



# ImPrints



MPSI IS PART OF THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, DETROIT MI

SPRING 2015



Dr. Bocknek's TEDY project asks parents to do a drawing exercise with their two-year-old. The team is investigating why certain children grow-up resilient despite stressful events.

## Happiest Research on the Block

Pediatrician Harvey Karp is the best-selling author of the *Happiest Baby on the Block*, a modern-day classic that explains simple, effective tools parents can use to help infants stop crying and tap into their reflex to self-soothe.

Erika Bocknek is a researcher and licensed marriage and family therapist, poised to become MPSI's newest faculty member in August through a joint appointment with the College of Education.

The two doctors intersected at MPSI less than a year ago when Dr. Karp discussed his latest book, *Happiest Toddler on the Block*, at a professional training for the Woodward Early Childhood Consortium of preschools and daycares. As they spoke, a research project took form. They both wanted to empirically validate the soothing steps in the *Happiest Baby* book. "Parents really love that book," Dr. Bocknek said during a recent interview, with her own newborn daughter sleeping peacefully

nearby. "They feel empowered by it because the techniques are often immediately effective. The baby stops crying." Dr. Bocknek holds an infant mental health endorsement and cares deeply about the bonds formed between infants and caregivers. "A parent is more likely to hold her baby when she feels competent to soothe her baby, which predicts stronger bonding," she said. "This is so important and could lessen child abuse and neglect."

The suggestions in Dr. Karp's book, specifically the Five Ss of swaddling, shushing, swinging, sucking and side/stomach positioning, are based on the science of newborn development and are complementary to infant mental health science and practice. Validating their effectiveness is necessary for his approach to have wider impact, possibly as an intervention pediatricians could teach new parents during a newborn wellness visit.

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October 7 & 8  
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## NEWS & HONORS

**HARD WORK ACKNOWLEDGED** – WSU’s provost has recommended to the Board of Governors that **Dr. Steven Ondersma** be promoted to full professor in August. He is working to transform patient use of mHealth technology in the waiting room into a high-reach tool for integrating physical and behavioral health, increasing access to care, and establishing rigorous benchmarks for key health outcomes.



**COMPETITIVE AWARD** – **Laurel Hicks**, a current predoctoral fellow, won a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan student research award for her project, *Improving Mental Health, Birth and Maternal Outcomes in Detroit Mothers - A Mindfulness-Based Intervention*. Laurel is pursuing a dual-title Ph.D. in Clinical Social Work and Infant Mental Health. Her primary research interest is mindfulness-based interventions to improve mental health, and maternal and birth outcomes in pregnant women.

**TOP FELLOW** – Former MPSI fellow **Amy Loree** accepted a position with the Inter-professional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction, jointly taught by faculty of Yale University and the Veterans Administration Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, CT. This fellowship provides two years of post-residency, post-doctoral research, education, and clinical learning opportunities to eligible physicians and associated health professionals.



**GIVING BACK** – **Marguerite Carlton** has been named MPSI Senior Major Gift Officer. Marguerite’s 20 years of dedication to Wayne State include lead development and administrative roles at WDET-FM, the School of Business Administration, and the School of Social Work. MPSI will share Marguerite’s fundraising talents with the Library System and the Institute of Gerontology. She’s completely comfortable grasping the complexities of three units to match the right donor with the right project.

“It’s about telling our story,” she said. “We must communicate why our work matters, what makes it meaningful.” She is already familiar with much of MPSI’s story through shared projects with the College of Education, the College of Nursing, and the School of Social Work. “Some people think fundraising is about numbers, but it’s the people behind those numbers that matter,” she said. “I enjoy building collaborations and connecting the dots. Once people understand what we are trying to accomplish, I know they’ll want to help us get there.” To learn more about MPSI’s needs and goals, contact Marguerite at margueritec@wayne.edu or call 313-664-2608.



MPSI Infant Mental Health group poses with Carolyn Dayton (center) holding award at MI-AIMH conference in Kalamazoo, MI



**INNOVATION AND DEDICATION** – The Hiram E. Fitzgerald award is given to an emerging scholar committed to strengthening relationships between infants, toddlers and their families and enhancing their quality of life through innovative research. **Dr. Carolyn Dayton**, MPSI’s associate director of Infant Mental Health won the 2015 award. Her research targets early parenting processes with an innovative emphasis on fathering in urban settings, while her clinical work looks for biological and psychosocial risk and resilience factors that influence early parenting process and early child development. Of the four Fitzgerald awards to date, three have been to MPSI faculty specializing in Infant Mental Health.

