

# Developments

A Newsletter of the Developmental Psychology Area

Spring  
2011

## Message from the Chair

BY BRENDA VOLLING

Dear Colleagues:

As I write this letter, classes have just ended for the Winter term and students are busily engaged in writing final papers and exams. The Developmental Area has witnessed many successes over the past year and I would like to comment on just a few. First, we had a large number of students in 2010 defend their dissertations, with all of them landing successful post-doctoral or academic positions: Amanda Brandone (Assistant Professor, Lehigh University); Jerel Calzo (post-doctoral fellow; Harvard University); Cheri Chan (post-doctoral fellow, Cornell University); Kyla Day (post-doctoral fellow; University of Michigan); Leon Chao Liu (Assistant Professor, Beijing Normal University), Lisa Slominski (Post-doctoral fellow, Emory University); Jennifer Walsh (post-doctoral fellow, Syracuse University) and Dana Levin (Assistant Professor of Social Work, University of Windsor). As always, we are proud of these students' accomplishments and wish all of these young scholars continued success.

Many of us are aware of recent changes at NIH and the decreased funding budget. Even in the current funding climate, I am pleased to say that the Developmental Psychology Training grant was renewed for another five years. The UM Training grant is one of the longest funded NICHD training grants. We will be starting our 31<sup>st</sup> year of funding beginning May 1, 2011. We are very fortunate to be in the position of using these funds to admit more stellar graduate students and to continue to support outstand-

ing post-doctoral fellows. Speaking of new admits, we have a class of 6 joining us in Fall 2011; all of whom will bring diverse interests and new ideas to the program:



Maria Arredondo (advisor: Kovelman), Tissyanna Camacho (Ceballo), Meghan Overmyer (Schulenberg), Francisco Velasquez (Monk), Irene Wu (Davis-Kean), and Preeti Samudra (Miller). Many of our students have also been successful in garnering research and fellowship support from various sources (e.g., NSF, MICHR, NIH), so we are very fortunate indeed.

The Developmental Faculty continues to expand. Vonnie McLoyd, whose interests encompass low-income families and children's social development, rejoined us this past year. Rona Carter, who focuses on adolescent girls' pubertal development and their psychological well-being, will be joining us this coming Fall. We welcome both of them to the Developmental Area. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the faculty promotions this year. From Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure (Chris Monk, Pamela Davis-Kean) and from Associate Professor to Full (Monique Ward, Stephanie Rowley). Congratulations to all! As spring approaches and warmer weather beckons, we look forward to the glorious days of summer in Ann Arbor. I wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

### Inside This Issue

- Get to know our new students, postdocs, and faculty
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### Newsletter Committee

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# Welcome New Students!

COLLECTED BY DANIEL CHOE



**Adrian Gale**

**Prior Institution:** Morehouse College, B.A.

**Previous Employer:** NYU Child Study Center

**Current Advisors:** Stephanie Rowley (Developmental) & Robert Ortega (Social Work)

**Research Interests/Current Project:** Academic achievement and development in males

**Where are you from?** Barbados

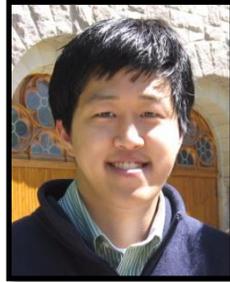
**What are your thoughts of living in Michigan so far?** Winter was not as bad as I expected, but I can't wait for summer to come.

**If you weren't in developmental psychology, what would you be doing and/or where would you be working?** In Barbados on the beach

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** Soccer, working out

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?** West Africa

**Where do you see yourself in 2021 and what do you think you'll be doing?** Doing research at a university in a warm climate



**Matthew Kim**

**Prior Institution:** NYU, B.A.

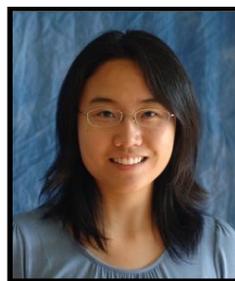
**Previous Employer:** MDRC

**Current Advisors:** Fred Morrison & Bill Gehring

**Research Interests/Current Project:** Development of executive functioning in young children

**Where are you from?** New York, NY

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** I play the piano and organ. I also enjoy playing and watching football.



