

Immigrant Families Services Provider
Day Care Provider *Family Life Educat*
Marriage and Family Therapist Adult Day Care Provi
Worker Substan
Counselor Family S
Advocate Health Ed
Life Specialist Legal Assistant *Social Worker* Community
Geriatric Services Coordinator Victim Support Service Provider
Confidential Treatment Counselor **Case Manager**
Nonprofit Communications Coordinator Policy Analyst
Nonprofit Development Coordinator



TOWSON
UNIVERSITY

“Forward - Dr. Eskow”



Curiosity | Challenge | Judgment

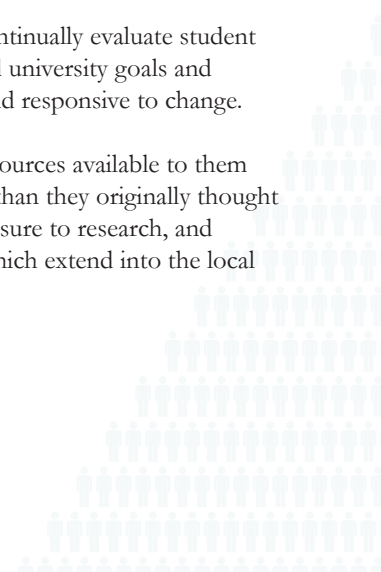
Mission

The mission of the Towson University Department of Family Studies and Community Development is to foster a multidisciplinary and multicultural understanding of families, communities, and service systems throughout the lifespan. We aspire to prepare professionals by increasing students' knowledge of families and communities through a rigorous education grounded in the liberal arts combined with service learning experiences and action-oriented, policy relevant research. Civic responsibility and professional development are emphasized through exposure to classroom content, community engagement, and development of competencies such as oral and written communication and critical thinking skills. The curriculum is based on nationally recognized disciplines with established requirements in Family Life Education, Child Life, and Human Services.

Vision

The Towson University Department of Family Studies and Community Development will continue to strive toward excellence as:

- A department comprised of a community of educators and scholars who are committed to intellectual rigor, excellence, and collegiality. This community will value open discourse and an atmosphere of mutual respect. All are committed to the advancement of student learning, institution and community service, professional development, and sustained contributions to academic disciplines.
- A reflective group of scholars and educators who continually evaluate student learning outcomes based on department, college, and university goals and provide opportunities for students that are nimble and responsive to change.
- A community of students who take advantage of resources available to them through the department and ultimately achieve more than they originally thought possible. Students' service learning experiences, exposure to research, and mastery of liberal arts competencies have benefits which extend into the local community both now and in the future.



Melanie Rowland

Project Assistant, WRMA, Inc.

Undergraduate Major: Double Major in Family Science and Psychology

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2014

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I am currently a project assistant working for an organization that does social science research and program evaluations for the federal government. I mainly work with the Children's Bureau National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, which is a dataset comprised of information from the child protective service agencies in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. I also work with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Child Mental Health Initiative on their report to Congress. On a typical day I might spend time editing the national Child Maltreatment Report, analyzing a state's data in SPSS, and reviewing instruments used for program evaluations.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

I took FMST 495 Advanced Research Methods in Family Science as a capstone for my family science degree. That class helped me figure out what interested me and what kind of research I wanted to do. After that, it was just a matter of looking for companies or agencies that were doing the research.

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

FMST 485 Research Methods in Family Studies, FMST 495 Advanced Research Methods in Family Science, and FMST 303 Trends in Contemporary Family Life were very helpful courses. The research classes helped me become comfortable using SPSS, writing in APA format, and critically examining data for validity and consistency. These courses also helped me realize what obstacles and limitations exist in "real world" research. Trends in Contemporary Family Life helped me become aware of the current issues being studied in family science and places where family science research was most needed.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I was originally only a psychology major. I was doing research with animals. I found that I did not like how far removed the research was from the people who would benefit from it. I wanted something with a bit of a broader scope and more people interaction. Also, my parents adopted my three older siblings, who were classified as special needs, so my FMST 101 Introduction to Family Studies class was fascinating to me because the content related to many of my childhood experiences.

Professional Feedback

Debbie Staigerwald

Director of Volunteers and Interns, The Arc Baltimore

What are tips that can help students as they write resumes and cover letters?

Read your resume and make sure there are no typographical errors. Make each cover letter specific to the position you are applying for and specific to that employer. In the cover letter, highlight experiences you have had that are explicitly mentioned in the job description. Always include your internship and volunteer experiences on your resume if they are applicable to the job for which you are applying. Finally, remember that your internship supervisor may be a good reference.

Professional Feedback

Carl Gold, J.D.

Attorney at Law, Law Offices of Carl Gold

What professional attributes are you looking for when you hire interns or recent graduates?

I look for people with joie de vivre. If they have a joy of life they most likely enjoy interacting with people of all colors, sizes, and kinds. This quality trumps a lot of deficits.

What are tips that can help students as they write resumes and cover letters, prepare for the interview process, and transition from student to professional?

The resume and cover letter must be perfect. Grammar, punctuation, and word usage errors are almost always disqualifiers. Substance abuse is a big negative. The same goes for smoking or smelling smoky. During an interview, I look for people who are honest and do not pretend to be someone they are not. Be ready to explain why you want the job and why you should be chosen. Do not hide your warts. If you have less than stellar grades or a conviction be ready to explain what happened.

Sara Bielecki

Community Director, March of Dimes

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Human Services

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: August 2013

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

As the Community Director, I am responsible for overseeing the Central Maryland Division's four largest events: March for Babies, The Great Chesapeake Bay Swim, Golf for Babies, and the Signature Chefs Auction. These events generate over \$650,000 in revenue for March of Dimes' programs. I am responsible for generating and nurturing relationships among the 13 Baltimore hospitals that receive grants and sponsorships for neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) support and several other services for babies and families. I coordinate family and corporate teams to walk at March for Babies, generate prospective corporate sponsorships, work on development and outreach for our chapter, and foster relationships to maintain existing partnerships and develop new ones. I work to see a day when all babies are born healthy!

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

FMST 490 Family and Human Service Capstone: Methods in Family Life Education helped me gain confidence. Although the course was very challenging, I proved to myself that with diligence, hard work, and research, I can become very educated on certain topics and then clearly and concisely educate others.

