Annual Report
2010 - 2011
Strengthening families for life’s challenges.
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“Transdisciplinary” is not a word that easily rolls off the tongue. Yet, it is an approach that guides much of the work at the Family Resiliency Center. Simply put, “transdisciplinary” approaches cut across disciplinary lines, address real-world problems in cooperation with key stakeholders, and often create new bodies of knowledge that could not be predicted before the work began. The Family Resiliency Center supports multiple investigators to address some of the grand challenges facing society today, has developed innovative education programs, and builds on the traditions of a premier land grant institution by maintaining strong connections to our community stakeholders.

Addressing Grand Challenges
Our research programs address some of the most pressing societal problems facing our country today. Teams of researchers are tackling difficult issues around childhood obesity prevention, childhood hunger, and afterschool programming for at-risk youth. All of these programs were developed in consultation with community stakeholders to assure that our research questions were grounded in community norms and had the potential to strengthen the community. Many of the projects begin with focus group interviews to review study materials and gain insight into participant beliefs about barriers to healthy practices.

Innovation in Education
We have systematically integrated education opportunities into our research programs. Through HDFS 494, Family Resiliency Undergraduate Research, more than 80 undergraduate students representing 14 academic departments have received training in transdisciplinary research methods. This has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me as the primary instructor. I have personally seen how students across diverse disciplines such as nutritional sciences, community health, psychology, human development, and agricultural economics, to name a few, create vibrant collaborative teams. A common comment I hear from these juniors and seniors is how valuable it is to work with someone outside their major. I believe it builds their confidence and professionalism—over 70% go on to graduate and professional schools.

Building on the Land Grant Traditions
We are fortunate to be housed in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES). ACES has a long tradition of meeting the food needs of the state, nation, and the world. FRC builds on this tradition by connecting food and family in positive ways through the inception of the Christopher Family Foundation Food and Family Program. We were delighted to receive this generous gift in 2010, which allows us to seed innovative programs and plan for a sustainable future.

Looking to the Future
Since my arrival to FRC in 2008, I have been struck by the vigor and enthusiasm of my colleagues and the community to work together in creating a world-class center dedicated to family resiliency. Over the past three years we have built strong collaborations, an innovative education program, and are gaining national recognition as evidenced by our presence on national advisory boards, positions of leadership in professional organizations, and invited keynote addresses. For the future, we will need to establish a sustainable funding portfolio that includes a more diversified structure. We are confident that this can be achieved given our solid foundation. We are fortunate to have so many strengths to cultivate the next phase of growth.

Barbara
Overview

Mission

The Family Resiliency Center is dedicated to advancing knowledge and practices that strengthen families’ abilities to meet life’s challenges and thrive. The Center accomplishes this through multidisciplinary research, education, and public engagement around four themes: Child and Family Health and Wellbeing; Child Care as a Resource; Immigrant Families and Their Children; and positive Child and Youth Development.

History

The Family Resiliency Center (FRC) began in 2000 as part of a cross-campus initiative of the Chancellor’s office and was made possible by a generous gift from the Pampered Chef, Ltd. From 2000-2010, The Pampered Chef Family Resiliency Programs supported an annual lecture series, seed grant funding, and graduate student fellowships.

Our academic home is in the Department of Human and Community Development, College of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Our Home

In 2006, The Family Resiliency Center moved to its permanent facility as a result of a generous gift from Doris Kelley Christopher, Founder of The Pampered Chef, Ltd. and her husband, Jay Christopher. In addition to housing faculty offices, classrooms, and meeting space, Doris Kelley Christopher Hall houses the Research Home. The Research Home is a unique research facility that simulates a family home with 360 degree recording capabilities. It has a fully functional kitchen, dining and living space. Researchers at the FRC have used this space to conduct observational studies of family interaction, sibling relationships, and family health.

We are grateful for the support from the Christopher Family and The Pampered Chef, Ltd. Their investment in the FRC and its programs has laid the foundation for growth.

