Spring in Ann Arbor is sublime, even for those of us suffering from hay fever! Emerging from the polar vortex that engulfed us this past winter makes spring all the more delightful. Because it coincides with the end of Winter Semester, spring is also a natural time both to reflect on the developments and accomplishments of the past academic year and to turn our attention to new prospects. In Fall 2013, the Area welcomed 12 new students—the largest cohort in nearly two decades. They are a convivial group and have added tremendously to our intellectual and social vibrancy. Several of them deserve special thanks for their outstanding efforts and nimble leadership during recruitment weekend in February—when snow and ice threatened to derail our plans! We also welcomed the newest addition to the Developmental Area faculty, Dr. Deborah Rivas-Drake. The newsletter features profiles of Professor Rivas-Drake and our new students.

The list of recent accomplishments, honors, and awards of our students and faculty is a long and impressive one. Many of our students competed successfully for research and fellowship support from U-M and external funding agencies. Two accepted highly attractive postdoctoral fellowships (Sarah Trinh, Adriana Aldana). They are exemplars of the predominant pattern of postgraduate placement among our students. Of 24 students who received PhDs from the Developmental Program between 2009 and 2013, 15 (63%) began postdoctoral study immediately following receipt of their degree. We are also proud that several students who held postdoctoral fellowships after finishing our program have recently landed coveted tenure-track jobs in the academy. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success! You bring luster to the Developmental training program, inspire those seeking to travel similar paths, and carry forth our tradition of excellence.

We expect similar accomplishments from our new recruits. A class of four highly accomplished predoctoral students will enter the program in Fall 2014: Francheska Aleres-Rojas, University of Puerto Rico; Jaime Munoz Velazquez, California State University-Fullerton; Janelle Davis, Kalamazoo College; and Jennifer Sun, University of Michigan Medical School. Two postdocs supported on the Developmental Training Grant will also join us: Whitney Mattson, University of Florida; and Matthew Stevenson, Arizona State University. We are looking forward to their arrival.

This year marked a burgeoning of activity focusing on exciting questions about the neurobiological correlates of development. Some Developmental faculty were awarded federal grants (NIMH, NSF) to study neurological functioning in relation to social context and children’s cognitive and social development. Others have pending grant applications for interdisciplinary research on these topics, while still others have organized and hosted conferences and work groups to launch collaborative research in this area. Bravo! These accomplishments will help keep our program at the forefront of research in developmental psychology. Last, but not least, congratulations to our colleague, Rosario Ceballo, on her promotion to Full Professor! Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

VONNIE C. MCLYD
Welcome New Students!

COLLECTED BY JASMINE MANALEL

Sammy Ahmed

Prior Institution: New York University
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? Earning my B.S., working in a research lab and co-developing a non-profit public health organization.
Current advisors: Pamela Davis-Kean and Frederick Morrison.
Research Interests: Broadly speaking, I want to understand how genetics and early environment interact and how that paradigm predicts cognitive, educational and mental health outcomes.
If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? Film.
Favorite thing about Michigan so far? The social support from my peers and encouragement from my mentors.
What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Sitting in the sun! Going outside without a jacket and gloves.
What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Traveling, listening to music, watching movies, napping, cooking and informally studying astronomy via YouTube and visits to planetariums.
If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? Definitely time-travel.

Nkemka Anyiwo

Prior Institution: University of Maryland, College Park
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? I was working as a research assistant for the Council of Great City Schools, an organization that conducts educational research, develops curriculum initiatives, and advocates for legislation that impacts urban school districts.
Current advisors
Research Interests: Gendered forms of racial and ethnic socialization and the process by which families, media, and communities contribute to the socialization of adolescents.

Emma Beyers Carlson

Prior Institution: Bethel University
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? I worked at a Children’s book publisher and was a research assistant on the Minnesota Texas Adoption Research Project.
Current advisor: Brenda Volling
Research Interests: Sibling interactions within a family systems context, adoption, gay fathering.
If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want
Welcome New Students Continued...

to be doing instead? I would want to be a nutritionist and write cookbooks or be a certified nurse midwife. Favorite thing about Michigan so far? I love the kind and genuine people, the amazing farmer’s markets, and trying out all the new restaurants.
What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? I am looking forward to traveling to Colorado with my husband and mother to visit my extended family.
What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Creating healthy, holistic, and delicious meals, reading Scandinavian crime novels, and practicing yoga.
If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? I would want to be a shape-shifter or have healing powers.

