The Center for Research on Families

The Center for Research on Families at UMass Amherst began in 1996 with a generous endowment by Dorothy and Joseph Gavin to found The Center for the Family. In 2003, the Gavins’ foresight and funding combined with an enhanced mission to enable the original Center for the Family to expand 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 research 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 Erikson 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.
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Executive Summary

CRF’s programs have been developed to work in partnership with academic departments. We encourage department chairs to let us know how we can better serve each department’s faculty and student research needs.  

Sally Powers, Director

Mission & Goals

Families are a basic unit of human and animal life. To fully understand issues affecting family functioning and the impact of families on the health and development of individuals and society, research must occur across academic disciplines and engage many perspectives. Thus, family 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 from these diverse backgrounds 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.

CRF’s mission is to increase externally-supported research on family issues at UMass Amherst, to build a multidisciplinary community of researchers within UMass who are studying issues of relevance to families, to connect national and internationally prominent family researchers with UMass faculty and students, to provide advanced data analytic methods training and consultation, and to disseminate family research findings to scholars, families, practitioners, and policy-makers.

Highlights of 2009-2010

• CRF became jointly sponsored in 2009 by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the College of Natural Sciences. This joint ownership of CRF by both colleges aptly reflects the multidisciplinary nature of CRF’s programs and of family research.

• CRF sponsored 6 major continuing programs for faculty across career stages and disciplines: The Family Research Scholars Program, Faculty Research Clusters, the Methodology Training and Consultation Program, the Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series, the Public Engagement Project, and the Rudd Adoption Conference. The total number of participants in CRF programming was 818.

• CRF submitted 14 research grants to NSF, NIH, and foundations totaling approximately $8,130,000 in requests.

• CRF had 9 active research grants from NSF, NIH, the Ford Foundation, and the UMass President’s Office. PIs were from anthropology, economics, psychology, political science, public health, and sociology departments.

• CRF launched the new Student Family Research Awards and Grants Program, distributing $49,550 in awards to 18 graduate and undergraduate students, in addition to $48,000 in support to faculty to participate in the Family Research Scholars Program.

• CRF hosted or co-sponsored 18 international experts to visit campus, consult with faculty, and present their research through the Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series, the Rudd Adoption Conference, and other forums.

• CRF offered advanced statistical and methodological consultation, analysis, and training to UMass faculty and students, and to researchers from 60 other research institutions from 5 countries.

• CRF established a Research Cluster of twelve faculty with shared interests in investigating the physiological mechanisms of stress and how stress affects health behaviour across the life-span.

• CRF has launched a Scholar-in-Residence program in which nationally and internationally recognised family researchers from other universities reside at UMass and engage with the center for a semester or an academic year.

• CRF collaborated and co-sponsored programs with the Center for Public Policy and Administration, Departments of Microbiology, Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Sociology, Psychology, Provost’s Office, Office of Faculty Development, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, Science Technology and Society Initiative, School of Education Global Initiatives Program, Office of Jewish Affairs, Psychology of Peace and Violence Program, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, the Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth, Rudd Adoption Research Program, Mt. Holyoke College, MotherWoman, Greater Springfield-UMass Amherst Partnership, the Western Mass. Center for Healthy Communities, Bay State Health Systems, and Partners for a Healthier Community, and Five-College Council on Religious Life.

• CRF associate director, Wendy Varner, served as acting director, and professor Paula Pietromonaco served as facilitator of the Family Research Scholars Program during 2009-2010. CRF director Sally Powers was on sabbatical during fall semester.

An Invitation

We welcome all faculty and students interested in research that affects families to become involved in the Center for Research on Families. CRF’s programs have been developed to work in partnership with academic departments. We encourage department chairs to let us know how we can better serve each department’s faculty and student research needs. Chairs, faculty, and students are invited to contact the 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 & student research. Phone: 413-545-4631 or Email: crf@psych.umass.edu

This report describes CRF activities undertaken from July 2009 through June 2010.
Fostering Family Research 2010
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, 4-6 national experts are chosen and invited to campus to provide individual consultation to each of the scholars on their specific projects and present a public research lecture.

CRF Steering Committee member, Paula Pietromonaco, professor of psychology, led the Family Research Scholars Program in 2008 – 2009 and 2009 - 2010, bringing her expertise as an NIH-funded researcher and NIH review panelist. Also facilitating the Family Research Scholars seminars were Wendy Varner, associate director, and Aline Sayer, associate professor of psychology and director of methodology programs. Sayer is also an active NIH review panelist.

