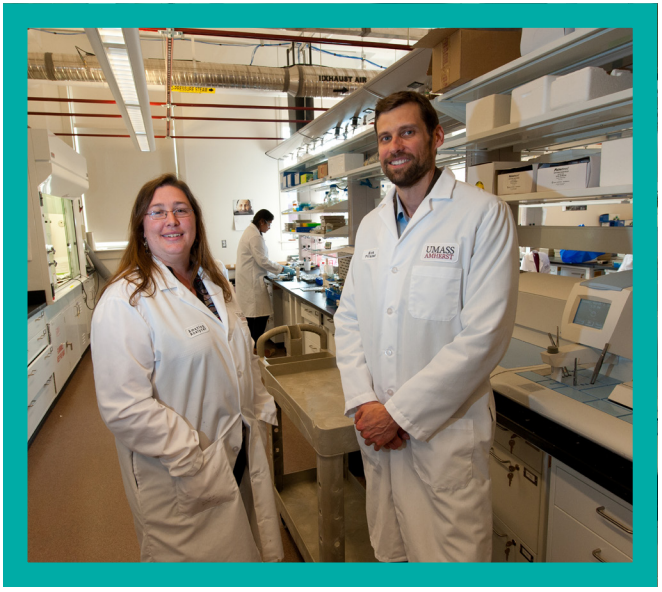

CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON FAMILIES

Addressing Complex Challenges

2018 - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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**This report describes CRF activities undertaken from June 2018 through May 2019.*

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Center for Research on Families (CRF) Vision

Our vision is to advance interdisciplinary research to increase our understanding of the diversity, health, and well-being of families while contributing innovative and evidence-based solutions to the most pressing problems facing families.

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

CRF Mission

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

CRF Story

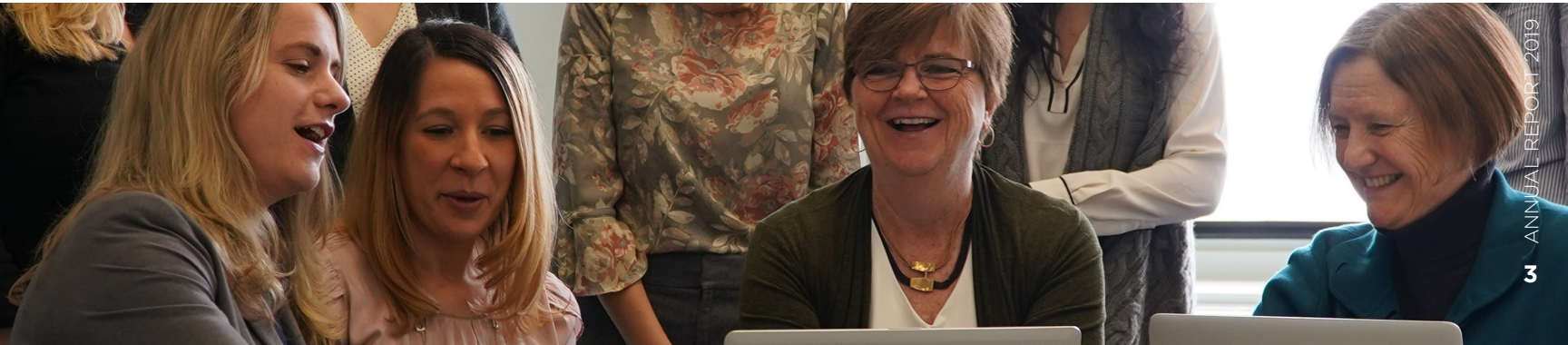
The **Center for Research on Families** has a long history and deep roots at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The Center for the Family was founded over forty years ago in the 1970s. A generous endowment given by Dorothy Dunklee Gavin '43 and Joseph Gavin in 1996 ensured a strong and sustainable future for the Center. In 2003, the original Center for the Family was transformed into today's Center for Research on Families. CRF is a joint center of the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS). Its programs are supported by CNS, SBS, the Edna Skinner and Tay Gavin Erickson endowments, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, grants, and alumni and corporate gifts.

FAMILIES IN CONTEXT

Families are embedded in multiple social settings and are also comprised of complex individuals that bring unique genes and individual differences to family systems. We view research from all disciplines as relevant to our mission.

Recent Areas of Research and Outreach:

- Social, Health, Educational, and Economic Equity
- Parenting, Parent-Child Relations, Child Outcomes
- Impact of Environmental Toxins on Health and Well-being
- Influences of Stress on Development and Health



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear Friends,

At some point today you will probably read a headline or hear a news report highlighting the rise in opioid-related deaths across the U.S., or the ways in which environmental toxins are affecting our health, or the alarming rates of childhood asthma. Although daunting and complex problems, they are all topics that CRF scholars, both faculty and students, are addressing head-on with their research. Every day I am impressed with the passion and expertise that CRF scholars bring to these challenges, and heartened by their ambition and optimism. In order to solve these problems, we need clear, evidence-based solutions based in science, and that is exactly what CRF produces.

The programs described in this report highlight advances in our research, training, and outreach at CRF. This year we successfully searched for and hired our new Events, Communications, and Office Manager, Amanda Moore, and she has been a breath of fresh air at CRF. As a UMass alumna, she is thrilled to be back at UMass furthering the mission of our Center.

We have had a successful year securing grants from NSF and NIH. Jamie Rowen, an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies, has just started her new NSF CAREER award examining the emergence of Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) in the U.S. VTCs have emerged as one response to a growing concern that veterans are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and have unique, unmet needs. Professor Rowen is exploring the challenges and benefits of such programs.

On another track, with new funding from NIH, Associate Professor of Psychology and Brain Sciences. Alexandra Jesse is investigating how we listen and interpret information. In particular, she is interested in how older adults with age-related hearing loss use cues from both hearing and seeing a speaker to understand information. Although these two examples of CRF research are dramatically different, both of these studies hold important implications for supporting vulnerable populations (veterans in the court system and older adults), and ultimately shaping the lives of the families and communities they live in.

At CRF, we remain laser-focused on supporting and producing new knowledge that impacts all aspects of family health and well-being. This work happens best when we break down the silos of our academic disciplines and bring smart, passionate, and open-minded scholars to the table to solve our greatest challenges. This is CRF at its best!

Director, Center for Research on Families

OUR **APPROACH**

METHODOLOGY

CONSULTATION
ACADEMIC-YEAR SEMINARS
SUMMER METHODOLOGY INSITUTE
GRANT SUPPORT

FACULTY

FAMILY RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM
PILOT GRANTS

STUDENTS

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT WRITING PROGRAM
GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS
STUDENT TRAVEL AND RESEARCH AWARDS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TAY GAVIN ERICKSON LECTURE SERIES
CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP
SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

POLICY

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT
LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

Maureen Perry-Jenkins, CRF Director

- Co-President, Contemporary Council on Families
- Ernest Burgess Award Presentation, National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference 2018, San Diego, CA
- Institute for Social Science Research, Advisory Committee, UMass Amherst
- Institute for Diversity Science, Steering Committee, UMass Amherst
- Square One Family Services Advisory Board Member, Springfield, MA
- Rudd Adoption Center Advisory Board, UMass Amherst
- Public Engagement Project (PEP) Steering Committee, UMass Amherst
- Center for Community Health Equity Research, Steering Committee, UMass Amherst
- UMass Medical Center for Clinical and Translational Science - Life Science Moment Fund Grant- Co-PI: *A Prenatal Intervention for Low-Income Parents*
- Active member of Project ACCCES (supporting UMass-Springfield community-based research partnerships)
- Numerous national presentations on work-family research
- Editorial Board of *Journal of Marriage and Family, Community, Work and Family, Journal of Family Theory and Review*