If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? Running my own movie theater.
Favorite thing about Michigan so far? Pickerel Lake in the summer.
What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Going to Pickerel Lake :) What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Musical theater and knitting.
If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? Shapeshifting.

Fernanda Cross

Prior Institution: University of Michigan
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? I worked as a Social Worker for the Maternal Infant Health Program and as a Portuguese and Spanish Interpreter for the University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor Public Schools, Washtenaw Community Health Organization and in judicial settings. I also worked as a research assistant in Stephanie Rowley’s lab. Current advisors: Stephanie Rowley and Deborah Rivas-Drake.
Research Interests: Ethnic socialization, ethnic identity and parental school involvement among undocumented Latino immigrants. If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? PhD in Sociol- ogy or running an immigrant advocacy center.
Favorite thing about Michigan so far? I have lived in Michigan for the past 13 years and I have always enjoyed the amazing spring blooms. What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Going camping with my family. What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? I love dancing, swimming with my daughters and spending time with my family and friends.
If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? Reading people’s minds or never needing to sleep.

Kimberly Brink

Prior Institution: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? Working as a research technician for the infant cognition lab at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain.
Current advisor: Henry Wellman.
Research Interests: Children’s development of theory of mind and the foundations of early knowledge.

Margaret Echelbarger

Prior Institution: Wellesley College (B.A.), University of Kansas (M.A.)
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? Graduate studies in Child Language at the University of Kansas.
Current advisors: Susan Gelman and Henry Wellman.
Welcome New Students Continued...

**Research Interests:** Children’s understanding of scarcity; how children reason about economic concepts.

If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? Assuming anything is possible, I would be developing new statistics to measure baseball players’ performances as a sabermetrician.

Favorite thing about Michigan so far? Being so close to my family.

What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Attending the Ann Arbor Art Fair.

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Attending sporting events, playing with my dog, watching documentaries.

If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? Omnilingualism.

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**Prior Institution:** UCLA

What were you doing before coming to Michigan? Working as a staff research associate at UCSF Child Trauma Research Program... and living in sunny Oakland...

**Current advisor:** Luke Hyde.

**Research Interests:** Interaction between early life stress, stress physiology genes, and brain development.

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**Prior Institution:** Seattle Pacific University

What were you doing before coming to Michigan? Finishing up my undergraduate degree.

**Advisor:** Rona Carter.

**Research Interests:** I am broadly interested in gender roles and girls' academic outcomes, and the work-family struggle that women experience.

If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? I would be a professional salsa dancer.

What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Going camping.

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Painting, playing harmonica, watching Netflix :)

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If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? Clean my apartment with my mind.

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**Prior Institution:** University of Pittsburgh

What were you doing before coming to Michigan? I worked in a lab that studied the development of emotion- and cognition-related brain areas.

**Current advisor:** Chris Monk.

**Research Interests:** Early life stress, poverty, adolescent brain development.

If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? Traveling.

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** All of the brilliant people I get to meet and work with!

What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Kayaking!

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Skiing, Cross-stitching, Kayaking.

If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? Time travel.

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**Prior Institution:** UCLA

What were you doing before coming to Michigan? Working as a staff research associate at UCSF Child Trauma Research Program... and living in sunny Oakland...

**Current advisor:** Luke Hyde.

**Research Interests:** Interaction between early life stress, stress physiology genes, and brain development.
Welcome New Students Continued...

Jasmine Manalel

Prior Institution: University of Virginia
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? Working at UVA as a lab manager of a neuroimaging lab studying Parkinson’s disease and Traumatic Brain Injury.
Current advisors: Toni Antonucci and Jacqui Smith.
Research Interests: Broadly, social relations across the lifespan, especially with respect to adulthood and aging.
If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? Disney World parks princess.
Favorite thing about Michigan so far? The history, like how the University of Michigan was established before Michigan was even a state!
What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Kayaking.
What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Baking, watching historical period dramas, and blogging about ducks.
If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? Teleportation.