I received an NSF grant through the program and have received a flood of grants since. - Professor, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Family Research Scholars 2009-2010

- Miliann Kang, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, College of Humanities and Fine Arts
- David Kittredge, Department of Natural Resources Conservation, College of Natural Sciences
- Jackie Kurland, Department of Communication Disorders, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
- Jaqueline Mosselson, Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration, School of Education
- Wenona Rymond-Richmond, Department of Sociology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Lisa Scott, Department of Psychology, College of Natural Sciences
- Linda Tropp, Department of Psychology, College of Natural Sciences

The course release to devote time to develop research projects, identify and learn about funding sources, and write multiple grants is invaluable. But the experience is so much more than release time. The collaborative support from other scholars, Wendy, Sally, and Paula is fantastic. Where else can you get several accomplished scientists to discuss your work and ideas in detail, read drafts, and provide feedback to shape your work? This does not happen in any other context on the UMass campus. CRF is a model that should be supported and replicated. The peer mentoring is wonderful and I am sure is part of CRF’s great success in securing funding for UMass scholars. I am so pleased to have been a part of the Center for Research on Families. - Associate Professor, College of Natural Sciences
Since its inception in 2003, 39 faculty members have participated in the Scholars program and 5 new scholars have been selected for the 2010-2011 class. The Scholars have come from 6 different schools and colleges and 14 different departments, as well as from Smith College School of Social Work. The UMass schools/colleges/departments include:

**College of Natural Sciences**
- Natural Resources Conservation
- Psychology

**College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**
- Anthropology
- Communications
- Economics
- Legal Studies
- Political Science
- Sociology

**School of Nursing**

**School of Public Health and Health Sciences**
- Communication Disorders
- Nutrition
- Public Health – Community Health Education

**School of Education**
- Education Policy Research and Administration

**College of Humanities and Fine Arts**
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The process of submitting a proposal for funding from the federal government or private foundations was a complete mystery to me before my year as a scholar. But, in that year, I was able to submit two major grant proposals (totaling well over $1 million) with the invaluable expertise at CRF, as well as the input of senior colleagues in the seminar.

- Assistant Professor, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Grants submitted by CRF Family Research Scholars in 2009-2010

**NSF** - Physical Activity and Cognitive Development: Interactions with Hormones and Neurogrowth Factors (Request: $351,429) PI: Matthew Davidson (Psychology)

**NIH R21** - Role of Pelvic Signaling in Postpartum Mental Health (Request: $435,025) PI: Unja Hayes (Psychology)

**American Heart Association** - Overcoming Learned Non-Use in Chronic Aphasia (Request: $55,000) PI: Jacquie Kurland (Communication Disorders)

**NIH R01** - Overcoming Learned Non-Use in Chronic Aphasia: Behavioral, fMRI, and QoL Outcomes (Request: $1,600,000) PI: Jacquie Kurland (Communication Disorders)

**NIH R01** - Reproductive Aging and Symptoms at Midlife: Immigrants, Neighbors, and Sedentaries (Request: $2,379,266) PI: Lynnette Leidy Sievert (Anthropology)

**NIH R21** - Menopausal Symptoms, Depression, BMD, and CV Health in Context: Stressors and Buffers at Midlife (Request: $427,323) PI: Lynnette Leidy Sievert (Anthropology)

**Wenner-Gren Foundation** - Comparison of Hot Flash Frequencies between Japanese and Non Japanese Residents of Paraguay (Request: $35,000) PI: Lynnette Leidy Sievert (Anthropology)

**NIH R21** - A Work-family Intervention to Enhance the Resilience of New Parents (Request: $408,046) PI: Maureen Perry Jenkins (Psychology) and Marsha Kline-Pruett (Smith College of Social Work)

**Alzheimer's Association** - New Investigator Research Grant (NIRG) - APOE & Cortisol: Hippocampal Volume & Memory in Adult Children of AD (Request: $100,000) PI: Rebecca Ready (Psychology)

**Brookdale Foundation** - Leadership in Aging Award (Request: $175,532) PI: Rebecca Ready (Psychology)


**W.T. Grant Scholars Program** - Neighborhood Revitalization: A Longitudinal Study of How Mixed Income Neighborhoods Benefit Youth (Request: $349,999) PI: Wenona Rymond Richmond (Sociology)

**NIH R01** - Perceptual Narrowing and Cortical Development in Infancy (Request: $1,890,650) PI: Lisa Scott (Psychology)

**NSF Career** - Perceptual Narrowing and Cortical Development in Infancy (Request: $827,773) PI: Lisa Scott (Psychology)

**US ARMY Research Institute** - Visual Expertise in the Laboratory and in the Real World (Request: $1,932,681) PI: Lisa Scott (Psychology)
Active research grants of CRF Family Research Scholars during 2009-2010

**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)

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

**Creative Economy Initiatives Fund** - $30,000
"Taking Care: The Costs and Contributions of Care Work in Massachusetts"  
PI: Nancy Folbre (Economics) - UMass President’s Office

**National Science Foundation** - $170,000
"Restructuring of Social Welfare System - Youth Volunteerism"  
PI: Julie Hemment (Anthropology)

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

**National Cancer Institute, NIH** - $2.3 million  
"Biopsychosocial Factors in Depression and Marriage: Implications for Cancer"  
PI: Paula Pietromonaco and Sally Powers (Psychology)

**National Cancer Institute, NIH** - $200,000 Supplemental Funding  
"Biopsychosocial Factors in Depression and Marriage: Implications for Cancer"  
PI: Paula Pietromonaco and Sally Powers (Psychology)

