

## Newsletter, April 2017

### New Faculty Affiliates

In March, the Center for Children and Families welcomed two new faculty affiliates whose research and its applications contribute to the optimal development of children and families.



Dr. Lisa Goffman

[Dr. Lisa Goffman](#) recently joined UT Dallas and holds the Nelle C. Johnston Chair in Early Childhood Communication Disorders. She has spent the past 21 years studying how learning to talk combines components of language and complicated motor activities. She applies her findings to the treatment of children with speech and language disorders. [Read More...](#)

Dr. Timothy Bray, Director of the [Institute for Urban Policy Research](#) and Clinical Professor at UT Dallas, joined CCF's list of faculty affiliates from the School of Economic, Policy, and Political Sciences. The institute's mission, of which he leads, is to provide research and evaluation, education and outreach, and guidance and consulting to inform, motivate, and inspire community-focused organizations that improve the quality of life in the communities they serve. [Read More...](#)



Dr. Timothy Bray



Dr. Marion Underwood and Dr. Samuel Ehrenreich

### Research Documents Effects of Adolescents' Digital Communication

CCF faculty affiliate [Dr. Marion Underwood](#) and UT Dallas research scientist Dr. Samuel Ehrenreich recently documented the impact of cyberbullying on adolescents and the risks associated with the time that young people spend scrolling social media feeds. [Read More...](#)

### Report on Children's Health Program

Over the Fall, CCF contracted with [Children's Health](#) to help develop their Family Well-Being Program to empower families to connect with services and resources to help improve their overall health and well-being. Conclusions from the prototype are highlighted in a newly published report, which finds that there is a huge opportunity to bridge disconnects to improve people's well-being and better engage individuals in their health and health outcomes. [Read More...](#)





Dr. Margaret T. Owen

## Upcoming: BBS Colloquium Lecture Series

On April 28th, CCF's director [Dr. Margaret T. Owen](#) will give a talk on "*Child Care, Families, and Cultural Contexts of Children's Development*" from 10am - 11am as part of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences' (BBS) Distinguished Lecture Series. The event is free and open to the public. [Read More...](#)

## Forum and Spring Lecture Series Highlights

The [2016 - 2017 Forum](#) and subsequent [Spring Lecture Series](#) on "Expanding Opportunities for Children and Families" wrapped up last month with an at-capacity crowd at Dr. Tim Bray's lecture on "*Poverty and Child Wellbeing: Complex Relationships Demand Holistic Solutions.*" Speakers across the events discussed "digging deep" to understand more fully the positive impacts of out of school time programs, how to best measure change in these programs, they provided an example of strategic learning in out of school time and how it enhances cognitive skills, and provided a holistic look at the intersecting complexities of poverty for children's lives and stimulated a search for holistic solutions. Videos, handouts, and presentation slides from each talk can be found on our [website](#).



### Several Points from the 2017 Forum Table Discussions on Out of School Time (OST):

- Innovative educational experiences in OST programs can help support the health and wellness needs of students and families
- Strong relationships between OST providers and families and effective partnerships among OST agencies are keys to these programs' success
- On-going, meaningful assessment is a crucial component of OST's work

## From the Director

I'm very excited about the impact and ideas generated at this year's forum and spring lecture series. The issues facing today's children are great and supportive programming is necessary to help children and their families be the best they can be. Communication, partnerships, and assessment are the keys to effective programming and the Center strives to incorporate all of these in our work. It is my hope that these events generated discussion and planning to make a difference in the work you do to support our children and their futures. We are here to help these plans move forward and make a difference.



- Margaret T. Owen, Ph.D., Robinson Family Professor, Director, Center for Children and Families

**Thank You for Your Support**



Thank you to everyone who answered the call to give to UT Dallas and CCF on the inaugural [Comets Giving Day](#). CCF raised \$1,115 thanks to your support!

To learn more about giving to the Center for Children and Families or how to designate your gift, contact Pagett Gosslee, CFRE, at [pgosslee@utdallas.edu](mailto:pgosslee@utdallas.edu) or [visit our giving page](#).

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