**FROM FELLOW TO TENURE TRACK** – **Mickey Sperlich**, a fellow and the first social work graduate to receive her doctorate through MPSI’s dual title program in infant mental health, has taken a tenure track position at State University of New York (SUNY) in Buffalo. Her work has centered on women’s physical and mental health and health disparities, and how trauma, posttraumatic stress, and other comorbid mental health disorders can affect pregnancy, birth, and early mothering and attachment.



**PUBLICATION KUDOS** – Predoctoral fellow **Hilary Marusak**’s paper, *Childhood trauma exposure disrupts the automatic regulation of emotional processing* was selected for publication in the peer reviewed Neuropsychopharmacology journal. She was also invited to attend the esteemed UCLA Neuroimaging Training Program Advanced Summer Course in 2015. She is pursuing a doctorate in translational neuroscience.

# The Healing Power of Storytelling

“It’s a bit of a drive.” That’s what the representative from the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion said as she asked whether the Healthier Urban Families program could help with a training in late April. HUF’s Director Beverly Weathington, LMSW, rarely says no when a group needs her help. She gives dozens of trainings to parents, children and professionals every year at churches, schools, youth organizations and support groups mostly in and around Detroit.

“When they told me they would provide transportation, I figured they meant it was in Highland Park or maybe Macomb County,”

Bev said with a smile. “Not the Upper Peninsula.” After a ten-hour van ride, Bev found herself just south of Houghton at the Healing Stories on Racial Equity roundtable for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Rather than a traditional training, Bev had the revered position of “listener” as 15 female members of the L’anse tribe met with her and members of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, to tell their story. Though it wasn’t a typical training, she soon felt the impact and almost mystical power of this experience for speaker and listener. “I would do it again, yes, absolutely,” she said.

The women spoke of issues they face in and out of the Native American community, their pride and challenges. Many suffer severe bullying and bigotry when they leave the reservation and venture into the nearby town. Several women were daughters of parents and grandparents who spent their childhood in boarding schools mandated by Michigan and federal policy. “The philosophy in the mid-1900s was that children of



Keweenaw Bay Indian community member shares her story. Photo courtesy *The Mining Journal*

Native Americans needed to be acculturated to the majority race in the United States,” Bev explained. This meant children were pulled from their parents, some as young as 6, sent to a distant institution often with hundreds of other children, forbidden to speak their native language or participate in any native traditions, and taught basic domestic skills to prepare them for menial jobs on graduation.

“They rarely saw their parents and when they returned home for visits, they sometimes felt like strangers. Native children were especially susceptible to diseases such as tuberculosis and measles in the larger boarding schools, and outbreaks resulting in the loss of young lives were not uncommon. There could be emotional, physical and sexual abuse and no recourse,” Bev said. “The experiences caused a disruption to the parental/child bond and resulted in generational trauma.” A large school in Harbor Springs, Michigan where many L’anse tribe children were boarded, finally closed in 1983.

The children of the Native American parents who grew up in boarding schools also suffered. The parents had been raised in a non-nurturing environment, made to feel ashamed of their culture and themselves. They were unable to pass down native customs to their children, because they did not know them. The stories Bev heard reflected these and other losses, and opened her eyes and heart. “I hadn’t known the extent of this trauma,” Bev said.

There is power in telling the story, though, power in being acknowledged and heard even years after the event. “The simple act of telling can be very freeing,”

Bev said. “I couldn’t make what happened to these women any better. I wasn’t there to console them, advise them, or counsel them. They didn’t want answers. I was an objective and compassionate ear. These women wanted me to know what happened to them and that while they may still struggle because of it, they have a strength and tenacity that is allowing them to reconnect and celebrate their heritage. That is what helps them. That’s the power of telling the story.”

When the session ended, the tribe invited Bev and the group of listeners for dinner and informed them that they would have a choice of walleye or trout. “Is there a fish store nearby? I didn’t see one,” Bev asked. The fishermen laughed, grabbed some poles and headed toward Lake Superior. “That was the freshest fish I ever ate,” Bev said, “but I took some teasing about the ‘fish store.’” The entire experience was so positive, she’s been invited to the tribe’s three-day Pow Wow later this summer. Fresh fish included.

