



-bulletin

NEWS AND NOTES FROM CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY RELATIONS •
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JANUARY 2012

N.C. wins federal money for early childhood learning

North Carolina is one of nine states to win an Early Learning Challenge grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top program. The state was chosen from 35 states plus D.C. and Puerto Rico that applied for the \$500 million to help improve early childhood learning.

While the amount of money that North Carolina will receive from the grant is not yet known, grants to the states will range from \$50 million to \$100 million, depending on state populations and proposed plans.

"This grant is the huge step toward strengthening a high quality early childhood care and education system in the state," said Archana Hegde, associate professor of child development and family relations. "The grant emphasizes the need to develop and support a skilled child development workforce."

Among Race to the Top priorities in the state, Hegde anticipate that funds will be used to incentivize low quality child care providers to attain higher ratings; provide infant/toddler specialists who will advise and support workers in early childhood settings; help local agencies increase home visits, screening, and referral services; and strengthen home-school partnerships.



Hegde, who also serves on the Quality Rating and Improvement System Advisory Committee of the N.C. Division of Child Development and Family Education, calls the first five years of life "pivotal."

"If we invest in early childhood development, we'll have more children ready for kindergarten," Hegde said. "All of this requires money."

Pitt and its neighboring counties have been identified as a transformational zone within the grant because the area has a concentrated population of low income families and children and is in need of high quality care and education.

"As the leader in early childhood education in eastern North Carolina, the ECU Department of Child Development and Family Relations will be called upon to examine and strengthen existing courses in birth through kindergarten teacher education at the undergraduate and graduate levels," said Hegde. "All in all, I am thrilled beyond words that the state is receiving funds that will lend equal opportunity for all our young children."

Inside . . .

- Eva Chan, Interior Design Alumna 2
- Criminal Justice Students Network in D.C. 2
- Photo Gallery 3
- Faculty Activities 4

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Alumni Spotlight

Meet Eva Chan, interior design alumna

Sze Man “Eva” Chan graduated with a bachelor’s degree in interior design in 2011. While at ECU, Chan studied design genres, including residential, hospitality, commercial, universal, and sustainable. She excelled in many of these dimensions, leading her to several career-making opportunities.



Eva Chan

As a student, Chan conducted research for the ECU Center of Sustainable Tourism to encourage sustainability efforts on the Outer Banks. She examined ways the Outer Banks could incorporate innovative designs to make facilities more eco-friendly. Chan also interned for LDL Studio, a hospitality design firm in Providence, R.I. Additionally, Chan was awarded an undergraduate research and creativity award, giving her the opportunity to study in Turkey.

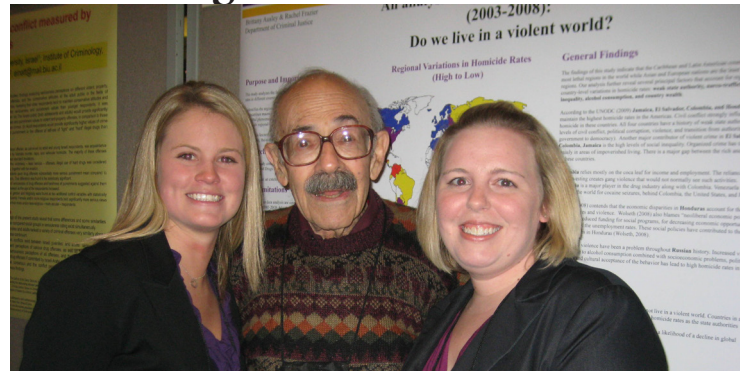
In her final semester, Chan studied architecture and environmental design at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. She visited many of Turkey’s main cities and ventured to Australia and then to Hong Kong, where she emigrated from in 2002. Chan’s approach to interior design is heavily influenced by Chinese, American, and Turkish cultures.

Now back in the U.S., Chan continues to blend influences to create intriguing new designs. She currently works as a designer and a project coordinator for the family-owned Dileonardo International Design Studio in Warwick, R.I.

Chan said she enjoys her double-duties at Dileonardo because the job opens career options. “As a fresh graduate, this gives me an opportunity to learn about the design process in the real world and get used to the environment,” said Chan.

Find out more about Eva Chan and view her design portfolio at www.wix.com/evashane/evachanportfolio.

Students network with renowned criminologists



Master’s students Brittany Ausley and Rachel Frazier met Dr. Al Blumstein and other renowned criminologists at a meeting in Washington, D.C.

Master of criminal justice students Brittany Ausley and Rachel Frazier made the most of their trip to the 2011 American Society of Criminology (ASC) meeting in Washington, D.C., this fall.

The students presented their research on homicide and met influential scholars, including Professor Al Blumstein of Carnegie Mellon University.

Ausley and Frazier said that participating in ASC was an experience they hope to repeat as professionals. Ausley said, “Meeting scholars whose work we read each semester opened my eyes to another level of criminal justice research. Normally, I only imagine the scholars who write the articles. Now I’ve been able to speak with some of them.”

