Congratulations Grads

HDFS is proud of the Class of 2014, both undergraduates and graduates. In this issue of Family Matters, we wish to honor them and others associated with the Department in a year end round up. But before honoring them, let’s listen to the voice of this year’s outstanding senior, Hannah Mould:

I could go on and on for days about the fun adventures and friendships the Lord has blessed me with during my time at UNCG. All in all, I wouldn’t trade the last four years for anything. I love UNCG, I love Greensboro, and I will hold all the memories from my time there in my heart forever! It’s been real, UNCG. I’m proud to be an alum!

Department Chair Mark Fine’s Tribute to Hannah Mould:
Outstanding Senior

“The Outstanding Senior for 2014 is Hannah Mould. Hannah has excelled academically at UNCG, graduating with a GPA of 4.00. She has impressed all our faculty with her intelligence, maturity, value for education, commitment to service, and role as a student leader within our department. In addition to her outstanding educational accomplishments, Hannah has participated in the Lloyd International Honors College, studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa last year and...
mentoring an international exchange student here at UNCG this year. She has worked with children in a variety of capacities including as a Nanny, a student worker at the UNCG Child Care Education Center, a volunteer at the Zimpeto Children’s Center in Zimpeto, Mozambique, a tutor in Cape Town, Africa, a summer counselor at White Memorial Presbyterian Church, and through her work with a variety of ministry projects in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala and Nairobi, Kenya. Hannah has also worked on the Triad Child Study under the supervision of Dr. Esther Leerkes. Hannah will spend the next year completing prerequisite coursework as she prepares to apply to Occupational Therapy graduate programs. Hannah is an exceptional student who truly deserves recognition as the HDFS Outstanding Senior for 2014.”

Mark Fine Chair

Jinni Su, Outstanding Graduate Student
“This year, we wish to recognize Jinni Su as the Outstanding Graduate Student. Jinni Su is completing her dissertation research, linking genotypes to substance use trajectories from adolescence to young adulthood. Jinni won the Vira Kivett award for the outstanding publication by a graduate student in HDFS for her manuscript titled, Parental, peer, school, and neighborhood influences on adolescent substance use: Direct and indirect effects and ethnic variations, which was published in Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse that she co-authored with Dr. Andy Supple. Jinni was also selected to attend the 2014 Society for Research on Adolescent Summer School for young scholars in Utrecht, the Netherlands. We congratulate Jinni on her accomplishments and wish her all success in her future academic career.”

Undergraduate Honors

Mauri Patterson Inducted Into the Golden Chain Society
Mauri Patterson and Anna Wedding were elected for induction into UNCG’s Golden Chain Honor Society. Founded in 1948, The Golden Chain Honors Society is unique to the UNCG campus. The seven links of the Golden Chain, the criteria on which students are selected, symbolize the qualities of the best of UNCG students: leadership, scholarship, service, tolerance, judgment, magnanimity and character. Mauri, who is fluent in Spanish and loves to dance, has been a student body President, attained a 3.9 average here at UNCG, volunteered with multiple organizations (e.g., Thrift Store, Family Violence Crisis Center), works Spanish speaking families, and is magnanimous in the help she has offered her fellow students. Mauri also received a Student Excellence Award at Lloyd College’s Spring Honors Convocation. Having graduated from the Birth through Kindergarten Teacher program, Mauri is devoted to finding work that involves service to Spanish speaking children and their families. Congratulations Mauri!
Anna Wedding Inducted Into the Golden Chain Society

Besides being a strong student Anna has been a camp counselor leading large group activities. She has worked with refugee families and made extensive service contributions. This has included helping with meals for the homeless, engaging in activities with refugee children, working with children with disabilities, assisting with storm clean-ups, and visiting prison ministries. She writes “As a result of the education I received at UNCG, I have found my heart’s passion to see underdeveloped regions receive strategies specific to their needs so that the children there can develop as typically as possible using the materials available there. I especially have a desire to be in overcrowded orphanages in other nations.”

Alyssa Paul Receives HHS Student Excellence Award

Alyssa Paul received an HHS student excellence award. Graduating with a magna cum laude (nearly perfect) average, she received HDFS’ Outstanding Student Teacher Award. In addition to her UNCG responsibilities this past year, Alyssa is a huge Nebraska football fan and served as Captain and President of her club basketball team. HDFS congratulates Alyssa, wishing her well whether it be in a B-K classroom, as a Child Life Specialist, or elsewhere.