FMST 297 Preparing Human Service Workers: Pre-Internship helped me prioritize, organize, and manage my time effectively. As an undergraduate I was Co-President of Students Helping Honduras to which I dedicated about 20 hours each week, on top of a very demanding academic schedule. After taking FMST 297, I was able to gain a "big picture" perspective of what "real life" could potentially look like and plan my responsibilities accordingly. This course forced me to organize every aspect of my academic career. I am happy to say that I have carried the organizational skills and work ethic I gained in FMST 297 into my professional career.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I started off as a speech pathology major because science, especially biology, were big interests of mine. After a couple of semesters in that major I realized it was not a good fit for me, so I sought a different major in which I would still be able to impact children and families. I found out about family and human services and the rest is history. The family studies' faculty and staff assisted me in developing a two year plan that helped me reach all of my undergraduate career goals.

What advice do you have for current family studies students?

Participate, participate, participate! Hands on experiences are very valuable. The more of these experiences you have, the better. Also, try not to think about what you want to do forever. Just have a three to five year plan. Then let your experiences, passion, hard work, and interests take you where you are meant to be.

What are your future plans?

I plan to gain more experience working at the March of Dimes. It is a wonderful nonprofit that helps families every day, nationwide, and there is a lot of room for growth. I never want to stop learning or growing, so I plan to keep my best practices up-to-date by attending trainings, conferences, and networking opportunities. I hope to join a board of some sort to expand my knowledge and skill sets.

Kristen Minch

Certified Child Life Specialist, The Herman and Walter Samuelson Children's Hospital at Sinai

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Child Life

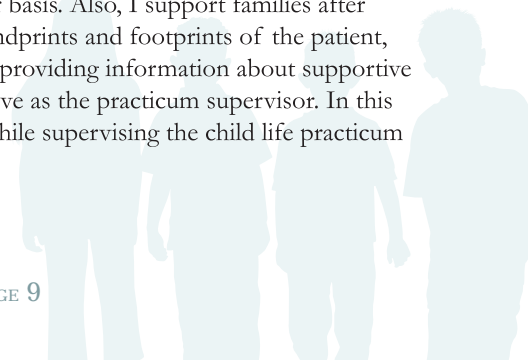
Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2009

Graduate Degree: Master of Science in Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration, Towson University, May 2011

Certifications Earned: Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS)

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I currently work as a child life specialist. In this position, I provide psychosocial support to patients and families in a pediatric hospital setting. While there is no "typical day," the services I provide include educating patients and their families about different medical procedures and diagnoses, preparing patients for various procedures, and providing child friendly and developmentally appropriate distractions for patients during procedures. In addition, I normalize the hospital situation for patients and families by helping them celebrate events such as birthdays and holidays and by providing opportunities for play and socialization. I help my supervisor and co-workers by organizing and distributing program donations, which we receive on a regular basis. Also, I support families after the death of a patient by completing handprints and footprints of the patient, preparing mementos for the family, and providing information about supportive resources and organizations. Lastly, I serve as the practicum supervisor. In this role, I oversee the practicum program while supervising the child life practicum students.



What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

While all of my courses were helpful in some way, I think those that were the most helpful include FMST 301 Family Relationships, FMST 302 Family Theories, FMST 340/540 The Hospitalized Child and Family, FMST 485 Research Methods, FMST 490 Family and Human Service Capstone: Methods in Family Life Education, all of the child development courses I took, and my child life practicum. Also, serving as a presenter and a student chairperson at the Disability Awareness Workshop helped me develop professionalism, flexibility, and skills in time management, delegation, and organization. These skills helped me find and secure my position as a child life specialist.

Why did you choose your major and track?

Due to some of my life experiences, I came into college already knowing that I wanted to pursue child life and eventually become a child life specialist. After taking some of the courses, learning more about the profession, volunteering, and completing a child life practicum during my undergraduate program, my choice of child life was affirmed. I became even more passionate about the field. I then decided to pursue a graduate degree in child life.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

Research and participate in as many different opportunities as you can. You do not get this time back, and every little bit of time spent trying to find the best fit for you is worth it. Also, take advantage of different programs, such as special presentations, department events, and workshops. New information you learn or new people you meet through these activities may influence your choice of a profession.

My specific advice for students interested in child life is to educate yourself on the entire certification process before making the decision to go into child life. Also, once you decide to move forward, you need to start volunteering in a child life program as early as possible. The field is very competitive. The more experience you have, the better your chance of obtaining a child life practicum, a child life internship, and certification.

What are your future plans?

I hope to continue working at Sinai as a child life specialist, overseeing the practicum program, and working with students. A major life goal of mine is to earn a Ph.D. eventually and teach at the college level, but for now I am very content in my profession. I look forward to continuing to learn, as the child life field is always changing.



Robyn Klein

Pediatric Social Worker, Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters

Previous Last Name: Rogers

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Services to Children and Youth

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2009

Graduate Degree: Master of Social Work (MSW), Millersville University

Certifications Earned: Licensed Social Worker (LSW)

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day?

I provide case management and counseling to families of children with cardiac diagnoses. I am there to assist them with navigating the hospital system. Also, I help them by identifying community resources and barriers to discharge, providing support in times of bad news, and making sense of all the medical jargon.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

The courses that helped me the most are those that dealt with interpersonal relationships, family dynamics, and identifying community resources.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I chose to major in family and human services because I took FMST 101 Introduction to Family Studies as an elective and really enjoyed learning about why people are the way they are and how experiences shape behaviors. I chose the Services to Children and Youth track because I have always had an affinity for working with children.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

Gain experiences in a variety of environments to better identify where you enjoy working. You may find you love working with a population you had never previously considered. Also, many employers may state that they are looking for an individual with a social work degree to fill a position, but this may mean they are looking for the same skill set we learn in family studies. Be confident in your skills and be prepared to advocate for yourself and why you are capable of doing the job.

What are your future plans?

I take as much continuing education programming as I can. Right now I am providing direct service, but I would like eventually to take on a more administrative role either in a hospital or with a different agency. Regardless of where I end up, I know it will be important for me to be passionate about the organization's mission in order to remain passionate about my role.

Kayleigh McQuaid

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Child Life Specialist, University of Maryland Children's Hospital

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Child Life

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2013

Graduate Degree: Master of Science in Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration, Towson University, 2015

Why did you choose to get a degree in the field of child life?

During my junior year of high school I read a play called *The Yellow Boat*. It is a true story about an 8 year old boy who has hemophilia. In this play there is a character named Joy, and she is a child life specialist. I fell in love with what Joy represented, and I knew that child life was my passion. I just did not know that it was a realistic opportunity.

