Message from the Chair

BY VONNIE C. MCLoyD

The Developmental Program is vibrant and bustling with activity. In Fall 2014, Whitney Mattson and Matthew Stevenson joined us to begin their postdoctoral studies, supported by the NICHD Developmental Psychology Training Grant. We also welcomed four new doctoral students whose profiles, along those of Whit and Matt, appear in this newsletter. They are highly talented and energetic, and their pathways to graduate study in developmental psychology are unusually diverse and fascinating (one has a law degree, another is pursuing a PhD while also earning her MD). We appreciate their diligence and ingenuity in our recruitment of students and the novel and amusing social events they organized throughout the year.

Recruitment Weekend was full of good cheer and showcased the intellectually rich, diverse, and supportive training environment that distinguishes our program. It was also highly successful. We are delighted that seven new students will enter the Developmental Program in Fall 2015—Josefina Banales (Illinois Wesleyan), Kevin Constante Toala (CUNY), Vanessa Cox (University of Missouri-Columbia), Petal Grower (SUNY-Binghamton), Danielle Labotka (University of Chicago), Jazmine Powell (University of Michigan), and Sarah Stilwell (University of Michigan). In addition, two students entering the Joint Program in Social Work and Psychology in the fall will affiliate with the Developmental Program—Berencie Castillo (University of Southern California) and Joyce Lee (Columbia University).

During the past year, our students and faculty racked up a lengthy list of noteworthy accomplishments, honors, and awards. Special kudos to Kai Cortina and Pamela Davis-Kean on their promotions to Full Professor. Many of our students competed successfully for prestigious external (e.g., NSF) and intramural fellowships and research awards.

Tissyana Camacho is this year’s recipient of the Hagen-Stevenson Dissertation Award, named for Professor Emeritus John Hagen and our esteemed late colleague, Harold Stevenson.

Congratulations to all of you! Your many accolades are a tremendous source of pride for the Developmental Program and the Department.

Hats off to our students who completed the program this year—Selin Golgoz, Matthew Kim, Lauren Reed, and Ju-Hyun Song. Others are nearing completion—Ninive Sanchez, Wylie Wan, and Amber Williams. We wish you the best as you begin the next stage of your careers as postdoctoral fellows and assistant professors. Keep in touch and continue the tradition of stellar and meaningful scholarship.

The University of Michigan reception at the 2015 meeting of SRCD in Philadelphia was a high-spirited and well-attended affair. Social media does not appear to have diminished the pleasure we derive from this biennial opportunity to chat, reminisce, and catch up on what’s happening in the lives of our friends and colleagues. There was a somber moment at the reception when Rebecca Levine Coley, an alumnus, made an impromptu tribute to Lois Wladis Hoffman, who passed away in February 2015. Lois had a long and distinguished career at Michigan, which included a stint as Chair of the Developmental Area. Many thanks to John Hagen for sharing his remembrances and photographs of Lois in this newsletter. Plans are underway for a memorial service in the department to honor Lois’ professional contributions, but details have not been finalized.

Editor:
Fernanda Cross

Faculty Advisors:
Margaret Evans
Ioulia Kovelman

Committee Reporters:
Kimberly Brink
Jaime Muñoz-Velázquez

Article Contributors:
Vonnie C. Mcloyd
John Hagen

Photo Contributors:
Fernanda Cross
Patty Kuo
Kai Cortina
John Hagen
Rosanne Jocson
Meghan Martz
Emma Beyers Carlson
Humans of East Hall

Facebook Page
Welcome New Students!

COLLECTED BY JAIME MUÑOZ VELÁZQUEZ

Francheska Alers-Rojas

Prior Institution: University of Puerto Rico Law School.

What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan? I was a Program Assistant at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and a research assistant in Dr. Rosario Ceballo’s lab and Dr. David Cordova’s Prevention Research and Health Equity Lab at the School of Social Work.

Current Advisors: Dr. Rosario Ceballo

Research Interests: I am broadly interested in the intersections of socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity and child development.

A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning? I had a 9th and 10th grade Spanish Literature teacher who ignored exam scores when assigning final grades. Instead, she rewarded class participation, critical thinking and pushed us outside our comfort zone.