Holly Laws, CRF Methodology Program Director

- Served as methodological Consultant on a research grant funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and as methodological Co-Investigator in a dyadic study of individuals with early stage Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias and their partners funded by the National Institute on Aging
- Conducted external workshops on multilevel modeling for longitudinal, intensive longitudinal, and dyadic applications for the Inter-University Consortium for Social and Political Research and University of Minnesota
- Co-facilitator of Social Science in Statistics Reading Group, and interdisciplinary learning group facilitated in collaboration with the Institute for Social Science Research and Statistical Consultation and Collaboration Services
- Numerous publications using dyadic and developmental methodological applications
- Presented and provided hosting and organizational support for the *Society for Ambulatory Assessment* conference in 2019 held at Syracuse University

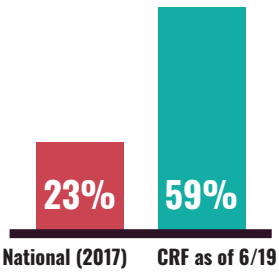
SUCCESSES AT A GLANCE 2018-2019

CRF has accomplished much through our three-pronged approach of research, teaching, and outreach in 2018-2019:

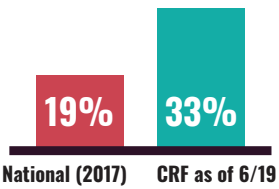
1) Promoting and conducting high-quality, substantive research on key issues affecting family life

- CRF Family Research Scholars (FRS) met biweekly to develop competitive grants through intensive faculty and peer feedback, targeted instruction on the review process, and methodology support.
- 2015, 2016, and 2017 Scholars continued to meet as a group or with the CRF director to revise/submit additional grants.
- CRF Family Research Scholars submitted **20 grants totaling $15,157,484.**
- CRF has active grants totaling **$12,855,901.**
- CRF hosted a new **Graduate Student Grant Writing Program.** Six students worked under the leadership of Professor Rebecca Spencer to prepare NSF and NIH fellowship applications. Seven new scholars were selected for 2019-2020.
- For the twelfth year CRF sponsored the **Stress Research Group**. Researchers met regularly to discuss and examine the biological, behavioral, and social indices and outcomes of stress.

COMPARISON BETWEEN NATIONAL NSF SUCCESS RATES AND CRF SUCCESS RATES



COMPARISON BETWEEN NATIONAL NIH SUCCESS RATES AND CRF SUCCESS RATES



2) Teaching, mentoring, and supporting family researchers throughout their careers (from students to professors)

- CRF awarded **$29,080** in **Student Family Research Grants** to eleven undergraduate and graduate students and a total of **$411,465** since inception.
- CRF provided approximately hundreds of hours of formal **advanced statistical and methodological consultation** to UMass faculty and graduate student researchers, researchers at other universities, and community organizations.
- **2018 Summer Methodology Workshops** drew 55 participants from 34 institutions and 17 states, as well as international participants from Japan and Australia.
- CRF and the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) offered a **Pre-Scholars Workshop** to advise new faculty in grant preparedness and in the application process.
- CRF partnered with the Rudd Adoption Research Program to offer the **Summer Adoption Research Institute.**

3) Engaging with the community to address and inform outreach and policy on issues critical to the well-being of families

- CRF hosted five public lectures by renowned experts through the **Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series.**
- CRF collaborated with the Children's Trust (CT) to offer the course, ***"Risk and Resilience in the Lives of Young Families,"*** for home visitors **from across the state** at the UMass Mount Ida Campus.
- CRF Scholars participated in the **Public Engagement Fellows Program** to develop skills in translating their research.
- CRF disseminated **news articles** about CRF related research from sources including The Wall Street Journal, The Daily Beast, National Public Radio, Washington Post, WGBY (radio), and The Chronical of Higher Education.
- CRF participated in the **Maternal Child Health Working Group Taskforce** to develop partnerships between researchers and community providers in Springfield.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY 2018-2019

GRANT ACTIVITY

Grants submitted: **20** totaling **$15,157,484**
Active grants: **11** totaling **$12,855,901**
Grants submitted since inception: **161**
Grants awarded since inception: **49**
Grants funded amount since inception: **$22,680,091**

SUBMITTED RESEARCH GRANTS

Shannon Roberts (Engineering)
National Institutes of Health - **$414,572**
Reducing crash risk disparities of Low-SES teenage drivers through hazard anticipation training

Mary Paterno (Nursing)
National Institutes of Health - **$445,325**
Evaluation of a collaborative program integrating social and community support with clinical care for pregnant and parenting rural women with opioid use disorder

Mariana Pereira (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
National Institutes of Health - **$1,962,130**
Postpartum Depression and Parenting: Circuit-level transcriptomic and neurochemical mechanisms

Ezekiel Kimball (Educational Policy and Research Administration)
National Science Foundation - **$899,317**
CAREER: Disability in STEM Learning Environments: Postsecondary Transitions for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, All Disabilities, and No Disabilities

Jeffrey Starns (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
National Science Foundation - **$300,000**
Effect of visualization on students' understanding of probability concepts in an innovative learning module

Katherine Reeves (Biostatistics and Epidemiology)
National Institutes of Health - **$2,494,901**
Evaluating the effect of dietary bisphenol exposure on estrogenicity in pre- and-post-menopausal women

Aline Gubrium (Health Promotion and Policy)
National Institutes of Health - **$448,137**
Pilot testing a digital storytelling intervention to address perinatal depression in young African-American and Latinx Women

Krishna Poudel (Health Promotion and Policy)
National Institutes of Health - **$448,806**
Development of an app-based smoking cessation intervention for people living with HIV in Nepal

Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar (Nursing)
National Institutes of Health - **$732,144**
Reducing stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms via a family-centered preventative intervention for immigrants

Ning Zhang (Health Promotion and Policy)
National Institutes of Health - **$623,857**
Obesity in Nursing Home Residents
Veteran's Administration - **$129,696**
Impact of Obesity and Serious Mental Illness on Care Quality among Nursing Home Residents
National Institutes of Health **- $181,475**
Multimorbidity burdens on mortality and hospitalization among nursing home residents with obesity

Jamie Rowen (Political Science)
National Science Foundation - **$621,601**
CAREER: *Thank you for Your Service: The Instrumentalization of Law Through Veterans Treatment Courts*

Sarah Fefer (Student Development)
Spencer Foundation - **$50,000**
The Process and Outcomes of a School-Initiated Online Intervention for Families of Children with Challenging Behavior

Sofiya Alhassan (Kinesiology)
National Institutes of Health - **$430,609**
Feasibility and acceptability of integrating health behaviors into early learning standards on preschooler's obesity-related health behaviors
National Institutes of Health - **$3,929,115**
Physical activity, diet, and sleep/screen time (PADS) during early childhood

Linda Isbell (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - **$60,486**
Risk Aversion, Fear of Malpractice, and Medical Decision Making in the Emergency Department

Jennifer McDermott (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
National Institutes of Health - **$159,500**
Biomarkers of Social Reward Processing in Early Childhood
National Institutes of Health - **$283,424**
Cognitive Vulnerability for Psychopathology: Exacerbating effects of temperament in the relation between early adversity and neural processes underlying cognitive vulnerability