**Ford Foundation** - $90,000  
"Race and Class Disparities in Health"  
PI: Dean Robinson (Political Science)

**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)

CRF grants to date

94 grants have been submitted from 38 Family Research Scholars, totaling over 55 million dollars in requests.  
28 of 84 (33%) reviewed Family Research Scholar grants from NSF, NIH, and foundations have been awarded, totaling $5,222,908.  
10 Family Research Scholar grant applications are currently under review.  
In addition, 17 other CRF research and program grants have been submitted, totaling $892,034 in requests.  
7 (41%) of these additional CRF grants have been awarded, totaling $271,143.
2009-2010 Research publications resulting from CRF grants


A summary of the report provided the basis for the cover story of *Massachusetts Communities and Banking*, available at http://www.bos.frb.org/commdev/c&b/2010/winter/Randy_Albeda_Care_Work.pdf

The report’s findings are also cited in a successful grant proposal that Nancy Folbre submitted to the Russell Sage Foundation in June 2009, providing funding for interdisciplinary, multi-university participation in a Working Group on Care Work. This Working Group is currently writing a book entitled *Care Provision in the U.S.* One chapter of this book in progress provides a national-level analysis based on the state-level calculations developed in *Counting on Care*.


2009-2010 Research presentations resulting from CRF grants


Lunquist, J. H. (2009). The role of the military in infant birth outcomes. Centers for Disease Control Conference on Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program. (First Place Award)


Research and Proposal Consultation

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. Faculty perceive CRF to be an accessible and creative place with the expertise to allow ideas to form and flourish.

CRF provides me with an additional academic “home,” one in which colleagues...can suggest relevant theories to consider and statistical analyses to use. One in which I share graduate students with colleagues from outside the department and the graduate students’ work is richer for the experience as well. My connection to CRF has been a significant reason why I have decided to spend my career at UMass. - Associate Professor, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Faculty Research Clusters

**Stress Research Cluster**
CRF has established a Research Cluster of Five College faculty interested in understanding physiological mechanisms of stress and how stress affects health across the life-span. Family relationships and animal pair bonding are important contexts within which stress is examined in this research cluster. Twelve faculty members led by Sally Powers, CRF director, and Jeff Blaustein, professor of psychology, meet every other week at CRF with the aim of forging long-term research collaborative projects. The cluster is currently planning a NIH P01 Program Grant application, which will contain 5 or more R01 research projects. The cluster is also discussing working together to submit a NIH training grant in this translational area of research. Notably, this research cluster includes researchers who work with animal models as well as those who work with human populations using a wide variety of methods, from epidemiology to endocrinological assessments in the field and lab.

**Faculty in the Stress Research Cluster**
Sally Powers, (co-leader) professor of psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior Program
Jeff Blaustein, (co-leader) professor of psychology, 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
Mary Harrington, Tippet Professor in Life Sciences, psychology, Smith College,
UnJa Hayes, assistant professor, psychology and Neuroscience and Behavior Program
Lynette Sievert, associate professor, anthropology
Jerrold Meyer, professor of psychology, director of Neuroscience and Behavior Program
Melinda Novak, professor and chair of psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior Program, Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Program
Paula Pietromonaco, professor of psychology
Heather Richardson, assistant professor, psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior Program
Brian Whitcomb, assistant professor, public health

**Care, Work, and Family Policy Research Cluster**
An alumnus of the Family Research Scholars program, Joya Misra, started a research cluster on care, work, and family policy in collaboration with CRF, Center for Public Policy and Administration, and Sociology and Social and Demographic Research Institute. Dr. Misra described the working group as “a way to continue collaboration [with other faculty] and encourage more involvement in CRF.” This group was originally brought together during the development of the 2008 CRF conference on Women and Work: Choices and Constraints, and during the development of an IGERT proposal on care-work.

**Faculty and Staff in the Care, Work, and Family Policy Research Cluster**
Joya Misra, (leader) associate professor of sociology and public policy
Lee Badgett, professor, economics and public policy, director of Center for Public Policy and Administration
Brenda Bushouse, associate professor, political science and public policy
Nancy Folbre, professor, economics
Millianne Kang, associate professor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Maureen Perry-Jenkins, professor, psychology
Karen Lederer, undergraduate advisor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Wendy Varner, associate director, CRF
The Scholar-in-Residence Program

CRF has launched a Scholar-in-Residence program in which nationally and internationally recognized family researchers from other universities come to UMass to engage with the center for a semester or an academic year. Each Scholar-in-Residence is selected based on his or her ability to productively work with the community of faculty researchers active in the Center for Research on Families.

