



## THE CHILD STUDY CENTER'S 2023 LOIS BLOOM LECTURE



# Joseph Allen, Ph.D.



Hugh Kelly Professor of Psychology, University of Virginia

## “The Connection Effect: Understanding and Enhancing the Lifelong Implications of Adolescent Social Relationships”

Thursday, November 30  
3:30 p.m. EDT  
Memorial Lounge,  
107 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center  
University Park, Pennsylvania

For more information, call 814-863-5656  
or email [nec101@psu.edu](mailto:nec101@psu.edu).

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The adult world is deeply ambivalent about adolescent social relationships. We fear the power and effects of peer influence and worry about the impact of social media. Yet, our youth are remarkably lonely and have only grown more so over the past fifteen years. This talk will address this ambivalence and make the case that forming strong bonds with peers is the key social developmental task of adolescence, with a surprising range of lifelong implications. The talk will then go on to describe a unique intervention, The Connection Project, designed to address youths' growing need for (and difficulty establishing) the deep peer relationships needed to support their growth and development. Promising data from randomized trials will be presented, along with discussion of the issues involved in scaling successful interventions for youth.