Richard Pilsner (Environmental Health)
National Institutes of Health - **$544,389**
Paternal preconception phthalates and reproductive health - potential mediation through sperm DNA methylation-continuation

ACTIVE RESEARCH

Alexandra Jesse (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
National Institutes of Health - **$152,794**
Electrophysiological Indices of Audiovisual Benefits to Speech Processing in Aging Adults

Jamie Rowen (Political Science)
National Science Foundation - **$500,000**
CAREER: *Thank you for Your Service: The Instrumentalization of Law Through Veterans Treatment Courts*

Linda Isbell (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - **$1,712,843**
Emotional Influences on Diagnostic Error in Emergency Medicine: An Experimental Approach to Understand Diagnostic Failure and Facilitate Improvement for Patients with and without Mental Illness

Brigitte Holt (Anthropology)
National Science Foundation - **$793,815**
Collaborative Research: Bone strength and Physical Activity over the life course in a Physically Active Contemporary Pre-industrial Population

Holly Laws (Psychological and Brain Sciences), CO-PI
Joan Monin, Yale School of Public Health, PI
National Institutes of Health - **$223,823**
A Daily Self-Regulation Intervention for Persons with Early Stage Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias and their Spouses

Richard Pilsner (Environmental Health)
National Institutes of Health - **$2,710,962**
Paternal preconception phthalates and reproductive health - potential mediation through sperm DNA methylation

Rebecca Spencer (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
National Institutes of Health - **$1,904,791**
Sleep-Dependent Memory Processing in Older Adults

Agnès Lacreuse (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
National Institutes of Health - **$1,545,557 and $111,892 (sub-award)**
Sex Differences in Cognitive and Brain Aging: A Primate Model
National Institutes of Health - **$443,755**
Sleep, hot flashes, and cognition: a nonhuman primate model for menopausal symptoms

Gerald Downes (Biology)
National Science Foundation - **$757,746**
Collaborative Research: GABA A Receptor Control of Hyperactivity in Developing Zebrafish

Nilanjana Dasgupta (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
National Science Foundation - **$1,499,993 and $539,822 (sub-award)**
Peer influences on adolescent's self-concept, achievement, and future aspirations in science and mathematics: Does student gender and race matter?

David Arnold (Psychological and Brain Sciences)
Overdeck Family Foundation - **$100,000**
Fostering Kindergarten Readiness in Pre-schoolers from Low-Income Communities with an Educational App

PILOT GRANT UPDATES

In 2017 CRF and the Healthy Development Initiative awarded two $15,000 pilot grants to address pressing concerns identified by Springfield families, agencies, and community leaders as part of our Springfield partnership.

Mary Paterno, PhD CNM, Assistant Professor of Nursing at UMass, along with **Elizabeth Peacock-Chambers**, MD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at UMass Medical School's Baystate Campus, completed their project: *Maternal Perceptions of Opiate Addiction and Child Development Services from Pregnancy Through the First Year Postpartum.* They developed a conceptual model that describes the wide spectrum of engagement for women in recovery and the factors that influence the degree of engagement. They also discovered perceived power differentials between parents and health care providers. The researchers also found that mothers with opioid use disorder perceive they must prove themselves as parents despite unrealistic expectations set by society and providers, and that they desire peer support from other mothers in recovery. They have presented their findings at four national conferences: Translational Science, Pediatric Academic Societies, Society for Applied Anthropology, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Dr. Peacock-Chambers will also partner with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to share the qualitative findings from this study with Early Intervention Providers and to provide expertise regarding strategies to improve engagement in Early Intervention for families affected by OUDs.

Krystal Pollitt, PhD, former Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at UMass, and **Sarita Hudson**, Director of Programs and Development for Springfield's Partners for a Healthier Community, completed their project: *The Fresh Air Project: Using the Exposome to Personalize Asthma Management.* A cost-effective wearable monitor was developed to assess air pollutant mixtures in children's homes, schools and indoor and outdoor community spaces. Pollitt's team studied 36 children aged 12-13 living in Springfield, MA, which ranks as the most challenging area in the nation to live with asthma. The researchers found that children with asthma had elevated exposure to nitrogen dioxide and various combustion-derived polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons compared to children with no diagnosis of asthma. The researchers also held a public event in May 2018 at the UMass Springfield Center to share their outcomes with the community and to run demonstrations of green cleaning products and cooking methods that reduce air pollution exposure. Their long-term goal is to use the wearable device to monitor pollution exposure in order to develop strategies to reduce child hospitalizations related to asthma.

ADVANCING RESEARCH ON FAMILIES

Family Research Scholars (FRS)

The Family Research Scholars Program represents **the cornerstone of how we seek to advance interdisciplinary research.** Since 2003, this highly selective program has prepared faculty to submit large grant proposals by providing them with in-depth consultation, technical expertise, and peer-to-peer mentorship. The program has facilitated research across a wide range of disciplines, including psychology, anthropology, nursing, economics, sociology, education, engineering, public health, political science, biology, and neuroscience. As federal funding has proven increasingly difficult to obtain, academic research centers such as CRF have become increasingly critical to advancing family research. CRF's dedication to faculty research has served to significantly increase federal research support at UMass.

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

- Strategies and support through all stages of **grant development, from conceptualization to submission**
- In-depth faculty feedback and peer review of proposals
- Concrete **instruction** in grant writing procedures
- Individualized **methodology consultation**
- Assistance with accessing University resources
- **Course release** to provide adequate time for grant writing
- **Time management and accountability** for reaching writing goals
- Consultation with **nationally recognized experts**
- **Guest speakers** on topics identified by scholars
- **Continued support** through the summer and following years for resubmission

SEMINAR FACILITATORS

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

Holly Laws
CRF Methodology Program Director and Lecturer in Psychological and Brain Sciences

> "Hosting my longtime "research superstar" on campus was an amazing experience, and a highlight of my time at UMass. Dr. Susan Sheridan spent two full days devoted to working together to refine my ideas and strategize around funding options and points of collaboration. She candidly shared her lessons learned, as well as her own approaches to all stages of grantsmanship that have contributed to her success … I look forward to continued mentorship and collaboration from Dr. Sheridan as a result of this visit, and am extremely grateful for the opportunity."
>
> — *Sarah Fefer*

From left to right: Mary Paterno, Mark Pachucki, Shannon Roberts, Sarah Fefer, Youngbin Kwak and Krishna Poudel

FAMILY RESEARCH SCHOLARS 2018-2019

Mary Paterno
PhD, CNM, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing
Project: *Evaluation of a Collaborative Program Integrating Social and Community Support with Clinical Care for Pregnant and Parenting Rural Women with Opioid Use Disorder*

Mark Pachucki
PhD, Assistant Professor, Sociology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Project: *Childhood Adversity and Later-Life Social Status Disparities: Exploring Social, Biological, and Genetic Mechanisms*

Shannon Roberts
PhD, Assistant Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering
Project: *Reducing Crash Risk Disparities of Low-SES Teenage Drivers through Hazard Anticipation Training*

Sarah Fefer
PhD, Assistant Professor, Student Development, College of Education
Project: *The Process and Outcomes of a School-Initiated Online Intervention for Families of Children with Challenging Behavior*

Youngbin Kwak
PhD, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences, College of Natural Sciences
Project: *Neural Dynamics of Decision Making: Implications for Understanding Adolescent Risk Taking*

