Can you tell us a little bit about the award you received?

I am the first author of a paper that won the Diane Willis Award for Outstanding Article published during 2015 in the Journal of Pediatric Psychology. This award honors Diane J. Willis, who served the Society of Pediatric Psychology as president and founding editor of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology. Articles are selected for this award on the basis of their contribution to scholarship in the science and practice of pediatric psychology, potential for long-lasting utility and value to the field, demonstration of particular innovation and excellence in approaching the topic, and for providing an exemplar for others to model. The paper is titled, “Resilience and Disruption in Observed Family Interactions in Youth With and Without Spina Bifida: An Eight-Year, Five-Wave Longitudinal Study,” and was written by me, two fellow Loyola Clinical Psychology PhD students, Caitlin B. Murray and Colleen F. Bechtel, and my graduate advisor, Grayson N. Holmbeck. The citation is:


What is your paper about?

The paper was part of the research I do as a graduate research assistant in Dr. Grayson Holmbeck’s Chicago Healthy Adolescent Transition Study (CHATS). This research lab studies psychosocial adjustment in youth and young adults with spina bifida and related family, peer, and neuropsychological factors. Spina bifida is a congenital birth defect caused by incomplete closure of the neural tube during the early weeks of gestation. It can cause various neurological and physical disabilities, and its effects can range from mild to severe. The objective of the paper was to examine differences between families of youth with spina bifida and families of typically developing youth across adolescence. The study included 68 families of youth with spina bifida and 68 families of typically developing youth. Observational data of family interactions were collected every 2 years starting when children were 8-9 years and ending when children were 16-17 years. We found that families of youth with spina bifida demonstrated both resilience and disruption across adolescence. Areas of resilience included parents and youth displayed less conflict behavior during the transition to adolescence, and mothers displayed more adaptive parenting during middle and late adolescence. Areas of disruption included that families were less cohesive and mothers showed more maladaptive parenting during preadolescence, and youth were less engaged and more dependent across adolescence.

What drew you to the work you’re doing?

I am interested in working with families of children with chronic illness. Despite the negative impact that the presence of a chronic illness may have on a child and his/her family, many families demonstrate significant resilience. I am interested in understanding resilience in these families, and how professionals such as psychologists or medical doctors can promote more positive outcomes for these families.

What kind of advice would you give to other graduate students who are want to submit work for publication?

My advice is to go for it! I think it can seem daunting to submit your work for publication during graduate school, given the multiple responsibilities you juggle as a graduate student. But regardless of the outcome, you are guaranteed to learn a lot in the process—you will learn about the subject matter itself, but also the publication process and your
Student Spotlight, continued

interests and abilities! My advice is to pick a topic that truly interests you and that you believe makes a contribution to the field. Having that pride in your work will keep you going on days you run into roadblocks. Also, do not expect yourself to have all the answers—work closely with your graduate advisor/mentor throughout the process. Lastly, if it is possible, ask other students to co-author the paper with you. One of the things I have enjoyed the most about publishing while in graduate school is working with my fellow graduate students. They are not only my peers, they are my friends, so getting to work together on a project of shared interests has been really fun.

Is there a professor or mentor who inspired you?

My current graduate advisor, Dr. Grayson Holmbeck, has been incredibly inspiring to me! I have been working with Dr. Holmbeck for almost 8 years now, since I was a junior undergraduate student. He has taught me (perhaps without him realizing it) that the most important thing is to follow my own interests and have my own goals. Graduate school offers a ton of opportunities and opens up a variety of career paths, which is great! But I think that sometimes this can also lead to feeling overwhelmed. Whether it is deciding my dissertation topic or deciding where I would like to complete it is deciding my dissertation topic or deciding where I would like to complete my doctoral internship, Dr. Holmbeck has taught me to make decisions that are inline with my career goals and personal/life goals. He models to his students that you can be successful in your career while still prioritizing other people and interests in your life.

Is there any service/volunteer work that you think really helped to shape you as a person?

I had several volunteer and internship experiences before starting graduate school that taught me the importance of providing every child with love, support, and respect. Through these experiences I worked with a variety of children/adolescents in different contexts—children with developmental disabilities in a residential home, children with acute and chronic illness in a hospital, children in homeless shelters, and youth in the juvenile justice system. I believe children are very impressionable and, even if you only work with a particular child once, you have an opportunity to be a role model. Regardless of the support a child may receive from their family, giving a child your undivided attention and kindness can make an impact in their life.

What do you think makes Loyola different from other universities?

I think Loyola’s dedication to service and social justice definitely sets it apart from other universities. I think many students and faculty are attracted to Loyola for that very reason. I am constantly impressed by the accomplishments of students, faculty, and alumni who are dedicated to serving local and global communities.

Finally, what do you hope to be doing 10 years from now?

Ten years from now, I hope to be a pediatric psychologist in an academic medical center, where I’d be providing clinical services, conducting research, teaching, and supervising students.

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WELCOME TO THE DIRECTOR

The Graduate School is pleased to announce Dr. Leanne Cribbs has been appointed as Interim Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Programs at the Health Sciences Campus.

