A NOTE FROM DR. JACKIE NELSON, LAB DIRECTOR

We had a great time collaborating with Dr. Shayla Holub’s Healthy Development Project over the summer for our Family Life Study. A sincere thank you to all of the families who participated. Welcoming students into your homes during dinner was tremendously generous!

FAMILY LIFE STUDY RESULTS

Our most recent study — a collaborative project with UTD researcher Dr. Shayla Holub — examined how parents’ daily hassles related to family mealtime interactions.

Findings suggest that mothers’ and fathers’ feelings about how difficult it was to feed their child that day varied throughout the week. We also found that parents who perceived their homes to be more disorganized and chaotic reported more challenging mealtime interactions with their child on that same day. We plan to continue this study to further explore how daily experiences affect family interactions at mealtime, as feeding children is a frequently-cited stressor among parents of preschoolers.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Third-year PhD students Olivia Smith (right) and Deyaun Villarreal (left) were recently elected to the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Student & Early Career Council. Olivia will serve on the International Affairs Committee, and Deyaun will serve on the Ethnic & Racial Issues Committee, where they will help promote the council’s mission to increase involvement of students and young professionals in SRCD. They will be inducted at the SRCD Conference in Austin, TX this April. Congratulations, Olivia and Deyaun!

LAB NEWS

Dr. Nelson and Family Research Lab students will present their research in the upcoming Society for Research in Child Development conference in Austin.

They'll present findings on:
- Daily variation in mother-child conflict interactions
- Child behavior problems to mother-child conflict through increased parenting stress
- Home chaos, parenting stress, and maternal parenting beliefs
- Ethnic differences in stress & coping among college students

New research opportunity!

Social Experiences and Teen Health

Currently seeking parents & 11-14 year-olds for a new study about teens’ social lives and physical health

This study involves separate online surveys for teenagers and a parent or guardian, along with a one-hour lab visit to UTD and one brief home visit. Teens will be given a $20 pre-paid gift card for participating.

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more, please contact us or pass our information along! We appreciate your help!

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