## Giving the Gift of Experience

**S**

usan Kesner and her brother Seymour Nayer attended Merrill Palmer's preschool in

the '50s. Their parents were strong proponents of the program, and the school experience had a lifelong impact on the entire family. When their mother Corinne Nayer passed away in 2013, nearly two dozen of her friends and family donated to MPSI in her memory. Today, Sue is a director at Copyright Clearance Center in Massachusetts, and Seymour is a partner with the law firm Plunkett Cooney in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. They continue to give of their time and treasure to support our Institute.

FROM SUE:

*When my mother passed away two and a half years ago, I knew immediately that I wanted to honor her memory by contributing in some capacity to Merrill Palmer. My family has a long history with this special institution beginning in the '30s with my grandparents, and continuing to the present as my brother Seymour (preschool class of '59) serves on*



Sue Kesner communes with horses, pigs and preschoolers during a day-long outing with the Early Childhood Center.

*represented the convergence of three things she cared about deeply: Detroit, superior early childhood education, and a unique community.*

*"A year ago, I met with the gift officer for MPSI to discuss a donation that would have direct impact on the young students of the Early Childhood Center. When she suggested funding the annual Real Life Camp and Farm field trip for 90 preschoolers and their parents, I was delighted. When she invited me to come along I jumped at the opportunity.*

*"A few months later, on a beautiful May day in Detroit, my brother and I packed our lunches and boarded the buses with about 200 children, parents and the wonderful MPSI staff. Forty minutes later we rolled into the farm and the fun began – horseback riding, feeding baby animals and hay rides. The farm staff was kind, careful and expert teachers. Seymour enjoyed the day, too. 'What I liked most was seeing*

*the children interacting with their parents, both at the farm and on the bus ride,' he said. 'I noticed many dads were involved,*

See back page

*the MPSI Board. In between, there were three MP alumni (my uncle in one of the first classes, myself in the class of '56 and my brother). For my mother, Merrill Palmer*



Considering a donation? **Call Marguerite Carlton at 313-664-2608**



# THE FREER HOUSE

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## Hecker Mansion Joins Freer House as Wayne State Treasure



*Col. Frank J. Hecker was president and Charles L. Freer vice president of the Michigan Peninsular Car Company, a railroad freight car manufacturer. Hecker and Freer built their remarkable homes next door to each other in 1890-92. Wayne State purchased the Hecker Mansion in April and will take occupancy this fall.*

### *A Collaboration of Artists and Friends: the Hecker Triptych*

The Hecker triptych is a recent addition to the DIA's InsideOut program, on display between the Hecker and Freer Houses on E. Ferry, from April through July 2015.

The triptych commissioned in 1893 by Col. Frank J. Hecker (1846-1927) for his

home on Woodward Avenue was the result of Hecker's close friendship with his business partner and next-door neighbor Charles Lang Freer (1854-1919), and the artistic collaboration of painters Thomas W. Dewing and Dwight W. Tryon. Hecker desired paintings similar to works being

created by Dewing and Tryon for Freer's home. The result, *Spring, Summer, Autumn* (1893), originally graced the walls of the Hecker's music room and today is a highlight of the DIA's American art collection.



DIA INSIDE OUT Brings reproductions of great treasures from the Detroit Institute of Arts into your community. Discover them all around town.

Standing next to the DIA's InsideOut of the Hecker Triptych are (left to right): Freer House Director William Colburn, Attorney and Hecker scholar J. Douglas Peters, Senior Project Administrator at Wayne State's Office of Economic Development Jeri Stroupe, Freer House intern Buddy Engelhart, Freer House research assistant Meghan Urisko, and Freer House intern James K. Miller.