FRC Staff

The Family Resiliency Center has four core staff members, including the Director, Assistant Director, Coordinator, and Office Support Specialist. In 2011, Brenda Koester was named Assistant Director, reflecting the expanded role she plays in coordinating professional development activities and policy advancement at FRC. Erin Knowles joined us as full time Program Coordinator to assist in grant preparation, enhance our ever expanding database system, and develop community partnerships. Andrea Fierro, the core of our administrative team, now splits her time between FRC responsibilities and I-TOPP administration. These staff members provide the direction and support for the Center and its affiliated faculty.
Current Support

In 2010, FRC received a generous gift of $800,000 from the Christopher Family Foundation. This five year gift is dedicated to the creation of the Food and Family Program. The Food and Family Program is a transdisciplinary research and education program that connects food and family in positive ways. Seed grants are awarded to faculty members across campus to work on transdisciplinary teams and support graduate student training. Undergraduate students gain valuable field experience through structured course work and supervision.

FRC has continued its partnership with The Pampered Chef, Ltd. through an annual gift to create public service announcements known as Mealtime Minutes. These 45-second video clips depict common mealtime challenges such as sibling conflict and managing strong emotions. Supporting materials, using evidence based information generated by FRC researchers, are accessible on the web and have been distributed at national conferences. The first two PSA’s were selected by West Glen Communications, Inc. to be distributed nationwide as part of their 3rd annual “Give Back” to Nonprofits campaign. FRC website traffic doubled the month the PSA’s aired.

In 2010-2011, the Center has managed more than $1.8 million in sponsored research. An additional $1.75 million is pending external review.

Between 2010 and 2011, FRC distributed $164,000 in seed funding to campus-based researchers to study the complex interaction among food, families, and communities.

Collaborators

Because FRC takes a transdisciplinary approach in all of its work, it is essential to build strong collaborative teams. In 2011, 23 faculty members were affiliated with the FRC through 13 research projects and ongoing collaborations.

The collaborations extend across 11 academic departments and 7 Colleges, including partnerships with faculty from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
The Christopher Family Foundation Food and Family Program distributed over $149,000 in funding to three awardees during the 2010 fiscal year. Little Bites for Healthy Kids, an extension of Abriendo Caminos, focuses on Latino youth programs by encouraging fun, healthy behaviors that assist in improving quality of life and preventing or reducing childhood obesity. The ultimate goal is to provide an intervention tool to be used in after-school youth programming to help reduce instances of childhood obesity.

The Food and Family Program also funded An Evaluation of the BackPack Program in East Central Illinois. The evaluation program seeks to understand the impact of a weekend feeding program on local children’s hunger relief and school performance. Researchers are examining family mealtimes and childhood hunger.

The third project, Healthy Today, Healthy Tomorrow, plans to develop a culturally sensitive, contextually relevant health and nutrition curriculum and assess the effectiveness of workshops for low-income, African-American mothers of preschoolers who live in impoverished Chicago neighborhoods. By focusing on both the mother and child, this program can have an impact across two generations.
Addressing Grand Challenges

The Family Resiliency Center aims to address some of the grand challenges facing the nation and the world. Three areas are receiving focused research attention: childhood obesity, childhood hunger, and afterschool programming for high-risk youth.

Childhood Obesity

One in three children in the United States is overweight or obese. The consequences of childhood obesity include poor health as adults and increased risk for chronic health conditions such as diabetes and cancer. This impact hits close to home as the State of Illinois ranks 4th in the nation in childhood obesity for children aged 10-17. Research conducted at the Family Resiliency Center aims to prevent the consequences of childhood obesity through the identification of markers of unhealthy weight gain during the preschool years and developing community-based programs for families.

The causes of childhood obesity are complex. Although the simple explanation is more calories in than out, children and their families make food choices based on access to healthy foods, exposure to food advertising, beliefs about what constitutes a healthy meal, and personal taste preferences. Additionally, genetic heritage plays a role. In order to address all the multiple factors that may influence unhealthy weight gain during the early years, a transdisciplinary team is needed.

The STRONG Kids Program brings together research, educational programming, and linkages with community programming for a transdisciplinary approach to the study of childhood obesity and health. The research team includes investigators across campus from Communication, Human and Community Development, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Kinesiology and Community Health, Social Work, Medicine, and University of Illinois Extension.

