I am a second-year MA/PhD student in the department of Family Social Science applying for the Waller Summer Fellowship. I have a current graduate GPA of 4.0 with no incompletes. I am making excellent progress towards both my master’s and doctorate degrees and meeting program milestones on time. By the end of my fourth semester, I will have completed all of the required credits for the master’s degree (most of which also count towards the doctorate program requirements) and have defended my master’s thesis. Additionally, I have been working as a research assistant on the Parenting 2.0 project since July 2009. To date, we have conducted a literature review, identified gaps in the research, created an online survey, received IRB approval, launched the online survey, and have collected data from over 1,600 parents across the U.S. We have also been working on preparing the dataset to be analyzed. Results will be used in paper publications and conference presentations. I am a first author or co-author on three conference proposals that have been submitted to the 73rd Annual NCFR conference, two of which are using data from the Parenting 2.0 project, and am also assisting in the preparation of two journal articles, both of which are using data from the Parenting 2.0 project. To expand my research experience outside the Parenting 2.0 project, I am a volunteer graduate research assistant on the After Deployment: Adaptive Parenting Tools (ADAPT) project 5 hours/week. I have also gotten involved in the new Center for Personalized Prevention Research Early Career Investigator Network, as I am interested in pursuing a career in prevention science. Ultimately, my career goal is to be a tenured faculty in family science and regularly contribute to peer-reviewed family science journals.

My progress thus far puts me in excellent position to continue working on various projects during the summer months as well as begin working on the critical review paper. Specifically, this award would help me: (1) Prepare and submit my master’s thesis for publication (2) Prepare and submit a literature review on parents’ use of technology and online activities for publication (3) Continue volunteering on the After Deployment: Adaptive Parenting Tools (ADAPT) project and (4) Begin working on my critical review paper.

A summer 2010 Block Grant awarded to me by the Department of Family Social Science supported my work last summer, which resulted in the successful development and launch of an online survey to collect quantitative data for my master’s thesis. To date, data has been collected from 390 college students. My thesis work examines college students’ frequency of online access from various locations, technological device use, and frequency of participation in various online activities and how demographic variables (age, gender, race/ethnicity, parents’ education and employment status, etc.) are related to technology use and online activities. My thesis work also focuses on college students’ communication technology use, particularly to communicate with parents, and parent-student relationship quality. One of my goals this summer is to prepare and submit my master’s thesis for publication. After my thesis defense, I plan to use feedback from committee members to strengthen and transform my master’s thesis into a publishable manuscript. Preparing my thesis for publication will also involve narrowing which research questions to focus on, as well as researching potential journals and deciding which journal is the best fit for my thesis. Potential journals include the Journal of Adolescence, Journal of College Student Development, College Student Journal, and the Journal of Higher Education. I have discussed my plans to publish my thesis with my advisor, who has agreed to work with me as I revise and polish my thesis for publication. My goal is to submit my thesis for publication by September 1st, 2011. Publishing my thesis work will provide me with experience in empirical writing and manuscript submission, which are essential skills related to my goal of becoming a tenured family science faculty.

I am also working on a literature review of parents’ general use of technology and online activities with my adviser and a fellow graduate student. Collectively, we have identified our overall purpose for the review, finalized inclusion and exclusion criteria, and completed a comprehensive literature review using PsychInfo and GoogleScholar. We are in the process of writing and filling in a detailed outline of this review. Our next steps are to develop an analysis plan, analyze our articles, and ultimately have a
working draft of the literature review by mid-June. We have collectively decided that the *Parenting: Science and Practice* journal is an appropriate host for this work. A summer award would further support my contribution to the writing and submission of this paper to *Parenting: Science and Practice*. Analyzing articles, writing reviews, and publishing provide me with essential professional development experience, as my career goal is to be a tenured faculty who contributes to peer-reviewed family science journals.

