...in challenging times

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

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES:

Welcome to the 2011-2012 annual report of the Schubert Center for Child Studies at Case Western Reserve University. We are delighted to share news of our activities with you and to highlight the connections we have forged among individuals and communities dedicated to advancing the well-being of children and young people.

Let me begin by expressing heartfelt gratitude to Carol Mann and Robert Mann, alumni siblings who over many years have generously provided our students with opportunities to excel through experiential learning. Most recently, they have demonstrated their commitment to our mission by partially endowing the position of Child Policy Director at the Schubert Center. In this report, we feature three alumni whose participation in the Mann Scholars Program made a lasting difference in their lives and who have gone on to make a difference in the lives of others. We then turn to the current Mann Child Policy Externs, extraordinary students who work with dedicated mentors and professionals in local agencies and organizations to engage in hands-on policy and promote child well-being. From the beginning, Carol and Robbie have made a point of traveling to Cleveland to meet with such students and to encourage their achievements and aspirations. This, too, has been an invaluable gift.

We then highlight our speaker series, Child Well-Being in Challenging Times, and the remarkable faculty members and partners from across the university and the broader community who make these important public conversations possible. This year also marked an innovative collaboration among the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services, Karamu House, the Moving Hearts Gallery, numerous community partners, the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and the Schubert Center as we hosted the play, Sometimes Hope is Enough. This powerful performance about older foster children was coupled with a community dialogue and call to action to encourage adoption, fostering, mentoring and other ways to support our young people.

Additionally, the Schubert Center Faculty Associates continue to build an interdisciplinary collective of researchers and scholars representing all of the academic units of the university. They are joined by the Friends of the Schubert Center, an affinity group of talented individuals from many sectors of our community with a long-standing commitment to improving the lives of children and families.

I deeply appreciate the efforts and support of all who have come together with the Schubert Center during the past year, and I look forward to continuing our vital work.

Jill Korbin, PhD
DIRECTOR
SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES
connecting with communities in challenging times
Further extending their steadfast commitment to student growth and experiential learning, Carol and Robert Mann created an endowment dedicated to the Schubert Center’s child policy research, education and bridge-building work, thereby making a visionary investment in the future of the center and our commitment to educating our students and promoting child well-being.

MAJOR GIFT PROMOTES LEGACY OF EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Alumni siblings Carol Mann (FSM ’71) and Robert Mann (WRC ’73), have endowed the Child Policy Director position with a $500,000 gift. Currently held by Gabriella Celeste, JD, the position includes teaching child policy courses in the childhood studies program, supervising the Mann Child Policy Externship program, and collaborating with county, state and national partners to advance effective policy for child well-being. This generous gift will ensure that their vision of providing transformative educational experiences for undergraduates will thrive well into the future.

The Manns so highly valued their experiences as students that they generously support today’s undergraduates, giving them opportunities for life-changing experiences beyond the classroom. Since 1986, the alumni siblings have made a series of contributions to endow a fund to support extraordinary experiences for students. From 1990 until 2000, the Mann Undergraduate Scholars in Anthropology and Pediatrics Program enabled students to study child health at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital and conduct research on health-related projects overseas. Today the Mann Child Policy Externships, initiated in 2005, provide students with experiential learning opportunities through placements in child policy agencies in the Cleveland area.
FORMER MANN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS REMEMBER THEIR EXPERIENCES

Jennifer Furin, MD, PhD (CWR ’92), traveled to Western Samoa in 1991 to study cultural beliefs and attitudes toward food, and their relationship to health outcomes, among Western Samoan children. “My best memories are of the Samoan people and my colleagues,” Furin says. “I learned how to carry myself in the field, adapt research to program settings and be part of an international and cross-cultural team.”

Furin has since continued her career in global health in many countries and has served as a consultant for the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Furin is currently an assistant professor of medicine at the CWRU School of Medicine’s Division of Infectious Diseases, TB Research Unit, an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, and a Schubert Center Faculty Associate.