“The meeting gave us a chance to learn from scholars with similar research interests,” said Frazier, “which gave Brittany and me ideas on how to expand our research.”

The students’ latest study, “An Analysis of Global Trends in Homicide (2003-2008): Do We Live in a Violent World?” is guided by Patrice Morris, assistant professor of criminal justice.

The students spoke with Blumstein about homicide trends in the United States and foreign countries.

Blumstein has published many articles and books on crime measurement, demographic trends, crime measurement, and juvenile violence. In addition to Blumstein, Ausley and Frazier met renowned criminologists Michael Maxfield and Richard Felson.

“These scholars gave us feedback and new directions on our research. They encouraged us to publish our work,” said Ausley.

Photo Gallery



Sandra Triebenbacher (at left), associate professor of child development and family relations, appears regularly on the WNCT-TV news segment “Anchor Mom” with anchor woman Amanda Goodman. Their chats have included inappropriate TV viewing for children and childhood obesity.



Sylvia Escott-Stump, president of the American Dietetic Association and director of ECU’s Dietetic Internship Program addressed the 11th Hellenic Congress on Nutrition and Dietetics in Athens, Greece, recently. Sylvia spoke on “Standardized Nutrition Terminology—Making It a Universal Reality.”



While giving the college’s commencement address in December, Outstanding Hospitality Leadership Graduate John David Watt, III told fellow grads that at the age of eight he thought it was “too late to make good at anything.” Fortunately for John and for the hospitality industry, he changed his thinking.

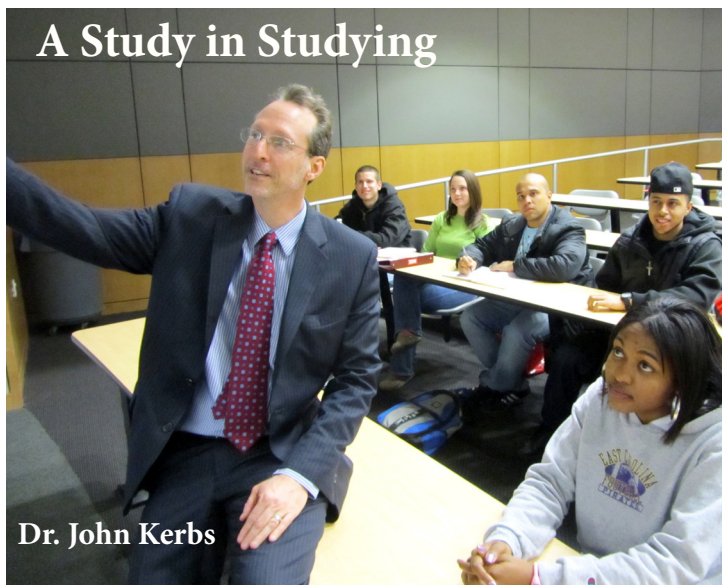


Dr. Julie Logan from City University, Cass Business School, London, England, visited social work professors Lena Carawan and Blace Nalavany this fall to discuss a collaborative study on adults with dyslexia. Logan says Carawan and Nalavany are leading global research on the topic. Pictured l to r, Carawan, Logan, Nalavany and research grad assistant Stephanie Sauber.



What’s it like to be a dedicated college professor today? Read about two days in the life of a scholar-teacher in the ECU College of Human Ecology 2010-2011 Annual Report and Directory of Supporters at www.ecu.edu/che.

Faculty



A Study in Studying

Dr. John Kerbs

Criminal justice professor **John J. Kerbs** delivered his “Surviving College at ECU and Living to Tell About It” study skills class in January. The class is a powerful prescription for better comprehension and better grades.

Among his no-nonsense tips, Dr. Kerbs advised students to turn off electronic devices in class, to study 2 to 3 hours per week per credit hour, and to study regularly in the library or another quiet place.

The class is a labor of love for Kerbs, going above and beyond his teaching and research demands. He sees the class as essential for student retention and success and has presented the class to over 1,500 ECU students.

Elizabeth Wall-Bassett (nutrition science) et al. presented “An Assessment of College Student Awareness of Diet Tools, Recommendations for Food Intake, and Food Access and Availability” at the Society for Nutrition Education Annual Conference, Kansas City, KS.

Matthew Johnson (criminal justice) co-authored “A Longitudinal Study of Delinquency Abstention: Differences Between Life-Course Abstainers and Offenders from Adolescence into Adulthood” in the *Journal of Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*.

Paige Averett, Intae Yoon, and Carol Jenkins (social work) presented their paper, “Older Lesbians’ Health and Preference for Care,” at the Center for Health Disparities Research Lecture Series, East Carolina University.

Alleah Crawford, Mel Weber, and Dori Dennison (hospitality leadership) presented “Evaluation of the Entry Level Soft Skills Needs Assessment: A Pilot Study” at the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association meeting in Farmington, PA.

Cynthia Deale (hospitality leadership) published “A Case Study of Sustainability in Jackson County, North Carolina,” in the *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Cases*.



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“Home Economics &
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