

2014

Rudd Chair Annual Report 2014

Harold D. Grotevant

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Rudd Family Foundation
Chair in Psychology

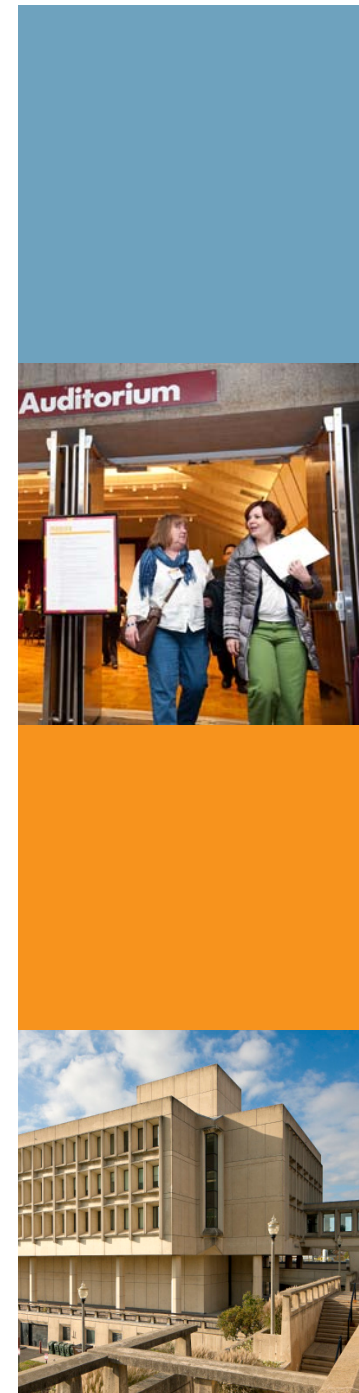
ANNUAL REPORT 2014

UMassAmherst

Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology

The Rudd Family Foundation Chair is located within the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is affiliated with the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Families. The program conducts state-of-the-art research on the psychology of adoption that will impact policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels. It also trains postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, and undergraduate students in theories and methods needed for the study of adoption. Conferences, workshops, and publications disseminate research-based information needed by practitioners, policy makers, and the public. And through key community partnerships, the Rudd Adoption Research Program demonstrates how adoption research can transform policy and practice for the benefit of all whose lives are touched by adoption.

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From the Chair

Dear Friends,

The reach of the Rudd Chair continued to expand in 2014 in research, community engagement, global connections, and policy. This report summarizes our activities for calendar year 2014. In addition to cataloguing accomplishments and milestones, we also wanted to use this report to give you an on-the-ground sense of what we are learning and doing... so we hope you will enjoy some of the more extended discussions of our projects and findings.

Global perspectives are critical to an understanding of adoption. Although adoption has been known since ancient times, it is experienced and viewed differently in different cultures. Adoption is also a global phenomenon, with over one million children being adopted across national borders since World War II. Therefore, understanding adoption, its issues and effects requires a global perspective. In light of this reality, and with thanks to funding from the university's International Programs Office and a fall sabbatical leave, I was able to travel to meet with a number of international adoption colleagues, exchange ideas about our work, and strengthen or establish connections that will have benefits long into the future. This report includes a personal account of my travels; I hope it conveys my excitement about these opportunities.

This year also brought the Rudd program squarely into the policy arena, with my appointment by Governor Deval Patrick to the Adoption Task Force, charged with examining issues of cost and length of time to adopt in Massachusetts. Rudd program staff took the lead on administering, analyzing, and reporting data from a survey of parents in the commonwealth who had adopted in the past five years. Information about the process and our findings is included in this report as well.

The past year was also one of transition in our home department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. Our long-time department chair, Dr. Melinda Novak, decided to return to the faculty, and I was selected to succeed her, beginning in January, 2015. Fortunately for us, Dr. Novak will continue as a member of the Rudd program

advisory board. My new role will provide opportunities to reach an even wider audience with the work of the Rudd program; we are looking forward to the year ahead.

Finally, 2014 saw the publication of the first-ever chapter on adoption to appear in the Annual Review of Psychology, authored by me and Rudd program faculty affiliate Jennifer Martin McDermott. The Annual Review has one of the highest impact ratings of all publications in psychology because of its long history, its reputation for being an authoritative source, and its reach to the whole field and beyond. I would be happy to e-mail readers a copy of our chapter, "Adoption: Biological and Social Processes Linked to Adaptation" upon request.

I invite you to review this report of our activities in 2014 and see for yourself the exciting ways in which our programs have developed. As always, we express our continuing thanks for the generosity of Andrew and Virginia Rudd and for our growing number of individual donors and organizational funding partners who make the work possible every day.

With best wishes,

Harold D. Grotevant, Ph.D.
Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology
hgroteva@psych.umass.edu

Rudd Adoption Research Program



The Rudd Adoption Research Program is the primary vehicle through which the activities of the Rudd Chair are carried out. The program is located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and is closely affiliated with the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Families. The Rudd Adoption Research Program advances knowledge about the psychology of adoption through original research, mentors the next generation of adoption-competent researchers, engages with community partners to incubate and evaluate innovative programs that have potential for national impact, and provides research-based information to influence practice and policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

The program seeks to develop synergy among scientists, practitioners, and policymakers from varied disciplines who share interests in the many topics relevant to adoption. The ultimate goal of these activities is to contribute to evidence-informed practice in adoption and to provide research-based information that will influence policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels. The Rudd program continues to play leadership roles in two exciting university-community collaborations: the Adoption

Mentoring Partnership and Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America. Program staff have also initiated several collaborations in the local community: with adoptive parents at UMass, in the schools, with the public library, and more. The work of these community partnerships cuts across all program goals, as you will see in their descriptions that follow.



Reaching Our Goals

Advancing Knowledge about the Psychology of Adoption



The Rudd Adoption Research Program is currently home to two major adoption studies: the Minnesota Texas Adoption Research Project (Hal Grotevant, principal investigator) and the Contemporary Adoptive Families Study (Rachel Farr, principal investigator). In addition, research data are being collected in association with the Adoption Mentoring Partnership and Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America partnerships; see the “Community Partnerships” section for details on the latter two projects.

Minnesota Texas Adoption Research Project



Dr. Grotevant continued to serve as the principal investigator on the Minnesota / Texas Adoption Research Project (MTARP), a longitudinal research study that focuses on the consequences of variations in openness in adoption arrangements for all members of the adoptive kinship network: birthmothers, adoptive parents, and adopted children, and for the relationships within these family systems. The sample includes children adopted domestically as infants through private adoption agencies across the United States. The project began in the mid-1980s in collaboration with Dr. Ruth G. McRoy, currently the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professor in the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. Dr. Grotevant and colleagues have completed four waves of this longitudinal study: when the adopted children were school age, adolescents, emerging adults, and young adults. Collection of the fourth wave was completed in 2014.

One study published in 2014 (Grant-Marsney, Grotevant, & Sayer, 2014) examined whether adolescents' closeness to adoptive parents (APs) predicted attachment styles in close relationships outside their family during young adulthood. Closeness to adoptive mother and adoptive father was assessed in 156 adolescents who

participated in Wave 2 of MTARP ($M = 15.7$ years). Approximately nine years later ($M = 25.0$ years), closeness to parents was assessed again as well as attachment style in their close relationships. Multilevel modeling was used to predict attachment style in young adulthood from the average and discrepancy of closeness to adolescents' adoptive mothers and fathers and the change over time in closeness to APs. Less avoidant attachment style was predicted by stronger closeness to both APs during adolescence. Increased closeness to APs over time was related to less anxiety in close relationships. Higher closeness over time to either AP was related to less avoidance and anxiety in close relationships. These findings suggest that security in parental closeness leads to an internal working model of relationships that provides the basis for developing new relationships outside the family as a young adult (less avoidance), most likely a result of having encouraging close relationships in one's family that lead to comfort in seeking out new relationships.

MTARP studies also focused on the transition to adulthood for adoptees varying in contact with birth relatives (Farr, Grant-Marsney, & Grotevant, 2014; Farr, Grant-Marsney, Musante, Grotevant, & Wrobel, 2014). As adoptees transition to adulthood, their roles in the family may shift, providing them with opportunities to have increasing autonomy in their decisions about contact and initiating conversations about adoption. Research has often focused more on adoptees as children, yet in emerging adulthood, there are important shifts in the life roles and relationships of adoptees during which adoptive parents continue to be meaningful. This study examined associations among attachment and communication within the adoptive family during adulthood with emerging adult adoptees' experience of birth family contact (frequency of and satisfaction with birth family contact), in a sample of 167 emerging adults (MTARP Wave 3) with varied contact with birth family (from no contact to frequent contact). Results suggest that perceptions of secure parent-child attachment relationships, as well as sensitive and open

communication with adoptive parents about adoption, continue to be important for emerging adult adoptees and lead to greater satisfaction for adoptees with birth parent contact—regardless of whether adoptees actually have birth family contact. In particular, positive family communication about adoption during adulthood was predictive of satisfaction with birth parent contact.

MTARP efforts are now turning toward integration of the newly-completed Wave 4 with the larger longitudinal data set. We also continue to disseminate work from this project in diverse media. In November 2014, Drs. Grotevant and McRoy participated in an hour-long interview on the internet radio program, “Creating a Family,” hosted by Dawn Davenport. The complete podcast of this interview may be accessed at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/creatingafamily/2014/11/19/why-consider-open-adoption-how-to-do-it-well>.

Primary support for the Minnesota Texas Adoption Research Project has come from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Science Foundation, the William T. Grant Foundation, and the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, UMass Amherst.

Contemporary Adoptive Families Study

Dr. Rachel Farr, research assistant professor of psychology (and former postdoc with the Rudd program), has actively contributed to new knowledge about the psychology of adoption through her Contemporary Adoptive Families Study (CAFS), a large study of adoptive families from across the United States, headed by lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parenting couples, all of whom had completed domestic infant adoptions. The study has examined the ways in which parental sexual orientation impacts child outcomes, parenting, and family dynamics in adoptive families with preschool-age children in Wave 1 of data collection. Wave 2 data collection was completed in the summer of 2014, with children in middle childhood (on average, eight years of age). Data collection for Wave 2 of CAFS involved visits to participating families' homes, during which children and parents were interviewed, completed a series of online questionnaires, and families participated in two videotaped interaction tasks. Children's teachers also provided data for Wave 2. In addition to continuing to examine the impact of family structure over time, in this second wave of the study, adoption-related dynamics are being investigated as related to child, parent, and family outcomes. These adoption-related dynamics include children's understanding of adoption, how families talk about adoption, contact with birth families, and transracial adoption dynamics.

One emerging direction for the data collected in Wave 2 of CAFS regards children's feelings of difference, experiences with microaggressions, and demonstrating resiliency as a result of having same-sex parents. Limited research exists about the possible victimization and psychosocial development of children with same-sex parents, particularly those adopted by lesbian and gay (LG) parents. Thus, an aim of CAFS is to expand research on the experiences of adopted children with same-sex parents, specifically instances of microaggressions, awareness of difference, and resiliency. Our team of researchers used thematic analysis to code video-recorded interviews from 49 children ($Mage = 8$ years; 23 girls, 26 boys) representing 27 two-dad families and 22 two-mom families. Our findings revealed that children exhibited awareness of family diversity (66 percent of sample), reported feeling “different” having LG parents (79 percent), experienced microaggressions on the basis of having LG parents (58 percent), and showed resilience despite adversity (70 percent), including positive expressions about their family. Microaggressions were frequently initiated by peers and occurred at a low intensity. The number of microaggressions and reports of “feeling different” were not significantly associated with parent or teacher reports of children's behaviors. Rather, teachers' reports of greater internalizing, externalizing, and total problems were significantly associated with children having fewer positive feelings about having LG parents. Our findings are important in indicating that adopted children with LG parents are capable of navigating experiences of difference with resiliency and developing positive family conceptualizations. As children showed better behavioral adjustment in school when they felt positively about having LG parents, these results offer implications for teachers and parents in supporting children's healthy sense of self and family identity.