Krishna Poudel
PhD, Associate Professor, Health Promotion and Policy, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Project: *Development of an HIV Clinic-Based, Tailored Tobacco Cessation Intervention for People Living with HIV*

The 2019 - 2020 Family Research Scholars have been selected on the basis of their promising family-related research:

- **Airín Martínez,** PhD, Assistant Professor, Health Promotion and Policy, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
- **Ian George Barron,** PhD, Director of the Center for International Education and Professor in Student Development, College of Education
- **Adam Grabell,** PhD, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Science, College of Natural Sciences
- **Devon Greyson,** PhD, Assistant Professor, Communication, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- **Nicole VanKim,** PhD, Assistant Professor, Biostatistics and Epidemiology, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
- **Jennifer Whitehill,** PhD, Assistant Professor, Health Promotion and Policy, School of Public Health and Health Sciences

MEET MARK PACHUCKI
2018-2019 FAMILY RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Does early pubertal development in adolescence affect who will be in your friend group in high school? Do teenagers choose friends who are more similar in appearance and who are going through puberty at the same time as they are? And most importantly, will those early choices adversely affect their well-being and health as they age? Mark C. Pachucki, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and the UMass Computational Social Science Institute, believes that there may be some important connections between pubertal timing, social networks, and pro and anti-social behaviors over time.

Dr. Pachucki studies the social determinants of health, culture, and how social mechanisms influence people's choices and, ultimately, their long-term health outcomes. As a 2018-19 Family Research Scholar with the Center for Research on Families, Dr. Pachucki is developing a research proposal to explore associations between pubertal timing among adolescents and their social networks. Collaborating with Professor Lindsay Hoyt (Fordham University), his team will examine a large secondary dataset to explore the plausibility of this association, and, if warranted, proceed to collect pubertal data from students at middle schools in both western Massachusetts and New York City over the course of one year to examine changes in networks as youth mature physically. These studies will examine the age of onset of the development of puberty in adolescents and the positive and negative effects of peer group relations on pro and anti-social behaviors in adulthood.

Pachucki firmly believes that social environments play a large role in determining outcomes later in life. He hopes to identify how the timing of adolescents' entry into puberty, in combination with the quality of their peer relationships, predicts risky behavior. Pachucki hopes to identify risk factors among adolescents and to develop interventions to help prevent youth from making poor choices as they mature that could affect a healthy life-course trajectory.

Pachucki was very excited to be selected as a 2018-19 Family Research Scholar with the Center for Research on Families this year because "they are a really thoughtful group of people who have deep insights into socioeconomic disparities and maternal and child health, which are both significantly implicated in family processes and choices as they relate to peers." Working with a multidisciplinary group of researchers has helped him to clarify his research focus and has been instrumental in helping to develop the design of his research project.

MEET SHANNON ROBERTS
2018-2019 FAMILY RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Dr. Shannon Roberts "simply loved driving" as a teenager, but when her younger brother began to drive, she realized that the information teenagers are receiving in their Driver's Education courses was inadequate. "Driver's Education teaches you the basic skills you need to operate a car. It doesn't teach you the higher-order skills you need to avoid a crash," Roberts said. When she later learned that teenagers from low socioeconomic (SES) backgrounds face double the crash risk of teenagers from middle and high-SES backgrounds she became interested in understanding the causes of these socioeconomic differences in teen driving behaviors, so she could develop effective interventions.

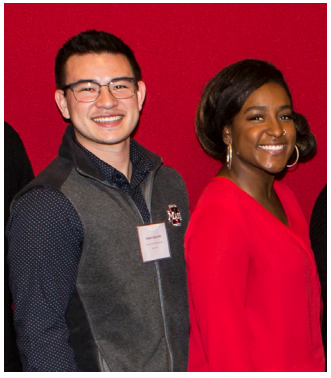
Roberts, 2018-19 CRF Family Research Scholar, is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Roberts teaches Human Factors Design Engineering, which matches human abilities and limitations to the technology they are using. For her CRF proposal, Roberts developed a training program designed to mitigate the risks of low-SES drivers who face unique challenges such as driving in high traffic, urban areas, operating older cars, driving on roads that may not be well maintained, and more often carrying multiple passengers. She adapted a previous intervention, eSAFE (Safety Awareness through Focused Evaluation), in order to address the specific driving challenges facing low-SES teenagers. She plans to bring a portable driving simulator to the UMass Center in Springfield, where she will assess the new intervention and determine whether it improves hazard-anticipation behavior.

"Developing my NIH grant proposal was an intense process," she recalls. She had written NIH grant proposals before and was excited to learn how to improve her grants. "What's different about my research," Roberts says, "is that in addition to working with human subjects, my research also involves the cost associated with driving simulator research." Roberts chose Springfield due to its proximity to UMass, its diverse population, and its large population of teenagers who are of a low-SES status.

Growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, Roberts had a love for Legos and she cites this as the reason for her original interest in engineering. Roberts received a B.S. and an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT). She then went on to receive her Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. If Robert's grant proposal is funded, she will begin her research in September 2019.

Annual Research Forum and Awards Dinner

November 4, 2018



Student Research Forum and Awards Reception

May 2, 2019

METHODOLOGY TRAINING & CONSULTATION

EDUCATION MISSION

Researchers have come to depend on CRF's varied menu of methodological offerings, from individual consultation to half-day seminars to more intensive weeklong workshops. Our consultation services provide individualized training and analytic support to UMass faculty and graduate students and other external researchers. Our seminars are designed to appeal to a broad audience and attract researchers from many disciplines across regional universities. CRF's summer methodology series includes advanced statistical and methodological workshops. Our workshops have regularly attracted national and international researchers. Our consultation, workshops, and seminars are consistently rated highly, indicating that CRF is meeting a vital need for faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students conducting research across varied academic disciplines.

CONSULTATION SERVICES

CRF's Methodology Program provides methodological consultation services, led by Director Holly Laws along with a team of advanced graduate students and staff. It provides study design and hands-on statistical analysis training and support to scholars at UMass, other universities, and professionals from the public and private sector. Our consultation staff are skilled in many traditional statistical analysis applications and have specialized expertise in multilevel modeling. This type of modeling accounts for the nesting of measures within families, and the complex longitudinal modeling of developmental processes. Our highly-trained staff also offers consultation in all stages of research, including:

- issues in research study design, measurement, and sampling
- power analysis, including Monte Carlo simulation
- multilevel structural equation modeling and multilevel mediation
- structural equation modeling
- data analysis and training in multiple software packages
- writing and editing methodology sections of manuscripts and grant proposals

In 2018-2019, CRF's Methodology Consultation Services provided individual research and data consultation on the following topics:

- Stress and health outcomes in relationships
- Community-based suicide prevention intervention in native Alaskan communities
- Gender differences in aging processes and cognitive decline in marmosets
- Race/ethnicity-based bias in psychometric evaluation

From left to right: Dongwei Wang, Holly Laws, Joel Ginn, and Alice Coyne

Methodological Research Consultation SPOTLIGHT:

Holly Laws is a Co-Investigator on a study of elderly couples in which one is coping with early stage dementia. This study is headed by PI Joan Monin of Yale School of Public Health, whose research focuses on understanding how caregivers and care recipients support one another in late life marriage. Dr. Monin's NIA-funded study, *A Daily Self-Regulation Intervention for Persons with Early Stage Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias and their Spouses*, is a pilot intervention study examining the impact of a self-regulation intervention on the daily lives of caregivers of individuals with early stage dementia. The novel design integrates repeated daily measures of well-being within married couples, and Dr. Laws will apply her expertise in dyadic and longitudinal modeling to assess the impact of the self-regulation intervention on the wellbeing of both caregivers and care recipients.

