



Schubert Center for Child Studies | Annual Report **2010-2011**

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Schubert Center for Child Studies' first Annual Report. This report reflects our activities for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The Schubert Center for Child Studies is a nexus for individuals across our University and our community committed to the well-being of children. Our mission is to bridge research, practice, policy and education for the well-being of children and adolescents. We rely on a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to link research and policy and to enhance educational opportunities for our students in these areas. Case Western Reserve University has an outstanding array of faculty and students engaged in cutting-edge research on and education about children. The Cleveland community has a full complement of individuals engaged in best practices in serving and advocating for children. We believe that children benefit when all of us work together.

In this report you will see some of the exciting and important activities of our Faculty Associates, our undergraduate students (including our Mann Child Policy Externs), our new group of Schubert Center Friends, and our colleagues in the community. We are very pleased to share this news with you and look forward to a year of growth and our report to you next year.

Please visit our website, [schubert.cwru.edu](http://schubert.cwru.edu), and stay in touch with us through Facebook and Twitter. Thank you for your continued support of the Schubert Center.

Jill E. Korbin  
 DIRECTOR  
 SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES

# STAFF UPDATES

## SCHUBERT CENTER STAFF UPDATES

Having joined the Schubert Center in 2009 as Interim Director of the Child Policy Initiative, **Gabriella Celeste** is staying on as the Center's Child Policy Director.



GABRIELLA CELESTE

Ms. Celeste's career has been devoted to improving opportunities and outcomes for children, from early childhood through adolescence and young adulthood. Her early experiences included working with families in crisis in Chicago, volunteering with severely malnourished infants and children in India, and evaluating national pediatric AIDS programs as well as other child-serving services. After completing her Juris Doctorate at the University of Michigan Law School, Ms. Celeste co-founded the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, a nonprofit law practice that became a premier state-wide advocacy and legal reform agency successfully pushing for effective and sustainable alternatives to institutionalization for youth. She later returned to her hometown of Cleveland where she served as Director of the Alliance of Child Caring Service Providers and briefly as Director of Cuyahoga County's Office of Early Childhood. In

her work, she collaborates with county, state, and national partners to improve policy and practice within various children's services.

As Director of Child Policy for the Schubert Center, Ms. Celeste teaches two undergraduate courses in child policy, directs the Mann Child Policy Externship program, and plays a leading role in the Schubert Center's community engagement and bridge-building activities. Her broad experience with and knowledge of public policy and issues facing children and adolescents make her a tremendous asset to the Center.



ELIZABETH SHORT

After four years as the Associate Director of the Schubert Center, **Elizabeth Short** is stepping down. Dr. Short will continue to serve as the Co-Director of the Childhood Studies interdisciplinary minor and as a faculty associate. The Schubert Center offers a sincere thank you to Dr. Short for the many contributions she has made in furthering the Center's mission.

### Graduate Assistants

**Nadia El-Shaawari, MPH** returned to the Schubert Center after completing her doctoral fieldwork in anthropology. Working with Iraqi refugees in Egypt, Nadia explored the ways that refugees' mental health is influenced both by the uncertainty of their displacement and their interactions with the international institutions and policies that now govern their lives. Nadia will defend her dissertation in August and begin a post-doctorate fellowship at Duke University.

**Meghan Halley, MPH** assisted the Schubert Center during the fall semester of 2010 after returning from her doctoral fieldwork in anthropology. Meghan's fieldwork in Tanzania explored the role of adolescent initiation rituals in shaping adolescent sexual behavior. She will defend her dissertation in September.

**Sarah C. Miller** is pursuing a MPH and a PhD in anthropology. Her research interests include traditional birth attendants, reproductive health, and prevention of mother to child HIV transmission in East Africa.

**Aura Newlin, MA** is a PhD student in anthropology. Her research will be based in Papua New Guinea, where she will examine the ways in which clinical trials and mosquito-borne disease control interventions are differentially understood and experienced by players at multiple levels of these transnational processes.



# CELEBRATING

## CELEBRATING THE PAST AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

### Friends of the Schubert Center

The Schubert Center has launched an affinity group of supporters to help build the visibility, credibility, and effectiveness of the Center within the university as well as in the broader community. Members serve as ambassadors of the Center within their networks, help the Center make relevant connections in the community to enhance our mission, and provide advice and counsel on the work of the Center. The Friends group consists of both recent and long-standing supporters from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom share an interest in child well-being and in the mission of the Schubert Center for Child Studies.



