Dear students, faculty, staff, and alumni,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we wanted to use this newsletter to celebrate the accomplishments of HDP students and faculty. In this newsletter, we are excited to share with you this year’s graduating students, pictures from HDP conference presentations, a Q&A with recent alumni about the academic job search, and an interview with Professor Gerardo Ramirez about creating a programmatic line of research.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much we have enjoyed putting it together!

Best,

Chrissie, Bryan, & Feliz
HDP Graduating Students

Congratulations on your amazing accomplishment!

**Ph.D.**

- **Kathleen Berry**
  - Dissertation Title: Cognitive, Developmental and Clinical Correlates of Restricted and Repetitive Behaviors in Autism Spectrum Disorders
  - Advisor: Kasari

- **Cristal Byrne**
  - Dissertation Title: Breaking the Cycle of Abuse & Neglect: Attachment in the Context of a Therapeutic Childcare Program for Maltreated Children
  - Advisor: Howes/Mistry

- **Jennifer Cmar**
  - Dissertation Title: Validity and Reliability of Performance-based Orientation and Mobility Rubric
  - Advisor: Kasari

- **Catherine Coddington**
  - Dissertation Title: Mexican & Salvadoran Heritage Families’ Ethnic & Racial Socialization Practices in Daily Routines
  - Advisor: Mistry

- **Kaycie Deane**
  - Dissertation Title: The Remediation of Episodic Memory Deficits in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: An Examination of the Efficacy of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
  - Advisor: Wood

- **Jessica Morales-Chicas**
  - Dissertation Title: Is Math for Me?: Effects of Math Course Sequence and Ethnic Context on Math Motivation
  - Advisor: Graham

- **Michael Oshiro**
  - Dissertation Title: Within the Shadows: The Qualitative ‘Experiences of Undocumented Youth in Foster Care
  - Advisor: Wood/Weinberg

- **Benjamin Schwartzman**
  - Dissertation Title: An Apprenticeship-Model Employment Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities: An Exploratory Study
  - Advisor: Kasari/Wood

- **Jolan Smith**
  - Dissertation Title: Using Evidence-based Practices in Transition to Evaluate Detention Discharge Procedures for Youth with Developmental Disabilities
  - Advisor: Graham/Weinberg

- **Alexandra Sturm**
  - Dissertation Title: Applications of IRT to Clinical ADHD Research: Structure of ADHD Symptoms and Increased Precision of Treatment Effect Estimation
  - Advisor: Kasari

**M.A.**

- **Rebecca Cannara**
  - Advisor: Mistry

- **Monica Carpenter**
  - Advisor: Mistry

- **Liza Chavac**
  - Advisor: Suárez-Orozco

- **Lauren Chiang**
  - Advisor: Kasari

- **Ling Jin**
  - Advisor: Ramirez

- **Joseph Juarez**
  - Advisor: Kasari

- **Nathalie Karimian**
  - Advisor: Bailey

- **Sharanya Menon**
  - Advisor: Grammer/Mistry

- **Lichao Sun**
  - Advisor: Bailey

- **Salvador Vasquez**
  - Advisor: Ramirez

- **Jan Yeh**
  - Advisor: Grammer
Interview with Professor Gerardo Ramirez

Considering the importance of having a cohesive research program, we asked one of our newer faculty members about how he has gone about creating a programmatic line of research.

What got you interested in the field of human development and the research you are currently conducting?

My own frustrations taking practice GRE tests. I felt like I knew many of the words on the tests, but I kept having mental blocks during the practice tests. I wondered if psychology could help students during tests and other performance situations in education.

What are some recent research projects you have been working on and/or what would the next research study look like?

Currently I am looking at whether stressful classroom experiences might be leading students to intentionally forget classroom content. My hypothesis is that stressful classroom experiences are creating a threat to the intellectual identity of students, which leads some students to feel motivated to forget. In one study I found that calculus students tend to forget more calculus content during the summer when their math identity has been challenged by difficult course work. I am extending this project to examine whether intentional forgetting also occurs when students see little utility value in the material they are presented with. I am also conducting a new study looking at the impact of seductive details (i.e., irrelevant but interesting images and stories) on student learning.

