



School of Arts
and Sciences

Eliot-Pearson Department of
Child Study and Human Development

Eliot-Pearson Newsletter

Issue No. 5, January 2019

From Our Chair

There is snow on the ground and the temperature is freezing cold. I am from Argentina, and despite living in Boston for the last 25 years, I am still not used to the brutal New England winters. Although the spring semester is upon us, the spring weather won't show up for a few more months. Regardless, the academic year continues to cycle as the seasons change and after a much-deserved break, we are all back on campus. We welcome back students, staff, and faculty, including those who return to us from sabbatical. We also welcome new courses and new research grants, new publications, and new field experiences.

This spring semester, technology arrives at Eliot-Pearson in several new ways. We have launched a new website for the Eliot-Pearson Children's School and I invite you to visit it at: <http://ase.tufts.edu/epcs/>. A new design for the department's website will soon appear as well as a blog in which students share research-based

Grants

Professor [Marina Umaschi Bers](#), received a grant from the [Templeton Foundation](#) to study the intersection of early childhood computer science, moral development, and religion.

Ph.D. student, [Natalya Zaika](#), received funding from the [Graduate Student Research Competition](#) for her project, "Beyond New Spaces: The Contribution of Neighborhood to Mexican Immigrant Youth's Development."

Ph.D. student, [Patrece Joseph](#), was awarded a seed grant from the [Tisch College Community Research Center](#) for her project, DoubleTap4Health: The Development of an Adolescent Community-Based Social Media Health

perspectives on current issues faced by children, adolescents, and families. And finally, if you come to our building and visit the connector, you will see a new digital display featuring weekly announcements, highlighting upcoming events happening at Eliot-Pearson, as well as pictures displaying courses in action and current research projects.

May we all have a productive semester and may the sun shine bright, despite the cold!



Marina Umaschi Bers
Professor and Chair

Featured Story

On Monday, January 14th, Eliot-Pearson faculty members, [Christy McWayne](#) and [Jayanthi Mistry](#), led an all-day professional development (PD) workshop for 23 Boston area [Head Start](#) teachers participating in the [RISE](#) project. The theme of the event was *Blocks and Ramps* and teachers who attended got hands-on experience about how to bring scientific and engineering practices into their classrooms, as well as how to explore cross-cutting concepts like [cause and effect](#), [structure and function](#), and [stability and change](#), with their 3 to 5 year-old students.

Teachers rotated through challenges that included, building a wall capable of withstanding a wrecking ball; determining how to knock down a specific object at the end of a ramp; and getting a marble to go up a ramp. After working on these tasks,

Promotion Program. She will be using the funds to pilot her intervention with a community organization in Boston.

Congratulations



Senior lecturer, [Julie Dobrow's](#), recently published book, [After Emily: Two Remarkable Women and the Legacy of America's Greatest Poet](#), has been named a semi-finalist for the [PEN Bograd Weld prize](#) and long listed for a [Plutarch Award](#) from Biographer's International. Julie was also named recipient of the "[Conch Award](#)" by the Amherst Historical Society.



M.A./Ph.D. student, [Madhu Govind](#), has been awarded the Evans Literacy Fellowship for her work on [Coding as Literacy](#). This fellowship supports research in the Child Study and Human Development program.

teachers were better prepared to take these and other activities into their classroom and use intentional planning to accomplish specific learning goals with young children.

A highlight of this PD was the Gallery Walk, showcasing Home School Collaboration (HSC) activities where teachers access information about home/family routines/expertise and are learning how to integrate that information into the curriculum to leverage children's familiar knowledge and link it to new STE learning. Classroom teachers collaborated with families to infuse their curriculum unit on sound, with families' funds of knowledge.



E-P in the News

[Why Kindergarteners Need to Learn to Code](#)

[From Tufts to STEM Advocate](#)

Announcements

Eliot-Pearson Ph.D. Program Interview Day On Friday, January 25th, we welcome more than 20 prospective candidates to campus to explore Eliot-Pearson.

Publications

[Bers, M. U.](#) (2018). [Coding and Computational Thinking in Early Childhood: The Impact of ScratchJr in Europe](#). *European Journal of STEM Education*, 3(3).

[Leventhal, T.](#), Dupéré, V., & Elliott, M. (2018). Poverty, social inequality, and aggression. In T. Malti & K. Rubin (Eds.), [Handbook of child and adolescent aggression](#) (pp. 268-294). New York: Guilford Press.

[Strawhacker, A.](#) & [Bers, M.U.](#) (2018). [Promoting Positive Technological Development in a Kindergarten Makerspace: A Qualitative Case Study](#). *European Journal of STEM*

Education, 3(3).

[Strawhacker, A., & Bers, M.U. \(2018\). What They Learn When They Learn Coding: Investigating cognitive development and computer programming in young children.](#) Education Technology Research and Development.

[Sullivan, A. & Bers, M.U. \(2018\). Investigating the use of robotics to increase girls' interest in engineering during early elementary school.](#) International Journal of Technology and Design Education.

Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, January 26th
4:00 pm (EST)

Join associate director, Amanda Sullivan, to learn more about Eliot-Pearson's Early Childhood Technology (ECT) Graduate Certificate program.

[Kids in Nutrition \(KIN\) General Interest Meeting](#)

Tuesday, January 29th
7:00 pm (EST)
Eaton Hall, Room 201

A new early education club on campus is seeking members. Learn about volunteer opportunities to teach preschool and elementary students about nutrition and help them cultivate healthy eating habits.

[Family Magic Show with Bonaparte the Magician](#)

Saturday, February 2nd
1:30 pm (EST)

hosted by the Eliot-Pearson Children's School

[Fred Rothbaum Student Presentation Day Planning Meeting](#)

Wednesday, February 6th
7:00 pm (EST)

Evelyn Pitcher Curriculum Lab

hosted by the Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Any graduate student interested in being a part of the planning committee is invited to attend.

Eliot-Pearson Community News



[The Child Health Equity Research Lab \(CHERLab\)](#) investigator and Evans Family Assistant Professor, [Dr. Sasha Fleary](#), has accepted an invitation to serve as a consulting editor for the [American Psychological Association's Clinician's Research Digest: Child and Adolescent Populations](#) publication. The CHERLab also welcomed its newest member, Arya Fleary-Mathews, on December 12th, 2018. Arya spends her days eating, sleeping, and receiving lessons about dinosaurs from her big brother, Alex.



This past Saturday, the [Eliot-Pearson Children's School](#) held a Family Service Day. EPCS families gathered at the school for an afternoon of tidying, mending, restoring, and refreshing their children's classrooms. It was amazing to see how much work parents did and teachers were quite happy to find their classrooms so clean!



Over the winter break, [DevTech](#) collaborated closely with Wellesley's Human Computer Interaction Lab, on prototyping [CRISPEE 3.0](#), a tangible tool to help young children learn about bioengineering. Throughout January and February, CRISPEE will be pilot tested at the Boston Children's Museum. DevTech would like to congratulate their post-doc, [Dr. Ziva Hassenfeld](#), on the birth of her beautiful baby boy, Moshe!



[The Readiness through Integrative Science and Engineering \(RISE\)](#) project is currently undergoing a randomized control trial across 50 Head Start classrooms and has one more [professional development \(PD\) day](#) planned for this academic year. This will be the fifth and final PD for the project's current phase. Investigators are excited to continue working with their [ABCD Head Start](#) partners beyond this implementation year, to create ways to build on what has been learned so far through RISE collaboration.

Donate

Eliot-Pearson's Greatest Needs Funds

Eliot-Pearson Children's School Scholarship Fund

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