Several other directions of analyzing data from Wave 2 include graduate student research projects about how lesbian and gay parents socialize their children around issues of family diversity and their own family structure and about how adoptive parents in transracial adoptive families engage in practices of racial and cultural socialization with their children, as well as an undergraduate honors thesis project about birth family contact at Wave 2 of CAFS

The Contemporary Adoptive Families Study has received funding from the American Psychological Foundation's Placek Grant (awarded to Rachel Farr), the Williams Institute at UCLA and the Lesbian Health Fund (awarded to Charlotte J. Patterson), the American Psychological Association Dissertation Award (awarded to Rachel Farr), and the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, UMass Amherst.

Reaching Our Goals

Providing Evidence-based Knowledge to Inform Adoption Policy and Practice

“It is invaluable to hear stories and life experiences of adoptive parents.”

The Rudd Adoption Research Program sponsored the sixth annual Rudd Adoption conference, “New Worlds of Adoption: Helping Families Overcome Early Adversity” on April 11, 2014, on the UMass Amherst campus. The 225 participants enjoyed a full day of presentations all centered around overcoming early adversity. External conference co-sponsors included the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work and the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. UMass Amherst co-sponsors included the College of Education, College of Natural Sciences, Neuroscience and Behavior Program, Center for Research on Families, and Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences.

The opening plenary session, “Innovations and Best Practices: Helping Adoptive Families Overcome Early Adversities” was presented by Dr. Philip Fisher of the University of Oregon. Many decades of research on children who have experienced early life adversity have led to solid scientific knowledge about risk and resiliency, yet there is still a lack of evidence-based interventions for families who have children who are adopted. Dr. Fisher’s presentation described his ground-breaking developmental neuroscience research and the intervention programs that his team has developed for adopted and foster children. His work is already making a significant difference in supporting adoptive families and changing public policy.

Following the plenary, a panel of adoptive parents from the local community, facilitated by Nancy Solow, clinical social worker for Adoption Journeys, spoke about their experiences in the context of Dr. Fisher’s presentation. All had children with emotional, academic, social, and behavioral challenges based in experiences of trauma and/or loss. Despite the difficulties the parents faced, they were all able to work closely and “hang in” with their children. They discussed how difficult and lonely parenting was at times and shared their wisdom that helped them get through the challenging times. Taken together, the morning presentations clarified the



“Phil is an excellent presenter. He was very clear and accessible. I really liked how he was able to make neuroscience something tangible for treatment.”

“As a clinician, I benefitted from learning the “science” of the brain. Thank you!”

neurobiological pathways that help explain why some adopted children experience challenges post-adoption, how parents can work with their children on a day-to-day basis, and hope for the future as trauma-informed intervention programs become validated and disseminated.

During lunch participants networked with friends and colleagues while visiting the 19 posters that described current research and innovative programs. We were very proud to present our second annual Outstanding Poster Award to doctoral student Chie Kotake of Tufts University for her research titled, “Early Adjustment of International Adoptive Families Compared to Non-Adoptive Families.” Her co-authors were Jessica Matthews, Elizabeth Mullins, Rachel Katz, Laurie Miller, Linda Tirella, Ellen Pinderhughes, and Ann Easterbrooks.

“The [conference] structure flowed in a way that was greatly informative while giving me time to digest and participate at my own rate.”



Following lunch, attendees broke into five groups, each facilitated by individuals familiar with Dr. Fisher’s work and with the needs of adoptive parents and adopted children: for clinicians/therapists (facilitated by David Scherer and Adele Raade), adoptive or foster parents (Dana Johnson and Mary Jo Spencer), child welfare/ DCF workers (Ruth McRoy and Leo Farley), researchers (Jennifer McDermott and Rachel Farr), and educators (Martha Henry and Michael McManus). The sessions continued the discussion of the implications of Dr. Fisher’s work in very practical terms. Each group identified action items that would help them take home and apply what they had learned.

“[I really liked the] dialogue with people connected to adoption from such a wide variety of perspectives and backgrounds (e.g., adoptees, parents, educators, clinicians, social workers, researchers, etc.)”



Presentation of Outstanding Poster Award. L to R: Ellen Pinderhughes, Jessica Matthews, Chie Kotake, Hal Grotevant

Plans are now well underway for the seventh annual Rudd Conference, “New Worlds of Adoption: Launching into Adulthood” to be held April 17, 2015, at UMass Amherst. Dr. Ann Masten, Regents Professor and the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development in the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota, will present the keynote address: “Ordinary Magic on the Developmental Road to Resilience.” Information about the upcoming and past conferences may always be found at <http://psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/annualconference/>.

Presentations from the 2011 – 2014 conferences are available on the Rudd Adoption Research Program YouTube Channel, where they can be watched at any time, by anyone, anywhere, at no cost. Visit us at <http://youtube.com/user/RuddAdoption/videos/>.

Power point and poster presentations from the past conferences can be found at <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/rudd/>.

Reaching Our Goals

Building Capacity for Excellence in Adoption Research



Krystal Cashen (B.A., Psychology, Vassar College) is a first-year clinical psychology student at UMass Amherst working with Dr. Harold Grotevant. In her current research, she is examining differences in length of time spent completing the adoption process for lesbian/gay and heterosexual adoptive parents adopting through the domestic child welfare system using data from the Massachusetts Survey of Time and Costs Involved in Adoption. Krystal is also in the process of developing her master's thesis idea, which will look at close relationships in emerging adulthood. Her professional affiliations include serving as the media coordinator for the Couples Special Interest Group for the Association of Behavior and Cognitive Therapy. Within the clinical program, she is also serving on the Diversity Committee and the Admissions Committee.



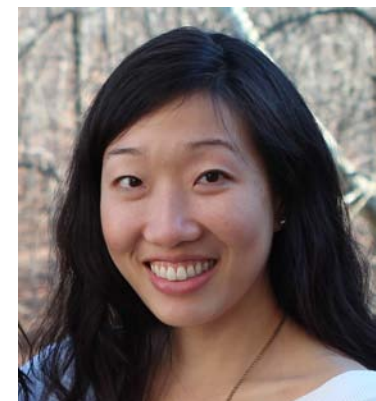
Tobias Gale (B.A., Psychology, UMass Amherst) graduated in 2013 and continued working in the Rudd Adoption lab through spring 2014, specifically in two areas: helping to recruit participants for the fourth wave of the longitudinal MTARP study, as well as continuing a research project that he began working on with Dr. Grotevant in spring 2013. Using data from the second wave of MTARP, this project examined the association between adoptees' religious/spiritual commitment and adoptive identity. Tobias submitted the manuscript, titled, "Adoption Confirms that God is in my Life: Religious/Spiritual Commitment and Adoptive Identity in Adolescents," to *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*. The manuscript was described as "interesting and original" and "an important contribution" to the field of research on religious/spiritual commitment and adoptive identity development. Although the manuscript was not accepted for publication, Tobias was encouraged to do further research on this topic and to re-submit in the future. Tobias also presented his findings from this research project at the "New Worlds of Adoption Conference," at UMass Amherst, in April 2014. Tobias is currently attending Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado, working toward a master's degree in Transpersonal Counseling Psychology.



Karin Garber (B.A., Psychology, Scripps College; Ed.M. and M.A., Psychological Counseling, Teachers College, Columbia University; M.S., Clinical Psychology, UMass Amherst) is a fourth-year clinical psychology student working with Dr. Grotevant. She is currently completing her clinical practicum as a pre-doctoral intern in the Mount Holyoke College Counseling Service. She also is the program coordinator for the Adoption Mentoring Partnership wherein she educates and supervises two cohorts of college-aged adoptive mentors in their community "matches" with younger adoptees between the ages of 8 and 12 years. Her current research interests are related to how systems and contexts influence the identity process and mental health outcomes for marginalized individuals. Her current research involves the identity development that occurs for emerging adult internationally adopted individuals in the context of their birth countries. Her other line of research involves investigating microaggressions experienced by adolescent adoptees. Her paper on this topic, based on her master's thesis, was recently accepted for publication in *The Counseling Psychologist*.



Marykate Oakley (A.B., Psychology, Princeton University; M.A., Clinical Psychology, Teachers College, Columbia University) is a third-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program at UMass. She is currently completing her master's thesis, titled "Diverse Family Socialization: The Relationship between Gay and Lesbian Parenting Strategies and Child Behavioral Adjustment." MK works predominately with Dr. Rachel Farr and Dr. David Scherer on the Contemporary Adoptive Families Study, and she is also the co-chair of the Clinical Psychology Faculty-Student Diversity Committee. This year, MK presented her research at the Sixth Annual Rudd New Worlds of Adoption Conference as well as at the APA conference in Washington, D.C. Her broader research interests include adolescent development, mentoring, and family systems, particularly within the LGBT population.



Yesel Yoon (B.A., Psychology, University of Maryland; M.S., Clinical Psychology, UMass Amherst) is a fifth-year doctoral student in clinical psychology at UMass Amherst, working primarily with Dr. David Scherer and Dr. Harold Grotevant. Yesel's research identifies factors that contribute to psychological well-being and identity development in emerging adults. She is influenced by socio-ecological and developmental perspectives and her research program is built around three areas: emerging adulthood, the influence of family systems, and psychological health. Currently, her dissertation study is examining the role of adoptive identity in the development of career identity in both college and non-college enrolled emerging adults over time. Yesel has presented at several conferences on research spanning from the role of family rituals during adolescence, family dinnertime routines in working-class dual earner families, and methodological issues in the measurement of psychological well-being in emerging adulthood. Yesel's professional affiliations include serving as the co-chair for the Mental Health Special Interest Group for the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood (SSEA). Furthermore, Yesel is dedicated to increasing knowledge and sensitivity to diversity and multiculturalism in psychology. Yesel is the member of the Diversity Committee in the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology (SSCP), a division of the American Psychological Association. Yesel teaches an advanced undergraduate seminar for psychology majors, devoted to advancing students' knowledge about topics related to diversity and multiculturalism in psychological research and practice. Yesel hopes to continue pursuing professional endeavors working in both a clinical and teaching capacity with emerging adults.

Reaching Our Goals

Promoting Adoption Research Initiatives of Emerging Scholars

We are very proud of three of Dr. Grotevant's clinical psychology doctoral students who completed their dissertations and graduated in 2014.



Quade French (B.S., Psychology, University of California San Diego; M.A., Clinical Psychology, California State University Northridge; Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, UMass Amherst) completed his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at UMass in 2014. In his doctoral dissertation, "The Lived Experience of Adoption: Do Current Conceptualizations Reflect Changing Realities?" he examined the impact of the social environment and communication within the adoptive family on the development of adoptive identity and racial and ethnic identities in college-aged adopted persons. Using longitudinal data collected from a series of in-depth interviews with mentors from the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, Dr. French and a team of undergraduate research assistants identified non-verbal communication patterns and adopted persons' abilities to "read through the lines" of communication with their adoptive parents as key components of how adopted persons understand and experience adoption themselves. Other findings highlighting the role that adopted individuals have in initiating and directing communication with their adoptive parents about adoption expand current perspectives that conceptualize communication about adoption within adoptive families as unidirectional, from adoptive parents to their adoptive children. This current research suggests that adopted persons are not passive recipients but active agents in communication about adoption. Dr. French was accepted to a Postdoctoral Clinical Fellowship at the University of California Santa Cruz where he continues to work toward licensure to practice clinical psychology in California. He is also actively pursuing faculty employment opportunities at colleges and universities in his home state of California and hopes to engage students in both teaching and research on themes of stigma and identity development within adopted individuals. He remains an active collaborator with the Rudd Adoption Research Program and is currently collaborating with Hal Grotevant and Karin Garber to explore ethnic identity development in AMP mentors.