Fast forward one year. I was working at my first job and a young boy of about four years of age fell and hit his head. Immediately he began throwing up and telling his dad that he did not feel well. I knew in that moment that something was wrong. I took them aside, had someone call 911, and sat with the boy and his father. I kept talking to him and making sure he stayed awake. The paramedics arrived and instantly began getting his vital signs and providing care. He quickly began crying and resisting everything the paramedics were doing. I looked down and noticed he was wearing Batman socks. I pointed out that even though Batman is a superhero, sometimes he gets scared too. We talked about how Batman tries to stay brave. During this conversation the paramedics were able to get the vital signs and everything else they needed before transporting him to the hospital. That was the second moment that led me to child life.

One year later I was at Towson's freshman incoming orientation. I had every intention of being a teacher until I sat down with Dr. Eskow and she told me all about the child life field and the program at Towson. That was the day that I declared my major. To make a long story short, numerous opportunities opened my eyes to this career, and it was the best decision I have ever made.

In relation to your graduation date, when did you receive the offer of employment for your current position?

I started a per diem position in March 2015, two months prior to graduating. I received the offer for the full-time position in the beginning of May before graduating. However, it was officially offered by Human Resources on June 3, 2015. I started in the full-time position on June 8, 2015. Regardless, the day I graduated from Towson University I knew I had a full-time position lined up.

What educational experiences or courses were most valuable in helping you find this position?

FMST 240 Introduction to Child Life, FMST 340/540 The Hospitalized Child and Family, and FMST 640 Medical Aspects of Illness: A Child Life Perspective were very valuable. Also, FMST 302 Family Theories and all of the child development/education/psychology classes were critical foundation builders. I had an extremely positive experience in FMST 620 Project in Family Focused Program Development. This class taught me an incredible amount about the administrative and marketing aspects of child life.

What advice do you have for potential or current Family Studies students?

Have patience. Getting a degree is a long process, and there are times that it is frustrating, discouraging, and/or difficult. But I promise, if you put in the time, effort, energy, and passion, it will matter. **Believe in yourself.** The human services field challenges you in every way possible, and that is not a bad thing. Allow those challenges to help you grow, but always believe in yourself. When you cannot, and trust me there will be times when you have doubts, know who the person is who can help remind you of how great you are. **Don't wish away this process.** It is easy to find yourself wishing to complete the next step- just get a practicum, get an internship, or graduate. But this process helps mold you into who you will be as a professional. Give yourself time to enjoy the journey. Last but not least, **be okay with questions, humility, and not knowing the answer.** This is your time to learn, ask questions, look at the problem from every angle, and be creative in how you may solve the problem. This is the time when it is okay if you don't have the perfect answer, because you are still learning. Working as a professional, there are times when I still have no idea how to handle a situation, so I talk it out with someone, get their opinions, ask questions, and do research. It is impossible to always have the best, most perfect answer. Allow yourself the opportunity to take a risk, ask questions, and learn from your experiences. **This is your time to shine, make it count.**

What are your future plans?

My immediate plan is passing the Child Life Professional Certification exam. After that, I want to take some time to enjoy being a certified professional with a master's degree and to be proud of all that I have done without worrying about 'the next step.' Long-term I want to continue developing as a professional, begin learning Spanish so I can interact with Spanish-speaking patients, become more comfortable in my own style, approach, and skill set as a specialist, and continue immersing myself in this career and making myself better. I also hope to attend the child life conference next year and somehow stay involved at Towson University.

"The family studies coursework really helped me become organized, thorough, and on top of my day to day responsibilities."

~ Sara Bielecki

TIMELINE

Ver’Nita Debraux

Family Support Worker, The National Center for Children and Families

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Services to Children and Youth

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: December 2012

Graduate Degree: Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling with a concentration in Marriage and Family, Liberty University, May 2015

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I schedule and supervise visits between birth families and children who are in District of Columbia foster care. I also transport my clients to and from medical appointments. I work as a liaison between birth parents, children, and foster parents.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

The majority of the Family Studies curriculum helped prepare me for my field of work in foster care. These classes include the following: FMST 201 Family Resources, FMST 297 Preparing Human Service Workers: Pre-Internship, FMST 301 Family Relationships, FMST 302 Family Theories, FMST 305 Parent-Child Relationships across the Lifespan, FMST 380 Family Law, FMST 385 Community Services for Families, FMST 397 Internship in Family and Human Services, and FMST 430 Case Management for Family and Human Services.

“The nonprofit leadership track was certainly helpful to me. The business administration minor gave me some of the business knowledge I need to work in fund development.”

~Patrick Seidl

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

The most helpful undergraduate experiences were working in various school systems, interning, and volunteering.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I have always had a love for children but wanted to work with them individually as opposed to in a classroom setting.

What are your future plans?

I love the company I work for, so I hope that my master’s degree will help me progress within the company.

Kristen Minch

Certified Child Life Specialist, The Herman and Walter Samuelson Children’s Hospital at Sinai

What are tips that can help students as they write resumes and cover letters, prepare for the interview process, and transition from student to professional?

PROOF READ!! I cannot stand it when someone has a spelling or grammatical error on their cover letter or resume. This avoidable mistake could automatically make you less desirable. Have others read your cover letter and resume, both people in your field and outside of your field. This may help you understand whether you are meeting the general needs as well as the specific needs of the field. Also, when completing your resume, make sure it flows nicely, is very easy to read, and includes relevant information pertaining to the job field.

When preparing for interviews, remember the basics:

- Dress appropriately.
- Arrive early to get a feel for the environment and prepare for any potential issues.
- Learn about the organization ahead of time! I cannot stress this enough.
- Do not get stressed about the interview questions. This is much easier said than done, but do not worry too much about what potential employers are going to ask you. Do not be cocky, but relax and show that your education and previous experiences are valid and have prepared you well.
- Provide examples of your previous work. Some organizations may want to see examples of your work, while others may not. Be prepared, and research the organization ahead of time which may help you determine whether or not examples will be needed.
- Prepare some questions for your interviewers. Just be sure your questions are appropriate, meaningful, and applicable.

As far as transitioning from the student to the professional, I will admit this is difficult. It is important to always have an open mind and remember that learning does not end when you graduate. There are always new things to learn. Having an open mind really does make this easier and more enjoyable.

Patrick Seidl

*Development and Communications Associate, Maryland Court
Appointed Special Advocates Association (CASA)*

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector

Undergraduate Minor: Business Administration

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2014

Certifications Earned: Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP)

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

As Maryland CASA's Development & Communications Associate, I work closely with our state director, various committees, and other staff members to assess fundraising and communication needs and develop and implement work plans that are consistent with CASA's mission, strategic plan, and grant goals.

