

CCF-Affiliated Research Spotlight



Dr. Shayla Holub, associate professor in Psychological Sciences and CCF faculty affiliate, had always planned to be a clinical psychologist. But she changed her mind after taking an introduction to psychology class with a very knowledgeable and intense professor, who focused on cognitive psychology. “Everything he talked about was awesome. He didn’t use slides, he just talked, and I wrote down every single

word he said,” Holub said. Professors told her she seemed to be most passionate about the science behind psychology, recommending the developmental or social path. Holub went on to do graduate work at Bowling Green State University, where she became interested in children’s attitudes, especially about themselves. Holub was excited to study self-perception shifts and parents’ perceptions of their kids’ behaviors. After a lunch conversation with some colleagues, one topic was especially interesting — obesity stigma. Studies had been done, but Holub believed they were only scratching the surface. She worked to create a new measure that allowed young children to rate where they thought thin, average and overweight children were on a spectrum of characteristics, where they could be equally positive toward all of them. The results showed it was clear there was prejudice toward overweight children. Holub got feedback from parents too and wondered how they convey messages to children not only through their attitudes, but their feeding practices as well. Parents’ weight prejudices predicted how they fed their kids over and above their children’s weight status. “For example, if a mother is high in weight prejudice, she might restrict her child’s food intake, even if her child is not overweight” Holub said. After discovering her interests were in weight prejudice and the parent-child feeding relationship, Holub came to UT Dallas in 2005 to continue her research at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. She works to find ways parents can socialize kids so they are both psychologically and physically healthy. She also hopes her research will help parents teach their children to like people for who they are no matter what they look like, while also building long-term healthy eating habits and physical activity practices.

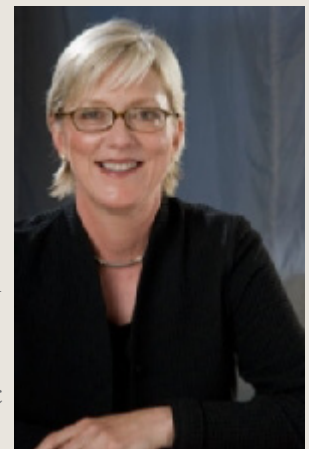
SAVE THE DATE

2015 Annual Fall Forum

Friday, September 25th

“Helping Parents, Helping Children: The Promise of Two-Generation Approaches”

Frances Willard Professor of human development and social policy at the School of Education and Social Policy and associate provost for faculty at Northwestern University; awarded for Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy for Children by the Society for Research in Child Development



P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, Ph.D.

Dr. Chase-Lansdale is an expert on the interface between social policy and research. Her research focuses on social issues and how they affect families, children and youth. Taking a multidisciplinary perspective, her research tackles what family and community strengths enable children to develop healthily in the context of economic hardship. Her most recent work has been on two-generation educational interventions for low-income parents and young children.

Congratulations Anne!

Congratulations to CCF faculty affiliate and professor in Behavioral and Brain Sciences Dr. Anne van Kleeck on her recognition as the Pat Kennedy Educator of the Year, presented by the Dallas Association for the Education of Young Children.

Raising of America Film Highlights Childcare in America

Over 100 parents, practitioners, non-profit leaders, and educators came to UT Dallas in April to watch a special screening of the documentary film series *Raising of America*. The episode looked at the history of childcare in America and a Nixon veto on a bill that would have provided high-quality, universal childcare, home visiting and other services from birth to five to every family. A panel discussion followed with educational and human resources experts, including Center director Margaret T. Owen. “That evening, in the context of heated debate in the Texas State Legislature over expanding access and quality of early education for children in Texas, the discussion following the screening among the panelists, together with the audience, and led by moderator Dennis McCuistion was extremely lively, informative, and moving,” she said. The Center for Children and Families was a co-sponsor of the screening in a joint partnership with First3Years, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Commit! Partnership, and TEDxSMU.



Susan Hoff (United Way) with panelists Charles Glover (Meadows Foundation), Margaret T. Owen, and Cathy Fraser (Tenet Healthcare)

Callier Center Expansion to House Center for Children and Families

UT Dallas broke ground in April for an expansion of the Callier Center for Communication Disorders building in Richardson. The expansion will provide larger clinical facilities, additional research space, and more classrooms and offices as well as new space for the Center for Children and Families. The construction will add 50,000 square-feet to the current 20,000 square-foot Callier Center building, which will also be repurposed. CCF will have new and greater visibility, with a large suite of offices and conference room situated above the new two-story lobby. The expansion is expected to be complete in August 2016.



CCF Staff Suzy Armstrong, Cecilia Lazcano, Margaret T. Owen, Rachel Berglund, Adriana Baird with Advisory Council members Patty Miller and Barbara Einsohn



Screening Fair Serves Families in Pleasant Grove

On May 2nd, the Infant Development Program (IDP) hosted another successful Screening Fair, this time at Annie Webb Blanton Elementary School in Pleasant Grove. CCF developmental specialists partnered with speech therapists from the Callier Center in Dallas, audiologists from the Callier Center in Richardson, and pediatric medical residents from the community to provide developmental, hearing, and speech screenings for 35 children and their families. While the children waited, CCF and community volunteers were on hand to coordinate playful-learning activities. Representatives from seven community agencies participated in the Fair, giving information to families and facilitating referrals on-site for families in need of additional services after their screening. The 3rd Screening Fair conducted by CCF, the collaborative event brought over 100 people together. Further Screening Fairs are being planned and the event continues to grow.



Speech, hearing, and developmental screenings were conducted for children ages 0-5 from Pleasant Grove

Juega Conmigo Family Celebration

On May 9th, CCF celebrated four years of the *Juega Conmigo* program at the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas. *Juega* children and their families, community representatives and CCF advisory council members joined CCF staff and volunteers for a day of fun and entertainment, sponsored by the Texas Home Visiting Coalition. Families enjoyed a bilingual puppet show, playful activities, arts & crafts, face-painting, and more. Every caregiver took home a puppet with fun tips on how to interact with their child using the puppet. Nine resource groups were on hand to answer questions and hand out information to families. Over 150 people attended the event, despite the rainy weather, with 36 volunteers and CCF staff participating.



Face-painting, activities and a bilingual puppet show were some of the highlights of the celebration



From the Director

Perhaps I should take “busy” out of my lexicon. The word pops out every time I describe the Center for Children and Families’ outreach activities and events this spring. “Energetic and connected”

would be more apt. Our services for children and families continue to grow--in scope and numbers, and through our collaborative connections with community organizations and consortiums, working together to optimize children’s healthy development. Our growing outreach providing families with the tools, knowledge, and support to strengthen connections between parents and their children and their wider community is an important goal of the Center. This fall’s upcoming forum on two-generation programs will provide an exceptional opportunity for applying theory and the newest research to practice advancing the education and income of parents and children simultaneously through two-generation programs. Come join us.

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

Advisory Council Members 2014-2015

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The Center for Children and Families was established in 2008 with a generous grant from the Meadows Foundation. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the individuals, foundations and organizations that have given and aided us in our vision.

How to Give

As we work to promote optimal family and child development, our community outreach programs and our child and family research need 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 or 972-883-2837.

We are an important resource for children and families with your support.