

047-1982
Andrew Berczi
June 8, 1982

WLU receives \$25,000
to aid research work

Wilfrid Laurier University has been awarded a grant of \$25,000 by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation to support Dr. Geoffrey Nelson's research project entitled "Social support systems and the adjustment of women and teen-age children from separated and intact families."

Children whose parents divorce are at risk for the development of mental health problems, at least in the short-run.

In focussing on the social support systems of divorced women and their adolescent children Dr. Nelson hopes to gain a better understanding of the environmental variables that are associated with the incidence of mental health problems.

Dr. Nelson says, "once we have an understanding of factors that facilitate post-divorce adjustment of children and families, self help and social support programs can be developed to aim at preventing mental health problems before they occur."

Dr. Nelson is a full-time faculty member in the psychology department at Wilfrid Laurier University.