On a daily basis, I manage CASA's social media presence, draft volunteers' stories, submit press releases to the media to increase public awareness of CASA, research volunteer recruitment strategies, research prospective grants, write grants, prepare grant reports, plan for upcoming events, seek event donations and sponsors, and maintain contact with local CASA programs to gauge needs and provide assistance where appropriate.

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

The most helpful courses include FMST 350 Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector, FMST 355 Fundraising, Friendraising, and Volunteer Management, FMST 485 Research Methods in Family Studies, FMST 490 Family and Human Service Capstone: Methods in Family Life Education, FMST 397 Internship in Family and Human Services, FMST 497 Advanced Internship in Family Studies and Community Development, Statistics, Accounting, and Computers & Creativity.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I chose Family and Human Services as my major because I knew that I wanted to help people. It wasn't until I really got into my coursework that I discovered the field of nonprofits. By working in resource development for a nonprofit, I am achieving my overall goal of helping people, but without direct client interaction, which I decided was not for me.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

My advice is to take the time to develop strong relationships with your professors. They have a wealth of knowledge. In my experience, they are always willing to help if you reach out to them with questions or concerns, even post-graduation. It is also important to take full advantage of your internship. This is your chance to get some of the practical experience you need to land a job after you graduate.

Don't just go through the motions by only thinking, "Will I get my hours in this week?" Think about what you are being exposed to and how you can apply what you are learning.

What are your future plans?

I am still undecided as to what path I will take. Honestly, I think I will be happy doing anything in the future that involves helping others and giving back to my community. One of the benefits of having a degree in Family and Human Services is that there are many options as to what you can do with it.

Dorianne (Dori) Wojtowycz

Policy Analyst, Office of Disability Policy/

*Office of Medical Policy, Social Security
Administration (SSA)*

Previous Last Name: Weaver

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Services to Children and Youth

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2009

*"If you are interested in
working in child care,
a Family and Human
Services degree qualifies
you to manage a child
care center."*

~Emily Sweet

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

My main duties include writing and revising Social Security Rulings (SSRs) and federal regulations pertaining to the Listing of Impairments for Disability. I am in charge of all Growth Impairments in Children and Drug Addiction and Alcoholism (DAA) rules and regulations. I also answer questions from judges, lawyers, front-line workers/adjudicators, and SSA executives regarding Growth Impairments or DAA. I develop training materials when changes are made to the laws regarding these issues.

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

The two courses that are most helpful to me are FMST 485 Research Methods in Family Studies and FMST 380 Family Law.

Why did you choose your major and track?

While I was enrolled at Towson University, I worked in the Baltimore County Public School System with three to five year olds with Autism Spectrum Disorder. I decided that I did not want to obtain my teaching degree, but was interested in obtaining an education related to the field in which I was already working. Family and Human Services was a good fit.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

You should be proud to be majoring in this field. Soak up all of the opportunities you are given while in school. Don't be afraid to reach out of your comfort zone when deciding on your internship.

What are your future plans?

I plan to continue with my career at SSA and look for any and all opportunities to learn and advance in my career. I may possibly return to school and work toward a master's degree.

Emily Sweet

Director, La Petite Academy-Learning Care Group

Previous Last Name: Shirley

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Services to Children and Youth

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: December 2013

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I am the director of a corporately run child care center/preschool. I hire and train teachers, enroll families, work with children, give center tours to prospective families, plan family events, ensure our center is following proper Maryland State Department of Education licensing protocols, order supplies, and do marketing to advertise our center. I also prepare weekly reports for our corporate office.

What educational experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

All of my family studies courses have been helpful. They have helped me deal with different family dynamics and family situations. I have worked a lot with families going through custody issues, and my family law class prepared me for some of these issues. My internship at The Family Tree was very helpful. I learned a lot about resources to help families. I created a resource book while I worked there, and I still use it today with the current group of families I work with.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I wanted to work with children and families, but not really in a teaching or public/private school setting. I had an interest in working with children ages infant - 5 years old and parents of this age group.

What are your future plans?

I would like to go back to school and get my master's degree at some point. Areas that have caught my interest are child life or elementary school administration as assistant principal or principal. I would also love to own a child care center on a larger scale, possibly with multiple sites.

Kaitlin Bowman

Vice-President of Strategic Partnerships, Junior Achievement of Central Maryland

Previous Last Name: Mangini

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Services to Children and Youth

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: January 2003

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I participate in development, fundraising, and creating partnerships for the organization. I work with corporations, individuals, and foundations. I love the diversity in my day-to-day responsibilities and the fact that I am able to interact with many different people. I truly believe in the program I serve and appreciate that it is both rewarding and fun.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

Each course was different yet helpful. The course work exposed me to a range of knowledge and a diversity of prospective career avenues. However, the most meaningful courses were those that required hands-on learning in an agency.

“Although it was not available when I was a student, I am pleased that the Family Studies Department added a track for Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector. This will allow students to understand the workings of a nonprofit and gain exposure to the many facets of the industry.”

~Kaitlin Bowman

Why did you choose your major and track?

I knew I wanted to work with students, although I was not interested in becoming a teacher. After I took FMST 101 Introduction to Family Studies, I was hooked on Family Studies, since families are important to individual and societal functioning.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

Students should pursue as many internship and volunteer opportunities as possible. Exposure to different organizations is key.

What are your future plans?

I hope to continue to grow in the field and provide services to students and families. One of the things I love about my job in the nonprofit world is that I interact with many different stakeholder groups, including students, families, corporations, educators, government agencies, and other nonprofits.

Julie Coffman

Assessment Social Worker, Child Protective Services, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Human Services

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2012

Graduate Degree: Master of Social Work (MSW), University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)

Certifications Earned: Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I am an assessment social worker with Child Protective Services. I assess allegations of child abuse and neglect, immediate safety concerns, and long-term risks that children may endure. I create safety plans and refer families to outside agencies.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

While a student in the social work program at UMB, I participated in the Title IV E program which prepared students to work with children in the public welfare system. During that time, I had the opportunity to complete an internship with the assessment unit at Montgomery County DHHS, which ultimately led to my employment.

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

Clinical practice with actual clients is the most helpful experience. I continue to learn on the job as challenging issues arise.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I began my educational career in nursing but soon learned that I dislike hospitals and other medical settings. I knew I wanted to work in a helping profession, which is when I found Family & Human Services.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

Please keep in mind that human service work is important and does make a difference. It is easy to become discouraged or overwhelmed. During these moments it is important to remind yourself that clients ultimately appreciate our help.

