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*This report describes CRF activities undertaken from July 2011 through June 2012.
The Center for Research on Families

The Center for Research on Families at UMass Amherst began in 1996 with a generous endowment by Dorothy Dunklee Gavin (’43) and Joseph Gavin to found The Center for the Family. In 2003, the original Center for the Family expanded into today’s Center for Research on Families (CRF). CRF is currently established as a productive and growing research center within the UMass and 5-college systems and is recognized nationally and internationally as a source of state-of-the-art research on a broad, multidisciplinary range of family issues. CRF is a center of the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Its programs are supported in part by the Edna Skinner and Tay Gavin Erickson endowments, the College of Natural Sciences, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, grants, and alumni and corporate gifts.

The mission of the Center for Research on Families is to

- **increase research on family issues** at UMass Amherst,
- **foster collaboration and build a multidisciplinary community** of researchers within UMass who are studying issues of relevance to families,
- **provide faculty mentoring** to increase successful funding and management of external grant awards,
- **provide advanced data analytic methods** training and consultation,
- **support student training** in family research,
- **disseminate family research findings** to a wide variety of audiences including scholars, families, practitioners, and policymakers, and
- **connect national and internationally prominent family researchers** with UMass faculty and students.

Research at CRF encompasses disciplines as diverse as the life sciences, social sciences, public health and nursing, education, and natural resources. CRF’s programs provide expertise, support, and mentorship to researchers at all stages of their academic careers. We are committed to investing in each faculty member and student’s research career for the long-term.
SALLY POWERS
Director, Center for Research on Families
Associate Dean of Faculty Development,
College of Natural Sciences
Professor, Department of Psychology
and Neuroscience and Behavior Program
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Center for Research on Families continues to grow and thrive. Support for faculty and student research on the important issues facing families remains in demand. The research findings and activities of the many faculty and students affiliated with CRF have had a significant impact in many areas: stress in individuals and families; work and its effects on families; care for family members; health challenges across the life-span; sleep in young children and its impact on brain development, and much more.

At CRF, faculty and students study families and the individuals and institutions that affect them. The Center’s multidisciplinary breadth enables it to be a dynamic and responsive resource to many faculty researching the complex issues of changing families. In the past year, CRF has facilitated numerous successful federal grant applications and collaborative research projects, while fostering mentoring relationships between many talented students and their faculty family research mentors.

The Center continues to bring together faculty, scholars, students and community members to share ideas, learn from each other and work together. Whether writing publications, problem-solving around what methods are best to analyze changes in families over time, or hearing from experts from across the globe, CRF’s collaborative and interdisciplinary efforts generate knowledge to promote family well-being, encourage interaction among researchers with different areas of expertise, and hone the curiosity and skills of young scholars -- the next generation of family researchers.

Thanks to the caring and committed staff, enthusiastic donors, eminent faculty and talented, motivated students who engage with the Center, it is a vibrant research hub at UMass.

We welcome faculty and students interested in research that affects families to become involved in the Center for Research on Families.

Thank you for your interest in CRF and I hope this report can help you to identify new ways that CRF can support your engagement in family research.

All the best,

Sally Powers
Director, Center for Research on Families
Associate Dean of Faculty Development, College of Natural Sciences
Professor, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and Behavior Program
CRF ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Highlights 2011-2012

- CRF continued to offer 5 core programs for faculty across career stages and disciplines: The Family Research Scholars Program (FRS), the Methodology Training and Consultation Program, the Student Research Grants and Awards Program, Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series, and the Stress Research Group.

- Again this year, CRF offered 3 highly successful collaborative programs addressing specific research interests:
  - The second year of the enhanced “I’m a PI, Now What?!” Workshop for Principal Investigators of major research grants was held in collaboration with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement.
  - CRF collaborated with the Rudd Adoption Research Program to hold the 4th ‘New Worlds of Adoption’ conference in March 2012.
  - CRF continued to play a key role in the Public Engagement Project (PEP) to support and train faculty to use their research in the public realm to contribute to social change and inform public policy.

- CRF collaborated with many other UMass centers, departments, and programs to address a broad range of family-related issues including gambling, diversity, women’s acts of resistance to human rights violations, and much more.

- CRF faculty scholars submitted 16 new research grants to NSF, NIH, and foundations totaling $7,107,197 in requests.

- CRF faculty collaborated with many other UMass centers, departments, and programs to address a broad range of family-related issues including gambling, diversity, women’s acts of resistance to human rights violations, and much more.

- CRF had 12 active research grants from NSF, NIH, U.S. Army Research Institute for Behavioral and Social Sciences (ARI), American Heart Association and other foundations. The PIs were from the anthropology, psychology, public health and economics departments.

- CRF hosted or co-sponsored 33 renowned experts to visit campus, consult with faculty, and present their research through the Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series, the Rudd Adoption Conference, the Stress Lecture Series, Methodology Workshops and Seminars, and other collaborative forums.

- Six faculty participated in the Family Research Scholars program, and many former scholars and affiliates continued to work with the Center on grant submission and scholarly activities.

- CRF awarded $71,000 in support to 26 students through the Student Research Grants and Awards Program.

- CRF launched a new methodological seminar series and continued to offer advanced statistical and methodological consultation, analysis, and training workshops to UMass faculty and students, and to researchers from 54 other research institutions from 25 states and 3 countries.

Chairs, faculty, and students are invited to contact director, Sally Powers, associate director, Wendy Varner, or director of methodology programs, Aline Sayer, regarding suggestions for how CRF might foster the growth of faculty and student research.

Phone: 413-545-4631
Email: crf@psych.umass.edu.
Fostering Research on Families
(LEFT TO RIGHT)
RYAN WELLS
Educational Policy, Research and Administration
ERIN SNOOK
Department of Kinesiology
ELIZABETH KRAUSE
Department of Anthropology
JENNIFER MARTIN MCDERMOTT
Department of Psychology
ANGELICA BERNAL
Department of Political Science
SARA WHITCOMB
School Psychology
Family Research Scholars Program

Since 2003, CRF has offered The Family Research Scholars Program, which provides selected faculty with the time, technical expertise, peer mentorship, and national expert consultation to prepare a large grant proposal for their research support. Family Research Scholars participate in a year-long interdisciplinary faculty seminar that includes presentations and discussions of the Scholars’ developing proposals, concrete instruction on the details of successful proposal submission and the resources of the university, individualized methodology consultation, and information about relevant funding agencies. Each year, up to 6 national experts are chosen and invited to campus to provide individual consultation to each of the scholars on their specific projects and to present a public research lecture as part of the Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series.

Facilitators: CRF director, Sally Powers, professor of psychology, Wendy Varner, associate director, Aline Sayer, associate professor of psychology and director of methodology programs; David Bosch, financial manager.

The Scholars program has been invaluable to me this year. It has really given me the space and support to conceptualize my line of research well. It has energized me and helped me to focus on what I really want to be studying versus what I thought I “should” be studying. I will be very sad when it is over.

– ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Family Research Scholars 2011-2012

ANGELICA BERNAL
Department of Political Science, School College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Project: “The Impact of Petroleum Contamination, Litigation and Legal Activism on Indigenous Families in Ecuador’s Amazonian Region”

ELIZABETH KRAUSE
Department of Anthropology, School College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Project: “Tight Knit: Flexible Families, In/Security and the Global Economy in Italy”

JENNIFER MARTIN MCDERMOTT
Department of Psychology, College of Natural Sciences
Project: “Social and Biological Influences on the Development of Children’s Self-Regulation”

ERIN SNOOK
Department of Kinesiology, College School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Project: “The Antecedents and Outcomes of Physical Activity Behavior In Populations With Neurological Diseases like Multiple-Sclerosis (MS)”

RYAN WELLS
Educational Policy, Research and Administration, School of Education

SARA WHITCOMB
School Psychology, School of Education
Project: “The Impact of Implementation of a Social-Emotional Curriculum and Parent Training Program on Preschool Children Identified as Behaviorally At-Risk.”
Since its inception in 2003:
• 50 faculty members have participated in the Scholars program.
• Faculty Scholars have come from 6 different schools and colleges and 15 different departments, as well as from Smith College School of Social Work.

6 new scholars were selected for the 2012-2013 class (Kathleen Arcaro, veterinary and animal sciences; Nilanjana Dasgupta, psychology; Harold Grotevant, psychology; Karen Kalmakis, nursing; Fareen Parvez, sociology; Jerusha Peterman, nutrition).

The UMass schools/colleges/departments include:
• College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
  Anthropology
  Communications
  Economics
  Legal Studies
  Political Science
  Sociology
• College of Natural Sciences
  Environmental Conservation
  Psychology
  Veterinary and Animal Sciences
• School of Nursing
• School of Public Health and Health Sciences
  Communication Disorders
  Nutrition
  Public Health – Community Health Education
  Kinesiology
• School of Education
  Education Policy Research and Administration
  Department of Student Development
  School Psychology
• College of Humanities and Fine Arts
  Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The staff support from CRF provides an awesome buffer against the numerous bureaucratic tentacles that can intimidate and frustrate would-be Principal Investigators. These tentacles can reach into the very depths of scholars’ psyches, wear them down and even dissuade them from following through with developing ideas into proposals. I seriously doubt I would have succeeded in landing my senior NSF grant without CRF having my back.

– ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Research Publications Resulting from CRF Grants

When do Counter-stereotypic In-group Members Inspire vs. Deflate? The Effect of Successful Professional Women on Women’s Leadership Self-Concept.

Ingroup Experts and Peers as Social Vaccines who Inoculate the Self-concept: The Stereotype Inoculation Model.
Psychological Inquiry, 22, 231-246.

With a Little Help from my Colleagues: Strengthening the Stereotype Inoculation Model with Insights from Fellow Psychologists.
Psychological Inquiry.

Demers*, L.B., Hanson, K.G., Kirkorian, H.L., Pempek, T.A., & Anderson*, D.R.
Infant Gaze Following During Parent-infant Coviewing of Videos.
Child Development (in press).

Kirkorian, H.L., Anderson*, D.R., & Keen, R.
Age Differences in Online Processing of Video: An Eye Movement Study.
Child Development. 2012.

Lavigne*, H.J. & Anderson*, D.R.
Television and Children’s Knowledge.

Misra*, J., Budig*, M., and Boeckmann*, I.
Work-Family Policies and the Effects of Children on Women’s Employment Hours and Wages.

Misra*, J., Budig*, M., and Boeckmann*, I.
Cross-National Patterns in Individual and Household Employment and Work Hours by Gender and Parenthood.

Misra*, J.
The Future of Caregiving: Cross-national Perspectives.

Pempek, T.A., Demers*, L.B., Hanson, K.G., Kirkorian, H.L., & Anderson*, D.R.
The Impact of Infant-directed Videos on Parent-child Interactions.
Research Presentations Resulting from CRF Grants

"Timing of Pubertal Development Predicts Distinctive Patterns of Physiological Stress among Newlywed Couples."

Beck+, L. A., Pietromonaco, P. R., & Powers*, S. I.
"Congruence between Spouses’ Perceptions of Support: The Role of Negative Affect and Attachment Orientations."
Presented at the IARR-HER mini-conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, October 2011.

Beck+, L. R., Pietromonaco*, P. R., DeBuse, C. J., Powers*, S. I., & Sayer*, A. G.
"Cortisol Patterns in Response to Marital Conflict: The Role of Spouses’ Attachment Styles."
International Association of Relationship Research, Chicago, 2012.

Boeckmann*, I., Misra*, J., and Budig*, M.
"Work-Family Policies and Mothers? Employment Hours Cross-Nationally."
American Sociological Association, Denver, August 2012.

Budig*, M.
"Gender, Parenthood, Wage Inequalities, and Work-Family Policies."

Budig*, M.
"Gender, Parenthood, Wage Inequalities in Cross-National Perspective: Do Work-Family Policies and Cultural Context Matter?"

Budig*, M., Misra*, J., and Boeckmann*, I.
"How Cultural Attitudes and Work-Family Policies Combine to Predict Maternal Earnings Cross-Nationally."

Dasgupta*, N.
"Stereotypes and me: Ingroup experts and peers as social vaccines who inoculate one’s self-concept."
Invited presentation at the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. May 2012.

Dasgupta*, N.
"Ingroup Experts and Peers as Social Vaccines who Inoculate the Self-concept: The Stereotype Inoculation Model. *
Invited presentation at the National Center for Women in Information Technology, Chicago, IL. May 2012.

Dasgupta*, N.
"Stereotypes and Me: Ingroup Experts and Peers as Social Vaccines Who Inoculate One’s Self-concept."

Krause*, E. L.
“Support or Surveillance? Encounter Ethnography in a Fast-Fashion District”
Presented paper at the 19th International Conference of Europeanists, Council for European Studies, Boston, MA, in March.

Laws*, H., Powers, S. I., Sayer, A. G., Pietromonaco, P.
"Modeling Dyadic Physiological Attunement."
Lundquist*, J.
“Til Death (or Housing Benefits) Do Us Part: Explaining Early Marriage in the U.S. Military”
Presented at the Military Family Research Institute Symposium at Purdue University and
was the featured speaker at the Center for Research on Families Annual Research Forum
and Awards Dinner, “The Impact of Racial Segregation on Reproductive Health”

Misra*, J., and Strader*, E.
“Work, Family, and Gender Equality: Comparative Historical Evidence.”
Paper presented at the Work and Family Researchers Network conference, New York,
June 2012.

Perry-Jenkins*, M.
“New Parents’ Mental Health in Socio-cultural Context”
Invited presentation at the Center for Family and Demographic Research and National
Center for Family and Marriage Research at Bowling Green University, March 2012.

Perry-Jenkins*, M.
“Juggling the Demands of New Parenthood: Unique Challenges for Low-income Families.”
Invited presentation at Loyola University Chicago Speaker Series on Gender Work and
Family, April 2012.

“Different Attachment Pairings in Newlywed Couples Predict Distinctive Patterns of
Physiological Stress Reactivity and Recovery.”
Presented at the IARR-HER mini-conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona,
October 2011.

“Mental Representations of Attachment and Physiological Stress Responses in Newly
Married Couples.”
Presented as part of a symposium on “Perspectives on the Associations among Affective
States and Cognitions” at the 24th Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological

Zimbler, M., Pietromonaco*, P. R., Sayer*, A., & Powers*, S.
“How Perceptions of Relationship Fairness Mediate the Relationship between Marital Power
and Marital Satisfaction.”
Presented at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology,
San Diego, CA, 2012.

*CRF Scholar; ‘CRF Student


“Being a CRF scholar has given me the time, space, structure, and
guidance to understand and get started in the world of large grants in a way
that would not have been possible otherwise.”

– ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Scholars’ Research Highlights – 2011-2012

Daniel R. Anderson (FRS ’03 -’04, FRS ’07-’08, psychology) spoke at universities and television networks in South Korea and China concerning his research on television viewing by very young children.


M.V. Lee Badgett (FRS ’04 -’05, economics) was widely recognized as a leader on the issue of same sex marriage. As director of research at the Williams’ Institute, Badgett authored several studies on the economic impact of marriage equality in the United States and Australia.

Michelle Budig (FRS ’06 -’07, sociology) was awarded a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation entitled “Penalties for Paid and Unpaid Carework,” with Paula England (former Tay Gavin Erickson speaker), Suzanne Bianchi, and Joan Kahn.

Nancy Folbre (FRS ’07-’08, economics) continued to write in the New York Times’ Economix blog connecting family research and economic trends.

Naomi Gerstel and Dan Clawson (FRS ’03 -’04, sociology) were 2011-2012 Scholars at The Russell Sage Foundation

Naomi Gerstel’s (FRS ’03 -’04, sociology) work on single and unmarried Americans received attention and was cited in the NY Times Well Blog, MSN Money, and Atlanta Journal Constitution. According to Gerstel, unmarried Americans still face a lingering social stigma. She states, “There is this push for marriage in the straight community and in the gay community, essentially assuming that if you don’t get married there is something wrong with you.”

Marsha Kline Pruett (FRS ’08 -’09, Smith College) attained her diplomate status by the American Board of Professional Psychology in Couple and Family Psychology and was recognized with the Nurturing Fathers Alliance Award by Enlace de Familias (Holyoke Family Network). She is serving as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Calgary, Alberta for part of 2012. Pruett is also now an advisory board member for the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System’s Honoring Families Initiative at the University of Denver, CO and the Center for Family Studies at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth and George, South Africa.

Joya Misra (FRS ‘05 -’06, sociology) is editor of Gender & Society, 4th ranked journal in Sociology, 2nd in Women/Gender Studies, 2011-2015.

Rebecca Ready (FRS ’08 -’09, psychology) started new blog titled “Your Quality of Life: Well Being for the Long Haul,” which launched on PsychologyToday.com.

Erica Scharrer (FRS ’03 -’04, communication) was appointed Chair of the Children, Adolescents and Media division of the International Communication Association. Also, Dr. Scharrer’s work on success or failure in gendered depictions of housework in television commercials was quoted in Real Simple Magazine.

Nina Siulc (FRS ’10 -’11, political science & legal studies) was elected to the board of directors for the Consortium of Undergraduate Law and Justice Programs (CULJP). The Consortium “is an organization for colleges and universities that have interdisciplinary programs geared toward undergraduate education about law and justice in the United States and internationally.” Siulc will serve on the board for two years.

Rebecca Spencer (FRS ’10 -’11, psychology) has gained recognition as an expert on the effects of sleep on memory. Spencer discussed her findings on sleep and the aging brain at the Society for Neuroscience’s annual conference in Washington, D.C. in November 2011. Dr. Spencer also was an invited speaker at the European Union funded “Temporal Processing in Clinical Populations”, in Thessaloniki, Greece, and spoke as part of CNS Nature’s Faculty Speaker Series speaker in April 2012.

