



Thursday, April 18, 2002

## Robert Stewart

Since arriving at OU in 1979, Robby Stewart, professor and chair of psychology, has been investigating the impact of the individual's attachment style on relationships with members of the individual's close social network.

His first study at OU demonstrated that an older brother or sister was a competent and efficient caretaker of a younger sibling when the primary attachment figure was not available.

Stewart's study of attachment has assumed a family systems perspective and has demonstrated that one's relationships with one's mother, father and siblings all contribute to the cognitive working model of relationships an individual uses to guide the formation of bonds with individuals outside the family of origin.

One branch of his research program continues the study of sibling relationships across the life span and reveals that this working model continues to develop and influence the behavior of brothers and sisters long after they leave their parents' home and establish families of their own. Stewart's research was published in an academic journal and also highlighted in a "Time" magazine article.

### SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, April 18, 2002

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, April 18, 2002

Article Start Date: Monday, November 10, 2003