Early Childhood Education PhD Program

Fall/Winter 2016-17 Newsletter

The vision of the early childhood program is to engage in and encourage lifelong learning and produce teachers, researchers and leaders who advocate for and create quality early childhood experiences in early care and education.

NAEYC Professional Preparation Standards

STANDARD 1. Promoting Child Development and Learning
STANDARD 2. Building Family and Community Relationships
STANDARD 3. Observing, Documenting, and Assessing to Support Young Children and Families
STANDARD 4. Using Developmentally Effective Approaches
STANDARD 5. Using Content Knowledge to Build Meaningful Curriculum
STANDARD 6. Becoming a Professional
STANDARD 7. Early Childhood Field Experiences

Honors & Awards

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Fellowship Recipient

Guillermo Mendoza is in his first semester as a PhD student. He has the honor of being the second ETSU student to receive the SREB State Scholarship, following Katherine Madison, who is also an Early Childhood PhD student. The goal of the SREB program is to increase the number of PhD minority students who seek careers in higher education as faculty and staff. It provides many different forms of support, including: financial, academic/research funding, career counseling, job postings, scholar counseling and advocacy, a networking directory, a career fair, and a yearly invitation to the SREB conference, which is hosted in various locations throughout the U.S. Each participant is expected to work closely with a mentor.

Guillermo is working under the mentorship of Dr. Kathryn Sharp, Associate Professor in Early Childhood. His research focuses on English language learners and the techniques or methods that can help teachers to better assist these learners. He completed a master’s thesis introducing, to a preschool teacher, the use of gestures as an aid to learning English. The inclusion of gestures in teaching English to young children is based on Total Physical Response by James Asher. Guillermo has had the opportunity to present for prominent education organizations this Fall.

The SREB program started in 1993 and has existed over 20 years. It has assisted approximately 1,200 students at 94 different institutions in 31 different states and has graduated over 800 students.

Student Resources

➢ Boot Camp: Thesis and Dissertation writing and editing support, workshops, time to write. Four weekend sessions per semester at Sherrod Library.
➢ Emily Frances Redd: REDD@etsu.edu
➢ Graduate Student Success: Assistance with setting and maintaining personal and academic goals when experiencing stress.
➢ Ivy Buerkle: Sherrod Library, Room 462; 423-439-7062; gradsuccess@etsu.edu
➢ Sherrod Library
➢ Graduate Student Support: http://sherdod.etsu.edu/graduates/grad
➢ Dr. Wendy Doucette, Graduate Services Librarian, doucette@etsu.edu
➢ Workshops: http://sherdod.etsu.edu/sites/defaults/files/2015_grad_workshop_dates.pdf
➢ Dissertation Scholarships: For final semester: http://www.etsu.edu/graduate/gradscholarships/thesisdissertations.cha.png

Admission Process

Applicants for the PhD in Early Childhood Education Program are evaluated once each year for admission in the fall semester. Application information deadline is March 15th. The deadline is flexible until enrollment is filled. The program has a number of fellowships to support full-time doctoral students that are awarded on a competitive basis. Admission to the program has the same requirements as existing graduate school requirements plus additional specific requirements:

- Application form
- Application fee ($55 USA or $50 International)
- One official transcript from each institution attended (undergraduate and graduate)
- Personal resume
- Personal essay including a written statement of career and ethical goals, professional experience, and area of interest for a dissertation
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores taken within the past five years. Preferred scores are 80th percentile or higher
- Four letters of recommendation
- A minimum of a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood or a related field from a regionally accredited institution
- An interview with the admissions committee

Early Childhood Education Department

Vision

Faculty Presentations and Creative Activity

Continued


Trivette, C.M. (2016). Let’s make early language and literacy development a village affair. Invited keynote presentation at the Champions Symposium, Columbia, SC.

Trivette, C.M., Garrett, M., Zhao, H., & Landry, C. (2016). Continued practice. Upon completion of each synthesis, they write up two summaries. One summary is the technical report of the project, the other is a simple language report for non-researchers. Following completion of the summaries, a journal article will be submitted containing the full results of the project.