CRF Methodology Consultation staff provided services internally to UMass researchers from the following colleges:

- College of Natural Sciences (Psychological & Brain Sciences)
- Public Health and Health Sciences (Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Policy, Nutrition, Communication Disorders)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (Anthropology, Public Policy and Administration)
- Isenberg School of Management (Sports Management, Management)
- College of Education (School Psychology and Higher Education)

External consultation services were provided to the following research institutions:

- The Family Institute at Northwestern University
- Smith School of Social Work
- Mount Holyoke College
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- University of Kentucky Louisville
- Yale University School of Medicine and School of Public Health

ACADEMIC YEAR SEMINARS

The Methodology Program sponsors academic-year seminars on statistical and research methodology topics relevant to family research. These free seminars, conducted by faculty and CRF Methodology staff, are designed to appeal to a broad audience of family researchers and professionals from the private sector. These topics attracted researchers from many disciplines, including but not limited to criminology, clinical psychology, medicine, economics, computer science, and public health.

2018-2019 Academic Year Seminars:

- Conducting Meta-Analyses in the Social Sciences
- Strategic Design in Grant Writing
- Survey and Questionnaire Design

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Through CRF's affiliation with University of Michigan's Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), UMass serves as a satellite site for the prestigious Summer Institute in Quantitative Methods. This series of workshops provides four weeks of intensive training with nationally renowned experts from a vast array of disciplines.

- **Analyzing Intensive Longitudinal Data**
  Dr. Jean-Philippe Laurenceau, University of Delaware
  Dr. Niall Bolger, Columbia University
- **Stress Biomarkers**
  Dr. Jerrold Meyer, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
  Dr. Linda Tropp, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
  Dr. Katherine Dixon-Gordon, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- **Group-Based Trajectory Modeling for the Medical and Social Sciences**
  Dr. Daniel Nagin, Carnegie-Mellon University
  Dr. Thomas Loughran, University of Maryland, College Park
- **Hierarchical Linear Modeling 1: Introduction**
  Dr. Aline Sayer, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
  Dr. Holly Laws, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Social Science Statistics Reading Group: The Methodology Consultation Staff, along with the Statistical Consulting and Collaboration Services (SCCS) consulting center in the Department of Math and Statistics, the methodological arm of the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR), and the Computational Social Science Institute (CSSI), cosponsored the Social Science Statistics Reading Group. This interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students meets weekly to discuss issues relating to the application of advanced statistical models to research questions of interest to those studying social and developmental processes. The reading group highlights CRF's dedication to an interdisciplinary approach to family research and best practices within research methods.

CRF is a local evaluator for the **Young Women's Advisory Council** (YWAC) administered by the **Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts.** The fund began in 1997 and has awarded over $2.5 million to more than 150 nonprofit organizations. Located in Springfield, Massachusetts, they seek progressive change toward gender equity by working with nonprofit organizations and local women to develop promising solutions. They train women to be leaders in both public and private sectors and invest in local Massachusetts communities. YWAC is part of a larger national collaborative of leadership initiatives for young women, particularly young women of color. CRF is providing evaluation of the impact of the program on young women's self-efficacy, self-esteem, and community engagement.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

children's trust™
strengthening families

Risk and Resilience in the Lives of Young Families is an innovative course that CRF developed in partnership with the Children's Trust, a statewide agency whose goal is to prevent child abuse. Children's Trust funds and provides training and support for the Healthy Families programs across the state. This unique, interdisciplinary course taps into the knowledge of home visitors while bringing a research-based framework to bear on topics such as parenting styles and strategies, high-risk families, families and culture, and more.

CRF was excited to help bring this course first to Springfield, MA in fall of 2017 and then to the UMass Mount Ida Campus in Newton in Spring of 2019. Dr. Miriam Evans headed the instructional team in collaboration with Meg Manning, M.A. and Lee MacKinnon, Ph.D., family training specialists from Children's Trust. Faculty from UMass Amherst, including CRF Director Maureen Perry-Jenkins, also committed their time and expertise to presenting their research, along with community practitioners.

FACULTY AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHTS

2018-2019

Tatishe Nteta (FRS '14-'15) co-authored an article in the Washington Post highlighting provocative research results revealing that men whose first child is a girl are more likely to support policies that promote gender equity than men whose first child is a boy. The article was based on findings from Nteta and colleagues' recently published article, "The First-Daughter Effect: The Impact of Fathering Daughters on Men's Preferences for Gender-Equality Policies" in the journal Public Opinion Quarterly.

Laura Vandenberg (FRS '15-'16) participated in a webinar hosted by Carnegie Mellon and Environmental Health Sciences to discuss data emerging from a federal review on the health effects of low-level exposure to BPA. Findings from the review indicate that small amounts of BPA do not affect human health. Vandenberg discussed additional research that has been conducted by independent academic researchers that has repeatedly revealed that low-level exposure to BPA does result in adverse health effects. Vandenberg was quoted in an article published in the Daily Beast and on National Public Radio's All Things Considered.

Linda Tropp (FRS '09-'10) was the recipient of the 2018 Scientific Impact Award from the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) for her influential work on "contact theory" analysis. Tropp and her team spent over five years mining more than 500 studies gathered from the 1940s through the year 2000, which included more than 250,000 participants from 38 countries, to conduct their meta-analysis. Their results revealed that under certain conditions, contact between two or more social groups can promote tolerance. When groups are allowed and encouraged to communicate with one another, they are more likely to appreciate each other's viewpoints.

Results of a new study by neuroscientist **Agnès Lacreuse (FRS '13-'14)** at UMass Amherst and colleagues at the University of Maryland suggest that a new treatment approach is needed to address adverse effects of aromatase inhibitors, drugs commonly prescribed to both men and women to prevent recurrence of estrogen-positive breast cancer. The findings reveal a need for new therapies that effectively prevent breast cancer recurrence while minimizing side effects that further compromise the quality of life.

Jamie Rowen (FRS '17-'18), Assistant Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies, has been selected for one of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) most prestigious awards. The CAREER Award is the highest recognition NSF gives to early-career faculty. The five-year, $500,000 grant will support Rowen's research into Veteran's Treatment Courts (VTCs), a program that emerged in response to a growing concern that veterans are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and have unique, unmet needs.

In the largest study to date on phthalates and postmenopausal breast cancer, **Katherine Reeves (FRS '14-'15),** Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, found no association between breast cancer risk and exposure to the plasticizing and solvent chemicals used in such common products as shampoo, makeup, vinyl flooring, toys, medical devices, and car interiors. Published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, the research rules out any extreme increase in risk, but still leaves open the question of whether some relationship exists between phthalate exposure and breast cancer.

Elizabeth Krause (FRS '11- '12) has recently released a book, Tight Knit; Global Families and the Social Life of Fast Fashion (2018, University of Chicago Press). Krause found that Chinese migrants are the ones sewing "Made in Italy" labels into low-cost items for a thriving fast-fashion industry in Tuscany. She looks at how families involved in the fashion industry are coping with globalization. She brings to the fore front the tensions that are reaching a boiling point as Italy struggles to deal with the same migration pressures that are triggering backlash all over Europe and North America.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAMILY RESEARCHERS

STUDENT FAMILY RESEARCH AWARDS PROGRAM

The CRF Student Family Research Awards Program recognizes and supports outstanding students for their innovative research on issues related to families. This year twelve talented students were selected to receive more than **$25,000** in funding. Awardees come from a broad range of disciplines and departments. Students and their mentors were recognized at a reception on May 2nd, and they will also be recognized at the 2019 annual CRF dinner. Since the Student Family Research Awards program began in 2010, **124 students** have received **over $411,000** to conduct research and present their research findings at professional meetings.