Linda Tropp (FRS ’09 -’10, psychology) received the prestigious University Distinguished Academic Outreach Award for Outreach in Research. Dr. Tropp was also a partner investigator on an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant entitled “Building successful diverse communities: What works and why?” She also received the Presidential Authority Award from the Russell Sage Foundation for “Social Status and Qualities of Intergroup Relations among Native and Immigrant Groups” and presented “When groups meet: The dynamics of intergroup contact” at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Public Lecture, University of Otago, New Zealand, in August, 2011

CRF’s Women and Work Conference from 2005 inspired a new collection of essays about working mothers and work-family balance, Women Who Opt Out, edited by Dr. Bernie Jones (former CRF steering committee member), was released in April. The book takes a multi-disciplinary approach in questioning the basic thesis of “the opt-out revolution.” The books contributors include CRF scholars Joya Misra (FRS ’04-’05, sociology) and Maureen Perry-Jenkins (FRS ’06-’07, psychology).
Lisa Scott (Family Research Scholar ‘09 - ‘10, psychology)

What a remarkable year for this new investigator. As a developmental and cognitive neuroscientist, Dr. Lisa Scott investigates how experience influences the ability to learn from, perceive, discriminate, remember, and categorize objects and faces.

This year Dr. Scott launched two major research projects from grants she submitted as a CRF Family Research Scholar: A CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation ($675,000) to study factors that influence infant perceptual learning and how different perceptual experiences influence brain development. This award is NSF’s most prestigious recognition for junior faculty and is meant to support those who exemplify the teacher-scholar role through outstanding research, excellent education and integrating education and research in the context of their institution’s mission.

During this same year, Scott began the start-up of a $2 million collaborative project funded by the US Army Research Institute for the Behavior & Social Science, of which she is the PI, entitled “Visual Expertise in the Laboratory in the Real World.”

As Scott explains her research, “During a brief period of infancy, perceptual biases are formed that seem to lead to long-lasting difficulties in recognizing and identifying people from unfamiliar groups. Studies suggest that perceptual narrowing arises when infants do not learn to associate individual names, such as ‘Rita’ or ‘Joe,’ with people of other races.” Scott hypothesizes that without individual names, infants learn to group together and categorize people within other races instead of learning to individualize them. She also predicts that parents’ naming of faces at the individual-level will result in enhanced development of face processing (beyond face recognition), including emotion perception and understanding intentions through gaze perception.

Results may help to inform parents, educators and policy makers about perceptual learning and the role of experience on the developing brain. Findings could also have implications for understanding developmental disorders. Scott and colleagues hope to learn more about how infants tune their perceptual systems and how specific early experiences influence later perceptual abilities. In earlier experiments with babies and their parents, Scott found that when parents labeled objects with individual names, their infants formed very different concepts about the objects than when they only heard a generic name.

With two large initiatives as these, Dr. Scott has found CRF’s “I’m a PI: Now What?!?” post award workshop series very valuable and is a regular participant.
Dr. Hemment is an expert on post-socialist Russia’s civil society and forms of civic activism since the mid 1990’s. In 2005 CRF awarded Hemment a Family Research Scholarship, which launched her most recent research project and enabled her to secure both a series of small external and internal grants (including Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation, the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, IREX and a UMA Faculty Research Grant), as well as a major National Science Foundation grant.

Hemment’s research rests on a solid appreciation of the profound shifts Russian society has undergone since the collapse of the Soviet states, and her work bridges many different fields and sub-fields within the social sciences, including social movements, women’s studies, post-socialist and Russian studies, youth studies, and development studies. Her research interest in Russia began when she first travelled to Russia in the late 1980’s. The cultural shifts and seismic dislocation she witnessed, as well as Russian people’s exuberance and resourcefulness intrigued her and propelled her to study anthropology in graduate school. Since then, she has undertaken extensive ethnographic research, mostly based in the provincial city, Tver.

In 2007, Hemment’s first book, *Empowering Women in Russia: Activism, Aid, and NGOs*, was published and it is a must read for those interested in post-Soviet Russia and post-socialism.

Hemment’s multiple grant awards allowed her to initiate a second collaborative research project with her Tver-based colleagues to study the potential that community service learning methodologies have in the Russian context. Hemment’s conversation about pedagogy soon morphed into an exploration of how youth have become the new subjects of state policy, as she and her Russian colleagues came to understand the extent of the Putin administration’s new “patriotic education” program and youth-oriented campaigns. Hemment was initially interested in the promotion of youth volunteerism and its relationship to social welfare restructuring. Her National Science Foundation grant extended the collaborative project and enabled her to focus her attention on the broader context of youth policies, which provide extensive funding to youth volunteer projects.

Hemment and her colleagues examined a diverse set of state-run projects from the notorious pro-Kremlin youth organization, Nashi, to local projects promoting youth volunteerism. Hemment explains, “I’m drawn to explore and to probe the significance of the hybridity that these campaigns and state-run organizations and projects manifest, where there is a mingling of Soviet-era images and values competing with nationalist symbols and market logics.” True to her interest in participatory research, Hemment and her colleagues devised a novel collaborative research methodology to explore these themes. The model engaged college-aged youth in the process of inquiry about state-run youth organizations, and the Russian undergraduate students who were involved acquired skills in qualitative analysis while completing ethnographic research at these organizations.

As a Family Research Scholar, Hemment was able to expand and develop her research, connecting the University of Massachusetts to an international discussion about the impact that youth-oriented state policies are having on future of Russia. Social scientists, policy makers, NGO professionals, sociologists, and political scientists will all benefit from Hemment’s drive to raise the awareness of an emerging post-Soviet Russia, and her research confirms the central role that anthropology plays in helping us shape our understanding of youth and their social context in contemporary Russian society and its future directions.
LEFT TO RIGHT

REBECCA SPENCER
Family Research Scholar 2010-2011

LAURI KURDZIEL
Research Student, Neuroscience and Behavior Program

BENGİ BARAN
Research Student, Psychology
Research Activity – 2011-2012

Grants Submitted
16 scholars’ grants submitted totaling $7,107,197

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke - NIH - $457,912
“Interdisciplinary Stroke Rehabilitation Delivered by a Humanoid Robot”
PI: Yu-Kyong Choe (communication disorders) (Resubmission)

American Heart Association - National Program - $109,252
“Interdisciplinary Stroke Rehabilitation Delivered by a Humanoid Robot”
PI: Yu-Kyong Choe (communication disorders) (Resubmission)

American Heart Association - Regional Program - $40,692
“Interdisciplinary Stroke Rehabilitation Delivered by a Humanoid Robot”
PI: Yu-Kyong Choe (communication disorders) (Resubmission)

Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program - USAID - $999,836
“Food Security and Health through Improved Marketing of Indigenous Vegetables in Tanzania, Kenya, and Benin”
PI: Lorraine Cordeiro (nutrition)

Russell Sage Foundation - $34,679
“Care Time: Improving Measurement and Valuation”
PI: Nancy Folbre (economics)

National Science Foundation - $236,769
“Tight Knit: Familistic Encounters in a Translational Fast-Fashion District”
PI: Elizabeth L. Krause (anthropology) (Resubmission)

Wenner-Gren (ICRG) - $35,653
“Tight Knit: Familistic Encounters in a Transnational Fast Fashion Zone”
PI: Elizabeth L. Krause (anthropology)

Foundation for Child Development - $150,000
“After School Programs and Identity among Somali Bantu Children”
PI: Jacqueline Mosselson (school of education)

William T. Grant Scholars Foundation - $350,000
“Neighborhood Revitalization: A Longitudinal Study of How Mixed Income neighborhoods Benefit Youth”
PI: Wenona Rymond Richmond (sociology) (Resubmission)

National Institute on Aging - NIH - $2,125,023
“The Benefit of Naps on Cognitive, Emotional and Motor Learning in Preschoolers”
PI: Rebecca Spencer (psychology)

National Institute on Aging - NIH - $432,285
“Assessing Determinants of Nap Propensity in Preschools”
PI: Rebecca Spencer (psychology)

Brain & Behavior Research Foundation - $60,000
“Sleep-dependent Modulation of Emotional Reactivity”
PI: Rebecca Spencer (psychology) Project Mentor: Sally Powers (psychology; director, CRF)

Spencer Foundation - $39,922
“Do Daytime Naps Provide an Academic Benefit To Preschool Education?”
PI: Rebecca Spencer (psychology)

Upjohn Institute - $4,914
“Back to School, and Back to Work: Which Postsecondary Pathways Provide Working Adults with the Best Employment Outcomes?”
PI: Ryan Wells (education)

Society for Study of School Psychology - $12,538
“Content Validation of Factors Associated with SEL Implementation: A Transtheoretical Approach”
PI: Sara Whitcomb (education)

Collaborative Grants Submitted
2 collaborative grants submitted totaling $4,981,275

National Science Foundation - $4,810,569
“ADVANCE Institutional Transformation”
PI: James Staros (provost), Co-PIs: Sandy Petersen (veterinary and animal sciences), Sally Powers (psychology; director, CRF), Susan Roberts (engineering), Lynne Marie Thompson (chemistry), Aura Ganz (engineering), Michele Klingbeil (microbiology), Nilanjana Dasgupta (psychology).