**Wylie Wan**

**Prior Institution:** UCLA, B.A. in Psychology

**Previous Employer:** Lab coordinator for a study on emotion in youth at the UCLA Anxiety Disorders Research Center; analyst coding family interactions for the Strengthening Marriages Initiative

**Current Advisors:** Toni Antonucci & Jacqui Smith

**Research Interests/Current Projects:** Contextual influences (e.g., neighborhood and workplace) on couples and families. Working on: 1) the Early Years Marriage study (longitudinal study following married and divorced couples since 1986); 2) Research on Well-Being and Use of Time for participants aged 50+; and 3) a study on Social Relations, Age, and Health.

**Where are you from?** I grew up in Hong Kong

**What are your thoughts of living in Michigan so far?** Soothing (many fewer people compared to HK and LA)

**If you weren't in developmental psychology, what would you be doing and/or where would you be working?** Actress in musicals or a geologist

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?**

Singing/dancing, sleeping, vacationing, enjoying the moment (i.e., doing nothing)

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?** Home

**Where do you see yourself in 2021 and what do you think you'll be doing?** I'd be at least a part time academic (teaching and conducting research) and perhaps also a mother.



**Amber Williams**

**Prior Institution:** Rice University, B.A.

**Current Advisors:** Stephanie Rowley & Robert Sellers

**Research Interests/Current Projects:**

I am currently working primarily on my 619, which will involve examining the way in which racial identity mediates the relationship between racial socialization practices of parents and various academic outcomes. I am also involved at the Center for the Study of Black Youth in Context (CSBYC), where we are currently implementing a longitudinal study examining the experiences of African American middle school students in 3 districts of Detroit.

**Where are you from?** Houston, TX

**What are your thoughts of living in Michigan so far?** It has been quite a transition in regards to weather, but I have enjoyed it and adjusted well. I have really enjoyed being in Ann Arbor, meeting new people, and getting to know a new city.

**If you weren't in developmental psychology, what would you be doing and/or where would you be working?** If I wasn't in developmental psychology, I probably would be going to medical school to be a pediatrician. That was my career goal for a long time before I took my first psych class in undergrad, loved it, and learned more about research.

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** I really enjoy spending time with friends, traveling, reading, singing, cooking/baking, and going to various cultural and recreational events (e.g., going to the theater, concerts, museums, etc.).

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?** I love traveling so I cannot pick one place, but I do have a list of places I want to visit, which includes the UK (London), Spain (Madrid and Barcelona), Italy (Rome and Venice), and Greece (not sure where yet).

**Where do you see yourself in 2021 and what do you think you'll be doing?** I see myself being a professor, doing research, having a family, and living in a big city, perhaps even being back in my hometown.



*Sam Worzalla, Lindsay Bell, Lindsay Bowman, & Stephanie Guthrie at Schwartz's Deli in Montreal*



*Dr. Stephanie Rowley with students Latisha Ross, Amber Williams, & Postdoc Fatima Varner, at SRCD*



*Matthew Kim & Daniel Choe attend a Michigan football game*

## Halloween Party, 2010

*Below:  
Meredith Meyer, Selin Gulgoz, & Jonathan Lane*



*Above: Lindsay Bell, Samantha Worzalla, Elizabeth Thomason, Kristina Lopez, Daniel Choe, & Jillian Lee Wiggins*