A summer award would also support my continued contribution to the ADAPT project (PI: Abi Gewirtz), a randomized control trial which will be implementing an adapted selective prevention program to Minnesota National Guard families. The project involves adapting the Oregon Parent Management Training (PMTO) prevention intervention, enhanced with online modules and adapted for combat-deployed families, to four cohorts of Minnesota National Guard families who will experience deployment over the next four years. The project aims to examine whether the adapted PMTO will reduce risk behaviors associated with youth substance use by improving parenting, child, and parental adjustment after deployment. I began as a volunteer graduate research assistant (5 hrs/week) on this project in the fall of 2010, and have agreed to assist with the project during the spring semester and summer months (5 hrs/week). I have helped compile evidence-based information to include in the monthly ADAPT newsletter that will be used to engage military parents, and have also assisted with gathering information regarding potential measures for data collection, which will begin June 2011. This summer, I will continue helping develop the monthly newsletter as well as begin assisting with the online data collection process. I will also be helping develop the online modules that will be part of program delivery. This project fuses my interests in technology, families, and prevention science. One of my career goals is to be a prevention researcher, and by being a part of this project I am gaining valuable experience about prevention research and how technology can be used to enhance family programs.

Lastly, I will begin working on my critical review paper this summer. As a MA/PhD student, I will begin working on my critical review paper earlier than traditional PhD students, which will help me fulfill the PhD program requirements on time. A summer award will support the beginning stages of preparing to write the critical review and begin writing. During the summer months, I will meet with potential PhD committee members, conduct an ongoing literature review to help me choose and narrow my topic and decide on a guiding question, decide on inclusion and exclusion criteria, receive approval for articles included in my review, write and submit an approved critical application, and begin writing. Potential critical review guiding questions include: (1) What is known about how technology is used for communication within families? (2) How has technology use been measured in families and how could these measures potentially be improved? (3) How has technology been used to enhance the delivery of program curriculum and resources for parents and families? (4) How has technology been used to engage parents and families to participate in prevention and intervention programs? After I have chosen my guiding question and articles for inclusion, I will meet with my committee for feedback on my plans. A summer award would assist in timely completion of PhD program requirements, which will help me achieve my goal of becoming a tenured faculty in family science.

I have shared plans and goals for summer 2011 with my adviser and we have discussed her availability for the summer months and academic year. We have decided that we will use email to communicate about progress throughout the summer and academic year and will resume normal weekly advising meetings in August and September. Electronic communication has worked very well for both my adviser and me as a means of updating each other on work in progress and also providing and receiving feedback on papers.

Ultimately, the Waller Summer Fellowship would allow me to continue working on projects and papers already in progress as well as begin working on one of the PhD preliminary written exams. My work on the above projects and papers are critical to my professional development as a future leader in
field of family science, as I am pursuing an academic career that will involve empirical writing in the areas of families and technology and prevention science. A Waller award would allow me to continue contributing to projects and papers without the added stress of finding summer employment. All of my planned summer activities contribute to my professional development and research experience as a future leader in the field of family science. Publishing my thesis and the parents’ technology use literature review will provide exposure to and experience with empirical writing and journal submission processes. Volunteering on the ADAPT project is providing me experience in the field of prevention and further expanding my research experience outside the Parenting 2.0 project. Lastly, working on the beginning stages of my critical review paper will help me fulfill one of the major requirements for the PhD program successfully and on-time.

**Summer Research Timeline**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Critical Review Paper</th>
<th>Thesis Publication</th>
<th>Parenting 2.0 Lit Review</th>
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<td>By May 6th</td>
<td>-Successfully defend thesis</td>
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| By June 15th  | -Discuss PhD committee with advisor
-Meet with potential committee members
-Work on literature review |                                                        | -Working draft of paper                                   |
| By July 1st   | -Continue working on literature review
-BEGIN narrowing options for guiding question |                                                        | -Work closely with co-authors on polishing paper            |
| By July 15th  | -Incorporate feedback into thesis
- Decide which findings to highlight in publication |                                                        | -Continue working with co-authors on polishing paper        |
| By August 1st | -Decide on committee
- Decide on final articles for inclusion
- Meet with committee | -Research various journals
- Decide on journal
- Working draft of paper for publication | -Continue working with co-authors on polishing paper |
| By August 15th| -Submit approved critical paper application | -Work closely with advisor on polishing paper | -Polished final draft                                       |
| By September 1st | -Begin writing
- Draft of introduction and method sections | -Submit paper for publication to chosen journal | -Submit paper for publication to *Parenting: Science and Practice* |
| By Dec 1st    | -First draft to advisor
(Final critical review paper submitted Spring 2012) | -Revise and resubmit to chosen journal, if needed | -Revise and resubmit to *Parenting* journal, or submit to different journal, if needed |