

Eliot-Pearson Newsletter

Issue No. 6-February 2019

FROM OUR CHAIR

The spring semester is in full-swing and courses are actively in session. We can see students discussing theoretical papers, debating ideas, creating colorful art projects, collecting and analyzing data, writing about their applied experiences, programming robots, and working with young children at the Eliot-Pearson Children's School. A few weeks ago, the department hosted a day for a selected group of prospective doctoral students to come and meet our faculty and current graduate students. This event provides a wonderful way for both us and them to get to know each other and find if there is a good match. The admissions team at Eliot-Pearson is also busy evaluating applications for master's students and very soon we will be sending acceptance letters. Like every year, our hope is to attract the brightest and most committed students. Students who have both heart and mind. Students who are both independent in their thinking and able to work well with others. Students who are passionate about making a difference for young children, adolescents, and families in these challenging times.



Marina Umaschi Bers
Professor and Chair

Featured Story

This month, [Dr. Richard M. Lerner](#), returns to Vatican City, to continue his service as an appointed member of [Pope Francis'](#) Pontifical Academy for Life, or Pontificia per la Vita. Appointed to the academy

in the summer of 2017, Dr. Lerner and experts in the fields of neurobiology, immunology, public policy, healthcare, neonatology, sociology, philosophy, biology, economics, and others, gather every nine months, to discuss ways to heal and enhance the quality of life for individuals around the world. For two days, members of the academy attend workshops and engage in reflective conversations centered around current events, topics, and challenges that have an impact at the global level.

This month's workshop, [Roboethics: Humans, Machines, and Health](#), was designed to address the ethical considerations of artificial intelligence, robots, and other emerging technologies. In addition to the ethical components, academy members also prepared to discuss the development of robotics in terms of its anthropological implications and sociopolitical impact. Among its goals, this workshop was constructed to allow academics to evaluate and understand these new technologies, as well as discuss and develop methods for evaluating their application in everyday life. Featured topics include, [computational surgery and robotics in healthcare](#), [socially assistive robots for the elderly](#), and [robotics and the transformation of economic dynamics](#).

Student Spotlight



Doctoral candidate, [Meera Menon](#), has focused her research and applied experiences on the evaluation of early childhood and parenting support programs, during her time at Eliot-Pearson. She has also exemplified E-P's commitment to interdisciplinary research, by completing projects with the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, helping to bridge the gap between nutrition and child development for early care providers.

After she graduates in May, Meera plans to continue working in program evaluation. "I see myself in an applied-research setting such as a research firm, policy think-tank, a non-profit, or a private foundation that brings together a diverse group of individuals interested in promoting children's well-being by addressing the numerous

E-P in the News

[Don't Think the Worst About Your Teenager](#)

[Heal and Enhance the Quality of Life Across the World](#)

[Every 6-Year-Old Needs to Learn Bioengineering](#)

Grants

Assistant Professor, [Eileen Crehan](#) and the [Crehan Lab](#) received funding from a Faculty Research Award for their project, "Sexuality and relationship education survey for adults with and without autism."

[Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research \(TIER\)](#) has received funding from the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) to conduct a national scan of home visiting programs that are providing services for justice involved parents.

contexts of child development," she says. Meera feels well prepared to take on such a role, crediting the courses and workshops at E-P in helping her develop a strong theoretical understanding of childhood health and development, as well as the skills needed to address complex programmatic and policy questions. In addition to the valuable faculty, research, and classes that have characterized her time at Eliot-Pearson, Meera reflected on the passion and intelligence of her fellow E-P students and said, "I can't imagine being part of a better community."

Alumni Spotlight



As an undergraduate, Tufts 2013 alumna, [Molly Crossman](#), conducted research evaluating the possibility that the presence of a pet might increase a mother's use of language about emotion during interactions with her children. After constructing a senior's thesis on the topic and graduating from Eliot-Pearson, Molly went on to pursue graduate education and is currently a sixth-year doctoral student in clinical psychology at Yale University. She suggests that E-P has been integral in shaping the trajectory of her career. "Before coming to E-P, I had strong interests in child development and psychology, and was very passionate about human-animal interactions. At E-P I had my first opportunity to integrate those interests in a research experience. That experience set me on a path to

[Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research \(TIER\)](#) has received additional funding from the [Children's Trust of Massachusetts](#) to continue their 20+ year partnership providing evaluation support to the Trust's [family support programs](#).

[Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research \(TIER\)](#) has been awarded the contract from the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(MDPH\)](#) to conduct the [Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting \(MIECHV\)](#) and [Title V needs assessments](#).

Publications

[Fleary, S.A.](#), & Joseph, P., Zhang, E., & Quirion, C. (2019). ["They give you back that dignity:" understanding the intangible resources that make a transitional house a home for homeless families.](#) *Journal of Social Distress and Homeless*, 1-13.

[Fleary, S.A.](#), & Ettienne, R. (2019). [The relationship between food parenting practices, parental diet and their adolescents' diet.](#) *Appetite*.