National Institute of Child Health and Development (subcontract) - NIH - $170,706
“Adolescent Obesity and Cognition: Metabolic and Psychosocial Effects”
UMass Amherst Subcontract PI: Sally Powers (psychology; director, CRF), consultant, Aline Sayer (psychology, director, CRF Methodology Program)
Active Research Grants
12 scholars’ grants active totaling $8,391,730
and 4 collaborative grants totaling $4,963,736

National Science Foundation - $115,976
"Estimating the Cross-National Effects of Family Policies on the Wage Penalty for Motherhood Using Multilevel Models"
PI: Michelle Budig (sociology)

American Heart Association - National Program - $109,252
"Interdisciplinary Stroke Rehabilitation Delivered by a Humanoid Robot"
PI: Yu-Kyong Choe (communication disorders)

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Mutual Mentoring Initiative
UMA Office of Faculty Development - $1,200
PI: Lorraine Cordeiro (nutrition), mentor, Powers (psychology; director, CRF)

National Science Foundation - $400,310
Collaborative Research: "Investigating Underlying Mechanisms and Behavioral Consequences of Emotion Induced Implicit Prejudice"
PI: Nilanjana Dasgupta (psychology)

National Science Foundation - $164,419
"Tight Knit: Familistic Encounters in a Translational Fast-Fashion District"
PI: Elizabeth L. Krause (anthropology)

Russell Sage Foundation - $34,679
"Care Time: Improving Measurement and Valuation"
PI: Nancy Folbre (economics)

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders - NIH - $1,757,185
"Overcoming Learned Non-Use in Chronic Aphasia: Behavioral, fMRI, and QoL Outcomes"
PI: Jacquie Kurland (communication disorders) and Co-investigator, Sally Powers (psychology; director, CRF)

National Science Foundation - $195,471
"Race Disparities in Infant Mortality: An Investigation of Infant Outcomes in the Military"
PI: Jennifer Lundquist (sociology)

National Institute of General Medical Sciences - NIH - $2,442,000
"University of Massachusetts Initiative for Maximizing Student Development"
PIs: Sandra Petersen (vet and animal sciences), Surita Bhatia (engineering), Barry Braun (kinesiology), Donald Fisher (engineering), Sally Powers (psychology; director, CRF)

National Cancer Institute - NIH - $2,300,000
"Biopsychosocial Factors in Depression and Marriage: Implications for Cancer"
PI: Paula Pietromonaco (psychology) and Co-investigator, Sally Powers (psychology; director, CRF); Consultant: Aline Sayer (psychology; director, CRF Methodology Program)

National Cancer Institute - NIH - $220,536
Supplemental Funding: “Biopsychosocial Factors in Depression and Marriage: Implications for Cancer”
PI: Paula Pietromonaco (psychology) and Co-investigator, Sally Powers (psychology; director, CRF)

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism - NIH - $411,351
"Effect of Voluntary Binge Drinking on the Prefrontal Cortex in Adolescent Rats"
PI: Heather Richardson (psychology)

National Science Foundation: Career Award - $674,591
"Perceptual Narrowing and Cortical Development in Infancy"
PI: Lisa Scott (psychology)

U.S. Army Research Institute for Behavioral and Social Sciences (ARI) - $1,932,681
"Visual Expertise in the Laboratory and in the Real World"
PI: Lisa Scott (psychology)

National Institute on Aging - NIH - $2,125,023
"The Benefit of Naps on Cognitive, Emotional and Motor Learning in Preschoolers"
PI: Rebecca Spencer (psychology)

National Science Foundation - $470,792
"Inupiaq Cultural Identity in Three Generations: Collaboratively Investigating Culture Change and Resilience through Indirect Elicitation"
PI: Lisa Wexler (public health and health sciences)

Selected Directors’ Mentorship, Consulting and Publications

MENTORSHIP
College of Natural Sciences - Dean’s grant
Research mentorship for Karen Kalmakis (nursing)
Mentor: Sally Powers, (psychology, director, CRF)

Brain and Behavior Research Foundation - Grant Application - $3,015,684
"Sleep-dependent Modulation of Emotional Reactivity"
PI: Rebecca Spencer (psychology)
Mentor: Sally Powers (psychology, director, CRF)

CONSULTING AND RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY
National Institutes of Health
"Impact of a Daughter-Mother Afro-Centric Physical Activity Intervention on Activity Level of African-American Girls."
PI: Sofiya Alhassan (kinesiology)
Consultant: Aline Sayer (psychology; director, CRF Methodology Program)
Institute of Educational Services
“A Randomized Controlled Trial of Student Success Skills: A Program to Improve Academic achievement for all Students.”
PI: Jay Carey (education)
Consultant: Aline Sayer (psychology, director, CRF Methodology Program)

National Science Foundation
“Peer Matters: When and How Do Peers Influence Young Women’s Participation in STEM.”
PI: Nilanjana Dasgupta (psychology)
Consultant: Aline Sayer (psychology, director, CRF Methodology Program)

“Depression and Anxiety Differentially predict HPA Reactivity to Couple Conflict.”
Presenters: Powers, S. I., Laurent, H., Gunlicks-Stoessel, M., Balaban, S., & Bent, E.

“Gender Differences in Patterns of HPA Reactivity to Couple Conflict, Depression, Anxiety, and Trauma.”
Presenters: Powers, S. I., Laurent, H., Gunlicks-Stoessel, M., Balaban, S., & Bent, E.

International Association of Relationship Research Mini Conference
“Modeling Psychosocial Risks for Depression in Couples: When Does Gender Matter?”

National Academies’ Institute of Medicine and National Research Council’s planning meeting on The Science of Family Research: The Improvement of Family Measurement in Large Scale Studies
Facilitator: Sally Powers (psychology, director, CRF)

Institute of Social Science Research, UMass
Instituting a faculty grant-writing mentorship program
Sally Powers (psychology, director, CRF) and Wendy Varner (associate director, CRF)

Shelda Debowski, Winthrop Professor of Higher Education and President of Higher Ed. Research and Development, University of Western Australia
Instituting a faculty grant-writing mentorship program.
Consultants: Sally Powers (psychology, director, CRF) and Wendy Varner (associate director, CRF) (under auspices of CTFD)

STEM Diversity Institute, UMass
Founding member: Sally Powers (psychology, director, CRF)

Rudd Adoption Research Program, UMass
Advisory Board: Sally Powers (psychology, director, CRF)

PUBLICATIONS
Vitamin D and Risk of Depression in the Women’s Health Initiative Calcium and Vitamin D Trial.

Vitamin D Intake from Foods and Supplements and Depression in a Diverse Population of Older Women.

Kreher, D. A., Powers, S. I., & Granger, D. A.
The Interaction Between Endogenous Cortisol and Salivary Alpha-amylase Predicts Implicit Cognitive Bias in Young Women.
Behavioral Neuroscience, (in press).

Smith, J.Z., Goldberg, A. E., & Sayer, A.G.
Multilevel Modeling Approaches to the Study of LGBT Parent-families.

SPONSORED RESEARCH RESULTS – 2011-2012
16 proposals submitted, totaling $7,107,197 in requests for family research
2 collaborative proposals submitted totaling $4,981,275 in requests for family research
16 active grants totaling $13,355,466
8 new research and collaborative awards this past year totaling $7,045,109

SPONSORED RESEARCH RESULTS - SINCE 2003
136 proposals totaling over 75.7 million dollars in requests have been submitted from 50 Family Research Scholars
The Stress Research Group at the Center for Research on Families presents:

**STRESS LECTURE SERIES**

**“Early Environments, Stress, and the Eco-logics of Inflammation”**
Thursday October 27th, 4pm | Campus Center, Room 917

Thomas McDade is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Laboratory for Human Biology Research at Northwestern University. He specializes in human population biology, and focuses his research on three topics: impact of social stratification on stress and health; life course perspectives on immune function and the regulation of inflammation; and the development of minimally-invasive methods for assessing human physiology in non-clinical settings. He conducts his research in diverse community-based settings, including ongoing projects in Bolivia, Ecuador, the Philippines, and the US.

**“Inflammation and Its Discontents: The Role of the Immune System in the Pathophysiology of Depression”**
Thursday November 3rd, 4pm | Campus Center, Room 917

Dr. Andrew Miller is the William P. Timmie Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Director of Psychiatric Oncology at the Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Miller is an internationally recognized leader in the area of brain-immune interactions as they relate to stress and depression. His work focuses on the mechanisms by which cytokines cause depression in humans and non-human primates using chronic administration of the innate immune cytokine, interferon-alpha, as a model of chronic immune stimulation.
Stress Research Group

The Stress Research Group consists of 16 faculty from UMass and Smith College who study the physiological mechanisms of stress and how stress affects health across the life-span. Family relationships, animal bonding, and developmental phases are important aspects of stress effects examined by this research cluster. The research group is led by Sally Powers, CRF director, and Jeff Blaustein, professor of psychology and director of the Neuroscience and Behavior Program, and meets every other week at CRF.

