Congratulations to our May 2013 graduates!
We are pleased to introduce the Department’s first Ph.D. recipients—
Lara Saguisag, Deborah Valentine, and Marla Wander.

Lisa Archibald presented her paper, “Social-Emotional Growth and Nuanced ‘Teacher-Self’ Identity Construction through Teacher Action Research Groups” and led a roundtable discussion on the impacts of teacher action research at the AERA conference in San Francisco, CA, in April 2013. Lisa, along with Dr. Dan Hart and Theresa Murzyn, co-authored an article about exemplar research and methods for *New Directions in Child and Adolescent Development*.

Clovis Bergère organized a panel, “Young Movements in the City,” at the joint Society for Psychological Anthropology/Anthropology of Children and Youth Interest Group conference in San Diego, CA, in April 2013. Clovis, along with Dr. Dan Hart and Theresa Murzyn, co-authored an article about exemplar research and methods for *New Directions in Child and Adolescent Development*.

Stephen Bernardini is co-recipient of the 2012-2013 David K. Sengstack Endowed Graduate Fellowship in the Department of Childhood Studies. Stephen, along with Dr. Robin Stevens, co-authored an article in *Culture, Health, and Sexuality* entitled, “I’m Coming Out: Social Environment and Sexual Risk-Taking Among Gay and Transgender African-American Youth” and contributed a section on “LGBT Culture” to the *Encyclopedia of Youth Cultures in America* (M. E. Sharpe). He presented his research on queer theory, the paranormal child, and embodiment at the Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association conference in Pittsburgh, PA, in November 2012 and the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association national conference in Washington, DC, in March 2013; as well as his research on flirting, virtuality, and research ethics with young queer individuals at the Extending Play conference at Rutgers–New Brunswick in April 2013.

Julian Burton presented two papers, “Mentoring as an Academic and Socio-emotional Provision for Gifted Children” and “Summers with Shakespeare, Saturdays in the Lab: The Experience of Gifted Participants in Academic Extracurricular Programs,” as well as a symposium segment titled, “Serving High-Ability Students in Student-Centered Learning Environments,” at the 12th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in July 2012.

Patrick Cox presented his research on *Highlights for Children* at the Children’s Literature Association conference in Boston, MA, in June.
2012; spoke on teaching with technology at the Emerging Learning Design conference; and, participated in an invited panel about mentoring on the internet at the American Historical Association annual conference. He presented a paper (co-authored with one of his students) at the New Approaches to the Text conference at Rutgers–Camden in April 2013. Chair of the Children and Childhood Studies area of the Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association, Patrick taught courses in Childhood Studies and American Studies at Rutgers–Camden and Pennsylvania State University.


Anandini Dar contributed, “Children’s Lives,” to Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Asia and Africa: An Encyclopedia (Sage, 2012) and presented her dissertation research at three conferences: “From ‘Navigating Racial Landscapes’ to ‘Having Fun’: Understanding What Fun Means to Immigrant Teenagers in New York City” at the Association for the Study of Play conference in Newark, DE, in March 2013; “Recreation Center as Escape: Negotiation of Boundaries by South Asian Teenagers in New York” at the Association of American Geographers conference in Los Angeles, CA, in April 2013; and, “That’s Swag! Desi Teens and the Diasporic Culture of South Asian Childhoods” at the Children and Youth in a Changing World conference of the Inter-Congress of International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) in Bhubaneswar, India, in November 2012. Anandini also began a five-year term on the Executive Committee of the Commission on Anthropology of Children, Youth, and Childhood under IUAES.

Dianne Fabii was named a 2012-13 Marsh-Gillette Fellow in Childhood Studies, which supports her dissertation research on Indian American youths’ viewpoints about the tradition of arranged marriage, and how their perspectives are influenced and negotiated in the modern world.

Neeta Goel received a grant from the Center for Children and Childhood Studies to conduct a research project with adolescent girls in Mumbai, India, in July 2012. The project explored adolescent girls’ perceptions of gender inequality. Neeta, along with Dr. Charles Watters and Ines Meier, visited the Catholic University of Brazil in October 2012 and won the Rutgers Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA) Grant for Faculty and Graduate Students Inter-disciplinary Working Groups in Global and International Research, which will fund network building between the Rutgers GAIA Centers and the Catholic University of Brazil.

Ellen Malven presented her paper, “Sneaking into Apple Culture: iPad Ads, Preteen Parody, and Perspectives of Child’s Play” at the Popular American Culture Association national conference in March 2013 and participated in a panel discussion on teaching creative writing to youth at the Rutgers-Camden English Department and English Graduate Student Conference in April 2013. As secretary of the Childhood Studies Graduate Student Organization 2012-13, she co-chaired a fundraiser for the Benebikira Sisters Foundation in Fall 2012. Ellen is a literacy tutor at Hopeworks ‘N Camden, and will be piloting a preteen reading program at the Haddonfield Public Library in summer 2013.