(TOP) FRIENDS GATHER TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. JANE W. KESSLER

### Jane W. Kessler: Life Legacy 90 Years

In March 2011, the Schubert Center held a luncheon to honor **Dr. Jane Kessler**, CWRU's Lucy Adams Leffingwell Professor Emerita of Psychology. An accomplished scholar, clinician, teacher, and leader, Dr. Kessler was the Founding Director of the Mental Development Center (MDC) at CWRU. The MDC was the country's first university-based center to provide treatment and evaluation to children with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Dr. Kessler is known for her work on mental retardation and her landmark 1996 work "Psychopathology of Childhood." After her retirement from CWRU, Dr. Kessler bought Appletree Books, a fixture in the Cleveland Heights community. The March luncheon was a celebration of Dr. Kessler's 90th birthday and included tributes by CWRU President Barbara Snyder, Assistant Provost Lynn Singer, Psychological Sciences Chair Lee Thompson, CSU Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics Nancy Klein, Schubert Center Founding Director Donald Freedheim, Director Jill Korbin, and Associate Director Elizabeth Short.

# EXPERIENTIAL E

## EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

### Mann Child Policy Externship Program Enhances Student Learning and Community Partnerships

The Schubert Center and the Childhood Studies program continue to collaborate with public and non-profit community organizations to offer Mann Child Policy Externships. Now in its sixth year, the Mann Child Policy Externship program creates a rigorous educational and civic experience by giving undergraduates an opportunity to work directly with professionals who design and implement policies that impact the lives of children and families. Students gain first-hand perspectives on the policy process by engaging in planning, research, analysis, and/or advocacy activities emphasizing policy related to children and childhood.

The following students completed externships in the 2010-11 academic year, many of whom did so as a SAGES Capstone.



MANN EXTERN LOVETH ADENUGA (LEFT) WITH SANDY ERB OXLEY, STATE FIELD DIRECTOR FOR VOICES FOR OHIO'S CHILDREN

**Loveth Adenuga** worked primarily on child health policy at **Voices for Ohio's Children** in the spring of 2011. Her primary research focused on express lane eligibility for children in need of health coverage through Medicaid. She also participated in planning "Lobby For Ohio's Kids Day," Voices' biennial

child advocacy event. She also assisted in writing newsletter articles, media advisories, and policy briefs.



MANN EXTERN MOLLY CLIFFORD (RIGHT) WITH STARTING POINT'S MICHELLE BLEDSOE

**Molly Clifford** was placed at **Starting Point** for the spring 2011 semester. Molly contributed to the agency's National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Quality Assurance Accreditation process with family engagement research and social media recommendations and prepared a policy brief on cultural education for early education providers.



MANN EXTERN ELIZABETH EASTMAN (CENTER) WITH ELIZABETH CORNACHIONE AND JOAN ENGLUND AT THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY COALITION

**Elizabeth Eastman** spent her spring 2011 semester at the **Mental Health Advocacy Coalition**. In addition to conducting research on a variety of policy issues that affect children with mental health issues, Elizabeth's main project was the creation of an advocacy toolkit, which entailed background research, compiling resources and drafting.

**Devyn Riggio** completed her externship during the summer semester of 2010. While working at the **Cleveland Department of Public Health**, Devyn researched and compiled a compendium of nutrition education programs, evidence based literature, and wellness policies of schools from around the country.

**Summer Wiggins** completed her capstone during the spring semester 2010 at **Voices for Ohio's Children**. Her experiences included assisting with Voice's youth development work, coordinating advocacy trainings for young people, as well as drafting policy related research articles.



MANN EXTERN NADRA WILLIAMS (RIGHT) WITH THE HONORABLE KRISTIN SWEENEY

**Nadra Williams** spent the 2010 summer semester at the **Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court** under the guidance of Honorable Judge Kristin Sweeney. Nadra was involved in a variety of activities and conducted research on juvenile cases involving domestic violence and unruly conduct.

**Andrea Wojtowicz** was placed at **groundWork** for the spring 2010 semester. While at groundWork, Andrea researched education and parent engagement in education, as well as early childhood mental health services.

# EXPERIENTIAL ED

## EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION



MANN EXTERN ALLYSON ZEEDRICH

Allyson Zeedrich was placed at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries during the spring of 2011. Her emphasis was assisting the childhood lead poisoning project and included research on poli-

cies and best practices for lead remediation programs and preparing toolkits for local lead prevention educators.

Finally, Mallory Zehe was an extern at the Center for Families and Children (CFC) where she was involved in work with CFC's youth development strategy and conducted various research projects, including exploring a pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade program models. Mallory completed her externship in the spring of 2010.

