

FamilyLink

*Improving lives
of children, youth
and families*

SPRING 2016

Dear Friends of the Frances McClelland Institute,



Spring of 2016 brings new beginnings and a re-commitment from our Institute to continue our research to support children, youth and families. I know that you share my passion for our shared core values of improving the lives of children, youth and

families in Arizona and around the world. My first six months as Director have been exhilarating; I have had the opportunity to meet many of you and to hear from our constituents about their enthusiasm for our shared core values.

Now, as I look to the future, my vision for the Institute is to develop a collaborative environment between faculty, students and community partners that will lead to high quality research, new grants,

and innovative ways of putting research into practice. Community partners are essential to our work, not only for collecting new data, but also to help us put research into practice.

I hope you will unite with us in our mission to contribute to Frances McClelland's legacy of improving the health and well-being of children, youth, and families. You may do this by participating in the Frances McClelland Institute Family Advisory Council, joining our coalition of community partners, participating in research, or donating to our efforts. With your help and partnership, we can continue to support research that can guide families on how to help children and youth develop to their best potential.

In Partnership,

Andrea Romero, Ph.D.

*Fitch Nesbitt Professor, Director, Frances McClelland
Institute for Children, Youth and Families*

New Funding for School Readiness



Dr. Melissa Barnett

FMI researchers have secured federal funding for Early Child Care research. Drs. Melissa Barnett (Chair of the Early Relationships and Child Development Research Initiative in FMI), Christina Cutshaw (College of Public Health faculty and Norton

faculty affiliate), and Ann Mastergeorge (now at Texas Tech University, but previously Norton faculty) were recently awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families for their project "Child Care Factors that Influence Parental Engagement: Understanding Longitudinal Pathways to Children's School Readiness and Well-Being."

The researchers will analyze a nationally representative data set to examine how links between Child Care settings and parenting practices support children's development of early academic and social-emotional skills. The project will include implications for Child Care policies and practices in order to bolster the early school success of young children, especially those from economically disadvantaged families.



Congratulations to Chandni Parikh

*Frances McClelland Dissertation Award 2015-2016
Recipient for her work on Understanding Early Gaze Behaviors in Infants and Toddlers: Implications for Screening and Early Identification*



Chandni Parikh, ABD, is a doctoral student in Family Studies and Human Development. Chandni's dissertation project is "The Interactive Eye Gaze Study," developed in partnership with her advisor, Dr. Ann Mastergeorge. Her study

explores the underlying gaze behaviors associated with social attention in infants.

Eye-tracking is a recent advance in eye gaze technology that non-invasively captures the gaze patterns of very young children. Using dynamic social scenes of Peter Pan, infants and toddlers participate in the project in the Lang Lab. By creating specific areas of interest, such as the eyes and the mouth, data is gathered on the frequency and duration of time that infants and toddlers looked at an event. Preliminary results showed that more fixations were made towards eyes and mouth versus objects. These results support the notion



McClelland Institute Lang Lab

that early eye gaze patterns are associated with emerging social-communication skills.

Do you have an infant or toddler between 3–24 months who is considered to be at developmental risk?

Families are still being recruited to participate in this study during a structured play task. Parents will be asked to fill out questionnaires. The study will take place at the University of Arizona.

For more information, please call Chandni Parikh at (520) 621-9502 or email earlydevlab@email.arizona.edu.

Congratulations to Outstanding Graduate Students!

Family Studies and Human Development graduate students have earned several awards from national professional organizations. This significantly increases the visibility of our graduate program and is a testament to the quality of our teaching and our students.

Students who have received national recognitions include Dr. Henry Gonzalez, Jacy Farkas, Alexandria Pech, Jose Rodas, Jose Michael Gonzalez, and Dr. Alysha Ramirez.

Congratulations to students who were honored by the University of Arizona and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Dan Erikson, Dr. Henry Gonzalez, and Dr. Katie Paschall. See our website for details on their awards and funding.

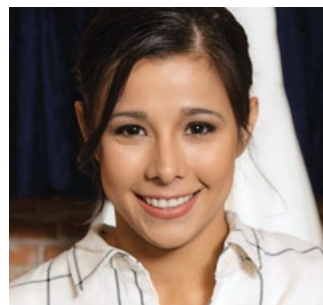
Additional congratulations to Drs. Katie Paschall, Henry Gonzalez, Alysha Ramirez, and Diana Meter on successfully defending their dissertations.



Dr. Katie Paschall



Dr. Henry Gonzalez



Dr. Alysha Ramirez



Dr. Diana Meter

Welcome New Faculty



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Russell Toomey as new Family Studies and Human Development Assistant Professor. He is serving as the Chair of the Youth Development and Resilience Initiative.