The STRONG Kids panel survey is a longitudinal study of over 400 families drawn from more than 30 child care centers in East Central Illinois. The comprehensive survey assesses exposure to media, child food consumption, mealtime practices, parent health, and neighborhood support to name a few. Child height and weight is also collected yearly from the time the child is approximately two years of age until s/he enters elementary school. Several ongoing subprojects include GIS mapping of access to healthy foods in the grocery store environment, observation of mealtimes in the home, child care (Continued on page 6)
feeding practices, and health literacy. Four of the STRONG Kids investigators submitted NIH proposals during 2011. The proposals received favorable reviews and will be revised and resubmitted. To date, the STRONG Kids Program has generated almost $400,000 in internal and external funding.

A unique aspect of the STRONG Kids Program is the integration of education into field-based research activities. This two-semester supervised research course provides undergraduate students with working knowledge of the theory and applications of mixed methods research used to guide the STRONG Kids program as well as the opportunity to gain “hands on” experience working as part of the transdisciplinary research team. More detail of this innovative program can be found on our website.

Between 1990 and 2000, the Latino population in Illinois in non-metropolitan areas grew by 71%, and Champaign County’s population nearly doubled. As this growth continues, rural communities find themselves underprepared to promote the well-being of immigrant families and their children who are likely to be citizens. The Latino Families in Central Illinois project, developed by Drs. Angela Wiley and Marcela Raffaelli, looks at the well-being of immigrant families in central Illinois. One goal is to identify the strengths, challenges, and critical needs of Spanish-speaking immigrants in predominately European American rural counties. Another goal is to create and provide educational and training resources for immigrants and to increase the resilience of immigrant families and their receiving communities.

Life in central Illinois rural communities appears to offer some unique opportunities and challenges to immigrant families. Respondents, who evidenced relatively high levels of life satisfaction, identified a number of strengths including strong social support, their faith, and community resources. They also noted a number of challenges that sometimes force them to operate in “survival mode” as a way to meet their basic needs including language barriers, documentation, and serious economic issues. The on-going project has resulted in recommendations and opportunities for improving the well-being of immigrant families and their communities.

Drs. Amber Hammons and Barbara Fiese conducted a meta-analytic study to examine the frequency of shared family mealtimes in relation to nutritional health in children and adolescents. Findings in the current literature are mixed with some studies reporting strong relations to health outcomes such as obesity while others report no relation. These inconsistencies make it difficult to inform parents of the relation between family meals and health outcomes. The primary objective was to determine consistency and strength of effects across 17 studies examining overweight and obesity, food consumption and eating patterns, and disordered eating. The total sample size for all studies was 182,836 children and adolescents with a mean sample age ranging from 2.8 to 17.3 years. Pooled odds ratios were calculated. A random effects model was used to estimate all outcomes.

Frequency of shared family meals are significantly related to nutritional health in children and adolescents. Children and adolescents who share family meals 3 or more times a week are more likely to be in a normal weight range and have healthier dietary and eating patterns than those sharing fewer than 3 family meals together. In addition, they are less likely to engage in disordered eating. Educational and public health initiatives aimed at promoting shared family mealtimes may improve nutritional health of children and adolescents. Clinicians may advise their patients as to the benefits of sharing 3 or more family mealtimes per week, such as a reduction in odds of 12% for overweight, 20% eating unhealthy foods, 35% disordered eating and a 24% increase in eating healthy foods.

Dr. Amber Hammons
**Abriendo Caminos** is a community-based intervention program for Spanish-speaking families with children between 5 and 12 years of age. Latino children are at increased risk for developing obesity compared to non-Latino children. This whole family approach to promoting healthy eating and active living is supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson *Salud America!* program. The six-week long workshop series is built upon the idea of “Mas y Menos”, or “More or Less”. Children and parents are encouraged to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables and less salts and fats in the foods that they traditionally cook at home. Traditional folk dancing is offered as a form of physical activity where the whole family can participate. Each family keeps a scrapbook of some of their mealtimes at home and favorite recipes. A fiesta is held at the end of the six-week program where families pass dishes and share how they have altered recipes to reflect their new knowledge. Twenty-two students (17 undergraduates and 5 graduates) participate in research activities with the program. To date, more than 70 families with children 5-12 years of age have participated in Abriendo Caminos.

