Children enjoying fun at the MSU Child Development Laboratories.

Research at the Child Development Laboratories

Children learning to sign.

Students working on the MSU Child Development Laboratories.

College of Social Science
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

Support the Child Development Laboratories

Children’s early literacy development was assessed by revisiting children’s name letters on a page, reading words aloud, identifying letters on flashcards, and identifying pictures verbally. Undergraduate research assistants worked with the children to gather the information, learning about early childhood development, acquiring knowledge on research methods, and getting hands-on experience with young children at the same time.

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from the campus of Michigan State University!

Over the past five years we’ve been able to时装 greatest opportunity for our faculty and students. In the spring semester, we hosted more than 700 Social Science students and alumni on campus to interview with the Michigan Department of Human Services. DHS is hiring 500 new case workers to replace retiring employees and improve child welfare, child protective services, and foster care in the state.

In preparation for students' future careers, it is also important that we continue to foster our faculty's successful research initiatives and recognize their vibrant in-class contributions. Two outstanding faculty members have recently been named in their departments, reflecting their commitment to advancing knowledge.

Joelle DeGroot has been appointed Chair of the Department of Anthropology. She continues to conduct research focusing on a rice in the Great Lake region. William Harboux has been named Chair of the Department of History. His research focuses on African agricultural practices, religious beliefs, and family structures in the Old and New Worlds.

Three of our faculty were honored at the MSU Annual Awards Convocation in February. Adeola Adejuga, a Hannah Distinguished Professor of Urban Design and Planning received a Distinguished Faculty Award in recognition of his noted leadership and pedagogical expertise. Jeff Babb and Joelle DeGroot received Outstanding Teacher of the Year awards. In addition, please join me in congratulating Dina Marietta Baba, who has been nominated for the award from the Dean of the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations. Dina Baba has been exemplary in her inclusive and collaborative outreach within the College and with her students, alumni constituent group, and other colleges in the University. She has obtained research that keys powerful connections and alignments, while still understanding and respecting individual needs and perspectives.

We would like to extend a special “gratitude” thank you to our outgoing board member Craig Laramie Polakowski. Craig’s service in 1997 to 2011 was dedicated to his special needs students and a spirited welcome to new board members Richard Alt, Alphonso Chanez, and James Livingood 2001. Drexel Randall (Social Science 1981), and Wade Higginson (Criminology 1967). All departments and schools in the College are now being heard! In October, over 100 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends attended Homecoming and visited the College of Social Science Annual Report, including the Sergeant of Arms for the College of Representatives and MSU Distinguished Alumnae Award recipient Dina Marietta Baba.

Another way to help students at your alma mater is by mentoring current students. Our faculty experts are also interested in this. Here is another opportunity to support students. Please consider a contribution to our Scholarship Endowment Fund. This year, our annual goal is $1 million. In addition, we hope to see your generous contributions.

Thank you for your continued interest in the College of Social Science at MSU and continue to support our faculty, students and community.

Secondly,

Marietta L. Baba, Dean and Professor

The College of Social Science at Michigan State University is a community of scholars committed to creating, disseminating, and applying knowledge in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. The MSU Social Science community includes more than 6,700 undergraduate and graduate students, 400 faculty, 750 staff members, and 80,000 alumni in four schools, eight departments, and six centers and institutes.

Marietta L. Baba, Dean and Professor

College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA) Update

Please join me in congratulating our 2011 graduates! In addition to celebrating our newest alumnus at the College’s commencement on May 7, the CSSAA will also present two awards. Sally Fernandez (Political Science 2000) will receive the Social Science Outstanding Alumnus Award for her exemplary work as a businesswoman and her community. Tobias Ten Eyck (Associate Professor, Sociology) will receive the Social Science Outstanding Teaching Award for his commitment to quality teaching.

In addition, please join me in congratulating Dean Marietta Baba, who has been nominated for the award from the Dean of the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations. Dina Baba has been exemplary in her inclusive and collaborative outreach within the College and with her students, alumni constituent group, and other colleges in the University. She has obtained research that keys powerful connections and alignments, while still understanding and respecting individual needs and perspectives.

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IRLA Rollover puts Endowments into Action

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows a donor, age 70 1/2 or older, to directly a distribution from a traditional or Roth IRA to charitable giving as a way to reduce tax obligation and support your favorite nonprofit organization.

The IRA Rollover was right, and we hope that others will take advantage and "pay back" to Michigan State University.

The best part of the current window of opportunity is that by making an IRA Rollover contribution, you can directly benefit your tax obligation for the required minimum distribution from an IRA. James explained “It is a win-win situation.”

Most IRA owners have made many generous contributions to MSU and to a host of charitable organizations throughout Michigan. One of St. Olaf’s particular passions is the chance to Chair MSU’s School of Child Welfare at Chair MSU and Chair Law and Chair. In 2001, St. Olaf established the chair on the College of Social Science. The Malinda Herflicker Waltz Scholarship in Family Education was created to assist new graduate students in the Department of Social Science. James and Malinda established two endowment funds in 2006 within the MSU Foundation that programs at MSU were aligned with that goal.