Dr. Jennifer Swanberg was accepted as a Scholar-in-Residence for 2010-2011. Dr. Swanberg came to CRF to give a presentation on “Workplace Flexibility For Low-Wage Workers: Benefits For Employees and Employers” on April 13th, 2010. The mutual interest and exchange among faculty with Dr. Swanberg confirmed the shared benefits of her upcoming residency. Dr. Swanberg is Executive Director of the Institute for Workplace Innovation (iwin) and associate professor in the University of Kentucky College of Social Work with joint appointments in the Colleges of Business, Medicine, and Public Health. She is an interdisciplinary social scientist with research interests in understanding how the organization of work impacts individual health and work-life effectiveness, as well as organizational outcomes. Her current research focuses on: workplace flexibility as a dimension of work organization; the relationship between the quality of low-wage hourly retail jobs and employee well-being, work-family conflict, employee engagement and customer satisfaction; domestic violence as a workplace issue; and human capital and quality jobs as drivers of economic development. She is widely published and was recently invited to the White House by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama to participate in a Forum on Workplace Flexibility, March 31, 2010.
Providing Methodology Training And Consultation
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. Dr. Aline Sayer, an internationally respected methodologist specializing in statistical analyses of complex multi-level datasets, oversees this program and provides consultation. Summer workshops and conferences in advanced statistical and methodological techniques relevant to family researchers draw national and international registration. Demand increases each year, and trainings have been developed in response to changing needs and consistent requests. CRF also collaborates with the University of Michigan’s Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) to offer additional on-campus summer workshops at UMass. See Addendum for a list of past workshops and participating institutions.

It is an incredible opportunity to get statistics training at this level at my home university! With such Resources at our disposal, we should encourage as many graduate students as possible to take these Methodology workshops. It would greatly enrich their research methods and skills.

- Professor, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Methodological Workshops and Trainings

During the 2009-2010 Summers, CRF held the following workshops:

**SUMMER 2009**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 9-13</td>
<td>ANALYZING DEVELOPMENTAL TRAJECTORIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23-27</td>
<td>HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELS I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15-17</td>
<td>MODELING DIARY AND DYADIC DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO ATLAS.TI AND CAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUMMER 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 20-21</td>
<td>RESEARCHING THE CONNECTED WORLD: An Introduction to Social Network Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7-11</td>
<td>HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELS I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14-18</td>
<td>CATEGORICAL ANALYSIS USING STATA: Models of Binary, Ordinal, Nominal, and Count Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22-25</td>
<td>MODELING DIARY DATA USING HLM</td>
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Evaluation summary of the 2009-2010 workshops:

93% of the participants reported the workshops met or exceed their expectations. Participants found the balance between lecture and lab training particularly valuable and indicated that the workshops gave them the tools to move forward with their research and career goals. CRF received praise for the general organization and management of the workshops and many participants spoke of returning or recommending the workshops to their peers. The instructors were recognized for their enthusiasm, mastery of the materials and user friendly presentations of complicated concepts.

These workshops served 150 researchers from the following institutions:

- Boston College
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Harvard Medical School, Children’s Hospital
- Columbia University
- Connecticut College
- Duke University
- East Carolina University
- Five College Women’s Study Research Center
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- Indiana University School of Medicine
- Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT
- Kent State
- Marquette University
- Mathematica
- McGill University
- Mississippi State University
- Mount Holyoke College
- National Center for PTSD
- Northeastern University
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Simon Fraser University
- Smith College
- Spellman College
- Stony Brook University
- SUNY Buffalo
- Tufts University
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Bern, Switzerland
- University of British Columbia
- University of California Santa Barbara
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Connecticut Health Center
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Kentucky
- University of Leuven, Belgium
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of North Carolina
- University of Padova, Italy
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of South Carolina
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas Medical Branch
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Tech University
- Western Illinois University
- Yale University
Methodology Consultation

CRF’s Methodological Consulting Services (MCS) provides consultation in study design and statistical analysis. 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, and analysis of nested and longitudinal data. MCS 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. 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.

Aline Sayer’s HLM course and methodological expertise has made it possible for my colleague and I to propose research using these modeling techniques, allowing us to do truly state-of-the-art analyses.

Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Public Health Sciences
To be awarded the CRF undergraduate fellowship is an honor and I am very grateful to receive such an award. Working with a multi-site collaborative team enhances my knowledge and allows me to interact with other researchers who share my interests. I am learning from these researchers the things that are rarely taught in a classroom setting...[and] are beneficial to my career as a researcher.

Undergraduate psychology major
Encouraging the Next Generation of Family Researchers

To be awarded the CRF undergraduate fellowship is an honor and I am very grateful to receive such an award. Working with a multi-site collaborative team enhances my knowledge and allows me to interact with other researchers who share my interests. I am learning from these researchers the things that are rarely taught in a classroom setting...[and] are beneficial to my career as a researcher.

Undergraduate psychology major
Student Research

Each year the College of Natural Sciences, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and CRF grants provide support for graduate students to become involved with the research and activities of the center and its faculty.

2009-2010 CRF Graduate Student Team Members:

**Anne Bordieri** - Graduate Project Assistant in the Methodology Program
Masters student in Public Policy and Administration - Assisted with the workshops and trainings in the center and examined other statistical consulting services, family research centers and related programs for best practices; helped to coordinate the logistics of two data analysis training institutes and develop instructional materials.

**Molly Breitbart** - Graduate Project Assistant
Masters student from the School of Public Health and Health Sciences - Interviewed current and past family research scholars about their experiences at CRF and helped to incorporate their feedback into a CRF program evaluation and plan for future activities; helped to gather data for the CRF 2009-2010 Annual Report and coordinate speaker visits for the Tay Gavin lecture series.