Denise Teeters and Karina Velasquez Presented at Undergrad Research Expo

Denise Amaya Teeters and Karina Velasquez presented at UNCG’s 8th Annual Carolyn and Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research & Creativity Expo (photo p.1). Supervised by Sudha Shreeniwas and Sharon Morrison, Denise and Katrina’ research was entitled “HIV/AIDS in Latino Families Impact and Cultural Strategies for Awareness.”

Latina women are four times more likely to be infected with the HIV virus compared to the rest of the population. They are less likely to get tested, in part, because they fear their partners will think they are engaged in infidelity. Teeters and Velasquez stressed the importance of medical centers having bilingual staff and providing information in Spanish. They also advocated families talking openly about sex and HIV.

North Carolina’s Spanish language newspaper, Qué Pasa, did an article on the study (click here).

Cydney Nicholson Accepted for U-Michigan Summer Program

Cydney Nicholson is one of 14 students from across the country who was accepted into the University of Michigan’s 6-week Michigan Health Sciences Career Development Academy. Students selected for the program receive a stipend plus room and board.

The academy focuses on preparing participants for the extensive process of applying and gaining admission into medical school. Each participant will have a medical student mentor and be provided formal and informal opportunities to network with faculty and staff.
Graduate Student Accomplishments

During 2013-14, the Department had 42 graduate students, 21 pursuing a doctoral degree, 6 pursuing a masters degree, 7 in the Birth through Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development online program, and 8 in Post-Baccalaureate Certificate programs. Six graduate students received degrees in May: Chantelle Wolpert, PhD; Dan Wang and Claire Wood, MSc, and Dennette Bailey, Norma Honeycutt, and Jessica Tugman, MEd.

Overall Summary of Accomplishments

As summarized by Cheryl Buehler, Coordinator of the HDFS Graduate program, the HDFS graduate students and their faculty mentors have had a productive year. In addition to making great progress in completing their degree programs, our graduate students published 15 journal articles or book chapters (as either first or a co-author). They presented their work at 13 national or international conferences. They submitted 16 additional manuscripts for publication consideration, and are currently revising 7 manuscripts for a second publication consideration (which is always good news to get this chance for continued consideration). These publication and presentation experiences are essential for future success, as demonstrated by our 100% placement rate in the HDFS doctoral program. Congratulations to all!

Yuliana Rodriguez Receives Bullard Award

PhD candidate Yuliana Rodriguez received this year’s student Gladys Strawn Bullard Award. These Awards are given annually to a UNCG student, faculty member and staff member who demonstrate leadership that extends beyond the classroom in order to help those in need. One of the reasons Yuliana was selected is her work with Latino students from various high schools in Siler City, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Greensboro, and the local area. Throughout the year, she and her mentor, Dr. Heather Helms, have worked with 120 Latino families, offering information about UNCG and other universities, in order to inspire them to pursue a higher degree. While she understands the obstacles that these students face—both social and economic—she does not dwell on the difficulties but “encourages them to follow their dreams.”

Yuliana isn’t ready to stop leaving her mark on UNCG. Beginning next fall, she and a colleague, Sophia Angeles, are launching the Latino Graduate Student Coalition, in order to provide a space for those who want to share their struggles and research. Yuliana, who also attended UNCG has an undergraduate, noticed a lack of Latino-based organizations at the graduate level and is working to change that. “I’ve always identified as Mexican,” she said. “But it’s so much stronger now.” For her, the LGSC will be about embracing each other’s backgrounds and inspiring others to do the same. Click for more information or a video.
Alyson Cavanaugh and Nan Zhou Receive U-Mass Family Research Methodological Studies Grants

HDFS doctoral students Alyson Cavanaugh and Nan Zhou have received tuition and travel grants to attend a summer research methodology workshop offered by the University of Massachusetts’ Center for Research on Families. This workshop on Analyzing Developmental Trajectories will allow Alyson and Nan to further enhance their already considerable statistical skills.