Lauren Tighe

Prior Institution: University of Michigan
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? High school math teacher in Detroit.
Current advisors: Pam Davis-Kean and Toni Antonucci (Psychology); Larry Gant (Social Work).
Research Interests: Predictors of academic achievement, particularly in disadvantaged areas; Education program assessment and evaluation.
If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? Be a music supervisor for TV shows and movies.
Favorite thing about Michigan so far? It's pure!
What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Summer music festivals, hiking in the Upper Peninsula, porch/patio time.
What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Running, watching HBO, motorcycles, dining.
If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? The ability to stop time.

Neelima Wagley

Prior Institution: Michigan State University
What were you doing before coming to Michigan? Finishing my undergraduate degree.
Current advisor: Ioulia Kovelman.
Research Interests: Understanding the cognitive processes behind language acquisition, bilingualism, and drawing parallels between music and language.
If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? Something in the field of Public Health.
Favorite thing about Michigan so far? All the restaurants in Ann Arbor!
What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Being more outdoorsy and enjoying nature. Maybe training for a half marathon.
What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Cooking, traveling, playing the violin, visiting zoos around the state.
If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? The ability to fly.
Developments

Margaret Echelbarger & Arianna Gard

1st year students as Disney Villains

Paige Safyer, Steven Roberts, Rosanne Jocson, & Soraya Giaccardi as Space Jam Looney Tunes characters

Neelima Wagley & Emma Beyers Carlson

Fernanda & Alice Cross

Amira Halawah & Jasmine Manalel
Welcome Postdocs!

COLLECTED BY JASMINE MANALEL

Julia Lippman

Rebecca Waller

Prior Institution: University of Michigan, Ph.D., Hampshire College, B.A.
What were you doing before starting your post-doc position at Michigan? Completing my PhD in Communication here at Michigan.
Faculty Advisor: Monique Ward
What are your research interests and what current projects are you working on? My research focuses on the ways in which media contribute to sexual socialization. In what ways do media shape our understanding of what healthy and unhealthy relationships and sexuality look like? Examples of things I am currently studying include links between media use, gender beliefs, and dating violence, effects of sexually objectifying media on women’s sexual agency, and sexting.
If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? The cop-out answer is that I would be in communication, because that’s my background. The fantasy never-gonna-happen answer is that I would be an aerial acrobat. How cool would that be?
Favorite thing about Michigan so far? The end of winter. That’s still on for this year, right?
What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Rhinos. Growing my ever-expanding music collection.
What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Something involving a beach.
Fun fact about yourself: I’m red-green color blind. Super rare for a woman!

Prior Institution: University of Oxford, Ph.D. & B.A.
What were you doing before starting your post-doc position at Michigan? Completing my PhD at the University of Oxford
Faculty Advisor: Luke Hyde
What are your research interests and what current projects are you working on? I am interested in behavioral and personality precursors of empathy, psychopathy, and antisocial behavior from a developmental psychopathology perspective. I am working on a number of different projects so I won’t list them all, but here a few selected highlights: (1) examining the continuity of callousness across childhood and links to externalizing behavior problems among high risk children, (2) examining the neural correlates of behaviors relevant to the construct of psychopathy among both high risk and normative samples of adolescents and young adults, including empathy, boldness, meanness, and disinhibition, (3) examining temperamental precursors of callous-unemotional traits in childhood and adolescence, including the importance of fearlessness and low anxiety to these traits, and (4) examining how characteristics of parents (e.g., psychopathic traits, criminality, and psychopathology) and parental practices (e.g., warmth, harshness, involvement) in early childhood are differentially related to callous-unemotional traits and/or externalizing behavior problems at school age (and how we can use this research to inform preventative and early-starting interventions for antisocial behavior).
Welcome Postdocs Continued...

Rebecca Waller
If you weren’t in developmental psychology, what would you want to be doing instead? Before completing my PhD, I was actually a Science Teacher in a large state school in London. I taught Biology, Chemistry, and Physics to students aged 11-16 and taught psychology to students aged 16-18 years old. So if I wasn’t pursuing a career in academia, I imagine I’d be a teacher again. It was a very challenging, but hugely rewarding time in my life.

Favorite thing about Michigan so far? Football games & tailgating; running along the river; playing shuffleboard in ABC; almond milk (can’t get that in England!).

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Running, yoga, rowing, watching sports (any!), crafting.