**Lindsey Demers** - Graduate Project Assistant in the Methodology program
Doctoral student in Psychology - 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.

**Holly Laws** - Graduate Research Assistant
Doctoral student in Psychology - Worked on research projects funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Cancer Institute; tested theoretical analyses and models with SEM and HLM techniques and collaborated on publications for scholarly journals.

Student Research Grants and Awards Program

For the first time this year, CRF was able to offer the Student Research Grants and Awards Program, which provides support to undergraduate and graduate students to work with UMass faculty on research or acknowledges outstanding student research on family issues. Awardees will engage with the center by attending two roundtable events to present their research. Eighteen students received awards in five categories:

The **CRF Family Research Graduate Student Fellowship** provides $10,000 for one year for a student to work with a faculty member on a family research project. Fellowships were awarded to:

- **Melissa Hodges**, Ph.D. candidate in sociology
  Melissa will work closely with mentor Michelle Budig, associate professor of sociology, to examine the relationship between work-family policies and gender differences.

- **Aya Ghunney**, Ph.D. candidate in psychology
  Aya will work under the advisement of Maureen Perry-Jenkins, professor of psychology, to examine sociocultural predictors of maternal depressive symptoms.

- **Zhun Xu**, Ph.D. candidate in economics
  Zhun will study with Jennifer Lundquist, professor of sociology, on determinants of breastfeeding behavior.
The **CRF Family Research Travel Grants** provide $500 to help a student attend a national or international conference to present research. Grants were given to:

- **Irene Boeckman**, Ph.D. candidate in sociology.  
  The British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2010, Glasgow, UK; Paper presentation:  
  “The impact of fatherhood on men’s earnings in Britain, the United States, Germany, and Switzerland.”

- **Quade French**, Ph.D. candidate in psychology.  
  2010 International Conference on Adoption Research, Leiden, Netherlands; Poster presentation:  
  “Salivary cortisol as related to foster care and early life stress.”

- **Danila Musante**, Ph.D. candidate in psychology.  
  2010 International Conference on Adoption Research, Leiden, Netherlands; Paper presentation:  
  “Predictors of instability in adopted young adults.”

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. Grants were awarded to:

- **Lindsay Beck**, Ph.D., Yale University; Post-doctoral Fellow in psychology, UMass Amherst.

- **Matt Gray**, sociology undergraduate – class of 2010, UMass Amherst

- **Peter Koval**, Ph.D. candidate in psychology, University of Leuven, Belgium

- **Erica Ragan**, Ph.D. candidate in psychology, University of Denver

- **Judy Tan**, Ph.D. candidate in psychology, University of Connecticut

- **Melinda Tarsi**, Ph.D. candidate in political science, UMass Amherst

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. Assistanship grants were given to:

- **Cheryl Feinstein**, communication disorders.  
  Cheryl will conduct research with Jackie Kurland, assistant professor of communication disorders, to investigate the effects on quality of life of residents in elderly home placements.

- **Morgana Flaherty**, psychology.  
  Morgana will study with Harold Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Professor of Psychology, focusing on birthmothers’ reason for placing a child for adoption.

- **Lauren Foley**, psychology.  
  Lauren will work with Linda Tropp, associate professor of psychology, on family influences in Northern Ireland and South Africa.

- **Anastasia Wilson**, economics.  
  Anastasia will work with Nancy Folbre, professor of economics, on research pertaining to the care sector of the economy.

The **CRF Family Research Honors Thesis/Capstone Award** of $500 acknowledged the following outstanding undergraduate student research projects:

- **Amanda Persuade**, psychology.  
  Amanda was recognized for her honors thesis research on “Cortisol Reactivity during a Conflict Discussion: Effects of Prior Sexual and Physical Trauma.”

- **Lori Dikun**, psychology.  
  Lori was recognized for her honors thesis research on “The Relationship Between Violated Expectations and Marital Quality During the Transition to Parenthood.”
“Having a working relationship with [the Erikson lecturer] is a critical step in my career. He is at the center of my research world. It is not easy to connect with someone who is in such high demand. Had I traveled to his university to meet with him or approached him at a conference, I doubt he would have given me the focused attention that occurred yesterday. The Tay Gavin Erikson Lecture Series created the opportunity to bring him here and to, in essence, “purchase” his time to help me with my research. When he left for the airport, I was thrilled with what had been accomplished. The experience was invaluable and I am so grateful to CRF for creating the opportunity.”

Assistant Professor, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Disseminating Research Findings

2010

Assistant Professor, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
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, Erickson lecturers provide consultation to CRF Family Research Scholars on grant proposals.

