Previous research suggests that youth at increased risk of displaying negative outcomes may particularly benefit from relationships with supportive adults (Erickson et al., 2009). Using a resilience framework, my research to date has demonstrated the potential of natural mentoring relationships (i.e., naturally-occurring, supportive, intergenerational relationships between youth and nonparental adults) to influence positively the psychosocial outcomes of marginalized youth (i.e., adolescents and emerging adults). This presentation will focus on current and future directions of my research. These directions are guided by the following primary research questions: 1) What are key moderating and mediating factors that determine the success of these relationships in buffering against risk and promoting more positive developmental outcomes? 2) How do the broader contexts within which marginalized youth are situated (e.g., families, neighborhoods) influence the formation of natural mentoring relationships? and 3) How can we intervene to encourage the onset of natural mentoring relationships among marginalized youth who are lacking these supportive ties?

Monday, April 27, 2015
3:30 p.m.
Gilmer 190

Coffee at 3:15pm and a reception will be held after the talk.