*Above: Wylie Wan, Amber Williams, Matthew Kim, & Adrian Gale*



*Left:  
Lauren Reed, Ju-Hyun Song, & Sarah Trinh*

# Welcome Postdocs and Faculty!

COLLECTED BY DANIEL CHOE & JONATHAN LANE



**Carolyn Dayton, Ph.D.**

**Prior Institutions:** Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, MSU, 2009; M.S.W., UM, 1997; B.A. in Psychology, Kalamazoo College, 1989

**Current Advisor:** Brenda Volling

**Research Interests/Current Projects:** Early parenting and child development; influence of trauma and risk on parent and child outcomes; infant mental health

**Where are you from?** Niles, MI

**What are your thoughts of living in Michigan so far?** My husband is Brazilian with family in Rio, yet we chose to live in Howell, Michigan--what were we thinking?!

**If you weren't in developmental psychology, what would you be doing and/or where would you be working?** Playing beach volleyball on Copacabana beach in Rio (or, at least watching other people play!) I have practiced clinically in all kinds of settings with high-risk populations and my research interests and passions stem from that work. Someday, I will return to it.

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** Reading books with my 8-year old son. Traveling to Brazil. Watching Survivor.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?** Paris

**Where do you see yourself in 2021 and what do you think you'll be doing?** More of the same, except my son will be in college, so reading books with him will probably not be in the cards.



**Jennie Grammer, Ph.D.**

**Prior Institution:** UNC Chapel Hill

**Current Advisors:** Fred Morrison

**Research Interests/Current Projects:** I am interested in developmental changes in children's cognition and the ways in which aspects of educational settings--and classroom instruction in particular--contribute to the development of children's independent skills for learning and remembering. In my current work with the Morrison lab we are conducting a school-based project to explore the neural correlates of changes in executive functioning during the transition to elementary school, and we investigate the influence of early schooling (pre-k, Kindergarten, and first grade) on behavioral and neurological changes on executive functioning.

**Where are you from?** Fayetteville, NC

**What are your thoughts of living in Michigan so far?** Ann Arbor is lovely, but the weather is not--I am very excited that spring finally seems to be on the way!

**If you weren't in developmental psychology, what would you be doing and/or where would you be working?** I would most likely be a professional crafter--perhaps selling my wares on Etsy.



**Meredith Meyer, Ph.D.**

**Prior Institutions:** University of Oregon, Ph.D.; Bryn Mawr College, B.A.

**Previous employer:** I was the lab coordinator with Drs. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and Nora Newcombe at Temple University's Infant Cognition Lab for two years after college.

**Current Advisor:** Susan Gelman

**Research Interests/Current Projects:** I study children's acquisition of kind-relevant knowledge (e.g., knowing that dogs in general have four legs and bark, rather than knowing that a specific dog has four legs and barks), with a special focus on the linguistic and gestural cues that support this knowledge acquisition. I also study action

processing and statistical learning of action.

**Where are you from?** Arlington, VA

**What are your thoughts of living in Michigan so far?** Invest in a big coat and be patient from September to April--the summers are worth it.

**If you weren't in developmental psychology, what would you be doing and/or where would you be working?** I have no idea!

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** Hiking, reading, and board games that don't involve extensive logical thinking

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?** Villa Franca del Bierzo, Spain, which is a tiny village I hiked through two years ago. It has a river, a bar overlooking the river, and a hostel with a hot shower and good breakfast, all of which in combination was enough to make it my favorite town of the entire trip.

**Where do you see yourself in 2021 and what do you think you'll be doing?** I hope I'll be a tenured professor somewhere, still working with many of the people I've been

fortunate to meet while at Michigan...with luck and a lot more work maybe I'll make it.



**Wonjung Oh, Ph.D.**

**Prior Institutions:** Ph.D. in Human Development & Doctoral Minor in Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation, University of Maryland, College Park, 2008; M.A. & B.S., Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea

**Current Advisors:** Brenda Volling

**Research Interests/Current Projects:** The development of adaptive and dysfunctional social behaviors and close relationships in childhood and adolescence. In particular, I am interested in individual differences and the processes by which individuals' psychological and physiological factors and relationships qualities are related to socio-behavioral competence and risks (e.g., anxiety, withdrawal, depression) and group functioning (peer,

family). Another area of interest is the effect of contextual factors (e.g., transition, culture) on individual differences.