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Meta-Analysis Process (MAP) Group starting with the back row: Hongxia Zhao, Guillermo Mendoza, Tutti Nnyabando, Carol Trivette, Cathy Landy, Ehichoya Edokhamen, Mike Garrett

This group of doctoral and master’s students is working on research syntheses for the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children. They are identifying, screening, coding, and analyzing the research evidence around five DEC-recommended practices. Upon completion of each synthesis, they write up two summaries. One summary is a technical report and the other is a simple language report for non-researchers. Following completion of the summaries, a journal article will be submitted containing the full results of the project.
**Spotlight on Students**

**Dissertation Title:** Seeing the world differently: Professional development bridging science and lay cultures

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2017

Mike Garrett

**Dissertation Title:** Observation and interpretation: Teachers’ beliefs and the impact of intervention on teachers’ meaningful conversations with children in preschool programs

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2017

Gina Wohlford

Currently at ETSU, Mike’s background is in science and mathematics education at the secondary and post-secondary level, particularly in physics, chemistry, statistics, and calculus. When he moved to early childhood education, Michael became interested in how to provide opportunities for authentic science or proto-science work into elementary school classrooms. He organized a small-scale project on dialogueing with 2nd grade students on their representations of the solar system and how standard textbook representations function in learning. He organized another small project on how K-2 children might work together to explore how a bowling ball moves and how they experience force and inertia.

Michael’s fundamental interest is in how models and modeling are woven through science thinking and how a better understanding of this might be used to increase the engagement, attitude, and learning of both children and adults in formal science learning experiences. His dissertation intends to unpack intervention characteristics and the behavior and attitude outcomes for teachers in a professional development workshop using proto-scientific modeling in a culturally sensitive setting.

Currently at ETSU, Michael is adjunct faculty in Early Childhood Education (ECED) and in Mathematics. He is involved in ongoing projects to document and conceptualize emergent curricular planning and is working with a national initiative to develop a process for creating systematic reviews around DEC-recommended practices. Besides continuing his work and teaching around ECED, Michael is interested in teaching statistics and research methods at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**Dissertation Title:** The role of modeling in a culturally sensitive setting.

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2017

**Dr. Amy Malkus**

**Associate Professor**

Dr. Malkus has been faculty at ETSU since 2000. She coordinates the Early Childhood master’s program. She received her BA in Psychology from Washington College in Chestertown, MD. Both her MS in Early Childhood Education and a PhD in Child Development are from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN.

Dr. Malkus authored several scales dealing with the environmental attitudes, knowledge, beliefs, and concerns of children, adolescents, and adults that have been used worldwide and translated into several languages, including Chinese, Korean, Turkish, and Thai. She is currently working with Michelle Johnson, a doctoral student, to develop a scale measuring the nutrition knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors of preschool children.

Dr. Malkus teaches undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral courses, most frequently the Technology and Media in ECE and the Family-School-Community Relations courses, and the PhD-level Advanced Research Seminar.

She is the founding faculty advisor for the ETSU Chapter of the National Society for Collegiate Scholars. She serves on the Board of the Hands On! Regional Museum and as the Co-Chair of the museum’s Education and Exhibits Committee.

**Dr. Kathryn Sharp**

**Associate Professor**

Dr. Kathryn Sharp is an Associate Professor. She taught for Memphis City Schools prior to working in higher education in teacher preparation programs. She currently serves as the program coordinator for the PreK-3 licensure programs. She teaches multiple literacy courses. Literary for young children is one of her main areas of research. Her other research interests include assessment, classroom management, content integration, and teachers’ dispositions. When she isn’t working she enjoys reading, cooking, museums, festivals, and antique car shows.

**Faculty Scholarly Highlights**

**Appalachian Association for the Education of Young Children (AAEYC): Spring Conference.** Contact Beth Huber, Little Bugs Program Coordinator.

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI): Dr. Sharp is a member of ACEI and serves in a leadership position.

ACEI website: http://acei.org/programs/events/current.html

The TN ACEI site: https://www.tacei.org/

**Association for Constructivist Teaching (ACT): October conference.** Proposals are due late Spring, early Summer.

Dr. Broderick is a Board Member of ACT and newsletter editor. ACT’s online journal, The Constructivist, is now a proceedings journal that also accepts outside submissions.

Carolyne Hildebrandt

carolyne.hildebrandt@bryantaedu.com and Mei Muller mimmiller@echwcr.com are the editors.

ACT website: http://www.constructivistassociation.org/

**Association for Teacher Education (ATE): Dr. Sharp is a member.** There is an annual meeting in the Spring and an annual conference in the summer.

