

# HDFS Newsletter

September 2011

## A Note From The Editors

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### Also inside:

- Volunteer events
- HDFS social events

Hello fellow grad students! From the building being erected in front of our eyes to the shock of the university campus “coming alive” again, our environment is undergoing some ch-ch-ch-changes... Yet amidst all these changes including our own new additions to the campus community—our new students and

faculty—we feel that the HDFS family has successfully navigated reorganization during this period of family transition. No family interventions needed here! Well, maybe we could use some good ol’ prevention.

Our development and the development of our “family” subsystems are charted throughout this

newsletter. Although development is made of both continuity and change, at the beginning of the semester, change prevails.

Welcome not only to our new first years, but also to this year’s Jena students and our new faculty/staff!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter!

Katie Bamberger  
& Brandon McDaniel

## Welcome First Years!!!



Left-to-Right, Back Row: Quang Trieu, Seung (Peter) Kim, Daniel Loeschinger, Aaron Miller, Megan Maas, Dierdre Hon, Soomi Lee  
Front-Row: Ni Jian, Yin Liu, Brittany James, Julia Terr-Malloy, Mairin Augustine, Concetta Mineo

\*Missing from photo: Kristi Goetz, Claudia Neuendorf

# The Welcome Picnic

The picnic was a great success. There was good food, fun, and conversation. Current students, faculty, and staff loved getting back in touch with each other, while the new students, faculty, and staff began increasing their HDFS social

network! New members of our HDFS family were introduced, and we even had a birthday cake for Doug Teti. It's not often that we have the Welcome Picnic, a faculty birthday, and an EARTHQUAKE all on the same day!!!



Katie Bamberger, Lawrence Lo & Daniel Loeschinger



Rachel Abenavoli, Ni Jian, and Brandon, Jalisa, & Autumn McDaniel



Yin Liu and her husband & daughter



Julia Terr-Malloy, her fiancée, Will & their two dogs.



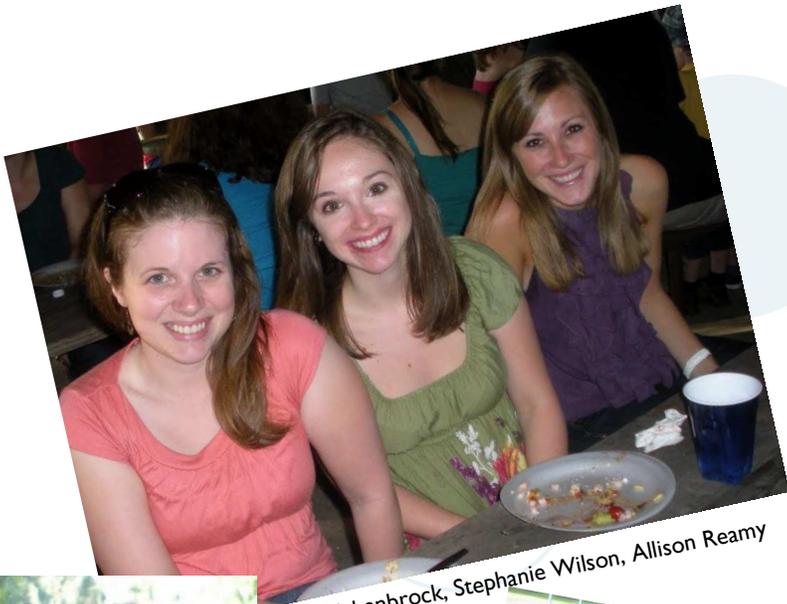
Concetta Mineo, Emily Pressler, and Maryjon Barrineau



