



STUDENTS AND THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

James J. Gallagher Dissertation Award

James J. Gallagher was the director of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) from 1970 to 1987. Jim devoted his lengthy career to advancing policy and practice in support of children and families. Named in his honor, this annual award provides financial support for dissertation research at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill focusing on issues related to child development and family support.

The Award Competition

The annual award competition draws applicants from schools and departments across campus. Previous recipients have hailed from the Gillings School of Global Public Health, School of Education, Department of Allied Health Sciences, and Department of Psychology and Neuroscience to name a few. In granting the award, priority is given to research that is relevant to child and family policy for young children, children with disabilities, or children with gifts and talents.

The Endowment

The James J. Gallagher Dissertation Award is funded by an endowment established in 2002. It is truly fitting that Jim's legacy at FPG and Carolina is recognized by financial support for graduate students destined to be future leaders in the field. Growing the endowment will enable us to increase our annual support for innovative dissertation research. For the past ten years, the award amount has been \$3,000. Our goal is to grow the endowment by \$20,000 in order to increase the award amount to \$4,000 or more.

Recipients

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| 2017 Achsah Dorsey | 2010 Kimberly McCombs |
| 2016 Melissa Cunningham Kay | 2009 Kirsten Ellingsen |
| 2015 Susan Hedges | 2008 Twyla Perryman |
| 2014 Genna Durante | 2007 Elizabeth Lanter |
| 2013 Amy Lerner | 2006 Eva Mamak |
| 2012 Steven Holochwost and Jennifer Job | 2005 Kimberly Cobb |
| 2011 Jessica Klusek | 2004 Melissa Raspa |



The Carolina Edge

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has a deep commitment to supporting the academic and professional success of its graduate students. Financial support for ground-breaking dissertation research embodies this commitment.

Recognition

“I benefitted greatly from the award and think that it is a wonderful recognition for junior scholars committed to early childhood development. I know that many students are passionate about their research projects in this area and this award validates their heightened interest and commitment to children and families.”

Elizabeth Lanter, PhD, CCC-SLP

Affirmation

“It was affirming that others realized the value of the research I was conducting for my dissertation. Since then the program I was evaluating, the Safe Babies Court Teams, has been rated as having Promising Scientific Evidence in the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare based on my dissertation supported by the Gallagher Award.”

Kimberly L. McCombs-Thornton, PhD

Extension

“Although the Gallagher Award is a dissertation award, the impact of receiving this award has extended far beyond the dissertation stage of my career. Because of this award, I was able to obtain training in a novel method for evaluating the communication skills of children with Fragile X syndrome. This training allowed me to dig deeper in seeking answers to my research questions and I still draw upon these skills today. I am incredibly grateful for having received this award.”

Jessica Klusek, PhD, CCC-SLP



Make an Impact

Help us reward talented researchers-in-training who are committed to supporting children and families. Your gift to the James J. Gallagher Dissertation Award honors Jim’s memory and supports graduate students wishing to endeavor toward his noble goal of improving opportunities for young children of all skills and abilities.

As we grow the James J. Gallagher Dissertation Award endowment, we will increase our annual support for Carolina’s graduate students and you will know that your gift is making a direct impact on the future of the field.

CONTACT US

We are ready to help you make a gift that best fits your financial needs and has the greatest impact at FPG.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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2013 award recipient Amy Lerner with the late Jim Gallagher