

November 10, 2007

Person in Charge  
Committee Name  
Institution  
Address  
City, State Zip

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA  
AT CHAPEL HILL

DUKE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA  
AT GREENSBORO

NORTH CAROLINA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

NORTH CAROLINA  
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

MEREDITH COLLEGE

Dear Members of the XXX Faculty Search Committee:

Please find enclosed my application materials for the XXX faculty position in the Department of Psychology at XXXX. I received my Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Loyola University Chicago in December 2006 and I am currently completing a NICHD postdoctoral fellowship with the Carolina Consortium on Human Development and the Center for Developmental Science (CDS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Enclosed please find copies of my (1) research statement, (2) teaching statement, (3) curriculum vitae, and (4) reprints of scholarly work. In addition, I have requested that letters of recommendation be forwarded to you by Dr. XXXX and Dr. XXXX, both of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as by Dr. XXXX of Loyola University Chicago.

As I describe in my research statement, my current work focuses on the ways in which social interaction and verbal engagement influence children's developing memory skills. I am particularly interested in conversations that children have with adults (i.e., parents, teachers, and experimenters) and how these verbal interactions are linked to children's memories. Findings from this work indicates that the linguistic context children are exposed to while events are ongoing, as well as when retrieving information about past events, is of particular importance to their verbal recall (e.g., Hedrick, Haden, & Ornstein, in prep; Hedrick, San Souci, Haden, & Ornstein, 2007; Hedrick, San Souci, Alexander, Coffman, Haden, & Ornstein, 2007; Ornstein, Haden, & Hedrick, 2004). During the course of my career, I have amassed quite a bit of experience working on both longitudinal and experimental projects that serve to identify the ways in which these social-communicative experiences, as well as certain individual child-level characteristics, interact in a dynamic way to impact children's cognition. Indeed, I am quite committed to a multi-method approach to developmental study that incorporates both naturalistic, longitudinal design and well-crafted experimental research. These varied research experiences have allowed me to spend time with children and families in homes, classrooms, and laboratories. As such, I am dedicated to examining children's development in multiple contexts and have recently begun a series of projects that reflect this perspective.

In addition to my research experience, I have been able to build on the skills developed during my graduate training as a postdoctoral fellow at CDS. The unique opportunities presented to postdoctoral trainees have enabled me to gain further advanced training in statistical methods, grant writing, and to participate in focused seminars with topics ranging from the effects of early experiences on subsequent development to intervention and prevention science. In addition, I have been able to collaborate with seasoned investigators from a variety of disciplines in order to conduct research in the tradition of developmental science. This tradition requires a comprehensive examination of development over time and within a multi-level structure. To be sure, I have great respect for this view and I consider my work as deeply embedded within this valuable framework.

I am quite attracted to the XXXX position at XXXX because research and teaching are viewed by your institution as complementary endeavors. To a considerable extent, my teaching and mentoring of undergraduate students stretches beyond the confines of the classroom. In addition to independently teaching courses at Loyola University Chicago and Northwestern University, including *Research Methods*, *Statistical Methods in Psychology*, and *Laboratory in Developmental Psychology*, I have also worked closely with more than ten undergraduate psychology students involved in independent research projects. Indeed, three students at Loyola University Chicago were awarded competitive Mulcahy scholarships (bestowed upon undergraduate students at Loyola University Chicago based on merit and research quality) in order to assist with my dissertation project. I am particularly interested in using my experience with research to augment educational training and provide all students with important first-hand knowledge of the research process. I view opportunities to supervise and mentor students at the undergraduate and graduate level to be of considerable importance and I am deeply committed to fostering students' academic and professional development.

In sum, I believe I am a good fit for both the position and what I perceive as the overall philosophy of your program. I have strong training in developmental research and look forward to the continued growth of my research program. Furthermore, I value the opportunity to teach and mentor students and I am quite dedicated to joining a faculty that views the marriage of scholarship and collaborative research as vital to higher education.

If I can provide you with any additional information that would help you in reaching a decision about my candidacy, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

XXX  
Center for Developmental Science  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599