Undergraduate Spotlight

Hi! My name is Camille Williams, and I am currently a sophomore at Carnegie Mellon. I am a chemistry major with an intended minor in business. I am from Cincinnati, OH, which is a similar city to Pittsburgh and about 5 hours from here. I am also a captain of the varsity women’s soccer team at CMU. Being on the soccer team has been a great experience as it has allowed me to grow my love of soccer, build relationships with incredible teammates, and travel to interesting places for games. I recently joined Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and am absolutely loving the amazing community and sense of “home away from home” it has given me. It is wonderful to know that in addition to the 30 women on the soccer team, I also have a family of 80 sisters to love and support me during my college years and beyond.

I have always had a passion for working with children. Throughout high school, I was an avid babysitter, I developed a summer camp for young girls called “Camp Fun in the Sun”, I helped with little kids’ soccer camps, and this summer I was a nanny for a vibrant family of 4 children. When my teammate came to me and asked if I would be interested in working with the Children’s School, I knew it was the perfect opportunity for me!

The Children’s School is such a unique and amazing place. The passion that the teachers bring to the classroom each day is undeniable, and I am so happy to work in such an incredible environment. I am currently working with the Morning 3’s, and coming to work is definitely a highlight of my day. The eager curiosity that the children display in trying new activities and playing games is so inspiring and a joy to watch. Their ability to be completely engaged in the present moment is so humbling and reminds me that, no matter what is happening in my busy schedule, I much appreciate every moment. I look forward to watching the children grow and learning from them this year and beyond!

CMU’s 1000Plus Day

On Saturday, October 7th, CMU students participating in the 1000Plus Day volunteered their time to remove our summer annuals from the garden and plant bulbs that will grow next spring. Thanks to Ms. Buchanan for being on site to guide the volunteers with the project!!
Family Fall Fun Fest

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 21st. What a beautiful day they had! More than 60 children and adults from the Children’s School and the Cyert Center played a musical mat game, tried their hand at a pumpkin ring toss, decorated a pumpkin, and hunted for gourds in the sandbox. Children had the opportunity to mix barnyard animal sounds and nursery rhymes using a DJ turntable. The playground climbers, wooden blocks, musical instruments, and mud kitchen were also open for play. Everyone got to snack on apple cider, pretzels, and chocolate chip cookies provided by the Mortar Board students.

Special thanks to event planners Aakash Parekh, Faith Kaufman, Dr. Richelle Bernazzoli, the Mortar Board faculty advisor, and Children’s School educators, Jean Bird and Lilah Buchanan, who helped host the event!
Seeking Host Families

The Children’s School will be hosting 2 undergraduate students from Duksung Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea for an International Practicum Program. A total of 8 Early Childhood Education students will be in Pittsburgh for practicum experiences at our school, Falk, Carlow’s Campus School, or Pitt’s University Child Development Center. To help the students experience family life in Pittsburgh, we are recruiting two host families who live close to the university to provide housing and some meals for one male or one female practicum student from Sunday, January 28th through Sunday, February 11th. Proximity to CMU is essential so that the students can use public transportation or rides from teachers to travel to and from school. Please contact Dr. Carver at sc0e@andrew.cmu.edu if you are interested in this hosting opportunity. Former host families will be happy to share their experiences with you, and student photos and bios will be available soon.

Undergraduate Research

Dr. Anna Fisher’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. 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!

- **Does clutter on the activity table impact children’s speed and accuracy when completing iSpy tasks that vary in difficulty?** (The Pictures Game, AM 4’s and K)

- **How do children consider merit vs. need when suggesting fair distribution of extra goods?** (The Story Game, PM 3’s, PM 4’s & K)

- **How well can children of different ages identify emotions and link them to the situations that might trigger them?** (The Matching Faces Game, AM 3’s, AM 4’s & K)

  Which child below looks sad? What situation might have made the child sad? Why?