“I learned that it is important to understand how individuals perceive different diseases,” Tangpricha says. “HIV was a relatively new disease in the early 1990s, so it was very interesting to see how much or little people in the developing world knew about how HIV was contracted and how its transmission could be prevented.”

Tangpricha is an associate professor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and is conducting several randomized controlled trials in the United States and overseas to test the role of vitamin D in preventing infections.

“Most people think of vitamin D as a supplement to help bone health. However, vitamin D is a hormone that can affect almost every bodily function, so it is a critical role to consider,” Tangpricha says.

Christina R. Welter, MPH, DrPH (CWR ’98), studied patient and provider experiences with the medical system as well as perspectives on women’s reproductive health at the former Mother-Well Child Clinic at University Hospitals in Cleveland in 1996. In 1997 she traveled to American Samoa to survey immunization practices and inform the Samoan public health department’s development of immunization promotion initiatives. “We were welcomed into Samoan homes for meals and celebrations,” Welter remembers. “To see how others live challenged my view of the world and showed me what is possible.”

Welter is now conducting a study in the Republic of Georgia to examine vitamin D in the treatment of tuberculosis; it is very interesting to learn how study participants view infectious diseases and their relationship to nutrition.”

Former deputy director of prevention services at the Cook County Department of Public Health, Furin is the deputy director of the Doctorate in Public Health Leadership program at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health and a member of the Friends of the Schubert Center.

“Tangible educational tools that help students apply theoretical knowledge to create organizational and societal change. Dr. Korbin was and has been an important mentor to me throughout my academic career, and the Mann Scholar program was the primary reason for my interest in public health and community, asset-based approaches to defining problems and solutions to tell the story of the health system rather than of just one piece of the puzzle.”
legacy of the manns

MANN CHILD POLICY EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS REACH

The Schubert Center and the Childhood Studies interdisciplinary program continues to partner with public and nonprofit community organizations as host agencies for the Mann Child Policy Externship program. Undergraduate students work directly with professionals who design and implement policies that impact the lives of children and families. Externs engage in planning, research, analysis and advocacy activities to gain perspective and experience in child policy. Students may also use the externship to fulfill their university SAGES Capstone project.

Brittney Imholte
Semester: Fall 2011
Placement: Achievement Centers for Children
Graduating Year: 2012

“Working as an extern was one of the most valuable experiences I have had as an undergraduate. This opportunity gave me insight into a nonprofit agency that is determined to help children and families with special needs and to inform policy. I grew so much as a student and a professional during this time, and I will certainly carry these experiences with me as I continue to work with children with special needs.”

Rekha Iyer
Semester: Spring 2012
Placement: Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court
Graduating Year: 2012

“I loved the work I did at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. It gave me a new set of tools and skills that I can use in all aspects of my life. I wish I could do the experience all over again!”

Emily Lawson
Semester: Spring 2012
Placement: Starting Point
Graduating year: 2012

“My work with the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge federal grant helped me better understand the impact of policy on the lives of children and those who care for them. Overall I was inspired to continue working with children and I look forward to my experiences as a teacher.”

Mai Segawa
Semester: Spring 2012
Placement: Center for Families and Children
Graduating Year: 2013

“Through analyzing several national trauma prevention policies such as the Defending Childhood Initiative, I realized how closely research is tied with funding streams and the importance of implementing evidence-based practices. I hope this experience will help me as I pursue my doctorate in psychology to make a direct impact on policy related to children and families.”

Kara Monnin
Semester: Summer 2011
Placement: GroundWork
Graduating Year: 2013

“I am now aware of a whole new early childhood network and take away a better understanding of the intersections of advocacy and psychology, and that advocates can influence policy and help make the lives of children better.”