What are your future plans?

I plan on getting my Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C) license once I am employed for two years. As a Family Studies student, I interned in the adoption field. Eventually, I would like to return to this field working with families wishing to adopt a child.

Kristen Minch

Certified Child Life Specialist, The Herman and Walter Samuelson Children's Hospital at Sinai

What professional attributes are you looking for when you hire recent graduates?

I have not been personally involved in the child life hiring process. However, I complete the screening process and interviews for our child life practicum students, and I would have the same expectations if and when hiring:

- Experience in the field - I understand that as a college student this may be difficult to obtain. However, there are opportunities to gain experience through volunteering, internships, shadowing, community events, or working for pay. All of these add to your qualifications. Also, do not wait until the last minute to get involved. Do it as soon as possible and as much as possible.
- A cover letter and resume without any spelling or grammatical errors - This may seem self-explanatory, but it is surprising to still receive these from students who have graduated or are preparing to graduate.
- Flexibility – This is very valuable in any career, especially the field of child life, as we are working with sick children and their families and there is not really a “typical day.”
- Self-direction – I look for those who are able to take direction and determine when to address a needed task versus first stopping and asking for direction.
- The understanding that learning does not end after graduation and neither should the ability to take criticism - It may be difficult for students, especially new graduates, to have this understanding. They may consider themselves “experts” in the field, but being open-minded and constantly willing to learn is a must. I am still learning every day and continue to add to my skill set, as I would expect any student or graduate to do as well. Taking criticism can be difficult for many, myself included, but this is a major factor in improving and better serving the needs of the population you work with.
- General professionalism – This should be self-explanatory, but generally includes, having good manners, displaying an appropriate appearance, being punctual, being appropriate and professional in oral and written communications, and being organized.

Rachel Jones

Certified Child Life Specialist, Children's National Health System

Previous Last Name: Weaver

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Child Life

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: August 2009

Graduate Degree: Master of Science in Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration, Towson University, May 2013

Certifications Earned: Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS)

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

As a Certified Child Life Specialist, I work to help ease the fear and anxiety of pediatric patients in the hospital through play, by educating them on procedures they may have at the hospital and ways to cope with pain or a new diagnosis, and by creating ways to normalize the hospital experience. I work on two different units: the Surgical/Trauma/Burn Unit and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. On a typical day I will meet patients and their families, provide toys and games, provide preparation and support for a procedure, help parents adjust to the hospital setting and their new normal depending on the illness or injury, and prepare siblings to see their brothers or sisters in the hospital.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

Having the specific Child Life track at Towson University helped to put me in the right classes that I needed to perform this job. Outside of the classroom, volunteering at local hospitals helped to give me hands-on experiences with patients that really lit a fire to my passion for the field of child life. Completing my child life practicum and moving on to a child life internship definitely applied my classroom knowledge to real life experiences and helped create the skill set that I am using today.

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

At the beginning of my career, my practicum and internship experiences were the most helpful. My child life specific classes helped give me the foundation that I always go back to for help. However, at this point in my career, I am using more of my classes in group dynamics and psychology because I am helping run support groups for burn survivors and scrapbooking groups for parents in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Why did you choose your major and track?

My initial major at Towson was nursing. I chose Family and Human Services as my major with a Child Life track after I worked at Children's Hospital as a nursing student in 2007. Through that experience I learned about child life and fell in love with it. I researched how to get into the field of child life and realized that the education I needed was already at Towson. That is when I started on this career path.

What advice do you have for current family studies students?

My advice for current family studies students is to seek help from your advisers because they are knowledgeable about the human services field and what it takes to succeed. Also, do whatever it takes to stand out in a great way on your resume. Volunteer with organizations that connect to your career goals and look for educational opportunities outside of your normal path, such as seminars. Always ask questions and show your passion in interviews. Towson will give you the education, but it is up to you to show your drive and passion for the field.

"Through my internship, I was able to identify some of my strengths and weaknesses and discover the work I really enjoy doing."

-Robyn Klein

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to work more with families on how they connect with medical staff to advocate for their children and on how to give them support to make it through the hospitalization. I want to continue to support the family as a whole and be in a position to allow myself to grow.

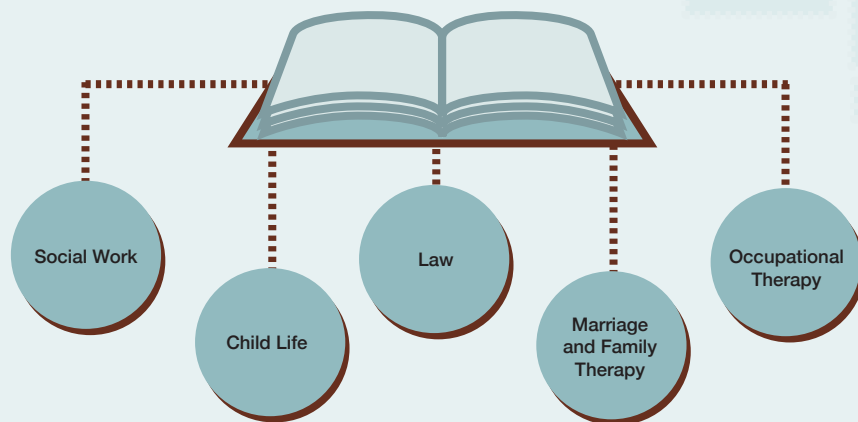


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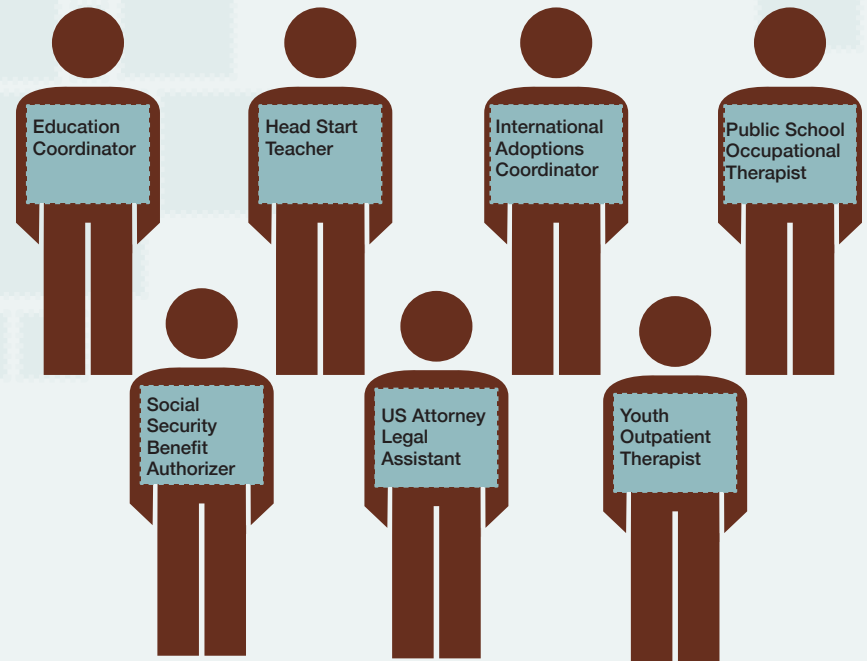
[Sample Fields of Graduate Study]