Each of these students made valuable contributions to the community while growing both personally and professionally through their placement experience. More information about their individual work can be found in our Student Spotlight publications on our website.

A number of dedicated professionals welcomed, supervised, and mentored our Mann students, including Beth Baron, Pamela Brackett, Susan Blasko Deardowski, Michelle Bledsoe, Matt Carroll, Elizabeth Cornachione, Joan Englund, Yvonne Hunnicutt, Katie Kelly, Billie Osborne Fears, Sandy Erb Oxley, Amy Swanson, Hon. Kristin Sweeney, Ericka Thoms, and Alesha Washington. Special thanks goes to our new and continuing community partners for facilitating such valuable experiences for this next generation of child policy advocates.

### Childhood Studies course takes students to Washington, D.C.

CWRU students Kelsie Carson, Raksha Kumar, and Kara Monnin, spent their spring break in Washington, DC meeting with policymakers, conducting research on specific areas of federal child-related policy and seeing the legislative process in action as part of the "Experiential Learning in Child Policy" course (CHST 302). Students had the opportunity to visit and meet with representatives from the Congressional offices of Speaker of the House John Boehner (R, OH-8), Representative Marcia Fudge (D, OH-11), Senator Sherrod Brown (D, OH), and Senator Michael Bennet (D, CO). Students also met with national policy organizations including First Focus, the Brookings Institute, and the Cato Institute. They had the opportunity to observe a congressional budget hearing on education involving US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and to interact with representatives from the Department of Education, the Congressional Budget Office, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health



CHST 302 STUDENTS ATTENDED AN APPROPRIATIONS HEARING WITH US SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN

Services Administration, along with other offices.

One of the students remarked, "On a scale of 1 to 10, this was a 10. I learned the most with the firsthand experience of meeting with different think tanks, legislative aides and others. Getting to listen to different perspectives and having to ask questions helped me the most."

The trip was sponsored by the Mann Endowment fund and led by course instructor and Schubert Center Child Policy Director Gabriella Celeste. We are thankful for the support of the Mann family which enables students to participate in this experience.



CHST 302 STUDENTS RAKSHA KUMAR, KARA MONNIN, AND KELSIE CARSON VISIT WITH SENATOR SHERROD BROWN DURING THEIR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC



BRISKY FELLOWSHIP  
RECIPIENT KELLY  
CHRISTIAN

## Brisky Fellowship Recipient Studies Playfulness, Child Risk and Resilience

The Brisky Fellowship, supported by the Cora Unger Brisky Endowment, is awarded to graduate students in psychology conducting dissertation research on child-related issues. The 2010-2011 recipient of the Brisky Fellowship is **Kelly M. Christian**, a PhD student in child clinical psychology.

Kelly received her BS in human development from Cornell University, and her MA in clinical psychology from CWRU. Her clinical and research interests include children's coping with stress, risk and resilience factors affecting the development of child psychopathy, and developing interventions to help children strengthen their play abilities. Her dissertation, *Playfulness, Adaptive Behaviors, and Early Play Abilities*, is one of the first studies to explore whether playfulness relates to aspects of temperament, coping, emotion expression, emotion regulation, and actual play processes. Kelly hopes that this study will refine our understanding of the construct of playfulness and contribute to the meaning of playfulness throughout a child's development. Furthermore, this study is an important step toward increasing our understanding of the predictive role of early play processes in manifesting adaptive behaviors later in childhood. Kelly's career goals include working in a clinical or medical setting where she can be involved in therapy, research, and teaching.



DEVYN RIGGIO (LEFT) WORKING WITH GREEN CORPS MEMBERS AT A HOME GARDEN

## Former Mann Extern awarded Sears-Swetland grant

**Devyn Riggio**, a recent CWRU graduate and former Mann Child Policy Extern, was awarded the Sears-Swetland Externship at the Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG). Supported by a grant from the Sears-Swetland Family Foundation, this one-time externship is coordinated by Schubert Center Director **Jill Korbin** and Child Policy Director **Gabriella Celeste**, in consultation with the CBG's Director of Education, **Geri Unger**. The Sears-Swetland externship is modeled in part after the Mann Child Policy Externships and emphasizes the bridging of research and policy in relation to environmental education for children and youth.

Devyn is conducting an informal review of the CBG's Day Care Provider Plant-Science Training and Garden Installation Program using a study design she developed with a team from Schubert and the CBG. Through this program, work-study teens enrolled in the CBG's Green Corps urban gardening program install and plant vegetable gardens at home-based day care centers, creating green space and a source for hands-on early learning about healthy, local food options. Day care providers participate voluntarily and receive an initial orientation and training, as well as an on-site visit where Green Corps members answer questions and engage in intergenerational education. Devyn is collaborating with Green Corps staff and students to document aspects of the program, observe some of its preliminary impacts on the early-care providers and Green Corps students, and identify areas for further study.



