Undergraduate Spotlight

Bradley Schneider is working at the Children’s School for his 3rd semester, in the preschool. Here he describes his experience.

When reflecting on my time here at Carnegie Mellon, the experiences I have shared with my friends at the Children’s School are – without question – the ones I hold dearest. Learning and growing with them is undoubtedly the highlight of my week, every week. My heart absolutely melts each and every time one of their little hands reaches up for a hold, when they literally can’t help but give an impulsive hug, or pretty much any time they share an opinion on anything.

I have had a passion for working with children for as long as I can remember. Back home in Miami, Florida, I have worked as a summer camp counselor for the past seven years at an incredible organization, Shake-A-Leg Miami. There, I teach children with mental and physical disabilities how to fish, sail, kayak, and swim.

I am a Psychology major wrapping up my final year at CMU. In addition to the Children’s School, I work as a research assistant in a Health Psychology lab, directed by David Creswell, PhD, as well as intern in an outpatient Child Psychology clinic at UPMC, directed by David Kolko, PhD. After graduation, I plan on pursuing a doctoral degree in Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology; but I’d like to work abroad for a bit before diving into graduate work.

Outside of work, my favorite thing to do is cook. Both of my parents are very passionate about cooking, so I picked it up at a very young age. I cook all of my meals every day and am constantly inventing new creations. One of my proudest accomplishments was when I won the Carnegie Mellon Chili Cook-Off this past month.

I will miss a lot of things when I leave Pittsburgh this spring, but the Children’s School – complete with bright, little faces, an endless supply of snacks, the smell of fresh laminate in the morning, and the greatest end-of-the-day song of all time – will certainly be what I miss most.

Undergraduate Research

Dr. Anna Fisher and Graduate Student Juliet Shafto’s Developmental Research Methods students are preparing their final projects for the semester. They are beginning to pilot test their projects on the topics listed below. Families whose children participate will receive fuller parent descriptions via the child’s backpack, and there is a sample in the Research Spotlight. Everyone can read the study descriptions on the Research Bulletin Board near the office door. Notice the interesting range of important topics in early childhood development!

• Can prosocial behavior be primed with stories? (The Coloring Game, AM 4’s & K)
• How does music impact focus on challenging tasks? (The Letter Finding Game, AM 4’s and K)
• Can indirect priming and explicit instruction enhance children’s ability to delay gratification? (The Choosing Game, PM 3’s and 4’s)
• Does highlighting a character’s perspective improve children’s performance on false belief tasks? (The Crayon Box Game, AM 3’s, AM 4’s and K)
Fall Family Fun

Thanks to the CMU students from the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society who offered a fun fall family event on the Children’s School playground on the morning of October 17th. About 60 children and adults from the Children's School and the Cyert Center played an apple toss game, a pumpkin ring toss, pumpkin bowling, pumpkin/apple tic tac toe, and a parachute leaf toss. We played with pumpkin spice playdough. We predicted the number of seeds in an apple and then counted the actual number. We learned that all pumpkins float – even the very heavy ones – because the hollow space inside makes each pumpkin weigh less than the amount of water it displaces. The children also created fall leaf placemats, leaf rubbings, and apple & pumpkin prints, as well as decorating their own tiny pumpkins. Everyone also got to sample apple juice, apple cider, and the various treats provided by the Mortar Board students.

Special thanks to event planners April Tillinghast, one of the Children’s School interns and the Mortar Board Vice President, and Dr. Sharon Carver, who is the Mortar Board faculty advisor!