[Sample Occupations]



Specific Career Examples



Allison Ciborowski

Director of Dementia Education, Integrace Institute at Copper Ridge

Previous Last Name: Roenigk

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Human Services

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2009

Certifications Earned: Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

As Director of Dementia Education, I create engaging education programming for both professional and family caregivers. A typical day might include coordinating courses for care staff within my organization, assisting with conference planning, and creating curriculum for new courses.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

Course work in death, dying, and bereavement helped me become interested in hospice care, which in turn helped me further define my goal to work with cognitively impaired older adults. My experience interning for a small nonprofit helped me learn about nonprofit management and continuing education management. Also I work on various research projects, so I regularly use knowledge gained through courses in statistics and research methods.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I knew I wanted to work with people, but I wasn't sure in what capacity. The Human Services track allowed me to take a broad range of courses.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

Value your internship experiences and find the population for which you are passionate. You can learn something in every situation, so always reflect and focus on the positives of each experience, no matter how challenging or negative it may seem at the time.

What are your future plans?

I recently received a promotion from Education Coordinator to Director of Dementia Education. I plan to develop engaging educational programming and ultimately improve the quality of life for persons with dementia, as well as their families. My long-term plans include continuing to work in a leadership role in the nonprofit senior services realm.



Sharon Holloway-Gentemann, Ph.D.

World of Care Program Director, Kennedy Krieger PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs

What professional attributes are you looking for when you hire recent graduates?

I look for graduates who know enough from their academic careers to be curious. While people think they need to demonstrate what they know, this is only partially true. I look for people who can show me their interest in on-going learning. It also is essential for people to be polite and engaging, even when nervous with a new situation. We are in the human services field, so I look for those who show interest in others. Finally, being reflective is a big asset. I look for people who can share their ideas, feelings, and impressions. I want employees who can reflect on what is going well and what is challenging. This allows supervisors and others to help new employees learn their roles.

What are tips that can help students as they write resumes and cover letters?

Details matter. When I get a resume that was clearly written for a different position or field, it tells me that the candidate is interested in a job, any job – not THIS job. Most new graduates are interested in any job, but put in a little effort to individualize the cover letter or career objective. It matters.

Prepare for the interview process – again, do your research. Have some ideas about the agency and some questions that demonstrate your interest in the population and in being a good team player. Go beyond salary, dress code, and hours. Think about what you really want to know:

- What is the most rewarding/challenging part of the work?
- How did the interviewer get started at the organization?
- What attributes make for the best employee?

What are tips that can help students as they transition from student to professional?

In short, it is about ownership. Professionals need to take responsibility for learning their roles, joining their clients, and doing the best job possible. While employers will help, they ultimately expect their employees to grow, become generally self-sufficient, and know when to seek help.

Madison Allen

Program Aide, Kennedy Krieger Institute - Montgomery County Campus

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Services to Children and Youth

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2015

Why did you choose your major and track?

I chose my major and track because I wanted to be adequately prepared to work in a clinical setting with children and adolescents with behavioral, intellectual, and/or mood disorders and to help them function to their fullest potential within our society. I decided to major in Family and Human Services instead of Psychology because of the former's emphasis on both family relationships and individual well-being, which has enabled my success in a clinical work environment.

In relation to your graduation date, when did you receive the offer of employment for this position?

Three weeks before I graduated I had my first interview at the Kennedy Krieger Baltimore City campus for a Program Aide position. Then the day after I graduated I had a second interview for the same position but at the Montgomery County campus. I was offered both jobs the day after I graduated and accepted the position with Montgomery County.

What educational experiences and/or courses were most valuable in helping you find this position?

FMST 297 Preparing Human Service Workers: Pre-Internship and FMST 397 Internship in Family and Human Services are the two classes that helped me find this job. Also, I would not be where I am today without the continuous guidance and support of my professors!

What advice do you have for potential or current Family Studies students?

It is very beneficial to start interviewing before graduation. It does not hurt to send out a few applications with cover letters and resumes. FMST 297 and FMST397 help with this process. Also, networking is important. I stayed in close contact with my internship site supervisor, and she wrote me a letter of recommendation for my interviews. I also stayed in constant contact with my internship professor and previous professors who helped me stay connected with job and graduate school opportunities.

“Towson’s family studies department is top notch. That is why they pair rigorous classes with mandatory internship hours.”

~Sara Bielecki

In terms of conducting successful interviews, it is important to familiarize yourself with the company prior to the interview, write down questions, and prepare in advance to respond to basic interview questions. During my interviews I found it useful to write down notes, and I provided the interviewer with a hard copy of my resume and cover letter. In addition, it is important to maintain eye contact, speak clearly, display confidence, and use appropriate body language.

Each of my interviews was different. One was more like an informal conversation, while the other one was a mixture of formal and informal questions. Essentially, the interviewer is trying to tap into your interests and capabilities, so it is important to sell yourself by highlighting your accomplishments.

What are your future plans?

I plan to work at Kennedy Krieger as I apply for a master's degree program in Clinical Psychology. I will continue working at Kennedy Krieger while completing my master's degree. Eventually I would like to pursue a doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I have grown into a competent young professional, and I am proud to represent Towson University's Department of Family Studies and Community Development.

