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Eliot-Pearson Department of
Child Study and Human Development

Eliot-Pearson Newsletter-Issue No. 4 December 2018



Happy Holidays

From,

The Eliot-Pearson Community

Letter from the Chair

The fall semester comes to an end. However, while the academic programs at Eliot-Pearson are concluding and students and faculty wrap-up coursework, research labs continue to be active. Data is collected and analyzed, interventions are put in place, and papers and grants are being written.

Life in our department slows down for the break, but the intellectual quest doesn't stop. New ideas are developed and new projects are taking shape. I am proud to announce that as part of our call for proposals, "Child Development in the XXIst Century," eight grants submitted by graduate students and four submitted by either individual or teams of faculty, were selected to be funded for the spring semester. You will be hearing more about these exciting projects in the upcoming months!

May you all have a restful break and time to enjoy the holidays with family and friends!



Marina Umaschi Bers

Professor and Chair

Featured Story

Checklist for final exam--juice boxes, animal crackers, and children's book--
An unusual checklist for an unusual final exam! Students in [Leandra](#)

Other books incorporated audio elements by scanning a QR code to hear narration in Elon Perry-Stiner's *The Spectacular Life of Ruby*, or

[Elion's](#) class, [CSHD 90 The Exceptional Child](#), were tasked with creating a children's book both *for* and *about* children with disabilities and the 'test' for this assignment was to read their book to children.

Throughout the semester the class had examined a range of published children's books that dealt with disability and difference. It was apparent that many books, though well-intentioned, reinforced stereotypes of disability, perpetuated a deficit-only view of variance, and persisted in portraying characters with a tone of pity. Using some exemplars of positive, strengths-based representation, students set about creating engaging, accessible children's books that showed strong, complex characters who were defined by more than their disabilities.

On Monday, December 17th, the books were launched to an audience of students, faculty, representatives from local children's book publishers, teachers, and most importantly, young children. The students in CSHD 90 began by explaining their creations. Some of the books featured

animal sounds in *Mia's Day at the Farm*, by Frankie Deleso-Frechette. There was a fire station to explore in Danes Matthew's *Taking a Trip to Engine 59*, a grocery store in Erin Child's *My Market*, and a backyard hideout in Jonah Kildon's *The Fort*. Children in the audience participated in smaller group read-alouds and guessed colors in Gillian Davis' *Colors of the Neighborhood*, flicked a spinner in Andres Bolanos' *Exploring the Neighborhood with Pablo*, and laced boots in *Snow Day*, by Olivia Ward.

If you were unable to attend the event, you will soon be able to read these books, as they are being digitized and added to the collection at the [Tisch Library](#). If you would like to see these books in person, contact Leandra Elion at Leandra.elion@tufts.edu. She can't promise any juice boxes, but she can promise you an opportunity to experience an inclusive, strengths-based view of children in all their diversity.

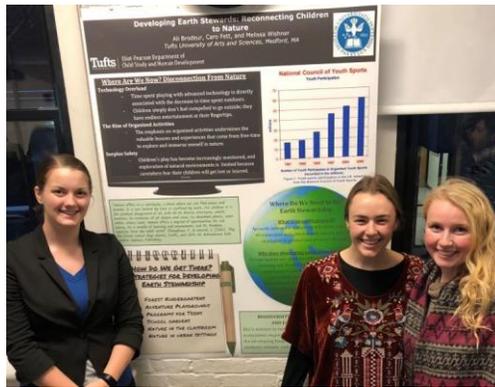
meaningful characters, including one about a Deaf boy who navigates the world using his other senses--sight, taste, smell, and touch and some featured appealing tactile elements such as fluffy clouds, googly eyes, popsicle stick page turners, and more!



Poster Session Review

Halting climate change requires a massive effort on the part of all of us--with many approaches needed to make a difference. One such approach is to nourish the development of the next generation of earth stewards. But how exactly can this be accomplished given that today's children and youth are much more disconnected from nature than were previous generations? Ali Brodeur, Caro Fett, and Melissa Wishner--students from the CSHD course, [Children, Nature, and the Ecology Movement](#), provide some answers--which they shared at this year's conference held at Harvard and sponsored by the group, [Biodiversity for a Livable Climate](#).

At the conference, they presented a poster explaining what it takes to connect children to the natural world and introduced their audience to a [website](#) that they and other students in the course had created. They plan to continue to develop the website and use it to create ongoing means for Tufts students to nourish the development of the next generation of earth stewards. This project pays special thanks for the support given from the Tisch College of Civic Life.



Grants

[Dr. Richard M. Lerner](#), has been awarded a grant from the [Chan Zuckerberg Initiative \(CZI\)](#), to support [his research](#) on personalized learning and development. The grant will support two years of an intended 10-year project, with additional proposals to be submitted for the remainder. This is a wonderful step toward understanding the individual developmental pathways of diverse children and adolescents.

Eliot-Pearson Child Development in the XXIst Century Faculty Grant Recipients

Shared Origins: Drawing, Writing, and the Emergency of Literacy--An Exhibit

Featuring Student Work from the Eliot-Pearson Children's School

Proposed by Chip Gidney, Cynthia Smith, Bruce Johnson, and Hannah Gebretensae,

This is Me!