**Little Bites**, an extension of Abriendo Caminos, is an afterschool program for Spanish speaking children. This bite-size nutrition education program is funded through the Christopher Family Foundation Food and Family Program. In the Spring there were 14 participants in the program.

**Food Insecurity and Childhood Hunger**

Food insecurity, the access by all people at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle, is a growing public health problem in the United States. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA,) as of 2009, food insecurity affects about 17.4 million households and 15.8 percent of households with children were food insecure. Children who are raised in food insecure households are at risk for developing serious physical, psychosocial, and academic problems. For example, children who are food insecure at a young age are more likely to experience anemia, have problems learning in school, and experience anxiety and worry.

With support from the Christopher Family Foundation Food and Family Program and in partnership with the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, researchers at the Family Resiliency Center are conducting an Evaluation of the **BackPack Program**, a weekend feeding program administered by Feeding America and delivered through local schools. In FY2009, more than 3,600 BackPack programs served more than 190,000 children. Locally, the Eastern Illinois Foodbank serves more than 400 students.

To date, little is known about the effectiveness of the program in reducing food insecurity, improving attendance,
Addressing Grand Challenges, Cont’d.

and impact on children’s lives. A mixed-methods longitudinal study is being conducted at the
Family Resiliency Center that uses qualitative interviews of school personnel about their
perceptions of the program and childhood hunger, family survey data, and school
administrative data. Using a control group design, the investigators will be able to
evaluate whether the program affects school attendance, levels of food security, and
family climate using innovative econometric methods. The qualitative interviews have
already revealed interesting effects of the program on the school environment
including the potential for the program to raise awareness of childhood hunger and to
create an ‘ethos of care’ for the entire elementary school building. Over 150 families have completed surveys
about food insecurity and mealtimes, and school administrative data have been collected for over 300 children.

After School Programming for At-Risk Youth

Out-of-school programs provide a unique opportunity for youth development. Yet, little is known about how
to foster positive development in these programs. The Pathways Project is a mixed methods study on how young
people develop skills for self-direction in youth programs, and how these skills transfer to other parts of their
lives. These skills include responsibility, strategic thinking, team work, and skills for navigating the real world.
The goal is to understand the processes and pathways of youth development in ways that are helpful to youth
programs and their staff. This study, funded by the W.T. Grant Foundation, builds on prior research at the Family
Resiliency Center and undertakes a deeper examination of how skills develop over time, how program staff foster
them and how culture comes into play. The study’s interdisciplinary team, led by Dr. Reed Larson and Dr. Marcela
Raffaelli, includes specialists from University of Illinois Extension and University of Minnesota Extension, Arizona
State University, MIT and Binghamton University. Currently, 14 graduate and 4 undergraduate students also
participate in project activities.

The Pathways Project is a two-phase study that employs interviews and
questionnaires to understand the experience of young people in programs, as
well as the experiences of their program staff and the youth’s parents.
Phase 1 engaged participants from four youth development programs in
Central Illinois, Chicago, and Burnsville, Minnesota. Youth, their
parents/guardians, and program leaders participated in research activities
between March and July of 2011. A total of 83 youth, 41 parents,
and 9 program leaders took part in interviews, questionnaires, and/or focus
groups. Individualized reports on the findings have been provided to each
of the participating programs. Preliminary articles are being prepared for
the meetings of the Society for Research on Adolescence.

Twelve youth programs will participate in the subsequent phase of the study, beginning in August of 2011.
The sample is expected to include a total of 240 youth from these programs, the program staff, and the youth’s
parents. Findings will be used to examine how youth’s experiences in the programs help them develop skills like
strategic thinking and responsibility, to understand the expertise of program staff in facilitating this development,
and how youth’s experiences in the program relate to their experiences at home.

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GIS Mapping and Physical Activity

In order to target areas of high risk for obesity intervention, geographic information systems (GIS) software is being used to explore spatial correlations between built environment factors and child energy balance behaviors in the STRONG Kids cohort. Led by Dr. Diana Grigsby-Toussaint, aspects of the built environment such as exposure to neighborhood greenness as measured by NASA satellite imagery and spatial accessibility to food stores are being investigated.

