Our Vision

Our vision is to address the challenges and support the resilience of all families through research, teaching, and outreach. The Center for Research on Families (CRF) advances interdisciplinary research aimed at increasing our understanding of the diversity, health, and well-being of families while contributing innovative and evidence-based solutions to the most pressing problems facing families.

Our Mission

- Promote, conduct, and translate high quality, substantive research on key issues affecting families
- Teach, mentor, and support family researchers throughout their careers, from students to professors
- Engage with the community to improve family functioning and inform social policy

Our Story

The Center for Research on Families has a long history and deep roots at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The Center for the Family was founded over forty years ago in the 1970s. A generous endowment given by Dorothy Dunklee Gavin ('43) and Joseph Gavin in 1996 ensured a strong and sustainable future for the Center. In 2003, the original Center for the Family was transformed into today’s Center for Research on Families (CRF).

CRF is one of the few family research centers in the country that bridges the social, behavioral, and natural sciences; thus, we are uniquely poised to initiate and support interdisciplinary collaborations that answer complex questions about today’s family and society. CRF epitomizes the land grant mission of UMass Amherst to provide teaching, research, and public service to benefit the families of the Commonwealth and nation.

CRF is a joint center of the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS). Its programs are supported by CNS, SBS, the Edna Skinner and Tay Gavin Erickson endowments, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, grants, and alumni and corporate gifts. CRF’s unique model of collaboration serves to enhance its primary mission of supporting interdisciplinary and translational research activities on campus and in the community.

As the figure shows, families are embedded in multiple social settings and are also comprised of complex individuals that bring genes and individual differences to family systems. Thus at CRF, we see research from all disciplines as relevant to our mission.

CULTURE
GOVERNMENT
WORKPLACES
COMMUNITY
FAMILIES
INDIVIDUAL
BIOLGY
FAMILIES IN CONTEXT

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*This report describes CRF activities undertaken from June 2017 through May 2018.

DESIGN: Angela Russo
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ANNUAL REPORT 2018
Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting year at the Center for Research on Families. New grants have been funded, our collaborations in Springfield have grown, a new program in grant writing for graduate students has been started, and our methodology program is developing some exciting new initiatives. This is all happening against a national backdrop of tremendous challenges facing families; the daily headlines remind us regularly of these challenges with grim news about the opioid epidemic, immigrant rights, community violence, and economic inequality, to name just a few. CRF scholars are at the forefront of research in these areas. CRF focuses not only on supporting research to better understand how these issues affect children and families, but also translating these findings into action and policy at the community, state, and federal levels.

Over the past year, CRF has funded faculty and student projects focused on addressing problems of opioid use in new mothers and potential treatments, challenges immigrants face as they return to Mexico in greater numbers than ever before, and the effects of pollution and toxin exposures on asthma rates in children. We are proud to support these critical efforts to address pressing social issues by understanding their impact and proposing evidence-based solutions.

This year, under the direction of Professor Rebecca Spencer, we have started a new scholars program in grant writing for graduate students program in grant writing for graduate students, which is built on our successful faculty scholars program. We believe developing these grant writing skills early in graduate students’ careers will set them up for successful trajectories in their programs of research.

Professor Holly Laws, CRF Methodology Director, is leading new efforts to provide program evaluation services for our community partners. This year she is working with the Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts, evaluating a leadership development program for young women ages 12-24, to develop future leaders in the Springfield community.

We also had the opportunity to partner with the Children’s Trust to teach an exciting new course entitled Risk and Resilience in the lives of First-Time Young Parents that was offered to Healthy Family Home Visitors as well as UMass students. This innovative new class created many new bridges: bridges linking UMass and Springfield, bridges linking direct service experiences with families to theory and research underlying those practices, and bridges for home visitors to develop new career trajectories. We are excited to continue this partnership.

These are just a few of the highlights of the important and innovative activities happening at CRF. I am continually awed and inspired by the energy, commitment, and hard work of our CRF team and the many scholars and affiliates who bring our mission to life every day. Our impact over the past year has been felt in the country, in the state, and in our own back yard. I look forward to building our efforts on all fronts in support and on behalf of all families who are doing the hard work every day to raise the next generation.

Director, Center for Research on Families

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2018
ANNUAL REPORT 2018
2017-2018 Highlights

CRF has accomplished much through our three-pronged approach of research, teaching, and outreach in 2017-2018:

1) Promoting and conducting high-quality, substantive research on key issues affecting family life
   - Six 2017-2018 CRF Family Research Scholars (FRS) met biweekly to develop competitive grants through intensive faculty and peer feedback, targeted instruction on the review process, and methodology support.
   - Eleven 2015 and 2016 Scholars continued to meet as a group or with the CRF director to revise/submit additional grant applications.
   - Twelve CRF Family Research Scholars submitted 14 grants totaling $18,356,663.
   - CRF has active grants totaling $13,185,527.

2) Teaching, mentoring, and supporting family researchers
   - Eight student researchers participated in the second year of our Student Researchers Research Seminar, modeled after our faculty program. Students were assisted with developing research and writing plans, fine-tuning their papers and proposals, and refining their methods plans.
   - CRF is sponsoring a new pilot Student Grant Writing Program for graduate students. Six students were selected to work under the leadership of Professor Rebecca Spencer to prepare NSF and NIH fellowship applications.
   - For the eleventh year, CRF sponsored the Stress Research Group. Twenty researchers met regularly to discuss and examine the biological, behavioral, and social indices and outcomes of stress. The Stress group submitted a training grant to NSF this year.