# EVENTS + SCHUBERT CONVERSATIONS

## Schubert Conversations on Children in Research, Policy, and Practice

The Schubert Center sponsored four lectures during the 2010–2011 academic year as part of its continuing Schubert Conversations on Children in Research, Policy, and Practice.

**Dr. James Lalumandier, DDS, MPH**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Community Dentistry, opened the series on October 12 with the lecture: *Ten Years of Community Service: The Healthy Smiles Sealant Program*. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among children, and while there have been improvements in other age groups, evidence suggests that the rate of tooth decay in young children is increasing, especially among preschool-aged children. Dr. Lalumandier is the

founder of the Healthy Smiles Sealant Program—a joint initiative of the Saint Luke’s Foundation, the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The Program seeks to reduce disparities in oral health care for children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, as well as educate dental students about the importance of community service.

Discussants **Heidi Welch**, Vice President, Grassroots Strategies Baker Nonprofit Management, representing the Children’s Oral Health Action Team (COHAT), and **Jane Saloka, RN** from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, related Dr. Lalumandier’s presentation to their experiences in the community and talked about the policy implications for improved oral health.

The second lecture in the 2010–2011 series featured **David Crampton, PhD**, Associate Professor in the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

Dr. Crampton’s talk on November 9 was entitled *Lessons in Child Welfare Reform from Cuyahoga County and Beyond: The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Family to Family Initiative*. The Family to Family Initiative was launched in 1992 with the aim of improving outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system through comprehensive system reform. As a member of the national committee evaluating the Initiative, Dr. Crampton discussed his work on the Initiative panel and highlighted the results from Cuyahoga County, an anchor site which stands out for its success in building an infrastructure of community partnerships.

Discussants **Deborah Forkas**, then Director, Cuyahoga County Department of Children & Family Services, and **Zulma Zabala**, Chief Operating Officer, East End Neighborhood House, spoke about their experiences as community participants in the Initiative, and highlighted the policy and practice implications of the Family to Family model.

On February 8, Pediatrics Professor **H. Gerry Taylor, PhD**, presented his research on *Early School Progress in Children with Extreme Prematurity*. Children born with extreme prematurity typically suffer from a range of developmental and health problems that affect multiple dimensions of their lives, including their academic abilities. The cohort study conducted by Dr. Taylor and colleagues demonstrates that although children with extreme prematurity are receiving more educational interventions than children with normal birth weight, they are not receiving all



CRAWFORD HALL, HOME OF THE SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES, ON THE CAMPUS OF CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

# SCHUBERT CONVERSATIONS

the services necessary to improve their likelihood of academic success. The research further shows that extremely premature children are already cognitively, behaviorally, and academically challenged at the time that they enter school, thereby making a case for early intervention.

Response to Dr. Taylor's research was provided by **Lynn Downing**, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, **Cindy Norwood**, Executive Director, The Arc of Greater Cleveland, a long-time advocate for individuals with disabilities and the mother of a young adult born with extreme prematurity, and **Debbie Symanski**, Supervisor of Family Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, who supervises the Help Me Grow and Early Intervention services for micro-preemies and their families.



DR. H. GERRY TAYLOR

The fourth and final event in this year's series featured **Lee Thompson, PhD**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences. Her lecture, *Children's Development of Mathematical Skills*, was held on March 15. Given that mastery of basic math skills has been associated with higher academic achievement and predictive of future wage earnings, policymakers, practitioners and parents have incentives to improve children's proficiency in mathematics. Nevertheless, few effective



DR. LEE THOMPSON

interventions exist for improving quantitative literacy, and national and international assessments demonstrate that US students are not performing as well on measures of mathematics abilities as their peers in other countries. Dr. Thompson's research contributes to the development of strategies to improve children's math abilities by advancing our understanding of the underlying skills necessary for mathematics competence, and the factors that influence the development of these skills.

Discussants **Elizabeth Nelson**, Mathematics Flexible Content Expert, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and **Kim Yoak**, Mathematics Consultant, Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools and Past President, Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics, provided perspectives from the field and discussed the policy and practice implications for improved math skill development.

## Series on Girlhood

The Schubert Center, with support from the Flora Stone Mather Alumnae Association, sponsored a three-part series on girls and girlhood which featured nationally recognized experts in juvenile justice, teen dating violence, and adolescent eating disorders.