The following experts visited in 2009-2010:

**HAROLD KOENIG, M.D., MHSc.**
Duke University Medical Center: Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Science & Associate Professor of Medicine; Founding Co-director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology & Health.
“The Self-Regulation of Health Behaviors: The Environmental Affordances Framework”
Consultant to Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Anthropology

**JAMES S. JACKSON, Ph.D.**
University of Michigan: Daniel Katz Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Health Behavior & Health Education
“The Self-Regulation of Health Behaviors: The Environmental Affordances Framework”
Collaborative presentation with the department of psychology

**MARCELO M. SUAREZ-OROZCO, Ph.D.**
New York University: Co-Director of Immigration Studies and Professor of Globalization and Education; Princeton University: member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study
“Rethinking Immigration and the Family in the Age of Global Vertigo”
Consultant to Jacqui Mosselson, Education

**MELANIE KILLEN, Ph.D.**
University of Maryland, College Park: Professor of Human Development and Associate Director for the Center for Children, Relationships, and Culture.
“Social Exclusion: Morality, Prejudice, and Group Identity in Childhood”
Consultant to Linda Tropp, Psychology

**CHARLES A. NELSON III, Ph.D.**
Harvard Medical School: Professor of Pediatrics and Neuroscience and Director of Research in the Division of Developmental Medicine; Children’s Hospital in Boston: Richard David Scott Chair of Pediatric Developmental Medicine Research
“Effects of Early Psychosocial Deprivation on Brain and Behavioral Development”
Consultant to Lisa Scott, Education - Collaborative presentation with Neuroscience and Behavior Program.

**RICHARD ASLIN, Ph.D.**
University of Rochester: Professor in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Development Sciences and Director of the Center for Brain Imaging
“The Dynamics of Information Processing in Infants: Eye-tracking and Neuroimaging”
Consultant to Lisa Scott, Psychology

**JENNIFER SWANBERG, Ph.D.**
University of Kentucky College of Social Work and the Colleges of Business, Medicine, and Public Health; Executive Director of the Institute for Workplace Innovation.
“Workplace Flexibility for Low-Wage Workers: Benefits For Employees and Employers”
CRF Scholar in Residence – 2010-2011

Over 400 researchers, community members, staff and students attended these lectures.
Conferences

CRF administered the Second Annual Adoption Research conference, “New Worlds of Adoption: Linking Research with Practice,” which was held on April 7, 2010, and focused on creating dialogue between researchers. The event had 10 expert presenters and attracted over 150 researchers, practitioners and students from all over the country.

Since 2005, CRF has held four internationally attended conferences, with over 550 people attending, representing 4 countries and 21 states.

Public Engagement Project

The Public Engagement Project 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 improve their communication and engagement with the media, community groups, policymakers, and others in the public arena. The Public Engagement Project helps faculty members to reach institutions and individuals who want to use research findings, as well as to reach across disciplines within academia. By developing a new generation of public intellectuals, the project will improve the public’s understanding and use of research, as well as improve the quality of research intended for public use. The Project is a collaboration with the Center for Public Policy & Administration, the Department of Sociology, SADRI and the Psychology of Peace & Violence Concentration. The Project has held workshops since 2003, including “Communicating with the Media,” “Writing Op-Eds,” “Working with Social Movements: Lessons from the Front Lines,” and “How to Make Friends and Influence Policy: Working with State and Federal Policymakers.” This year, a panel of UMASS faculty presented ‘Research Methods for Social Justice.’ Currently, the Project’s steering committee is creating a website to provide resources to faculty.

Community Presentation

Applewood Community, Amherst, MA – CRF’s associate director, Wendy Varner, and Dr. Harold Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, spoke about CRF’s family research programs and the Rudd Adoption Research Program.
Expanding An Interdisciplinary Network Of Colleagues 2010
Expanding an Interdisciplinary Network of Colleagues

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.

- Other units on campus have asked for assistance in replicating the Family Research Scholars Program’s grant-seeking model:
  - CRF collaborated with STEM faculty to develop a similar program as part of an ADVANCE proposal to NSF (see our collaborative grant submission below).
  - Through the Mellon funding grant, Joya Misra, CRF Scholar and sociology and public policy professor, created a similar program for faculty with a non-family focus (through SADRI, Sociology and CPPA).

- The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement has asked CRF to develop a research seminar for new Principal Investigators of major grants, “I’m a PI! Now What?” Building on the success of the Family Research Scholars program, this seminar series will be for selected faculty who have just received their first major grant award. The program will address PI responsibilities, subcontractors, hiring & supervising staff, effective budgets and modification procedures, reporting strategies, scaling up a research team. Planning for a 2011 series will begin this summer.

Collaborative Projects and Grant Submissions

**NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Proposal**
(CRF contract for $362,673) total request: $2,571,75

This year, CRF was a collaborative partner with the departments of microbiology, biology, chemistry, engineering and psychology (STEM disciplines) to submit a grant application to the National Science Foundation’s ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Program. The grant proposed research and interventions to improve recruitment and retention of majority and underrepresented minority female STEM faculty at UMass Amherst and elsewhere. As Co-PI, CRF Director Sally Powers proposed to tailor the CRF Faculty Research Scholar Program for STEM disciplines. The ADVANCE Research Scholars Program would provide a year of intensive networking and mentoring to STEM women faculty at various ranks with the goal of each participant producing at least one major research proposal.

