

# 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*

*Editors: Molly Harmon & Jasmine Brown*

## HDFS Senior Spotlight

*by Jeremy Kanter and Stephanie Medina*

### Alexis Byrd

Alexis chose HDFS four years ago because she wanted to help others by gaining an understanding of human development and family studies across the life span. In her time at UIUC, she has worked with Dr. Reed Larson as a research assistant on a project involving after-school programs for youth and has had extensive volunteer experiences teaching and leading groups at her church, working at the Champaign Soup Kitchen, and serving for Habitat for Humanity. Alexis said that the hands-on experience working with Dr. Larson was one of her favorites because it helped her to grow as a researcher and leader. She is currently making plans for graduate school in family studies or law/family policy.

### Grace Lee

In the past four years, Grace has been actively involved in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Greek life as a member of Alpha Zeta and Order of Omega, completed an internship with the Parkland College's Department of Admissions and Enrollment, and has served as the Public Relations Chair for the UIUC Alternative Spring Break program. Grace said that one of her favorite parts of her HDFS experience was taking the HDFS 450, internship course because it exposed her to new things and reaffirmed her decision to work in college admissions; she is currently applying for jobs that will allow her to work in college admissions.



*HDFS Ambassadors: Top Row: Stephanie Medina, Jasmine Brown, Molly Harmon, Alexis Byrd, Jeremy Kanter; Bottom Row: Jordan Magold, Hannah Levitz, Caroline Stevens, Samantha Addante, Nettie DeWeese, Grace Lee, Devin Weiss (Not pictured: Erin Lepoire, Abby Murin, Rachel Wurtzel, Madaline Sarmas)*

## Meet the HDFS Ambassadors!

*by Caroline Stevens*

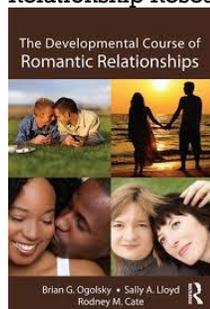
This winter, faculty in HDFS selected a group of undergraduates to serve as ambassadors for the Department. The purpose of this group is to enhance mentoring among students and improve undergraduates' abilities to market themselves as HDFS majors. Through this process, the Ambassadors aim to engage in Departmental and community service. Under the direction of Dr. Jill Bowers, the Departmental service this semester has involved reaching out to admitted students, speaking in high schools, providing tours for high school students, creating virtual tours of The Child Development Laboratory and The Autism Program in The Department of HCD, and establishing a mentoring program where undergraduates are paired with graduate student mentors. This summer, the group will travel to North Carolina where they will provide service for Habitat for Humanity for one week. Freshman, Devin Weiss, said, "being a part of the Ambassadors has significantly contributed to my leadership skills and enthusiasm for the field, and I am looking forward to planning Ambassador activities in the fall!"



A number of faculty and students' achievements were recognized at The National Council on Family Relations annual conference in November, including **Dr. Marcela Raffaelli** (Jan Trost Award which recognizes Outstanding Contributions in International Family Studies), **Kimberly Crossman** (Jessie Bernard Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective Award and the Cindy Winter Scholarship Award which recognizes a student or new professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership/service in the discipline of family sciences), **Kale Monk** (Best Student /New Professional Research Proposal Award from the Research and Theory Section), **Jeremy Kanter** (Undergraduate Award for Research Potential).

The College of ACES recognized outstanding seniors at an awards ceremony this semester. Outstanding Senior in HDFS awards went to **Jeremy Kanter, Lorraine Munoz, Vera Iwankiw, and Alison Ganko**. At this event, **Vera Iwankiw** and **Jeremy Kanter** were also presented with the Orville G. Bentley Award designed to honor undergraduates who have completed an outstanding research activity.

**Dr. Brian Ogolsky** received the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) 2014



Book Award for his book, *The Developmental Course of Romantic Relationships*. He and his co-authors, Drs. Sally Lloyd and Rodney Cate will be honored at the

IARR Conference in Australia this summer.

## Dr. Connie Shapiro Announces Retirement

by Nettie DeWeese



Dr. Connie Shapiro, an honored faculty member, has announced her retirement and is completing her final year at UIUC. Dr. Shapiro graduated from Wellesley College in 1969 with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She went on to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work at Columbia University and a PhD at Cornell University. She has been in The Department of Human and Community Development at UIUC since 1996 when

she moved to the Midwest with her husband and two children to serve as the Department Head. After stepping down as the Head of the Department in 2002, Dr. Shapiro continued to serve the Department in many roles, including The Interim Director of the Family Resiliency Center, Director of the Joint Degree Program with the School of Social Work, and The Department's James Scholar adviser. She has taught several classes, including a freshman discovery course, and more recently, she has devoted a lot of time to highlighting Adult Development in HDFS by creating and teaching a new course. She has also begun the process of establishing a minor in Adult Development for any student at UIUC.

Dr. Shapiro's research has focused on adult infertility, as well as loss and resiliency associated with family disruptions. Throughout her accomplished career, she has authored five books, including her latest, *When You're NOT Expecting: An Infertility Survival Guide*. As a distinguished researcher, she has also continued to reach community audiences with her work; one example of this is with her blog on infertility and pregnancy loss that she has maintained for the last few years.

In an interview with Dr. Shapiro, she discussed the relationships she has established as one of aspects of the Department and UIUC that she will forever treasure. She said that it was spontaneous acts of kindness from colleagues and community members that helped her and her family thrive in Illinois. An example of one of many professional relationships she established throughout her tenure was that which developed with university alumna, entrepreneur and Pampered Chef owner, Doris Kelley Christopher; Mrs. Christopher has since contributed millions of dollars to build Christopher Hall and expand the Department's capacity to produce quality research and promote family resiliency over the years. Dr. Shapiro said, "I will miss not only the joy of teaching creative and bright students, but also the partnerships with colleagues and staff who have worked enthusiastically with me on my projects over my 18 years at UIUC." The feeling is certainly mutual as Dr. Shapiro has inspired many students and colleagues over the years. We are sincerely grateful for her legacy and the many years of support, dedication, research, and commitment that Dr. Shapiro has provided over the past 18 years to our department, university, and field.