Undergraduate Spotlight

As a campus laboratory school, the Children’s School offers research and observation opportunities to many undergraduate and graduate students from different departments across campus. In addition to these opportunities, we offer undergraduates a chance to work in the classrooms on a regular basis, either as student employees, interns, or volunteers. In the Undergraduate Spotlight, we will be featuring our diverse classroom assistants so that parents can learn about the undergraduate and graduate students who work in the classrooms with their children in different capacities. Photos of all our student assistants are posted on the Family Communication bulletin board across from our library and classroom assistants working with particular groups have been introduced in the classroom blog.

Senior Student Teachers from Pitt’s CASE Program

Danielle Sallmen and Andrew Lehmberg are seniors in the University of Pittsburgh’s Combined Accelerated Studies in Education (CASE) Program, a five-year undergraduate and masters program that includes a BS in Applied Developmental Psychology and a Masters of Education in early childhood and special education. Miss Sallmen is working with the Morning 4’s and Extended Morning Program this semester, and Mr. Lehmberg is teaching in the Kindergarten.

- Danielle Sallmen says, “I am a senior in the CASE Program at the University of Pittsburgh. I grew up in New Castle, Pennsylvania, which is about an hour from the city, with two older brothers. I danced for 14 years and became an assistant teacher as a teenager, so I developed my love of teaching through dance. I knew from the beginning that I wanted to work with young children but developed my interest in special education through the CASE program. I am in an honor fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi that does service events such as the Children's Hospital Radio-thon and packaging medical supplies through Global Links. I appreciate the vast opportunities that the preschool children have at the Children's School, such as cooking and the Make Shop.”

- Andrew Lehmberg says, “I am senior at the University of Pittsburgh. I am from Westfield, New Jersey, about six hours from here. I lived in England for my early childhood years. My father is an engineer and my mother was a kindergarten teacher prior to having children. I started playing Ultimate Frisbee in sixth grade and am now on Pitt’s men’s Ultimate Frisbee club team. From the start of high school, I started helping coach, which gave me experience with younger children. I then started working with younger children at camps during the summer. Coming into college from my background with children and my mother’s experience inspired me to pursue education, and Pitt’s CASE program is excellent. The special education aspect resonates with experiences I had with children who have Down Syndrome. The Children's School is a fantastic opportunity for me to witness the progressive approach to education, which connects well with the CASE program emphasis on always seeking what is best for children.”