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

$10,000
Sarah Winokur, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Investigating Neurobiological Underpinnings of Disturbances in Rat Maternal Behavior
Mentor: Mariana Pereira (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

$5,000
Erica Kowsz, PhD candidate, Anthropology
Rules of Recognition: Expectation, Perception, and Policy in Norway and New England, 1980s to Present
Mentor: Sonya Atalay (Anthropology)

$5,000
Jennifer Withrow, PhD candidate, Economics
Three Essays on Labor and Marriage Markets: Farm Crisis and Rural-to-Urban Migration in the United States, 1920-1940
Mentor: Carol Heim (Economics)

DISSERTATION AWARDS

$500
Krystal Cashen, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Community, Identity, and Stigmatization in Young Adults with LGBQ+ Parents
Mentor: Hal Grotevant (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

$500
Blair Harrington, PhD candidate, Sociology
Transmitting Inequality: Asian American College Students' Receipt and Provision of Familial Support
Mentor: Naomi Gerstel (Sociology)

UNDERGRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

$3,000
Joseph McGuann, 2020, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Commonwealth Honors College
Intergenerational Effects of Paternal Environment on Neurodevelopment and Behavior
Mentor: Alexander Suvorov (Environmental Health Sciences)

TRAVEL AWARDS

$300
Aneliese Apala, MPH candidate, Community Health Education
School-based Sexuality and Gender Education and Empowerment Program for Youth Ages 10-12
American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, CA
Mentor: Aline Gubrium (Health Promotion and Policy)

Jasmine Dixon, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Ethnic Group Differences in Predictors of Cognitive Performance for Midlife Women
The International Neuropsychological Society 47th Annual Meeting, New York, NY
Mentor: Rebecca Ready (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Kyle Kainec, PhD candidate, Neuroscience and Behavior Program
Age-Related Changes in Sleep-Dependent Procedural Learning Consolidation
SLEEP Annual Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies, LLC, San Antonio, TX
Mentor: Rebecca Spencer (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

From left to right: Front Row: Rachel Haley, Sanna Lakhwandala, Annie McGrew, Sungha Kang, Jasmine Dixon, Ragini Malhotra
Back Row: Joseph McGaunn, Robert Marcotte, Melanna Cox, Christina Rowley, Irina Orlovsky, Sarah Winoku, Krystal Cashen, Sarah McCormick, Natasha de la Rosa-Rivera, Anna Weyer, and Jennifer Withrow

TRAVEL AWARDS (CONTINUED)

Sungha Kang, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Ethnic Differences in the Relation Between Parenting and Child Functioning
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Washington D.C.
Mentor: Lisa Harvey (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Ragini Malhotra, PhD candidate, Sociology
Precarious Living, Precarious Work: Negotiating Gendered Childhoods and Families in Delhi's Informal Communities
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY
Mentor: Joya Misra (Sociology)

Anna Weyer, PhD candidate, Department of Anthropology
Male-Female Friendships in Kinda Baboons
American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Cleveland, OH
Mentor: Jason Kamilar (Department of Anthropology)

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT WRITING PROGRAM

CRF's Graduate Student Grant Writing Program is directed by Dr. Rebecca Spencer and modeled on CRF's Faculty Research Scholars Program. The program is designed to support graduate students in the development of successful applications for NSF and NIH pre-doctoral fellowships. Our goal is to increase the number of successful student fellowship applications.

In the spring of 2019, a new cohort of seven students, all in the first three years of their doctoral work, were selected in a competitive process. They will receive support throughout their grant development process, including the refinement and communication of their research ideas, their approach, methodology, and submission.

Sarah McCormick, PhD candidate, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Home Environment Influences on Social Cognitive Development
Mentor: Dr. Kirby Deater-Deckard (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Robert Marcotte, PhD candidate, Kinesiology
Novel Accelerometer Methodologies and Data Processing for Estimating Free-Living Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviors
Mentor: Dr. John Sirard (Kinesiology)

Jasmine Dixon, PhD candidate, Clinical Psychology
Depressive Symptoms as a Mediator in the Longitudinal Associations Between Psychosocial Stress and Cognitive Decline in a Multi-Ethnic Sample of Midlife Women
Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Ready (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Christina Rowley, PhD candidate, Clinical Psychology
Parental Conflict in the Context of Multiracial Relationships
Mentor: Dr. Maureen Perry-Jenkins (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Natasha de la Rosa-Rivera, PhD candidate, Neuroscience and Behavior
Parsing the Ventral Stream into Representations: Recognition Memory in Perirhinal and Early Visual Cortex
Mentor: Dr. Rosemary Cowell (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Irina Orlovsky, PhD candidate, Clinical Psychology
Exploring the Role of Autobiographical Memory in Emotion Regulation Among Younger and Older Adults
Mentor: Dr. Bruna Martins (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Anna McGrew, PhD candidate, Economics
Familial Incarceration and Women's Work
Mentor: Dr. Lawrence King (Economics)

Back row: Sarah McCormick, Robert Marcotte, Dr. Rebecca Spencer, Dr. Bruna Martins, Jasmine Dixon, Christina Rowley
Front Row: Dr. Kirby Deater-Deckard, Dr. John Sirard, Natasha de la Rosa-Rivera, Irina Orlovsky and Anna McGrew

MEET MELANNA COX
2018-2019 STUDENT SCHOLAR

Which factors may keep girls from being as physically active as boys? Melanna Cox, a PhD student in the Kinesiology Department in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, is hoping to understand the role that "benevolent sexism" plays in the physical activity levels of adolescent girls. "Benevolent sexism is the romanticized concept that women and girls need to be protected by men because they are fragile and complimentary to men," says Cox. In comparison to boys, girls are often not encouraged by coaches or parents to push themselves or persevere when learning a new sport, which hinders their progress and results in girls being much less physically active than boys.

To explore these issues, Melanna plans to work in high schools in Springfield, MA, and will use activity trackers, questionnaires, and focus groups to better understand the role that benevolent sexism plays in the activity levels of both adolescent girls and boys. In the future, she plans to study the reverse effect that benevolent sexism may have on adolescent boys by promoting stereotypes of masculinity.

Melanna was selected as one of six students to participate in the first cohort of CRF's new Graduate Student Scholars Grant Writing Program. Led by former Family Research Scholar Rebecca Spencer ('10-'11), the program helps graduate students who are conducting family related research to apply for NSF and NIH pre-doctoral fellowships.

Melanna applied to the program because she believed that the experience would strengthen her research proposal. The students met biweekly over the summer and throughout the fall semester and all submitted proposals in October or December. Students came to each meeting with assignments related to all the required documents for the NIH and NSF proposals. "There was food and coffee at every meeting and it was great to meet over the summer when we all had more time. Everyone in our group came from different disciplines, so we all had to learn how to explain our research to people in different fields. I also learned a lot about how to provide feedback to researchers from different backgrounds. Every time I left our meetings I felt much more confident in my progress and I felt like this huge, insurmountable grant application process was much more manageable."