Preliminary analyses indicate that children residing in neighborhoods with higher levels of neighborhood greenness engage in more physical activity. This suggests the importance of improving access to outdoor green spaces to encourage physical activity among children.
The Family Resiliency Center provides educational programming for faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students that is grounded in transdisciplinary research and exposes people to methods and topics that are beyond the scope of traditional courses. These efforts strengthen campus-community connections, spark collaboration, and lead to innovative research and engagement activities.

**HDFS 494: Family Resiliency Center Undergraduate Research Course**

HDFS 494 is a two-semester year-long supervised research course that is designed to provide students with a first-hand experience working as part of a research team. The course also helps them to develop a working knowledge of the theory and applications of transdisciplinary research used to guide the specific research program as well as policy implications. Students have an opportunity to learn from researchers from across campus and develop professional skills such as critical thinking, oral and communication skills and professional work environment skills.

This highly interactive student-faculty experience began development three years ago and has grown to become an official course with two sections: STRONG Kids and Food and Family. Over 80 students have completed the program representing 14 different departments. Students work in teams on research projects throughout the year and present their work through scientific research poster presentations. In April of 2011, fifteen groups of undergraduates were competitively selected to present at the campus-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium with one group invited to give an oral presentation. Students also have the opportunity to present their papers at the Family Resiliency Center Undergraduate Student Poster Symposium that is attended by faculty and administrators from across campus.

In 2010/11, 21 undergraduate students enrolled in the STRONG Kids section which gives students an overview of the multiple contributors to childhood obesity. Students participated in a variety of STRONG Kids Program research activities including biometric data collection of child participants, GIS mapping of food marketing and availability, and assisting with data management and coding. During this same time, 12 students were enrolled in the Food & Family section, which provided students with an overview of the connections between food and family and how those relationships can contribute to child and family health.
Students worked with several FRC research projects on efforts such as collection and compiling school and survey data for the BackPack Program Evaluation, developing supporting materials for Mealtime Minutes, and determining barriers to child care providers participation in CACFP (Child and Adult Care Feeding Program).

Course reflections reveal positive feedback, including examples of how the experience has influenced their career path. In this year’s class over 70% have been accepted or plan to pursue a graduate research or medical career. Pre-and post-tests using the Behavior Change Collaborative Activities Index have demonstrated a positive impact of the STRONG Kids coursework and field experience on students’ attitudes and collaborative activities. Students reported significant gains in developing collaborative skills, gaining insight into interdisciplinary work, and making connections with interdisciplinary researchers.

**Postdoctoral Training**

Two Postdoctoral fellows are currently being trained at the Family Resiliency Center. Dr. Amber Hammons, a Developmental Psychologist from the University of California at Riverside, and Dr. Blake Jones, a Family Psychologist, from Brigham Young University, play an important role in developing new programs and providing statistical assistance to ongoing programs. They have performed a meta-analysis on family mealtimes and nutritional health; are investigating mealtime interactions and potential contributions to childhood obesity; and evaluating the impact of an obesity-prevention program with Latino families. In addition to supporting on-going research activities, the Fellows also provide support and mentorship to undergraduate and graduate students within the Family Resiliency Center and the Department of Human and Community Development.

**Faculty and Graduate Student (Professional) Development**

The Family Resiliency Center provides regular opportunities for investigators and students to participate in professional development opportunities. In 2011, the Family Resiliency Center launched the [Distinguished Family Scholar Speaker Series](#) in which internationally renowned scholars in the fields of family science and human development are invited to give a colloquium that is open to the public. The speaker also meets with faculty and students to provide an opportunity for engaging discussions and professional development.

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**Education By the Numbers**

+ **80** Undergraduates from **14** Departments
+ **70%** Undergraduates Plan to Pursue Research Career
+ **30** Graduate Students
+ **8** Researchers Attending Grant Writing Workshops

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(Continued on page 12)
The inaugural Distinguished Family Scholar was Dr. Hiro Yoshikawa, Professor of Education from Harvard University. Dr. Yoshikawa shared findings from his new book, *Immigrants Raising Children*, which provides an in-depth look at the challenges undocumented immigrants face as they raise their children in the U.S. Over 50 faculty and students attended from across campus.