What are the biggest challenges you face in your work?

I really need students who are willing to help me with the work. I get many undergrads who express interest but leave after a quarter or who never follow up. Many research participants are also very savvy when it comes to psychology experiments so I have to constantly pilot test my materials to be more effective. I would also love to conduct more school research but LAUSD is very difficult to get into, so I have to constantly figure out ways to conceptually test my ideas within the laboratory.

Can you tell us more about how your research interests and studies have developed your own line of research? We are especially interested in your thoughts around generating a programmatic line of research and/or applying for grants to support your research.

You have to keep your eye on publishing and following through on a project you have started. You should also avoid going off on research tangents that stretch your interests in a direction that you just don’t have the time to invest in. Interesting projects will come and go throughout your career. I have always felt that “More is Less.” More data usually leads people to be less productive. You should be working on 2-3 projects that are in different stages in the research process (i.e., idea development, data collection, writing) and follow through on them.
Photos from HDP Socials & Conferences

SOCIALS
Photos from HDP Socials & Conferences

CONFERENCES
Congratulations to Professor Rashmita Mistry for receiving AERA’s Division E’s Distinguished Research Award (Human Development) as well as the 2016 Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award from The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues!

We also want to recognize the following students for receiving awards at this year’s UCLA Research and Inquiry Conference:

- Anne Blackstock-Bernstein, Amy Woodbridge, & Despina Pitsoulakis: Poster Presentation Award
- Lindsay Hauptman: Poster Presentation Award
- Feliz Quinoñes: Paper Presentation Award
- Bryan Thornton & Jenny Chow: Grand Prize
Alumni Q&A: Academic Job Search

What kind of job are you looking for/have you gotten? What kind of jobs are/were you applying to?

Anna Valentin Osipova (graduated January 2015): I got hired for a tenure track faculty position at CSULA. I was applying for these kinds of positions, so it was a perfect match. :)  
Jessica Morales-Chicas (will graduate June 2016): I applied to Assistant Professor positions this year in the field of Human Development or Child/Adolescent Development. I am starting a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at CSULA this Fall in the Department of Child and Family Studies.  
Stephanie Patterson Shire (graduated December 2013; Post-doc with Connie Kasari): Applying to entry faculty positions-assistant professor at institutions with a focus on research (R1).

When did you start preparing for the application process?  
I would say you prepare for the job application process throughout your graduate studies without even realizing it. What I mean is that during the application process you tell a story of all the work you’ve done throughout your program, so even things you work on during your first and second year can be part of your portfolio of work. In terms of the application process itself, job announcements typically come out early Fall so I started to collect all my materials in August. I also read a few books about the process so that I knew what to expect and talked to various colleagues who went through the process. I highly recommend reading “The Academic Job Search Handbook (4th Edition)” by Julia Vick and Jennifer Furlong. – Jessica

How did you find out about the jobs? Which websites?  
Websites like: https://www.higheredjobs.com/; Chronicle of Higher Ed; Word of Mouth; relevant professional organizations; Listserv Academic Keys.com, Education listserv announcements; and campus and departmental websites at institutions of your interest – Stephanie, Anna, and Jessica

What were the various steps from application to decision?  
1) Fill out the application, send it ahead of time (budget in time for having the transcripts, rec. letters, etc. ready); 2) if selected you will have a phone interview; 3) if selected, you will have an in-person all day interview/job talk/presentation. This last piece usually includes a campus tour, talking/presenting your research to faculty, sometimes teaching a class, meeting with the Dean, the Department Chair, and some social activity like dinner or lunch. – Anna
What were the various steps from application to decision? (cont.)