*Faculty and staff of MPSI have their offices in the former home of Detroit industrialist and art collector, Charles Lang Freer. The 22-room, Shingle-style home was built in 1892 and designed by architect Wilson Eyre, Jr.. Freer displayed his large collection of paintings and porcelain in the light-filled rooms.*



# A Quarter Century Labor of Love: Hecker Mansion Restoration

by William Colburn, Director, The Freer House

The Freer House on E. Ferry St. and the adjacent Hecker House on Woodward Ave. have a long history in common. The homes were built between 1890-92 by Charles Lang Freer and Col. Frank Hecker who were close friends, business partners and next door neighbors. Freer and Hecker bought their lots on the same day in 1888 (Hecker's lot on Woodward cost an astounding \$30,000). Freer assisted Hecker with the design of his home by selecting the architect Louis Kamper, who created a limestone mansion in the French Chateausque style. Freer began construction of his own house soon thereafter and had it designed in the simpler, yet sophisticated Shingle style, by architect Wilson Eyre, Jr. of Philadelphia.

The Hecker and Freer houses were two of the finest private residences in Michigan. Following Freer's death in 1919 and Hecker's in 1927, the homes took different paths. The Freer House was sold to the Merrill Palmer School in 1920/21 and continues to be used for educational purposes as MPSI. The Freer House membership organization of MPSI raises public awareness of the significance of this historic building and works to support its maintenance and restoration.

The Hecker family continued to own the Hecker House until 1947, engaging a young couple, the Andersons, to operate the building as a high-end boarding



Doug Peters, former co-owner of the Hecker House, above, and left at work hand-framing a giclee painting that now hangs in the Freer House.

move staff into the building this fall.

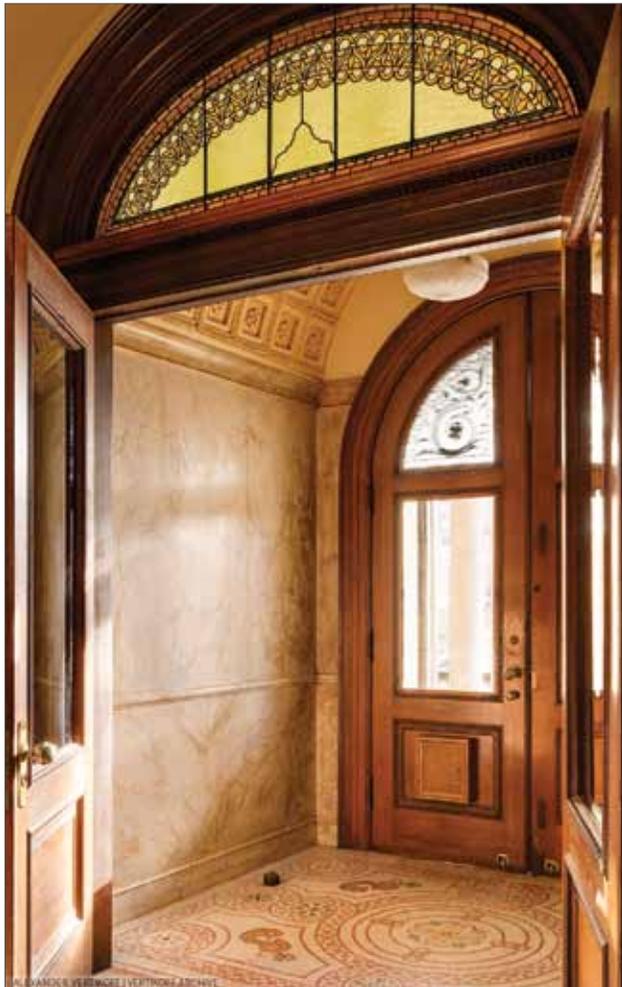
The Freer House salutes Doug Peters for his outstanding role, together with David Christensen, in leading the exceptional restoration of the historic Hecker House. Doug has served for many years on the Freer House board and played a leading role with many successful projects, including the installation of 11 'giclee' reproductions of paintings originally commissioned by Freer for the interior of the house. Doug also has been instrumental in guiding and advising multiple maintenance and restoration projects at the Freer House. We are indebted to him for his extraordinary vision and support and look forward to his continued participation as he retires from a distinguished law career and continues his second career as an accomplished painter and artist.

In March, the Freer House commissioned renowned architectural photographer, Alex Vertikoff, who previously photographed the Freer House, to document the interior

house. The building was then sold to the Smiley Brothers Music Company and functioned as a splendid showroom for piano and organ retail sales. In 1991, the Hecker House was purchased by Charfoos and Christensen P.C. law firm which invested considerable effort, under the direction of principal attorney J. Douglas Peters, to beautifully restore this magnificent structure. In late 2014, WSU bought the Hecker House and will



of the Hecker House to record the superb restoration work during Charfoos and Christensen's 24 years of ownership. A selection of these beautiful photos is shown here.