**Where are you from?** Originally from Seoul, South Korea. And, loosely, from suburban Washington DC, in Maryland.

**What are your thoughts of living in Michigan so far?** In Michigan, I have every excuse to extend my winter gear collection--as many winter hats and mittens (NOT gloves!) as I wish.

**If you weren't in developmental psychology, what would you be doing and/or where would you be working?** Gourmet chef

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** I am a music enthusiast--going to concerts and listening to good & fun music.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?** Places that make me dream and appreciate life

**Where do you see yourself in 2021 and what do you think you'll be doing?** Happy ever after! Hopefully, I'll be proud of what I am doing at work (research) and at home with my family.

## Vonnie McLoyd Joins Developmental Area



We are delighted to welcome Dr. Vonnie C. McLoyd, who rejoined the Developmental Area this past Fall. Dr. McLoyd earned her Ph.D. in Developmental psychology from the University of Michigan and taught here for several years before taking a position at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. McLoyd studies the impact of economic hardship on family processes, children's mental health, and beliefs. This semester, in addition to getting her lab set up, Dr. McLoyd is working as Associate Editor of *American Psychologist*, co-editing the *APA Handbook of Multicultural Psychology*, and writing manuscripts.

When Dr. McLoyd left the University of Michigan, her daughter, Cecilia was 6 months old. Cecilia is now 9 years old and a 3rd grader at Pattengill Elementary School. Cecilia's favorite activities are soccer, gymnastics, swimming, cooking, and arts & crafts. Unlike her mother, she was absolutely enchanted by the colossal amounts of snow that fell this past winter.

# Professional & Personal Milestones

COLLECTED BY SARAH TRINH

## FACULTY HONORS & AWARDS

- **Toni Antonucci** received a Robert L. Kahn Award for excellence in her work on successful aging.
- **Susan Gelman** won the APA's Division 7 Developmental Psychology Mentor Award, and was elected as a fellow of the Cognitive Science Society.
- **Brenda Volling** was elected as a Fellow to the Association for Psychological Science.
- **Monique Ward** won the 2011 John Dewey Award, given by the LSA executive committee.

## STUDENT AWARDS

- **Adriana Aldana** received the Barbara Perry Roberson Award.
- **Lindsay Bell** received a Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship and a Pillsbury Graduate Research Award.
- **Monica Foust** received the Roger Brown Award and the Barbara Perry Roberson Award.
- **Matthew Kim** was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship.
- **Kristina Lopez** received the National Latina/Latino Psychological Association Student Travel Award and a Rackham Travel Grant.
- **Seung-Hee Son** ('06) won the award for best research paper in Human Development from AERA.
- **Wylie Wan** received an honorable mention for the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship.
- **Amber Williams** was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship.

- **Samantha Worzalla** received the Pillsbury Graduate Research Award and the Eric Bermann Research Award.

## JOBS, PROMOTIONS, & TENURE

- **Amanda Brandone** is an assistant professor in the psychology department at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA.
- **Jerel Calzo** is a postdoctoral Research Fellow for the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, Children's Hospital Boston / Harvard Medical School.
- **Cheri Chan** is a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University.
- **Pamela Davis-Kean** was promoted to associate professor with tenure.
- **Kyla Day** is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center.
- **Brandy Frazier** obtained a tenure-track position at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Psychology.
- **Leon Chao Liu** is assistant professor at the State Key Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning, Beijing Normal University.
- **Rhiannon Luyster** is a postdoctoral fellow, working with Chuck Nelson at Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital.
- **Christopher Monk** was promoted to associate professor with tenure.
- **Stephanie Rowley** was promoted to full professor.
- **Lisa Slominski** is a postdoctoral fellow working with Dr. Sheryl Goodman in the department of psychology at Emory University.