Presentations at the SRA Conference

During the spring of 2014 HDFS students working with Andy Supple presented at the Biennial Society for Research on Adolescence conference in Baltimore, Md. Angel Dunbar did a paper entitled Trajectories of Depression and Anger: Discrimination and Protective Factors in African American Youth.

Jinni Su had two poster presentations entitled Ethnic Differences in Co-morbidity Typologies of Adolescent Substance Use, Externalizing, and Internalizing Behaviors and Predicting Parenting Stress among Low-income Adolescent Mothers: Maternal, Child, and Family Risk and Protective Factors.

Alyson Cavanaugh presented a poster entitled Adolescent Bullying Typologies across Five Racial-ethnic Groups: Who is at Risk?

Photos from SRA: The left photo shows Ali Cupito (Grad Student in PSY at UNCG). Dr. Gabriela Stein (Psych, UNCG), Dr. Lisa Kiang (Psych, Wake Forest) and Angel Dunbar. The right photo shows Andy Supple, Jinni Su and Alyson Cavanaugh.

Departmental Award

Student Learning Enhancement Award

Of UNCG’s over 180 departments and programs, HDFS was one of two units to receive UNCG’s 2014 Student Learning Enhancement Award. The Award is given annually to a Department or program that has demonstrated excellence in the area of academic program assessment. This award was created to promote a “culture of evidence” on campus at UNCG, and to raise awareness of the meaningful work in assessment and student learning enhancement that is being conducted by faculty. The Student Learning Enhancement Committee congratulated the Department, saying “The Student Learning Enhancement Committee (SLEC) has evaluated your Compliance Assist data and action plans, and we have determined that your faculty are maintaining an excellent student learning process. Your processes have been well designed and are creating action plans with appropriate follow-up.”

Each degree program has its own objectives. For example, for undergrads, these include Thinking Critically and Adopting an Ecological Perspective. Doctoral students are
expected to have advanced research skills and demonstrated effectiveness in college teaching. The Department received this Award for its excellence in a continuous, evidence-based process of enhancing student learning. The Department was asked to identify steps it would take to enhance student learning (e.g., via curriculum change, faculty participation in teaching workshop, etc.), how well students are performing (including measures provided by external internship site supervisors), and the department’s success in achieving past learning objectives. In terms of the performance of activities done by the Department as a whole and the performance of students, the Department was meeting or exceeding its goals.

For a video, [click here](#), Special thanks to Cheryl Buehler, Anne Fletcher and Linda Hestenes for their leadership of the Department’s assessment activities.

**New MEd (B-K) Emphasis and Scholarships**

In the Spring semester, the BK Graduate Committee began a discussion with professionals from the NC Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RttT ELC) Grant, the Early Childhood Advisory Committee, and the Child Care Services Association. These discussions led to a collaborative approach to the development of a new emphasis for our online Master’s of Education program that will focus on early childhood leadership and program administration. This new emphasis aligns with T.E.A.C.H. scholarship fund requirements that are available through the RttT ELC grant. These scholarships are designed to encourage leadership and program administration skills in the early care and education field. This new emphasis includes advanced training in personnel development and support, budgeting and financial management, early childhood systems and policy, research and evaluation in early childhood, leadership and mentoring, communication, public engagement, assessment, and curriculum within the context of family-centered practices that support early childhood professionals to effectively work with diverse children and families in inclusive settings.

UNCG will admit 24 Birth to Kindergarten: Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development (BK:ISED) graduate students this year in this new emphasis (2014-15), and 24 next year (2015-16). The scholarship-supported students will enhance UNCG’s graduate enrollments and will be getting preparation to be outstanding professionals in the workforce. Scholarships recipients will receive 100% coverage of their in-state tuition and fees and bonuses of up to $500 for completion of at least 13 credit hours each year.

See New MEd Emphasis/Page 10
Faculty Awards

Andy Supple Receives HHS Teaching Award

Andy regularly teaches HDFS’ introductory level human development course as well as a graduate research methods course. He excels in teaching at both levels. At the undergraduate level he is one of those special faculty members whose teaching alters many students’ lives by making the study of human development so fascinating they chose it as a major and career path. At the graduate level he teaches inherently difficult and what some might consider dry material. Yet his formal classes are highly appreciated by his students and he serves many in the department as an understandable, easy-to-work with statistical consultant and workshop instructor.