If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead? I would have continued working as a civil litigation attorney, probably in immigration law or a related field.

One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? I am looking forward to spending some time in Puerto Rico with my friends and family.

Favorite thing about Michigan so far? I love that there are so many things to do around campus that I have to prioritize the lectures, workshops and events I can go to.

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? I enjoy practicing Aikido, reading biographies and fiction novels and cooking (a lot of Puerto Rican food).

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

Janelle Davis

Prior Institution: Kalamazoo College.

What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan? I completed undergrad and then took a year off to work in a barbeque joint/brewery learning to butcher and preserve meat.

Current Advisors: Dr. Rona Carter & Dr. Gearhardt (B Advisor)

Research Interests: I am interested in the socialization of eating disorders. I am hoping to delve into male disordered eating and better understand how it might differ and what childhood/adolescent factors contribute to those differences.

A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning? My aunt is a first grade and special education teacher. She has dedicated her whole life to teaching. Even when she was at home she’d include me on craft projects for her kids or grading. She is also constantly giving it her all. I hope to be able to emulate her drive and commitment when I teach.

If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead? During my year off, I seriously contemplated going to culinary school instead of grad school. If I were not here I would have been on my way to a cooking degree and eventually a small local focus restaurant.

One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? This summer I am returning to Thailand for two weeks to visit my host family and see my friend’s graduation from nursing school.

Favorite thing about Michigan so far? The incredible people I’ve gotten to meet and work with has probably been my favorite part so far.

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? I love cooking and usually tend to go a little crazy on breaks with new recipes. I also re-
Welcome New Students Continued...

ally enjoy hiking with my dog and camping.

If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? Teleportation; I love traveling and the money I could save by using teleportation would be AWESOME!

If you were no longer a student and a life coach and a children’s book writer 😊.

My favorite thing about Michigan so far? My favorite thing about Michigan would be the beautiful seasons—especially the summer.

If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be? I would want the ability to fly around outer space.

Favorite thing about Michigan so far? The weather. Just kidding. All the amazing restaurants! Full tea service at TeaHaus. Bubble tea at Sweetology. Churros at Aventura.

What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? I am looking forward to spending time outdoors and participating in some fun river activities.

A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning? Dr. Chris Peterson, my undergraduate research advisor, taught me that some of the most important lessons in life are learned outside the classroom. His trademark saying was “Other people matter,” and I try to live by those words every day.

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? I enjoy swimming. It is a very relaxing activity. I also enjoy photography, taking candid pictures of people in their surroundings.

One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? Traveling to Switzerland with my friends.

If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead? Going to culinary school and opening up a bakery with my best friend.

If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead? Working on becoming a life coach and a children’s book writer 😊.

Favorite thing about Michigan so far? The weather. Just kidding. All the amazing restaurants! Full tea service at TeaHaus. Bubble tea at Sweetology. Churros at Aventura.

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Choreographing dances for the med school musical, baking with my roommate, watching videos of golden retriever puppies.

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

Time travel.

Jaime Muñoz Velázquez

Prior Institution: California State University, Fullerton.

What were you doing before coming to Michigan? I worked in the Fullerton Twin Studies Center at CSUF. I worked on various twin studies that examined social behaviors.

Current Advisor: Chris Monk

Research Interests: The impact of perceived racism on brain development and affective function in adolescence.

A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning? Mrs. Morin and Mr. Prutter, both were my English teachers in High School. They challenged me to be a better student and to give 110% of me in everything that I do.

If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead? I would be working on becoming a life coach and a children’s book writer 😊.

Current Advisor: Jacqui Smith

Research Interests: Psychosocial predictors of health among older adults.

A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning? Dr. Chris Peterson, my undergraduate research advisor, taught me that some of the most important lessons in life are learned outside the classroom. His trademark saying was “Other people matter,” and I try to live by those words every day.

Favorite thing about Michigan so far? The weather. Just kidding. All the amazing restaurants! Full tea service at TeaHaus. Bubble tea at Sweetology. Churros at Aventura.

What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests? Choreographing dances for the med school musical, baking with my roommate, watching videos of golden retriever puppies.

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

Time travel.