MSU was right, and we hope that others will also a spirited welcome to new board members Richard Alt, Alphonso Chanez, and James Livingood 2001. Drexel Randall (Social Science 1981), and Wade Higginson (Criminology 1967). All departments and schools in the College are now being heard! In October, over 100 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends attended Homecoming and visited the College of Social Science Annual Report, including the Sergeant of Arms for the College of Representatives and MSU Distinguished Alumnae Award recipient Dina Marietta Baba.

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Secondly,
Children teaching their peers. Teachers asking kids to identify letters. Toddlers playing with blocks.

At first glance, you may think that academic research is scarce here at the MSU Child Development Laboratories (CDL). But you would be wrong. Take a closer look and you will see a micro-urence of the CDL in the middle of the room and camera recording the young children at play.

The Department of Human Development and Family Studies is the College of Social Science has been operating the CDL for the last 48 years, providing early childhood programming on campus through a variety of methods. In addition to providing daycare and education to young children and their families, the CDL provides child development training for MSU students, research setting for faculty and students, and a hub for engagement with other early childhood professionals. Working alongside master teachers, students have opportunities to engage in first-rate early childhood development programs.

Facilities include classroom restructuring and marketing capabilities, one-on-one observation booths, and research databases.

Assistant Professor Lori Skibbe has used the CDL as a valuable resource in determining that attending pre-kindergarten was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of preschool at the CDL. She then followed those children that were not only positively affected letter recognition and their ability to figure out new words. Children who were spending more time in pre- school, not less, because the results appear to be

Children’s early literacy development was assessed by having children name letters on a page, read words aloud, identify letters on flashcards, and identify pictures verbally. Undergraduate research assistants work with the children to gather information, learning about early childhood development, acquiring knowledge on research methods, and getting hands-on experience with young children at the same time.

Those findings are coming as a controversy. Many parents avoid preschool during eighteen economic times. Many states are debating whether to offer preschool to all families and how many children should attend. Some researchers argue that pre-K programs such as Head Start are federally funded programs for low-income families, offer long-term benefits for students.

Skibbe disagrees. She studied the fact that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills – specifically, learning the letters of the alphabet and comprehending how they go together to form words.

The researchers also recommend that preschool teachers focus more on vocabulary instruction and exercises that build self-control as part of a broader curriculum. "To me, kindergarten preparation is dealing with preschool does a very good job in certain areas in promoting children’s skills," said Skibbe. "But if you do a better job of it then was also explicit attention directed at building children’s self-regulations and skills."

The Child Development Laboratories are a key and essential resource for the Human Development Initiative at MSU. This community of scholars throughout the university, led by the College of Social Science, is interested in development across the lifespan. Several researchers involved in the initiative are collecting data at the CDL, and using the CDL’s database as a key component of their grant applications and publications.

Combining the resources of a nationally accredited learning facility such as the CDL and the expertise of research scholars such as Lori Skibbe, the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at MSU is continuing to work to fulfill their mission of improving the health of individuals across all ages and cultures.

For more information about the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and their Child Development Laboratories, visit http://hdfs.msu.edu.

Children shouldn’t be spending more time in pre- school, not less, because the results appear to be gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. These parents are educating their children to talk – either through interviews, surveys, and parent diaries. While the CDL welcomes infants, they will observe their ability to directly observe infants in the earliest stages of language development.

Research at the Child Development Laboratories...
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Over the past few years we’ve been able to achieve great opportunities for our faculty and students. In February, we hosted more than 700 Social Science students and alumni on campus to interview with the Michigan Department of Human Resources. DHS is hiring 500 new employee replacements to replace retiring employees and improve child welfare, child protective services, and foster care in the state.

In addition to preparing students for their future careers, it is also important that we continue to foster our faculty’s successful research initiatives and recognize their vibrant contributions in two outstanding awards.

Three of our faculty were honored at the MSU Annual Awards Convocation in February. Adesoji Adelaja has been named Chair of the Department of Anthropology. Her research conducts archaeological research with a focus on the Great Lakes region. Walter Hasbroum has been named Chair of the Department of History. His research focuses on African agricultural practices, and social organization in organizational psychology, one-on-one work with students, and mentorship opportunities. Brandon Baswell has been named Chair of the Department of Political Science, 1989), and (Human Resources and Labor Relations 2003), who has dedicated service and also a spirited welcome to new board members: James (BA 700 Social Science students and alumni at the College’s commencement on May 7, the CSSAA will also present two awards. Sally Fernando (Political Science, 1999) will receive the Social Science Outstanding Teaching Award for her exemplary work as a businesswoman and her community. Tobias Ten Eyck (Associate Professor, Sociology) will receive the Social Science Outstanding Teaching Award for his commitment to quality teaching.