Proposed by Kerri Modry-Mandell, Kathryn Cantrell, and Christina (Ye Eun) Koo

Narratives Without Borders: Literacy in the 21st Century

Proposed by Martha Pott and Cynthia Smith

Hosting an event focused on topics relating to adolescents and emerging adults with autism spectrum disorder

Eileen Crehan

Eliot-Pearson Child Development in the XXIst Century Student Grant Recipients

Upgrade the E-P 'Look'

Proposed by Rachel Buff

Attend the Touchpoints conference

Proposed by Jill Benevides

Workshop on methods

Proposed by Lauren Stargel, Elise Murray, and Julius Anatasio

Create a podcast focused on showcasing conversations with leaders in the 21st century of child development

Proposed by Nick Woolf

Workshop on diversity and children's literature

Proposed by Amanda Strawhacker, Julius Anatasio, and Natalya Zaika

Host speaker-Dr. Laurel Kiser

Proposed by Jessica Somogie

Host speaker-Dr. Todd Rose

Proposed by Amanda Strawhacker

Research proposal on an intervention to promote youth health

Proposed by Patrece Joseph

Eliot-Pearson Community News

Officially announcing and welcoming the Crehan Lab to E-P's research community! Run by Assistant Professor [Eileen Crehan](#), The Crehan Lab (website coming soon!) held its first Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting. A group of volunteers, from diverse backgrounds and perspectives relating to autism, joined the lab crew to discuss current and future research goals. Time was taken during the meeting to discuss some of the gaps in current services and research that members of the CAB would like to see addressed in the future, such as social skills and other services for individuals on the spectrum and psychoeducational programs for neurotypical populations (such as classrooms) with the goal of reducing bullying. Thank you to all that participated! This was a meaningful first step toward building a community in autism related research.



[The Child Development Association \(CDA\)](#), under the leadership of Abby Beech, Zoe Steckler, and Melissa Wishner, and with the guidance of Senior Lecturer [George Scarlett](#), hosted a Career Night event that featured the stories of five Eliot-Pearson alums. As the nature of service to children and families continues to change with the times, these individuals have succeeded in meeting the particular challenges faced by today's generation of E-P graduates seeking careers in serving children and families. E-P alums Laura Beals, Kate Ulman, Mollie Levin, Leah Harrigan, and Anya Dashevsky shared stories of their varied paths to leadership and success within their career. A sixth alum, Emily Zhang, not able to attend the event in person, sent a message that was read aloud to the audience.



The [Eliot-Pearson Children's School \(EPCS\)](#) recently welcomed a group of school directors from Singapore, as part of a program on Early Childhood Education in the United States. Each year, Boston University Wheelock College of Education and Human Development, coordinates visits to the best early childhood centers in the greater Boston area. EPCS has been among the selected sites for the past four years, and graciously hosted their international visitors for two days. The visiting school directors were able to meet the EPCS staff, lead teachers, parents' co-chairs, and the department chair and left with a great impression of the school!



This December, the [DevTech](#) lab continued work on several exciting projects. Our [bioengineering project](#), led by Ph.D. student [Amanda Strawhacker](#), completed several days of pilot testing at Boston's Children's Museum. They will continue to use and test [CRISPEE](#), a developmentally appropriate tool modeled on the real-world CRISPR/Cas-9 gene editing system, at the museum in the spring to explore children's understanding of bioengineering. In addition, it was a very successful Computer Science Education week for the DevTech lab. Students across the world learned coding with [ScratchJr](#) and [KIBO](#) and [Code.org](#) featured Hour of Code lessons using [ScratchJr](#) and Professor

[Marina Bers](#) gave a keynote at "[The Power of Play: Using Play to Increase Our Creativity and Engage Our Learners](#)" conference.

Congratulations



Professor and Department Chair, [Marina Umaschi Bers](#), is helping parents select the right high-tech toys for their children this holiday season with her article, [Looking for a high-tech gift for a young child? Think playgrounds, not playpens](#), that was featured in [The Conversation](#) earlier this month.



Congratulations to [Dr. Richard M.](#)



Congratulations to [Katie Aasland](#), Eliot-Pearson doctoral student and [TIER](#) member, who successfully defended her dissertation entitled, *African American and Cape Verdean Young Mothers' Use of Supports Toward Educational Attainment*.



Eliot-Pearson doctoral student and [TIER](#) member [Veronica Mingo](#),

[Lerner](#), who has accepted two keynote speaking opportunities for this upcoming year. In March, Dr. Lerner will speak at the [Society for Research on Child Development \(SRCD\) 2019 Meeting](#) and will provide the keynote address at the 2019 [Developmental Methods Conference](#) in October.

received an award from [Tufts' Graduate Student Research Competition](#). As a part of this award, she will receive funding for her dissertation research, *An Ethnography of Caregivers' Experiences and Practices in Colina*.

Announcements

Holiday/Winter Break Hours

Health Service

Thursday, December 20- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, December 21- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 22-closed

Wednesday, December 26th-Friday January 11th-

Open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed during lunch 12pm-1pm)

Saturday: closed Dec 29th, Jan 5th, and Jan 12th

Closed on: December 24th, December 25th, December 31st, and January 1st

For more information please [click here](#).

**Regular academic schedule resumes January 16th at 8 a.m.*

Holiday/Winter Break Hours

Tufts Library Services

Thursday, December 20- 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, December 21- 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 22-Tuesday, December 25-closed

Wednesday, December 26-Wednesday, January 16-

For a full listing of winter break hours

[click here](#)

Upcoming Events

University Holidays

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25th

New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31st

New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1st

Summer 2019 Registration

Registration opens Wednesday, January 2nd

Fall 2018 Grades Due

Thursday, January 3rd 2019

Faculty should submit grades online by 9:00 a.m. using their SIS account

Spring 2019 Semester

Classes begin Wednesday, January 16th



Eliot-Pearson
Department of Child Study
and Human Development



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