Rachel Wilson
Semester: Summer 2011
Placement: Cleveland Department of Public Health
Graduating Year: 2013

“Some of my most memorable experiences include touring grocery stores in low-income neighborhoods, going to a studio to record ‘Cleveland Flu and You’ e-cards, meeting Mayor Jackson, and having my research published in Today’s Dietitian magazine. The whole experience was truly phenomenal.”
Just as the cherry blossoms are about to burst in our nation’s capital, a core group of our child policy students hit the halls of Congress and make rounds to various federal agencies, research organizations, think tanks and other advocacy groups and entities to investigate, think critically and learn firsthand about the role of government, the policy-making process and how child well-being is impacted by legislative, administrative and fiscal policies ... it’s an unscripted, real-world learning laboratory in action.
Clockwise from top left: Center for Budget and Policy Priorities Director of the Federal Budget Initiative Joan Huffer; Discussion with Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet; Constituent coffee with Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown; Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Ron Haskins; Senate Committee Hearing with Sens. Sherrod Brown and Robert Corker.
TWO BRISKY FELLOWS ANNOUNCED

The Brisky Fellowship, supported by the Cora Unger Brisky Endowment, is awarded annually to psychology graduate students to support child-related dissertation research. Two recipients were selected this year:

**Karla Fehr** is researching the effectiveness of a cognitive-behavioral therapy using pretend play to teach coping skills to children with sleep difficulties. Fehr hopes her research will add to the evidence base for developmentally appropriate prevention and treatment programs for young children. She plans to continue her research and work with children and their families in a hospital setting.

**Jessica Dillon Hoffmann** is studying the effects of pretend play on student creativity, storytelling ability, emotion regulation, and overall well-being to help students with difficulties adjusting to school. Dillon Hoffmann hopes to work with underserved children and families and continue researching the use of pretend play to enhance adaptive skills.
CONFERENCE RESULTS IN SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE

The 2008 “New Directions in Policy-Relevant Research on Adolescence: Perspectives from Psychological Anthropology” conference hosted by the Schubert Center sparked a special issue of *Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology*. The issue, “Psychological Anthropology and Adolescent Well-Being: Steps Toward Bridging Research, Practice, and Policy,” was edited by Faculty Associate and Anthropology Assistant Professor Eileen Anderson-Fye, EdD, and Director Jill Korbin, PhD. The issue includes discussions on adolescence and cultural transition, global development, poverty programs, psychiatric medication, LGBTQ youth and eating disorders. The conference was supported by the Lemelson/Society for Psychological Anthropology Conference Fund, made possible by a generous donation from The Robert Lemelson Foundation.

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN FOSTER CARE

In April, more than 230 community members, faculty, staff and students joined the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Karamu House, the Mandel School and the Schubert Center for a performance and discussion of the original play *Sometimes Hope is Enough*, written by Michael Oatman, MFA. The play tells the story of four siblings separated in the foster care system, who, when reunited, push through the issues of their past. The play, which is based on interviews with youth currently in or who have recently left the foster care system, was commissioned by Partners for Forever Families to provide a bridge between the arts, research, practice and policy and to educate people about the issues of children leaving foster care.

Following the play, panelists Gregory Ashe, MBA, of Karamu House, David Crampton, PhD, of the Mandel School, LaJean Ray of Fatima Family Center, Gregory Kapcar, MPA, LSW, of Public Children Services Association of Ohio, Lisa Peterka of DCFS, and Melinda Sykes, JD, of the Office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine engaged in a discussion of the practice and policy issues raised by the play. DCFS and Adoption Network Cleveland’s Moving Hearts Gallery and Digital Stories was also showcased to share profiles of children currently seeking adoptive families. The event served as a collaborative call to action for community support of children currently or formerly in care through adoption, fostering, mentoring, volunteerism and advocacy.
Child Well-Being in Challenging Times Series Connects Research and Community

Each year, the Schubert Conversation Series brings together CWRU faculty, students and staff with community members whose work impacts children and families to discuss child-related research findings and policy and practice implications. This year’s series featured three visiting lecturers and four discussions by CWRU faculty.

