HDFS DEVELOPMENTS

The latest updates in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Illinois

HDFS Students at the Olympics

Tatyana and Hannah McFadden
Chelsea McClammer

Current HDFS students Hannah McFadden and Chelsea McClammer along with HDFS 2014 graduate Tatyana McFadden headed to the Rio Paralympic Games this September. Between the three of them, they returned with 1st through 7th place finishes in races ranging from the 100 meter to the 5000 meter. We are so proud of our student athletes’ dedication to both their sport and their major. Congratulations!

Memories of the Child Development Lab

The 75th Anniversary of the Child Development Lab is approaching! Please share stories about your time in the CDL or what the CDL has meant to you. Email your stories to Dr. Brent McBrige at brentmcb@illinois.edu. Thank you!

Nellie M. Massie Scholarship Awarded

Through a generous donation from the late Nellie M. Massie, a University of Illinois graduate in Home Economics and English, HDFS was able to award a scholarship to an incoming freshman student, Kelsie Olsen. Kelsie earned this scholarship through her strong academic record and commitment to working with children. During her junior and senior years in high school, Kelsie volunteered with Pit Crew, a service group dedicated to working with fellow high school students with disabilities. She also participated in Best Buddies and regularly mentored children in the local elementary school. Kelsie notes that this scholarship “means being able to continue my education towards my goal of working with kids with special needs.” She’s especially motivated to work with and understand developmental delays because of her 10-year-old brother. She has seen the positive impact a developmental specialist can have on a person and a family and hopes to do the same for others.

Dr. Gail Ferguson

Dr. Gail Ferguson and her colleagues were awarded a two-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, Fogarty International Center for their research, Promoting Healthy Eating Habits in Jamaican Schools through Food-Focused U.S. Media Literacy.

Meghan Fisher

HDFS doctoral student, Meghan Fisher (advised by Dr. Brent McBride) was awarded a two-year grant from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund her dissertation research, Teachers’ Nutrition and Healthful Feeding Practices in Child Care and Head Start Classrooms.

James Kale Monk

HDFS doctoral student, Kale Monk (advised by Dr. Brian Ogolsky) was honored by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) with the 2016 NCFR Student Award given to an NCFR graduate student member who has demonstrated excellence as a student and shows great potential for contributing to Family Science.

Jaclyn Saltzman

HDFS doctoral student, Jaclyn Saltzman (co-advised by Drs. Kelly Bost and Barbara Fiese) received the Dolores Norton Research Award from the Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health. This award is presented each year (along with a stipend) to recognize a promising doctoral student or post-doctoral scholar in the field of infant and toddler social-emotional health, development, and intervention.
Research Lab Highlight

Dr. Marcela Raffaelli is one of Human Development and Family Studies’ outstanding professors who serves as an inspiration and mentor for students. She has dedicated her career to researching and improving the lives of others, specifically focusing on populations that have been overlooked and understudied in "mainstream" developmental research. Professor Raffaelli has contributed immensely to the literature addressing “the developmental impact of poverty and homelessness, and the adaptation of immigrant families," with a strong focus on examining these issues through the lens of developmental risk and resilience. She explains, "My research reflects a desire to understand the influence of individual, social and cultural factors on human development and use that understanding to address important social issues." She finds it important to not only give voice to the challenges experienced by understudied populations but also to create interventions in order to aid in solving these challenges. Two of Professor Raffaelli’s current projects include *Development of Self-Direction in Youth-Program Family Interaction Systems: Latino and Non-Latino Adolescents* (the Pathways Project funded by the W. T. Grant Foundation; with Dr. Reed Larson) and *The Developmental Impact of Street Life* (a collaborative, international study with Dr. Silvia Koller). The Pathways Project examines the role of youth programs in supporting positive development among youth from socioeconomically and ethnically diverse backgrounds,* with Professor Raffaelli’s particular interest being the experiences of immigrant youth and their families. The Street Life Project is a longitudinal study focused on homeless youth in Brazil; the aim is to gain a better understanding of how adversity in childhood impacts adjustment in adolescence.

Undergraduate Spotlight

Ryan Walton is an exceptional undergraduate student majoring in Human Development and Family Studies who is already making a difference in the world! Ryan is a junior on a pre-med track, Vice President of Risk Management within his Sigma Rho Chapter of Beta Theta Pi, and an avid researcher. For the past two years, Ryan has been volunteering with Global Brigades, a global health and development service organization in Honduras.

During his time in Honduras, Ryan became aware that the communities he was visiting lacked adequate knowledge about nutrition as a whole and diabetes management, in particular. This resulted in “high instances of metabolic syndrome.” When he returned from Honduras, Ryan took the initiative to reach out to the HDFS-led research team he has been assisting. Their research project, titled *Abriendo Caminos* is a culturally-sensitive research-intervention designed to decrease the risk for obesity among Latino families. Ryan wanted to see whether the research team could help him implement some of *Abriendo Caminos* nutrition curriculum into Global Brigades’ holistic model.* The team was extremely receptive. Following a Skype meeting with representatives of Global Brigades (GB), Ryan is now busy preparing the nutrition curriculum which will be introduced to the GB community health workers and members. The nutrition curriculum will include topics such as portion sizes, healthier food choices, diabetes management, etc. Programs like *Abriendo Caminos* focus on community involvement with the hope that it will encourage more sustainable outcomes and long-lasting partnerships. Ryan acknowledges Dr. Angela Wiley, Dr. Margarita Teran-Garcia, and Bridget Hannon for helping him to pull the Honduras curriculum project together. We look forward to hearing more about Ryan’s project in the future and know that he is going to continue to do amazing things.

For more information about HDFS and giving opportunities visit

http://hdfs.illinois.edu