Melanna plans to stay in touch with her cohort and hopes they can all find time to support one another as they continue in their respective PhD programs. She describes the experience as being incredibly helpful: "This has been the best writing experience I have had as a student and it has helped to build my confidence as an independent researcher."

MEET HALLIE BROWN
2018-2019 STUDENT SCHOLAR

"Some kids don't grow out of their terrible twos. I want to know why that is." says Hallie Brown, the recipient of a CRF Pre-Dissertation Fellowship. Brown is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences working in Dr. Lisa Harvey's Early Behavior Development Lab. Her research interests lie in cognitive processes, memory and attention, and self-inhibitive behavior in children.

At Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, where she received her BA, Brown worked in a lab conducting neuroimaging studies primarily with children with autism, as well as with adults and children diagnosed with ADHD. "My lab was interested in the comorbidity between these," said Brown, "and that sparked my interest in ADHD and how early we are able to identify symptoms of ADHD."

Brown's CRF fellowship helped her further her research on the various impacts of parenting and inhibitory control on two-year-olds at risk for ADHD. Although children cannot be diagnosed with ADHD until they reach the age of four, Brown believes symptoms can present much earlier than this and that there is a need for research that studies hyperactive two-year-olds and ADHD symptoms.

Brown is aware of concerns of over diagnoses of ADHD in children with behavior issues. "For kids with ADHD, it's really about this core problem of controlling their own behavior, their inhibitory control. Problem behaviors could be stemming from ADHD, or it could be that a child is very oppositional because they have experienced trauma, have a chaotic household, didn't get enough sleep, or are simply excited to go somewhere after school — there are so many reasons," Brown explains. The aim of her research is to see if we can pinpoint those early factors that separate normal toddler behavior from behavior that is a precursor to ADHD. She stresses the importance of mental health professionals learning to identify the driving force behind young children's behaviors.

TAY GAVIN ERICKSON LECTURE SERIES

2018-2019

CRF fosters family research and engages with the public in public conversations and lectures through the Tay Gavin Erickson lecture series. Established in 1999 through an endowment in memory of Tay Gavin Erickson, the lecture series brings internationally recognized speakers with expertise in family research to campus each year. In 2018-2019 CRF hosted five prominent researchers who gave public lectures and provided in-depth consultation to CRF scholars.

2018-2019 TAY GAVIN ERICKSON VISITING SCHOLARS

Susan M. Sheridan, PhD
George Holmes University Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln
The Power of Partnerships: Research Evidence and Strategies for Success
November 1, 2018
Consulted with CRF Scholar, Assistant Professor, Sarah Fefer

Federico Vaca, MD, MPH
Professor of Emergency Medicine and in the Child Study Center; Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs; Director, Developmental Neurocognitive Driving Simulation Research Center (DrivSim Lab), Yale School of Medicine
The Complexity of Factors Influencing the Risk of Crash Injury in Adolescents and Young Adults
November 26, 2018
Consulted with CRF Scholar, Assistant Professor, Shannon Roberts

Damon J. Vidrine, DrPH
Program Leader for the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Stephenson Cancer Center and the Director of Intervention Research for the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center
Mobile Health Smoking Cessation Interventions for People Living with HIV/AIDS
February 14, 2019
Consulted with CRF Scholar, Associate Professor, Krishna Poudel

Jeremy Freese, PhD
Professor, Department of Sociology, Stanford University
The Arrival of Social Science Genomics
February 28, 2019
Consulted with CRF Scholar, Assistant Professor, Mark Pachucki

Mauricio Delgado, PhD
Professor and Chair of Psychology at Rutgers University-Newark
Reflecting on the positive past: Effects on Stress and Decision Making
March 19, 2019
Consulted with CRF Scholar, Assistant Professor, Youngbin Kwak

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIONS

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

CRF Co-sponsored the following public events and lectures on key family issues:

- ***Domestic Workers Building Dignity and Power***, presented by the Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, in partnership with the Department of History
- ***Community Engaged Research Training***, in partnership with the Center for Community Health Equity Research, the Healthy Development Initiative, Institute of Diversity Sciences, Institute for Social Science Research, Public Engagement Project, and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Engagement
- ***Raising Global Families: Parenting, Immigration, and Class in Taiwan and the US***, presented by Pei-Chia Lan, PhD, in partnership with the Five College Asian Pacific American Studies Program, UMass Amherst Asian and Asian American Studies Certificate Program, Sociology, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, and Amherst College American Studies
- ***Plug In! Building Other Worlds Where We Are***, presented by the Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, in partnership with the Department of History
- ***CRF/ISSR Scholar Program Information Session***, for prospective applicants to the Scholars Program at CRF and ISSR

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (PEP)

The Public Engagement Project supports and trains faculty members from all disciplines to use their research to contribute to social change, inform public policy, and enrich public debate. CRF, in collaboration with ISSR, the School for Public Policy, and the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program, spearheaded this program, which has resulted in national exposure for faculty in public media outlets such as PBS, the *New York Times,* the *Boston Globe,* and the *Huffington Post,* to name a few. CRF supported the 2019 PEP event *"The Conversation"*.

SUPPORTING FACULTY "THINK TANKS"

Bringing together interdisciplinary teams of faculty with shared interests in issues and topics of importance to families such as stress, work and family, early child development, and adolescence.

STRESS RESEARCH GROUP (SRG)

CRF's interdisciplinary Stress Research Group consists of researchers who have been meeting since 2008 to better understand the critical role of stress in the lives of individuals and families. Their research examines the causes of stress, the effects of stress, and unique methods for measuring stress in animals and humans. The Stress Research Group has been working across disciplines to integrate techniques, tools, and perspectives to examine how and why stress manifests in the body throughout life, how the manifestation of stress influences relationships and mental health, and how we can address the negative effects of stress to improve health. The Stress Research Group applies a lifespan approach to study, measuring stress from gestation and infancy, through adolescence and young adulthood, and to menopause and beyond.

In the past year, the SRG established a smaller working group that met 2-4 times per month and focused on preparing grant applications around stress measurement and outcomes. The working group successfully submitted multiple grant applications, including:

- *Chronic Stress in the Transition to Day Care: An Experimental Approach to Evaluating Hair and Nail Cortisol and DHEAS*
- *A Multimodal Assessment of Stress Response Mechanisms Underlying a Learned-Resilience Program*

The SRG has five additional stress-related grants that have received continuous funding up to 2023, with topics ranging from adolescent binge drinking and its effects on the adult brain and behavior, to child adjustment during family transitions. Karen Kalmakis and Jerrold Meyer are currently working on a "stress detector" (skin patch) and are planning on submitting an NSF Convergence Research grant to develop it further.