Francesca Cangeloso

Art Therapist, Newark Beth Israel Children's Hospital of New Jersey

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Services to Children and Youth

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2010

Graduate Degree: Master of Professional Studies in Art Therapy, School of Visual Arts

Certifications Earned: Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I am an art therapist at a children's hospital and work with patients at their bedsides, as well as in the hospital's clinic. I work mainly with a hematology/oncology population. We use art as a form of expression and normalization and as a coping strategy.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

The writing intensive courses, which required knowledge of APA format, helped me secure my current position.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I always wanted to work in a helping profession. Also, I love art and working with children.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

A degree in Family and Human Services or Family Science provides versatility and access to an extensive range of opportunities. Exploring graduate options is crucial. In the helping/therapeutic fields it is necessary to be a lifelong learner. This devotion to learning will allow you to have a tremendous impact on peoples' lives.

What are your future plans?

I am currently finishing my licensure requirements and plan on staying in the medical art therapy field. I am contemplating a return to school for a post-masters certification in a specialty working with adolescents and/or families. Most importantly, I hope to continue finding happiness and gratification in my career!

Kathleen Crostic

*Community Programs Manager, Office of Work, Life and Engagement,
Johns Hopkins University*

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2006

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I am responsible for providing opportunities for Johns Hopkins University employees to engage with the community through volunteerism and financial giving. This is accomplished through the annual Johns Hopkins University United Way Campaign, the Johns Hopkins Takes Time for Schools program (which allows employees two days of paid leave each year to volunteer), the Adopt-a-Student Uniform Drive, and the Johns Hopkins Neighborhood Fund (which provides grants up to \$15,000 to nonprofit organizations surrounding Johns Hopkins institutions within Baltimore City).



What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

My internships were very helpful. While completing my degree, I interned at three organizations: Abilities Network, Students Sharing Coalition, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). While I am no longer involved with these organizations, they each offered me employment following the completion of my internships. I interned at Abilities Network the summer between my junior and senior years and continued to work part-time with them through my senior year. I interned at LLS during the second semester of my senior year. Immediately afterwards I accepted a full-time position as the LLS School and Youth Campaign manager. I remained in this position for two years.

Why did you choose your major and track?

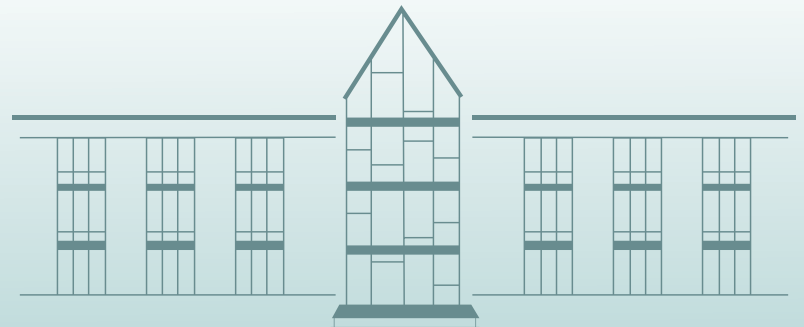
My track was Family Services and Family Life Enhancement. This track is no longer offered but now there are several other tracks that were not available when I was a student. My track provided me with education and experiences in many areas and prepared me for the workforce.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

Complete as many internships as possible to get as much "real world" exposure as you can. While the education that I received in the classroom was extremely valuable, the experiences that I had as an intern helped prepare me for future career pursuits.

What are your future plans?

I have seriously considered pursuing either a graduate degree or further certification. In the meantime, I plan to progress in my career at Johns Hopkins University, while continuing to work with community organizations and nonprofits.



Christin Fox

Lead Advocate, Department of Social Services (DSS) – Family Violence Unit

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Services to Children and Youth

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2011

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I am the lead advocate at the Family Violence Unit after being promoted from court advocate in 2012. As lead advocate, I spend most of my time in district and circuit court helping victims of intimate partner violence (domestic violence) understand the court process, whether they are there as a victim/witness for a criminal case or they are applying for a protective order. I am there to provide emotional support and referrals, notify them of their rights, help them understand the court process, act as a liaison if needed, and safety-plan with the victims while empowering them to make their own decisions. I work closely with prosecutors and defense attorneys to ensure that victims' rights are being protected and that victims have a say in how their cases are handled. Also, I am sometimes called upon by judges to give recommendations to the court. Finally, I work closely with the police department to ensure victims' safety. I go on home visits with police officers.

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

My internship placement and the networking I did while there were crucial in helping me find my current position. I interned at the Young Parent Support Center, which is run and partially funded by the DSS. When a position opened in the Family Violence Unit and I was getting ready to graduate, I was asked by a DSS supervisor to apply for the position.

FMST 297 Preparing Human Service Workers: Pre-Internship was extremely helpful as well. Due to this course, I felt I had an advantage as I was more prepared for the internship experience than other interns at my placement. FMST 301 Family Relationships, FMST 302 Family Theories, FMST 303 Trends in Contemporary Family Life, and FMST 380 Family Law helped me provide well-formulated answers during my job interview.

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

I still use lessons I learned during my internship, even though I am now in a different setting. In my day-to-day interactions with clients and other professionals, I also frequently use information I learned from FMST 301 Family

Relationships, FMST 302 Family Theories, FMST 303 Trends in Contemporary Family Life, and FMST 380 Family Law.

Why did you choose your major and track?

My first major was Deaf Studies. I realized after taking FMST 101 Introduction to Family Studies that I wanted to work with families who are dealing with a variety of different issues. Families are so important in our lives. They shape and affect us, and I wanted to work with them. I changed my major to Family Studies. I chose the Services to Children and Youth track because I wanted to have the skill set to help children overcome issues they are experiencing and to strengthen their families.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

Take your internship placement seriously, take initiative, and network! Not many other departments provide every student with an internship opportunity and also a preparation course for it, so you definitely have an advantage! My internship was truly when I was able to take all that I had learned in the courses and apply it. Show initiative and your internship site supervisor and other professionals will see your potential.

What are your future plans?

I will be pursuing my Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Durham University in England starting October 2015. I hope to either work for a federal agency upon completion of my master's degree or pursue a Ph.D.

"I thought it was really beneficial to complete internships in a controlled setting where you have the support of faculty.

~Sara Bielecki



Keyonia Holland

Intensive Advocacy Fellow, The Choice Program

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector

Minor: Business Administration

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: December 2013

Certifications Earned: Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP)

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I work as an intensive advocacy fellow. On a typical day I make school visits, court appearances, and house visits to adjudicated youth (youth who are on probation).

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

The experiences that were most helpful were working with community organizations in my community service courses and my internships.

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

FMST 397 Internship in Family and Human Services and FMST 497 Advanced Internship in Family Studies and Community Development helped me learn professional skills and develop a good work ethic.