3) Engaging with the community to address and inform outreach and policy on issues critical to the well-being of families
   - CRF hosted four public lectures by renowned experts through the Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series.
   - CRF collaborated with the Children’s Trust (CT) to develop and offer a new course, “Risk and Resilience in the Lives of Young Families,” for home visitors from across the state in the fall of 2017 at the UMass Springfield Center. The course was very successful and will be replicated in coming years with the goal of developing a pathway to college for home visitors.
   - One CRF Scholar participated in the Public Engagement Fellows Program (PEP) to develop skills in translating their research to enhance families’ lives.
   - CRF disseminated 41 news articles highlighting our affiliates’ research in major media outlets, including National Public Radio, Time magazine, New York Times, and others.
   - CRF hosted 41 public lectures by renowned experts through the Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series.
   - CRF partnered with the Healthy Development Initiative to develop pilot grants for new collaborations whose proposed work has a clear developmental emphasis.
   - Dr. Perry-Jenkins served as the program chair for The National Council on Family Relations’ (NCFR) Annual Conference in November 2017.

Twelve CRF Family Research Scholars submitted 14 grants totaling $18,356,663.

2017-2018 Maureen Perry-Jenkins, CRF Director

• Executive Board, Contemporary Council on Families
• Program Chair, National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, 2017
• Co-PI: A Prenatal Intervention for Low-Income Parents. UMass Medical Center for Clinical and Translational Science - Life Science Moment Fund Grant
• NIH Review Panel Member
• Active member of Project ACCCES, supporting UMass-Springfield community-based research partnerships
• Numerous national presentations on work-family research
• Editorial Board of Journal of Marriage and Family, Community, Work & Family, and Journal of Family Theory & Review

CRF and the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) offered a Pre-Scholars Workshop to advise new faculty in grant preparation and in the application process.

CRF partnered with the Rudd Adoption Research Program to offer the highly successful 2018 Rudd Adoption Research New Worlds of Adoption Conference, “The Future of Adoption: Beyond Safety to Well-Being.”

CRF partnered with nine centers, departments, schools, and colleges on campus.

2017-2018 Aline Sayer, CRF Methodology Program Co-Director

• Served as methodological consultant on ten research grants across the following agencies: NIH, NSF, IES (Institute of Education Sciences) and CIHR (Canadian Institute for Health Research)
• Inter-University Consortium for Social & Political Research, Summer Program in Quantitative Methods Advisory Board
• Institute of Education Sciences, Scientific Review Panel, Early Intervention and Early Childhood Education
• Workshops on multilevel modeling and structural equation modeling at Yale’s Center for Inequality and the Life Course, the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, and Interact for Health

2017-2018 Holly Laws, CRF Methodology Program Co-Director

• Served as methodological consultant on research grants for NIDA, NIA, and NIMH
• PI on an early career development award examining gender differences in partnership support of post-traumatic recovery for women and men in military service and their long-term relationship partners
• Numerous national presentations on family research and methodology
• Conducted workshops on multilevel modeling for longitudinal, intensive longitudinal, and dyadic applications for the Intra-University Consortium for Social and Political Research at Syracuse University and the North American Chapter for Psychotherapy Research
Family Research Scholars Program
Since 2003, CRF has provided selected faculty with time, expert consultation, technical expertise, and peer mentorship to prepare large grant proposals for intensive family research. The program has supported and facilitated interdisciplinary family research in a wide variety of disciplines, such as psychology, anthropology, nursing, economics, sociology, education, environmental health, political science, biology, and neuroscience. Despite federal funds becoming tighter nationally, the FRS program has significantly increased federal research support for family research at UMass. As funding for research becomes more difficult to obtain, centers like CRF become increasingly valuable to family researchers.

Family Research Scholars participate in a year-long interdisciplinary seminar that includes:

• Presentations and discussions of the Scholars’ developing proposals
• Concrete instruction in grant writing and understanding of funding agencies
• Strategies for successful proposal submission
• Assistance accessing the resources of the University
• Individualized methodology consultation
• Facilitated peer review throughout the formulation and writing process
• Staff support at all stages of grant submission
• Accountability for reaching writing goals
• Consultation with nationally recognized experts who are hosted by CRF through the Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series
• Guest speakers on topics identified by scholars such as budgets, foundation and corporate grants
• Continued support through the summer and following year as needed

SEMINAR FACILITATORS
Maureen Perry-Jenkins, CRF Director and Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences
Aline Sayer and Holly Laws, Co-Directors of the CRF methodology programs

“I have been so very pleased to be a part of the Family Research Scholars Program. The program has provided me with an invaluable opportunity to receive constructive and supportive mentoring and feedback from my colleagues across the University, which has helped me immensely as I worked on three grant proposals over the course of the year. This FRS Program model is one to be emulated.”

— Aline Gubrium

2017-18 FAMILY RESEARCH SCHOLARS
Aline Gubrium
Community Health Education, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Project: Testing a Digital Storytelling Intervention to Address Perinatal Depression in Young Mothers

Krystal Pollett
Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Project: Early Life Air Pollutant Exposures and Fetal Growth

Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar
College of Nursing
Project: Reducing Stress, Anxiety, and Depressive Symptoms via a Family-Centered Preventative Intervention for Immigrants: A Randomized Controlled Feasibility Trial

Jamie Rowen
Legal Studies, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Project: Thank You for Your Service: The Purpose and Practice of Veterans Treatment Courts

Jeffrey Starns
Psychological and Brain Sciences, College of Natural Sciences
Project: Bayesian Reasoning as a Life Skill

Ning Zhang
School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Project: Individualization and Bias in Mobility Care Practices for Obese Nursing Home Residents

The 2018-2019 Family Research Scholars have been selected on the basis of their promising work in family-related research:

• Youngbin Kwak, Psychological and Brain Sciences, College of Natural Sciences
• Sarah Feter, Student Development, College of Education
• Shannon Roberts, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering
• Mark Pachucki, Sociology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
• Krishna Poudel, Health Promotion and Policy, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
• Mary Paterno, College of Nursing
Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar, center, talks with fellow 2017-18 Family Research Scholars Jamie Rowen (L) and Jeffrey Starns (R).
As a 2017-2018 Family Research Scholar, Pollitt finds that having a regularly scheduled time to meet with other researchers has helped her better communicate why her research is so essential to the public. Pollitt plans to study the ways in which cumulative, environmental factors impact disease, with the ultimate goal of developing strategies for people to better avoid certain exposures and the negative health outcomes associated with them. “Exposure to air pollution is unavoidable. Here in Amherst the air is clean, but many people don’t have that luxury,” explains Pollitt. Asthma rates among children in Springfield (20%) are nearly twice the state-wide rate (11%), and there are ethnic/racial disparities in asthma-related emergency department visits.