2015 HECKER MANSION PHOTOS  
BY ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF



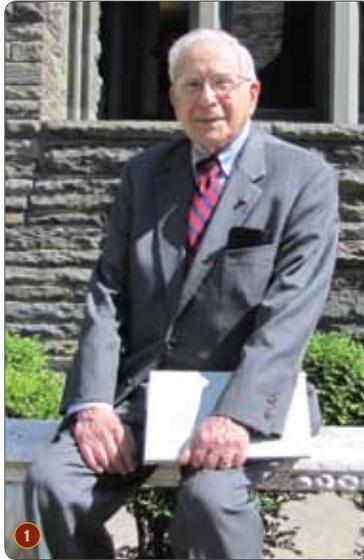
## Visitors Connect with Freer House Past, Present and Future

Freer House hosts hundreds of visitors a year. Its 350 members account for many of the visits, often at the post-reception of a guest lecture at the Detroit Institute of Arts. But throughout the year, a few dozen other interested folks also drop by. These unique visitors include alums of the Merrill Palmer nursery school, former Ferry Street neighbors curious about changes to the area, and community leaders interested in Freer's contributions to Asian and Islamic art. A few of our recent guests:

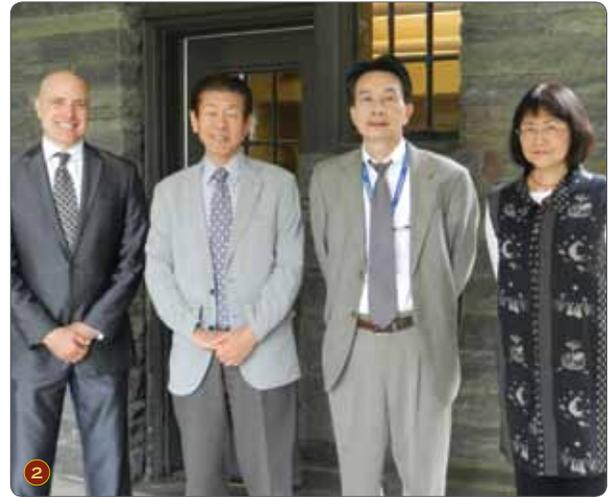
1 **Alan Fern** is doubly connected to Freer House. He attended the Merrill Palmer Institute nursery school in the 1930s. "I even remember where I used to hang up my coat," he said, "and sitting in window seats." He later became director of the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution, where the Peacock Room (formerly owned by Charles Freer) is now housed. He and his wife Lois flew from Maryland in June to attend a Detroit conference of art museum directors and spent an afternoon at Freer House. "When we visit the Freer Gallery at the Smithsonian, Alan reminds me that he finger-painted in the space that had housed the Peacock Room," his wife Lois said. They both "loved" reminiscing and seeing how the house is gradually being restored to a community treasure.

2 The Freer House was honored with a visit in early June by **Takashi Omitsu**, president, IMRA America, Inc. and his administration coordinator and assistant, Kazuo Ishikawa. In his role as an executive advisor to the Japan Business Society of Detroit, Takashi was interested in seeing the Freer House and learning more about its significant historical connections to Freer, Detroit, and the art and culture of Japan. The tour was aided by Freer House member and volunteer, Hiroko Lancour, who has done

Below: Alan Fern seated in Freer House courtyard where he played as a preschooler.



Below L-R: William Colburn, Takashi Omitsu, Kazuo Ishikawa, Hiroko Lancour.



Above L-R: From the Historic Ford Estates: Mark Heppner, VP historic resources; Kathleen Mullins, president and CEO; Megan Wood, assoc. VP education and visitor experience



Above: Lydia Easley seated in Freer House drawing room.

considerable research on Freer's important connections to Japan.

3 Executive staff members, including President and CEO Kathleen Mullins, of the **Historic Ford Estates** (Eleanor and Edsel Ford House and Henry Ford Fairlane Estate), recently toured the Freer and Hecker houses to learn more about these important historic landmarks in Detroit and to share ideas and resources for preservation and restoration. The group saw archival photos and documentation of the significant role of Eleanor Ford in the development of the Merrill-Palmer Institute during her 50 years of service and leadership on the board from 1926 to 1976.