The Girlhood Series began in April 2010 with a lecture by child welfare and juvenile justice expert **Marty Beyer, PhD**. Dr. Beyer's emphasis on adolescent development and family responsiveness in the context of the juvenile justice and foster care systems offers a resiliency-based, effective alternative to the deficit-model approach that is typically taken with delinquent youth or parents whose children have been placed in out-of-home care. Emphasizing the need to tailor interventions to the strengths and needs of individual children and their families, Dr. Beyer's approach is employed by agencies throughout the country. In her presentation, Dr. Beyer discussed how knowledge of girls' cognitive, moral, and identity development can lend perspective to their offenses and inform the design of individualized rehabilitation services.

Dr. Beyer's lecture, *Girls in Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Framework*, was followed by commentary from **Jill Beeler, JD**, Director of the Juvenile Division of the Ohio Office of the Public Defender, and child clinical psychologist **Jane Timmons-Mitchell, PhD**, who also serves as the Associate Director of Evaluation and Research with the Center for Innovative Practices.

The second lecture in the series was on September 15, 2010 and featured a lecture by **David Wolfe, PhD, ABPP** entitled *Girls in Abusive Dating Relationships: Approaching a Better Understanding of Research, Practice, and Policy*. Dr. Wolfe is a Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Toronto. He holds the RBC Chair in Children's Mental Health at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) where he is Head of the CAMH Centre for Prevention



DR. LUCENE WISNIEWSKI FIELDS QUESTIONS WITH DISCUSSANTS DR. EILEEN ANDERSON-FYE, DR. ELLEN ROME, AND LAUREN WOLK CALIG

Science. Dr. Wolfe has written and researched extensively on abnormal child and adolescent psychology, with an emphasis on child abuse, developmental psychopathology, and domestic violence. He presented data from his innovative “Fourth R” (for “Relationships”) program, a school-based initiative to reduce violence and promote healthy relationships.

**Linda Johaneck**, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Center of Greater Cleveland, and **Dorothy Miller**, Director of the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women, also spoke about the implications of teen dating violence for policy and practice.

The third and final event of the girlhood series featured clinical psychologist **Lucene Wisniewski, PhD, FAED**. Her lecture, *Entering the 21st Century: Best Practices for Girls with Eating Disorders*, took place on April 5, 2011. A leader in the use of Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Dr. Wisniewski has presented workshops throughout the country on the treatment of eating disorders. Dr. Wisniewski was named the first Clinical Director of Eating Disorder Programs for the UH Laurelwood Hospital in 2000, where she created the first treatment center in Northeast Ohio that uses only evidence-based care. Now Co-Director of the

Cleveland Center for Eating Disorders, Dr. Wisniewski is a board member of the Academy of Eating Disorders and a fellow in the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. Dr. Wisniewski’s presentation focused on evidence-based practice in psychology (EBPP). She discussed using EBPP to create strategies based on the adolescent patient to treat eating disorders.

Three discussants offered responses to Dr. Wisniewski’s talk: CWRU Assistant Professor of Anthropology **Eileen Anderson-Fye, EdD**, Associate Chief of Staff and Head of the Section of Adolescent Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic **Ellen Rome, MD, MPH**, and **Lauren Wolk Calig, MAT**, Primary Learning Specialist/Lower School Diversity Coordinator for the University School, who spoke as a mother about her daughter’s ongoing struggles with an eating disorder.

#### Guest Lecturers Discuss Contemporary Issues for Parents and Youth in Israel

On October 29, 2010, the center hosted a special two-speaker event entitled *Communities and Schools: Contemporary Issues for Parents and Youth in Israel*.

**Mona Khoury-Kassabri, PhD**, is a senior lecturer in the Paul Baerwald School of

Social Work and Social Welfare and a member of the Research Group on Mental Health and Well Being in Childhood and Adolescence at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Her presentation, *Student Victimization and Perpetration of Violence toward Peers and Teachers in Israel* was based on several nationally representative samples of students in schools across Israel and examined the prevalence and contributing factors of victimization and perpetration of violence in the school setting. Dr. Khoury-Kassabri’s results indicate that school violence is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and that staff use of violence is a serious problem which warrants more attention by researchers, professionals, and policy makers. Her data emphasize the need to address school violence from a comprehensive perspective, with preventive interventions targeting students, parents, school staff, and the community alike.

**Osnat Lavenda, PhD**, is a research associate of Clemson University’s Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life in Greenville, South Carolina. In her talk, *Parental Involvement in Junior and Senior High Schools in Israel*, Dr. Lavenda presented her expansion of the parental involvement model developed by Hoover-Dempsey and Sandler in 1997. Based on a sample of Jewish and Arab parents in Israel, her study highlights cultural differences in parental involvement and demonstrates the unique relationship between parental involvement and parental role perception.