Pollitt redirected her focus toward environmental health sciences in order to apply her love of high-precision data analysis to a public health approach.

While completing her doctoral studies at King’s College London, Pollitt collected data in pediatric practices in Springfield, MA, the studies and then they are mailed to her lab for analysis. Dr. Pollitt is collecting data in pediatric practices in Springfield, MA, and through the Healthy Development Initiative, a community-
From Home Visiting to the Classroom and Back

Risk and Resilience in the Lives of First-Time, Young Parents, an innovative, 3-credit course that was developed and taught at the UMass Springfield Center in the fall of 2017, brought together UMass undergraduates with Healthy Families’ home visitors from across the state to apply a research-based framework to topics critical to working with young parents. Students developed exciting projects that will be used to enhance their work with colleagues and families. UMass students incorporated the eye-opening field experiences of their peers into their new understanding of the challenges facing first-time young families.

The course was designed as the first step towards creating a pathway to college for professionals who have intensive field-based knowledge but often lack the opportunity to earn college degrees. Danita Gordon, a home visitor from Fall River, said, “This course was challenging, to say the least, but it was the most rewarding experience I’ve ever had. I gained the confidence to reach for more educational opportunities. I am forever grateful for all that I learned during my time with you all at UMass Amherst. For me it was life changing.” The Children’s Trust and CRF plan to offer the course again along with similar courses to their home visitors across the state.

Reducing Depression and Stress in Low-income New Mothers and their Partners

CRF Director, Dr. Maureen Perry-Jenkins, has launched an exciting and innovative pilot project that aims to reduce depression and stress among low-income new mothers and their partners early in pregnancy. “We’ve always known that stress can have negative impacts on our health, but the latest literature is really showing that stress prenatally is very detrimental in terms of long-term health of both mothers and infants. Thus, the aim of our intervention is to reduce stress in the second trimester of pregnancy to enhance parental well-being and child outcomes,” she explains.

Currently, there are great disparities in the rates of pre- and postnatal depression among low-income and middle-class mothers, with low-income mothers experiencing significantly poorer mental health. Reasons for these disparities in well-being include both economic and social stressors, such as financial insecurity, poor healthcare, and lack of social support, which are all risk factors for mothers’ and fathers’ mental health and the healthy development of their children.

With funding from the UMass Medical School Clinical Translational Science Program, Co-Principal Investigators Maureen Perry-Jenkins, PhD, and Nancy Byatt, DO, MBA, from UMass Medical School are partnering with Square One and the Children’s Trust, two leading parenting education programs.

The intervention project focuses on supporting low-income couples through the transition to parenthood by reducing prenatal stress, depression, and anxiety. Each cohort includes groups of eight expectant parents who attend weekly, two-hourlong parenting groups over the course of six weeks. Sessions include information about choices in childbirth, information about newborn care, stress reduction techniques such as mindfulness and meditation as well as support around strengthening the co-parenting relationship. Partnerships with Square One and the Children’s Trust allow them to build an intervention within a sustainable structure in the Springfield community aimed at supporting vulnerable families around the birth of a child.

Drs. Perry-Jenkins and Byatt have completed their work with the first cohort of parents and will begin data analysis in the Fall of 2018. They plan on applying for a larger grant next year in the hope of expanding their research.
The Center for Research on Families (CRF) and the Healthy Development Initiative (HDI) awarded two $15,000 pilot grants to address pressing concerns identified by Springfield families, agencies, and community leaders as part of our Springfield partnership.

Mary Paterno, PhD, CNM, Assistant Professor of Nursing at UMass, along with Elizabeth Peacock-Chambers, MD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at UMass Medical School’s Baystate Campus, have begun their project titled “Maternal Perceptions of Opiate Addiction and Child Development Services from Pregnancy Through the First Year Postpartum.” Drs. Paterno and Peacock-Chambers aim to understand the perceptions of women in recovery from opiate addiction in relation to the continuity and gaps in addiction services from pregnancy to one year postpartum. Using this data, they propose to develop an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to providing addiction, maternal health, and child development services to support parenting women and their children who are affected by opiate addiction. To date they have made connections with multiple agencies throughout the greater Springfield area that offer services related to addiction, behavioral health, and Early Intervention in order to promote development services to support parenting women and their children who are affected by opiate addiction. To date they have made connections with multiple agencies throughout the greater Springfield area that offer services related to addiction, behavioral health, and Early Intervention in order to promote development services to support parenting women and their children who are affected by opiate addiction.

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Through the Fresh Air Project: Using the Exposome to Personalize Asthma Management. Pollitt and Hudson seek to understand the prevalent environmental exposures across children and develop novel personalized control strategies that reduce exposure to these triggers of asthma. The long-term goal of the Fresh Air Project is to decrease hospital usage for asthma in Springfield. The researchers have been working with the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts to recruit children into the study. To date, they have recruited and visited the homes of six children on two occasions to profile the exposure of children using an integrated set of tools and technologies. These technologies capture temporal, spatial, and personal variations across environmental exposures, using (1) a low-cost wearable monitor which measures a broad spectrum of organic environmental pollutants that trigger asthma (The Fresh Air Wristband); (2) questionnaires about nutrition and stress; (3) photos to overview personal care and cleaning products used at home; and (4) settled house dust samples from the child’s home to profile allergens. The researchers held a public event on May 29th at the UMass Springfield Center to present an overview of their outcomes and to run demonstrations of green cleaning products and cooking methods that reduce air pollution exposure.

CFR and the Healthy Development Initiative Award Two Pilot Grants in 2017

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Springfield, the fourth-largest city in New England, shares many strengths and challenges that profoundly impact families. Our goal is to partner with agencies and community leaders in Springfield to support their important work building resiliency across the city; our aim is to provide the strong networks that CRF and UMass Amherst can bring to the table in terms of education, research, and outreach. CRF has set up an outreach office in Springfield and we have begun to establish a strong research and teaching presence in Springfield through initiatives based at the UMass Springfield Center.