Holly Grant-Marsney (B.A., Neuroscience and Behavior, Mount Holyoke College; M.S., Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, UMass Amherst) completed her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at UMass Amherst this year. She successfully defended her dissertation, titled "Emotion in Adoptive Narratives: Links to Close Relationships in Emerging Adulthood," and is preparing this work for publication. Results of this research indicated that both negative and positive affect in the personal adoption stories were associated with emerging adulthood relationship qualities outside the family. Negative affect in the adoption stories recounted by young adults was related to anxious and avoidant attachment styles with close others. On the other hand, positive affect in the adoption stories was related to greater relationship satisfaction. This research shows one way in which adoption can have lifelong meaning and demonstrates how feelings about adoption can relate to views of close relationships outside the family in emerging adulthood. Findings of this study will help assist researchers and practitioners understand the application of the adoption narrative in their work, and the translation of adoptive identity into relationship concepts. Grant-Marsney is currently completing her post-doctoral fellowship at the University of New Hampshire. She plans to obtain licensure for clinical practice in the upcoming year. Her research interests include close relationships and attachment in the adoptive family, adoptive identity and narratives, particularly in adolescence and emerging adulthood. Despite the distance, she remains very much involved with the Minnesota-Texas Adoption Research Project and is working on a paper with a focus on strengths and competencies of adopted adolescents. She is currently applying for academic positions that will allow her to integrate her interests in research, education, and clinical practice.



Danila Musante (A.B., Psychology, Harvard University; M.S., Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, UMass Amherst) completed her doctoral degree in the Child, Adolescent, and Family concentration in clinical psychology at UMass in 2014. She completed her clinical psychology internship at Cambridge Health Alliance and is now working as a post-doctoral fellow at Montclair State University's Counseling and Psychological Services, providing outpatient therapy to university students. She plans to obtain licensure to practice clinical work in 2015. She studies the family as a context of individual development, particularly during adolescence and emerging adulthood, in adoptive families. In 2012 Danila was awarded a Graduate Student Fellowship from the UMass Center for Research on Families (CRF) to complete her dissertation, titled "Individuation as an Adolescent Developmental Task: Associations with Adoptee Adjustment." Her work suggests a reframed understanding of individuated adolescent-parent relations as consisting of close parent-adolescent relationships which support adolescent individuality and autonomy. Her findings also underscore the importance of gender differences in individuation and adjustment among adopted adolescents, specifically revealing the particular importance of the relationship between adopted adolescent males and their adoptive mothers.

Reaching Our Goals

Connecting Research with Policy

The Massachusetts Survey of Cost and Time Associated with Adoption

Recently, Massachusetts constituents who were trying to adopt a child asked their legislator, “Why does it take so long to adopt in Massachusetts? and Why does it cost so much?” Those questions stimulated the 2013 Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (in Chapter 38 of the Acts of 2013 of the Massachusetts Legislature, item 4800-0038) to create the Adoption Task Force, charged with examining issues involving the length of time and the costs involved in adoption. Hal Grotevant and Ruth McRoy (Rudd advisory board member) were appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to participate on the Task Force, which met regularly throughout 2014.

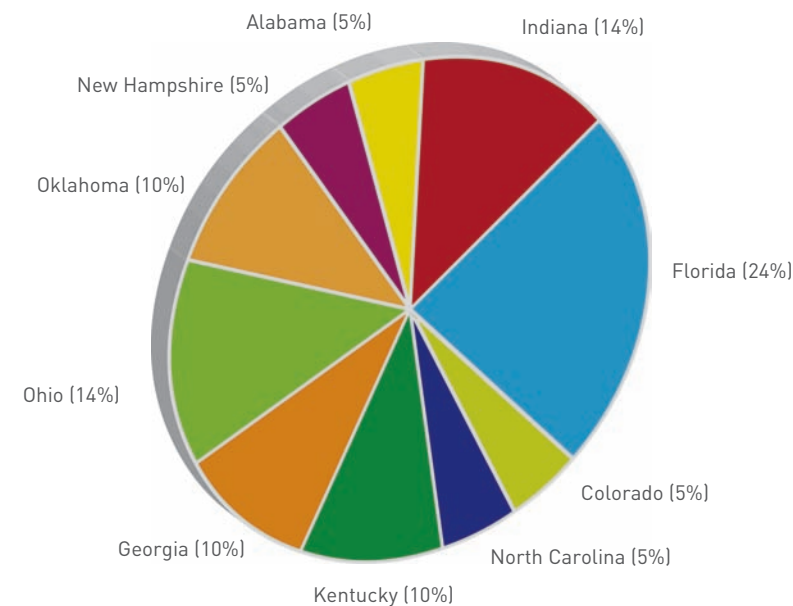
The Task Force identified various strategies for gathering the information needed to answer the legislature’s questions. One involved the creation and administration of the Massachusetts Survey of Time and Costs Involved in Adoption, distributed statewide to gather information about Massachusetts citizens’ recent experiences in adopting children. Task Force members identified the issues that would be included in the survey, and the UMass Amherst Rudd Adoption Research Program administered the survey and analyzed the data.

Survey respondents included 121 parents reporting on 163 children they had adopted through private agencies, the public child welfare system, and internationally between 2010 and 2014. Cost data revealed by this Massachusetts survey were quite

comparable to national averages compiled by Adoptive Families Magazine, suggesting that the length of time and costs experienced in Massachusetts are not unusual. In Massachusetts, the average cost of a domestic private-agency adoption was \$40,851; domestic child welfare adoption \$867; and international adoption varied widely as a function of the child’s country of origin, averaging \$42,344. The report summarized parents’ views about transparency and agency responsiveness in the adoption process. It also discussed ways in which parents choosing different routes to adoption approached adoption with different expectations and motivations. Data about length of time to adopt in Massachusetts also appeared comparable to national data compiled in the Adoptive Families Magazine survey. Private infant adoptions took on average 13.7 months from initial inquiry to placement with the family, adoptions through the public child welfare system took 16.9 months, and international adoptions took 21.8 months. Legal finalization of the adoptions took an additional 4 to 16 months after placement, on average. Across all types of adoption, parents strongly expressed their happiness at being able to build their families through adoption.

In December 2014, the survey data were integrated with perspectives gathered through focus groups and interviews held across the state, and the report was sent to the legislature with action recommendations for its consideration. The 2015 legislature convenes in January and we look forward to its review and discussion.

Domestic private adoptions from outside MA: Where were children adopted from?



Reaching Our Goals

Communication and Dissemination

PUBLICATIONS

Dolan, J. (in press). How White adoptive parents of Asian born youth talk about racism within the family. *The Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*.

Dolan, J., & Grotevant, H.D. (in press). The Treehouse Community: An innovative intergenerational model for supporting youth who have experienced foster care. *Child Welfare*.

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Farr, R. H., Diamond, L. M., & Boker, S. M. (2014). Female same-sex sexuality from a dynamical systems perspective: Sexual attraction, desire, and behavior. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 8, 1477-1490. doi: 10.1007/s10508-014-0378-z

Farr, R. H., & Goldberg, A. E. (2014). Contact between birth and adoptive families during the first year post-placement: Perspectives of lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents. *Adoption Quarterly*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/10926755.2014.895466

Farr, R. H., Grant-Marsney, H. A., & Grotevant, H. D. (2014). Adoptees’ contact with birth parents in emerging adulthood: The role of adoption communication and attachment to adoptive parents. *Family Process*, 53, 656-671. doi: 10.1111/famp.12069

Farr, R. H., Grant-Marsney, H. A., Musante, D. S., Grotevant, H.D., & Wrobel, G. M. (2014). Adoptees’ contact with birth relatives in emerging adulthood. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 29, 45 - 66.

French, C., Henney, S., Ayers-Lopez, S., McRoy, R. G., & Grotevant, H.D. (2014). Birth mothers’ perspectives on their relationship with the birth father 12 - 20 years after adoption. *Journal of Family Issues*, 35 (5), 579-600. doi: 10.1177/0192513X12472892

Garber, K.J., & Grotevant, H.D. (in press). “YOU were adopted?!”: Microaggressions towards adolescent adopted individuals in same race families. *The Counseling Psychologist*.



Godon, D., Green, W., Ramsey, P.G. (2014). Transracial adoptees: The search for birth family and the search for self. *Adoption Quarterly*, 17(1), 1-27.

Grant-Marsney, H., Grotevant, H.D., & Sayer, A. (in press). Links between adolescents’ closeness to adoptive parents and attachment style in young adulthood. *Family Relations*.

Grotevant, H.D., & McDermott, J. M. (2014). Adoption: Biological and social processes linked to adaptation. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 65, 235 - 266.

Lamm, C., Walker, O., Degnan, K., Henderson, Pine, D., McDermott, J.M. & Fox, N.A. (2014). Cognitive control moderates early childhood temperament in predicting social behavior in 7-year-old children: An ERP study. *Developmental Science*, 17, 667-681.

Patterson, C. J., & Farr, R. H. (in press). Children of lesbian and gay parents: Reflections on the research-policy interface. In H. R. Schaffer & K. Durkin (Eds.), *Blackwell handbook of developmental psychology in action*. London: Blackwell.

Ramsey, P.G. (in press). *Teaching and learning in a diverse world* (4th edition). New York: Teachers College Press.

Ramsey, P.G. (in press). Diversity and play: Influences of race, culture, class and gender. In D. Fromberg & D. Bergen (Eds.), *Play from birth to twelve: Contexts, perspectives, and meanings* (3rd Edition). New York: Garland Press.

Troller-Refree, S., McDermott, J.M., Nelson, C.A., Zeanah, C.H. & Fox, N.A. (in press). The effects of early intervention on attention biases in previously institutionalized children in Romania. *Developmental Science*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Crain, E. E., & Farr, R. H. (April 2014). *Experiences of microaggressions and resiliency among children with same-sex parents*. Poster presented at the New Worlds Adoption Conference of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts.

Cunningham, M., & Farr, R. H. (April 2014). *How does parental anxiety affect children's self-perceptions in adoptive families with lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents?* Poster presented at the New Worlds Adoption Conference of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts.

Dolan, J. (October 2014). White adoptive parents of Asian born children talking about racism. Presentation at the Diversity Challenge, Racial or Ethnic Discrimination across the Lifespan Conference, Boston, Massachusetts.

Farr, R. H. (February 2014). *Lesbian and gay parents who adopt children*. Invited presentation for the Gender, Sexuality, and Community "Out to Lunch" Lecture Series at the Rainbow Center, University of Connecticut.

Farr, R. H. (June 2014). *Divisions of household and family labor among lesbian, gay, and heterosexual couples: Associations with couple satisfaction and child outcomes*. Paper presented as part of the "Work and Parenting in Gay and Lesbian Families" Symposium at the Work and Family Researchers Network (WFRN) Conference. New York City, New York.

Farr, R. H. (November 2014). Chair, "Diverse Families and Globalization: Legal and Policy Landscapes of Adoption." Symposium presented at the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland.

