



DEPARTMENT OF  
PSYCHOLOGY  
*Illinois State University*

## The Department of Psychology & CBS Colloquium Series

*proudly present*

# Learning to Forget, Forgetting to Learn: How Memory Shapes Cognitive Development

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The early years of life are an exciting period of growth and change in cognition. Children learn a seemingly infinite amount of new information despite limitations in their basic cognitive capacities, such as attention and memory abilities. I will start the talk by outlining ways in which children's rapid forgetting constrains cognitive development. However, the majority of the talk will review research supporting the hypothesis that forgetting is actually promoting children's learning. In particular, I will argue that forgetting acts as a form of abstraction, which promotes children's ability to generalize knowledge across contexts. I will end the talk by discussing the possibility that what makes children incredible learners is not simply that they quickly learn to encode information in the world, but that they rapidly forget the large amount of irrelevant information they learn.



**Friday,  
Sept. 29, 2017  
2:00 p.m.  
48 DeGarmo Hall**

*Sponsored by the  
Department of Psychology.*

If you need a special accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Psychology Department at (309) 438-8651. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.