As one undergraduate said: “BEST TEACHER! Take this class, you will fall in love with human development. He is very funny and personable and just awesome. He uses his real life stories which makes it very easy to understand the material.” Students feel his humor helps them remember. “He knows his stuff.” “He helps out so much and really cares about his students!” Another student’s bottom like “I definitely recommend taking his class!”

Heather Helms Receives HHS Graduate Mentoring Awards

Heather’s student say she is a tireless mentor who spends endless hours with her graduate students editing, discussing, and encouraging. She observes, listens and is attentive to students’ special strengths in a way that fosters students doing their best possible work. She is there every step of the way for them. Heather’s passion for her work is infectious. Nonetheless, without imposing her own career model on them, she helps her graduate students believe in and achieve their own dreams. She creates learning opportunities for her students so they can develop their skills and the tools necessary to succeed in their own professional niches. She excels at providing guidance, maintaining clear deadlines and project goals while also allowing for creative flexibility for her students to complete tasks in a variety of ways. When it comes time for students to write up their work for theses or publication, Heather is consistently available to provide feedback in a timely manner that has helped each of her advisees clarify their ideas, write accurately, and meet the challenges raised by committee members and reviewers. As they finish their training, Heather has helped her students find positions.

Those advisees who are now launched in careers of their own have written that they feel a “responsibility to give back to others what we were so fortunate to receive from Dr. Helms. We strive to reach out to those we are responsible for supervising by noticing their talents and taking a sincere interest in their futures. We attempt to model Dr. Helms’ style of teaching and mentoring by creating a supportive environment coupled with high expectations. Through our own experiences as mentors, we’ve grown to appreciate Dr. Helms even more and recognize how time-consuming—and sometimes emotionally draining—giving intensely in this way can be. We are grateful for her dedication to students and indebted to her for our professional success.”
Staff Excellence Awards

The Departmental office is the Department’s hub. The office needs to function smoothly—students need to get helped, applications processed, accounts kept up-to-date, bills paid, arrangements for activities made, schedules maintained, students and visitors welcomed, questions answered, the web site maintained, newsletters formatted and distributed, and the list goes on. HDFS is extremely fortunate to have a seasoned, terrific office staff. We thank them and are proud of the awards they received this year.

Melissa Barnes Receives UNCG Staff Excellence Award
All members of the department are delighted that Melissa Barnes, Executive Assistant, was one of two individuals to receive a UNCG staff excellence award this year. Melissa is a most deserving recipient. With 24 full-time faculty, several adjuncts, 42 graduate students, over 550 undergraduate majors, multiple large grants with upwards of 60 employees, the Child Care Education Program with its three child care centers, and a budget in the millions, HDFS is one of UNCG’s largest and most complex departments. Melissa is at the administrative center of all this, keeping it running with aplomb. Several qualities are essential to her being an effective Executive Assistant: organization, fairness, energy, vision, punctuality, dependability, a strong work ethic, and clear communication; plus the ability to multitask, to manage budgets, to keep abreast of University regulations and ever-changing technological systems, to foresee problems and recommend problem-solving strategies, to supervise and mentor staff, etc. Melissa possesses all of these qualities and skills. Complementing her task-oriented skills Melissa is a cheerful person who has a warm, welcoming smile and a calm, relaxed demeanor despite the many balls she juggles. Her contribution makes doing business with the department office a pleasure. HDFS is very fortunate to have Melissa as a key person in the department. Congratulations and thanks!

Caroline Kernahan Receives HHS Staff Excellence Award
In presenting this award to Caroline, Dean Hooper said: “The HHS Outstanding Staff Award recognizes a member of the staff in HHS who provides outstanding leadership and service to our School that goes beyond the normal scope of their responsibilities. This year’s awardee epitomizes those qualities. Her primary office responsibilities are assisting the many elements of the departmental graduate program and, as her nominator remarked ‘It is a rare day when [she] is not thinking about some way to make graduate students’ lives a bit easier and less stressful’. More impressive, though, is her participation and leadership in areas outside the department. She has served on the Staff Senate and on the HHS Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee, and has given presentations on LGBTQ issues to several courses on and off Campus. Please join me in congratulating Caroline Kernahan in HDFS as this year’s awardee!”
Grants

Susan Calkins Received Additional Funding

Susan Calkins has received a continuation of funding from the US DHHS NIH National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for the project “Developmental Trajectories of Early Behavior Problems.” This project will be an adolescent follow-up of 447 boys and girls who participated in Susan’s research as children. Susan comments that “By extending our biobehavioral model to incorporate cortical functioning and specific dimensions of psychopathology and risky behaviors, this longitudinal sample is uniquely suited to study the role of self-regulation in psychosocial adaptation and functioning in adolescent boys and girls.” Susan has also received additional funding from Virginia Tech for the project “Psychobiology of Cognitive Development (CAP Study, revision).”