CRF Partnerships in Springfield

CRF participates in the Maternal-Child Health Network (MCHN), one of the working groups connected to Project ACCCES: A Collaboration to Develop Capacity for Community-Engaged Research in Springfield. Project ACCCES was initiated by a PCORI grant (Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute), to Sarah Goff, Associate Professor Baystate Medical Center, Elissa Griffith-Johnson, Patient Representative, Kathleen Szegda, Director of Community Research and Evaluation at Partners for a Healthier Community, and Bettye Anderson Frederic, former director of Springfield Department of Health and Human Services. The project focuses on building capacity for community-engaged research. The MCHN working group of Project ACCCES includes providers, researchers, and other stakeholders and focuses on issues such as premature birth and teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection, and disability. Members have identified many sources of these health issues, including lack of access to resources such as healthy food and transportation, economic factors including poverty and lack of jobs, difficulties dealing with the healthcare system and insurance, racism, low literacy, crime, and incarceration. CRF is sharing in efforts to respond to the need for program evaluation that has been identified by community partners.

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CRF welcomes Holly Laws, PhD, as the new Director of CRF's Methodology Program. Dr. Laws is an expert in analyzing and interpreting data for family-related research and she has co-directed the program with Dr. Aline Sayer during the 2017-18 academic year. Dr. Laws received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and began her methodology consulting as a grad student under the mentorship of Dr. Aline Sayer.

Formerly an Associate Research Scientist in Yale University's Psychiatry Department, Dr. Laws also serves as a research psychologist in the VA Connecticut Healthcare System. Her research focuses on using novel statistical methodologies to examine processes within close relationships implicated in mental and physical health. She has conducted multiple methodological workshops on the topic of multilevel modeling, including longitudinal, dyadic, and daily diary applications. She received a Career Development Award from the VA’s Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, a study using dyadic methodology to examine and compare associations between relationship quality and well-being in male and female veterans and their relationship partners.

Dr. Laws is excited to be given the opportunity to grow CRF’s methodology offerings and aims to position the center as a national leader in family research methods across multiple disciplines. She brings fresh eyes coupled with an understanding of CRF’s history and vision, and has used her first year to identify new areas of growth in our on-campus methodological services. In addition, she is exploring innovative ways to extend our methodological expertise in support of the wider community.

“CRF offers specialized methodology workshops--we want to continue this and expand it on a national level either through consulting or by providing online tools,” says Laws. “We want CRF to become a resource for researchers who are working with family data and need support in addressing its complexity. This is our niche: working with the dyadic models and family data.”

Methodology Consultation Overview

CRF’s Methodology Consulting Services (MCS) provides study design and statistical analysis to scholars at UMass and at other universities, as well as professionals from the public and private sector.

In 2017-2018, CRF’s Methodology Consultation Services provided individual research and data consultation on the following topics: stress and health outcomes in relationships, an intervention in Inuit communities designed to support adolescents and prevent suicide attempts, gender stereotypes in mathematics instruction, and a study of gender differences in aging and cognition in marmosets.

MCS has also expanded to partner with other areas of the campus research community, providing services to departments such as Psychological & Brain Sciences, Kinesiology, Anthropology, Community Health Education, Environmental Health Sciences, Nursing, Nutrition, and the School Psychology and Higher Education divisions in the School of Education.

New Directions and Collaborations

Program Evaluation

MCS is exploring the possibility of providing evaluation services to community organizations. As a first step, this year MCS has partnered with The Women’s Fund to evaluate a program they are conducting in Springfield to promote leadership among young women. We are also working with the Maternal Child Health Partnership to provide student assistance for evaluations.

Social Science Statistics Reading Group

In spring 2018, CRF MCS, along with the Statistical Consulting and Collaboration Services (SCCS) consulting center in the Department of Math & Statistics, the methodological arm of the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR), and the Computational Social Science Institute (CSSI), co-sponsored the Social Science Statistics Reading Group. The interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students met weekly to discuss issues relating to the application of advanced statistical models to research questions of interest to those studying social and developmental processes.

Consulting Expertise

Consulting services are provided by a team of faculty, co-led this year by our outgoing director, Dr. Aline Sayer, and our new director, Holly Laws. This team also includes CRF methodology staff and advanced graduate students. They offer consulting in all stages of research, including: (a) issues in study design, measurement, and sampling, (b) power analysis, (c) data analysis, (d) training in the use of software packages, and (e) writing and editing methodology sections of manuscripts and grant proposals. All consultants have expertise in multilevel modeling, a type of data analysis appropriate for accounting for the nesting of measures within families, and for the complex longitudinal modeling of developmental processes common in observational longitudinal studies.
Methodology Seminars

The Methodology Program of the Center sponsored a seminar series on statistical and research methodology topics relevant to family research. All seminars were designed to appeal to a broad audience and attract researchers from many disciplines, including criminology, clinical psychology, medicine, economics, computer science, and public health.

Modeling Mediation Processes in Multilevel Data
Instructor: Alice Coyne
MARCH 2, 2018
This workshop provided participants with an introduction to the multilevel structural equation modeling framework, with a focus on how to conduct multilevel mediation analyses. Mediation analysis is one of the core methods for researchers interested in characterizing causal and indirect sequences or processes; yet popular mediation analysis tools do not easily accommodate clustered data (e.g., individuals within families, students within schools, repeated measures within individuals). Multilevel structural equation modeling (MSEM) is a flexible statistical methodology that can model mediational processes in clustered data.

Targeted Recruitment Using Facebook
Instructor: Rachel Herman
MARCH 2, 2018
The instructor introduced the Work and Family Transitions Project lab’s experience with this recruitment strategy, provided concrete guidelines for how to use Facebook’s recruitment interface, and fielded questions from interested researchers about how to apply this novel tool to their own studies in order to recruit difficult-to-reach populations for their studies.