This event was co-sponsored by the Schubert Center for Child Studies (College of Arts and Sciences) and the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development (Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences).

# FACULTY ASSOCIATES

## Selected Faculty Associate Accomplishments and Honors

### \$7.8 MILLION GRANT SUPPORTS CONTINUED RESEARCH ON MANIC SYMPTOMS IN CHILDREN



A team lead by **Robert Findling**, Rocco L. Motto Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the School of Medicine and Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at University Hospitals, was awarded a \$7.8 million renewal grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for the long-term study of manic symptoms in children. This grant will support the team's ongoing research into children's development of bipolar disease and related psychiatric conditions.

For the last five years Dr. Findling's team has been following a cohort of children displaying "elevated symptoms of mania" (periods of rapid mood swings and intense irritability). The new funds will allow researchers to continue following these children, with the aims of developing more accurate diagnostic measures, determining appropriate points for intervention, and gaining a better understanding of the factors influencing disease trajectories.

### FUNDS AWARDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL MEASURE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



**Brian Gran**, associate professor of sociology and law, was awarded a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation. This grant will support his research to develop an international measure of children's rights. Dr. Gran also received an International Short Visit Fellowship from the Swiss

National Science Foundation. The fellowship supported a visit to L'Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch in Sion, Switzerland, where he conducted further research.

Dr. Gran's study asks if children who live in more ethnically and religiously diverse countries have fewer rights, and whether national independent children's rights institutions developed to promote children's rights actually improve children's rights. His work seeks to advance

knowledge on children's rights through the introduction of the Children's Rights Index, an international measure of children's rights for over 160 countries. The database containing the Children's Rights Indices and explanatory factors will permit researchers to examine whether stronger rights are associated with superior outcomes for children.

### NEW PROGRAM FUNDED TO ADDRESS CHILDHOOD HYPERTENSION AND OBESITY



**Marilyn Lotas**, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs at the nursing school, was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Prentiss Foundation to address the problem of hypertension and obesity among Cleveland school children. Through this grant, students in CWRU's

Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing will establish a district-wide screening and intervention program within the Cleveland Municipal School District, as well as a focused demonstration project at the Daniel E. Morgan School on East 92nd Street.

CWRU nursing students have been conducting screenings in the Cleveland public schools since 2002, but have lacked the resources to address the consistently high rates of hypertension and obesity revealed by those screenings. Over the next five years, the program will now involve not only screenings, but interventions concerning exercise, healthy diets, and health education as well. In addition to its potential impact on children's health, this project has tremendous educational value for students in the FPB School of Nursing, who will be involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the program.

## More Faculty Associate Accomplishments



**James Bader**, biology lecturer and Director of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education received this year's Jackson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring. Based on student nominations, the Jackson Award recognizes instructors who have made substantial positive

impacts on their students' lives by guiding students in their academic and career paths; fostering long-term personal development; challenging them to reflect, explore and grow as individuals; and supporting and/or facilitating their goals and life choices.



**David Crampton**, Associate Professor of social work, chaired a task force established by the Cuyahoga County child-welfare department to provide recommendations to the department to improve the way it manages high-risk families. In addition to presenting the panel's findings at public forums,

Dr. Crampton spoke about his work on the panel at the November 9th Schubert Conversation on Research, Policy, and Practice.



Two Schubert Center Faculty Associates were among the eight recipients of the 2010 Mather Spotlight Prize for Women's

Scholarship. **Claudia Coulton** (LEFT) of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and **Faye Gary** (RIGHT) of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing were chosen by their schools for their outstanding research and scholarship.

**Jill Korbin**, Schubert Center Director, Anthropology Professor, and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is a member of the Think Tank for The Knowledge to Action (K2A) Child Maltreatment Prevention Consortium led by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. The consortium seeks to provide new insight and ideas for transferring research on child maltreatment prevention into societal-level actions that promote safe, stable, and nurturing relationships for children.

## Connecting with Cuyahoga County Leadership

The Schubert Center convened two Faculty Associate meetings this year. The first on August 27 featured remarks by County Administrator **Jim McCafferty**. Mr. McCafferty was the Chief Operating Officer of Cuyahoga County at the time and came to this position from 28 years of experience with the Department of Children and Family Services. At this meeting, he discussed opportunities for collaboration between the County and Case Western Reserve University.

