No one is more excited about the introduction of infants to the MSU Child Development Laboratories (CDL) than Kalli Decker (UI Family & Community Sciences 2008).

As a Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) doctoral student, Decker does most of the research in parent-child communication and studied infant signing — simple hand gestures that children can use before they learn to talk — online through interviews, surveys, and parent diaries. When the CDL welcomed infants last year, she’s had 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 a trained interpreter, during her undergraduate studies, she realized she loved working with young children.

Decker felt that studying Child Development at MSU was the access to the CDL — a model program for early childhood education and care. She was also able by the opportunity to study with HDFS Professor Claire Vallotton, an expert in using infant signing as a method to gain insight into infants’ social and cognitive worlds and the effects of early symbolic skills on later development. Vallotton is particularly interested in providing parents with effective tools to support their children’s development of social-emotional and communication skills. She has found that infants as young as 18 months can communicate emotions such as being scared or seeds such as food or sleep.

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

In the past, she has been working on a study led by Vallotton to analyze the motivations different families have for teaching infant signing to hearing children. They have also studied the various ways that parents teach sign language — whether it’s using hands with the infants to form signs or a more naturalistic acquisition.

It is Decker’s hope to be able to show the impact that practicing signing with hearing children has on their communication skills and acquisition of language throughout early childhood. Vallotton’s research 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 development of spoken language. Decker hopes to be able to show through empirical research that it actually improves language development and acquisition. To read more about Claire Vallotton’s infant signing visit, visit http://www.novonew.com/2009/11/24/is-it-on-genetic-so-fault.html.

Research at the Child Development Laboratories

Children teaching their two, Teachers asking kids to identify. Toddler playing with blocks. At first glance, you might think that academic research is occurring here at the MSU Child Development Laboratories (CDL). But you would be wrong. Take a closer look and you will see a micro- phone hanging down in the middle of the room and carrier nerves, identifying the children at play. The Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Social Sciences has been operating the CDL for over 60 years, providing early childhood programming on campus through a range of needs in addition to providing services and education to young children and their families. The CDL provides childhood development training for MSU students, a research setting for faculty and students, and a basis for engagement with other early childhood professionals. Working alongside master teachers, students have opportunities to engage in state-of-the-art early childhood development initiatives. For more information include in-classroom observations and documenting capabilities, one-way observation tools, and research activities.

Assisting Professor Kent Skibbe has used the CDL as a valuable resource in determining that attention for kindergarten was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills. Skibbe disagrees. The study found that attending preschool was associated with gains in literacy skills for three and four year olds. Skibbe observed children attending their first and second years of pre-kindergarten at the CDL. The researchers found that those who practiced positive effects of language development and vocabulary skills.

To support the Child Development Laboratories, To support the Child Development Laboratories, consider donating to the Child Development Laboratories Endowment Fund (AN21921). The fund, generously provided by retired faculty member Maritza Allman, provides scholarships for children attending the CDL. Gifts can be made online at www.givingto.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 Bloom, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at sbloom@msu.edu or call us at 1-866-969-2000.

Support the Child Development Laboratories

The Child Development Laboratories is a national leader in early childhood education and provides students an opportunity to participate in research, while also providing educational services for the children attending.
Dear Friends:

Greeting from the campus of Michigan State University!

In February, we hosted more than 700 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends attend MSU’s Annual Awards Convocation in February. Psychology Professor Ann Marie Wade Higgason, who has been appointed Chair of the Department of Anthropology. She conducts research on African American popular culture and hip hop music.

In October, over 300 alumni, faculty, staff, and students attended the College of Social Science David Stuke’s speech, was a great event celebrating and bringing together our alumni and friends.

Please also read May 21 for the 2011 Annual Awards at the College of Social Science University. We will be holding the Annual Awards on the College of Social Science, a performance from our graduating seniors, and that night’s board members. If you are interested in attending, please contact Vicki Emmerson at vicki@msu.edu for more information.

Another way to help students is at your alma mater by in memory of current students. Join Spartan LINKS, the Career Connector for Michigan State University.

This is a Joint gift with my spouse

Allan Shaw, President
College of Social Science Alumni Association
Human Resources and Labor Relations, 1999

College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA) update

Please join me in congratulating our 2011 graduating class! As we continue to support our alumni and support our students.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Wade Higgason, Dean

Alumni Honored at Grand Awards Ceremony

Two extraordinary social science alumni were recognized by the MSU Alumni Association for their achievements at the Grand Awards Ceremony, which was held last October. These indelible are emblematic of the great accomplishments and service our alumni achieve, supporting the mission and character of our alma mater.

