

UNC-CH Schedules Conference On Teenage Parenting For September 8

By Richard Bierck
Special to the Post

Chapel Hill — June was rting to experiment with as a teenager becoming more than a child until she became pregnant at the age of 14.

Her firm resolve to have and keep her baby rather than abort it or put it up for adoption drew disapproval from her neighbors. Some decided they'd rather not let their children associate with June as her belly grew, especially since she had no plans to marry.

What was worse, some of her friends became distant, aloof just when she was facing a major upheaval in her life, going from early adolescence to adulthood with no intervening phase.

"I felt at first like everyone was down on me," said June (not her real name). "I just

had to overlook it and did the best I could.

And she has done well under the circumstances. She's 16 now, has a steady part-time job and is making average grades in school. She hopes to become a nurse or a secretary.

Her mother, who has been supportive throughout, But it has been hard. Like so many other babies born to young adolescents, June's baby girl was born with birth defects — a cleft palate and no bladder, both of which are surgically correctable.

The only thing unique about June's case—more than 7,000 North Carolina girls under 17 become pregnant each year—is her success in dealing with a predicament that often has much more serious consequences for mother and child.

To help health and human services professionals deal

with the growing problem of teen pregnancies—and motherhood—the department of nutrition in the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will hold a public conference Sept. 7-8 entitled "Guiding Teenage Parents."

At the conference, School of Public Health faculty and area and state mental health and human resources professionals will address the physiological, nutritional and psychological aspects of teen pregnancy and parenthood.

Teenage pregnancy out of wedlock is on the rise everywhere, said La Verne Reid, a Raleigh health educator who will speak at the conference. She said it is the greatest single cause of students dropping out of high school in the United States.

Reid, who pioneered a small program for teen mothers

when she worked for the Wake County Health Department, is patient education coordinator for the Area Health Education Center at Wake Medical Center, where a similar program is being developed.

Although a variety of local health agencies across North Carolina deal with the problem of teen pregnancy to some degree, she said, there are few programs aimed specifically at guiding mothers after they make the decision to keep their babies. Most local health agencies are equipped only to help the mother decide whether to have an abortion, put the baby up for adoption or keep the baby, Reid said.

Teen mothers—and their children—face a much greater chance of having physical, mental and social problems than mothers in their 20's, she said.

Oftentimes, stigmas associated with out-of-wedlock pregnancy cause pregnant teens to delay seeking prenatal care—The chances of premature birth are much greater.

"Teenage girls who are pregnant are trapped in a cycle of failure," Reid said. "Their schooling is interrupted, the family unit is disrupted and their self-esteem drops."

Accordingly, she said, the program at the Wake Health Department begins with measures aimed at increasing self-esteem: films, discussions, and perhaps most important, uninhibited association with girls in the same boat.

"The bonding is fascinating," Reid said of the way girls in the program have been immediately drawn to each other.

The co-directors of the conference, Mildred Kaufman, associate professor, and Edith

P. Thomas, assistant professor, said preregistration is requested. There is a \$5 registration fee, and registration forms can be obtained by calling Brenda Allen at the

Office of Continuing Education, UNC School of Public Health, at (919) 966-4032.

Conference sponsors

include: the Durham-Chapel Hill Dietetic Association, the office of continuing education of the UNC-CH School of Medicine, the Maternal and Child Health Branch of the Division of Health Services of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, the Wake Area Health Education Center and the School of Public Health.



Congressman Jim Martin Moves to Jonas Building

Congressman

Martin Opens

New Office Here

Congressman Jim Martin Tuesday announced that his district staff will move to a new office in the Charles R. Jonas Building (the former Charlotte Post Office) on West Trade Street. The Congressman said his staff will officially move into the new facilities on August 31.

Congressman Martin has previously occupied a suit of offices in the American Building on South Tryon. Yielding to American Credit Corporation's need for that space, Congressman Martin asked the General Services Administration to find new quarters for his Charlotte office and staff.

The Congressman said a prerequisite for new office space was being close to public transportation. He said, "many people make use of the services of my office by local transportation. The Jonas Building meets all our requirements."

In addition, Martin said that since his office handles so many emergency applications for passports for constituents it is also handy to have his office in the same building with the passport office.

Martin said, "service to the constituent has been the key in selecting a new office site. I hope the public will continue to use us as their office and staff, to help with any problem an individual or family might be having with the federal government."

Dr. McDonald

Joins Barber

-Scotia College

Concord — Dr. R. Timothy McDonald has joined the Barber-Scotia College family as Vice-President for Academic Affairs, according to an announcement made today by President Mable P. McLean.

Dr. McDonald fills the vacancy left by Dr. James Lyons who earlier this year accepted a similar post at Delaware State University in Dover.

Dr. McDonald moves to Barber-Scotia College from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, where he served as Director of Development, Public Relations and Alumni Affairs.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Dr. McDonald was educated in the Pittsburgh public schools and later received his B.S. degree in elementary education from Oakwood College. Further study included post-graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his M.S. degree in Education Administration and Supervision from Atlanta University and his Ed.D. degree from the University of Miami at Coral Gables, Fla.

Dr. McDonald's previous posts include teaching positions in Philadelphia, Pa., and Washington, D.C. A former administrator at the Oakwood College Elementary School, Dr. McDonald also served as the Assistant to the Vice-President at Miami-Dade Junior College in Miami, Fla. At the University of Miami, Dr. McDonald served as an instructor and was later a consultant for Florida school desegregation at the Consulting Center of the University of Miami.

He also served as a consultant to the Huntsville A & M ESSA Program, Professor of Education at Oakwood College, visiting professor at Alabama A & M University and Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at Oakwood College.

Dr. McDonald is a member of the American Association for Higher Education, the American Association of School Administrators and of Phi Delta Kappa.

Dr. McDonald is married and the father of four children. He and his family currently reside at 1 Campus Dr., Concord.

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