Inside this Issue:

Academic Recap....2
Fall Fun & Winter Travels.......3
Milestones.............4
HDFS Love...........5-6
Calendar.............7
Announcements...7

HDFS Grad Student Newsletter
WINTER NEWSLETTER

First Years (minus Jacoba)

Third Years
A huge thanks to Rachel Koffer, who organized our First Annual Graduate Student Conference. This year’s theme was “Marrying Methods to Theory,” which accurately characterizes the interdisciplinary nature of our department. There was a great turnout from both faculty and students. We look forward to continuing this tradition and showcasing the wonderful research of Penn State HDFS!
Fall Fun & Winter Travels

Allison Gray and her boyfriend visit NASA Kennedy Space Center.

Lorena Aceves hiking and enjoying some southwestern sunshine.

Libby Benson and her boyfriend, Nathan, snowshoeing in Colorado.

Jee Eun Kang and Ashley Stanford volunteering at a “Green Team” event!

Third years at the beginning of the semester departmental picnic!
Congratulations to everyone who completed a milestone this semester!

**Master’s Thesis**
- Libby Benson
- Summer Braun
- Linying Ji
- Xiaoran Sun

**Candidacy**
- Linying Ji
- Grace Mak
- Roisin White
- Brian Calhoun

**Comps**
- Allison (Doub) Hepworth
- Jacinda Li

**Dissertation**
- Megan Mass
- Mairin Augustine

Celebrating Penina’s thesis defense (spring graduation)!
Our Favorite Courses:

HDFS Love

“HDFS 516/518 (Intro to Methods/Lab) because they were a very non-threatening introduction to methods and the instructors are wonderful”

“502 is a fantastic introduction to developmental neurobiology; great readings each week, and an interesting final project (making a conceptual model).”

“Multivariate Data Analysis (523), because materials are well-organized, fun and inspiring (you will listen to poems in that class!)”

“HDFS 503 Greg is an excellent, high energy professor with both practical and academic expertise in prevention science. Exposure to prevention science helped me see more possibilities for research and application with my own interests. It was a great foundation for projects I’ve completed since taking the course.”

Favorite Activities in State College

- Hiking
- Farmer’s Markets
- Cycling
- Attending local events
- Volunteering to walk dogs at PAWS
- Football games
- Eating ice cream at the creamery or Meyer Dairy
- All you can eat brunch at Barrel 21
- Going to Webster’s to read or work
HDFS Love

Our Favorite....

Things about the department:

“Both professors and students bring an array of expertise with a willingness to offer feedback and support of new ideas and risk taking.”

“I really appreciate how approachable everyone is; regardless of background, seniority, or professional status I am comfortable going to anyone if I have a question I think they can answer. Going into grad school as a first-generation student is really challenging, so it’s been really helpful knowing that the department, as a whole, is supporting me.”

“Supportive funding environment $$”

“Cohort system”

“Our department is really collaborative and friendly. I was worried that such a prestigious program would be internally competitive, but students are kind and helpful and the professors genuinely care about us.”

“That it is so interdisciplinary”
Calendar

MLK Day—no classes  Monday, January 6th
Steering Committee Meeting  Friday, January 27th 1-2pm HHD 203
Prospective Student Visit Weekend  Thursday, February 16th—Sunday, February 19th
Steering Committee Meeting  Friday, February 24th 1-2pm HHD 203
Spring break—no classes  Monday, March 6th—Friday, March 10th
Steering Committee Meeting  Friday, March 24th 1-2pm HHD 203
Steering Committee Meeting  Friday, April 28th 1-2pm HHD 203
Last day of classes  Friday, April 28th
Final exams  Monday, May 1st—Friday, May 5th
Commencement  Sunday, May 7th

*Follies date coming soon...

Note from Newsletter Chairs:

We have enjoyed reporting on departmental happenings this past year. It has been amazing to see such enthusiasm for our program from both students and faculty! We hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the semester!

-Mimi Brinberg & Allison Gray