Early Intervention Assessment
Co-sponsored by Developmental Disabilities and Human Services (DDHS) Program
Instructor: Kathleen McAuslin
MAY 4, 2018
The workshop offered an introduction to the Battelle Developmental Inventory, Second Edition (BDI-2). Participants learned about the contexts in which the BDI-2 is used, as well as how to administer and score the BDI-2. Participants who may use the BDI-2 for research or assessment purposes had the opportunity to practice with the testing kit.

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CRF Methodological Workshops and Trainings

For thirteen years, CRF’s trainings in advanced statistical and methodological techniques have attracted national and international family researchers to the summer methodology workshops held on campus. Researchers have come to depend on CRF’s consistent menu of relevant and intensive trainings. Through CRF’s affiliation, UMass serves as a satellite site for the prestigious Summer Institute in Quantitative Methods organized by the University of Michigan’s Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), providing four weeks of intensive training. Participants consistently rate their experiences very highly, indicating that CRF is meeting an important need in the field.

CRF 2017 SUMMER METHODOLOGY WORKSHOPS

Regression Models for Categorical Outcomes: Specification, Estimation, and Interpretation
Dr. J. Scott Long, Indiana University

Group-Based Trajectory Modeling for the Medical and Social Sciences
Dr. Daniel Nagin, Carnegie-Mellon University
Dr. Thomas Loughran, University of Maryland, College Park

Analyzing Intensive Longitudinal Data
Dr. Jean-Philippe Laurenceau, University of Delaware
Dr. Niall Bolger, Columbia University

Hierarchical Linear Modeling I: Introduction
Dr. Aline Sayer, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Dr. Holly Laws, Yale University

2017 workshop participants came from the following institutions
University of Texas/San Antonio
Bay State Health
Boston College
Columbia University
Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
Eastern Michigan University
George Mason University
Macquarie University
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Ohio University
Portland State University
Rice University
Sam Houston State University
Seattle Children’s Hospital
Simon’s College
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
The University of Warwick
University of Connecticut
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University Medical Center Groningen
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
University of California Berkeley
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Michigan Medical School
University of North Carolina / Chapel Hill
University of Northern Colorado
University of Notre Dame
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
Washington State University
Yale University

Sponsored by Developmental Disabilities and Human Services (DDHS) Program
Instructor: Alice Coyne
Student Family Research Awards Program

The CRF Student Research Awards Program recognizes and supports outstanding students for their innovative research on issues related to families. This year eleven talented students were selected to receive more than $25,000 in funding. Awardees come from a broad range of disciplines and departments. Students and their mentors were recognized at a reception on May 2nd, and they will also be recognized at the 2018 annual CRF dinner. Since the Student Research Awards program began in 2010, 124 students have received over $377,000 to conduct research and present their research findings at professional meetings.

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

$10,000 for one year
Alice Fidjian-Green, PhD candidate, Health Promotion and Policy Critical Turning Points and Spurred Life Trajectories Among Pregnant and Parenting Women
Mentor: Aline Gubrium (Health Promotion and Policy)

Hallie Brown, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences Behavior Development in Toddlers
Mentor: Elizabeth Harvey (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

$500 for one year
Aaron Foote, PhD candidate, Sociology The Origins of Crisis: Flint Water and the Lived Experience of a Man-Made Disaster
Mentor: Dan Clawson (Sociology)

Nozophy Maziya, PhD candidate, Nutrition Barriers to HAART Adherence among HIV-infected Women in Rural Swaziland: A Mixed Methods Approach
Mentor: Lindwe Sibeko (Nutrition)

Monika Roy, PhD candidate, Environmental Health Sciences Environmental sampling of PCB-11 and embryotoxicity in zebrafish (Danio rerio)
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America, Minneapolis, MN
Mentor: Alicia Timme-Laragy (Environmental Health Sciences)

Adaze Egwuzu, PhD candidate, Neuroscience and Behavior Motivated attention to social and non-social reward stimuli in children: Associations with temperament and problem behavior
Occasional Temperament Conference, Muncie, Spain
Mentor: Jennifer McDermott (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Eunjung Jee, PhD candidate, Economics Motherhood Penalties in the U.S., 1986-2014
Population Association of America 2018 Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
Mentor: Jaya Mora (Sociology)

Patrick Sadli, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences Episodic-like retrieval mechanisms for non-episodic memories: Visual recollection in the absence of identification
Context and Episodic Memory Symposium, Philadelphia, PA
Mentor: Rosemary Cowell (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

New Pilot- Grant Writing Program
CRF is hosting a pilot program developed by Dr. Rebecca Spencer to facilitate and support graduate students in the development of successful graduate fellowship applications. This pilot program is a 9-month program designed specifically for NSF and NIH pre-doctoral fellowship proposals. Six selected graduate scholars will receive mentoring and support from CRF faculty, staff, and peers throughout the grant development process, including development, refinement, and communication of research ideas, approach, and methodology.

GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARS

Melanna Cox, PhD candidate, Kinesiology Identifying and evaluating the effects of benevolent sexism on physical activity levels of adolescent girls
Mentor: John R. Sirard (Kinesiology)

Stephanie Delzell, PhD candidate, Microbiology Deciphering the roles of multiple mitochondrial DNA polymerases in Trypanosoma brucei
Mentor: Michele Klingbeil (Microbiology)

Shannon Gair, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences Identifying behavioral and neural correlates of ADHD risk in toddlers
Mentor: Elizabeth Harvey (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Kyle Kaines, PhD candidate, Neuroscience and Behavior Delineating the role of sleep in semantic memory consolidation
Mentor: Rebecca Spencer (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Sanna Lokhandwala, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences Sleep and emotion processing in early childhood
Mentor: Rebecca Spencer (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Jonathan Woodson, PhD candidate, Neuroscience and Behavior Can chronic stress at critical periods impact vasopressin neuronal activity that drives social behavior?
Mentor: Joseph Bergan (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

UNDERGRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

$1,000 for one year
Rachel Haley, Class of 2019, Global Health Chronic Disease and Dominican Immigration: A Comparative Study
Mentor: Professor Melody Slashinski (Health Promotion and Policy)

