



This month, we hear from Dr. Scott Tobias in the second monthly "Meet-the-Board" post. Dr. Tobias is an associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Kent State University at Stark and has served on the OHCFR board as an Academic Representative for a year. Below, Dr. Tobias talks about his start in family science, his research, and what he likes to do in his free time (did you know some professors play video games?).

What got you into family work?

"To be honest when I was ready to graduate with my bachelor's degree I had no plan for myself. One of my professors at Miami (Dr. Mary Link) suggested that I apply for the Master's program Miami offered for the following fall (2000). I did and was accepted into the program. The first day of my master's program I was handed the book for the Child Development class and told that it was mine to teach. Having just taken the class the prior year this was quite a surprise. I learned more about child development, pedagogy, and course development that semester than I ever thought possible. I found I really liked teaching and the rest, as they say, is history. I received my bachelor's degree from Miami University in Psychology with a minor in early childhood education, my master's also from Miami University in Family Studies, and my Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in Human Environmental Science with a

specialization in Human Development and Family Science."

What are your particular interests within family science?

"The field as a whole is fascinating. I teach 7 different courses over the span of an academic year, so I really have a wide set of interests based on what I'm teaching. Really digging in to everyday examples, current research, and application of what is learned outside the classroom provide a variety of things to think about and explore. One day I may be listening to oral arguments at the supreme court that I bring in for students to hear in my Family Policy class. Other days I may be discussing with students how online dating sites purport to match people (and what those sites may leave out) in our Intimate Relations course, while later that same day I might be working with a students who are building programming for a community partner in our Family Life Education Methodology course. Helping students see the confluence of content among courses within the major is (hopefully) the result."

What is your research about?

"My main line of research in the field centers on how families, as a unit, relate to video games. There is quite a bit of video game related research, but it is mainly focused on the individual. Our field, by focusing on the family as a unit, has the opportunity to make a significant contribution to this discussion. I also enjoy exploring effective post-secondary pedagogy when the time and opportunity arise."

What do you like to do outside of work and school?

"Outside of work and school I'm kept quite busy by my kids who want to play, read, or be driven to their next activity. When I do have a free moment I enjoy playing video games (of course), spending time with my wife watching whatever movies or television series we've missed, and trying to cook things my children will eat that are also palatable for my wife and I."

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself, your work, or your family?

"I hope to bring my experience serving first as a member and now as the chair of the CFLE Advisory Board for NCFR to the OHCFR board in a positive and constructive way. Carmen [Irving, OHCFR Board President] and the board do a superb job, and I hope that I can contribute over my tenure."

We are thankful for Dr. Tobias' great work already and wish him (and everyone) a wonderful new academic year!