

# DUCK Lab Newsletter

Spring 2017 – Volume 10



Development and Understanding of Children's Knowledge

## Kids' Klub at LeBauer Park

We are very proud to announce a new partnership with Greensboro Downtown Parks/LeBauer Park as part of their "Kids' Klub in the Park" free programming for families! Along with several other organizations that hold various activities every Saturday (weather-permitting), we will offer "Crafts & Conversation." This event consists of hands-on, developmentally appropriate, and FUN crafts for the kids, goodie bags, and informal conversation/Q&A with parents about child development. We will be at the park on select Saturdays from 11am-1pm. The schedule will be posted on our Facebook page and is also available on the park's website and Facebook page. We hope to see you there!



## New Graduate Students in the Lab!



Rachel comes to us from the University of Maryland, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Family Science and worked as a Research Assistant. Rachel is interested in children's cognitive processes and social decision-making.



Andrea earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Cognitive Science from the University of Virginia. She then worked as a Research Assistant at Washington University in St Louis. Andrea is interested in children's perceptions of social groups, and in particular, groups of marginalized social status.

## Greensboro Science Center

We have continued our collaborative research partnership with the Greensboro Science Center (GSC)! Did you know that the GSC is one of only seven accredited locations in the U.S. to house a zoo, science center, and aquarium?!

In the coming months, we will be starting a new project that will examine how two different exhibits – one highly technology-based and the other very "hands-on" – to learn how each of these types of modalities support children's learning, memory, and creativity!



If you are planning a trip to the GSC, please stop by our table at the Discovery House or SciQuarium entrance to say "hello"!

## MEET THE DUCK LAB!

### Directors:

Dr. Janet Boseovski  
Dr. Stuart Marcovitch

### Post-Doc:

Dr. Chris Erb

### Lab Managers:

Jessica Caporaso  
Kimmy Marble

### Doctoral Candidate:

Delaney Collyer

### Masters Candidates:

Jessica Caporaso  
Rachel Croce  
Kimmy Marble  
Andrea Yuly

### Research Assistants:

Aarushi Ahuja  
Amber Campos  
Rachel Dimaio  
Morgan Howell  
Sarah Martin  
Andrew McBride  
Kris McClamrock  
Jennifer Rowe  
Natalie Suchy  
Kailei Trippi

Check out our **Facebook page** and newly **updated website** for info on studies and findings!

Like us at [www.facebook.com/uncgducklab](http://www.facebook.com/uncgducklab)

And be sure to check out [duck-lab.com](http://duck-lab.com)



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
AT GREENSBORO

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UNCG

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How is my child's information stored and used?

Your child's personal information is only accessible to our trained DUCK Lab members. Also, we use ID numbers on all stored data so that the information that we collect cannot be paired readily with your child's name.

### How are DUCK Lab members trained?

All of our student research assistants have received rigorous training in ethical research practice and the proper administration of research protocols.

### How can I be confident that the studies are okay for my child?

All our research is approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at UNCG. They help to ensure that our studies are always designed with your child's well-being in mind.

### What are the studies like for my child?

Our data are collected through playing games and reading stories rather than "tests" in which children feel pressured to produce "right" answers.

### Further questions?

Feel free to contact us!

## Critical thinking corner: Learning from experts

In a world full of information, how do we decide if someone is a reliable source for learning something new? This is an important question for understanding the development of critical thinking. In a recent study, we wanted to know whether 4- to 8-year-olds would be more likely to believe an expert source of information (e.g., musician) or a non-expert consensus (e.g., several people who have no experience in music) with conflicting opinions about the quality of a piece of music. We chose these sources because we know that older children and adults pay attention to them when deciding whether to accept information from others. We also wanted to know if it mattered if the assessments were positive or negative, as some of our research has shown that children sometimes resist negative information.

Participants heard conflicting opinions about the music ("it's good" vs. "it's bad") from these sources of information and were then asked who they thought was right. As it turns out, children didn't care about expertise or consensus: they simply wanted to support positive evaluations irrespective of who gave them (although 6- to 8-year-olds showed more understanding of expertise than the younger kids)! In a follow up, we learned that children were more willing to accept negative information from experts when it is framed as helpful (i.e., "this needs work"). In these circumstances, children at all ages recognized experts as correct. These findings suggest that framing performance feedback in terms of effort and completion, rather than on strictly evaluative terms, may be more effective for children.

Boseovski, J. J., Marble, K. E., & Hughes, C. (in press). Role of expertise, consensus, and informational valence in children's performance judgments. *Social Development*.

## DUCK Master's Degree

**Delaney Collyer**, a third year graduate student in Developmental Psychology, recently gave a successful defense of her thesis research, entitled "Patterns of Self-Other Overlap in Children." All of the data for this work was collected through the families and schools who volunteer with the DUCK lab – thank you for your contributions!

Self-other overlap refers to viewing oneself and close others as highly similar and related. This overlap with others is important because it may affect children's development of identity (their ideas about themselves), their motivation to form relationships with others, and their learning, understanding, and empathy for others' experiences. Delaney's research examined how children experience overlap with close peers (best friends) and more distant peers (friends they don't know as well) at different ages. She found that children ages 5 to 8 express a higher sense of overlap with their close than distant peers, but that self-other overlap patterns in children's thoughts about their own and others' identities may not become clear until older childhood or adolescence.



## Our Thanks!

A Child's World- Cherry, A Child's World- Hartman, Apple Tree Academies, Apple Tree Academies – Northgate, Arts and Basics, Bethany Stepping Stones, Blanche S. Benjamin Branch Public Library, Bristol Head Start, Building Blocks Children's Center, Childcare Network # 162, Childcare Network #161, Childcare Network #237, Childcare Network #242, Childcare Network #56, Childcare Network #78, Childcare Network 2, Childcare Network 3, Childcare Network 4a (#207), Children's Christian Playschool, Childtime 2, Cogie Cathedral, College Hill Childcare, Curry 205, Curry Annex UNCG, Excel Christian Academy, Faith Wesleyan Childcare, Fellowship Day School, First Baptist Preschool, First Presbyterian Weekday Preschool, First Step Preschool, Friendly Ave Christian School, Greensboro Children's Museum, Greensboro Food Truck Festival, Greensboro Science Center, Greensboro Summer Solstice, Guilford County Heart and Stroke Walk, Hartley Dr. Family YMCA (previously High Point YMCA), Hayes Taylor YMCA A.S. Program, Hemphill Branch Library, Hester's Creative Schools, Inc., Holy Trinity Day Schools, John's Run for Kids, Jones Elementary School, Kids Ahead, Kids-R-Kids 1, Kids-R-Kids 2, La Petite – 2, LeBauer Park, Little Bo Peep Daycare, Little Feet Learning CenterChil, Little Mouse Playhouse, Little One's World Academy, Little Thinkers, Mad Science of the Piedmont, Mainstreet United Methodist Preschool, May Memorial Library, McGirt-Horton Branch Library, Mt. Pleasant Daycare Center, MudPies Northwest Child Development Centers, Muirs Chapel Christian Playschool, North Drive- UNCG, Our Children's House, Partners in Childcare, Proehlfic Park Family Sports Complex, Ragsdale YMCA, Rainbow, SciWorks, Spears Family YMCA, St. Francis Day School, Staley Guilford Child Development, Sunshine House 1, Sunshine House 5, Sunshine House 6, Sunshine House 8, The Learning Palette Preschool, Triad Christian Academy, Walkertown Branch Library, Weatherspoon Museum. Wee Care CDC, West Market Methodist