GRADUATE TRAVEL AWARDS

Recipients receive up to $500 towards travel costs
Alexandrea Craft, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences Family Matters: The Lasting Consequences of Early Marital Relations on Children’s Development
National Council on Family Relations, Orlando, FL
Mentor: Maureen Perry-Jenkins (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Monika Roy, PhD candidate, Environmental Health Sciences Environmental sampling of PCB-11 and embryotoxicity in zebrafish (Danio rerio)
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Mentor: Alicia Timme-Laragy (Environmental Health Sciences)

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Massachusetts titled, Home, Health, and Solidarity: Digital Storytelling for Refugee Resilience. Haotian Wu, winner of a $500 CRF dissertation award, is a doctoral student in the Environmental Health Sciences. Together with his advisor, Dr. J. Richard Pilsner, Haotian examines the influence of phthalates on reproduction. Findings from this work will contribute to the understanding of the susceptibility of early life development to environmental factors.

“At CRF, I gained more knowledge and experience with other disciplines and perspectives. There is value in perspectives of people who are not directly connected to your field and work. I was given an entirely fresh set of perspectives on why my grant was viewed the way it was.”

- Haotian Wu

Shirley Plucinski, winner of a $3,000 Undergraduate Assistantship, is an honors student pursuing a degree in Psychology with a double minor in education and political science. She is working under the mentorship of Dr. Rebecca Spencer to study the influence of daytime napping on motor memory in preschool-aged children.

“CRF’s student research scholars program has opened up a world of opportunity for me. The resources, faculty, and support have allowed me to dedicate myself to my thesis and has encouraged me to pursue a research career or graduate school in the future.”

- Shirley Plucinski

Alexandrea Craft is a doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology Program in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. She is working under the mentorship of Dr. Maureen Perry-Jenkins to study how risk and resiliency factors shape early child development among low-income families. Her current research focuses on investigating how early parental conflict and conflict resolution styles, experienced during a child’s first year of life, are associated with children’s behavioral outcomes at age six. Her travel award allowed her to travel to The National Council of Family Relations Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

“The CRF travel award helped me connect with other scholars researching family dynamics. I am grateful to CRF for helping expand my research network and my knowledge on family research.”

- Alexandrea Craft

Monika Roy is a California native who completed her undergraduate degree from the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley. She is currently pursuing a PhD at UMass Amherst’s School of Public Health and Health Sciences. She is a member of the Timme-Laragy lab in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, where she researches emerging waterborne contaminants and their effects on embryonic development. She presented her findings at the North America region of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry last fall.

“The CRF travel award has supported me in presenting my first poster at a national conference. CRF has showed me that opportunities exist to support student growth in a research area that is not particularly well-funded.”

- Monika Roy

CRF 2017-2018 Student Award Recipients Share Their Research

The CRF SRS Program mirrors CRF’s Family Research Scholars (FRS) program for faculty; award recipients meet regularly to discuss their research projects with peers, faculty, and staff and they receive funding, methodology assistance, and mentorship. The following awardees participated in the ongoing program: Chaia Flegenheimer, Rachel Herman, Ragini Saira, Shirley Plucinski, Rodrigo Dominguez, Mahala Stewart, Haotian Wu, and Gennarina Santorelli.

This following section highlights the research and experiences of several SRS program participants and two of CRF’s six travel award winners this year. Awardees repeatedly stressed the important role CRF played in furthering their research.

Sarah Lowe, winner of a $10,000 Pre-dissertation Fellowship, is a doctoral student in Community Health Education. Under the mentorship of Dr. Aline Gubrium, Sarah’s research focuses on psychosocial determinants of mental health and resilience amongst refugee and immigrant populations through narrative, digital, and visual research methods. Her current project is a mixed-methods, community-based digital storytelling initiative in conjunction with the Bhutanese Society of Western Massachusetts titled, Home, Health, and Solidarity: Digital Storytelling for Refugee Resilience.

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“The aim of the Student Research Scholars (SRS) program is to support graduate and undergraduate students to perform cutting-edge research on families. Through the SRS program, our goal is to create the next generation of scholars who can think in profound interdisciplinary ways to solve the complex problems facing families.”

- Maureen Perry-Jenkins, CRF Director
Durga Kolla

Durga Kolla, recipient of the 2017 CRF Family Research Honors Capstone Award, is a student in the Environmental Health Sciences 4+1 BS/MS program in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences. She studies the effects of environmental chemicals on mice throughout their lifespan.

Durga’s decision to major in public health and neuroscience was inspired by a class taught by Dr. Laura Vandenberg, a 2015-16 CRF Family Research Scholar, and led her to join Dr. Vandenberg’s lab. Durga’s research focuses on the effects of exposure to environmental chemicals with estrogenic activity in relation to the development of the mammary gland in mice.

“About 10 years ago there was a lot of public outcry to ban BPA (Bisphenol A) from everyday household items such as plastic baby bottles and toys. The industry removed BPA from many of these products, and labeled them as ‘BPA free,’ but they ended up replacing it with a lesser known, less well-studied hormone-mimicking chemical known as BPS,” she explains.

Her thesis hopes to answer the question of whether or not BPS behaves similarly to BPA. She is hoping to determine whether developmental exposure to BPS will alter the response of mice to subsequent hormonal treatment at puberty and as adults. Durga explains that it will be crucial to answer this question as we think about the effects BPS has on humans.

Durga describes her research as being directly related to children and families. “All populations are exposed to environmental chemicals. BPS is found in water bottles, medical equipment, canned food linings, plastic food containers, and dental sealants, for example. We are trying to pinpoint when in the developmental process we are most vulnerable.”

As a thesis award recipient, Durga feels fortunate to be part of a community that offers students so much. “I have met so many inspiring people through CRF and I feel like they have so much to offer to support students.” Durga defended her thesis in the Spring of 2018.