What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Remembering what it’s like to be warm/what the sun feels like!!! (It’s been a *tough* winter).
Meet New Faculty

Dr. Deborah Rivas-Drake

COLLECTED BY FERNANDA CROSS

What were you doing before starting your faculty position at Michigan?

I was an Assistant Professor at Brown University.

What are your current research interests?

A growing literature on the role of racial and ethnic processes in ethnic minority youths’ experiences, relationships, contexts, and adjustment suggests that such processes are part of their normative development. My lab (Contexts of Academic and Social Adaptation, or CASA Lab) explores the implications of ethnic and racial socialization, identity, and discrimination for academic, psychological, and health outcomes among adolescents and young adults. Drawing from diverse theoretical and methodological approaches, we examine variation in processes both within and between groups, with particular emphasis on those that support and promote positive outcomes among ethnic minority youth.

Where do you see your research program headed?

My goals are to better explicate the role of everyday contexts—family, school, peers—in the development of ethnic/racial identity and in its implications for academic and psychosocial functioning. I will continue to use multiple methods and am exploring new approaches for assessing peer influences in school.

How did you get interested in your research area?

I started grad school with a question that was at the intersection of resilience, motivation, and cultural processes: Why do some youth persist in school despite being exposed to cultural and economic stressors and others do not? This was my basic question. As I learned more about cultural resources (e.g., ethnic identity) I became more deeply interested in how youth cultivate such resources as part of normative development and their role, in turn, in positive outcomes among diverse ethnic minority youth, particularly Latino and African American adolescents and young adults.

What else would you like to tell us about yourself?

I am very excited to be here and welcome any inquiries about my new projects, the lab, or about my research interests more generally.

CASA Lab Members 2014
Professional & Personal Milestones

COLLECTED BY JU-HYUN SONG

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS

Toni Antonucci was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Pamela Davis-Kean was appointed Program Chair for the Association for Psychological Science (APS) 2015 meeting. She was the Developmental Chair for the last two years but will manage the full program this time.

Susan Gelman was elected to the Cognitive Science Society Governing Board.

Luke Hyde received a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse titled, “The development of externalizing: Specific versus general effects on biological and environmental risk.”

Kevin Miller’s co-authored study “The credible shrinking room: Very young children’s performance with symbolic and nonsymbolic relations (DeLoache, J. S., Miller, K. F., & Rosengren, K. S., 1997, Psychological Science, 8, 308-313)” was reported in the January SRCD newsletter as the #1 entry among the “Twenty most fascinating studies in child psychology since 1960,” selected by a survey of the membership of SRCD, ISIS, and the Cognitive Development Society. Judy DeLoache is a LIFE faculty member from UVA and Karl Rosengren is a former post-doc at UM and currently a faculty member at Northwestern.

Christopher Monk, Luke Hyde and Colter Mitchell (ISR), received a 5-year grant from NIH titled, “Effects of poverty on affective development: A multi-level, longitudinal study.” The objective is to better understand how poverty impacts brain development and stress hormone regulation and contributes to increased risk for affective conditions.

Fredrick Morrison received an NSF grant titled “Exploring the effects of schooling on changes in behavioral and neurological indices of children’s executive functioning” (July 2014 to June 2017).

Stephanie Rowley received the UM Psychology Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award.

Arnold Sameroff received the “In Honor of Arnold Sameroff Award” by the FABBS Foundation. The FABBS Foundation "In Honor Of..." program recognizes eminent senior scientists who have made important and lasting contributions to the studies of mind, brain, and behavior. http://www.fabbs.org/fabbs-foundation/honoring-our-scientists/in-honor-of-arnold-j-sameroff/

John Schulenberg was elected president of Society for Research on Adolescence, thus continuing a great UM tradition. Four out of 15 past SRA presidents included UM’s Jacque Ec-...es/documents/E-News/57-1.pdf (pp.7-8)

Henry Wellman received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education and Development at the University of Minnesota, where he obtained his Ph.D.

CURRENT STUDENT AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Adriana Aldana was awarded the Rosemary Sarri Scholarship in Management, Social Policy or Community Organization.

Nkemka Anyiwo received a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, the Ford Foundation Predoctoral award and the Arts of Citizenship grant.