Cynthia Maurer presented her papers, “The ‘90s Are All That: A Case Study of Interaction & Convergence,” at the Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association conference in Pittsburgh, PA, in November 2012 and “Stick Stickly is Just Like Me” at the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association conference in Washington, DC, in March 2013. She also interned in New York City with PlayScience, a research and consulting firm that bridges the gap between academia and industry.

Jane Shattuck Mayer was named a 2012-13 Marsh-Gillette Fellow in Childhood Studies, which supports her dissertation research on nineteenth century education, religion, and the formation of girlhood in the New England female academy. She also brought a childhood studies perspective to her teaching at the Center for the Study of Children’s Literature at Simmons College in Boston, MA, in Fall 2012.
Ines Meier, along with Dr. Charles Watters and Neeta Goel, visited the Catholic University of Brazil in October 2012 and won the Rutgers GAIA Centers Grant for Faculty and Graduate Students Interdisciplinary Working Groups in Global and International Research to fund network building between the Rutgers GAIA Centers and the Catholic University of Brazil. She will chair a session and present her paper, “Children as Persons: Implications of a Capability Approach in Education,” at the Third Global Inter-Disciplinary.Net conference “Childhood—A Persons Project” at Oxford University, UK, in July 2013. Ines developed several undergraduate courses, including a senior seminar, “Children and Personhood—An Interdisciplinary Exploration” and she is currently developing an online journal for undergraduate research in Childhood Studies, which is slated to appear in summer 2013.


Theresa Murzyn presented her poster, “How Well Does Your Childhood Teacher Know You? Predicting Adult Test-Taking Behavior from Teacher Ratings 40 Years Earlier,” at two conferences in 2013: the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in New Orleans, LA, in January; and, the Association for Research in Personality conference in June. Theresa, along with Dr. Dan Hart and Lisa Archibald, co-authored an article about exemplar research and methods for New Directions in Child and Adolescent Development.

Rosemarie Pena, president of the Black German Heritage and Research Association, hosted their second annual conference in August 2012 at Barnard College—Columbia University. The event was sponsored by the Africana Studies Department at Barnard College, the Goethe Institut—NYC, and the Max Kade Foundation. Rosemarie also presented the keynote address, “Staatenlos: Connecting Within the Margins,” at the 10th International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) in March 2013 and was chosen to attend the Goethe Institut’s Intensive German Language course in Hamburg, Germany, beginning in May 2013.

Matthew B. Prickett is co-recipient of the 2012-2013 David K. Sengstack Endowed Graduate Fellowship in the Department of Childhood Studies. He presented his paper, “Putting the Pieces Together: Coming to Terms with Childhood Studies,” at the Children’s Literature Association conference in Boston, MA, in June 2012. Matt contributed, “Anxious Beings: The Vengeful Ghost Child in Contemporary Children’s Literature,” to Elizabeth Talafuse, ed., The Ghost Child in
Children’s Literature (Ashgate) and his entries on Christian Youth Groups and Evangelicalism will appear in the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Youth Culture (M. E. Sharpe).

Lara Saguisag successfully defended her dissertation, “Drawing the Lines: Constructing Childhood in Progressive Era Kid Strips, 1896-1911,” and will graduate in May 2013. She will begin a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of English at the City University of New York–College of Staten Island (CUNY-CSI) in Fall 2013, having completed her dissertation with the support of a Rutgers-Camden Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Writing Fellowship. Lara helped organize a special panel and exhibit on Philippine children’s literature at the Children’s Literature Association conference in Boston in 2012 and presented her research at the American Studies Association conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico in November 2012.


Brandi J. Venable peer reviewed articles for Childhood and the Journal of Graduate Research in Young People’s Materials and Culture and presented her paper, “‘Tricks of Table Manners’: Eating and Etiquette for Children in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals,” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association national conference in Washington, DC, in March 2013. Brandi participated in a panel discussion on teaching creative writing to youth at the Rutgers-Camden English Department and English Graduate Student Conference in April 2013 and served as vice president of the Childhood Studies Graduate Student Organization 2012-13.

Marla Wander successfully defended her dissertation, “Adolescents Involved in Decision-making: Clinic Conversations about the Human Papillomavirus and Vaccination,” and will graduate in May 2013. She also serves as Administrator for the Rutgers University Press Childhood Studies Book Series.

Nyeema Watson presented her dissertation research at three conferences: “I See “Me” in the Book: Using Multicultural Children’s Literature to Increase Student Engagement” at the New Jersey School – Age Care Coalition in Princeton, NJ, in November 2012; “Exploring African-American Children’s Literature as a Pedagogical Tool for Impacting and Understanding Identity” at the National

Marc Woods was named a 2012-13 Harold and Reba Martin Fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers–New Brunswick and completed an internship at the New Jersey State Department of Children and Families. He presented his paper, “The Subversive Critique of Racism in the Poetry of Phillis Wheatley,” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association national conference in Washington, DC, in March 2013.