4 **Lydia Easley** spent her first 12 years in the Hecker House, the turreted mansion next door to Freer House that was a boarding house run by her parents at the time. She was an only child but shared the house with 65 boarders. She attended MPI's nursery school, not just because it was convenient. "My mother knew it was very highly thought of," Lydia said when she visited from Washington in March. "The school was involved with mother and daddy right from when I was born." Her development at MPI was immortalized as a case study in a 1959 book chapter on General Principles of Development.

## Resilience in Urban Children: A New Way to Train

MPSI recently received a grant from WSU's Graduate School to enhance graduate level training for careers that promote competence and resilience in urban children. The award provides stipends and tuition for four graduate research assistants to receive mentorship and guidance from a team of federally funded researchers who represent multiple disciplines including psychiatry, pediatrics, social work, psychology and infant mental health. MPSI was the only social sciences program chosen.

MPSI's current training program complements work in students' home departments with individualized training plans in developmental science to strengthen their pro-

fessional skills so they can make meaningful contributions to research on children in challenging environments. "The new grant sharpens the training focus by combining MPSI's interest in promoting positive youth and family development with models of risk for a more holistic approach," said Valerie Simon, Ph.D., program leader for the grant and jointly appointed faculty in MPSI and Psychology. The students chosen will create an individualized training plan with their mentoring team that includes didactics, community engagement, cross-discipline research, and core thematic content.

"Competence and Resilience among Urban Infants, Children, and Adolescents

during Critical Developmental Transitions" is the core theme. Training topics include bio-behavioral stress, adverse childhood experiences, core developmental competencies, developmental research methods, and the role of socio-cultural factors in developmental experiences. For years, MPSI's pre-doctoral training has prepared emerging professionals from multiple disciplines for careers that use developmental science to promote the well-being of urban children and families. So MPSI was well-equipped to take this perspective on the impact of adverse childhood experiences on development and use it to foster resilience and developmental competencies in urban children.

As students and faculty mentors engage from a range of disciplines, benefits to both groups emerge. "A trainee might use data sets from their home field, such as psychology that focuses on individual differences, to collaborate on a paper with a faculty mentor from social work to consider how

See back page

“ More people from more disciplines will be talking and working together. -Dr. Simon



# 2015 Explorations in Development



Online registration mid July

**MPSI Continuing Education Conference** October 7 & 8

TOPIC:

*Relational Play Therapy for Toddlers and Preschoolers*



For more information call Bev Weathington at 313-664-2526

### Who Will Benefit

Nurses, social workers, and other professionals working with infants and families

### Location

WSU Oakland Center  
33773 W. Twelve Mile Rd.  
Farmington Hills, Mi, 48331

### Registration Cost Includes

continental breakfast and CEs.

Lunch *not included*

**Hosted By** - The MPSI Healthier Urban Families Outreach Program & Infant Mental Health Program at Wayne State University, and the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health.