**RO4 NIH grant - Springfield-Holyoke Health Alliance for Research and Engagement (SHHARE)**
(CRF contract for $18,600) total request: $996,172

CRF collaborated with the School of Public Health and Health Sciences on an RO4 NIH Grant to create the Springfield-Holyoke Health Alliance for Research and Engagement (SHHARE), which is an alliance between faculty and community health providers to improve health in Holyoke and Springfield. In addition to SPHHS, collaborative participants included the Greater Springfield-Umass Amherst Partnership, the Western Mass. Center for Healthy Communities, Bay State Health Systems, and Partners for a Healthier Community. A planning forum was held on May 19th, to begin to dialogue on how to establish a formal mechanism by which community groups, Community Research Associates (CRAs), and researchers come together to share information and coordinate efforts.

**Mary Ann Mason, Ph.D**
University of California at Berkeley School of Law
March 23, 2010 - "Do Babies Matter in Academia?"

CRF, the UMass Amherst Office of Faculty Development’s Mutual Mentoring Initiative, Chancellor Robert Holub, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, the Department of Sociology, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, and Mount Holyoke College co-sponsored the lecture and visit. Mary Ann Mason is an expert on public policy issues related to the effects of parenting on the careers of women academics and scientists, and on national policy issues regarding working families and children’s rights.

**MotherWoman**, a community organization in western Massachusetts whose mission supports mothers to create positive personal and social change for families, has collaborated with CRF on events, and continued this year to work with CRF faculty to develop interventions for working mothers, and advocacy strategies for family policies.
Other Accomplishments

- **Development Initiatives:** Throughout the year, CRF has worked closely with development staff to secure additional funding to sustain the center’s programs and mission. Advice and strategies were offered by Deter Wisniewski, Director of Development New York, Washington and Chicago, Laurie Benoit, Executive Director of Development, College of Natural Sciences, James Mallet, Director of Development, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Rika Clement, Associate Vice Chancellor for Constituent Programs.

- CRF received a generous gift of $50,000 to support its programs.

- CRF’s Director and psychology professor Sally Powers was appointed to the National Academies’ Institute of Medicine Committee on the Science of Research on Families. The National Academies include the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Research Council. A primary purpose of the National Academies is to select experts to address critical national issues and give unbiased advice to the federal government and the public. The Committee on the Science of Research on Families will convene a two-day conference in Washington D.C. in July 2010 to identify the most advanced methodological approaches for understanding diverse family structures, dynamic qualities of family environments, and social determinants of child health and development. The Committee will also address opportunities for collaboration among federal agencies to improve the quality of research and training in this field.

- Powers was also appointed as Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science.
CRF Faculty and Staff 2010
CRF Faculty and Staff

Affiliates:

**DANIEL ANDERSON**, Psychology

**DAVID ARNOLD**, Psychology

**LEE BADGETT**, Economics and Center for Public Policy and Administration

**MICHELLE BUDIG**, Sociology

**BRENDA BUSHOUSE**, Political Science and Center for Public Policy and Administration

**YU-KYONG CHOE**, Communication Disorders

**DANIEL CLAWSON**, Sociology

**LEDA COOKS**, Communication

**LORRAINE CORDEIRO**, Nutrition

**NILANJANA DASGUPTA**, Psychology

**MATTHEW DAVIDSON**, Psychology

**ELIZABETH DUMONT**, Biology

**NANCY FOLBRE**, Economics

**NAOMI GERSTEL**, Sociology

**ABBIE GOLDBERG**, Psychology, Clark University

**HAROLD GROTEVANT**, Psychology

**SANJIV GUPTA**, Sociology

**KRISTA HARPER**, Anthropology

**ELIZABETH HARVEY**, Psychology

**UNJA HAYES**, Psychology

**JULIE HEMMENT**, Anthropology

**MILIANN KANG**, Women's Studies

**DAVID KITTREDGE**, Natural Resources and Environment

**JACQUE KURLAND**, Communication Disorders

**LYNETTE LEIDY SIEVERT**, Anthropology

**LAURA LOVETT**, History

**JENNIFER LUNQUIST**, Sociology

**JOYA MISRA**, Sociology and Center for Public Policy and Administration

**JACQUELINE MOSSELSOON**, Educational Policy Research and Administration

**MAUREEN PERRY-JENKINS**, Psychology

**MARSHA KLINE PRUETT**, Social Work

**REBECCA READY**, Psychology

**HEATHER RICHARDSON**, Psychology

**DEAN ROBINSON**, Political Science

**WENONA RYMOND-RICHMOND**, Sociology

**ALINE SAYER**, Psychology

**AMY SCHAEFFER**, Sociology

**ERICA SCHARRE**, Communication

**LISA SCOTT**, Psychology

**NINA SIULC**, Legal Studies

**REBECCA SPENCER**, Psychology

**RICHARD TESSLER**, Sociology

**LINDA TROPP**, Psychology

**LISA WEXLER**, Community Health Education
Steering Committee:
DAVID ARNOLD, Psychology
BRENDA BUSHOUSE, Political Science
NANCY FOLBRE, Economics
NAOMI GERSTEL, Sociology
HAROLD GROTEVANT, Psychology
LYNETTE LEIDY SIEVERT, Anthropology
MAUREEN PERRY-JENKINS, Psychology
PAULA PIETROMONACO, Psychology (Facilitator of Family Research Scholars Program 2008-2010)
ERICA SCHARRER, Communication