Bill Lingerfelt, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1961. Lingerfelt served for over 30 years with the U.S. Secret Service as a Special Agent and as Executive Assistant to the Director. In 1995, he was named as a Sergeant at Arms of the U.S. House of Representatives. In this role, he is responsible for reviewing and approving all security issues, to the safety and security of staff and visitors, and the Capitol complex.

Bill Lingerfelt has been a supportive and steadfast resource for MSU students in Washington DC. He has sponsored interns as part of the MSU Social Work Clerkship Program. Each year, he provides a tour of the U.S. Capitol for all students. In the program and discuss his responsibilities as Sergeant at Arms. He provides his interns with access to behind-the-scenes security workings of special events such as the State of the Union, inauguration, and Joint Sessions of Congress.

Marcia Schulze, Social Work 1984, IRA Social Work 1987, received an IRA Philanthropist Award. Marcia Schulze and her late husband Ed Schulze have made many generous contributions to MSU and to a host of charitable organizations throughout Michigan. One of Schulze’s particular passions is the College of Social Work’s Childcare Program. With her support, the College at Childcare Program.

Marcia mentioned two degrees in Social Work from Michigan State University, who served as a social worker for the Michigan Children’s Team before becoming a full-time blogger and philanthropist.

To more about the MSU Alumni Association Awards, visit http://www.msualumni.com/grandawards.

IRA Rollover puts Endowments into Action

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows a donor, age 70½ or older, to direct a distribution from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity without a 5% or $200,000 per year, $1,000,000). The IRAs carry a wealth of charitable opportunities.

The donor specifies the charitable organization they support.

The best part of the current win - back to Michigan State University.

“arbage the world of the personal income tax.

This is a joint gift. This gift is intended, without the tax implication of the IRA Rollover Provision Benefit MSU & You

I/we wish to support ______________________________ by making a gift

SEND PLEDGE REMINDERS: (check one)

Quarterly

A check payable to Michigan State University

A pledge of the following duration: ___________

Send pledge reminder: (check one)

Beginning:

This is a joint gift with my spouse

The Waltzes returned to campus to attend MSU’s Grand Awards University’s graduate students and their grandchildren.

Michigan State University is committed to being a leader in the world of charitable giving.

Let the IRA Rollover Provision Benefit MSU & You

Congress has re-introduced the IRA Rollover provisions legislation making charitable gifts from IRAs available again in 2011. New investors for charitable giving programs increased to $1,000 per year. The IRA Rollover would not include any tax benefits to the donor. The IRA Rollover would be tax-deductible for the donor. However, the IRA Rollover would be eligible for the charitable gift.

For more information about the IRA Rollover giving opportunity, please contact Matt McCall as an IRA rollover to the MSU Foundation at (517) 353-4134 or email: mcall@email.msu.edu.

Michigan State University is committed to being a leader in the world of charitable giving.
College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA) update

Please join me in congratulating our 2011 graduating class in addition to celebrating our newest alumnus at the College's commencement on May 7. The CSSAA is proud of the student body, and the young women and men who have displayed such excellence, fortitude, and leadership. It is a great honor to be able to recognize this achievement as we continue to engage our newest alumni at the College's commencement on May 7, the CSSAA will present Distinguished Alumni Awards recipient Bill Livingood, President Stevens, Provost Wilson, Dean Bane, and Sparty. Join us on October 22 for Homecoming 2011 when MSU plays the Wisconsin Badgers in football. It is sure to be another great event celebrating and bringing together our fans and friends. Please also save May 21 for the CSSAA Annual Meeting at the College of Music. We will hear updates on the College of Social Science, a performance from our newest alumni, and a special announcement. The College of Social Science Alumni Association is an inclusive, diverse, and vibrant organization committed to providing opportunities for communication with fellow alumni and students.

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

Sincerely,
Marietta L. Baba, Dean and Professor

Alumni Honored at Grand Awards Ceremony

Two outstanding Social Science Alumni were recognized by the MSU Alumni Association for their achievements at the Grand Awards Ceremony on campus last October. These individuals are emblematic of the great accomplishments and service our alumni achieve, supporting the mission and character of their alma mater.

Bill Livingston, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, received bachelor's degree in Criminology in 1961. Livingston served for over 32 years with the U.S. Secret Service as a Special Agent and as Executive Assistant to the Director. In 1995, he was named as A Sergeant at Arms of the U.S. House of Representatives. In this role, he is responsible for reviewing and implementing all laws relating to the safety and security of members of Congress and the Capitol campus. Livingston can be seen on television when he introduces the President during State of the Union addresses.

