

Child and Youth Studies News

Welcome to our First Edition of CHYS News!

Announcements

- MA student, Carleigh Sanderson, made the inside cover of the Oct. 22 special “RETHINK” issue of Maclean’s
- Our course coordinator, Jo-Anne Sinnige-Egger, graduated with a Masters in Education.
- MA student, Teresa Hill, is Brock’s 2012 female rower of the year and was nominated St. Catharines oarswoman of the year. Teresa’s MA research is on female light-weight rowers’ negotiation of femininity and athleticism.
- See Dr. Tony Volk’s talk about “A Bully Culture?” on The Agenda, with Steve Paikin (TVO): <http://ww3.tv.o.org/video/185209/bully-culture>

Our department has been active and growing; we now have the most majors in social sciences! We have moved into the freshly built CAIRNS building. Now all twenty five members of our interdisciplinary department are again housed together; we also have a beautiful new meeting room and large graduate student space.

As many know, students in Child and Youth Studies learn about young people through many perspectives, differing research approaches, and across diverse topics. This past year some of our students have had some particularly exciting opportunities. For instance, in May, students in Dr. Heather Chalmers’ CHYS 3V98 travelled to Namibia to work in a school there.

Dr. Chalmers is excited to be offering the opportunity again this summer.

Dr. Voula Marinos’ CHYS 3P39 students have been travelling to London, Ontario to witness different kinds of youth courts in action and Dr. Fran Owens’ CHYS 3P92 has provided students with the opportunity to work directly with children with special needs in the Niagara Region.

Our faculty members have also been busily researching and publishing. For example, Dr. Jan Frijters has just recently gained national attention for his work with colleagues at Yale University on the effects of smoking during pregnancy. Drs. Shannon Moore and Richard Mitchell have recently published an edited collection, *Transdisciplinarity, Politics, Participation & Power Rela-*

tions, and Dr. Hans Skott-Myhre has recently co-edited *Habitus of the Hood*, which draws on a wide range of methodologies to explore how the hood has been lived and represented.

To read up more about what we’ve been up to in CHYS go to <http://www.brocku.ca/chys/>

Cheers,
Dr. Rebecca Raby
Chair



Champion for Children Award

CHYS MA student Nadine Wallace received the Champion for Children Award from Family and Children’s Services Niagara at a reception in her honour on Oct. 25, 2012. Nadine recently chose to depart from her full-time position as a police officer with the Niagara Regional Police after

over twenty years of service working with youth. Nadine also received a recognition gift from the Niagara Regional Police in appreciation of her dedicated service.



Student Innovation Rewarded: Just Add Music!



Little did Katie Atkins and Shailene Lepore know that when they decided to take CHYS 4P04 (Early Intervention and Prevention Systems) in the fall of 2011 they had started on a journey that would see them developing and running an innovative music-based learning program for children and youth.

The major assignment for the course was to research and develop a proposal for a prevention or early interven-

tion program. Shailene and Katie shared an interest in children and youth with learning differences and they loved music, so they decided to combine these interests to create a program that would offer fun ways for children to learn academic skills - JAM (Just Add Music).

Their proposal caught the attention of Frances Hallworth (Executive Director of the United Way of St. Catharines and District) and Mike Lethby (Executive Di-

rector of the RAFT) who have been advisors and mentors for CHYS 4P04 students for several years. They saw the potential for JAM to become part of the After School Program operated as a RAFT/ United Way partnership.

Shailene and Katie offered the JAM program in two locations in the winter of 2012 and are set to get the program running again in 2013.

New Scholarship in CHYS

Thank you to Dr. Dorothy Griffiths, for funding the Doris Griffiths scholarship, after her late mother. The Doris Griffiths Scholarship is awarded to a student entering 4th year CHYS Honours who is completing an Applied Thesis in intellectual & developmental disabilities or dual diagnosis (intellectual disability & mental health/criminal justice needs) focusing on issues of clinical intervention, programme development and/or policy development relating to service delivery.

Interested in directly supporting students in CHYS? Donate to the Child and Youth Studies Scholarship Fund under the category "existing student award" on the following form: http://brocku.ca/webfm_send/19046

Children and Companion Animals

Dr. Christine Tardif-Williams has helped launch several research projects examining children's experiences with companion animals and children's interpersonal understanding.

With the Hamilton/ Burlington SPCA and *Therapy Tails Ontario*, she is researching how educationally-based programs affect how children understand their peers', parents', and companion animals' mental worlds (i.e., emotions, intentions).

This research has led to a new course (CHYS 4P08) and a SSHRC grant with Dr. Sandra Bosacki in the Faculty of Education.

Dr. Tardif-Williams is also collaborating with Chilise Jones-Cowser and the *Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara* to examine the impact of interactions with therapy dogs in the *Reading Rocks* program on children's reading fluency and enjoyment. In a related project, Dr. Tardif-Williams and

Rosemary Tamburini seek to better understand how family members view the role of animal assisted activities for their children who have autism spectrum disorders. Her goal is to advance understanding of the links between children's experiences with companion animals and the manifestation of children's cognitive and social abilities in various contexts.

