

Children of the Land

Adversity and Success in Rural America

Glen H. Elder, Jr.

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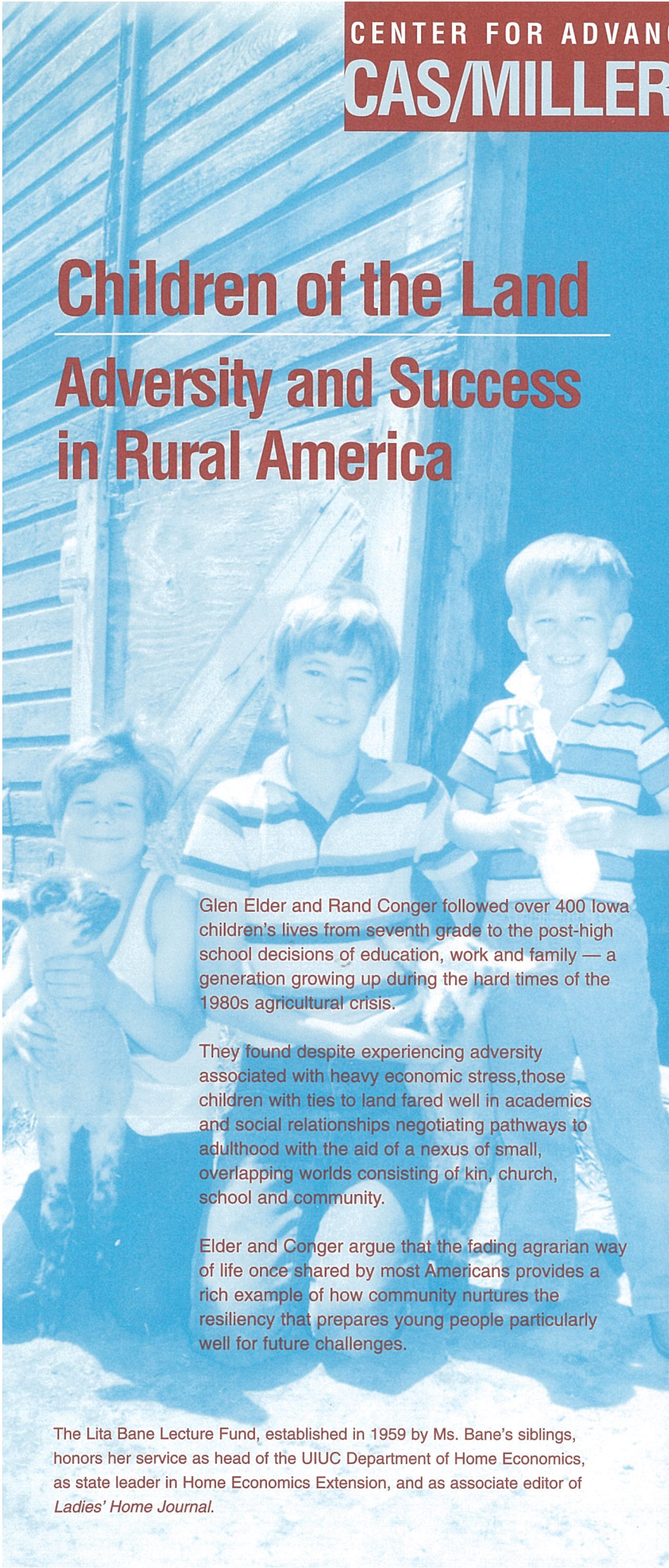
October 19, 1999

Tuesday 7:30 pm

Room 112, Gregory Hall

810 South Wright Street, Urbana

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

A photograph of three children, two boys and one girl, standing in front of a wooden building. The girl on the left is holding a small dog. The boy in the middle is wearing a striped shirt. The boy on the right is also wearing a striped shirt and holding a small object.

Glen Elder and Rand Conger followed over 400 Iowa children's lives from seventh grade to the post-high school decisions of education, work and family — a generation growing up during the hard times of the 1980s agricultural crisis.

They found despite experiencing adversity associated with heavy economic stress, those children with ties to land fared well in academics and social relationships negotiating pathways to adulthood with the aid of a nexus of small, overlapping worlds consisting of kin, church, school and community.

Elder and Conger argue that the fading agrarian way of life once shared by most Americans provides a rich example of how community nurtures the resiliency that prepares young people particularly well for future challenges.

The Lita Bane Lecture Fund, established in 1959 by Ms. Bane's siblings, honors her service as head of the UIUC Department of Home Economics, as state leader in Home Economics Extension, and as associate editor of *Ladies' Home Journal*.

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