VISITING LECTURERS

The center hosted community development expert and author John McKnight, professor of education and social policy at the Asset-Based Community Development Institute at Northwestern University, in November. The Council of Neighborhood Leaders, a coalition of administrators, social workers and community organizers, co-sponsored a community breakfast dialogue at East End Neighborhood House. McKnight later gave a talk on campus, Restoring Function to Children and Young People on the Path to Family and Community Revival. McKnight emphasizes skills and assets, rather than needs, to empower individuals and build stronger neighborhoods. Panelist respondents Claudia Coulton, MSW, PhD, co-director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development at the Mandel School, and Geraldine Burns, MSSA, executive director of Friendly Inn Settlement Corp., spoke about their work and how an assets-based approach can help strengthen communities.

In April, the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the Department of Anthropology and the Schubert Center hosted Richard A. Shweder, PhD, cultural anthropologist and the William Claude Reavis Distinguished Service Professor of Human Development at the University of Chicago. His lecture, When Cultures Collide: The Moral Challenge in Cultural Migration, addressed the issues liberal democracies face in their increasingly multicultural societies as they find legal and moral balance between respect for cultural practices and universal human rights. Shweder also met with groups of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty for deeper discussions on a variety of social science issues.

Michael Wald, JD, Stanford University’s Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law, Emeritus, spoke on Rethinking Child Protection in November. He proposed the development of an alternative system to serve at-risk families with a focus on threats to children’s physical and psychological well-being. Patricia Rideout, JD, director of the Cuyahoga County DCFS, and Mark Feingold, MD, associate professor of pediatrics at CWRU’s School of Medicine, joined the discussion as respondents based on their expertise working with maltreated children and child welfare.
Daniel Flannery, PhD, director of the Begun Center for Violence Prevention and Education at the Mandel School, opened this year’s event series in September with Merging Research, Practice, and Policy in Addressing Children’s Exposure to Violence. Flannery spoke about his research for the Cuyahoga County Defending Childhood Initiative, which aims to prevent exposure to violence, mitigate the negative impacts of exposure, and develop awareness. Janet Kronenberg, MPA, JD, manager of the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center and the Defending Childhood Initiative, spoke about her policy efforts to support children who have witnessed violence.

Robert Findling, MD, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics and director of child and adolescent psychiatry, gave a February talk, The Blind Men and the Elephant? Lessons Learned from the Longitudinal Assessment of Manic Symptoms (LAMS) Study. The LAMS study is a response to increasing rates of child bipolar disorder diagnoses, and aims to develop a more accurate method for diagnosing these disorders in children. Findling was joined by respondents Michael Manos, PhD, the head of the Center for Pediatric Behavioral Health at the Cleveland Clinic, and Jennifer Blumhagen, LISW-S, the director of community services at Bellefaire JCB, who spoke about their experiences in the field of children’s mental health and access to care.

Mark Votruba, PhD, professor of economics at the Weatherhead School of Management, gave the final talk, Parental Job Loss and the Implications for Children, in March. Votruba’s research examines the impact of large-scale layoffs in Norway on children and families. Amy Hanauer, MPA, executive director of Policy Matters Ohio, and David Megenhardt, executive director of the United Labor Agency of Ohio, discussed the implications of Votruba’s findings and their relationship to family economic policy.
connecting with communities in challenging times
Fostering connections and collaborating with local and national partners, the Schubert Center strives to advance a universal commitment to the well-being of all our children and young people. We do this through community engagement, policy research and bridge-building, and by supporting the myriad child-related activities of our talented faculty associates.

engaging community and informing policy

The Schubert Center collaborates with community organizations and government agencies to promote effective public policy and practice for children and families. Working with the state and local child policy and advocacy community to enhance multidisciplinary collaborations among researchers, policymakers and practitioners remains a central purpose. The center strives to make these vital connections through various projects, speaking engagements and coalitions, such as our involvement with the Cuyahoga County Defending Childhood Initiative and our work to highlight opportunities and challenges facing children and young people in the foster care system.