FACULTY IN THE STRESS RESEARCH CLUSTER

Sally Powers, (co-leader) director, Center for Research on Families, professor of psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior Program, associate dean, College of Natural Sciences

Jeff Blaustein, (co-leader) professor of psychology, director, Neuroscience and Behavior Program, Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Program

Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson, associate professor, public health

Matt Davidson, assistant professor, psychology and Neuroscience and Behavior Program

Geert de Vries, professor, psychology

Sue Hankinson, professor, public health

Mary Harrington, Tippet Professor in Life Sciences, psychology, Smith College

Lynnette Sievert, professor, anthropology

Jerrold Meyer, professor of psychology, director of Neuroscience and Behavior Program

Jennifer McDermott, assistant professor, psychology

Melinda Novak, professor and chair, psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior Program, Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Program

Maureen Perry-Jenkins, professor, psychology

Paula Pietromonaco, professor of psychology

Luke Remage-Healey, assistant professor, psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior Program

Heather Richardson, assistant professor, psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior Program

Brian Whitcomb, assistant professor, public health

Stress Lecture Series

The Stress Lecture Series, begun in Spring 2011, is a forum for identifying potential collaborations with researchers at other universities and consulting with nationally prominent leaders in this area.

The first lecture with Dr. Steven Maier, Distinguished Professor Department of Psychology and the Center for Neuroscience, from the University of Colorado, Boulder was held in April 2011. He spoke about “Resiliency in the Face of Adversity: The Role of Stressor Controllability and the Medial Prefrontal Cortex.”

In October 2011, Dr. Thomas McDade, professor of anthropology and director of the Laboratory for Human Biology Research at Northwestern University presented “Early Environments, Stress, and the Eco-logics of Inflammation.” McDade specializes in human population biology, and focuses his research on three topics: impact of social stratification on stress and health; life course perspectives on immune function and the regulation of inflammation; and the development of minimally-invasive methods for assessing human physiology in non-clinical settings.

The series continued in November, with Dr. Andrew H. Miller, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and director of Psychiatric Oncology at the Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University School of Medicine, presenting “Inflammation and its Discontents: The Role of the Immune System in the Pathophysiology of Depression.” Dr. Miller’s work focuses on the impact of the activated innate immune system on behavior and health. He is also interested in the role of glucocorticoid hormones in the regulation of inflammatory responses. Currently, he has several studies funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and pharmaceutical companies to examine the mechanism and treatment of cytokine-induced depression as represented by the cytokine, interferon alpha, which is used for the treatment of infectious diseases and cancer.
The Post-Award Program for New Principal Investigators

In collaboration with the Office of Research Development, CRF launched a seminar and workshop series for new principal investigators: “I’m a PI, Now What?!?”

The program is designed to assist faculty who have received their first major grant to scale up their research operations and understand and access university resources during the first year of their projects. The program was developed by senior (grant-funded) faculty who have ‘been there’ and could provide strategies and information based on their experience. The series emphasized the importance of staying focused on the research while attending to the necessary business of grant management.

In the fall and winter of 2011-2012, CRF offered the full program, which was open to new PIs from across the entire campus. The first workshop, held in October, was an overview and was followed by seminars on particular subjects related to grant management. Topics included PI responsibilities, lab management, hiring and supervising staff, effective budgets and procedures, reporting strategies, and scaling up a research team. A second semester-long series was held in the spring 2012. Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Professor in the Psychology Department, led the workshops, and worked closely with Wendy Varner, CRF Associate Director, and David Bosch CRF Financial Manager of Grants and Revenue to develop the presentations, website and printed materials.

This initiative was developed and piloted last year and has now become institutionalized as a comprehensive program of post award research support for principal investigators on campus through the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Engagement. CRF will continue to offer post-award workshops for family research principal investigators.

“The business of post-award grant management is important, but independently learning how to navigate this unfamiliar terrain for the first time can distract new PIs from their primary business: research. So, we asked CRF to develop a program geared to help orient new PIs. After a successful inaugural year, we plan to continue working with CRF to offer the New PI program through the campus-wide Research Business Manager Network.”

– LOREN WALKER, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT
CRF provides ongoing individual grant development consultation to former Family Research Scholars as well as other family research faculty eager to tap CRF’s expertise. Faculty regularly request to consult about the proposal submission process, to review a grant draft, assist in budget development, or to generally discuss an emerging proposal idea. CRF also provides infrastructure and on-going support to administer large research grants of affiliated faculty.

“...In my humble opinion, CRF deserves a lot of kudos for guiding, inspiring and supporting faculty in the arduous task of securing external funding. I have no doubt that being a CRF scholar was critical to my persistence and ultimate success in obtaining the NIH R01. Moreover, since getting the award, the CRF programs (‘I’m a PI, Now What?!’) have been invaluable. Thanks for all you do!”

– ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Providing Methodology Training and Consultation
ALINE SAYER
Director of Methodology,
Center for Research on Families
Associate Professor, Psychology Department
Methodology Program

Begun in 2005, CRF’s Methodology Program is a resource for consultation and training in advanced statistical and methodological techniques that are relevant to family research. The program continues to be a cornerstone of the Center. CRF’s methodological training programs, workshops and consulting services have translated into publications and grants on research relevant to improving the lives of families and children.

Methodological Workshops and Trainings

For seven years, CRF’s methodology 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. CRF has also collaborated with the University of Michigan’s Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) to offer additional on-campus summer workshops at UMass. These forums receive high praise from participants, ensuring the continued demand for these offerings.

CRF 2011 SUMMER METHODOLOGY WORKSHOPS:

RESEARCHING THE CONNECTED WORLD:
AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS
Dr. Ryan Acton, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Dr. Andrew Papachristos, University of Massachusetts Amherst
June 1-3

“This was an excellent training and totally worth the trip. Thank you! I’ll definitely recommend this course to colleagues interested in Social Network Analysis.”

ANALYZING DEVELOPMENTAL TRAJECTORIES I
Dr. Daniel Nagin, Carnegie-Mellon University
Dr. Bobby Jones, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health System
June 6-9

“I really enjoyed the workshop. I’ve wanted to learn this for a long time, now I’m full of ideas. It’s been wonderful.”

HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELS I
Dr. Aline Sayer, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Dr. Mark Manning, Wayne State University
June 13-17

“The instructor possesses such a deep understanding of the material that she was able to respond effectively to every student’s questions. She was able to approach the subject matter from every angle and every level, to help make it accessible to students of different abilities. She also welcomed all questions and confusion with patience and enthusiasm.”

MODELING DIARY DATA USING HLM
Dr. Jean-Philippe Laurenceau, University of Delaware
Dr. Niall Bolger, Columbia University
June 28 -July 1

“This is a great workshop; the instructors are very friendly and knowledgable; and generously share their knowledge and skills with us. It exceeded my expectations to learn about mediation and power analysis. Very useful!”
The June 2011 workshops served 79 researchers from the following institutions:

Arizona State  Rutgers University  University of Montana
Boston College  Sacramento State University  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Boston University  Southern State University  University of Rochester
Brandeis University  Spelman College  University of South Carolina
Brown University  State University of New York, Albany  University of South Dakota
Cambridge Health Alliance  Texas Tech University  University of Texas, Austin
Center for Disease Control  University at Buffalo  University of Texas, Dallas
Chiang Mai University, Research Institute of Health Sciences  University of Alaska Fairbanks  University of the Sciences, Philadelphia
City College of New York, Queens College  University of Bern  University of Toronto
Clark University  University of British Columbia  University of Vermont
Florida State University  University of Arizona  University of Virginia
Georgetown University  University of Connecticut  University of Washington
Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health  University of Connecticut, Health Center  University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Johns Hopkins University  University of Georgia  Vanderbilt University
Kent State University  University of Illinois, Chicago  Western Kentucky University
McMaster University  University of Illinois  Westfield State University
New York University  University of Maryland  Yale University
Northwestern University  University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Oregon State University  University of Miami
CRF Methodology Seminar Series

CRF offered a new series of Spring seminars in advanced methodological techniques. In order to encourage access for family researchers from across the region, the series was offered at minimal and/or no cost.

“ISOLATING STUDY & COMMUNITY-LEVEL PATTERNS USING META-ANALYTIC TECHNIQUES: HOW STIGMA RELATES TO HIV PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS” April 2012
Blair T. Johnson, Ph.D, Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut
This methodological presentation on meta-analysis highlighted best practices in model choices and depicting results, and offered practical advice and additional resources.

“ANALYZING MISSING MULTILEVEL DATA WITH HLM” May 2012
Stephen Raudenbush, Ph.D., Department of Sociology; Chair, Committee on Education, University Of Chicago
Yongyun Shin, Ph.D, Department of Biostatistics, Virginia Commonwealth University
This workshop presented new methods for the analysis of incomplete multilevel data. Special HLM software designed for this purpose was distributed and participants explored how it may be employed in their own research.

Methodology Consultation

CRF’s Methodology Consulting Services (MCS) provides study design and statistical analysis to an array of faculty and students from colleges, universities and organizations.