Maria Arredondo was selected as a speaker for the Pat Gurin Distinguished Lecture Series, and received a Barbara A. Oleshansky Memorial Fund Award and a Rackham International Research Award.

Tissyana Camacho won a Roger W. Brown Research Award for her study on race-based discrimination and prejudice.

Arianna Gard received an Honorable Mention in the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship competition.

Selin Gulgoz received the Pillsbury Award (Winter 2014) and a Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant.
Rosanne Jocson received the Rackham International Student Fellowship, the IRWG/Rackham Graduate Research Fellowship, the Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, and the ISR/Rackham Summer Training Award.

Patty Kuo received a Psychology Dissertation/Thesis Grant, Rackham Graduate Student Research and Travel grants, and an ISR-Rackham Summer Training Award. She was also selected to serve on the APA Science Student Council as the Developmental Psychology Representative for a 2-year term (2013-2015).

Meghan Martz received a NIDA Interdisciplinary Substance Abuse T32 Training Award.

Lauren Reed received a Kellogg Children and Family Fellowship, a Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, a Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, and became a LIFE fellow.

Steven Roberts received a Diversity Research Award from the Department of Psychology.

Ju-Hyun Song was selected to receive a Sweetland/Rackham Dissertation Writing Institute Fellowship for spring 2014 and received an ISR-Rackham Summer Training Award and a Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant.

Wylie Wan was nominated for a Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship and selected as a LIFE Fellow Speaker (representative for the UM LIFE fellows in the LIFE International Ph.D. Program). She was also selected as a recipient of the Elizabeth Douvan Junior Scholar Fund in Life Course Development from the Institute for Social Research.

Abigail Williams received the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis Endowed scholarship from the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Sciences, a Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, and a Rackham Travel Grant to present at the 2014 Society for Research on Adolescence meeting in Austin, Texas. She was also accepted as a Life Course: Evolutionary and Ontogenetic Dynamics Fellow.

Amber Williams was selected for induction into the Bouchet Honor Society.

JOBS, PROMOTIONS, AWARDS & TENURE

Adriana Aldana accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the School of Social Ecology (Department of Planning, Policy and Design) at the University of California, Irvine.

Daniel Choe accepted an assistant professor position in Human Development and Family Studies in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of California, Davis.

Jennie Grammer accepted a tenure-track position in the UCLA School of Education.

Jonathan Lane accepted an assistant professor position in the Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University (starting in January 2015).

Cristine Legare attained tenure at the University of Texas at Austin.

Julie Maslowsky accepted an assistant professor position in Health Behavior and Health Education in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education at the University of Texas at Austin.

Sarah Trinh accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the Carolina Consortium on Human Development and will be working with Dr. Carolyn Halpern at UNC Chapel Hill.

COMPLETED DISSERTATIONS


Elizabeth Buvinger (May, 2013): "Measuring Internalizing Symptomatology in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders." (Dissertation Chair: Christopher Monk)

Johnna Swartz (July, 2013): "Emotion Processing in Children and Adolescents with Anxiety Disorders and Typically Developing Youth." (Dissertation Chair: Christopher Monk)

COMPLETED 619s


Rosanne Jocson: "Neighborhood and housing disorder, parenting, and youth adjustment in low-income urban families," with Drs. Vonnie McLoyd & Rosario Ceballo (April, 2014)

SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS


Rivas-Drake, D. et al., four publications in Child Development, 85 (1) Special Section: "Ethnic and Racial Identity in Child Development"


PERSONAL

Amira Halawah was engaged to Brad Smith in September, 2013.


Lorraine Nadelman is celebrating her 90th birthday in May. Forty of those years were spent teaching, at New York University, Mount Holyoke College, and the University of Michigan, with 31 of those years at UM. At Michigan, she co-founded the Developmental area, introduced the Child Development lecture course (1966), and the Developmental Laboratory course (1967), and taught both each semester until retirement in 1993. Married to the late Sidney Warschausky for 57 years, they have three children and 8 grandchildren.

Wylie Wan served as Co-President (Fall 2013) of GradTONES, a multidisciplinary graduate student a cappella singing group formed in 2012.

Henry Wellman’s oldest son Ned received his Ph.D. from the UM Ross School of Business. Ned and his wife had their first child, Chase Michael Wellman, making Henry a grandfather for the first time in June, 2013.