Chaia Flegenheimer

Chaia Flegenheimer’s interest in the workings of the human brain began at a young age. Chaia, the recipient of the 2017-18 CRF Graduate Family Research Dissertation Fellowship, struggled during her early school years with learning challenges, particularly related to understanding the mechanics of spelling and math. The differences in her learning experiences compared to that of her peers sparked her interest in how the brain processes information.

Chaia completed her Bachelor’s degree in Neuroscience at Vassar College in 2013. A Pioneer Valley native, her career goals brought her back to western Massachusetts to join the PhD program in Neuroscience at UMass Amherst. Under the mentorship of Dr. Jennifer McDermott, and with the guidance of Dr. Nilanjana Dasgupta, Chaia is currently studying the behavioral and neural effects of implicit stereotype threat on task performance and engagement in young women.

Chaia’s dissertation research has three primary aims. First, she aims to confirm that she can induce stereotype threat in young women in a laboratory setting. Second, she aims to discern whether there are neural differences in individuals facing stereotype threat. Finally, she examines whether the neural differences can be lessened by introducing individuals to positive group role models.

Chaia’s research has many real-world implications. As Chaia notes, “Increasing the number of women in STEM fields will increase revenues for the growing number of families who rely on the mother’s income.” Chaia has applied for postdoctoral positions for the upcoming year prior to applying for academic positions.

“CRF’s dissertation fellowship has allowed me to focus more on my research goals,” says Chaia. Chaia also participated in CRF’s Student Research Scholars seminar, where she joined seven other students who meet regularly with CRF faculty and methodologists to share their work and get feedback and support for their research.

“CRF’s dissertation fellowship has allowed me to focus more on my research goals.”
- Chaia Flegenheimer

“I have met so many inspiring people through CRF and I feel like they have so much to offer to support students.”
- Durga Kolla
The Tay Gavin Erickson lecture series allows CRF to simultaneously foster family research and engage with the public in public conversations and lectures. The lecture series brings internationally recognized speakers with expertise in family research to campus each year. The lecture series began in 1999 through an endowment established in memory of Tay Gavin Erickson. During the 2017-2018 Tay Gavin Erickson lecture series, CRF hosted four prominent researchers who gave public lectures and provided in-depth consultation to CRF scholars.

“...The consultation was incredibly valuable. She gave us an array of helpful ideas that informed both the grant write-up and the design of the project itself, and it was great to connect with a fellow researcher with similar research goals.”

- Jeffrey Starns, 2017-18 Family Research Scholar
Interdisciplinary Collaborations

CRF is committed to creating opportunities for research collaboration and the formation of intellectual communities that bring students and researchers together across traditional boundaries. CRF collaborates with other centers, departments, schools, and colleges within UMass Amherst to develop multidisciplinary projects. Faculty from the Five Colleges and other UMass campuses also engage in joint ventures with CRF, which has led to innovative projects and an extended network of research opportunities. Some of this past year’s activities include:

- **The Bright Future of Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy**, presented by Theodore Huppert, PhD, in partnership with the Developmental Science Initiative and the College of Natural Sciences
- **On Edge: Towards an Affective Geopolitics of Bordering**, presented by Madeleine Reeves, in partnership with the Department of Anthropology
- **CRF/ISSR Scholar Program Information Session** for prospective applicants to the Scholars Program at CRF and ISSR

Public Engagement Program (PEP)
The Public Engagement Project supports and trains faculty members from all disciplines to use their research to contribute to social change, inform public policy, and enrich public debate. CRF, in collaboration with ISSR, School for Public Policy, and the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program, spearheaded this program, which has resulted in national exposure for faculty in public media outlets such as PBS, the New York Times, the Boston Globe, and the Huffington Post, to name a few.

CRF Co-sponsored the PEP event: **Making Research Matter: Sharing Insights on Public Engagement.**
CRF’s interdisciplinary Stress Research Group consists of 28 researchers who have been meeting since 2008 to better understand the causes of stress, the effects of stress, and methods of stress measurement because of the critical role stress plays in individuals and families. The Stress Research Group has been working across disciplines to integrate techniques, tools, and perspectives to examine how and why stress manifests in the body throughout life, how the manifestation of stress influences relationships and mental health, and how we can address the negative effects of stress to improve health. The Stress Research Group seeks to offer a new certificate program that will train students to develop novel and unique biopsychosocial training to provide young investigators with the foundation to thrive in academia, industry, and applied settings.

The group meets b-weekly to discuss their stress and family-related research. The meetings stimulate cross-disciplinary analysis and assist each member with his or her research. Family relationships, animal bonding, developmental phases, and neuroscience are important aspects of this cluster’s research. Members of the Stress Research Group have co-authored articles, submitted grant proposals together, and supported each other in productivity and creativity of thought.

The Stress Research Group resubmitted a Training Grant application to the National Science Foundation in 2017. The Stress Research Group seeks to offer a new certificate program that will train students to develop novel and interdisciplinary theses and dissertations that advance the study of, and response to, stress. The program will offer unique biopsychosocial training to provide young investigators with the foundation to thrive in academia, industry, and applied science careers and will continue beyond the funding period.

**Faculty in the Stress Research Group**

Heather Richardson, Co-director of Stress Research Group, Associate Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Co-director of Stress Research Group, Professor, Anthropology

Kirby Deater-Deckard, Co-director of Stress Research Group, Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Annaliese Beer, Assistant Professor, Psychology, Smith College

Joseph Bergan, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Jeffrey Blaustein, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson, Associate Professor, Epidemiology

Matt Davidson, Lecturer, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Katherine Dixon-Gordon, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Andrew Farrar, Research Fellow, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Louis Graham, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Health Sciences

Mary Harrington, Tappet Professor in Life Sciences, Psychology, Smith College

KC Haydon, Assistant Professor, Psychology and Education, Mount Holyoke College

Karen Kime, Associate Professor, Nursing

Agnès Lacreuse, Associate Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Jenrod Meyers, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Jennifer Martin McDermott, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

David Moorman, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Melinda Novak, Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Mariana Pereira, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences, CRF Director