Esther Leerkes Receives Additional Funding

Esther Leerkes received additional funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for the project “Identifying Genetic Risk for Maternal Insensitivity and Infant Dysregulation.” Esther will work to (1) identify specific emotion-related genotypes that predispose mothers to have more negative physiological, emotional and behavioral responses to infant distress; and to (2) examine the extent to which specific emotion-related genotypes make mothers and infants more or less susceptible to the effect of positive and negative environmental experiences. The abstract notes that identifying the processes that influence how mothers respond to their distressed infants and the origins of these processes will inform the development of screening tools to identify mothers at risk for parenting difficulties and the design of individually tailored intervention efforts to foster sensitive maternal behavior and positive social emotional functioning early in life.

Esther also received a continuation of funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for the project “Biological and Behavioral Predictors of Early School Success.” It involves a novel longitudinal biobehavioral study. “By understanding the emergence of learning engagement and how it is affected by both child and environmental factors as well as the interaction between them, we can develop more effective intervention approaches to increase academic achievement and support children’s adjustment,” the abstract states. For a video of Esther talking about her research, click here.

News and Notes

Stephanie Coard Panelist on PBS Show

Stephanie Coard was a panelist on an hour-long UNC-TV special “Focus On: Educating Black Boys.” The panel discussed implicit racism, gender roles, parenting, private schooling, and success strategies to improve the lives of Black males.
Stephanie argued, among other points, that Black families typically are more flexible with girls and do more to prepare Black girls than Black boys to be independent and self-sufficient. She said that because society has certain perceptions of Black boys, Black families tend to want to protect their sons. So they give their sons messages to “stay under the radar” (e.g., don’t talk too loud in class.) But that fails to tell Black boys what to do in a crisis. She argued that Black families are so busy protecting boys that they don’t give them the strategies that they give to girls. To watch this video click here, http://video.unctv.org/video/2365225820/

Chris Payne Receives Continuation Funding

Dr. Chris Payne (Ph.D., 1989, Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnership) received additional funding from the High Point Community Foundation for the project “High Point Center for Children and Families.” The center was developed as a collaborative effort to leverage resources, fill the gap for needed services, and to provide comprehensive intervention programs for vulnerable young children and their families in High Point. Payne will serve as Program Director of the Center and facilitate the work of the Leadership Team which is comprised of Chief Marty Sumner of the High Point Police Department, Barbara Frye of the United Way of High Point, and Vicki Miller with the High Point Children’s Initiative and High Point University.

Emma Thomas Engaged to Be Married

Emma Thomas (BSc., 2012), who met her fiance Jason Breslin in the summer of 2011 while studying in Peru, got engaged in Sept. 2013. They bought a North Carolina homestead (house and land) in March of 2013. Shortly thereafter they started gardening and raising animals. They also started their own website dealing with “everything and anything related to homesteading” where they post daily Monday through Friday. Emma and Jason plan to get married in September, 2014. HDFS is very proud of Emma: She graduated in just 3 years, with a triple major (HDFS, Anthropology, and Women and Gender Studies) and maintained a 4.0 GPA, while working to support herself through college.

New MEd Emphasis (Continued from p. 6)

Students in the BK:ISED program are never required to come to campus; all classes are online. Classes are offered synchronously with web cameras and microphones one day per week from 5-7 pm (along with some asynchronous assignments each week). Information about this and our other BK graduate program options can be found at http://www.uncg.edu/hdf/graduates/BK_Graduate_Options.html Interested individuals should contact Caroline Kernahan at cpkernah@uncg.edu, 336-334-5315 or Jean Kang at j_kang@uncg.edu