Why did you choose your major and track?

I wanted to work in a field where I can help people and promote real change in society.

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

The internships are great experiences! Completing internships places you above the competition when applying to schools or jobs. Also, make sure you are networking and building thoughtful relationships with those you meet during your time at Towson University. Your Towson mentors will be there for you if you need a recommendation letter or just advice.

What are your future plans?

My plan is to attend graduate school and earn an advanced degree in public health.

Janna Zuckerman

Program Manager of the Center for Jewish Camping, The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore

Undergraduate Major: Family and Human Services

Track: Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector

Date of Undergraduate Graduation: May 2011

Graduate Degree: Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master of Arts (MA), Social Work and Jewish Communal Service, University of Maryland, Baltimore and Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University

Describe your current position and what you might do on a typical day.

I am the program manager of the Associated's Center for Jewish Camping (CJC). The Center promotes Jewish day and overnight camp through community outreach, education, and public awareness. Jewish camp is an important pillar in building strong Jewish identity and ensuring a vibrant Jewish future. In my role I manage two task forces and three committees: the CJC Advisory Committee, the CJC Professional Committee, and the CJC Teen Camp Ambassadors. It is difficult to describe what I do in a typical day, but following are some examples:

- Identify, build, and cultivate relationships with a cadre of lay leadership who serve as ambassadors for the Jewish camping agenda through the Center for Jewish Camping
- Serve as professional partner to the lay co-chairs of the Center for Jewish Camping Advisory Committee as well as chairs of our recent task forces: Camp Affordability and Synagogue and Community Engagement
- Convene a Jewish Camping Professional Advisory Committee comprised of Jewish camp directors and leadership
- Develop strategies for increasing the number of children attending Jewish day and residential camps
- Develop, implement, and maintain marketing strategies, including oversight of web and collateral materials such as print materials, advertising, and e-communications
- Develop collaborations and programs with camp professionals, synagogues, day schools, and Jewish organizations to promote Jewish camp
- Offer free, personalized camp consultation to Baltimore families who seek advice on appropriate camp options for their children
- Convene 10-25 teens in 8th-12th grade who serve as teen camp ambassadors and work with me to promote Jewish camp in the larger Baltimore community
- Visit many different Jewish camps during the summer with lay leaders, educators, and professionals
- Develop a strategic fundraising plan to provide incentive grants to first-time campers each summer

What educational experiences and/or courses helped you find your position?

I learned about The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore when I was looking for an internship during my senior year of college. After spending several months interning in the Community Planning & Allocations Department at The Associated, I decided to apply for The Jewish Federation of North America's fellowship program called FEREP (Federation, Executive, Recruitment, Education, and Program) because I loved my internship experience. I was thrilled to be selected for the program, which provided me with the resources to attend graduate school and a mutual job search after graduation from graduate school. None of this would have been possible without my experiences in the Department of Family Studies & Community Development at Towson University.

What experiences and/or courses are most helpful to you in carrying out your job responsibilities?

In addition to my internship at The Associated, I interned at The Arc of Baltimore in Towson which prepared me for my future career as a social worker. My experience at The Arc gave me the hands-on clinical skills of working with adults with developmental and physical disabilities. I was challenged by the work but determined to make my internship experience positive. I sought advice and guidance from my professors who had worked with this population before and found the experience to be truly rewarding.

After graduating from Towson University, I decided to pursue a MSW at the University of Maryland, Baltimore and a MA in Jewish Communal Service at the Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University. All of the skills I learned in my two internships and through my course work have prepared me for my current role as program manager of The Associated's Center for Jewish Camping. The clinical skills that I learned through my internship at The Arc were enhanced during my two years of social work school and are used daily in my current position. Although I am not doing clinical work, I constantly find myself dealing with many different personalities and using the skills I learned both in the Family Studies Department at Towson and at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. In addition, the courses I took through the Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector track and the conferences I attended through my involvement in Nonprofit Leadership Alliance helped me develop my skills in board leadership, fundraising, volunteer coordination, leading committee meetings, and many other aspects of nonprofit work.

“Students should take advantage of the many opportunities available through the Department of Family Studies and Community Development.”

~Morgan Allen

Why did you choose your major and track?

From an early age I knew I wanted to do something to help people. My mom was a social worker. She worked for a large health and human service agency for over 30 years. I imagine she contributed to my desire to work for a nonprofit organization. However, it wasn't until 8th grade that I realized I could attend college to pursue this type of work. I remember I was in Girl Scouts and our troop leader was telling us about her career in social work – I was hooked. I decided then that I wanted to become an executive director of a nonprofit organization. When I was a junior in high school and began to look at colleges, I looked for schools with bachelor's programs in social work. Although Towson University does not have a social work program, I was told that family studies was similar. I toured the campus with my parents and fell in love with the school. I met Dr. Eskow and other professors from the department and knew I needed to attend the school. I submitted my application in the fall of my senior year and cried with happiness when I read my acceptance letter a few months later. I knew attending Towson University and majoring in Family and Human Services would require me to earn a MSW in order to become a social worker, but I did not care. I loved the school and program. I decided I would make my track Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector because I always knew I wanted to work for a nonprofit organization after I finished my education. Attending Towson was the best decision I ever made. I made lifelong friends, became independent, learned more than I could ever have imagined, and had the most incredible four years of my life.

“As a Family Studies student at Towson University, I was exposed to various nonprofit organizations in the greater Baltimore community, which prepared me for my career.”

~Kathleen Crostic

What advice do you have for current Family Studies students?

The best advice I can give to current students is to get involved on campus. I learned a tremendous amount in the classroom and at my internships, but I learned more through the leadership roles I held on campus. I was grateful to attend the LeaderShape Institute, which was the best week of my life. Afterwards I came back to campus and started my own student organization: Towson University goes PINK. In addition, I was



vice-president of Active Minds and the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance student organization, a board member of Towson University Hillel, a student ambassador, and a founding sister of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority. These experiences provided me with leadership skills that I could not have gained at my internship or in the classroom. I was working with my peers to improve a community that I loved and cared about. Every tour that I led as a student ambassador concluded with the same sentiment, “Find one extracurricular activity to get involved in and it will make your college career unforgettable – I promise you won’t regret it”.

What are your future plans?

I’m not sure what the future holds, but I am very pleased with my current work at The Associated and hope to remain in this position for a long time. My ultimate dream is for the Center for Jewish camping to expand tremendously and someday become its own organization, impacting thousands of new campers each year and making camp affordable for families who do not have substantial financial resources.



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