Steve Zarit, Quang Trieu, and Peter Kim



Brittany James, Kameron Moding, Mairin Augustine, & Katie Lawson



Diane Lickenbrock, Stephanie Wilson, Allison Reamy



Mina Shimizu & Bo-Ram Kim



*"I never thought the ground would really shake on my birthday!"*

*-Doug Teti*



Nicole Constance, Max Crowley, and Kathleen Zadzora



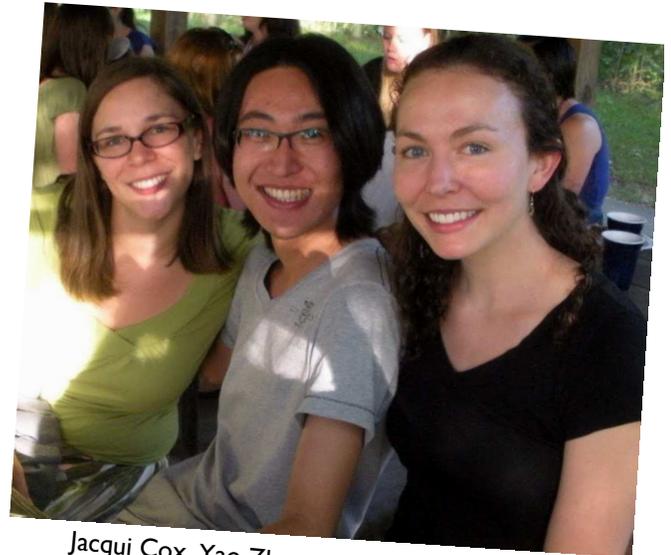
*Doug Coatsworth was introduced as the new graduate PIC starting September 1st.*



Joel Edelstein & Cindy Willner



Aaron Miller



Jacqui Cox, Yao Zheng, and Rebecca Madill

## Meet The First Years

**Advisor:** Cindy Stifter

**Research:** Development of socio-emotional competence, mother-child relationships.

**Educational Background:** M.S. & B.S., Lehigh University

**Bio Fact:** I look forward to getting to know everyone in the department!

**Favorite Hobby:** Singing.



Mairin Augustine



Kristi Goetz

**Advisor:** Bo Cleveland

**Research:** Finding better ways to predict and prevent adolescent drug and alcohol abuse; also how adolescent brain development affects impulsivity and risk-taking behavior.

**Educational Background:** B.A., Washington State University

**Bio Fact:** I am the youngest person in my cohort, but I love learning and want to be a researcher and professor in the future.

**Favorite Hobby:** Taking my dog to the dog park.

**Advisor:** Leann Birch

**Research:** Obesity prevention in childhood through behavior change to diet and physical activity.

**Educational Background:** B.A., Duke University

**Bio Fact:** Grew up in northwest Arkansas. After graduation lived in Durham, NC for 4 years and recently in Providence, RI for 2 years working at the Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center.

**Favorite Hobby:** Reading, mostly fiction.



Brittany James



Ni Jian

**Advisor:** Doug Teti

**Research:** Close relationships (e.g., attachment), emotion regulation and parenting.

**Educational Background:** B.A. & B.S., Peking University (Beida), China

**Bio Fact:** Born in 1989, she is still trying to figure out what she is up to.

**Favorite Hobby:** online shopping

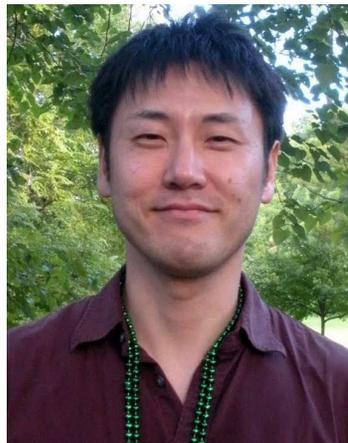
**Advisor:** Mayra Bamaca-Colbert

**Research:** I am interested in conducting research on ethnic minority youth development.

**Educational Background:** B.A., Seattle University

**Bio Fact:** I am really glad to be here! :-)

**Favorite Hobby:** I enjoy traveling and have been to quite a few countries.



Seung (Peter) Kim



Soomi Lee

**Advisor:** Dave Almeida

**Research:** Work and family, each family member's well-being, and employed mothers' coping strategies.

**Educational Background:** B.A. & M.A., Yonsei University

**Bio Fact:** I am a little shy person, but at the same time I am brave and face new challenges every day!

**Favorite Hobby:** Movies.

**Advisor:** Martin Sliwinski  
**Research:** cognitive aging, specifically risk factors for Alzheimer's disease.  
**Educational Background:** M.S., Texas Tech  
**Favorite Hobby:** Swimming.



Yin Liu



Megan Maas

**Advisor:** Eva Lefkowitz  
**Research:** Sexual media exposure as a moderator of psycho-sexual development, as well as other risk-taking behavior in emerging adulthood.  
**Educational Background:** B.A., California State University, Sacramento  
**Bio Fact:** I'm addicted to reality TV, from a purely critical perspective of course. ;-)  
**Favorite Hobby:** Cooking.

**Advisor:** Scott Gest  
**Research:** Socio-emotional development in preschool and elementary children.  
**Educational Background:** B.S., Pennsylvania State University  
**Bio Fact:** I live with my wife Lacy and my two cats, Sam and Max.  
**Favorite Hobby:** "Dungeons and Dragons - yes it's true. No I don't dress up in costumes. Yes you can come over and play too."