Abigail Williams got engaged in October, 2013 in a birthday surprise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 12th National Head Start Research Conference will be held July 7-9, 2014 in Washington DC. John Hagen serves as co-chair of the program committee and many folks from UM will attend. Registration is free and open to interested scholars and students! http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/events/head-starts-12th-national-research-conference-early

The partnership between the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and the Conceptual Development Lab has been a great boon to the area. Developmental area researchers at the museum lab site, the Living Lab, have recruited over 1500 children as research participants since November, 2012. The Living Lab model is now being expanded to the main branch of the Ann Arbor District Library. Craig Smith pioneered the Living Lab model in Ann Arbor. For more information about the Living Lab, feel free to contact Craig (craigsm@umich.edu), or visit these websites: www.aahom.org/experience/events/living-lab-research-project www.livinglab.org
Conference Spotlight: Society for Research on Adolescence
15th Biennial Meeting in Austin, Texas on March 20-22, 2014
By ROSANNE JOCSON

The Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) is a professional association that aims to enhance the wellbeing of youth through the advancement of research and discourse on theoretical, empirical and policy issues surrounding adolescence. The biennial meeting gathers a community of scholars, educators, and other professionals around the world and serves as an avenue for research dissemination and networking among its members.

This year, the biennial meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel in Austin, Texas. In accordance with the theme of “Social Justice,” many of the topics on the program tackled relevant issues on adolescent development and their intersections with policy, practice, and reform. The organizers coordinated this year’s meeting with the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM), and one of the highlights was a joint session conducted on March 22nd that focused on various aspects concerning adolescent health.

Also new at this year’s conference was the special event, “Adolescence in Diverse Contexts” Poster Session Reception and Breakfast Hour, which was held on the morning of March 21st. This special session featured poster presentations that addressed important diversity issues in adolescent development. The well attended session drew scholars with research interests on a wide range of topics concerning ethnic and sexual minority youth, youth with disabilities, and youth from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Developmental Psychology area was well represented at the conference through the several presentations of faculty, students, postdocs, and alumni. Monique Ward and her graduate students conducted paper discussion symposia on contexts for sexual socialization and on the relations between media use and adolescent mental and physical health. Other developmental graduate students and faculty presented their research projects in individual paper and poster sessions, and also participated in roundtable discussions.

Developmental faculty and students are also well represented in SRA governance and committees. We warmly congratulate John Schullenberg for being elected the next SRA president (2014-2016), adding to the list of past presidents from the Developmental area, which includes Vonnie Mcloyd (2006-2008) and Jacquelynne Eccles (2002-2004). Since 2012, Meghan Martz has also been serving as the Emerging Scholars Representative for the Consensus Statements Committee, which produces statements that represent the diverse membership of SRA. Their first consensus statement will be published in the Journal for Research on Adolescence, and will cover the current state of research and scholarship on why the entitlements and protections outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are just as important for adolescence as they are for earlier periods of development.

Overall, the conference was a great success. The symposia and poster sessions were well organized and attended, and the variety of topics presented provided ample opportunities for interdisciplinary discussions. Austin was a great venue to hold the conference, and offered plenty of sights, good food, and live music for attendees to enjoy after the program.

Save the dates for the next SRA biennial meeting on March 31 – April 2, 2016 in Baltimore, MD.
Developments

Meghan Martz in Austin for SRA

Ward Lab (past & present) members at SRA

Developmental students with other Psychology graduate students at Guero’s Taco Bar in Austin after the SRA conference

"Adolescence in Diverse Contexts" Poster Session Reception in SRA

Rowley & CASA joint lab meeting at SRA

Lauren Reed, Rosanne Jocson, and Sarah Trinh enjoying dinner in Austin after SRA
Center for Human Growth and Development (CHGD) 50th Anniversary
BY JU-HYUN SONG, BRENDA VOLLING, TWILA TARDIFF & HENRY WELLMAN

FACULTY INTERVIEW

Brenda Volling – Director of CHGD

Q1) What makes CHGD special in its contribution to the field in general? CHGD’s special contribution to UM is its truly interdisciplinary focus on research on child health and development. Faculty affiliated with the center are from disciplines such as psychology, pediatrics, psychiatry, public health, social work, obstetrics, and neonatology. This mix of interdisciplinary faculty allows each researcher to have contact with others with shared interests but perhaps different understandings and methods for conducting research. I think it is this exposure and collaboration across disciplines that allows CHGD faculty to create innovative studies that they could not do alone.