Another scholarly engagement opportunity is the Food for Thought Brown Bag Series. This series pushes attendees to think outside of their research area by learning techniques, methods, or problems that they would not normally encounter in their daily research activities. Speakers prepare fewer than 9 PowerPoint slides, speak for no more than 20 minutes, and must address challenges working on multidisciplinary teams.

October's Food for Thought was presented by Drs. Brittany Duff and Michelle Nelson, both faculty in the Charles H. Sandage Department of Advertising. Their presentation, entitled “Advertising: Friend or Foe of Healthy Eating?” focused on the use of advertising research for positive change. They argued that advertising for healthy eating can be cool for children and teens. Over 35 people attended the talk and engaged in further conversation on digital advertising (advergames to children) and commercial socialization among pre-school age children and visual attention and media multi-tasking.

The Family Resiliency Center also offers Grant-Writing Workshops aimed at helping new investigators submit grants to external funding agencies. Sessions are held weekly up to the point of submission, offering discussions on Federal grant submission guidelines, tips for preparing strong proposals, budget preparation, and insights into the peer-reviewed process. Experienced investigators offer first-hand accounts of the process, and support faculty during the application process. This year FRC offered two workshops, providing training to eight investigators, resulting in 3 NIH-R21, 1 NIH-R01, and 2 Administration for Children and Families submissions, totaling more than $1.75 million in funding requests.

**Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program**

I-TOPP is a pioneering program creating a new MPH/PHD degree that focuses, in a transdisciplinary way, on childhood obesity prevention. This approach will integrate research in nutritional sciences, child development, economics, communication, family science, public health, kinesiology, community health, and social work to prepare I-TOPP Scholars to be the next generation of transdisciplinary obesity scientists. Scholars will be well-positioned to take leadership roles in academic, medical, non-profit, and governmental institutions.

Led by Director Dr. Sharon Donovan, and Co-Directors Drs. David Buchner, Barbara Fiese, and Rodney Johnson, the I-TOPP team brings together ten co-investigators from six different colleges to drive this innovative training opportunity.

I-TOPP is a five-year, $4.5 million program supported by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. I-TOPP Scholars will receive a generous stipend, tuition-assistance, research and travel funds. The first group of Scholars will start in the fall of 2011.
Illinois Action for Children

The Family Resiliency Center has partnered with Illinois Action for Children on the Early Childhood Health and Food Project. The goal of this project is to increase understanding of the challenges that child care providers face around food and early childhood health. We translate research findings so that they can be used by advocates, partner agencies, early care and education providers, families and policy makers. Illinois Action for Children is recognized at the state and national level as a catalyst for organizing, developing and supporting strong families and powerful communities where children matter most. FRC is also providing advocacy mentoring for Child Care Resource Service staff and area child care providers.

In 2011, the Family Resiliency Center hosted a Legislative Breakfast to educate policy makers on the important role that early care and education plays in the healthy development of children. In addition to legislators, the event was attended by area child care center and home providers and staff from the Child Development Laboratory and the Child Care Resource Service. Speakers stressed the need for access to healthy, affordable food; role of food subsidy programs such as the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program, affordable quality child care; and obesity prevention efforts. Senator Michael Frerichs (52nd District) and Representative Naomi Jakobsson (103rd District) attended the event.

Illinois Action for Children held their 14th Annual “Illinois Action for Children Conference and Day at the Capitol” in Springfield, IL on March 29, 2011. FRC Director Barbara Fiese provided the keynote address, sharing an important message on healthy eating and physical activity in early care settings. She encouraged attendees to Act Boldly to Care for the children in their charge by serving more fresh fruits and vegetables and sharing routine physical activities such as toddler twister games.

Illinois Kids Count 2010

The Family Resiliency Center partnered with Voices for Illinois Children to release the 2011 report: "Great at Eight: Investing in the Whole Child from Birth to Eight". The report provides an annual look at data that illustrates the quality of life for children throughout the state of Illinois. The goal of the report is to inform families, communities, and policy makers on child-related issues, and aims to enhance discussions on providing healthier, improved futures for all children. The 2011 report focused on the factors that ensure that children are able to succeed in school.
Representatives from United Way of Champaign County, the Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department, and Champaign Unit #4 Schools joined FRC staff in speaking at the press conference. Speakers highlighted the importance of early learning on school readiness as well as the role that factors such as poverty, child health, and educational supports play in ensuring that children are ready to learn by the age of eight.