Dr. Cribbs came to Loyola as a faculty member in the Physiology Department in 1993. In 2012, the PhD programs at Stritch School of Medicine were combined to form the present Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences (IPBS), and she was appointed to oversee the IPBS as Director of Graduate Programs.

Leanne is also a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Cell & Molecular Physiology. In addition to her administrative role with the Graduate School, she continues to teach graduate students and carry out collaborative research at the Health Sciences Division.

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Research Experience for Master’s

FELLOWS 2016

Feifei Zhao

Anthony Buccola

The Graduate School is pleased to announce its REM Fellowship recipients for 2016: Anthony Buccola and Feifei Zhao.

Anthony is studying the impact of heroin-related news stories on criminal penalties. He hopes to further research about how our media drives criminal justice policy, and possibly provide insight into how legislation regarding lower-level drug crimes may be shaped. Anthony is a first-year student in Loyola’s Graduate Criminal Justice and Criminology program.

Feifei is a student in the Applied Statistics program, and is conducting research on a nonparametric method for robot path planning. The objective for her work is to find the shortest path between two points in the presence of potential moving objects, with obstacles passing the area of trajectories.

Both of our new fellows will be participating in this year’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Symposium during the Weekend of Excellence, so you can meet them there and learn more about their projects at the event.

We’re excited to be supporting such exciting and timely academic work. Congratulations to you both!
The Loyola Master of Public Health (MPH) is a 44-credit hour program. Although we do not require a thesis, there is a capstone project. We currently have two tracks: Epidemiology and Public Health Policy and Management. All students take a core curriculum including courses in biostatistics, human behavior, environmental health, epidemiology, and management, and complete a practicum experience in the field. Students in the epidemiology track are required to author a research manuscript, and we strongly encourage submission for publication. Students in the public health policy and management track may draft a policy brief, conduct a program assessment, or design a planning or management project. All students give an in-person report of their capstone project. Track-specific courses fill out the course requirements. The epidemiology track is classroom-based, while the public health policy and management track can be completed online. We currently have 10 core faculty members and 70 students.

About Our Accreditation
We submitted our initial application for accreditation in June 2013 to the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). We submitted our final self-study in January 2015, and hosted a site visit in February. Following our response to the site visit report, the Council voted to grant accreditation in October. Out of three newly accredited programs, ours was the only one not to require an interim report! Many faculty members were involved in the accreditation process, but special recognition is due to Drs. Holly Kramer Ruth Kafensztok, Amy Luke, and Justin Harbison.

Post-Graduate Employment
Our graduates work in a variety of settings. Some titles and workplaces include:

- Strategy Consultant (Blue Cross Blue Shield Association)
- Regulatory Analyst (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons)
- Clinical Trials Research Coordinator (Hines VA Hospital)
- Program Manager (Erie Family Health Center)
- Research Associate (Hillman Cancer Center)

My Background as GPD
I did not originally come from a health background. I studied Political Science as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, where I was interested in social justice and organizational behavior. While working as a legal assistant after graduation, I discovered the field of epidemiology and knew it was what I wanted to do. I completed an MS in Public Health at Emory in Atlanta, then moved to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for my PhD. I stayed on at UNC as a cardiovascular epidemiology postdoc, then joined Loyola’s faculty in 2007. We didn’t have an MPH program at the time, so I got to help design it. In addition to my role as GPD, I remain active in research as well as teaching and mentoring students. I love the dedication to social justice and scholarship at Loyola, and am very proud to be a part of this university.
GRADUATE SCHOOL UPDATE: ENGAGEMENT IN STATE, REGION, AND NATIONAL ARENAS

Graduate School deans represented Loyola University Chicago in the larger world of graduate education during fall 2015. On Friday, October 16, the Graduate School hosted the Illinois Association of Graduate Schools (IAGS) at Loyola’s lakeshore campus. IAGS Chair Interim Dean Patricia Mooney-Melvin welcomed graduate school representatives from state colleges and universities as well as deans from other units with graduate programs here at LUC. Daniel Deneke from the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) outlined findings from the CGS Financial Education Initiative. Ben Saypol of Theater Delta discussed the use of interactive theater in graduate education as a way to address issues such as student engagement, mentoring, and ethical action. Loyola’s VP for Governmental Affairs Philip Hale shared observations about the state of funding for higher education in Illinois. Marlene Coles of ProQuest Dissertation Publishing brought us up-to-date on trends and developments in dissertation publishing.

Interim Dean Mooney-Melvin attended the Enhancing Financial Education Capstone Conference hosted by the Council of Graduate Schools on October 19. Participants from the partner institutions shared their various financial education activities. Over the course of the project, all the partner institutions identified areas where students struggle financially and worked on projects to provide better information and strategies for managing their finances, particularly in the area of student debt. Material gathered from the various university projects and the capstone discussions will help inform the various publications and products produced by CGS on financial issues facing today’s graduate students. For information on Loyola’s financial education project, visit http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/gradstudentfinance/. Also visit the CGS GradSense website: www.GradSense.org.