Farr, R. H. (November 2014). *Longitudinal outcomes for children adopted by lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents*. Paper presented as part of the "Diverse Families and Globalization: Legal and Policy Landscapes of Adoption" Symposium at the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland.

Farr, R. H., & Crain, E. E. (June 2014). *Experiences of microaggressions and resiliency among children with same-sex parents*. Paper presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. Portland, Oregon.

Farr, R. H., & Cunningham, M. (May 2014). *Children adopted by lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents: Self-concept and peer relationships*. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science. San Francisco, California.

Farr, R. H., & McDermott, J. M. (April 2014). *From barriers to bridges: Meshing research with practice*. Invited presentation and facilitated workshop for adoption researchers, New Worlds Adoption Conference of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts.

Gale, T., & Grotevant, H.D. (April 2014). "Adoption confirms that God is in my life": Links between religious / spiritual commitment and feelings about adoption in adolescence. Poster presented at New Worlds Adoption Conference of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts.

Garber, K.J., & Grotevant, H.D. (May 2014). The influence of microaggressions on adolescent adopted persons' perceptions of adoption. Poster presented at the St. John's University / Montclair State University Adoption Initiative Conference, New York, New York.

Grotevant, H.D. (October 2014). *Contact between adoptive and birth families: What matters for identity development?* Invited colloquium presented at: Centre for Child and Family Studies, Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands; Department of Psychology, University of Seville, Seville, Spain; Centre for Family Research, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England.

Grotevant, H.D. (October 2014). *Assessment of family interaction: Conceptual and methodological issues*. Invited colloquium presented at the Centre for Family Research, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England.

Grotevant, H.D. (November 2014). Invited discussant: *Mechanisms of identity development / Methodological issues in identity development*. Sättra Bruk Conference on Identity Development, Sättra Bruk, Sweden.

Grotevant, H.D. (November 2014). *Cross-national and cross-cultural perspectives on open adoption*. Presentation to Developmental Research Methods course, Mount Holyoke College, Department of Psychology, South Hadley, Massachusetts.

Kirschner, A. L., May, T., Zusevics, K., Strong, K.A., **Grotevant, H.D.**, Wilson, S., Jeruzal, J., Derse, A., Knight, C., & Farrell, M.H. (March 2014). Focus group attitudes and opinions about the potential use of genomic sequencing as a substitute for biological family history for adult adoptees. Poster presented at the meeting of the American College of Medical Genetics, Nashville, Tennessee.

Kirschner, A. L., May, T., Zusevics, K., Strong, K.A., **Grotevant, H.D.**, Wilson, S., Jeruzal, J., Derse, A., Knight, C., & Farrell, M.H. (April 2014). Focus group attitudes and opinions about the potential use of genomic sequencing as a substitute for genetic medical information for adult adoptees. Poster presented at the New Worlds Adoption Conference of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts.

Musante, D. S., Farr, R. H., & Grotevant, H. D. (March 2014). *Career achievement among adopted emerging adults*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA). Austin, Texas.

Oakley, M. K., Farr, R. H., & Scherer, D. G. (April 2014). *Socialization practices among gay and lesbian adoptive parents*. Poster presented at the New Worlds Adoption Conference of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts.

Oakley, M. K., Farr, R. H., & Scherer, D. G. (August 2014). *Diverse family socialization: Gay and lesbian parenting strategies and child behavioral adjustment*. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association (Division 44: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues). Washington, DC.

Patterson, C. J., & **Farr, R. H.** (July 2014). *Coparenting and division of labor among same-sex parenting couples in the United States*. Paper presented at an invited symposium, "Diversity in LGBT Parent Families," at the 28th International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP2014). Paris, France.

Ramsey, P.G. (March 2014). *Adoptive parents as researchers*. Paper presented at Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, Tallahassee, Florida.

Ramsey, P.G., & Godon, D.E. (April 2014). Positive and negative aspects of transracial adoption: An exploratory study from Korean transracial adoptees' perspectives. Poster presented at New Worlds Adoption Conference of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts.

Scherer, D. G. (April 2014). *Clinician's Breakout Group*. Co-Facilitator for the New Worlds Adoption Conference of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts.

Completed Dissertations and Theses

French, Q. Y. S. (2014). *The Lived Experience of Adoption: Do Current Conceptualizations Reflect Changing Realities?* Doctoral dissertation, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Clinical Psychology.

Grant-Marsney, H. (2014) *Emotion in Adoptive Narratives: Links to Close Relationships in Emerging Adulthood*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Clinical Psychology.

Musante, D. (2014). *Individuation as an Adolescent Developmental Task: Associations with Adoptee Adjustment*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Clinical Psychology.

Names in bold are Rudd affiliated faculty, graduate students, or undergraduate students.

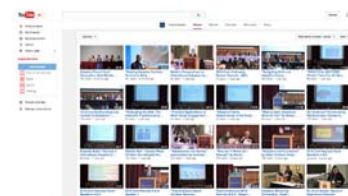
Reaching Our Goals

Communication and Dissemination

ELECTRONIC AND SOCIAL MEDIA



The Rudd Chair has a strong presence on the Internet, using the latest technology to inform and network with others. Here are just a few examples of current tech projects:



YouTube Channel: The Rudd Adoption Research Program
The Rudd Adoption Research Program YouTube Channel disseminates videos from our prior conferences. Videos are available on demand, 24/7, at no cost to viewers. This fulfills an important part of the Rudd program mission, of connecting adoption research with practitioners, policy makers, and the public.
<http://www.youtube.com/user/RuddAdoption/videos>



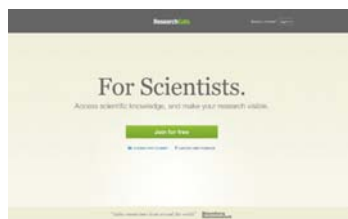
Facebook: Rudd Adoption Research Program
The Rudd Adoption Research Program Facebook page includes current news about the program as well as links to Internet news about adoption research, practice, and policy. Please visit, “like” us, and subscribe to our newsfeed.
<http://www.facebook.com/RuddAdoptionResearchProgram>



Home Page: Rudd Chair
The Rudd Chair home page in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences contains up-to-date information about the activities of the chair, including news about current and past conferences as well as the program’s community partnerships.
<http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/>
<http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/annualconference/>



ScholarWorks
ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst is a digital repository for the research and scholarly output of members of the University of Massachusetts Amherst community, administered by the UMass Amherst Libraries. The Rudd Adoption Research Program has its own page, hosting information about its annual conference, doctoral dissertations, master’s theses, presentations, and publications.
<http://scholarworks.umass.edu/rudd/>



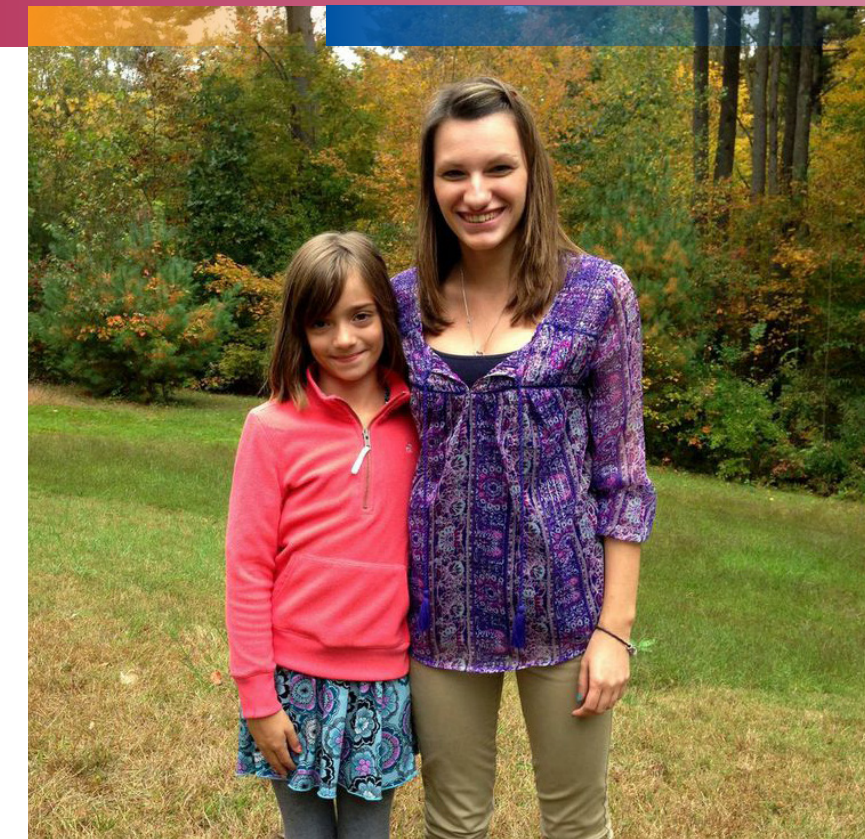
Research Gate
Dr. Grotevant and other members of the Rudd lab are members of ResearchGate, a website that disseminates scholarly articles to members of the academic community and beyond.
<http://researchgate.net>

Community Partnerships

Adoption Mentoring Partnership

“What I like about the program is that it gives my adopted kids something I can’t give them, which is an experience of interacting with an adult who was adopted. I wasn’t adopted and so while I can say to my kids how much I love them and how great adoption is and how I always knew I wanted to adopt and on and on, I didn’t grow up in that position so I can’t speak to them from a place of experience in that regard.” – Adoptive Parent

“I think it’s really helpful to try to normalize adoption for everybody and help kids feel like they’re not the only one.” – Adoptive Parent



The Adoption Mentoring Partnership was established in 2010 to address the lack of school and community support and understanding for adoptees and their families that were voiced by adoptive parents in the Amherst, Massachusetts, area. By providing adopted children with a mentor who has also experienced the challenges related to adoption, race, and ethnicity, the child is introduced to a new friend and role model. His or her family is matched with an invaluable resource: a person who has experienced the challenges of negotiating a balance between the culture of one’s adoptive parents, one’s own birth heritage and culture, and one’s own identity as an adopted person.

In this truly collaborative undertaking, the Adoption Mentoring Partnership (AMP) is a joint venture between the Rudd Adoption Research Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County, Adoption Journeys, and the Amherst Regional School District. The program’s goal is to provide adopted children with adopted mentors who can

help them better negotiate complex issues such as adoption, race, and ethnicity, and to also provide support networks for both the mentors and the parents, in a comprehensive, unified program structure.

AMP utilizes the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County’s existing best-practices mentoring model. Mentor–mentee matches receive thorough screening, a rigorous intake process, match support contact, and clinical supervision. The matches are required to spend three to five hours a week, once a week in each other’s company. In addition to individual monthly supervision with a BBBS case manager, the adopted mentors also meet bi-weekly in a clinically supervised seminar to discuss the latest research in both adoption and mentoring; share perspectives on their matches and activities; and discuss, unpack, and process their own adoption stories.

By the end of 2014, AMP had engaged a total of 27 mentor–mentee pairs. Currently, AMP involves eight matched pairs: five returning

from prior years and three new matches. A real sign of program success is that matches have continued far beyond the required one year of participation. Many mentors have stated that the mentor group meetings continue to remain the only place they feel comfortable talking about their experiences with adoption, allowing AMP to support and enrich the lives of the mentors as well as the mentees.

A strong research component has been built into AMP since its beginning. Current mentors are being interviewed and completing questionnaires about their experiences and attitudes throughout year; a comparison group of adopted college students who are not mentors is also completing similar measures. The first round of data for former mentors is being collected in an effort to understand the long term impact AMP has had on their lives.