Aaron Miller



Concetta Mineo

**Advisor:** Daphne Hernandez  
**Research:** Acculturation and health and whether food insecurity mediates the relationship .  
**Educational Background:** M.S., Villanova University; B.A., Rowan University  
**Bio Fact:** I'm a middle child and a 1st generation American, and I enjoy cooking, laughing, being with my family and fiancée.  
**Favorite Hobby:** Classical and sacred singing.

**Advisor:** Leann Birch  
**Research:** Interventions for childhood obesity in the school and family contexts.  
**Educational Background:** MSPH, Johns Hopkins University; B.S., University of Southern California  
**Bio Fact:** I grew up in Los Angeles, but I've spent the last two years in Baltimore, where I met my fiancée Will.  
**Favorite Hobby:** Running.



Julia Terr-Malloy



Quang Trieu

**Advisor:** Rukmalie Jayakody  
**Research:** Impact of development programs on ethnic minorities in Vietnam.  
**Educational Background:** M.A. & B.A, Brandeis University  
**Bio Fact:** I am from Cao Bang in northern Vietnam and am a member of the Nung ethnic minority group .  
**Favorite Hobbies:** Soccer, Tennis, Table Tennis, International Chess.

**Advisors:** Mark Greenberg & Scott Gest

**Research:** Biophysiological markers to contribute to and assess social and emotional learning for adolescents in school settings.

**Educational Background:** B.S., Loyola University, M.Ed. Harvard University

**Bio Fact:** I lived in Micronesia for 2 years studying aquaculture and marine biology.

**Favorite Hobby:** Athletic activities outside.



Deirdre Hon



## Meet the Jena Students

**Hometown:** Berlin, Germany

**Research:** The context of work, which factors influence career development and satisfaction, how work influences other areas of human development and how we can create a work setting that is most beneficial to individuals within companies, to the companies themselves and to society.

**Project:** Work, Family, & Health Network

**Favorite Hobby:** Traveling the world.



Claudia Neuendorf



Daniel Loeschinger

**Hometown:** Jena, Germany

**Research:** Prevention & Mindfulness

**Project:** Mindfulness-enhanced Strengthening Families Program

**Favorite Hobby:** Spending time with friends.

## New Faculty/Staff

### Greg Fosco

I'm very excited to be joining the HDFS department this fall. My training has been in human development and clinical psychology, where I have studied the implications of family systems processes for children's development. My interests began to broaden during my clinical internship at the University of Washington, which led me to accept a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oregon, studying family-centered preventive interventions for child and adolescent emotional,



behavioral, and substance use outcomes. The opportunity to take a position at Penn State to work with great people in the HDFS department was easy to accept. Here, I look forward to continuing my research interests in family-centered interventions, working to better understand conditions under which interventions are most effective, strategies for effectively engaging fathers

in family interventions, and family mechanisms that account for long-term effects of interventions. To compliment this intervention research, I will also be studying family processes in an effort to better understand how family relationships are interrelated in the process of change over time, and the implications this has for the well-being of the individuals within the family system. These interests will extend to the classroom, where I look forward to teaching classes on family relationships, theory, and interventions.

## Chuck Geier

My research aims to characterize developmental changes in basic affective and cognitive brain mechanisms that underlie components of decision-making in adolescence. In particular, I am interested in understanding brain systems that mediate anticipatory and consummatory (outcome) responses to incentives and how these relate to the development of cognitive control, including inhibitory control and working memory. I am also keenly interested in how risky behaviors, such as cigarette smoking, might be more rewarding to



adolescents than adults and how this, in combination with limitations in cognitive control, might lead to initial experimentation with the drug and dependence. I utilize convergent evidence collected from behavioral and cognitive neuroscience methodologies. Specifically, my work uses oculomotor (eye movement) paradigms with added cognitive demands to investigate developmental

changes in higher-order voluntary behavior.



