**HDFS DEVELOPMENTS**

The latest updates in Human Development and Family Studies in The Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign brought to you by the HDFS Undergraduate Ambassadors

**Editor: Molly Harmon**

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### HDFS 450: Practicum in HDFS

**By Sharon Monday & Kale Monk**

It is time again for us to start accepting applications for the Practicum in HDFS, an internship course. HDFS 450 is a supervised learning experience related to HDFS offered in conjunction with community agencies or institutions. The practicum course is a required course for those pursuing the family life education certification from the National Council on Family Relations (Certified Family Life Educator; CFLE). The class is designed to provide (1) professional-level experience in a human service agency that corresponds with a student's career interest; (2) an opportunity for students to use the skills they learn from their major and apply content in a professional setting; and (3) an opportunity for students to further develop appropriate professional-level skills.

This course better prepares students for the workplace and helps them to be more marketable as they navigate the job market.

"HDFS 450 allows you to take your education into your own hands. With it you gain the ability to challenge yourself uniquely. Sharon and Kale were great instructors for the course; I felt really supported and I felt confident coming to either of them to discuss my placement." - Sara Hayden

"You learn more about yourself through your practicum. You also learn more about working with others that you may not have thought of before. I feel that I have changed in many ways since the beginning of the practicum. One of the most noticeable changes is that I have become more open to networking." - Jasmine Brown

This course meets once per week in the fall semester, and students are required to complete 12.5-20 hours per week with the community agency at which he or she interns. Interested students need to attend the mandatory informational meeting on Wednesday April 8th from 5-6 p.m. in room 7 of Christopher Hall. Following this, we [the course instructors] would arrange to have interviews with students who are still interested in the practicum. Any questions can be directed to Kale Monk (km monk [at] illinois.edu). More information can be found on our course website: [http://hcd.illinois.edu/student_information/courses/HDFS-450.html](http://hcd.illinois.edu/student_information/courses/HDFS-450.html)

### HDFS 494: STRONG Kids

**By Dr. Jill Bowers**

The Family Resiliency Center will soon be accepting applications for the HDFS 494 Undergraduate Research Course: STRONG Kids Program for Fall 2015/Spring 2016 (it’s a two semester commitment, and undergraduates who have sophomore, juniors, or senior status in Fall 2015 are eligible). This applied research methods course was designed to advance undergraduate students’ understanding of the causes and consequences of childhood obesity, professional development, and research that will optimize their opportunities for graduate studies and careers in obesity and family health. This course provides students with first-hand experiences working as part of a research team and helps them develop a working knowledge of the theory and applications of transdisciplinary research used to guide their research projects. This class began as a face-to-face course, and Dr. Barbara Fiese, The Director of the Family Resiliency Center and the course instructor, spear-headed an initiative to develop this course into a blended one, such that students engage with microlectures that are delivered online prior to coming to class and then, they meet every other week in class and engage in interactive activities and discussions centered on the obesity and professional development topics for that week. Additional information regarding the course and application for the 2015/2016 academic year will be available on The Family Resiliency Center website soon: [http://familyresiliency.illinois.edu/SKUnderResearch.htm](http://familyresiliency.illinois.edu/SKUnderResearch.htm)

### HDFS 494: Developmental Screenings and Assessments

**By Meghan Fisher**

The HDFS 494: Developmental Screenings and Assessments course provides students with opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge and skills gained in the classroom to real-world practice. Students in this course are immersed in the research literature on uses of standardized assessment tools with young children while gaining experience conducting developmental screenings with children enrolled in the Child Development Lab (CDL). Students will receive training on two different developmental screenings instruments (The Bayley-III and DENVER II) that are used to assess developmental delays in children and for CDL research reports distributed to researchers who work with children in the lab. There are 192 children at ECDL and CDL, and the screening process could not be accomplished without the help of undergraduate students on our team. This course is offered every fall semester. Contact Dr. Brent McBride (bren tmc b [at] illinois.edu) or Meghan Fisher (mfisher2 [at] illinois.edu) for more information.
Dr. Brent McBride began his career as an elementary school teacher and has been a professor and the Director of The Child Development Laboratory (CDL) in the Department of Human and Community Development at UIUC for the last 25 years. As Director of the CDL, he oversees all administrative functions, including hiring and training personnel, administering a $1,400,000 budget, directing the early childhood and undergraduate educational programs, facilitating faculty and graduate student research projects, and coordinating staff development. Through this work, he continues to stress the relationship between theory, research, and practice in the early childhood profession, setting standards for child care across the world.

Despite all of his work directing CDL programming, he has remained a figure in college classrooms, established himself as a world-renowned researcher, and engaged in a variety of community service activities.

Dr. McBride’s teaching, research, and service center on early childhood and child care policies and practices. He has also taught Infancy and Early Childhood, Youth and Child Services, and an applied research methods course focused on research in early childhood. Some of Dr. McBride’s research has focused on father involvement in childrearing. He has examined ways to increase father involvement in child care settings, perceptions of parental competence, and the quality of father-child interactions. Dr. McBride has also published several papers from work with The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort with which he has examined male involvement in families of children with and without disabilities. Dr. McBride has also served as a senior investigator for the STRONG Kids project for which he has worked with a transdisciplinary team to longitudinally examine genetic, family, community, child care, and cultural influences on childhood obesity. As a part of this team, he has examined feeding practices and the impact of child care policies on teachers’ restrictive feeding behaviors. With service, Dr. McBride conducts workshops and presentations for early childhood educators at local, state, and national levels. He has also held leadership positions and served on several executive committees and advisory boards throughout the local early childhood community.

Dr. McBride is truly an inspiration as his work has influenced thousands of students, teachers, and children over the last several decades. We hope you have the opportunity to take a class, work with, or meet this prominent HCD faculty member if you have not already.