Jennifer Sun

Prior Institution: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan? I have been at the University of Michigan since 2007 (8 years!), so before I was here, I was in high school and danc-
Welcome Postdocs!

**COLLECTED BY JAIME MUÑOZ VELÁZQUEZ**

**If you were not in developmental psychology, what would you be doing instead?** I would likely either be a professional chef or a starving podcaster.

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** Being back in a place where there are seasons—a hot cup of cider and a heavily spiced donut on a below freezing day!

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** Running, cooking, reading - especially bad fantasy and science-fiction novels.

**What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** Training for and completing a half marathon.

**Fun fact about yourself:** I lived in Indonesia for 3 months and travelled for 2 months through the interior of Mexico and Central America (alas I still can’t speak competent Spanish).

**Best advice you can give to graduate students currently pursuing a PhD?** Do not get too focused on the minutiae of a single project and forget to keep moving ever forward. Also—if you can manage it—wait till your dissertation is defended to be a new parent!

**Prior Institution:** Arizona State University, Ph.D.; University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, clinical internship; University of Rochester, B.A.

**Faculty Advisor:** Brenda Volling

**What are your research interests and what current projects are you working on?** I am interested in the role of fathers in child development and developmental psychopathology. More specifically my research focuses on three main areas: 1) advancing foundational attachment theory as it relates to father-child relationships; 2) the unique impact of fathers on the development of children’s self-regulation and social skills; and 3) the vulnerability of fathering and father-child relationships to marital conflict and family risk.

**If you were not in developmental psychology, what would you be doing instead?** Completing a masters in brewing science at UC Davis, apprenticing at a brewery, and opening up a local craft brewery with an attached artisanal cheese shop and bakery. I will be needing bakers and cheesemakers folks...

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** The people here are probably the nicest of any place that I have lived. I am going to add in food as well because Ann Arbor has tons of great places to eat.

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** MUSIC, brewing beer, hiking, reading, wanting to...
learn about making cheese and basic gardening.

What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer? I have never lived in this part of the country, so definitely checking out the Great Lakes.

Fun fact about yourself: I used to work summers as an electrical engineer for my friend’s dad’s company that built huge industrial automated machines. If you have used a Clinique eye-liner brush, I helped make the machine that puts in the bristles. If you like Yankee Candles, I helped make the machine that puts on the lids in production.

Best advice you can give to graduate students currently pursuing a PhD? Be stubborn and do not give up when you have a setback or you are told you cannot do something (although not when your advisor says so!). I did not match for clinical internship the first time and was devastated, but was able to get out an extra paper in the unplanned “extra” year of grad school. Ultimately this put me in a better position for a post doc.

Enjoying life during the LIFE academy in Berlin. This photo was taken in front of the world famous Brandenburg Gate.
From left to right: Alanna Epstein (CPEP), Ziyong Lin (CCN), Steven Roberts (Developmental), Wylie Wan (Developmental), Lauren Reed (Developmental), Abigail Williams (Developmental), Bill Chopik (P&SC), Francisco Velasquez (Developmental)

Toni Antonucci having a good laugh with Eleanor Seaton at the SRCD Michigan Reception. Dr. Seaton was a post-doc at the Program for Research on Black Americans at UofM!

The 2014 Cohort. From left to right: Jennifer Sun, Francheska Alers-Rojas, Jaime Muñoz Velázquez, Janelle Davis
Professional & Personal Milestones

COLLECTED BY KIMBERLY BRINK

Frederick Morrison, Pam Davis-Kean and Bill Gehring received an NSF grant titled “Exploring the effects of schooling on brain and behavioral measures of executive functioning” (7/2014-6/2017).

Frederick Morrison’s article “Longitudinal relations between parental writing support and preschoolers’ language and literacy skills,” published in Reading Research Quarterly, 48(4), 387-401 (Oct/Nov/Dec 2013), was selected as the winner of the 2015 ILA Dina Feitelson Research Award.


Brenda Volling and Matt Stevenson were chosen by the Jacobs Foundation to join a group of scholars for a week-long residence at Marbach Castle. They will be working with Daniel Paquette from the University of Montreal and Natasha Cabrera from the University of Maryland to develop an observational coding scheme for father-child interaction that will be made available to others conducting research on fathers.