ATE website: http://www.ate.org/bda/home.cfm

Division for Early Childhood: DEC Contact Dr. Trivette for this conference. DEC website: http://www.dec-sped.org/proposals

National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE): This conference is always held in conjunction with NAEYC. Proposals come out in May each year. Contact Dr. Evanshen for more information on NAECTE. NAECTE website: http://www.naecte.org/

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): Proposals for both the summer Professional Development Institute and Fall general conferences are usually due in mid to late January.

http://www.naeyc.org/events

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD): http://www.srcd.org/

Southern Appalachian Association for the Education of Young Children (SAAEYC): This conference is held in the Spring.

http://www.saaeyc.org/events

Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA): This conference is held in the Spring.

SECA website: http://www.southernesca.org

Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEEYC): This conference is held in the Fall.

http://www.taeeyc.org/calendar.html

ETSU Early Childhood Conference: This conference is planned for July 13, 14, & 15, 2017. All ECED faculty are contacts for this conference.

http://www.etsu.edu/coe/child/programs/conference/default.php

**Early Childhood PhD Program Co-Coordinators:**

Dr. Broderick, broderick@etsu.edu and Dr. Evanshen, evanshep@etsu.edu

Website: http://www.etsu.edu/col/education/

Apply to the Program: http://www.etsu.edu/gradstu/

ETSU is an AA/TEO Employer. TBR# 220-009.16.1M

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**Participant exploring and documenting her thinking process during Dr. Broderick’s presentation/workshop at NAEYC Fall 2016.**
Fall 2016 Graduates

Student Presentations and Creative Activity

** Doctoral Students noted in bold font.

**Publications**


- This book is for early-childhood teachers to reflect and discover how to tap into and scaffold children’s natural curiosity and creative abilities.

**Presentations**


Dunlap, R. (2016). A coat of many colors. Association for Constructivist Teaching Conference, Houston, TX.

- How can you teach young children to sew? Through the use of the “Project Approach,” this presentation examined the project work that was done within a multi-age preschool classroom on the topic of constructing clothing. The topic was selected by the children after reading the book “Coat of Many Colors” (Portin, 1971). Through the course of the project, the children were able to demonstrate and integrate a multitude of different skills (including language, literacy, fine and gross motor, early math skills, and social skills such as cooperation) as different content areas, into the project work.


- This presentation was targeted for constructivist teachers who teach ELL/ESL students. This presentation highlights the importance of social interaction by teachers with students so that they can build on their language development.


- This presentation highlights methods that can be used to help communicate with small children and to encourage oral language production.


Creative Activity


Voit, T.

- Received a new fellowship to assist with research related to the collaborative relationship between Head Start Children and the ETSU Child Study Center. The fellowship is supported through the ETSU Office of Equity and Diversity.

- Current Chair for the State of Tennessee’s Early, Exceptional and Healthy Children and Families committee.

- Serves on the Board of Managers for the State of Tennessee PTA. She will be presenting at the 2017 Annual Convention for the State of Tennessee PTA on Teaching Children Social Justice.

Honors and Invitations

Yoshizawa, S.A. (2016)

- Featured Speaker – National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

- Book Signing Event at Teachers College Press Booth at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, for book entitled: STEM learning with young children: inquiry teaching with ramps and pathways.

- National STEM Leader (June, 2016) - Fostering STEM trajectories: Bridging ECE research, practice, and policy. Invited by New America for a two-day follow-up event to the White House Early STEM learning event. Washington, DC.

Faculty Presentations and Creative Activity

Broderick, J.T.; Hong, S. B. (2016). Discovering the properties, aesthetics, and concepts related to setting up materials for exploration. The Association for Constructivist Teaching, Houston, TX.


Trivette, C.M. & Conn, C.P. (in press). When life gets in the way: The complexities of supporting families who have a child with autism and live in poverty. In M. Siller & L. Morgan (Eds.), Handbook of Family-Centered Practice for Very Young Children with Autism. Springer Publishing. Continued on back page

Above: PhD Students Guillermo Mendoza and Randa Dunlap with Dr. Broderick (middle) and her colleague Dr. Hong at the Association for Constructivist Teaching (ACT) Conference in Houston in October. Bottom Left: Randa Dunlap presenting at ACT on a Project Approach focusing on content inspired by the Appalachian culture. Bottom Right: Guillermo Mendoza presenting at ACT on using gestures to support language development in ELL in the early years.

Above: New book by Early Childhood Emeritus Professor, Dr. Rebecca Isbell and doctoral student Sonia Yoshizawa.

Below: Sonia and Dr. Isbell guiding creative play at a Colorado professional development workshop in District 11.