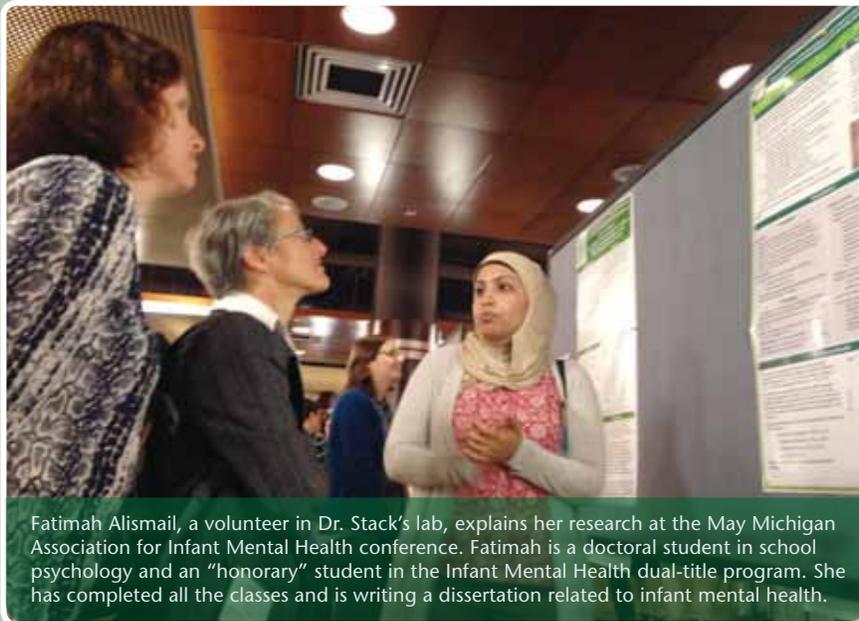


## Student Volunteers Learn as They Give

What has 134 open arms, enviable brain power, 67 compassionate hearts, and an infinite supply of generosity?

The young men and women who fill MPSI's research labs as volunteers on an array of important projects to improve the well-being of children and families.

These special 67, most of them undergraduates or recent graduates of Wayne State, are the unpaid army that keeps MPSI's research moving forward. They hail from such disciplines as neuroscience, psychology, social work and medicine. They collect and analyze data, recruit subjects, present research posters, win academic awards, and even co-author publica-



Fatimah Alismail, a volunteer in Dr. Stack's lab, explains her research at the May Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health conference. Fatimah is a doctoral student in school psychology and an "honorary" student in the Infant Mental Health dual-title program. She has completed all the classes and is writing a dissertation related to infant mental health.

tions.

"Volunteering is mutually beneficial," said MPSI Infant Mental Health Director Ann Stacks whose lab is home to 10 volunteers. "Students get experience in all aspects of research and get to practice what they learn in class: interviewing, protection of human

volunteer to be a part of the MPSI experience," Dr. Lichtenberg, MPSI director, said. "Our faculty works hard to immerse them in work that is meaningful and educational. We accomplish much more by teaming with talented volunteers."

subjects, scoring self-report measures and other skills." Students build strong mentoring relationships with faculty; graduate students can also mentor younger volunteers and learn leadership skills. Faculty members get high quality help on a tight research budget. Volunteers bring fresh perspectives, too, that can improve processes and problem-solving.

"We are flattered that so many students

To learn more about our labs visit: [http://mpsi.wayne.edu/research/research\\_labs.php](http://mpsi.wayne.edu/research/research_labs.php)



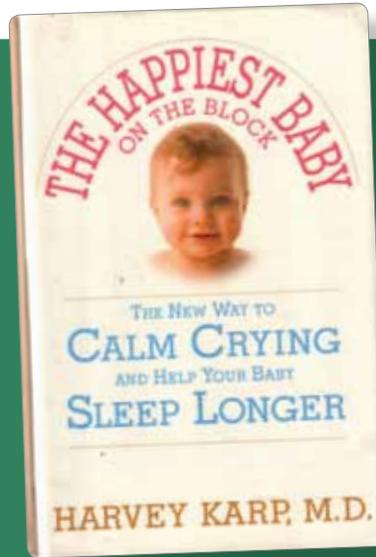
## Happiest from page 1

### Interventions by the Book

Dr. Bocknek’s team, in partnership with Dr. Deepak Kamat, vice chief for medical education at the Detroit Children’s Hospital, created a project to test the effectiveness of the Five Ss. New parents would receive a copy of the book, a CD of calming sounds white noise, a swaddling blanket, a bookmark of the Five Ss, and a brief training. They would complete a pre- and post-survey and receive personalized texts as reminders and support. When the infant is about four months old, parents would take one more survey.

Positive, simple interventions to strengthen the bond between parent and child are an overarching goal of Dr. Bocknek and her research. She hopes her career course will make a meaningful contribution to improving clinical practice with children and their families. “All of my work has been focused on vulnerable children, children living in poverty or with social issues that cause a separation or impairment in the early parent-child relationship, like incarceration.” She has always cared about the child who is “double traumatized” by poverty and violence. “These vulnerable children need close relationships with nurturing adult caregivers the most.”