Associate Dean for Student Services Jessica Horowitz was tapped to serve an additional year as Chair of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools. This year’s annual meeting, “Graduate Education Pathways,” will be held in Chicago in April. The plenary speakers include Anne Krock, Owner of Practical Workplace Advice and Julia Kent and Jeff Allum from the Council of Graduate Schools to discuss data and latest findings on graduate career pathways. In addition, this conference will inaugurate the launch of the MAGS 3 Minute Thesis competition, with Loyola choosing a representative to compete against other graduate schools. Associate Dean Horowitz will preside over the conference, business meeting, and executive committee.

Interim Dean Mooney-Melvin transitioned from Chair-Elect to Chair of the Association of Graduate Schools in Catholic Colleges and Universities (AGSCCU) at the Association’s meeting in Seattle, Washington in early December. The AGSCCU promotes the improvement and advancement of graduate education in Catholic institutions. The meetings serve as opportunities to explore issues of mutual concern. This year’s program focused on the relationship between institutional mission and graduate education. Joseph Vukov, PhD Candidate in Philosophy and Senior Fellow in Higher Education Leadership in Fordham University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, presented the preliminary results of a survey that explored graduate student contribution to the mission of Catholic institutions.

At the Council of Graduate Schools annual conference, held in Seattle, Washington the first week of December, Associate Dean Horowitz participated in two sessions on graduate education. At one of the pre-conference workshops, she was asked to served on a ‘Dissertation Boot Camp’ panel with other deans from University of Chicago, Salem State University, and Cornell University. The discussion centered around best practices when supporting doctoral students in the dissertation writing process. In addition, Associate Dean Horowitz was as one of three presenters in a Concurrent Session on “Professional Development for Master’s Careers,” focusing on programs that the Graduate School has created to help support master’s students prepare for careers. She specifically highlighted two unique Loyola programs: Master’s Mentors partnering with the TRIO program, ACE, and the Research Experience for Master’s Students (REM).

“Researching to (re)Envision our World”

Saturday, April 16, 2016
Quinlan Life Sciences Building Lakeshore Campus

The symposium will be organized around the diverse research methods exhibited in scholarly work. Any current graduate student within The Graduate School is eligible to submit a presentation. Please visit the Graduate School web site for more information, and to submit an application: luc.edu/gradschool/research_symposium.shtml

The application deadline is Saturday, February 13, 2016.
**GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOLADES**

This section features select student accomplishments that have taken place since our previous newsletter.

### Student Publications


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**Student Accolades continue on Page 6**
Conference Presentations


Fleming, E. (MIIM-PHD). Modulating the tumor microenvironment to induce crosspriming for cancer immunotherapy. Loyola University Health Science Campus St. Albert’s Day. Maywood, IL. October 2015.


Welcome back, colleagues and students! We wish you all the best in 2016, starting with a full and productive spring semester. Students who joined us in Fall 2015 will find their first spring semester challenging but not nearly as overwhelming. Veteran students will settle in and continue their journey toward completion. We welcome all new students entering this spring and wish them all the best as they transition into the world of graduate education.

Spring semester brings two major Graduate School events: the interdisciplinary research symposium and commencement. The 2016 symposium will be part of the University’s Weekend of Excellence and will be held on April 16. This year’s theme is Researching to (re)Envision our World and the event highlights presentations and posters from students across our three campuses. The Graduate School/Institute for Pastoral Studies commencement ceremony will be held at 3:00 p.m. on May 10. Watch your email for more information on the symposium and visit the new Graduate School Graduation website at: http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/graduation/.

We encourage you to participate in our professional development workshops. These extracurricular opportunities allow you to enhance your skills, help you easily navigate the world of the Institutional Review Board, and demystify thesis and dissertation formatting. Check these workshops out on our website and register early so you can secure a place!

One of the challenges facing all graduate schools is keeping track of our alumni. Not only do we want them to know what is going on at their alma mater but we also have much to learn from them. What were the strengths of their training and how does it relate to the jobs that they do? What would they like to have seen in their programs that would have better prepared them for their positions? What jobs have they found and what advice can they share with others just beginning the transition from student to employee? When we look at the big picture, we know that graduate education results in better jobs and, ultimately, higher pay. However, graduate schools would like more precise data on where their graduates go and on what they do with their degree. Such information helps individual programs as well as graduate schools plan to meet the needs of their students more fully. In the coming months, the Council of Graduate Schools will be sharing a survey instrument for schools to use to gather information from graduates and we will join our colleagues across the nation gathering information from our alums.

As always, we encourage you to be actively engaged in both your academic world and the larger university community. Be sure to get involved if you are not as of yet in your program’s graduate student association and come together with students from other programs in the activities offered by the Graduate Student Advisory Council. Attend university-wide events to keep abreast of issues that are important to colleges and universities as well as society at large. Participate in a volunteer project to give something back to the community.

Brace yourselves for the cold and remember, for those of you new to a Chicago winter, spring will arrive!!

Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Interim Dean
The Graduate School