## Milestones... Congratulations!

Masters	Candidacy	Comps	Final Orals
Susan Doughty -- 8/11	Stephanie Bradley -- 11/10	Daniel "Max" Crowley -- 5/11	Stephanie Anzman-Frasca -- 6/11
Jessica Heckert -- 5/11	Fumiyuki Chin -- 10/10	Emily Doyle -- 5/11	Natasha Dimitrieva -- 8/11
Elizabeth Hunt -- 12/10	Daniel "Max" Crowley -- 11/10	Jessica Heckert -- 8/11	Andrea Finlay -- 5/11
Bo-Ram Kim -- 12/10	Kaylin Greene -- 12/10	Frank Infurna -- 11/10	Katie Gates -- 8/11
Rebecca Madill -- 8/11	Alexis Harris -- 8/11	Kyungmin Kim -- 9/10	Elizabeth "Beth" Riina -- 7/11
Jennifer Morack -- 8/11	Jessica Heckert -- 2/11	Chun Bun "Ian" Lam -- 8/10	Harshini Shah -- 6/11
Elizabeth Muñoz -- 8/11	Bo-Ram Kim -- 11/10	Bora Lee -- 6/11	Sara Vasilenko -- 5/11
	Amanda Leggett -- 1/11	Jeong Eun "JEL" Lee -- 7/10	
	Rebecca Madill -- 8/11	Siwei Liu -- 9/10	
	Gail Mayer -- 11/10	Katie Gates -- 1/11	
	Allison Reamy -- 2/11	Julia Moore -- 10/10	
	Yao Zheng -- 12/10	Phuong Thi Thu Pham -- 8/11	
		Deborah Temkin -- 5/11	

We're pregnant and having the baby in January!  
—Brandon McDaniel

"My husband and I finished remodeling our house in CA which we are now renting out. [...] I think there needs to be more research done on couples who make it through remodels....but we survived! And now it is a good feeling to have an investment together."  
—Megan Maas

Ph.D.	Stephanie Anzman-Frasca -- 8/11	Annie Pezalla -- 5/11
	Harshini Shah -- 8/11	Nissa Towe -- 12/10
	Sara Vasilenko -- 8/11	Kristin Voegtline -- 12/10
	Andre Finlay -- 5/11	

# Survey Results

## What are you looking forward to this semester?

Zac Brown Band concert, Cirque du Soleil, and tailgating for football games!!

Kameron Moding

Finishing data collection for my dissertation (hopefully!)

Lauren Molloy

**“Not being a first-year student!”**

Anonymous

Midlife seminar (FINALLY!)

Bora Lee

I can't wait to work and interact with my new 1st year buddies.

Brandon McDaniel

I am looking forward to the fall after a hot summer - drinking apple cider, picking pumpkins, and watching the leaves change.

Jennifer Morack

Getting into the rhythm of graduate school.

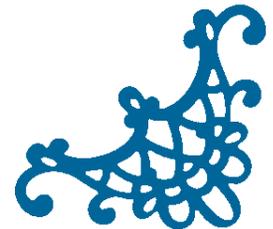
Aaron Miller

Autumn in State College-- crisp, sunny days; leaves changing colors; football season...it's one of my favorite times here!

Mary Geier

Learning to survive the 1st ever "winter" in my life.

Yin Liu



## More to look forward to!

### *HDFS Social Events*

**BOWLING NIGHT!** Thursday, September 22nd at 8:00 pm at Northland Bowl.

**HDFS HAPPY HOUR!** Thursday, October 6th at 6:00 pm. Location TBA

Social chairs this year are Kameron Moding ([kjm5444@psu.edu](mailto:kjm5444@psu.edu)) and Lawrence Lo ([lll180@psu.edu](mailto:lll180@psu.edu))

Look for emails about **COMMUNITY SERVICE** opportunities throughout the year...

Centre County Food Bank

Hearthside Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Habitat for Humanity

Walk-a-thons and 5Ks

THON

Pen Pals

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Centre County PAWS

and email your HDFS Community Service chairs, Stephanie ([sjw5295@psu.edu](mailto:sjw5295@psu.edu)) and Rachel ([rma5183@psu.edu](mailto:rma5183@psu.edu)), with **your** ideas about possible community service events!



# What did you do over the summer?

To kick off the summer, I went to Bonnaroo and saw 4 days of great shows. I also got to visit home for a few days, had a great visit from my mom, and spent lots of time gardening, sitting on my patio, cooking with friends, and eating fresh veggies!

Alexis Harris

I went to Portland, Oregon to see my brother. He works there and lives with his family. My parents came from Korea as well so it was a big family gathering and I got to see my 19 month-old niece for the first time!

Bora Lee

Lots of traveling! Destinations included the Jersey Shore, Nova Scotia and Fundy National Park (Canada), Boston, Philadelphia, and Virginia. Activities included camping, canoeing, hiking, exploring new sights and revisiting old favorites, visiting friends and

family, practicing French, and some much-needed relaxation. I love summer!

Lauren Molloy

Adopted kittens--a mixed-sex sibling pair from PAWS!