CURRENT STUDENT AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Maria Arredondo received a Journal of Cognitive Neuropsychology Student Travel Award to attend the fnIRS conference. She was also an invited research fellow to the Summer School Workshop on Language Development sponsored by the European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCoP) at Basque Center of Cognition, Brain and Language (BCBL).

Tisyana Camacho was awarded the Hagen-Stevenson Dissertation Award and was appointed as a 2015-16 Departmental Associate. She was also elected to the Departmental Executive Committee for 2015-16.

Elise Hernandez was chosen as the Organization of Latino Social Workers (OLASW)-Michigan Chapter PhD Student of the Year 2014. She also received the Social Work Faculty Allies for Diversity Manuscript Writing Fellowship.

Rosanne Jocson received the Barbour Scholarship, the Telluride Association Fellowship, and a Rackham International Research Award.

Patty Kuo gave her first SRCD talk this year, and had a lively discussion during her symposium on the predictors and outcomes of shared infant care. Patty successfully defended her Prospectus in August 2014. She also received a Rackham Travel Grant, the
Eric Bermann Research Award for best proposed doctoral research on family processes, and an APA Student Travel Award.

**Megan Martz** received a Rackham Summer Award and was named an EARA-SRA Summer School Junior Scholar.

**Lauren Reed** received the John F. Longres Award, Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Sciences, University of Michigan.

**Ninive Sanchez** accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Social Work, University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Preeti Samudra** received the department's Pillsbury Research Award.

**Ju-Hyun Song** was selected as a speaker for the Pat Gurin Distinguished Lecture Series.

**Abigail Williams** received the Doctoral Scholarship for Underrepresented Students, the Global Social Work Learning Community International Research Grant, a Harold and Vivian Shapiro/John Malik/Jean Forrest Award, a Travel Award for the Biennial Division 45 Research Conference, and the John W. Holmes award.

**Amber Williams** received a Harold and Vivian Shapiro/John Malik/Jean Forrest Award.

**JOBS, PROMOTIONS, AWARDS & TENURE**

**Selin Gülgöz** accepted a one-year visiting Assistant Professor position at Calamazoo College.

**Lauren Reed** accepted a position as the Assistant Project Scientist for the Center for School-based Youth Development at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Marjorie Rhodes** was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at NYU.

**Jenny Labounty** was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure this spring at Lewis & Clark University.

**Wylie Wan** will be moving on to a postdoctoral position at the Department of Psychology at Portland State University. She will mainly work with faculty in the industrial-organizational area on a project funded by the Department of Defense to study supervisor support, veterans’ reintegration into the workforce, and veterans’ and their partner’s relationship and health.

**COMPLETED DISSERTATIONS**


**SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS**


Manago, A.M., Ward, L.M., Lemm, K., Reed, L., & Seabrook, R. (in


PERSONAL

Toni Antonucci welcomed her first grandchild, Josephine, born on January 29th.

Marjorie Rhodes had her second baby, Adam, shortly after attending SRCD.
The Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD) is a professional association that aims to promote multidisciplinary research in the field of human development, to foster the exchange of information among scientists and other professionals of various disciplines, and to encourage applications of research findings. The biennial meeting gathers a community of scholars, educators, and other professionals from around the world and serves as an avenue for research dissemination and networking among its members.

The biennial meeting was held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The conference included research that spanned a wide range of developmental domains, including epigenetics, brain processes and development, children of war, ethnic and racial identity, gender development, learning from video games, after-school program effects, conceptual development, moral development, bio-ecological models, positive youth development, ASD, culture and development, immigration, obesity and food preferences, statistics and global developmental research.

This year, there were many positive changes to the program. New presentation formats were introduced at the conference that aimed to facilitate dialogue and collaboration, support students and junior scholars, and advance the four priority areas of SRCD’s strategic plan—diversity, interdisciplinary science, international representation, and policy. "State-of-the-Art" sessions were intended to help researchers keep up to date on developmental methods and the “how” of research. The “Views-by-Two” sessions presented two complementary perspectives on a theme. The “Taking Science to the Streets” sessions focused on the public face of developmental science. Finally, following these sessions there was the new opportunity to further engage invited speakers in smaller discussion groups at Follow-up Discussion Sessions which immediately followed selected program sessions.