MCS Provides a Wide Range of Consulting Services In Five Main Technical Areas:

- Power Analysis
- Statistical Analysis
- Software Training
- Study Design
- Grant Proposal & Manuscript Editing

The methodology team offers consulting in all stages of research, including: issues in study design, measurement and sampling; power analysis; data analysis, including training in the use of software packages; and writing and editing methodology sections of manuscripts and grant proposals. MCS has particular expertise in methods for analyzing non-experimental data that arise in studies of families and dyads, with an emphasis on multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, signal detection methods and multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA), and analysis of nested and longitudinal data.

In 2011-2012 CRF’s Methodology Consultation Services provided individual research and data consultation on topics including substance abuse, treatment for depression, assessment of mindfulness, risk-taking behaviors among gay men, predictors of stress in transgender men, interracial friendships, generational effects on racism, effects of exposure to war images, reasons for immigration, and food security and nutrition in Tanzania to name just a few.
In addition to serving affiliates within the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, MCS also expanded its external client base this past year to include collaborations with the University of Connecticut (Psychology Center), Roosevelt University, Case Western Reserve, Simon Levine & Company, LLC and Austin Riggs Center.

Consulting services are provided by a team of faculty, CRF staff, and advanced graduate students:

Dr. Aline Sayer, director of CRF’s methodology program, oversees the consulting services and provides direct consultation, as well as on-going supervision of the other members of the team.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER NAME</th>
<th>SPECIALITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Aline Sayer</td>
<td>Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Pazzagalia</td>
<td>Signal Detection and multivariate analysis of variance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julianna Smith</td>
<td>Dyadic Analysis</td>
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The consultation provided by CRF proved crucial to my work on an article revision. The statistical knowledge, resourcefulness and dedication allowed me to competently address the reviewers’ concerns, and to learn a great deal during our consultation sessions. The value of a statistical consultant who knows savvy statistical techniques but also appreciates the need for theoretical grounding behind the methods we employ is not to be underestimated. Thanks to the support, I know that despite some inevitable gaps in my own statistical knowledge, there is a great resource to help me produce good quality research.

– PH.D. CANDIDATE, PSYCHOLOGY OF PEACE AND VIOLENCE CONCENTRATION

PHOTO: Methodology Consultation
Training the Next Generation of Family Researchers
Student Research

Each year the CRF grant funding provides support for graduate students to become involved with the research and activities of the Center and its faculty.

Graduate Student Team Members

**Angela Pazzaglia** - Graduate Project Assistant in Methodology and in the cognitive psychology Ph.D. program - Participated as part of team providing methodological consultation in a wide range of research areas, while receiving training and supervision in both data analysis consultation and methods.

**Brian Greenleaf** – Graduate Project Assistant completing a dual MBA and MPPA at the Isenberg School of Management and Center for Public Policy and Administration. Worked as part of the team to maintain the CRF website and develop the communications strategy.

**Elissa Holmes** – Graduate Project Assistant completing a dual MBA and MPPA at the Isenberg School of Management and Center for Public Policy and Administration. Provided logistical support for the Center’s various lecture series, workshops, seminars, and conferences.

**Holly Laws** – Graduate Research Assistant in the clinical psychology Ph.D. program. Conducted research on risk factors for dating couples’ depression and anxiety, and provided HLM and SEM statistical consultation.

**Jeff Winer** – Graduate Research Assistant, in the clinical psychology Ph.D. program. Conducted research examining moderating effects of early family adversity and pubertal maturation on married couples’ depression.

Student Research Grants and Awards Program

In its third year, CRF expanded the Student Research Grants and Awards Program, awarding over $71,000 in funding to exceptional undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in researching issues related to the family. The program provides opportunities for students to work with UMass faculty on research projects and acknowledges outstanding student research on family issues. Awardees engage with the Center by attending two roundtable events to present their research.

Twenty-six students were selected to receive one of five grants or awards in Family Research:

The **CRF Family Research Graduate Student Fellowship** provided $10,000 to each of the following students for one year in order to work with a faculty member on a family research project:

**Jessica Looze**, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology
"The Effects of Motherhood and Education on Women’s Early Career Job Mobility"
Mentor: Michelle Budig (sociology)

**Danila Musante**, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology
“How Parent-Adolescent Relationships Affect Adopted Individuals’ Experience of Young Adulthood”
Mentor: Harold Grotevant (psychology)

**Katherine Newkirk**, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology
“The Division of Housework and Childcare in Diverse Family Structures”
Mentor: Maureen Perry Jenkins (psychology)

**Eiko Strader**, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology
“Social Inequalities Surrounding Motherhood in East Asia”
Mentor: Joya Misra (sociology)

**Joo Yeon Suh**, Ph.D. candidate in Economics
“The Economic Value of Time Devoted to Raising Children and Caring for Elders”
Mentor: Nancy Folbre (economics)

**Marianne Tichovolsky**, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology
“Parenting and Parent Predictors of Changes in Child Behavior Problems”
Mentor: David Arnold (psychology)

The **CRF Family Research Travel Award** gives graduate students who have written an outstanding paper/poster on issues of family research and will be presenting the paper at a national research conference an award to be used for travel expenses associated with the conference. This year’s winners were:

**FALL TRAVEL AWARDS**

**Martha Baleguera**, Ph.D. candidate in Political Science
“Hospitality: Between Right, Ethics and Politics”
Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mentor: Roberto Alejandro (political science)
Aya Ghunney, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology
“Socio-contextual Predictors of Parenting Stress Across the Transition to Parenthood”
The National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida
Mentor: Maureen Perry-Jenkins (psychology)

Laura Kurdzeil, Ph.D. candidate in Neuroscience and Behavior
“Loss of the Cognitive Benefit of Sleep in Older Adults”
Society for Neuroscience, Washington, D.C.
Mentor: Rebecca Spencer (psychology)

Katherine Newkirk, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology
“Dishes and Diapers’ Division of Household and Childcare Tasks and Marital Quality among Working-Class Parents”
The National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida
Mentor: Maureen Perry-Jenkins (psychology)

Yasel Yoon, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology
“Long Term Impact of Family Routines and Rituals on Emerging Adults’ Psychological Well-Being”
Conference on Emerging Adulthood, Providence, Rhode Island
Mentor: David Scherer (psychology)

SPRING TRAVEL AWARDS
Shanshan Chen, Ph.D. candidate in Nutrition
“Stunting is Inversely Associated with Dietary Zinc Intake Among Adolescent Girls Aged 10-19”
Global Health and Innovation Conference, Yale University, Connecticut
Mentor: Lorraine Cordeiro (nutrition)

Claudia Lugo-Candelas, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology
“Culture and Parental Emotion Socialization Practices”
American Psychology Association Annual Convention, Orlando, Florida
Mentor: Elizabeth Harvey (psychology)

Elva Orozco-Mendoza, Ph.D. candidate in Political Science
“Another Way to Be Free: Freedom, Political Action and the Women’s Movement of Ciudad Juarez.”
70th Annual MPSA Conference, Chicago, Illinois
Mentor: Angelica Bernal (political science)

Hillary Paul Halpern, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology
“Do Actions Speak Louder Than Words?: How Children Learn About Gender”
Gender Development Research Conference, San Francisco Fisherman’s Wharf
Mentor: Maureen Perry-Jenkins (psychology)

Laras Sekarasi, Ph.D. candidate in Communications
“Mean Girls and Tough Boys: Responses to Media Literacy Lessons on Gender Stereotypes and Bullying”
International Communication Association Annual conference, Phoenix, Arizona
Mentor: Erica Scharrer (communications)

Kimberly Walsh, Ph.D. candidate in Communications
“Mean Girls and Tough Boys: Responses to Media Literacy Lessons on Gender Stereotypes and Bullying”
International Communication Association Annual conference, Phoenix, Arizona
Mentor: Erica Scharrer (communications)

The CRF Family Research Undergraduate Assistantship enables an undergraduate to work with a faculty member on a family research project through a grant of $3,000.
Two assistantship grants were given to:

Talia Grossman, (class of 2013) Communications Disorders
“The Impact of Developmental Disabilities on Family Relationships”
Mentor: Mary Andrianopoulos (communication disorders)

Ashley Silvia, (class of 2013) Veterinary and Animal Sciences
“Epigenetic Alteration through Diet: Can Broccoli Sprouts Reduce Breast Cancer Risk?”
Mentor: Kathleen Arcaro (veterinary and animal sciences)

The CRF Family Research Honors Thesis/Capstone Project Award provides awards to outstanding UMass senior undergraduate students whose honors thesis focuses on family issues. These awards were given to:

Grace Hauck, (class of 2012) Psychology
“Rocking the Boat: the Instability of Low-Income Single Mothers’ Family Structure and Role Overload”
Mentor: Maureen Perry-Jenkins (psychology)

Deanna Julian, (class of 2012) Psychology
“Community Climate and Mental Health Outcomes among Lesbian, Gay, and Heterosexual Adoptive Families”
Mentors: Harold Grotevant (psychology) and Rachel Farr (psychology, post doc)

Eden Ketema, (class of 2012) Public Health
“Assessing the Needs of Springfield Communities in the Context of Square One Programs and Services”
Mentor: Maria Bulzacchelli (public health)

Rebecca Owen, (class of 2012) Psychology
“Family Media Bias”
Mentor: Rebecca Spencer (psychology)
The CRF Family Research Methodological Studies Grant allows a student or post-doctoral fellow to participate in the CRF summer Methodology Program for no fee and receive $500 travel reimbursement. Grants were awarded to:

Carol Johnston, Ph.D. candidate, Human Development and Family Studies, University of North Carolina – Greensboro

Melissa Kull, Ph.D. candidate, Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology, Boston College

Jonathon Rendina, Ph.D. candidate, Social/Personality Psychology, City University of New York Graduate Center

Student Research Highlights

This past academic year, the CRF 2011-2012 Student Research awardees met each semester to present their research to their peers and share their research experiences. Students talked about the details of their projects, the support from their faculty mentors, and the importance of this learning experience during their time at UMass. Given their different disciplines, the students gave valuable advice about methodological approaches to each other and their projects. The group was facilitated by CRF graduate student Brian Greenleaf.