Paula Pietromonaco, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Sally Powers, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences; Associate Dean, College of Natural Sciences

Rebecca Ready, Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Luke Remage-Healey, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Lisa Troy, Assistant Professor, Nutrition and Commonwealth Honors College, Professor

Brian Whitcomb, Associate Professor, Public Health

**Steering Committee**

BRIGITTE HOLT, Anthropology

EZEKIEL KIMBALL, Education

GERALD DOWNES, Biology

HERALD GROTEVANT, Psychological and Brain Sciences

ELIZABETH HARNEY, Psychological and Brain Sciences

HOLLY LAWS, Psychological and Brain Sciences

JOYA MISRA, Sociology

KAREN KALMAKIS, Nursing

LINDWIE SIBIEKO, Nutrition

SARA WHITCOMB, Education

SOFIYA ALHASSAN, Kinesiology

STEVE GOODWIN, Deputy Chancellor and Chief Planning Officer

**Faculty & Staff**

MAUREEN PERRY-JENKINS, Director

ALINE SAYER, Co-Director of CRF Methodology Program

HOLLY LAWS, Co-Director of CRF Methodology Program

GISELE LUTAILEN, Associate Director

ANGELA RUSSO, Assistant Director of Communications and Events

STEPHANIE COVELLI, Financial Manager

LISA FIORENZO, Methodology Consultant

DONGWEE WANG, Methodology Consultant

**Students**

ALICE COYNE, Graduate Assistant, Methodology

JOEL GINN, Graduate Assistant, Methodology

RACHEL HERMAN, Graduate Assistant on the Work and Family Transitions Project, Psychological and Brain Sciences, College of Natural Sciences

ALEXANDRA CRAFT, Graduate Assistant on the Work and Family Transitions Project, Psychological and Brain Sciences, College of Natural Sciences

OLIVIA HAMMOND, Undergraduate Program Assistant, Isenberg School of Management

AMBYR BRATTON, Undergraduate Program Assistant, College of Natural Sciences and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

PALISTA KHAREL, Graduate Program Assistant, Isenberg School of Management and College of Social and Behavioral Science, School of Public Health and Health Sciences

FAITH ENGLISH, Graduate Program Assistant, School of Public Health and Health Sciences

**Faculty Affiliates**

LUZ AMARAL, Spanish and Portuguese Studies

DANIEL ANDERSON, Psychological and Brain Sciences

KATHLEEN ARCARO, Veterinary and Animal Science

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MEGHAN ARMSTRONG-ABRAM, Spanish and Portuguese Studies
DAVID AIRWOOD, Psychological and Brain Sciences
YSAAQI AXELROD, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
M. V. LEE BADGETT, Economics and Public Policy
ANNALEESE BEERY, Psychology, Smith College
JOSEPH BERGAN, Neuropsychology
ANGÉLICA M. BERNAL, Political Science
ELIZABETH BERTONE-JOHNSON, Epidemiology
JEFFREY BLAUSTEIN, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
SYLVIA BRANDT, Resource Economics and School of Public Policy
MICHIEL BUDIG, Sociology
BRENDA BUSHHOUSE, Political Science and Public Policy
ERIK CHERRIES, Psychological and Brain Studies
YU-KYONG CHOE, Communication Disorders
DANIEL CLAWSON, Sociology
LEDA COOKS, Communication
LOHRAINE CORDEIRO, Nutrition
NILEAN JINA DASGUPTA, Psychological and Brain Sciences
MATT DAVIDSON, Psychological and Brain Sciences
KIRBY DEAVER-DECKER, Psychological and Brain Sciences
KRISTINA DELZANDENIK, UMass Memorial Hospital
KATHERINE DIXON-GORDON, Psychological and Brain Sciences
GERALD DONALDON, Sociology
ANDREW FARRAR, Psychological and Brain Sciences
NANCY FOLBRE, Professor Emeritus, Economics
NADIA GONZALEZ, Sociology
ABBIE GOLDBERG, Sociology
JEFFREY BLAUSTEIN, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
SEON YEOng YU, Linguistics
BRIAN WHITCOMB, Linguistics
LISA WEXLER, Linguistics
RYAN WELLS, Linguistics
LAURA VANDENBERG, Linguistics
LISA TROY, Linguistics
LINDA TROPP, Linguistics
RICHARD TESSLER, Linguistics
REBECCA SPENCER, Linguistics
LYNETTE LEIDY SIEVERT, Linguistics
ERICA SCHARRER, Linguistics
AMY SCHALET, Linguistics
LISA SANDERS, Linguistics
GWYNETH ROST, Linguistics
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LYNETTE LEIDY SIEVERT, Anthropology
REBECCA SPENCER, Psychological and Brain Sciences
RICHARD TESSLER, Sociology
LINDA TROPP, Psychological and Brain Sciences
LISA TROY, Nutrition
LAURA VANDENBERG, Environmental Health Sciences
RYAN WELLS, Educational Policy, Research & Administration
LISA WEISER, Community Health Education
BRIAN WHITCOMB, Epidemiology
SEON YEOng YU, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

Transitions and Fond Farewells

Over the past year CRF has had to say goodbye to some amazing faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to our Center.

Aline Sayer has been the Methodology Director of CRF since 2004. She has developed national recognition for CRF as a place for cutting-edge, methodological expertise in family research. Her longstanding service to CRF will be sorely missed and we wish her a wonderful retirement.

Angela Russo, Assistant Director of Communications and Events, devoted tremendous time, energy, and creativity to our CRF communications and networking; she created the “face” of CRF. In addition, she managed our team of graduate and undergraduates as she spearheaded CRF events and research celebrations. Angela is moving on to an exciting new position and she too will be greatly missed. We thank her for the amazing skills, organization, and service she brought to CRF and we wish her the best of luck in her new position.

Lisa Fiorenzo, Methodology Consultant, worked with CRF for three years, providing statistical guidance and consultation to countless students and faculty across campus. She was offered a wonderful new job, building on her methodological and statistical expertise, in the Boston area. We wish her the best of luck!
Center for Research on Families
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