The Autism Program at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Autism Program at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (TAP) is one of five Training Centers state-wide that were established by the Illinois Legislature. TAP works in collaboration with University and community partners to increase the quality of life for those living with autism spectrum disorders. They provide support for both families and organizations by acting as a resource and referral center through consultations, diagnostics, training, technical assistance for professionals and programming that is considered “best practice” in the field. Resources are also available on a drop-in basis at The Autism Program Resource Center.

TAP is run by one full-time and one part-time staff member and supported by approximately 20 interns who come from six different departments throughout 5 different colleges on campus. As state funding has decreased by almost 9% in the last two years, TAP has successfully managed to increase services and provide outstanding support to families. The Family Resiliency Center is pleased to provide space in Doris Kelley Christopher Hall, to lend stability so TAP can continue to provide quality best-practice support to families affected by autism spectrum disorders.

"Thank you for sharing your expertise with me this morning. It really helped me to figure out what is important...and what is not."

- Parent

Innovation Summit: Building Bridges to Interdisciplinary Learning at Illinois, Integrating Education and Research

Dr. Barbara Fiese, FRC Director, served as co-chair of the Innovation Summit that was hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The summit was aimed at stimulating discussions around interdisciplinary research and education. She was joined by co-chair Tamer Baser, Swanlund Endowed Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The summit was spurred by students asking for more cross-disciplinary learning opportunities and challenged faculty and students across campus to re-examine principles of interdisciplinary education.

Transdisciplinary Approaches to Childhood Obesity Workshop

Twenty-five workshops were held during the three months leading up to the Innovation Summit, including FRC’s Transdisciplinary Approaches to Childhood Obesity. The workshop’s purpose was to advance transdisciplinary education, research and community programming in the region and to reduce the incidence of childhood obesity and promote healthy eating and active living for all families. The workshop was attended by more than 50 participants representing 20 disciplines from across campus, including participation from community organizations. Workshop speakers
provided a foundation point for afternoon discussions that focused on identifying current activities related to obesity studies and health promotion in the region and developed recommendations for removing barriers working across stakeholders. Participants also worked to identify next steps in creating an Illinois signature to reducing childhood obesity.

Ready. Set. Grow!

The Family Resiliency Center was once again a participant in the second annual United Way of Champaign County’s Ready. Set. Grow! event. Ready. Set. Grow! provides families with young children access to information and resources to help promote healthy growth and development. FRC staff served on the planning committee and also participated in the event as a vendor, providing information and resources such as mealtime conversation cards to inquiring parents. Over 400 community members attended this successful event.

CU Fit Families

FRC is a founding member of C-U Fit Families, a coalition of campus and community organizations committed to promoting healthy eating and active living at home, in school and child care settings, and throughout the community. Over the past year, the group has sponsored educational activities for families, hosted a breakfast for community leaders, identified community needs, and facilitated communication among more than 30 different organizations that have an interest in family health and wellness. C-U Fit Families received a grant in the Spring of 2011 from the University of Illinois’ Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement, which allowed C-U Fit Families to hire a project coordinator.

Sprouts at the Market

Urbana’s Market at the Square, a regional farmer’s market, offers a monthly program, Sprouts at the Market, aimed at children ages 3-8 years. The purpose of the program is to encourage young children to try new foods, help them learn more about where food comes from and who grows it, and why fresh fruits and vegetables are good for you. FRC collaborated with Sprouts at the Market to offer “Eat a Rainbow” that encouraged families to find fruits and vegetables of various colors as well as offered tasting opportunities.
# Family Resiliency Center

## Staff

### Core Staff

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<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Role and Affiliations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Fiese</td>
<td>Professor and Director, Family Resiliency Center; The Pampered Chef, Ltd. Endowed Chair in Family Resiliency; Affiliated Professor of Pediatrics and Psychology; Department of Human &amp; Community Development; College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Koester</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Family Resiliency Center</td>
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<td>Erin Knowles</td>
<td>Family Resiliency Center Coordinator</td>
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<td>Andrea Fierro</td>
<td>Office Support Specialist</td>
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### Postdoctoral Fellows