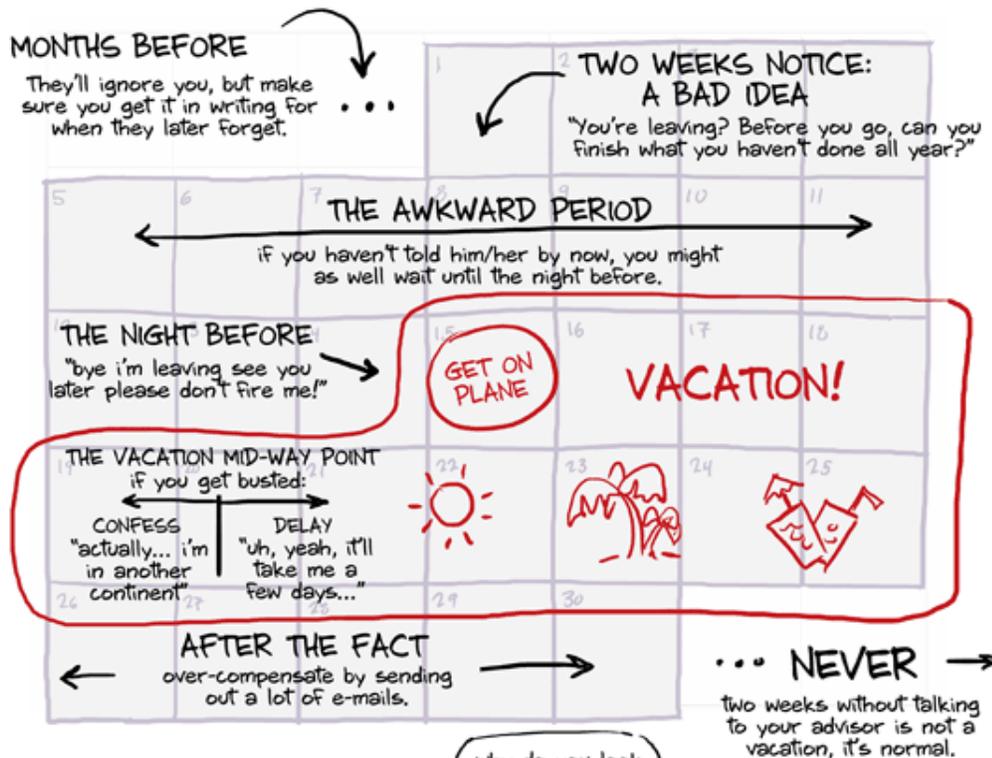
I went to the Mt. Nit-tany winery for the first time with a couple other HDFS'ers. It's a cute little place and the wine was delicious!

Lauren Philbrook

I taught my first undergrad course

Anonymous

## WHEN TO TELL YOUR ADVISOR YOU'RE GOING ON VACATION



## What did you do over the summer? (Cont'd)

I traveled to Sweden with Allison and MaryJon for a course on aging in a welfare state led by our advisor Steve Zarit. Then MaryJon and I traveled to the Netherlands and Belgium.[...]

Amanda Leggett

I traveled to Sweden with a few other students for a class on "Aging in a Welfare State"...studying at the University of Jonkoping for two weeks near Lake Vattern was something I will never forget.

Allison Reamy



*Above: Amanda and MaryJon in Gent, Belgium*

*Left: Allison, MaryJon, Amanda, and Steve Zarit in Statsparken overlooking Jonkoping where they had their class.*



I traveled all over this summer with my family, including Indiana, Texas, and Florida. One of the best parts was getting to take my wife and little girl to Disney World.

Brandon McDaniel



# Faculty/Staff Spotlight

## Mary Jo

### Brief Biography:

I am married to Albert Rossman; I have three children, two girls and I son, Elizabeth, Matthew, Marianne. Marianne lives in Morrisville, NC; Elizabeth lives in West Palm Beach, FL, and Matthew lives in Port Matilda, PA. I have two step-children, Diane and John. Three step-grandchildren, Lance, Clint, and Blake. Two dogs, Chauncy and Leo. I was born and raised in the Centre County area. I would really love to live near the beach who knows maybe that will happen when I retire ;-)



I have worked for Penn State for 40 years. I have been in HDFS since 1988. I enjoy reading, being at the beach, watching college football, softball, watching movies and being with family.

### Could you summarize what your role is with all of us graduate students?

I guess it would be the "watch dog." I make sure that students are following the rules not only for the department but for the grad school too.

### Do you have any advice for the first-year students?

Try not to get too stressed out; take time for yourself and your family; talk to older students and find out how they coped with different stages of the graduate student process. Try to enjoy your time here it will go very fast believe it or not.

### How about the rest of us?

Really the advice is the same. It is very important to take time for yourself and make sure that if you have any questions to please ask. That's why I'm here.