- **Jennifer Walsh** is a research associate at the Center for Health and Behavior at Syracuse University.
- **L. Monique Ward** was promoted to full professor.

## COMPLETED DISSERTATIONS

- **Amanda Brandone**: "The Development of Intention Understanding in the First Year of Life: An Exploration of Infants' Understanding of Successful vs. Failed Intentional Actions", with Drs. Wellman and Gelman (June, 2010).
- **Jerel Calzo**: "Determinants of Variability in College Men's Sexuality: A Focus on Avoidance, Bros, and Masculinity Ideologies", with Dr. Ward (July, 2010).
- **Cheri Chan**: "The Role of Prior Belief in Children's Trust in Testimony: A Social Ecological Approach", with Dr. Tardif (December, 2010).
- **Kyla Day**: "The Role of Sexual Socialization in the Development of Healthy Sexuality in African American Girls and Young Women", with Dr. Ward (August, 2010).
- **Leon Chao Liu**: "What's in a name? How different languages result in different brains in English and Chinese speakers", with Dr. Tardif (August, 2010).
- **Lisa Slominski**: "The Effects of Parental Mental Illness on Children: Pathways to Risk and Resilience from Infancy to Adulthood", with Dr. Sameroff (April, 2010).
- **Jennifer Walsh**: "A Mixed-Methods Exploration of Magazine Use and Safe Sex in Emerging Adulthood", with Dr. Ward (June, 2010).

## COMPLETED 619s

- **Adriana Aldana:** "Youth Dialogues: The Impact of Intergroup Dialogues on Adolescents' Racial-Ethnic Identity, Racism Awareness, and Social Action", with Drs. Checkoway and Rowley (January, 2010).
- **Lindsay Bowman:** "Neural Correlates for Belief- and Desire-Reasoning in 7-8 Year Old Children: An Event-Related Potential Study", with Dr. Wellman (September, 2010).
- **Monica Foust:** "A Little Means a Lot: Sexual Socialization and Attitudes toward Sexual Minorities among African Americans", with Dr. Ward (January, 2011).
- **Johnna Swartz:** "Attention Bias to Emotional Faces in Young Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence", with Drs. Monk and Graham-Bermann (April, 2010).

## INVITED ADDRESSES

- **Henry Wellman** gave an invited keynote address at the Society for Research on Child Development's Biennial Meeting, titled, "Universal Social Cognition: Childhood Theory of Mind."

## SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS

- Fingerman, K.L., Berg, C.A., **Smith, J.**, & **Antonucci, T.C.** (Eds.) (2011). Handbook of Life-Span Development. New York: Springer.
- Lindenberger, U., **Smith, J.**, Mayer, K.U. & Baltes, P.B. (2010). Die Berliner Altersstudie [The Berlin Aging Study] (3rd revised edition). Berlin: Akademie Verlag.

## GRANTS

- **Jerel Calzo** received the Ruth L. Kirschstein Individual Postdoctoral National Research Service Award (funded through NICHD), "Eating Disorders and Adolescent Body Image in Boys and Sexual Minorities".
- **Margaret Evans** is a Co-PI on a three-year NSF Grant "Life on Earth: A multi-institute collaborative project to develop a new approach to using learning research-based technology to help the public understand evolution." (with Chia Shen, Harvard School of Engineering).
- **Kevin Miller** and **Kai Cortina** received a three-year grant from the Institute of Education Sciences to investigate ways of improving the nature of student discourse and thinking in elementary mathematics lessons. The project will use an automated language analysis system (the LENA) to provide quick feedback to teachers on the distribution of talk during lessons.
- **Christopher Monk** is a Co-PI on an NIH R01 with K. Luan Phan, investigating brain function related to treatment response in children and adolescents with anxiety disorders.
- **Frederick Morrison** received an NICHD grant. The project title is "The Influence of Schooling on Growth of Executive Function: Steps to an Integrative Approach."