Dr. Toomey has just been awarded the Society for Research on Adolescence Early Career Research Award. This award recognizes a young scholar whose research and visibility in the field represent a significant contribution to understanding adolescent development and behavior.

He just received a grant from the University of Arizona Transgender Studies Initiative for a project entitled "A Pilot Study of Family-Focused Intervention to Support Transgender and Gender Creative Youth." He is collaborating on this project with Dr. Michele Walsh, Dr. Tad Pace, Dr. Madeleine DeBlois, and the Center for Compassion Studies.

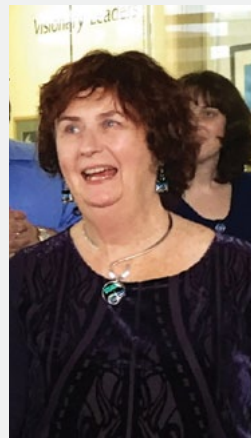
He has also received the "Envisioning the Future of Our Science" award from the Society for Research on Adolescence to bring together from across the nation a working group of scholars to integrate an intersectional lens into developmental science.

Thank You ...



... to Dr. Stephen Russell and Dr. Ann Mastergeorge for their leadership of the Frances McClelland Institute. We appreciate all their contributions and their continued support. We wish them well in their new positions at the University of Texas and Texas Tech University.

PAMELA TURBEVILLE SPEAKER SERIES SPRING 2016



Dr. Maureen Kelly, Ph.D., gave her "Last Lecture" before her retirement as the kick off to our Turbeville Speaker Series this Spring.

A celebration followed her talk to an overflow crowd. Dr. Kelly was a professor in Family Studies and Human Development at the University of Arizona for 32 years.

She states: "I experienced one of the happiest days of my UA worklife ... "The Last Lecture" and reception was better than I could have ever imagined! Thank you all for creating and making it happen. It was quite a feeling seeing all of those people in one place! I have heard from several attendees who noted what an appropriate tribute it was to my work within and outside of academe. There were people there from Psychology, Law and Women's Studies as well as former preceptors and students. The number of teachers and administrators who attended was especially gratifying as my reputation has been built largely on the work I did with and for them."

The Spring Speaker Series has featured a wide range of topics. To see the 2016 Spring Speaker Series topics, visit our website (link) <https://mcclellandinstitute.arizona.edu/SpeakerSeries>.

Welcome New Project Coordinator



FMI's new Project Coordinator, Feliz Baca, brings excellent community outreach experience from her work with the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona. Her bachelor's degree in Sociology and Anthropology will be a great asset to help FMI share research about children, youth and families. She has a great passion for improving the lives of children, youth and families in Arizona.



Improving the lives of children, youth, and families

ABOUT FMI



THE FRANCES McCLELLAND INSTITUTE

serves as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary research on children, youth, and families at the University of Arizona. Our research initiatives address questions

important to the development and well-being of contemporary children, youth, and families, with the goal of improving basic understanding to enhance the lives of the people of Arizona and the world.

Our FMI Team

Andrea Romero, Ph.D.

Director

Melissa Barnett, Ph.D.

Chair, Early Relationships and Child Development Initiative

Bruce Ellis, Ph.D.

Chair, Fathers, Parenting, and Families Initiative

Russell Toomey, Ph.D.

Chair, Youth Development and Resilience Initiative

Emily Butler, Ph.D.

Chair, Mechanisms of Emotion, Social Relationships, and Health

ASPIRE (Afterschool Program Innovation, Reflection and Education) Program Manager

Jameela Norton

FMI and ASPIRE Program Coordinator

Feliz Baca

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Roxanna Francies



From left: Jose Rodas, graduate student; Dr. Romero; Alysha Ramiez, graduate student; Dr. Barnett; Henry Gonzalez, graduate student; and Dr. Toomey at the ASU conference for the 20th Anniversary of the Garcia Coll and Colleagues Integrative Model for Developmental Competencies of Minority Children.

In Partnership

Private support is fundamental to the origins and sustainability of the Frances McClelland Institute, the Janet and Barry Lang Lab for Child and Family Observation, and our facilities.

We are grateful to all of our donors who are recognized on our wall of Legacy Leaders, including John and Ruth Crist Dyer, Barry and Janet Lang, Beth and Ed Martin, Frances McClelland, Betty and Hamilton McRae, Beverly Mitchell, Linda Redman and David Rowe.

With your help, we can continue to engage in high quality research that will improve the lives of children, youth and families. You can contribute to our mission by visiting our website:

McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

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