Staff
STEPHANIE COVELLI - Financial Manager
PATRICIA KANE – Bookkeeper (part-time)
SALLY POWERS - Director
Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience and Behavior Program
ALINE SAYER - Director of Methodology Program
Associate Professor of Psychology
JULANNA SMITH - Associate - Methodology Program (part-time)
CARLA WILLIAMSON - Events Coordinator and Office Manager
WENDY VARNER - Associate Director

Students
ANNE BORDIERI - Research and Project Assistant
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, MPPA Candidate
MOLLY BREITBART – Research and Project Assistant
School of Public Health & Health Sciences, MPH Candidate, Community Health Education
LINDSEY DEMERS – Methodology Program
College of Natural Sciences, Ph.D. candidate; Psychology
LISA HUM – Project Assistant
School of Public Health & Health Sciences, Nutrition - B.S. anticipated 2011
HOLLY LAWS - Research Assistant
College of Natural Sciences, Ph.D. candidate; Psychology
Addendum
Addendum

Since 2005, approximately 400 researchers have attended a Methodology Workshop or Training Conference. Participants came from the following institutions:

2005
24 participants in 1 workshop; “Hierarchical Linear Models I”
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Columbia University
- Florida State University
- Medical University of South Carolina
- National Institute of Justice
- United States Army Research Lab
- University of Alabama Birmingham
- University of California Berkeley
- University of Florida
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Massachusetts Boston
- University of Michigan
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Rochester
- University of South Florida
- University of Texas Austin
- Western Carolina University
- Yale University

2006
74 participants total in 3 workshops; “Analyzing Developmental Trajectories” (21), Hierarchical Linear Models I (24) and “Missing Data” (29)
- Acadia University
- American Cancer Society
- Arizona State University
- Auburn University
- Boston College
- Brigham Young University
- Brown University
- Carleton College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Catholic University of America
- Center for Gerontology & Health Care Research, Brown University.
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
- Clark University
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University
- CUNY Graduate Center
- Dartmouth Medical School
- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle Washington
- George Washington University
- Harvard University School of Public Health
- Indiana University
- Iowa State University
- IWK Health Centre at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia
- Judge Baker Children's Center, Harvard University
- Juvenile Protective Association, Chicago Illinois
- Kansas State University
- Kent State University
- Lifespan Institute, University of Kansas
- National Development & Research Institute
- New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging
- New York University
- North Carolina Central University
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Oregon Social Learning Center
- Oregon State University
- Penn State University
- Princeton University
- Queens University
- RAND
- Southeastern Louisiana University
- SUNY at Stony Brook
- Syracuse University
- Texas A&M University
- Tufts University
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of California Santa Barbara
- University of Chicago
- University of Connecticut Health Center
- University of Guelph, Ontario Canada
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Indianapolis
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey
- University of Memphis
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Missouri at Kansas City
- University of Nebraska
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Oregon
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- University of Southern California
- University of Tennessee Knoxville
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- University of Wisconsin
- Utrecht University, Netherlands
- Virginia Tech
- Wayne State University
- Wellesley College
- Wesleyan University
- Williams College
- Yale University
2007
63 participants total in 3 workshops.
“Analyzing Developmental Trajectories” (20),
“Hierarchical Linear Models I” (21), and
“Modeling Longitudinal and Dyadic Data with HLM” (22)

Brown University
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Edvantia
Harvard Medical School
Harvard University
Indiana University
Meso University, Japan
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Mills College
Mount Holyoke College
National Institute of Justice
New York University
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Princeton University
Public/Private Ventures
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers University
Simon Fraser University
Syracuse University
Texas University Pan American
University of Akron
University of Alabama Birmingham
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
University of California Berkeley
University of California Ervine
University of Chicago
University of Colorado
University of Connecticut
University of Illinois Urbana
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Texas at Austin
University of Toronto
University of Utah
University of Wisconsin Madison
Vanderbilt University
Yale University
Yeshiva University

2008
141 people total in 4 workshops;
“Modeling Diary and Dyadic Data” (45),
“Analyzing Developmental Trajectories” (20),
“Hierarchical Linear Models I” (30), and
“Researching the Connected World: An Introduction to Social Network Analysis” (46)

Boston College
Boston University
Boston University School of Medicine
Brown University
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Florida State University
Harvard University
Indiana University
Kent State
Long Island University
Loyola University Chicago
MDRC New York
Mitre Corp
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
Northeastern University
Oklahoma State University
Penn State
Public Health Solutions
Purdue University
Rutgers University
Santa Clara University
Saint Louis University
SUNY Stony Brook
Syracuse University
Texas Medical
Texas Tech University
Tufts University
University of Alaska
University of Auckland, New Zealand
University of California Berkeley
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Georgia
University of Haifa, Israel
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts School of Medicine
University of Maryland
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
University of Rochester Medical Center
University of South Carolina
University of Tennessee Knoxville
University of Texas
University of Utah
Veterans Association Boston Healthcare
Vassar College
University of Wisconsin Madison
VU University, Amsterdam