Her appointment at MPSI provides a collegial team of supportive faculty members. “They have enriched the way I think about research problems,” Dr. Bocknek said. The Happiest Baby research project uses text messaging to communicate with parents after the initial training, something she would not have tried if not for MPSI’s Dr. Steven Ondersma. “For years, Steve has been using technology in his interventions with great success,” Dr. Bocknek said. He convinced her that a text or other technological adaptation can be less intrusive and more effective than traditional parenting interventions like group psychoeducation, especially to the parent of an infant. “That’s a great example of interdisciplinary collaboration. A



*Parents really love that book. It’s become the classic of our generation.*



**Erika Bocknek**

technique that I could not have imagined a year ago is now one of my best opportunities for improving clinical interventions with parents.”

### What Builds Resilience?

Dr. Bocknek’s team is researching resilience in another project called TEDY, for Toddlers’ Emotional Development in Young Families, a partnership with the Arab American Chaldean Council WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children). Levels of

community violence can be high in urban communities, and Dr. Bocknek is demonstrating in her research that many adults in young Detroit families suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome. Some – but not all – children exposed to violence have poor social-emotional development and school outcomes. What of the children who develop normally despite the violence, the resilient group? Dr. Bocknek wants to know “what else is going on in those families? Are family processes like daily routines and meaningful rituals protecting the children from the chaos outside the home?”

The TEDY team observes and interviews the 2-year-olds and their families, and monitors heart rate and oxytocin levels to better understand the keys to resilience. Fifty co-parent/child triads have been sampled so far, about half of the goal. “So far we have found that most of our kids have a father involved in their life, even if the biological parents are no longer together,” Dr. Bocknek said. “In about 75% of cases, the father is the mother’s closest parenting partner, a higher percentage than expected.”

Dr. Bocknek credits her talented lab team of 10 undergraduates and 16 recent graduates for keeping research projects moving forward. Hasti Raveau, the graduate research assistant in charge of the lab, has been indispensable, especially during Dr. Bocknek’s current maternity leave. “I couldn’t do it without her,” she said. “She’s my partner on every aspect of TEDY, from big picture to tiny details. She’s extremely talented.”

Now the mother of a four-year-old and a four-month-old, Dr. Bocknek acknowledges the deep influence motherhood has on her work. “As a parent, I’m in constant conversation about how to improve outcomes for children, my own and also the most vulnerable in our community,” she said. “The research problems I embrace are close

**Dr. Karp’s books are available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [Barnes & Noble \(BN.com\)](https://www.barnesandnoble.com).**



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SPRING 2015  
 IMPRINT'S NEWSLETTER



**SAVE THE DATE**

**WED. OCT. 7 & THURS. OCT. 8, 8AM – 4PM**  
**Explorations in Development MPSI CE Conference**  
 WSU Oakland Center, Farmington Hills.  
*Relational Play Therapy for Toddlers and Preschoolers*  
 Call Bev Weathington at 313-664-2526 for details.

**THURS. OCT. 15, 5:30 – 7PM**  
**Giant Step-Up Reception**  
 Freer House, 71 East Ferry Avenue, Detroit  
 Show support for the Giant Step Teen Conference by attending our annual reception. Light refreshments and high school entertainment. \$15. Call 313-664-2527 for details.

**WED. OCT. 28, 8:30 AM – 1:45PM**  
**Giant Step Teen Conference**  
 Greater Grace Center, 23500 W. 7 Mile Dr., Detroit  
 Open to 9th and 10th graders throughout southeast Michigan. Open discussions to break down barriers between races, cultures and neighborhoods. Students must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Conference is free. Lunch provided. Registration opens late August. Call 313-664-2527 for details.

**Gift of Experience** from page 4

*which, as a former young dad myself, I found particularly gratifying.'*

*"I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of the MP family again – some 60 years after my grandparents first chose this school for their children. I look forward to the opportunity to be part of this trip next year."*

**Resilience** from page 9

broader societal factors contribute to those differences," said Dr. Simon. "Our aim is meaningful cross-discipline collaborations that move developmental science forward in significant ways. More people from more disciplines will be talking and working together."

The hope is that the enhanced training program will put units in a better position to compete for large federal training grants such as the National Institutes of Health T32 award. Dr. Simon credits Hilary Ratner, Ph.D., MPSI's new faculty member and former Vice President of Research at WSU with helping her secure this grant and strengthen MPSI to qualify for future training grants. "Dr. Ratner was great," Dr. Simon said. "She helped to translate MPSI's longstanding mission into a framework for training contemporary developmental scientists in a way that is consistent with the university's focus on urban families. This new grant is an important step forward."

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