[Sullivan, A.](#), & [Bers, M. U.](#) (2019). [VEX Robotics Competitions: Gender differences in students' attitudes and experiences.](#) *Journal of Information Technology Education: Research*, 18, 97-112.

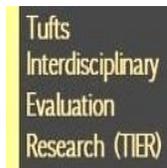
continuing to study human-animal interactions throughout my career so far, and I am extremely grateful for that."

Molly will put her E-P training to good use when she begins an assistant professorship at Texas Tech University this coming fall. She says, "E-P shaped the way I think about human health and development. I learned to think about people in context, to understand people from a developmental perspective, to use a positive and strengths-based approach, and to appreciate multidisciplinary work. These lessons continue to shape both my research and my clinical work."

E-P Community News



Social media accounts for the Crehan Lab are up and running! The lab can now be liked and followed on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter @Crehanlab!](#)



[Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research \(TIER\)](#) principal investigators, [Rebecca Fauth](#) and [Jessica Goldberg](#), led a symposium on Home Visiting for System Involved Parents, at the Eighth National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs in Washington, D.C. [The symposium featured research](#) conducted by

Congratulations



Congratulations to Professor and Department Chair, [Marina Bers](#), who delivered the keynote address at the [2019 STEM Educator's Summit](#) held at the University of New Hampshire, Durham at the end of last month.



Congratulations to [Professor Christine McWayne](#), who has accepted an invitation to give the keynote address at the Harvard Graduate School of Education 24th Annual Student Research Conference. This month, Professor McWayne also presented as a member of the expert panel *Engaging Families and Communities*, at the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) in Washington, D.C.



Graduate student, [Sunah Hyun](#), was selected to receive a 2019 SRCD Travel Award to support her attendance at the 2019 Biennial Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, on behalf of the Society for Research in Child Development.

Rebecca, Jessica, and TIER postdoctoral scholar, [Jessica Greenstone Winestone](#), looking at how home visiting programs can better support juvenile justice system involved parents.



Staff at the [Eliot-Pearson Children's School](#) attended a professional development session this month, engaging in a reflective dialogue using data gathered on the social-emotional competency of children at the program. They addressed the key factors that impact children's development and discussed ways to support their progress.



Teachers in Norfolk, VA began implementing [DevTech's Coding As Literacy](#) curriculum as part of a study on integrating the [KIBO](#) robot with 2nd grade literacy standards. The team also launched a four-day camp at [EPCS](#) to pilot [CRISPEE](#), a tool to explore an early childhood bioengineering curriculum.



Doctoral student and graduate research assistant at the [Children and Community Contexts Lab \(C3](#)

Announcements

Eliot-Pearson Voices-We are excited to introduce our brand-new Eliot-Pearson Blog which will be posted on the E-P website in the coming weeks. Members of the E-P community are encouraged to submit conversational, informal, and upbeat posts demonstrating E-P's commitment to children, youth, and families in the 21st century! All submissions should be sent to the Blog Editor, Martha Pott, at martha.pott@tufts.edu.

2019 Graduate Student Council Awards-The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is accepting nominations for outstanding student organizations. All nominations must be received by 5:00 pm on Monday, February 25th. [Submit a nomination](#).

26th Annual Fred Rothbaum Student Presentation Day Proposals- All [submissions](#) for posters and presentations are due by Thursday, February 28th at 5:00 pm.

Apply for Graduation- Graduate students planning to graduate in May 2019, must complete and submit appropriate paperwork by Thursday, February 28th. See Tufts [Student Information System \(SIS\)](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events

[Early Childhood Technology \(ECT\) Graduate Certificate Program Virtual Open House](#)

**Saturday, February 23rd
4:00 pm (EST)**

Learn more about Eliot-Pearson's Early Childhood Technology (ECT) Graduate Certificate program.

[B.A. in Child Study and Human Development Information Session](#)

**Wednesday, February 27th
12:30-1:30 pm (EST)**

Conference Room outside the [Dewick-MacPhie Dining Hall](#)

[Lab](#)), [Julius, Anastasio](#), is a finalist for a Rapport Summer Policy Fellowship.



Co-sponsored by the [Institute for Applied Research on Youth Development](#). Dr. Jeffrey Arnett visited the department this month to lead a colloquium, *Do Adults Develop? And Other Audacious Questions for New Times*.

[2019 Graduate Student Research Symposium](#)

Friday, March 1st
11:00 am-6:00 pm (EST)
[Aidekman Arts Center](#)

[Cultural-Developmental Theory for the 21st Century: Self and Social Science in a Global World](#)

Lene Jensen, Ph.D.
Monday, March 4th
12:00 pm (EST)
[Eliot-Pearson Library](#)
Presented by the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development and the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development (IARYD).

Please click one of the links below to make a donation to Eliot-Pearson.

[Eliot-Pearson's Greatest Needs Funds](#)

[Eliot-Pearson Children's School Scholarship Fund](#)

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