Ph.D. candidate in sociology Irene Boeckmann used her award to support the progress of the collaborative research that she and her mentors Joya Misra and Michelle Budig work on. In the fall, their article “The Motherhood Pay Gap Cross-Nationally: How Work-Family Policies and Cultural Attitudes Intersect” was accepted at the journal Social Politics. Additionally, they are finishing another manuscript for submission to a journal and are working on two more papers: They are also presenting their collaborative work at four different professional conferences in 2012.

Jillian Crocker, Ph.D. candidate in sociology, made significant progress with her data analysis – a process that has required her to refine some skills and develop others. Her mentors have made several presentations on these data and our interpretations, and their work benefitted immensely from the thoughtful and important feedback of other scholars. While they have not had any publications come out of these data to date, they are actively moving in that direction and making considerable progress.

Owen Thompson, Ph.D. candidate in economics used the extra time his CRF Fellowship gave him to focus on his research based on the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on “legacy” parenting behaviors seen in African-American and white households in the South. His research finds that positive parenting behaviors, based on HOME scores, increased in African American households in the deep South based on mothers’ year of birth, even when controlled for socio-economic status and parental education. He attributes this to the reduction in discrimination faced by African American families following the movement.

Holly Laws, Ph.D. candidate in psychology, used her CRF Fellowship to support her dissertation research, which models couples’ coregulation of the stress hormone cortisol using novel statistical techniques. Holly’s work during her fellowship year included successful defense of the proposal to her committee, a poster presentation at a conference related to initial findings from her analyses, and acceptance to present her newest findings in a paper symposium at the International Association for Relationship Research.

Due in large part to the support of the Center for Research on Families, I have made substantial progress on my dissertation research in the past year. It is difficult to overstate how important a role CRF’s financial and institutional support has played in the successful completion of this research. Committing truly uninterrupted days and weeks to work on a research project is an opportunity that academics are rarely afforded. Being able to do so at this early stage in my career, along with the supportive and stimulating relationships fostered with my mentor and the CRF staff, has been invaluable for my professional and intellectual development.

– PH.D. CANDIDATE IN ECONOMICS
As part of her Student Assistantship in Family Research, UMass senior Amanda Otto ’12 examined the link between post-partum hot flashes and those experienced by menopausal women. The Center for Research on Families funded Amanda through a research grant to work under the guidance and mentorship of Lynnette Leidy Sievert, professor of anthropology, to study recent mothers in the Pioneer Valley.

The study that Amanda and Dr. Sievert conducted looked at hot flashes experienced by post-partum women in comparison to women who are not recent mothers. They tested the hypothesis that recent mothers will experience hot flashes at higher rates than women whose estrogen levels are unaffected by pregnancy, delivery, and breastfeeding. The study examined 24 women, 12 recent mothers and 12 age-matched control participants in the Pioneer Valley. A sternal skin conductance monitor measured sweat production to detect hot flashes; skin conductance levels rise in participants experiencing hot flashes.

Dr. Sievert hopes that the link between menopausal and post-partum hot flashes will provide comfort to menopausal women. “If we can explain why we have hot flashes at menopause by referring back to the mother infant dyad, I think that makes hot flashes a little more tolerable.” As Amanda puts it, for many women, learning about the connection “gives a sense of purpose to the hot flashes.”

For Amanda, who has applied to graduate school to study both anthropology and public health, this has been a great opportunity to get out of the library and learn how to conduct research in the field. Prior to this experience, “I never really had much experience past writing a research paper...I went from zero understanding on how research works beyond the theoretical. Dr. Sievert has shown me every step of how to do research.” It has also given her a strong mentor with years of experience to help her through the research process. “Usually you’re just thrown out there and people expect you to know how to do it without ever being mentored,” says Amanda.

Dr. Sievert, who has sat on the board of the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program, believes that students with research experience are more competitive in the application for NSF funding proposals. “As faculty we should be helping to make our undergrads competitive for those kinds of opportunities. CRF’s Student Research Grants and Awards Program is one way of preparing our undergrads to be competitive.”

As part of the assistantship, Amanda has also been able to interact with CRF’s graduate student fellows as part of an ongoing working group of CRF student awardees -- an experience she enjoyed. “I feel like undergraduates stick in their own field of study with undergrads, and they don’t really go out and look at the interconnectedness of social research. It’s been interesting because I get exposure to grad students, what they’re doing, and it’s interdisciplinary.”

Dr. Sievert praises CRF for “extending its role beyond faculty and increasing the awareness of research on families to graduate and undergraduate students.”
Disseminating Research Findings
“Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture”

JILL KORBIN, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University
Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series

CRF is committed to bringing cutting-edge research results to the public and the research community. One avenue is through the Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series, which brings nationally recognized speakers with expertise in family research to campus each year. The speakers provide public lectures, highlighting the importance of research on the family and its implications for public policy. Equally important, the presenters of the Tay Gavin Erickson lectures also provide individual consultation and mentorship to CRF Family Research Scholars on their research projects and grant proposals.

THE FOLLOWING EXPERTS VISITED CRF IN 2011-2012:

JILL KORBIN, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Director, Schubert Center for Child Studies; Co-Director, Childhood Studies Interdisciplinary Program

“Making Sense of the Role of Culture in Child Well-Being and Child Maltreatment” Consulted with mentee Nina Siulc (legal studies and political science).

THOMAS MCDADE, Ph.D. *
Northwestern University, Professor of Anthropology and Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research

“Early Environments, Stress, and the Eco-logics of Inflammation” Consulted with members of the Stress Research Group.

ANDREW MILLER, MD *
Emory University School of Medicine, William P. Timmie Professor of Psychiatry; Behavioral Sciences and Director of Psychiatric Oncology at the Winship Cancer Institute


GEORGE BEAR, Ph.D.
University of Delaware, Professor of Education

“School Discipline and School Climate: SEL or SWPBS the Best Approach?” Consulted with mentee Sara Whitcomb (education).

MAURICE J. ELIAS, Ph.D.
Rutgers University, Professor and Director of Clinical Training, Department of Psychology


CLANCY BLAIR, Ph.D.
New York University, Professor of Applied Psychology

“The Development of Self-Regulation in Early Childhood: Experiential Canalization of Brain and Behavior” Consulted with mentee Jennifer McDermott (psychology).

JAMES E. ROSENBRAUM, Ph.D.
Northwestern University, Professor, Education and Social Policy; Sociology Faculty Fellow; Institute for Policy Research

“Can College Procedures Be More Family-Friendly?” Consulted with mentee Ryan Wells (education).

*Sponsored by the Stress Research Group.
HAL GROTEVANT, Rudd Family Foundation
Endowed Chair in the Department of Psychology
Professor Psychology

RACHEL FARR, Rudd Postdoctoral Research Scholar in Psychology

JEN DOLAN, Program Manager, Rudd Adoption Research Program

“Panel Presentation at Conference”
Public Engagement Project

The Public Engagement Project (PEP) supports and trains faculty members to use their research in the public realm to contribute to social change and inform public policy. Scholars learn new skills from experts and from each other to communicate and engage with the media, community groups, policymakers, and others in the public arena. The Public Engagement Project is a collaborative initiative of the Center for Research on Families, the Center for Public Policy and Administration, the Department of Sociology and the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program. Throughout the year PEP holds workshops and trainings for UMass Amherst faculty.

2011-2012 Highlights

Michael D. Jones, Ph.D., Harvard University’s Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics – October 2011


Sally Powers (co-founder PEP, CRF director) was the facilitator of the National Academies’ Institute of Medicine and National Research Council’s February planning meeting, which brought together a select group of nationally recognized researchers with leaders of over 20 federal agencies to discuss The Science of Family Research: The Improvement of Family Measurement in Large Scale Studies.

