Fall 2019 Collaboration
Benefits Student Futures

Family and Consumer Studies (FCS) and Utah Institute For Teacher Education (UITE) will introduce the newly re-vamped Early Childhood Education Emphasis with a K-3 Teacher Licensure pathway this Fall 2019. The collaboration between these entities will provide students with a highly desirable license to teach Kindergarten through third grade. There is a ninety-nine percent hire rate for licensed graduates. The FCS interdisciplinary courses provides students with a strong foundation in early childhood social emotional and cognitive development, creating stronger teachers in the classroom.

For more information about the pathway to licensure K-3 program please contact one of our FCS advisors:

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Or email: advisor@fcs.utah.edu

About the Program…

- Faculty, advisors and staff are commited to staying with students throughout the entire process.
- ECE teaching degree and licensure is a highly desirable degree.
- Focus is on the "whole child" from birth through third grade.
- Hands-on training in the FCS, NAEYC certified early childhood lab school.
- JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!! and a flexible future. 99% hire rate for ECE licensed teachers.
Q&A with Assistant Professor David Curtis

Tell us a little about your education background...

My educational background is multidisciplinary, starting with a B.S. in Psychology, then a M.S. in Couple and Family Therapy, and finally a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies. My doctoral advisor at Auburn University was a lifespan developmental psychologist but he also had training in population health science; my training was similarly broad with emphases in lifespan development, health disparities, and quantitative methodology.

What research are you currently working on?

I am currently developing two research projects, each seeking to understand how the built and social environment of communities contributes to racial and economic inequities in health. For both of these projects, I have involved undergraduate research assistants. They presented their work at the recent University and College symposiums.

The overarching aim of Project 1 is to identify whether economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in the Wasatch Front have poorer access to quality recreational amenities, and whether the distribution of such amenities is associated with obesity and other weight-related health outcomes. The project will also investigate whether neighborhood characteristics (e.g., crime, walkability) influence the benefits of recreational amenities, and how pre-existing obesity vulnerability (e.g., familial risk) is exacerbated by neighborhood contexts.

Project 2 aims are twofold. Aim 1 is to investigate structural factors that disadvantage black Americans—such as prevalence of anti-black racial prejudice, financial inequities, disproportionate crime exposure, and poor healthcare access—as contributors to the elevated risk of adverse birth outcomes (e.g., preterm birth) among black women. Aim 2 is to estimate the effect of high publicity racist events on the risk of adverse birth outcomes for black women. This aim examines variation in the timing and location of killings of unarmed black Americans, and the amount of ensuing media exposure, to strengthen the evidence for causal population health effects.

What you are enjoying about being a part of the University of Utah family?

Great students, willing mentors and scientific collaborators, and supportive administrative staff have made the transition to the University of Utah as seamless as possible. The beautiful trees and scenery and well-designed campus buildings (e.g., Gardner Commons) have further enriched my experience here.

What do you enjoy about living in Utah?

Returning to my childhood home has been a delight, especially the ready access to beautiful mountains. Trail running and mountain biking provide a nice balance to my professional demands.
Barbara Brown's Bird Strike Project

The Beginning:
The faculty were gathered in the conference room when – BOOM! A bird hit the window. Many people may not have thought much about it, but not FCS Professor Barbara Brown. Forty minutes later she was outside looking at a dazed Cedar Waxwing. She noticed that there were at least a half dozen bird carcasses along the northern edge of the Alfred Emery Building.

Brown began documenting which species of bird was found and the location of the body. During the winter months, the reflective mirrors on the north side of AEB proved especially lethal for the Cedar Waxwings who visit President’s Circle drawn by the food from the pear and crabapple trees.

After sharing her concerns with students and others, they began investigating bird window collisions. These collisions kill up to one billion birds in the U.S. each year. The deaths are often avoidable. The Alfred Emery Building’s windows have a mirrored design that is intended to mirror the landscape, unfortunately birds cannot tell the difference between the sky and trees in a mirrored surface and the real sky and trees. When you combine food source or shelter trees with reflective windows, the birds see the reflection as an extension of the habitat and fly full speed to their deaths.

The research suggests that birds need a visible external signal, like a small dot, on the external surface of windows or built in to the windows in the form of ceramic frits or ultraviolet spider web design. However, research is rarely carried out in real world settings to determine if this prevention is effective.

Little did the birds of President Circle know, but they were about to become Barbara Brown’s test subjects.

Stay tuned for Part II of Barbara Brown’s Birdstrike Project - The Window Treatments in the Fall Semester 2019 FCS Newsletter