“They have a sweet friendship. They made a time capsule together and put in it ticket stubs from events they went to together, photos, and other mementos. They plan to open it in four years.” – Adoptive Parent

Mentees’ parents were interviewed in 2014 about their expectations and experiences. The parent interviews revealed high levels of satisfaction with the program, while also pointing out minor issues that the program can address. When asked what they liked about the mentoring program, a number of parents responded by saying they like that their child has someone who treats them special and that this special person is someone who mirrors their child both in regards to the adoption identity and racially. A few of the parents mentioned that they liked all of the support that the mentors received. Another comment was; “I like that that the program gives my adopted kids something I can’t give them.” When asked what parents did not like, a few of the parents wished there were more mentors so that their other children could also have a mentor. Overall, the parents seemed very pleased with the program. Parents continue to feel that the mentor group meetings, in which mentors received both close supervision and support, were an important feature of the program. Uniformly, the parents expressed gratitude to the mentors for being wonderful role models for their children.

In light of the continued community interest and success of the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, efforts are being undertaken to fully document and research aspects of program development. With solid evaluation research undergirding the program, next steps will be to make the program available for replication at other sites across the United States. Discussions are underway with adoption agencies in Connecticut and Ohio about how our AMP model might be adapted to their needs and the resources available in their localities.

AMP benefits from its connection to the world of academics and adoption research through the involvement of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. Further, it is strengthened by the time-tested mentoring model developed by Big Brothers Big Sisters; this nationally recognized program can only further community support and interest as well. As a direct result of these strengths of the collaborative partners, AMP is uniquely positioned to expand as an effective preventive intervention in the lives of adopted children and adopted emerging adults.

“Learning about adoption has allowed me to look at my personal situation from each perspective of the adoption triad and it also gives me a lot of support when I need to talk things out.” – Mentor

*Funding for AMP has come from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the Frank Beveridge Family Foundation, the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology at UMass, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County, and private donors. A comprehensive overview of the program is available online, as follows: French, Q. Y. S., Grotevant, H. D., & Dolan, J. H. (2013). *The Adoption Mentoring Partnership*. Amherst, MA: Rudd Adoption Research Program, UMass Amherst. available at: <http://www.psych.umass.edu/uploads/sites/56/Files/Adoption%20Mentoring%20Partnership%2001-23-2013.pdf>.*

Community Partnerships

Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America



Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America (REFCA) seeks to change the culture and practice of how we perceive and support children and youth in the public foster care system. The vision of REFCA is that all children and youth who experience foster care are connected to stable, loving families and caring communities in order to ensure their health and well-being so that they can lead productive lives.

The Rudd Adoption Research Program (Hal Grotevant, Jen Dolan) was one of the original conveners of this initiative, along with the Treehouse Foundation (Judy Cockerton, Kerry Homstead), and Friends of Children (Jane Lyons). The initiative has now expanded considerably to include other community stakeholders, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. It is well on its way to becoming a national movement. The Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin County region of Western Massachusetts serves as an incubator for this nationwide model. REFCA envisions a collaborative, multi-sector and active “lab” that engages individuals and organizations in a vital process of dialogue, engagement, reflection and action over time to support change and positive outcomes for youth in care. Rudd program manager Jen Dolan played key roles in 2014 REFCA convenings. At the February 2014 Winter Working Group meeting, approximately 50 people gathered at Treehouse to exchange progress updates. Dolan gave an update on the foster youth in higher education initiative. Her talk inspired a student from Hampshire College to seek a follow-up meeting to continue discussions about foster youth in higher education. Dolan is working with administrators on the UMass campus to explore ways to make the university responsive to the needs of youth in foster care.

Dolan also continued to play an active role on the REFCA Design Team, the working group charged with creating the roadmap for making re-envisioning foster care in America a reality. In the fall

REFCA hosted a visit from Bishop Martin of Possum Trot, Texas, a small town located close to the Louisiana border. Bishop Martin, his wife, and their congregation are nationally recognized for adopting over 70 children from the child welfare system. Bishop Martin spoke at the Bethesda Lutheran Church in Springfield, Mass., on November 7 about the experiences of his congregation in adopting children from the child welfare system. Dr. Ruth McRoy, Rudd Adoption Research Program advisory board member, also spoke about research she and Dr. Kathleen Belanger have been conducting on longer-term outcomes for the children adopted by the congregation. Their research will be presented at the Rudd program’s 2015 New Worlds of Adoption conference.

The Rudd program was once again a partner in the fifth annual Re-Envisioning Foster Care conference, which attracted over 250 leaders to Holyoke Community College on May 30, 2014. A conference highlight was the morning keynote presented by Dr. Ruth McRoy (Boston College and Rudd program advisory board member) and Bishop Martin: “African American Families and Foster Care: Finding and Supporting All.” The REFCA conference has grown in attendance each year and is an important way in which the Rudd program can support this important initiative. At the request of the Treehouse Community leaders, the Rudd program designed and conducted a research project aimed at understanding this innovative, complex community and how it functions. Jen Dolan interviewed Treehouse staff, elders, adoptive parents, and children in order to understand their shared and distinctive viewpoints, what they viewed as working well in the intergenerational community, and what they noted as challenges for the future. Dolan and Grotevant prepared an article based on this research; it will appear in *Child Welfare*, the flagship journal of the Child Welfare League of America. The research will help guide decision making in the community and will provide important information for others across the country who are seeking to replicate the program.

For further information about the REFCA initiative, visit <http://refca.net>.

Community Partnerships

Community Engagement



In addition to community engagement through formal channels such as the Adoption Mentoring Partnership (AMP) and Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America (REFCA) initiatives, the Rudd program has also initiated informal adoption-related activities in the local community. For example, Jen Dolan has been coordinating a monthly round table “bring your own lunch” discussion for UMass adoptive parents. The informal discussions focus on a wide range of topics and are consistently well-attended. Parents who attend have children adopted internationally and through the child welfare system. Most of the parents have children in their teens, but there is a range in age from 6 to 26 years. Jen also worked closely with Nancy Solow and Debra Estelle from Adoption Journeys to identify and work with a group of adoptive parents who could speak on a panel at the 2014 Rudd conference. Jen met with Nancy, Debra, and the group of four parents on several occasions to educate them about the conference and help each of the parents craft a message that would be of value to the conference attendees. The result was an excellent panel discussion about challenges the parents faced with their adopted children but also the resiliency of the parents as they traveled through some turbulent years with their children. The parents offered a message of love, humor, and hope.

In the fall, Jen Dolan contacted Janet Ryan, head of programming and outreach at the Jones Library in Amherst to see if the library would be interested in displaying books about adoption during November, National Adoption Month. Melissa Gately, UMass psychology intern working with Jen, identified all of the adoption-related books the Jones Library holds. Ryan thought hosting a display of books on adoption was such a great idea that she decided to have not one but three displays; one for children, one for young adults, and one for adults! While touring the library in mid-November to see the displays, the librarian informed Jen and Melissa that while a mother was checking out books for her daughter, the mother noticed the display of books on adoption. She turned to her young daughter and said, “Look, there’s a family just

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like our family.” Clearly the display of books on adoption helped to normalize the formation of family via adoption!

Based on the work Jen has been doing with the Foster Youth in Higher Education working group of the REFCA initiative, she was asked to give a tour of the UMass campus to several foster youth associated with the HEROES Leadership project, a program of the Treehouse Foundation. On a hot Saturday afternoon in mid-July, Jen greeted program facilitator Chris Langelier and six high school students and challenged them with a scavenger hunt that took them to key places on the UMass campus. At each location the students had to answer questions about that specific location such as who is the library named after (W.E.B. Du Bois). At the end of the tour the students talked about how their visit helped demystify the UMass Amherst campus. Most importantly, it let them know that there are people who believe they belong on a college campus and are willing to go out of their way to support them to cross the bridge from high school to college. Discussions are underway with campus administrators about how to make systems such as financial aid and career services as friendly as possible to youth who have experienced foster care.



Melissa Gately & Jen Dolan at the Amherst Jones Library celebrating National Adoption Month

Strengthening International Connections

by Hal Grotevant

Two thousand fourteen was a year for strengthening existing international connections and establishing new ones for the Rudd Adoption Research Program. Support from the UMass Amherst International Programs Office and a fall semester sabbatical allowed me to visit several important centers of adoption research in Europe.

The adventure began in England in April 2014 when I had the pleasure of attending the “launch event” for the Andrew and Virginia Rudd Centre for Adoption Research and Practice at the University of Sussex, in Brighton—Andrew’s undergraduate alma mater. The centre’s new director, Dr. Gordon Harold, previewed the initiatives his new program will undertake. Keynote speaker Professor Sir Michael Rutter made a cogent case for the important ways in which adoption research contributes to our broader understanding of human development; and Dr. John Simmonds, director of policy, research, and development for the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), underscored the need for a strong evidence base for the formulation of adoption policy.



Hal Grotevant and Jesus Palacios of the University of Seville

Fast forward to October, when I spent three weeks working with colleagues in the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom. I spent several days with each of the three international members of the Rudd program advisory board, briefing them on our current programs and seeking their feedback. In line with the UMass Amherst initiative on “internationalizing the curriculum,” I also exchanged information with colleagues about teaching relating to adoption and discussed opportunities for exchange visits of faculty and students. At several stops, I presented a colloquium for university colleagues and community members: “Contact between Adoptive and Birth Families: What Matters for Identity Development?”

First, I visited Dr. Femmie Juffer, who holds the Adoption Chair at Leiden University. In addition to comparing notes on our three decades longitudinal studies and discussing possible points of collaboration, I met with Anja van der Voort, one of Femmie’s doctoral students on whose dissertation committee I am serving. Femmie and her colleagues have done an excellent job of providing consultation on adoption to Dutch policy makers. One of their important achievements has been persuading government officials to make widely available, at no or low cost, the video feedback intervention program that their team has developed and validated. Parenting consultants visit new adoptive families, filming everyday parent-child interaction (feeding, bathing, playing) and providing important feedback about how parents can respond sensitively and contingently to their young children. This simple, nonthreatening process has helped improve the lives of many new adoptive families. For further information, see their book: Juffer, F., Bakermans-Kranenburg, M. J., & van IJzendoorn, M. H. (2007). *Promoting positive parenting: An attachment-based intervention*. New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

The next stop involved a visit to advisory board member and research colleague, Dr. Jesús Palacios, at the University of Seville. Adoption policies in Spain are changing, thanks to the work of Prof. Palacios and his team. For children who have been removed