## PERSONAL

- **Fred Morrison and Cathy Lord's** daughter, Janina Morrison, married Ted Hearne, a composer and Ph.D. candidate at Yale University, on February 24, 2010.

- **Nick Noles and Judith Danovitch** welcomed their son, David Guillermo Noles, into the world on June 28, 2010.



- **Margaret Evans and Gus Buchtel** welcomed their second grandchild, Adam Jungzhe Buchtel Guan, born August 6, 2010 to Emma Buchtel and Wenwei Guan in Hong Kong.



- **Cheri Chan** married Nick Lam on September 5, 2010.
- **Amy Rauer** gave birth to Charlotte May Edwards on October 25th, 2010.

## RETIREMENT

- **John Hagen** officially retired on January 1, 2011. A distinguished and active scholar, he was executive director of SRCD for 18 years, served on more than 100 dissertations, and earned the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Service to Psychological Science Award, among many other accomplishments.

# Farewell John Hagen

Contributions from  
Margaret Evans, Robert Kail,  
and Henry Wellman



## Early Life

John William Hagen was born May 11, 1940, in Minneapolis to Wayne and Elfie Erickson Hagen. His childhood was spent near army medical facilities in Rockford, IL, Brooklyn, NY, and San Francisco, where his father was stationed as a doctor during and after World War II.

The family returned to Minneapolis in 1948, where John went to public schools and entered the University of Minnesota in 1958 intending to major in architecture. By the end of his sophomore year, however, he was attracted to the behavioral and social sciences, inspired in part by an unforgettable course in introductory psychology taught by David LaBerge (who played the piano in class) and James Jenkins (who fired a blank gun in class to illustrate false memo phenomena).

John went to Stanford for graduate studies in 1962. A course in developmental psychology taught by Robert Sears and Eleanor Maccoby convinced John to focus on developmental psychology. John pursued learning and cognitive processes, an interest fostered by contacts with Richard Atkinson, Gordon Bower, Thomas Landauer, and Karl Pribram. Maccoby, John's advisor, encouraged him to draw upon the emerging field of cognitive psychology and apply it to questions of cognitive development.

John's interest in cognitive-developmental psychology was strengthened by his 1964 participation in a summer institute on cognitive development at the University of Minnesota. The faculty, including Harold Stevenson, Jerome Kagan, Roger Brown, and William Kessen, and their enthusiastic but differing perspectives reassured John he had found his niche. He also forged bonds with students who would help shape the field, including Leslie B. Cohen, Arnold Sameroff, Tom Achenbach, and Rita deVries.

## The University of Michigan and SRCD

In 1965 John joined the faculty of the University of Michigan, consisting of: Lorraine Nadelman, Klaus Riegel, and David Birch. A formal program in developmental psychology was created in 1965 with the hiring of John, David McNeil, and Martin Hoffman. John remained at Michigan throughout his career, being promoted to Associate Professor in 1969 and to Full Professor in 1973.

At Michigan, John's research first focused on memory development. He also began applying his research

to the development of diverse groups of children, particularly children with learning disabilities or chronic illness or those in foster care.

He was Developmental Psychology Area chair for 15 years. He and his colleagues received an NICHD developmental training grant, which is the oldest continuously running training grant from that agency. He served as director of the Center for Human Growth and Development and director of the Reading and Learning Skills Center and on the Education Task Force of the Council for Disability Concerns. In recognition of his substantial contributions on behalf of people who have disabilities, he was presented with the 1997 James Neubacher award.

In 1989 John's service expanded beyond the University of Michigan when he became the Executive Director of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). In this role, he integrated membership, publications, meetings and investments into one unified office in Ann Arbor. During John's tenure, SRCD grew dramatically. John's major accomplishments were his attention to the history of the field, to SRCD's emphasis on diversity, and to expanding the scope of SRCD's international impact and membership.