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<td>Amber Hammons</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow</td>
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<td>Blake Jones</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow</td>
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### Project Coordinators

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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Themanson</td>
<td>STRONG Kids Program</td>
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<td>Barbara Anderson</td>
<td>Family Approach to Asthma Management (FAAM)</td>
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<td>Jessica Armstrong</td>
<td>The Pathways Project (Proyecto Caminos): Youth, Programs, &amp; Parents</td>
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<td>Milagros Jarrell</td>
<td>Abriendo Caminos</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**The Autism Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linda Tortorelli</td>
<td>TAP Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Hall</td>
<td>Project Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Family Resiliency Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Department</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Bost</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies Department of Human &amp; Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Donovan</td>
<td>Professor of Nutrition; Melissa M. Noel Chair in Nutrition and Health Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition; Department of Pediatrics College of Agricultural,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consumer and Environmental Sciences; College of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Ebata</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Extension Specialist Department of Human</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&amp; Community Development College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Fiese</td>
<td>Professor and Director, Family Resiliency Center The Pampered Chef, Ltd. Endowed Chair in Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resiliency Affiliated Professor of Pediatrics and Psychology Department of Human &amp; Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Development College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marian Fitzgibbon</td>
<td>Professor of Medicine and Health Policy and Administration; Deputy Director Institute for Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research and Policy (IHRP); Director, Section of Health Promotion Research - Department of Medicine;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Associate Director, UIC Cancer Center’s Program for Cancer Control and Population Science; Director,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center; Director, Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promotion Research Program, IHRP University of Illinois at Chicago: Institute for Health Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Policy (IHRP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Grigsby-Toussaint</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Kinesiology and Community Health Department of Kinesiology and Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health College of Applied Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Gundersen</td>
<td>Executive Director, National Soybean Research Lab Professor, Agricultural and Consumer Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen Harrison*</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Communication Department of Communication College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(As of 08/01/2011, Professor of Communication Studies at University of Michigan)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Jarrett</td>
<td>Professor of Human Development and Family Studies and African American Studies and Research Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Human &amp; Community Development; Department of African American Studies College of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karrie Karahalios</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Computer Science Department of Computer Science College of Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Family Resiliency Center**

**Affiliated Faculty, continued**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>College</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leanne Knobloch</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Communication</td>
<td>Department of Communication</td>
<td>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Kramer</td>
<td>Associate Dean of Academic Programs, ACES; Professor of Applied Family Studies; Former Director of Family Resiliency Center</td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed Larson</td>
<td>Professor of Human Development and Family Studies</td>
<td>Department of Human and Community Development; Departments of Psychology, Educational Psychology, Kinesiology, and Recreation, Sport, and Tourism</td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Liechty</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Social Work</td>
<td>School of Social Work, College of Medicine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent McBride</td>
<td>Professor and Director, Child Development Laboratory</td>
<td>Department of Human &amp; Community Development</td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy McElwain</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies and Psychology</td>
<td>Department of Human &amp; Community Development; Department of Psychology</td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Odoms-Young</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Kinesiology and Nutrition</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Chicago: Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition</td>
<td>College of Applied Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Institute for Health Research and Policy (IHRP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Quick</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Communication</td>
<td>Department of Communication</td>
<td>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcela Raffaelli</td>
<td>Professor of Human and Community Development</td>
<td>Department of Human &amp; Community Development</td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Roismann</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Psychology</td>
<td>Department of Psychology</td>
<td>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connie Shapiro</td>
<td>Professor, Family Studies</td>
<td>Former Director Family Resiliency Center</td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarita Teran-Garcia</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition</td>
<td>Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition</td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Wiley</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Applied Family Studies and Extension Specialist</td>
<td>Department of Human &amp; Community Development</td>
<td>College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Publications

Faculty Publications 2010-2011

Peer Review Journals


Grigsby-Toussaint, D., Moise, K, Geiger, S.D. (2011) Observations of Marketing on Food Packaging Targeted to Youth in Retail Food Stores. *Obesity, doi*: 10.1038/oby.2011.120


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In Press


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Publications

In Press, Cont’d.


Books


Invited Book Chapters


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Books, Cont’d.


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Director: Barbara H. Fiese, PhD
Assistant Director: Brenda Koester, MS
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