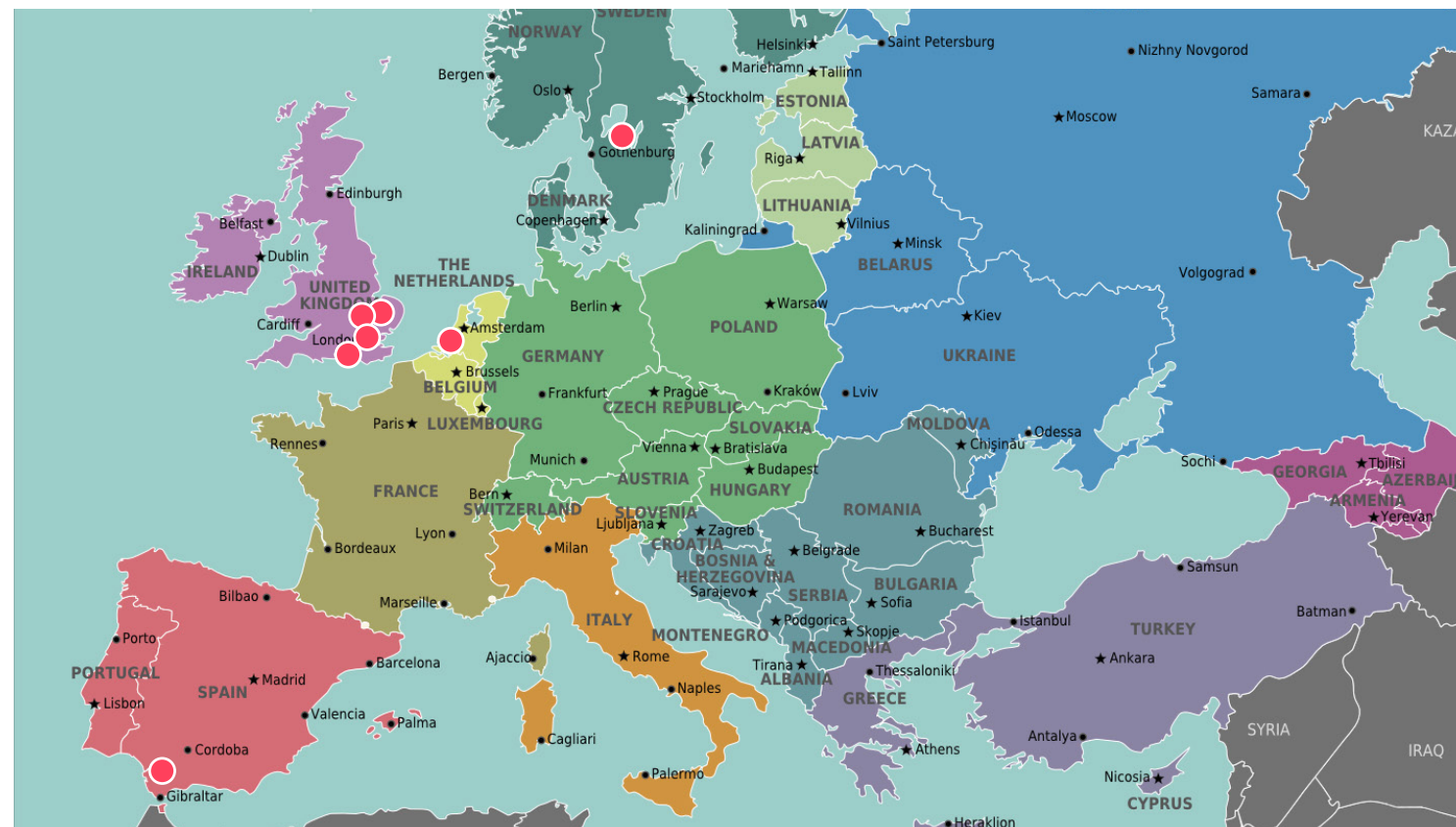


from their parents' homes because of neglect or maltreatment, there is a movement away from institutionalization and/or long-term foster care toward adoption. And in 2015, the Spanish government may legalize open adoptions for the first time. My colloquium presentation in Seville drew a large number of social workers and adoption administrators who wanted to become better informed about the U.S. experience with open adoption.

Next came a visit to Dr. Beth Neil, Rudd advisory board member and research colleague at the University of East Anglia, in Norwich, England. Beth has directed an ongoing longitudinal study of contact after adoption in the United Kingdom for almost two decades. (Watch a video of her presentation at the 2012 Rudd conference on the Rudd Adoption YouTube channel.) Unlike the

voluntary infant adoptions represented in the MTARP study, many of Beth's participants were placed for adoption after being removed from their birth relatives following maltreatment. Her research has shown that contact (especially with grand parents and siblings) can work in these situations, as long as safeguards are put into place to protect the child's well-being.

Following my stay in Norwich, I hopped the train to Cambridge, where I visited the Centre for Family Research, directed by Dr. Susan Golombok. Prof. Golombok's new book, *Modern Families* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) summarizes her research program spanning several decades on lesbian mother families, gay father families, and families built through donor conception, surrogacy, and other forms of assisted reproductive technology. Adoption has played a role in forming many of these families. Golombok's research has revealed what really matters for children—family processes and dynamics much more than visible features such as the number of parents, their sexual orientation, or the method by which the children were conceived or the families were built. Since I have served as a consultant on Golombok's research protocol, which includes a number of instruments we have developed and used, I led a seminar for her research group on the assessment and coding of family interaction. We also discussed the missions of the family research centers at Cambridge and UMass, with an eye to future collaborations.



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Rounding out this journey was a trip to London and a visit to colleagues at BAAF—the British Association for Adoption and Fostering. I learned about the changes afoot in United Kingdom adoption policy and the sometimes differing viewpoints (especially around termination of parental rights) being expressed by the legislative and judicial branches. In contrast to the United States, where adoptions are regulated primarily at the state level and a mix of public, private nonprofit, and private for-profit services are available, the adoption system in the United Kingdom is highly regulated at the national level. The differences in regulatory processes make for very different policy dynamics in the two countries.

My last stop in England, a poignant one indeed, was a visit to the Foundling Hospital, which accepted children beginning in 1740 and transferred its last children to foster care in 1954. Between poverty, hunger, disease, and the stigma of illegitimacy, the women who took their children there often felt they had no other choice. Otherwise, it was likely that the child would be abandoned and die. The museum presents heart-wrenching exhibits of “tokens” that women left with their babies in the event they were ever in the position to return for them (see below).



Photo of tokens from: <http://www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk/collections/the-foundling-hospital-collection/>

The children received food, medical care, education, and preparation for work—but yes, it was an institution, with all those drawbacks. George Friedrich Handel and Charles Dickens (among others) provided financial support for the hospital; the current museum houses a major collection of Handel's manuscripts. This visit provided a powerful demonstration that everything connected to family, adoption, and foster care must be considered within its historical, cultural, economic, and political contexts—including the way we do things today.

In November, I returned to Europe as an invited participant in the Sättra Bruk (Sweden) conference on identity development. Facilitated by colleagues Philip Hwang and Maria Wängqvist (University of Gothenburg) and Moin Syed (University of Minnesota), 20 identity scholars from seven countries worked

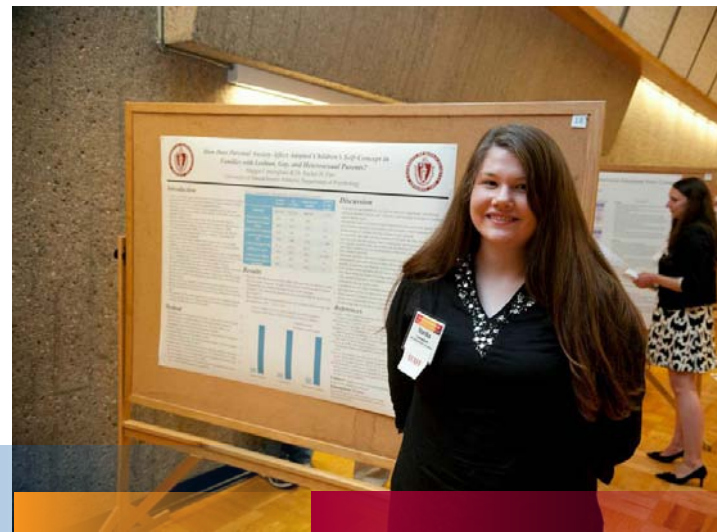
intensively over four days to address such issues as mechanisms of identity development, assessment of identity, domains of identity, cultural/contextual issues in identity development, and research methodology. Our discussions were nurtured by bucolic surroundings (a country manor estate), amazing food, and traditions such as fika, a Swedish word for much-more-than-a-coffee-break, which we all came to love. Outcomes from this conference will provide a blueprint for new collaborations in the identity field, some with a focus on adoption.

Global perspectives are critical to an understanding of adoption, and these visits provided new insights and resources that will benefit the work of our Rudd program and will hopefully enrich the perspectives of the centers that welcomed my visits as well.



Rudd Program Personnel

Faculty, Staff, and Students



Faculty:

Harold D. Grotevant

Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology

Rachel H. Farr

Research Assistant Professor of Psychology

Jennifer M. McDermott

Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology

Patricia G. Ramsey

Professor of Psychology and Education, Mount Holyoke College

David Scherer

Professor of Clinical Psychology

Staff:

Jen H. Dolan, Program Manager

Lisa Fiorenzo, Data Manager / Analyst

Melissa Gately, intern

Carla Williamson, Events Coordinator

(with the Center for Research on Families)

Graduate Students:

Krystal Cashen, Clinical Psychology

Quade French, Clinical Psychology

Karin Garber, Clinical Psychology;

Adoption Mentoring Partnership Research Coordinator

Holly Grant-Marsney, Clinical Psychology

Danila Musante, Clinical Psychology

Marykate Oakley, Clinical Psychology

Yesel Yoon, Clinical Psychology

Post-Baccalaureate Research Intern:

Tobias Gale

Undergraduate Research Assistants:

Emily Crain (honors)

Ivonne Cruz

Martha Cunningham (honors)

Rebecca Fox

Olivia Goldman

Michelle Guedes

Danielle Hart

Alexandra Krysko

Shoshana Moriarty

Elsa Neal

Mary O'Sullivan

Taylor Ollivierre

Melissa Pennica

Yelena Ravvina

Maria Rinaldi

Laura Thurlow

Katherine Wheeler

Note: The "honors" designation indicates that the student was completing an honors thesis or project relating to adoption under the direction of Dr. Grotevant and/or Dr. Farr.

Adoption Mentoring Partnership Mentors:

Samantha Calabrese

Monica Carusi

Timothy Connor

Elena Faltas

Ana Gremli

Sarah Hurst

Sarah Ivy

Brandon Kinsey

Mary McInnis

Olivia Nolan

Jasmine Offley

Alexander Puchrik

Brian Shapiro

Phoebe Taffel

Julia Zabusky

Staff Profiles



Jen H. Dolan, Ed.D.
Rudd Adoption Research Program,
Program Manager

Jen is responsible for oversight of the Rudd program community partnerships and the annual conference; in addition, she works with Dr. Grotevant to provide leadership for all aspects of the Rudd program. For the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, she coordinates all

programmatic activities and has a strong role in conducting the research. During 2014, she interviewed the adoptive parents of the mentees; see the earlier section on AMP in this report for findings. Using Internet chat technology, Jen also conducts bi-annual interviews with current AMP mentors and a comparison group of UMass college students who are adopted but not involved in AMP. Questions center on the mentors' experiences in the program, their sense of identity as an adopted person, and supports they had or might need. In addition, she has administered follow-up surveys to former mentors who have graduated and moved from the area. Questions centered on what the mentors are currently doing, how much contact they still have with their mentee and the role AMP had on their lives. Preliminary results suggest that most of the former mentors have maintained a relationship with their mentee even though they are no longer part of the program. Most all of them stated they wished they could have had a mentor when they were younger.

Jen has also taken leadership on a research project focusing on the Treehouse Community, an intergenerational community in Easthampton, Massachusetts, committed to supporting families who are caring for children adopted from the public foster care system. Interviews she conducted with 21 elders, parents, youth, and staff have been analyzed to identify strengths and challenges of the program. These data will guide program leaders as they identify the distinctive needs of different community members, issues to be considered in broader program replication, and strategies for attracting external funding. An article titled, "The Treehouse Community: An Innovative Intergenerational Model for Supporting Youth Who Have Experienced Foster Care" has been accepted for publication in Child Welfare, the flagship journal of the Child Welfare League of America.

In addition, Jen continues to serve as a key member of the Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America (REFCA) design team, whose charge is to create a road map and implementation plan for innovative activities in Western Massachusetts and beyond. Significant activities in 2014 included the annual REFCA conference about how to best support youth who are in foster care, and sponsorship of two visits from Bishop Martin of the Possum Trot community in east Texas, who spoke about his community's experience in adopting over 70 children from the child welfare system.



