

Child and Youth Studies News



Happy 20th Birthday CHYS



Welcome to our CHYS 20th anniversary. Drs. Zopito Marini and Dorothy Griffiths have written a short history of our shift from a loose collection of Child Studies courses, to a large, exciting and established leader in Child and Youth Studies in Canada. Ellen Carter has also composed a brief guide to our placement course, CHYS 2P15, and how it has similarly grown, strengthening ties to the Niagara community and providing our students with placement options that are just right for them. Thank you to Lora Baliukas for newsletter design. Happy 20th birthday CHYS!
Cheers, Dr. Rebecca Raby, Chair

Did You Know That

- ◆ Child Studies first appeared in the UG Calendar in 1979/80, and the Child Studies Concurrent Education Program alongside of it.
- ◆ The CHST BA/BEd was the first Concurrent Education Program at Brock and now there are seven.
- ◆ In 1985 Zopito Marini was the first faculty member with the affiliation of Child Studies.
- ◆ In 1988 Brock Senate approved the Four Year Honours Program in Child Studies.
- ◆ In 1993 Child Studies became a department.
- ◆ In 1998 Child Studies changed its name to Child and Youth Studies.
- ◆ December 19, 1999 Senate #466 approved an MA in CHYS.
- ◆ MA students entered the program in the Fall of 2001-2002

How we got started

Child Studies was officially established at Brock University twenty years ago, but its roots began well before that, when community minded individuals wanted to make sure that the people working with children in Niagara had access to the best knowledge available. Two great people were especially instrumental in making this happen. Dr. Nancy Johnston, now retired professor of psychology and at the time one of the few clinical psychologists working in Niagara, saw the need for well-prepared professionals working with children, and envisioned Child Studies as the key. Dr. William Matheson, a political scientist, and senior administrator at the university, was instrumental in facilitating the inception of the program, guiding it through administrative hurdles. Other people from across the university, Niagara College, and regional social agencies also contributed to these early efforts.

Child Studies started modestly by pulling courses

together from psychology, sociology, education, and physical education. From the beginning, the program was guided by the belief that the best way to contribute to the lives of children was through the simultaneous use of many academic lenses - a unique feature that the program has nurtured to this day as we research and teach along the trans-disciplinary continuum.

Child Studies was solidified through several key decisions. For example, in 1985 the first faculty member [editor's note: this was Zopito himself!] was appointed directly to the program. Soon the program housed a critical mass of faculty dedicated to child studies. Subsequent new hires brought exciting energy, dedication, and vision. A slew of big and small milestones followed, including converting the unit from a program into a full-fledged department in 1993 and acquiring the name of Child and Youth Studies in 1998. Faculty also worked to improve our range of degrees, with an honours program, a master's program, and now a PhD potentially on the way.

From its humble beginnings to the present, Child and Youth Studies at Brock has benefited from people who have made the welfare of the unit their central concern, working hard to make CHYS the best. We are proud of the results: a vibrant, multi-faceted department with a solid reputation for scholarship and teaching, and one that attracts some of the best and brightest students to Brock University to study the lives of children and youth from many perspectives.

Zopito Marini,
Chair from
1993/98



Dorothy Griffiths,
Chair from
2002/05



John McNamara, Kayla Santilli (CHYS Major), Danielle D'Ilario (Big Brothers Big Sisters), Ellen Carter

The History of CHYS 2P15

ment component remained focused on child development within an elementary school classroom.

CHYS majors could now choose to complete either a school placement or non-school placement (e.g. with Big Brothers Big Sisters). The school placements were arranged with -in Concurrent Education and the non-school placements within CHYS.

In 2010 the placement component was removed from CHYS 2F10 and now stands on its own as CHYS 2P15 *Principles of Service-Learning Practicum*. The focus shifted from development to supporting our community.

Service-Learning is a form of experiential learning that is course-based and credit-bearing. Students participate in meaningful service activity that meets an identified community need and reflect on the service activity through course assignments.

Since it's inception in 2010-11 the course instructor has been Professor John McNamara. CHYS 2P15 is a very large and dynamic course as all Concurrent Education students and CHYS majors take CHYS 2P15.

Other members of the CHYS 2P15 team include: Ellen Carter (CHYS Dept.), Ethna Bernat, Lindsay Hayhurst and Jamie -Lee Wheeler (Concurrent Education) and many school and community partners, including:

- ◆ Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara
- ◆ Pathstone Mental Health
- ◆ Powerhouse Project

- ◆ Niagara Recess Project
- ◆ Niagara Children's Centre
- ◆ Thorold Cooperative Nursery School
- ◆ Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- ◆ BBBS Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds
- ◆ BBBS In School Mentoring Program

CHYS 2P15 is unique in that it is a course that is 'turned on its head.' The students are in the community for a significant amount of time and attend class for a shorter amount of time.

Discussion is currently underway about the possibility of delivering the class portion online.

In 2011-12 CHYS experiential learning went international when Dr. Heather Chalmers developed CHYS 3V98 *Resilience in an International Context*. Students attend class at Brock prior to spending 2 to 3 weeks in Namibia. The photo below is the 2012-13 class that travelled to Namibia in May.

Ellen Carter
Course Co-Ordinator



3V98 students in Namibia

Recent Successes

Mapping the New Knowledges Winners

Ann Farrell, Youth University Research Prize

Sierra Holtzheuser, Three Minute Thesis Prize

Ashley Miller, Youth University Research Prize

Successful Defences

Tamara McEachern

Carleigh Sanderson

Ishrat Sultana

Efua Bofo-Arthur

Teresa Hill

Katie England

Sierra Holtzheuser

Announcements

Honours CHYS student, Brittany Marshall was recognized for her work with Pathstone Mental Health promoting mental health awareness, and particularly on reducing stigma.

Staff member, Jo-Anne Sinnige-Egger and Glenda Fortuna, (CHYS graduate) are co-authors for an article in the *Journal of Experimental Education*.

CHYS 2P15 *Principles of Service-Learning Practicum* has been in its current format for four years. The course has a long and interesting history.

Over the past three decades the course has gradually moved away from a sole focus on development and education to reflecting the multidisciplinary of the CHYS program and the varied interests of our CHYS majors.

In 1979-80 the program was called Child Studies and in year two, CHST majors were required to take CHST 210 *Child Psychology* which was cross-listed with psychology, and there was no placement component.

In 1987-88 the course name was changed to CHST 2F10 *Child Development* and was no longer cross-listed with Psychology. It is at this point that the placement component was added with all placements in elementary school classrooms. The focus of the placements was child development.

In 1998 the name of the program was changed to Child and Youth Studies. Accordingly, CHYS 2F10 became Child and Youth Development. The place-