The second Faculty Associate Meeting took place on October 22 with special guest **Janet Kronenberg**, Manager of the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center. Ms. Kronenberg discussed the County's Children Who Witness Violence program and their efforts to pursue a US Department of Justice (USDJ) Defending Childhood Initiative grant in presenting further opportunities for University-Cuyahoga Community collaborations.

Since this meeting, Ms. Kronenberg has received a \$150,000 grant to create a plan to reduce childhood exposure to violence and has been invited to submit a budget for a two million dollar USDJ grant. Jill Korbin and Gabriella Celeste from the Schubert Center are members of the governing board, and faculty associates **Mark Singer**, **Dan Flannery**, and **Jim Spilsbury** are involved in the program.

FACULTY ASSOCI



GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH SIGNING OHIO HOUSE BILL 86 INTO LAW

### Policy and Advocacy in the Community and Contributions to State Juvenile Justice Reform

The Schubert Center is partnering with community organizations and government agencies to promote effective public policy and practice for children and families. Since assuming the position of Child Policy Director for the Schubert Center, Gabriella Celeste has worked to expand these partnerships locally and nationally within the child policy and advocacy community. She has participated in numerous events addressing a range of issues on child well-being, including forums and planning meetings for the Cuyahoga County Defending Childhood Initiative/Children who Witness Violence program; state and county government briefings and meetings concerning various children's issues; and a number of conferences, special events, and working meetings of state associations and Schubert Center community partners.

Furthermore, Ms. Celeste was invited to join a statewide coalition of stakeholders and experts convened by the MacArthur and Gund Foundations to address concerns in the state juvenile

justice system. Serving as a policy expert for the juvenile justice reform initiative, she conducted policy research, identified and assembled critical facts, and convened a core team of content experts to develop a set of strategic policy objectives using juvenile justice-related research and data. In April 2011, she provided testimony to Ohio's House Finance Transportation Sub-Committee on the cost-related indicators driving the juvenile justice system, fiscal implications of reducing the number of youth in correctional facilities, and potential impacts of increasing proven-effective treatment- and community-based programs for delinquent youth. She provided additional testimony in June 2011 to the Ohio Senate Judiciary/Criminal Justice Committee regarding House Bill 86—a sentencing reform bill which contains changes for the sentencing and treatment of juvenile offenders.

Ms. Celeste played a key role in authoring the juvenile justice sections of the new bill. Thanks in part to her contributions, Ohio House Bill 86 was signed into law on June 29, 2011 by Governor John Kasich.

### Strong Schubert Center Representation on the National Scene

The Schubert Center continues to be an active member of the **University-Based Child and Family Policy Consortium**—an interdisciplinary forum that fosters research, careers, and civic engagement, and whose membership includes centers and programs from across the country that focus on child and family policy issues. In November, Schubert Center Child Policy Director **Gabriella Celeste** presented on a panel with other Consortium representatives at the Fall Research Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) in Boston, Massachusetts. Schubert Center Director **Jill Korbin** was a member of the Consortium's steering committee until 2011.

In addition to national representation within the Consortium, several Schubert Center Faculty Associates presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Montreal: **Arin Connell, Maureen Hack, Jill Korbin, H. Gerry Taylor, and Lee Anne Thompson**.

### Schubert Center Co-hosts Children's Briefing for Cuyahoga County Officials

On November 30, 2010, the Schubert Center and its faculty associates collaborated with **Voices for Ohio's Children** and other community partners (**Berea Children's Home and Family Services, Center for Innovative Practices, Gund Foundation, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, and Starting Point**) to brief newly elected officials on the range of issues impacting child well-being in Cuyahoga County. Following introductions by **William A. "Bud" Baeslack** (Provost and Executive Vice President, CWRU), **Amy Nicholls**

**Swanson** (Executive Director, Voices for Ohio's Children), and **Gabriella Celeste** (Child Policy Director, Schubert Center for Child Studies), gave overviews of the work done by their respective organizations. Schubert Center Director **Jill Korbin** presented the concept of the "whole child" using an ecological model of child development, and Voices' Policy Associate **Erica Thoms** provided an overview of county demographics and child well-being indicators. The subsequent roundtable discussion emphasized research-supported data on "what works," as well as the challenges and opportunities related to implementing effective policies. Dialogue was organized around three themes:

- 1 **Safe and Stable:** Strengthening economic security and community connections while reducing household violence, neighborhood violence, and environmental hazards will help break cycles of harmful behavior and provide a solid foundation for children. Related areas for policy include economic and housing stability programs; childcare and home visiting support; child protection and family preservation; and juvenile delinquency prevention and rehabilitation. This theme was discussed by Schubert Center Faculty Associates **David Crampton** and **David Miller**, and by **Patrick Canary**, Director of the Center for Innovative Practices.
- 2 **Physically, Mentally and Emotionally Healthy:** Comprehensive health insurance that meets all children's medical, dental and mental health needs and incorporates cost-effective prevention and wellness strategies will help children get the healthy start that they need. Related areas

for policy include medical and dental coverage; nutrition; developmental screenings; and behavioral health care. This theme was discussed by Schubert Center Faculty Associates **Robert Findling** and **Scott Frank**, and by **Ben Kearney**, Vice President, and Chief Clinical Officer of the Berea Children's Home and Family Services.