Amy Schalet’s (co-founder PEP, sociology) new book, Not Under My Roof: Parents, Teens, and the Culture of Sex, was released in November and has attracted widespread public attention. She compares the attitudes toward teen sex in the U.S. and Holland, where teen pregnancy rates are significantly lower than in our country. Schalet’s book has been featured in National Public Radio, the Washington Post, The Slate, Salon, Time, the Huffington Post, the Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal, Maclean’s and Ontario Today.

In February, Linda Tropp’s (co-founder PEP, psychology) research was featured on NPR radio in February in a piece titled: “Are You Hard-Wired For Compassion? How About Cruelty?” Are humans hard-wired for hazing and cruelty? Or are we hard-wired instead for cooperation? Commentator Barbara J. King explained why the popular discourse about a hard-wired human nature fails to understand human behavior. Tropp’s research was cited, indicating that when people directly interact together, it “overwhelmingly helps” to reduce prejudice and tension. Bias felt or expressed against “different” others, then, may shift profoundly with experience.
Past Workshops

“In the Heat of the Moment: Staying on Message amidst Controversy!”

“Workshop on Effective Public Management” - The Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, UMass Amherst

“Research Methods for Social Justice”

“Communicating with the Media”

“Writing Op-Eds”

“Working with Social Movements: Lessons from the Front Lines”

“How to Make Friends and Influence Policy: Working with State and Federal Policymakers”

profundely with experience.

Past Presentations

Expanding an Interdisciplinary Network of Colleagues
“Paz – Justicia - Libertad/Peace - Justice - Freedom
Chilean arpillera, anon., late 1970s”

PHOTO COLIN PECK
CRF has established strong collaborative ties with faculty from many colleges within UMass Amherst, as well as with the Five Colleges and other UMass campuses, which have led to innovative projects and an extended network of research opportunities.

**Highlights**

- The Office of Research Development (ORD) and CRF continually communicate about ways to meet the needs of researchers on campus, which resulted in several initiatives this year.
  - Dr. Stephen Porter from North Carolina State was invited to UMass by the ORD to present about strategies for applying to the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in the US Department of Education. CRF Family Research Scholars, Ryan Wells and Sara Whitcomb (education), were invited to participate in this visit and learned a great deal about IES funding and Dr. Porter’s experience as a review panelist.
  - CRF met with the ORD to explore programmatic ways to prepare faculty to visit program officers of national research funding institutions in Washington, D.C.
  - CRF continued to implement the pilot program for new Principle Investigators on campus and discussed plans for migrating the program to the new business manager’s network.

- The Office of Research Development, Center for Research on Families, and Social and Demographic Research Institute held a collaborative panel presentation on NIH Funding for the Social Sciences in February 2012, and Sally Powers, Director and Aline Sayer, CRF Methodology Director served as panelists.

- CRF has joined with a cluster of faculty from across campus, led by David Buchanan, who are interested in the effects of gambling on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This group of researchers is developing a response to an anticipated call for proposals from the new Gambling Commission of Massachusetts.

- CRF was a co-sponsor of the Art of Conflict Transformation Event Series held at UMass Amherst this spring. The Series has been running annually since 2008, hosting lectures, workshops, poetry reading, and an online and physical art exhibition focused on women’s acts of resistance to human rights violations in conflict zones throughout the world through their creation of arpilleras (political textiles). *See image on left.

- CRF assisted MotherWoman, a local community organization “which supports mothers to create positive personal and social change”, to make connections to family researchers at UMass.

- CRF director Sally Powers assisted Dr. Kristin Mattocks, Associate Chief of Staff/Research at the VA Central Western Mass Healthcare System and UMass Medical School to make connections to family researchers interested in collaborations and use of Veteran’s Administration national databases.

- CRF was a co-sponsor of a grant submitted by the clinical psychology student diversity committee to the Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training Implementation. This successfully awarded grant will bring speakers addressing diversity in family research to campus.
The Rudd Adoption Research Program

Since its inception, The Rudd Adoption Research Program and the Center for Research on Families have been closely linked through their missions. This collaboration and focus on today’s changing families has afforded opportunities that are unique to UMass Amherst: a synergy yielding programs and research that facilitate positive change in the social policies and clinical practices affecting families.

The goal of Rudd Adoption Research Program is to establish UMass Amherst as the leader in state-of-the-art research on the psychology of adoption through conferences, workshops, graduate and postdoctoral training opportunities, and stimulation of research activities. Program activities provide research-based information to influence policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

This March, in conjunction with the Center for Research on Families, the Rudd Adoption Research Program held its fourth annual conference on new perspectives on adoption, with panel presentations by internationally recognized scholars. The conference was attended by over 250 professionals in the human services fields, students, practitioners, parents, social science researchers, and community members. This year the conference focused on “New Worlds of Adoption: Navigating the Teen Years.”

“We really value our strong partnership with CRF. Carla in particular has contributed in huge ways to the success of the planning, marketing, and presentation of our annual conferences. Attendance has more than doubled, and participants have been very excited about what they have learned.”

– HAL GROTEVANT, RUDD FAMILY FOUNDATION CHAIR IN PSYCHOLOGY
“The Martin-McDermott Family”
JENNIFER MARTIN MCDERMOTT
Family Research Scholar 2011-2012
Addendum
CRF Faculty, Staff and Students

Steering Committee

DAVID ARNOLD, Psychology
BRENDA BUSHOUSE, Political Science
NANCY FOLBRE, Economics
NAOMI GERSTEL, Sociology
HAROLD GROTEVANT, Psychology
LYNNETTE LEIDY SIEVERT, Anthropology
MAUREEN PERRY-JENKINS, Psychology
PAULA PIETROMONACO, Psychology
ERICA SCHARRER, Communication

Faculty & Staff

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STEPHANIE COVELLI - Financial Manager
MAUREEN PERRY-JENKINS – Project Leader and Facilitator, CRF Post-Award Program, Professor of Psychology
SALLY POWERS – CRF Director, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience and Behavior Program, Associate Dean of Faculty Development, College of Natural Sciences
ALINE SAYER - Director of CRF Methodology Program, Associate Professor of Psychology
CARLA WILLIAMSON - Events Coordinator
WENDY VARNER - Associate Director

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SARA GHALAINI - Project Assistant
College of Natural Sciences, Psychology – B.S. 2012
BRIAN GREENLEAF - Graduate Project Assistant
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Isenberg School of Management - MPPA/ MBA anticipated 2013
ELISSA HOLMES - Graduate Project Assistant
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Isenberg School of Management - MPPA/ MBA 2012
LISA HUM - Project Assistant
School of Public Health & Health Sciences, Nutrition - B.S. 2012
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College of Natural Sciences, Ph.D. candidate; Psychology
JEFF WINGER - Graduate Research Assistant
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DAVID KITTREDGE, Environmental Conservation
ELIZABETH KRAUSE, Anthropology
JACQUE KURLAND, Communication Disorders
LAURA LOVETT, History
JENNIFER LUNDQUIST, Sociology
JENNIFER MCDERMOTT, Psychology
JERROLD MEYER, Psychology
JOYA MISRA, Sociology and Public Policy
JACQUELINE MOSSELSON, Educational Policy Research and Administration
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ERIN SNOOK, Kinesiology
REBECCA SPENCER, Psychology
RICHARD TESSLER, Sociology
LINDA TROPP, Psychology
RYAN WELLS, Education
LISA WEXLER, Community Health Education
BRIAN WHITCOMB, Public Health
SARA WHITCOMB, Education
Directors

SALLY POWERS
CRF Director, Professor of Psychology, and member of the Neuroscience and Behavior Program, Associate Dean of Faculty Development, College of Natural Sciences

Sally Powers’ research investigates biological risk factors (endocrine dysregulation) and psychosocial risk factors (particularly child, adolescent, and family-related social and behavioral stressors) that influence gender differences in the longitudinal course of depression and anxiety.

Her work has been funded by NSF, NIMH, NICHD, and the William T. Grant Foundation, and is currently funded by the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. At UMass, Dr. Powers has been awarded a Conti Faculty Fellowship for excellence in research, and the Chancellor’s Medal for Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. She regularly serves on review panels for NIH and recently served as a member of the Committee on the Science of Family Research of the National Academies’ Institute of Medicine.

ALINE SAYER
Director of CRF Methodology Program, Associate Professor of Psychology

Aline Sayer specializes in statistical strategies for studying individual development over time. These include hierarchical linear models and structural equation modes. She is also interested in models that capture the interdependencies in data obtained from couples and other dyads. Dr. Sayer is a developmental psychologist with an extensive background in both child and adolescent development and in quantitative methodology. Her current focus is on embedding measurement indicators in growth curve models using both multilevel and covariance structure analysis.

WENDY VARNER
Associate Director

Wendy Varner first joined the university in 2000 to become the Grants and Research Manager for the Center for Public Policy and Administration. She had worked the previous fifteen years in community based anti-poverty agencies including the Community Action Corporation of Franklin County as Director of Development and Planning, the Community Adolescent Resource and Education Center, a school for teenagers and their children in Holyoke, as Executive Director, and at Cambridge Community Services as Director of Youth Programs. She holds a Masters in Education from Harvard University with a focus on Administration, Planning and Social Policy.