Lisa Fiorenzo
Rudd Adoption Research Program,
Data Manager/Analyst

Lisa joined the Rudd Adoption Research Program in August 2014 as its data manager/analyst and has since contributed her expertise in data organization and analysis to a number of ongoing projects. Working with

Dr. Grotevant, she conducted the quantitative analysis of online survey data collected by the Rudd program on the timing and cost of adoption in Massachusetts. These findings helped inform the recommendations made by members of Governor Deval Patrick's task force on the timing and cost of adoption in the commonwealth, of which Dr. Grotevant is a member.

She has also helped to plan, organize, and analyze data from other ongoing projects, such as the Adoption Mentoring Partnership (AMP) and the Minnesota/Texas Adoption Research Project (MTARP). Currently, Lisa is organizing the latest wave of MTARP data for future use by Rudd program members. In addition to her duties as Rudd program data manager, Lisa is also a methodology consultant with the Center for Research on Families at UMass Amherst.



Carla Williamson-Britt
Events Coordinator

Carla is the events coordinator for the New Worlds of Adoption Conference, holding a position shared with the Center for Research on Families. She oversees all aspects of the conference, including planning, marketing, and graphic design. She also contributes to the Rudd program social media presence

and annual report. Carla came to us from Australia, where she studied graphic design and marketing. A natural planner and ultimate list maker, Carla balances her love of all things design with events. Her practical thinking and logistical and management skills are critical to the planning and execution of our annual conference.

Rudd Program Personnel

Faculty Affiliates



Rachel H. Farr, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor
of Psychology, UMass Amherst

Rachel Farr joined the Rudd program in February 2011 as a postdoctoral research scholar and was promoted to research assistant professor in 2012. With her colleagues in the program, Rachel is working with the MTARP data

set on several research projects related to openness arrangements among birth and adoptive families, particularly as adoptees enter adulthood and as related to their personal relationships (i.e., with their adoptive parents and siblings). A central question in this work regards how adoptees conceptualize “family” in adulthood and how primary tasks of adulthood (e.g., entering long-term romantic relationships, marriage, establishing a career, having children) are influenced by adoptees’ ongoing relationships with adoptive and birth family members.

Prior to her postdoc, Rachel’s graduate work at the University of Virginia (UVA) included a large study of over 100 adoptive families from across the United States, headed by lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parenting couples, all of whom had completed domestic infant adoptions. The study examined the ways in which parental sexual orientation impacts child outcomes, parenting, and family dynamics in adoptive families with young children. With funding from the American Psychological Foundation’s Placek Award, a second wave of this study has been underway since the spring of 2013 now that children are school age. Rachel traveled across the country to visit participating families, and she has worked with a team of graduate and undergraduate students at UMass Amherst and UVA to collect, manage, and analyze the data. She is helping advise the master’s thesis research of Marykate Oakley, who is seeking to explore how lesbian and gay parents socialize their children about having same-sex parents and how this socialization is relevant to children’s well-being. Rachel also advises approximately 10–12 undergraduate research assistants each semester in the Rudd Adoption Research Program, which typically includes at least 1–2 honors thesis research projects. For example, under Rachel’s leadership, undergraduate senior Emily Crain presented her honors thesis at two national conferences in 2014 about experiences of microaggressions, feelings of difference, and resiliency among children with same-sex parents.



Jennifer M. McDermott, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of
Developmental Psychology,
UMass Amherst

Dr. McDermott’s work examines how children’s early experiences influence cognition, socio-emotional processes and developmental trajectories. One avenue of research focuses on the

impact of early psychosocial deprivation. In collaboration with the Bucharest Early Intervention Project (BEIP) and colleagues at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, we are finding that stressful early caregiving contexts can negatively influence a range of cognitive and affective skills including response monitoring, emotion recognition, and reward processing. However, placement into a high quality caregiving context, such as the foster care intervention in the BEIP, leads to improvements in some of these skills. Overall, the results from these studies have strong implications for the design of future intervention programs aimed at improving outcomes among children experiencing early adversity.

A second avenue of research involves studying the impact of early adversity on adopted and foster care children here in Massachusetts. A major step in starting this work began in spring 2013 with the launch of the Massachusetts Survey of Kinship, Foster, and Adoptive Parents (MSKFAP). This survey explores experiences of Massachusetts families with the aim of informing local providers as to what services are most valued and what services are most needed among kinship, foster, and adoptive families. Another goal of this survey is to lay the preliminary groundwork for the establishment of a regional database that will allow UMass Amherst scholars and affiliates to more efficiently undertake adoption and foster care research that uses a range of designs from neuroscience to family dynamic perspectives. Amherst.



Patricia G. Ramsey, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology and
Education, Mount Holyoke
College

For the first three decades of her career, Dr. Patricia Ramsey (Patty) studied young children’s peer relationships and their early attitude development. Along with her

students, she conducted numerous studies on children’s friendships and their evolving ideas about race and social class. She has written numerous articles and chapters on this work and several books translating that research into classroom practice, including *Making Friends in School: Promoting Peer Relationships in Early Childhood* and *Teaching and Learning in a Diverse World: Multicultural Education for Young Children*, now in its fourth edition.

Patty has two sons adopted from Chile. As they approached adolescence and began to struggle with the identity and emotional issues related to adoption, she wanted to learn more about the experiences of transracial adoptees. She and her students have conducted a number of studies on different aspects of transracial adoptees’ identity formation and how it relates to their desire to search for birth families, feelings of belonging or alienation with respect to their adoptive and birth cultural communities, overall mental health, and experiences with discrimination. A number of these studies have been presented at the Rudd Conference, International Conference on Adoption Research, and the Society for Research on Identity Formation. Almost all of the participants who volunteered for these studies were college students or recent graduates, and Patty realized that the samples did not include the experiences of many adoptees, particularly those who had struggled in school and had not gone to college. To capture a broader view of adoptees’ experiences, Patty and her colleague Doris Bergen from Miami University in Ohio surveyed and interviewed adoptive parents about their adolescent sons’ and daughters’ identities and their connections and experiences in school, peer groups, and adoptive and birth families. Many parents said that their children had done well in all aspects of their lives and did not seem to be troubled by their adoption status or by identity or affiliation issues. However, over half of the parents reported fairly severe ongoing problems related to mental and behavioral health, family relationships, and connections with peers, school, and community. Because of these issues, the analyses of these data focused on adoptees’ successes and challenges in a variety of realms and how parents responded to particular issues, including their experiences with adoption agencies, educational systems, and private therapeutic services. This area of research has also included a study of parents’ pre-adoption decisions and another one on the relationship between birth and adoptive parents. Patty is planning to re-interview some of the parents in the original study to learn how their children have fared as they enter their 20s, and to use these new data along with the previous material to write a book for adoptive parents.

Fortuitously, Patty’s transition to adoption research coincided with Hal Grotevant’s arrival at UMass and the start of the Rudd Center. She became an enthusiastic Five College faculty affiliate and has benefited greatly from the expertise and support of the scholars who are part of the Rudd program. She also has built connections between the Rudd Center and Mount Holyoke in a number of ways, including inviting Hal to speak at Mount Holyoke and serving as an outside member on the dissertation committees of two students working under Hal’s supervision. At Mount Holyoke, Patty teaches an advanced lab class, “Psychological Perspectives on Adoption” and, over the years, has invited several members of the Rudd program to speak to her class. Two of her Mount Holyoke students have been summer interns in the Rudd program, and several of them have presented their research at the annual conference. In addition, several of the graduate students in the UMass clinical psychology program have undertaken practicum experiences at the Mount Holyoke College Counseling Center.



David Scherer, Ph.D.
Professor of Clinical Psychology,
UMass Amherst

David Scherer is a licensed psychologist and professor of psychological and brain sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the

University of Virginia in 1989 and has been on the faculty at UMass Amherst since 2005. Dr. Scherer is a family systems theorist and therapist. His research and clinical work have concentrated primarily on adolescents and their families. His work focuses on how adolescents develop autonomy in the family context and innovative models of psychotherapy for troubled and substance abusing adolescents. He has published extensively on how adolescents and parents make important medical and research participation decisions in the *American Journal of Bioethics*, *Pediatrics*, *Journal of Pediatrics*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, and *American Psychologist*. He currently serves on the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Psychologists. Dr. Scherer serves as primary faculty advisor for two graduate students affiliated with the Rudd program: Marykate Oakley and Yesel Yoon. He also serves as a member of the Rudd program advisory board.

Rudd Program Personnel



Advisory Board



Amanda L. Baden, PhD

Amanda Baden is associate professor in the Department of Counseling and Educational Leadership at Montclair State University, New Jersey. She was the recipient of the John D. Black Award in 2014 from the American Psychological Association and Division 17 (Counseling Psychology) for the Outstanding Practice of Counseling Psychology. She is a senior research fellow of the Donaldson Adoption Institute, a member of the State Board of Psychology for New York State, on the editorial board for *Adoption Quarterly* and the *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, and co-chairs the Biennial Adoption Initiative Conferences in New York City held at St. John's University. Her research and clinical practice are focused on adoption triad members, transracial/international adoption issues, racial and cultural identity, and multicultural counseling competence. Baden co-edited the *Handbook of Adoption: Implications for Researchers, Practitioners, and Families* (Sage, 2007) and has a clinical practice in Manhattan.



Dana E. Johnson, MD, PhD

Dana Johnson is a professor of pediatrics and member of the Divisions of Neonatology and Global Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School, where he co-founded the International Adoption Program in 1986. His research interests include the effects of early institutionalization on growth and development and the outcomes of internationally adopted children. Johnson is an invited speaker worldwide, serves on the editorial boards of *Adoption Quarterly* and *Adoptive Families Magazine* and has authored over 200 scholarly works. He received the Distinguished Service Award from Joint Council for International Children's Services, Friend of Children Award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children and the Harry Holt Award from Holt International. He serves on the boards of directors of Joint Council on International Children's Services, Half The Sky Foundation and SPOON Foundation.



Femmie Juffer, PhD

Femmie Juffer is professor of adoption studies at the Centre for Child and Family Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands. She was the first person to hold the Chair on Adoption Studies, which was established at Leiden University, Centre for Child and Family Studies, in 2000 by Wereldkinderen (Worldchildren), The Hague. Her research interests include international adoption and foster care, sensitive parenting and attachment-based interventions, and children's recovery after adversity. Juffer received the Casimir Award in 2005 for excellence in teaching in the faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Leiden University. For her efforts to translate science into practice, she was awarded a royal decoration of Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau (2010). She is a member of the editorial board of *Adoption Quarterly*, and *Mobiel*, a Dutch journal on foster care. She co-edited *Promoting Positive Parenting: An Attachment-Based Intervention* (Erlbaum, 2008) and co-directs the Leiden Adoption Meta-Analysis Project and the Leiden Longitudinal Adoption Study. She hosted the Third International Conference on Adoption Research in 2010.