In addition, please join me in congratulating Dean Marietta Baba, who has been nominated for another term as Dean of the College of Social Science. Dean Baba has been exemplary in her inclusiveness and collaborative outreach within the College and with our students, alumni constituent group, and other colleges in the University. She obtains results because she knows powerful connections and alignments, while still understanding and respecting individual needs and perspectives.

We would like to extend a special “thank you” to our outgoing board member Carol Lucarelli (Human Resources and Labor Relations 2003) for her service and to the incoming board member, Richard Allt (Human Resources and Labor Relations 2003), and TressaDanielle Rossett (Social Science 1981), and Willa Higgeson (Criminology 1967). All departments and schools in the college are now represented, so your voice is being heard!

In October, over 100 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends attended Homecoming and visited the College of Social Science Alumni Tent, including the Sergeant of Arms for the U.S. Representatives and MSU Distinguished Alumnae Award recipient Bill Livengood, President Simon, Prevent Violence, Dena Baba, and Dean for Homecoming 2011 when MSU plays the Wisconsin Badgers in football. It is sure to be another great event celebrating and bringing together our fellow alumni and friends.

Please also save May 21 for the CSSAA Annual Meeting at the MSU College of Music. We will have updates on the College of Social Science, a performance from MSU music students, and elect new board members. Flutes are interested in attending.

Another way to help students at your alma mater is by mentoring current students online. Jos Sarpian Linkes, the Career Coordinator for Michigan State University, encourages professionals to join the online community for students to get career advice from alumni in their designated fields.

Click on www.facebook.com/mssocialscience and become a Fan to get news and updates on the College, hear about upcoming events, and communicate with fellow alumni and students.

Much is happening in your alumni association. Please let us know how you would like to become involved. Thanks and Go Green!

Mariaetta L. Baba, Dean and Professor
No one is more excited about the introduction of infants to the MSU Child Development Laboratories (CDL) than Kalli Decker (HDFS Family & Community Services 2008).

As a Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) doctoral student, Decker does most of the research in parent-child communication and has studied infant development—simple handpostures that children use before they learn to talk—either through interviews, surveys, and parent diaries. When the CDL welcomes infants later this year, she’ll have the opportunity to directly observe infants in the earliest stages of language development.

Decker became intrigued by the study of early childhood development through a passion for sign language. As she shadowed an interpreter during her undergraduat

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and programming on campus through a variety of methods. In addition to providing daycare and education to young children and their families, the CDL provides

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to sign language, Decker has also studied the communication choices that parents make when they have children who are deaf or hard of hearing. She found that these parents depend highly on the advice of professionals, making it very important that they receive unbiased information about all options available to them.

More recently, she has been working on a study led by Vallotton to analyze the implementation cultures that have for training infant signing to hearing parents. They have also studied the various ways that parents teach sign language—whether it’s using their hands with the infants to form signs or a more naturalistic acquisition.

It’s Decker’s hope to be able to see the impact that practicing signing with hearing children has on their communication skills and acquisition of language throughout early childhood. Vallotton has already demonstrated that signing is associated with increased caregiver engagement with infants and toddlers. There is a common misconception that infant signing delays the develop-

of spoken language. Decker hopes to be able to study through empirical research that it actually improves language development and acquisition. To read more about Claire Vallotton’s infant signing visit, go to http://www.msu.edu/department/collaborative.

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The Child Development Laboratories are a key and essential resource for the Human Development

and Economics.

The Child Development Laboratories are part of the MSU College of Social Science and are committed to improving the quality of life for children and families. They conduct research and provide services to help children develop to their full potential.

The Child Development Laboratories are involved in a number of university-wide initiatives to support the development of children and families. These initiatives include grants, research projects, and community outreach programs.

Support the Child Development Laboratories

To support the Child Development Laboratories, consider donating to the Child Development Laboratories Endowment Fund (0413100). This fund, generously created by retired faculty member Mariella Aikman, provides scholarships to children attending the CDL. Gifts can be made online at http://www.aikman.msu.edu or sent using the attached pledge card. To designate your gift to the CDL Endowment Fund, please indicate AN21921. If you have any questions, contact Sarah Blome, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at (517) 355-8942 or msu.edu/aikman.
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Dear faculty and students, please join me in congratulating Professor Allyn Shaw and Professor Tobias Ten Eyck for their great event celebrating and bringing together our fellow alumni and friends. The IRA Rollover was a chance to make a difference to a charity of your choice.

One of the primary goals of the IRA Rollover is to provide information for teachers, nurses, doctors, social workers, and clergy on the importance of reporting suspected child abuse or neglect. In addition, the School’s Social Work and Law Clinic was launched in 2003. Schulz has a passion for mentoring students online. Join the IRA Rollover to donate a gift of $40,000 for the Symposium on Science, Reason and Modernism.

Congratulations to all of our students and alumni on their great achievements and contributions to the University.

Sincerely,

Marietta L. Baba, Dean and Professor