The University of Michigan Developmental Psychology Area was well represented at the conference through the several presentations, individual paper, and poster sessions of faculty, students, postdocs, and alumni. Pre-conference events are also becoming a more prominent feature of the Biennial Meeting. A former Michigan graduate student, Cristine Legare, gave a well-attended talk on Cross-Cultural Cognitive Development at a pre-conference symposium. We also warmly congratulate Brenda Volling for receiving one of SRCD’s Strategic Planning Awards to organize an international network of fatherhood researchers.

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. Philadelphia was a great venue to hold the conference, and offered plenty of historical sights and good food for attendees to enjoy.

Save the dates for the next SRCD Biennial Meeting on April 6-8, 2017 in Austin, Texas.

Conference Spotlight:
Society for Research on Child Development
2015 Biennial Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 19-21
By KIMBERLY BRINK

Ju-Hyun Song and Patty Kuo in Philadelphia for SRCD

Emma Beyers Carlson in Philadelphia for SRCD
Developments

Roseanne Jocson & Vonnie McLoyd in Philadelphia for SRCD

U of M undergraduate students presenting their research projects to undergraduate students at Beijing Normal University as part of a 3-week long trip to China. These are students who take Kevin Miller and Kai Cortina’s class on Advanced Developmental Research Methods (Psych 457). The students also work together on joint intercultural projects.

Paige Safyer in Philadelphia for SRCD

Caught at Jimmy John’s thinking about a Brown Bag he recently attended! John Hagen is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology and a Research Professor Emeritus at CHGD.
Lois Wladis Hoffman 1929-2015

BY JOHN HAGEN

Lois Wladis Hoffman was a faculty member in the Department of Psychology, University of Michigan from 1971 until her retirement in 1997. She continued to live primarily in Ann Arbor until her death on February 13, 2015. Born in Elmira, NY on March 25, 1929, she received her B.A. from the University of Buffalo in New York (1950) and the M.A. from Purdue (1954). She achieved the Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 1958. From 1954 through 1960, Lois worked in various roles at the Institute of Social Research (ISR).

During the 1960’s she co-edited influential volumes, Review of Child Development Research, with Martin Hoffman. Her appointment as Lecturer in psychology at Michigan began in 1967 and she was promoted to Associate Professor (1971) and then to Professor (1975). Her primary affiliation was with the Developmental Program, where she achieved a great success as a teacher, researcher and scholar. She was a major contributor to the program and department, as she built a reputation as an outstanding teacher and mentor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Her well-known text Developmental Psychology Today went through six editions. Her awards included the Outstanding Teaching Award (1981), Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Teaching (1994) and the LSA Excellence in Education Award (1994). She also helped establish the Women’s Studies Program and chaired the Developmental Psychology Program. Nationally, she served as president of both Div. 7 (Developmental) and Div. 9 (Society for the Study of Social Issues) of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Her research and scholarship focused on socioeconomic conditions, work patterns, and family interaction in children’s socialization. Her highly regarded work also took on an international perspective, as when she studied how children were valued in different societies. Perhaps her best-known scholarship made major contributions to our understanding of working mothers and the effects on children and families as well as on themselves.

Many honors and awards recognized this work, including the Distinguished Scholar Award from Radcliffe College (Harvard, 1980), and her inclusion in the list of Eminent Women in Psychology by the APA (1989).

On a personal level, faculty and students viewed Lois as a dedicated colleague, always willing to lend her time and talents, a fun-loving friend who did not take life overly seriously, and a dedicated wife and mother. She never missed a social event and hosted many at her home.

Headquartered in Ann Arbor, Lois and her husband Herb Zimiles divided their time among other residences they maintained in the Finger Lakes near her Elmira, NY birthplace, in Arizona, and in New York City. Her daughter Amy Kilroy and husband James, live in New York and daughter Jill Hoffman lives in Los Angeles. Her five granddaughters are Nicole, Allison, Sarah, Aliya, and Jenna.

Lois will be missed by her family, colleagues, and multitude of friends. The legacy of her work and her personal contributions will live on.

Photos of Lois Hoffman, John Hagen and colleagues at ISSBD, Beijing 1995

Lois Hoffman and John Hagen at the Conference of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD)