of thinking about youth development and led to significant change in communities across the country.

Benson has published more than 50 articles in scientific journals, including *Developmental Psychology*, *The Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *The Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *The Journal of Social Issues*, *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, and *Applied Developmental Science*.

Benson serves on numerous boards and as an advisor to several foundations and state and national organizations. In 1991 he received the prestigious William James Award from the American Psychological Association for career contributions to psychology. His work has been reported in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U. S. News & World Report*, *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Washington Post*. He has appeared on over 200 television and radio programs and is frequently interviewed by the news media.



"Great minds have purposes, others have wishes." ~Washington Irving

Pamela Ebstyne King is Assistant Professor of Family Studies in the Center for Research and Child and Adolescent Development in the School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. Her primary research and teaching interests include positive youth development, spiritual and moral development, and theological perspectives of development. She is particularly interested in enabling thriving through families, congregations, schools, and youth-serving organizations.

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church, King has a background in child, adolescent, and adult ministry. She received a B.A in Psychology from Stanford University and a Masters of Divinity and Ph.D. in Family Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary doing her postdoctoral work at the Center on Adolescence at Stanford University.

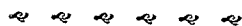
King is a co-author of *The Reciprocating Self: A Theological Perspective of Development* (2005) and co-editor of the *Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence* (2006). Her research has been published in *Developmental Psychology*, *Applied Developmental Science*, *Journal of Early Adolescence*, and *The Journal of Psychology and Christianity*.

King plays an important function in the Thrive Foundation for Youth. This foundation focuses on three components: “defining thriving indicators, assessing those indicators, and creating alignment between indicators and action” while seeking to “support purposeful actions that families, individuals, schools, communities and governments take which enhance the character and quality of each young person’s life, so that each youth can become all that God intends” (On-line).



Jacques Benninga is Professor of Education and Human Development at California State University, Fresno. Benninga completed his graduate studies in 1976 in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education and Developmental Psychology at George Peabody College (now of Vanderbilt University). Since that time he has studied and researched issues related to the moral development and character education of children. Benninga edited the book *Moral, Character and Civic Education in the Elementary School* and has published widely in the area of character education.

Benninga directs the Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship at California State University, Fresno. The Bonner Center was formed in 1997 to promote character education in the Central Valley by sponsoring nationally recognized speakers for the Fresno area, forums on character education and professional ethics, materials, books and other professional resources for review, and coordination for a variety of character award programs.



“If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he imaged, he will meet with success unexpected in common hours.”
~Henry David Thoreau

Margaret Beale Spencer is Professor of Education and Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the Director of the Center for Health Achievement Neighborhoods Growth and Ethnic Studies (CHANGES) as well as the W.E.B. Du Bois Collective Research Institute.

Her adolescent-focused research addresses resiliency, identity, and competence formation processes in youth of all ethnicities, but particularly among youth of color and those from low-resource families. Specifically, her research efforts explore youths' emerging capacity for healthy outcomes and constructive coping methods while developing under difficult and stressful conditions. Of interest are mechanisms that undergird the maturing cognitive capacities and socio-emotional development of adolescents as they transition into early adulthood.

Spencer has published over 75 articles and chapters published since 1973. She serves on several editorial boards, national committees, and is a trustee of the Foundation for Child Development.

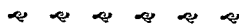
Spencer is the recipient of numerous awards, including Fellow status of Divisions 1, 7, 15, and 45 of the American Psychological Association and the 2005 Senior Career Award for Distinguished contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest.



Robert Emmons is Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Davis. His research focuses on the interface of personality psychology and religion. His emphasis is on the measurement of personal strivings as determinants of subjective quality of life outcomes. Primary issues are how religiousness and spirituality reflect core aspects of the self and identity, and how these aspects of the self are involved in well-being and personality coherence and integration over time.

Emmons is a consulting editor for the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of the Psychology of Religion*, and a member of the American Psychological Association, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the American Academy of Religion. He is the author of *The Psychology of Ultimate Concerns: Motivation and Spirituality in Personality*.

Along with Michael McCullough, Emmons is engaged in a long-term research project designed to create and disseminate a large body of novel scientific data on the nature of gratitude, its causes, and its potential consequences for human health and well-being.



“Thoughts lead on to purposes; purposes go forth in action; actions form habits; habits decide character; and character fixes our destiny.” ~Tyron Edwards



STANFORD CENTER ON ADOLESCENCE

The research team at the Stanford Center on Adolescence, under the direction of William Damon, is currently engaged in a four-year study of youth purpose. Empirical research efforts include both a longitudinal and comparative study. The longitudinal study will follow sixty youth through the span of adolescence, exploring how purpose develops and changes over time. The comparative study will look at the ways in which purpose contributes to positive youth development.

By administering two small grants programs, the research team also hopes to spread the recognition of purpose as an important area of scientific research and educational practice. The first program will award grants to dissertation and postdoctoral researchers whose empirical work illuminates interesting and important issues related to youth purpose. Applications will be solicited and awards administered in the 2006-07 academic year. The second program will offer grants to organizations that promote youth purpose in practice. Applications for these awards will be solicited and awarded in the 2007-08 academic year.

For more information on the Stanford Center on Adolescence or to learn more about current research efforts, please visit our web site at <http://coa.stanford.edu>.



**“Firmness of purpose is one of the most necessary sinews of character,
and one of the best instruments of success.” ~Lord Chesterfield**