Child Policy Director Gabriella Celeste continued to serve as a content expert on juvenile justice-related policy efforts concerning the implementation of legislative reforms, and developed a revised set of strategic policy objectives with practitioners and advocates in order to help inform a course for further action. This work was supported by a national network of funders including The George Gund Foundation. In December, Celeste was invited to speak in a plenary panel at the MacArthur Foundation Models for Change conference in Washington, D.C., to discuss the Schubert Center’s role in the juvenile justice policy arena and Ohio’s
recent success in passing significant legislation to improve the juvenile justice system. She also presented at the Voices for Ohio’s Children Ohio County Commissioner Association meeting, along with Faculty Associate Andrew Garner, MD, who discussed child brain development. Celeste was a guest on the Children’s Law Center’s “Spotlight on Youth” August radio show Sentencing Reform: Ohio’s Huge Leap Forward and served on a panel at their April media forum The ABC’s of Covering the Juvenile Justice System: A Seminar for Journalists held at Cleveland State University.

In April the Schubert Center collaborated with the University-Based Child and Family Policy Consortium to co-sponsor the 2012 Council on Contemporary Families’ Annual Meeting, “Crossing Boundaries: Public and Private Roles in Assuring Child Well-Being,” in Chicago. Schubert Center Faculty Associates joined other nationally renowned scholars to network and present their work: James Spilsbury, PhD, discussed his research on neighborhood conditions and child maltreatment (a collaboration with Claudia Coulton and Jill Korbin), and Associate Professor of Sociology Brian Gran, PhD, discussed his work and led a discussion on children’s rights.

Faculty associates and friends gathering

The Schubert Center Faculty Associates, a group of more than 70 child experts from many disciplines across the university, gathered in January to connect with each other and the Schubert Center Friends to share highlights of recent work. The center will continue to provide opportunities for faculty collaboration on child-related research and practice.

Selected updates

Schubert Center Founding Director and Professor Emeritus of Psychology Donald Freedheim, PhD, received the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cleveland Psychological Association.

In September 2011, Sandra Russ, PhD, professor of psychology, was awarded the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women’s Mather Spotlight Prize. The prize is awarded annually to one woman from each school or college for excellence in scholarship.
Schubert Center Staff Updates

The center welcomed Sarah Robinson as the new assistant director in September 2011. She is a 2010 CWRU anthropology and environmental studies alumna and has since worked in marketing and communications for the College of Arts and Sciences and served in the Peace Corps/Togo.

After five years as assistant director, Jessica McRitchie has left the center to pursue her career interests. The Schubert Center offers a sincere thank you to Jessica for the many contributions she has made during her time at the Center.

friends engage for progress

and research. Russ’s research interests include the role of pretend play in child development, cognitive and affective process in pretend play, child psychotherapy and play intervention procedures.

In November 2011, the Dr. Semi J. and Ruth W. Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education received a $400,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, Saint Luke’s Foundation and Sisters of Charity Foundation to continue its work on violence prevention in Cleveland.

In August 2011, Marilyn Lotas, PhD, RN, associate dean and associate professor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, was selected as a Fulbright Scholar at the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing at the Lebanese American University of Beirut. Lotas’s research interests include maternal and child health, very low birth weight infant health issues and the development of biological rhythms in preterm infants.

James Spilsbury, program director of the academic core at the Center for Clinical Investigation, received an inaugural Humanitarian Projects Award from the American Sleep Medicine Foundation for his project, “Improving the Sleep of Children Victimized by Violence.” The $17,000 award supports research on sleep problems or sleep education needs in disadvantaged populations. Spilsbury is working with Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons (MHS) to provide bedding materials to families who have experienced family or community violence, and will train MHS social workers to better address sleep-related issues.
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.

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 (note Schubert Center Friends in the special instructions box) or by calling 216.368.0540.

For more information, publications, resources and upcoming events, please visit schubert.cwru.edu.

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