



This month for Meet-the-Board, let's get to know Rachel Arocho.

Rachel has been an OHCFR Student Board Member since 2013 and is a member of the OHCFR Communications Team.

Where do you work, and what is your education/past work experience?

"I am currently a doctoral candidate in Human Development and Family Science at The Ohio State University. I came here directly after finishing my undergraduate degree in Family, Consumer, and Human Development at Utah State University where I worked as a research assistant and teaching assistant. During my undergraduate degree, I also participated in research by working as a data manager for a federal grant to the Ute Family Services of the Ute Indian Tribe and as a Social Work Intern for the Ute Family Services."

What got you into family work? What are your particular interests within family science?

"When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to take college classes through the local regional university campus. On a whim my sophomore year, I enrolled in a human development course taught Dr. David Law. I fell in love with the subject, as it combined many of my favorite things (children, research, families, inquiry) into the most amazing package. At the end of my junior high school year, Dr. Law contacted me about working for him on a research project. It was a pretty basic job, just entering and cleaning data, but I was fascinated by the entire process and was soon helping him analyze results and write papers with the data. I ended up enrolling in college full-time that summer and jumped head-first into my family science studies while getting hands-on research (and eventually teaching) experience with Dr. Law. As I neared the end of my undergraduate program, Dr. Law encouraged me to consider graduate school as a means to realizing my dream of teaching and doing research full-time. Once I got into graduate school at Ohio State, I found that I have a specific passion for family demography with the help of my stellar mentor, Dr. Claire Kamp Dush, and have pursued it as a specialization within my doctoral degree along with quantitative research methods."

My research focuses on adolescents' and young adults' expectations for intimate relationships, like expectations for getting married and for the success of a hypothetical marriage. I'm interested in a lot of different aspects of family science, however, and have done research on family life education, the scholarship of teaching and learning in family science, repartnering, and the development of children conceived with medical assistance."

What projects are you currently working on?

"I'm working on finishing up my dissertation and preparing to graduate in August. I'll be joining the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill this fall as a Postdoctoral Scholar. I'm sad to be leaving Ohio and OHCFR but am excited for this new stage in my career."

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

"I play a lot of video games, especially with my husband. For the first three years I was at Ohio State he was still living in Utah, so playing games together online was how we stayed connected and had date nights. Now, it's a great way for us to relax together as well as build our communication and teamwork skills – plus it's just fun since we both love video games!"