Q2) What makes CHGD special for you individually? CHGD provides an environment where I am able to work with people I would not ordinarily have been able to. Because of the strong ties between the center and a number of the departments in the medical school, I have been able to form collaborations to do studies with populations that would be difficult to access (e.g., preterm infants) without a faculty collaborator from another unit on campus. As director of the center, I also get immense satisfaction helping junior faculty launch their ideas and careers.

Q3) What do you see as the best future direction for CHGD? I think there are many potential future directions, several of which will build on our current strengths. We have a strong group of researchers focused on bringing a developmental perspective to the study of childhood obesity, and another group devoted to developmental neuroscience, particularly the use of fNIRS (functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy) for early brain development. We have a cadre of interdisciplinary faculty members working with fNIRS that allows them to do neuroimaging of very young children. We also have another interdisciplinary group focused on fathers, families, and children’s development, in addition to several growth areas we are trying to build, including the effects of poverty and stress on health and development, developmental epigenetics, prenatal origins of health and development, and child mental health from a global perspective. The center is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2014. It is an exciting time as we think about the center’s future.

Twila Tardiff

Q1) What makes CHGD special in its contribution to the field in general? The variety of perspectives that our researchers - faculty, students, and staff - bring to questions of importance in child development make CHGD special. From its inception, CHGD has had an interdisciplinary focus on child development. Early in its history, anthropologists, dentists, and pediatricians found their home here. More recently, we added faculty from psychology (developmental and clinical), psychiatry, pediatrics, audiology, kinesiology, Romance languages and linguistics, and radiology.

Q2) What makes CHGD special for you individually? CHGD has always been a place where I have learned from my colleagues. This was true when I was a postdoctoral fellow 20 years ago, and it is true now. I always enjoy hearing talks from different disciplinary perspectives on child development and learning about different ways of asking questions and solving problems. The long-serving staff is at the heart of the Center. Without them, nothing would take place there. Visits to the Center often involve stopping in just to check in and chat with the staff. The dedication they have shown to CHGD is unparalleled and I am grateful for having had them as a part of my life for the past 20 years.

Q3) What do you see as the best future direction for CHGD? I see CHGD as continuing to lead Developmental Science in new directions, and as asking questions, together as a team, that individuals and single departments cannot do on their own.
Q1) What makes CHGD special in its contribution to the field in general?
We are all now advocates of developmental science, and we know that involves interdisciplinary and international research merging behavioral and biological perspectives on development. For the field at large this is a relatively recent trend. But for 50 years, since its inception, interdisciplinary bio-behavioral research has been the mission of CHGD. CHGD didn’t revolutionize the field and give birth to developmental science on its own; many factors contribute to its emergence. But CHGD helped by always championing and exemplifying the promise of such a broader approach.

Q2) What makes CHGD special for you individually?
For me CHGD has always been special for the colleagues and friends and mentors it provided. Early in my career, and for many years, Harold Stevenson was an especially important UM colleague and mentor (and his international/collaborative approach to research was specially inspiring). I'm not the Harold W. Stevenson Collegiate Professor by accident. Later in my career Twila Tardif, Arnie Sameroff, Margaret Evans, and the numerous international collaborators that CHGD helped me to connect and collaborate with were and are very important, including C.C. Jing, Paul Harris, Willem Koops, Paul Baltes and Candi Peterson to name a few. Relatedly, CHGD has consistently provided unique facilities, colleagues and opportunities for the many students and post-docs I’ve been fortunate to work with: David Estes, Karen Bartsch, Jacqui Woolley, Meeta Banerjee, Kristin Lagattuta, Mark Sabbagh, David Liu, Jon Lane, Lindsay Bowman, and more.

Q3) What do you see as the best future direction for CHGD?
Developmental neuroscience in its broadest sense, especially cognition and learning, including typical and atypical development, "normal" development and development amid challenges. I know that developmental neuroscience is a "hot" direction for the entire field, but that doesn’t make it any less important or any less best for CHGD. 