- 3 **Prepared for Success:** In order for children to thrive, we must build upon their assets and capabilities from birth through early childhood, the teen years, and on to young adulthood. Related areas for policy include early care and education; positive youth development and out-of-school time; and post-secondary education and employment. This theme was discussed by Schubert Center Faculty Associates **Claudia Coulton** and **Elizabeth Short**, and by **Billie Osborne-Fears**, Executive Director of Starting Point for Childcare and Early Education.

The briefing ended with a panel convened by Voices for Ohio's Children that highlighted existing public-private partnerships in the county and pointed to opportunities for further collaboration in pursuing the above goals. Panelists were **Lisa Bottoms** (Program Director for Human Services and Child and Youth Development, Cleveland Foundation), **Marcia Egbert** (Senior Program Officer for Human Services, Gund Foundation) **Adrienne Hatten, MNO** (Program Officer for Education, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland), and **Yvonne Hunnicutt** (Director of Operations and Policy Associate, Voices for Ohio's Children).

## Schubert Center Launches New Website, Enters the World of Social Media

The Schubert Center recently launched its new website with a number of features that advance our mission of bridging research, policy, practice, and education. These features include:

- A searchable database of CWRU experts in various child-related fields featuring Schubert Center Faculty Associates.
- A weekly news blog highlighting current topics in child-related research and policy.
- A searchable listing of upcoming and past events, with links to presentation materials.
- Listings of externships and other opportunities related to children and adolescents at CWRU and in the Greater Cleveland community.
- Options for website users to login and add events and opportunities (i.e., lectures, job openings, opportunities to become research participants, etc.)
- An archive of Schubert Center publications, including our series of Research and Policy Briefs.
- Resources for students interested in child policy externships or the Childhood Studies Minor.
- Links to other child-focused websites and tips on how to engage in the child policy process.

Please visit the new website at [schubert.case.edu](http://schubert.case.edu). Additional updates on relevant news, research, and events can be found on our new Facebook and Twitter pages.

## SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES

The Schubert Center for Child Studies bridges research, practice, policy, and education for the well-being of children and adolescents. The Schubert Center for Child Studies:

- Focuses on children from infancy through adolescence in local, national, international and global settings.
- Advances understanding of children's engagement in everyday life, including families, peers, neighborhoods and communities and within historical and cultural contexts.
- Employs a multidisciplinary approach and is committed to community collaborations among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.
- Fosters academic excellence and leadership in childhood studies and child policy.
- Promotes linkages and advocacy through research, communication, and education strategies among those who play a role in the well-being of children.

### Schubert Center for Child Studies Annual Report 2010-2011

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

Nadia El-Shaarawi, Jessica McRitchie, Aura Newlin, Sarah Robinson

#### PHOTO CREDITS

Steve Cutri, Dan Milner, Aura Newlin, Bryan Patton, Devyn Riggio, Joshua Rothhaas, State of Ohio

DIRECTOR  
SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES  
Jill Korbin

DIRECTOR  
CHILD POLICY  
Gabriella Celeste

CO-DIRECTOR  
CHILD STUDIES PROGRAM  
Elizabeth Short

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES  
Jessica McRitchie

[schubert.cwru.edu](http://schubert.cwru.edu)  
[schubertcenter@cwru.edu](mailto:schubertcenter@cwru.edu)  
216.368.0540



## SUPPORT THE SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES

Please consider supporting the Schubert Center for Child Studies. Your gift of any size will help ensure the sustainability of the many programs, academic courses, and experiential opportunities we offer students, which has a lasting impact on policy, research, and practice related to children and families. You can make your gift online at [giving.cwru.edu](http://giving.cwru.edu) (note "Schubert Center Friends" in the special instructions box) or by calling 216.368.0540.



SCHUBERT CENTER  
FOR CHILD STUDIES

615 Crawford Hall  
10900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44106-7179

216.368.0540  
<http://schubert.case.edu>  
[schubertcenter@case.edu](mailto:schubertcenter@case.edu)