STRESS RESEARCH GROUP FACULTY AFFILIATES

Co-directors
Karen Kalmakis, Associate Professor, Nursing
Heather Richardson, Associate Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Anthropology
Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Professor

Nursing
Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar, Assistant Professor

Psychological and Brain Sciences
Joseph Bergan, Assistant Professor
Matthew Davidson, Lecturer
Kirby Deater-Deckard, Professor
Katherine Dixon-Gordon, Assistant Professor
Andrew Farrar, Lecturer
Agnès Lacreuse, Associate Professor
Rebecca Ready, Professor
Luke Remage-Healey, Associate Professor
Jennifer Martin McDermott, Associate Professor
Jerrold Meyer, Professor Emeritus
David Moorman, Assistant Professor
Melinda Novak, Professor
Mariana Pereira, Assistant Professor
Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Professor, CRF Director
Sally Powers, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences; former Associate Dean, College of Natural Sciences

School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson, Associate Professor, Interim Chair Department of Health Promotion and Policy
Louis Graham, Assistant Professor
Susan Hankinson, Professor
Jin Kim-Mozeleski, Assistant Professor
Brian Whitcomb, Associate Professor
Nicole VanKim, Assistant Professor
Lisa Troy, Assistant Professor

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

Smith College
Annaliese Beery, Assistant Professor, Psychology
Mary Harrington, Tippet Professor in Life Sciences

Rudd Adoption Research Program
The Rudd Adoption Research Program and the Center for Research on Families are closely linked through their overlapping missions and strategies. CRF provides administrative support to the Rudd program, and their close proximity and shared research strengths benefit both programs. The Rudd Adoption Research Program is a leader in producing and disseminating state-of-the-art research on the Psychology of Adoption through conferences, workshops, graduate and postdoctoral training opportunities, and stimulation of research activities. Dr. Harold Grotevant is the Rudd Family Foundation Endowed Chair in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and leads the Rudd Adoption Research Program.

In May of 2019, the Rudd Adoption Research Program hosted the 2019 Summer Adoption Research Institute (SARI). SARI brought together 19 emerging adoption scholars from 8 countries for a week of intensive workshops on numerous aspects of adoption research, including culture, race and class, conducting research with LGBT+ adoptive families, and funding for adoption research; as well as methodological topics such as analyzing family and couple-level data, secondary data sets with adoption data, data organization and management, and longitudinal data analysis.

In the spring the program published a series of 18 papers on important issues addressing "The Future of Adoption," which can be found on their website: www.umass.edu/ruddchair/future . Topics include rethinking adoption in the 21st century, intervening early to promote the development of adopted and foster children, building an adoption-competent workforce, inter-country adoption, LGBT+ parent adoption, adoption breakdown, open adoption, and more. In the fall of 2019 the program will break new ground with its first offering of a seminar titled "Foster Care: Psychological and Societal Perspectives."

"We continue to work every day with our guiding north star as the well-being of adopted persons throughout the life span."
– Dr. Harold Grotevant

FACULTY NETWORK

Ysaaca Axelrod, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Lee Badgett, Economics and Public Policy
Ian George Barron, International Education
Annaliese Beery, Psychology, Smith College
Joseph Bergan, Neuroendocrine Studies
Angelica M. Bernal, Political Science
Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson, Epidemiology
Jeffrey D. Blaustein, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Sylvia Brandt, Resource Economics and Public Policy
Michelle Budig, Sociology
Brenda Bushouse, Political Science and Public Policy
Erik Cheries, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Yu-Kyong Choe, Communication Disorders
Leda Cooks, Communication
Lorraine Cordeiro, Nutrition
Nilanjana Dasgupta, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Matt Davidson, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Kirby Deater-Deckard, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Kristina Deligiannadis, UMass Memorial Hospital
Katherine Dixon-Gordon, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Gerald Downes, Biology
Andrew Farrar, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Sarah Fefer, Student Development
Nancy Folbre, Professor Emeritus, Economics
Naomi Gerstel, Sociology
Adam Grabell, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Louis Graham, Community Health Education
Lisa Green, Linguistics
Devon Greyson, Communication
Harold Grotevant, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Aline Gubrium, Community Health Education
Sanjiv Gupta, Sociology and Public Policy
Claire Hamilton, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Susan Hankinson, Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Krista Harper, Anthropology and Public Policy
Mary Harrington, Psychology, Smith College
Elizabeth Harvey, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Katherine (KC) Haydon, Psychology and Education, Mount Holyoke College
Julia Hemment, Anthropology
Brigitte Holt, Anthropology
Linda Isbell, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Alexandra Jesse, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Karen Kalmakis, Nursing
Miliann Kang, Women's Studies
Ezekiel Kimball, Education Policy
David Kittredge, Natural Resources and Environment
Elizabeth Krause, Anthropology
Jacquie Kurland, Communication Disorders
Youngbin Kwak, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Agnès Lacreuse, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Anthropology
Laura Lovett, History
Jennifer Lundquist, Sociology
Airín Martínez, Health Promotion and Policy
Jennifer Martin McDermott, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Jerrold Meyer, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Joya Misra, Sociology and Public Policy
David Moorman, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Jacqueline Mosselson, Educational Policy Research and Administration
Susan Newton, Public Policy
Melinda Novak, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Tatishe Nteta, Political Science
Magda Oiry, Linguistics
Mark Pachucki, Sociology
Joonkoo Park, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Fareen Parvez, Sociology
Mary Paterno, Nursing
Mariana Pereira, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Jerusha Nelson Peterman, Nutrition
Paula Pietromonaco, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
J. Richard Pilsner, Environmental Health Sciences
Krishna Poudel, Community Health Education
Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar, Nursing
Sally Powers, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Marsha Kline Pruett, Social Work, Smith College
Rebecca Ready, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Katherine Reeves, Epidemiology
Luke Remage-Healey, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Heather Richardson, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Shannon Roberts, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Dean Robinson, Political Science
Gwyneth Rost, Communication Disorders
Jamie Rowen, Legal Studies
Lisa Sanders, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Amy Schalet, Sociology
Erica Scharrer, Communication
Rebecca Spencer, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Jeffrey Starns, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Richard Tessler, Sociology
Linda Tropp, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Lisa Troy, Nutrition
Laura Vandenberg, Environmental Health Sciences
Nicole VanKim, Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Ryan Wells, Educational Policy, Research, and Administration
Lisa Marin Wexler, Community Health Education
Brian Whitcomb, Epidemiology
Sarah Whitcomb, Student Development
Jennifer Whitehill, Health Promotion and Policy
Seon Yeong Yu, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Ning Zhang, Public Health

FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND STEERING COMMITTEE

Welcoming New Staff

The Center for Research on Families welcomes our newest colleague and UMass Alumnae Amanda Moore, who earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in African-American Studies at UMass Amherst in 2000. Amanda brings extensive experience from her former role as Admissions Counselor and Events Manager at Mount Holyoke College to her new role as CRF's ***Events, Communications, and Office Manager.*** She is excited about the opportunity to support the Center's research and outreach mission in support of families.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Maureen Perry-Jenkins '81, Director
Holly Laws '14, Director of Methodology Program
Gisele Litalien, Associate Director
Amanda Moore '00, Events, Communications, and Office Manager
Stephanie Covelli '01, Financial Manager
Dongwei Wang, Methodology Consultant

STUDENTS

Alice Coyne, Methodology Consultant
Clinical Psychology
Joel Ginn, Methodology Consultant
Social Psychology, Peace and Violence Program
Olivia Hammond, Undergraduate Program Assistant
Isenberg School of Management
Faith English, Graduate Program Assistant
School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Olivia Laramie, Graduate Program Assistant
School of Public Policy

STEERING COMMITTEE

Steven Goodwin, Chancellor's Office
Brigitte Holt, Anthropology
Ezekiel Kimball, Education
Sofiya Alhassan, Kinesiology
Lindiwe Sibeko, Nutrition
Gerald Downes, Biology
Elizabeth Harvey, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Joya Misra, Sociology
Harold Grotevant, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Karen Kalmakis, Nursing

From left to right, Front Row: Joel Ginn, Amanda Moore, Stephanie Covelli, Olivia Laramie
Back Row: Holly Laws, Maureen Perry- Jenkins, Faith English, Olivia Hammond, Gisele Litalien and Dongwei Wang

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