Ruth G. McRoy, PhD

In 2009, Ruth G. McRoy became the first holder of the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professorship at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. Prior to joining the Boston College faculty, McRoy was a member of the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work faculty for 25 years and held the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professorship. A practitioner, academician, researcher, trainer, and lecturer in the field for over 30 years, her work has focused on such topics as open adoptions, birthmothers, kinship care, adoptive family recruitment, minority recruitment, racial identity development, transracial adoptions, older child adoptions, family preservation, adolescent pregnancy, and post adoption services. Since the 1980s she and Harold Grotevant have conducted longitudinal research on outcomes of openness in adoption for birthmothers, adoptive parents, and adopted children. She and her team at the University of Texas at Austin currently serve as evaluators for AdoptUSKids, a service of the U.S. Children's Bureau. McRoy has published over 100 journal articles and book chapters and ten books, including: *Transracial and Inracial Adoptees: The Adolescent Years* (with L. Zurcher), *Special Needs Adoptions: Practice Issues, and Openness in Adoption: Exploring Family Connections* (with H. Grotevant). In 2010 McRoy was selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and also was named the recipient of the St. John's 2010 Outstanding Scholar in Adoption Award. She also received the 2013 U.S. Children's Bureau's Adoption Excellence Award and the 2014 North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) Child Advocate of the Year Award. McRoy recently completed her term as a member of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Board, and as board member and president of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) Board.



Cynthia Monahan, PsyD

Cynthia Monahan served as the founding director of the Cutchins Children's Clinic in Northampton, Massachusetts, for 28 years. The mission of the clinic has been to match the best trained and most experienced clinicians with the children and families most in need. Dr. Monahan is the author of *Children and Trauma; a Parent's Guide to Helping Children Heal* (Jossey Bass, 1993). Dr. Monahan has lectured frequently on childhood trauma, models of intervention with parents of traumatized children, and child psychotherapy. She has taught at the Smith College School for Social Work and at the Antioch New England doctoral psychology program. Dr. Monahan has a long history of building multi-disciplinary teams of law enforcement, community family bar advocates, and probate court to address the needs of abuse victims and children of divorce in western Massachusetts and is currently the child mental health consultant for the Northwest District Attorney's office. Dr. Monahan has a full-time private practice in Easthampton, Massachusetts, where she consults frequently with children and families whose lives have been touched by domestic and international adoption.



Elsbeth Neil, PhD

Elsbeth Neil is a senior lecturer in social work at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. Dr. Neil has been undertaking research in the field of adoption for almost 20 years. She has conducted a longitudinal study, following young children placed for adoption and studying the impact of birth family contact on these children and their birth and adoptive parents. She recently completed a follow-up of this sample, the adopted young people now being in late adolescence/early adulthood and a summary of the key findings has been published by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF). She has carried out two studies funded as part of the UK government's Adoption Research Initiative: the 'Helping Birth Families' study has examined support services for birth relatives of children adopted from care, and the 'Supporting Direct Contact' study has looked at how adoption agencies support face-to-face contact arrangements between adoptive children and their birth relatives. Both of these studies have also been published by BAAF. She has also published a number of journal articles about her research and has edited two collections of adoption research (E. Neil and D. Howe, 2004, *Contact in Adoption and Permanent Foster Care* published by BAAF; and G. Wrobel and E. Neil, *International Advances in Adoption Research for Practice*, published by Wiley in 2009). In 2006 she organised and chaired the Second International Conference on Adoption Research, held at UEA.



Melinda Novak, PhD

Melinda Novak is professor and chair in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and serves *ex officio* on the advisory board. She established the UMass Primate Laboratory, a small primate facility in which students receive training in handling and managing captive primates, performing behavioral and health assessments, and conducting research. Dr. Novak is head of the Behavioral Primatology Unit at the New England Primate Research Center at Harvard Medical School where she conducts her federally funded research on the causes of and treatment for abnormal behavior in primates. She regularly reviews primate facilities and provides advice and guidance on psychological well-being programs. Dr. Novak has over 100 publications related to behavioral development in rodents and primates. At the university, she is a past recipient of the College Outstanding Teacher Award, the Distinguished Faculty UMass Alumni Association Award, and a recent recipient of the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, the highest honor bestowed on faculty for exemplary research and service contributions.



Jesús Palacios, PhD

Jesús Palacios is professor of developmental psychology at the University of Seville, Spain. He has conducted research on both domestic and international adoption in Spain, especially focusing on issues of recovery after early adversity and parent-child relationships. He has published numerous books and articles on foster care and adoption, including *Psychological Issues in Adoption: Research and Practice*, co-edited with David Brodzinsky (Praeger, 2005). He has developed protocols for the assessment of adoption suitability and has co-authored a preadoption training program for prospective adopters, as well as books for both prospective and adoptive parents. In Spain and other countries, he consults regularly with governmental agencies about how to improve systems of foster care and adoption on behalf of children, and he has played a leadership role in connecting adoption researchers around the world. He hosted the successful Fourth International Conference on Adoption Research in Bilbao, Spain in 2013.



Maureen Perry-Jenkins, PhD

Maureen Perry-Jenkins is professor of psychology and director of the Center for Research on Families at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research focuses on the ways in which socio-cultural factors such as race, gender, and social class, shape the mental health and family relationships of employed parents and their children. Her current research involves a ten-year, longitudinal study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health that examines the transition to parenthood and transition back to paid employment for working-class, low wage couples and for African American, Latino and European American single mothers. The project examines how risk and resilience factors across these multiple life transitions affect new parents' well-being, relationship quality, and the socio-emotional well-being of their children. She is the author of numerous articles and chapters published in *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Journal of Family Psychology*, and *Family Relations*. She was a recipient of the University of Massachusetts Distinguished Outreach Research Award for her efforts to apply her research to policy as well as the Outstanding Teacher Award on the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Professor Perry-Jenkins was recently designated a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations and completed a term on its board of directors.



Sally Powers, EdD

Sally Powers is professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and associate dean for research and faculty in the College of Natural Sciences. Dr. Powers's research investigates psychosocial risk factors (particularly adolescent and family-related social and behavioral stressors) and biological risk factors (endocrine dysregulation) that influence gender differences in the longitudinal course of depression and anxiety. Her research has been funded by NSF, NIMH, NICHD, and the William T. Grant Foundation, and is currently funded by the National Cancer Institute. At UMass, Dr. Powers has been awarded a Conti Faculty Fellowship for outstanding research, and the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. She recently served as a member of the Committee on the Science of Family Research of the National Academies Institute of Medicine.



David Scherer, PhD

David Scherer is a licensed psychologist and professor of psychological and brain sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Virginia in 1989 and has been on the faculty at UMass Amherst since 2005. Dr. Scherer is a family systems theorist and therapist. His research and clinical work have concentrated primarily on adolescents and their families. His work focuses on how adolescents develop autonomy in the family context and innovative models of psychotherapy for troubled and substance abusing adolescents. He has published extensively on how adolescents and parents make important medical and research participation decisions in the *American Journal of Bioethics*, *Pediatrics*, *Journal of Pediatrics*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, and *American Psychologist*. He currently serves on the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Psychologists.



Rudd Program Partners and Collaborators

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Center for Research on Families
 College of Education
 College of Natural Sciences
 College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Commonwealth Honors College
 Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
 Office of Engaged Learning
 Office of Family Resources
 Ombuds Office
 Psychological Services Center

Community Associates

Adoption Journeys
 Amherst Regional Public Schools
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County
 Boston College Graduate School of Social Work
 Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring,
 University of Massachusetts Boston
 Clark University Department of Psychology
 Donaldson Adoption Institute
 Jones Library, Amherst, MA
 Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
 Mount Holyoke College
 Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America Initiative
 Treehouse Community at Easthampton Meadow
 Treehouse Foundation

Service to the Profession and the University

During 2014, Dr. Grotevant provided service to a number of professional, community, governmental, and university organizations.

Professional, Community, and Governmental Organizations

North American Council on Adoptable Children,
 Board of Directors
 St. John's University Adoption Initiative, Advisory Board
 Governor's Task Force on Adoption,
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Student Award Selection Committee,
 Society for Research on Identity Formation
 Treehouse Foundation, National Advisory Board

Editorial Boards / Consulting Editor Positions:

Adoption and Fostering
Adoption Quarterly
Emerging Adulthood
Family Process
Identity: International Journal of Theory and Research
Journal of Early Adolescence
Journal of Family Psychology
Journal of Research on Adolescence

Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology

University Service:

University Information Technology Infrastructure Committee
 Advisory Board and Steering Committee,
 Center for Research on Families, UMass Amherst
 Distinguished and Chaired Professors Committee,
 College of Natural Sciences
 Executive Committee, Department of Psychology
 Research Committee, Department of Psychology
 Search Committee for Associate / Full Professor
 in Developmental Science, Department of Psychology (Chair)
 Search Committee for Assistant Professor
 in Human Developmental Neuroscience,
 Department of Psychology
 Developmental Science Leadership Team,
 Department of Psychology
 Retreat Planning Committee
 Curriculum Committee
 Clinical Psychology Colloquium Series,
 Department of Psychology (Co-Chair)

Transformative Generosity



Andrew and Virginia Rudd established the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology with a generous gift in 2005. A pledge drive for funds matching their subsequent donation was successfully completed in 2014, leading to the establishment of the Rudd Family Endowed Fund for Outreach to Adoptive Parents. Their vision and their support have made it possible for the adoption program to become well established in the adoption research world, in the community, and at UMass.

We greatly appreciate the support that the following generous individual donors and financial co-sponsors have made to the work of the Rudd Adoption Research Program. This support has been critical in helping us accomplish our goals.



This year we have been pleased that another major donor has come forward to support the program. Scott D. Chaplin '89, whose life has been touched by adoption, has pledged \$50,000 to help finance adoption research. "Giving is an affirmation of how great UMass Amherst was for me," Chaplin said. *"The adoption research is interesting and unique and UMass is really making a name for itself in this area."*

Gifts made to the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology and the Rudd Family Endowed Fund for Outreach to Adoptive Parents support the priorities of the Rudd Adoption Research Program reflected in this report. Donations will build the endowment in order to support programs such as adoption research, the annual conference, the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America, adoption research training, graduate student and post-doctoral scholar stipends, and visiting scholars. For further information about this unique opportunity, please contact Chelsea Gwyther, executive director of development, College of Natural Sciences. She may be contacted at (413) 577-6422 or at cgwyther@umass.edu.

Heather W. Ames
 Justin K. Anderson
 Renee Moss Bachrach
 Laurie Benoit
 Daniel and Lynn Blyth
 Boston College Graduate
 School of Social Work
 Mary Brizzolara
 John F. Burton
 Kevin Chandler
 Scott and Stephanie Chaplin
 Donaldson Adoption Institute
 Wesley J. Dunham
 Kathryn A. Eaker
 Morgana Flaherty
 Sheila Frankel
 Stewart Gabel and Joan
 Manheimer
 Janice A. Goldwater
 Peter Gray-Mullen
 Harold and Susan Grotevant
 Janet Jackson
 Nancy Keough
 Salvatore Longo
 Susan Lucier
 Renee MacGregor

Massachusetts Department of
 Children and Families
 Mark and Annette Matteson
 Moglia Family Foundation
 Marybeth Nolan
 and Mehdi Javidan
 Debra Olshever
 and Mark D. Snyder
 Linda Panetta
 Jeanine Plumber
 Charles Powers
 Patricia Ramsey
 and Fred Moseley
 Judith Rex
 Andrew and Virginia Rudd
 Efrain Segarra
 UMass Amherst
 College of Education
 UMass Amherst Neuroscience
 & Behavior Program
 Patricia Welsby
 Laura Wenk
 Charra L. Wheeler
 Amy Whitesel
 Richard J. Wood

Rudd
ADOPTION RESEARCH
P R O G R A M

Contact Information

Rudd Adoption Research Program
623 Tobin Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
135 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003

(413) 545-0547
adoption@psych.umass.edu
www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/

For information about supporting the Rudd Adoption Research Program, please contact Chelsea Gwyther, Executive Director of Development, College of Natural Sciences. She may be contacted at (413) 577-6422 or cgwyther@umass.edu