The first step I would recommend now, if you’re not sure about the potential fit between yourself and posted position—email the Search Chair. Start the conversation to get a feel for the fit—could save both you and the committee time in the end or help you understand how to craft your application. Submit on time! This also means giving your referees a heads up (few weeks) to get letters in if required. Ask the admin to confirm receipt of the application (if emailing and not using an online system). If offered an interview, do your research—department level and school level. Look through the faculty to think about potential collaborations/links, look to resources on campus that you could connect with to establish yourself, look through classes to know what is needed and what you might teach, learn about the region to know where funding opportunities might be. Follow up with individualized thanks to all who met you (esp. those spending one on one time with you) during the interview.

– Stephanie

The job application process is rather long. You start with preparing the application, which entails getting letters of recommendations from faculty, writing a teaching statement, research statement, collecting transcripts, preparing a CV, and gathering other supporting documents (e.g., teaching evaluations, syllabi, mentoring statement, etc.). The other two things you want to make sure you prepare are your teaching demonstration and research talk (i.e., job talk). Typically, both of these presentations last around 45 minutes to one hour. The rest of the interview involves meeting faculty, students, the Dean, sometimes even the President of the university (especially if the school is small). It’s a long day! Following the interview, it’s a waiting game once again. At this point, the search committee is typically deciding amongst you and two (or more) candidates. The tricky part from then on is that different times so sometimes acceptances often come at you need to take a risk and other times you are fortunate enough to weigh the pros and cons of the offers on the table and also negotiate (if that’s an option). – Jessica

Any tips on presenting job talks or teaching demonstrations?

Phone/skype interviews are very short. Usually there are a lot of questions and a pretty limited timeline to answer them. Try to make your presentations as interactive as possible. Have a very clear idea why you would like to work at the place to which you are applying. – Anna

Inquire about tech before you arrive. If you have video, do you need speakers? Will you have a mic? Is the talk being recorded? If yes, who is it released to? I typically have embedded video of kids and families so I always ask that those videos are not recorded or that access to those is restricted to the committee for the purpose of the search. Having an idea of who will be in the room for the job or teaching talks can help you craft your talk content and delivery. – Stephanie
Is there anything that surprised you about the job hunt?
Remember that hires are a committee decision. Sometimes that could be in the applicant’s favor, other times perhaps not. Remember that you have an idea of how you would like your message to land, but of course that may not always be the case. Ask questions - getting a sense of how your message is being interpreted can help you clarify points, add more information, and if need be- think about how you might shape your message differently the next time. – Stephanie

What surprised me is how long the whole process is. The fact that it’s so long makes it a suspenseful roller coaster and at the end of the day you really don’t know what the search committee is/was thinking. Therefore, do your best and surround yourself with a support system that can be there along the way. – Jessica

Our Foodie Faculty

We asked the faculty to name some of their favorite LA restaurants (on a grad school budget!). Here were their answers:

- Rashmita
  - Bruin Plate (Dining Hall at UCLA)
  - TLT (Westwood)
  - Sunnin (Westwood)

- Connie
  - MB Post (Manhattan Beach)

- Jeff
  - Noodle World (Westwood)

- Jennie
  - Yuko Kitchen (Mid-Wilshire)

- Carola
  - Take a Bao (Studio City, Century City)

- Alison
  - Orlando’s (Torrance/ Redondo Beach)

- Sandra
  - Fresh Corn Grill (Westwood)

- Gerardo
  - Ono Hawaiian BBQ (West LA, other locations)
Dear HDP Community,

It has truly been a privilege serving as your student representatives this year. We feel fortunate to be part of such a strong, vibrant community. Thank you for all your support in making this an eventful year! Enjoy the summer!

- Bryan, Chrissie, and Feliz

Hello,

We are thrilled to serve as your HDP representatives for the 2016-2017 school year!

We hope to get to know each of you better throughout the year as we spend time with you at our events. Please let us know if you have any suggestions or feedback regarding social events. Feel free to send us an email or stop us to chat on campus.

Hope you have a great summer and we are looking forward to seeing you all next fall 😊.

Best,
Amirah and Laura

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