WELCOME NOTE FROM CENTER:
Welcome to the 15th Newsletter from the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA), a collaborative training and research center, with collaborators from Case Western Reserve University, Makerere University, the Joint Clinical Research Centre, and Mbarara University of Science and Technology, SABRES/IDI/SPH, among others. The CeSSRA office is always open Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm. It is located in Seminar Room 7 in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University main campus. The center’s aim is to train social scientists to carry out social science research on HIV/AIDS collaboratively and also conduct a longitudinal study on the social context of HIV/AIDS treatment.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WORKSHOP
CeSSRA will be hosting a workshop on Ethnographic Methods from 11-15 January 2010 at Makerere University, main campus. This workshop will explore how to use a range of ethnographic methods, including participant observation, systematic naturalistic observations, and structured and open-ended ethnographic interviews. Qualitative and quantitative approaches to ethnography will be used and the workshop will include hands-on experiences.

The facilitators will be Drs. Jill Korbin and Larry Greksa from the Department of Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University.

Advance registration only. Please contact the CeSSRA office or Judith Birungi at bijulied@yahoo.co.uk to register for the workshop.

PUBLIC LECTURE
CeSSRA will also be hosting a public lecture by Dr. Korbin on “Child Wellbeing in Global Perspective” on 15 January 2010 at Makerere University, main campus, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lecture Room 2 at 1:00PM.

Jill E. Korbin, Ph.D. is Associate Dean, Professor of Anthropology, Director of the Schubert Center for Child Studies, and Co-Director of the Childhood Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. Korbin earned her Ph.D. in 1978 from the University of California at Los Angeles. Korbin’s research interests include culture and human development, neighborhood and contextual influences on children and families, child maltreatment, and child well-being.

Lawrence P. Greksa, Ph.D., is Chair and Professor, Department of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University. He earned his Ph.D. in 1980 from The Pennsylvania State University. Greksa is a human population biologist who utilizes evolutionary and ecological paradigms to examine the biological and cultural adaptations of humans to a variety of stressors. His research interests include child growth and development, protein-energy malnutrition, modernization, and demography.
RECENT EVENTS:
CeSSRA held a public lecture on 13th November 2009. The lunch hour lecture was well attended with over 70 participants among whom included CeSSRA Fellows, lecturers, students and the CeSSRA staff. The public lecture was facilitated by Dr. Stella Alamo-Talisuna

Dr. Stella Alamo is a Medical Doctor with Masters in Disease control from Institute of Tropical medicine Antwerp, Belgium and is currently pursuing a PhD in health systems from the same university. Dr Alamo won the Matthew Lukwiyi award for outstanding performance under the SPH/CDC fellowship program. She serves Reach Out Mbuya as the Executive Director.

She gave her talk on the Benefits of Holistic Management of HIV, using the Reach Out Mbuya experience.

In the beginning, a small Christian community together with the parish priest used to visit the sick, praying for them and encouraging them. In May 2001, they were joined by a Danish doctor who provided medication – this was the birth of Reach Out. They serve the catchment area of Mbuya, Kampala, with a population of approximately 60,000 people and an adult HIV prevalence rate of 7%.

Dr. Stella Alamo further noted that some of the unique attributes of Reach Out are their nurse-based approach to care, intensive monitoring of all clients especially those on ARVs and with tuberculosis, use of home visits, use of community volunteers and clients as core staff, and their free services.

With a community network of care, Reach Out’s success in caring for the clients is a result of its exceptional network of volunteers who live in the surrounding area. A large number of these volunteers are enrolled in the program and have experienced the benefits of the many services offered, including: adult literacy, community ARV and TB treatment supporters, income generating activities, small loans and education services, among others.

The friends for life – Community outreach program works both in the schools and communities to sensitize people about HIV/AIDS, STIs and fighting stigma. The major objective of this program is to help these children acquire life skills to ensure that they make informed decisions on all aspects of life and to increase awareness of STIs and HIV/AIDS.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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Audience members during the public lecture

Dr. Stella Alamo- Talisuna