Bill Livingston has been a supportive and steadfast resource for MSU students in Washington, DC. He has sponsored interns as part of the MSU Patriot Capital Program, a unique program providing a tour of the House of Representatives and Capitol for five U.S. Capitol Fellows at all levels. In the program and during his responsibilities as Sergeant at Arms, he provides his interns with access and behind-the-scenes security workings of special events such as the State of the Union, inauguration and Joint Sessions of Congress.

Marcia Schalon, MSU Social Work, 1956, MA Social Work, 1971, received an MSU Philanthropist Award. Marcia Schalon and another later life husband Ed Schalon have made many generous contributions to MSU and to a host of charitable organizations throughout Michigan. One of Schalon's particular passions is the School of Social Work's Chance at Childhood Program. With her support, the Chance at Childhood Scholarship Fund was established. In 2010, Schalon organized the production of music for non-profit purposes to provide information for teachers, nurses, doctors, social workers, and clergy on the importance of reporting suspected child abuse or neglect. In addition, the Schalons established the Wilkens, 67 and Martha H. East Business Library at MSU in honor of their parents and in memory of their daughter Sarah Schalon in the College of Business.

Marcia received two degrees in Social Work from Michigan State University and worked as a social worker for the Michigan Children's Institute before becoming a full-time homemaker and philanthropist.

To read more about the MSU Alumni Association Awards, visit http://www.msualumni.org/grandawards.

IRA Rollover puts Endowments into Action

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows a donee, age 70½ or older, to distribute a direct contribution from a traditional or IRA to a qualified charity without a minimum $1,000,000 (for or $200,000 per couple, if separate IRAs). The charity immediately benefits from the gift, and the donee is able to make a simple transfer producing an instant impact. The donee can elect to make the qualified distribution at any time during the calendar year. Also providing resources for students, the James Waltz Fellowship in Family and Child Ecology assists students in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in pursuing and advancing his career in the fields of family and child ecology.

Friends or family members interested in making an IRA Rollover contribution, please contact Kim McLean at mclean@msu.edu or toll free at 877-419.

Since 1997, the薇ll of the IRA Rollover Provision legislation allowing charitable gift IRA rollovers made available in 2001. This revitalized the charitable giving programs at MSU to a great degree. To date, over $180,000 per year. With no minimum contribution required, the IRA Rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and may be used to make qualifying gifts to one or more organizations and include charitable gifts totaling $100,000 per year (total $200,000 per couple, if separate IRAs). For more information about the IRA Rollover giving opportunity, please contact Kim McLean at mclean@msu.edu or toll free at 877-419.
College of Social Science
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

No one is more excited about the introduction of infant signs to the MSU Child Development Laboratories (CDL) than Rallice Decker (31 Family & Community Studies 2008).

As a Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) doctoral student, Decker has done most of her research in parent-child communication such as studied sign婴儿 – simple hand gestures that children can use before they learn to talk – online through interviews, surveys, and parent diaries. When the CDL welcomed infants this fall, 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 chatted an interpreter during her undergraduate studies, she realized she loved working with young children.

Decker felt it was an opportunity to study Child Development at MSU in the access that it provides to the CDL – a model program for early childhood education and care. She was also drawn by the opportunity to study with HDFS Professor Claire Vallotton, an expert in using infant signing as a method to gain insight into infants’ social and cognitive worlds and the effects of using symbol-level language in early development. Vallotton is particularly interested in providing parents with effective tools to support their children’s development of social-emotional and communicational skills. She has found that infants as young as 10 months can communicate emotions such as being scared or needs such as food or sleep.

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 accurate information about all options available to them.

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

It is Decker’s hope to be able to show the impact that practicing signing with housing children has on their communication skills and acquisition of language throughout early childhood. Vallotton’s research 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 development of spoken language. Decker hopes to be able to show through empirical research that it actually improves language development and acquisition. To read more about Claire Vallotton’s infant signing research, visit http://www.newsmich.com/2009/11/24/its-on-our-genetic-so-f Hutch.

Support the Child Development Laboratories
To support the Child Development Laboratories, consider donating to the Child Development Laboratories Endowment Fund (AB2300). The fund, generously endowed by retired faculty member Marialene Allman, provides scholarships for children attending the CDL. Gifts can be made online at www.giving.msu.edu or send the attached pledge card. To designate your gift to the CDL Endowment Fund, please indicate AB2300. If you have any questions, contact Sarah Blom, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at blomse@msu.edu or call 1-866-367-7556.