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SCHUBERT CENTER for CHILD STUDIES

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2011

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Mann Endowment Supports Student Experiential Learning



CHST 302 students met with Shay Bilchik, Director of Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform in Washington, D.C. Left to Right: Mallory Zehe, Devyn Riggio, Nadra Williams, Shay Bilchik, Summer Wiggins, Gabriella Celeste, and Jessica McRitchie

Experiential Learning in Washington D.C.

In March 2010, students enrolled in "Experiential Learning in Child Policy" (CHST 302) spent their spring break connecting with policy makers and witnessing the legislative process in

Washington, D.C. During the visit, students met with government administrators, representatives of advocacy organizations, and members of Congress to discuss issues as diverse as child welfare, juvenile justice, and children's mental health. Schubert Center staff Gabriella Celeste and Jessica McRitchie accompanied Devyn Riggio, Summer Wiggins, Nadra Williams, and Mallory Zehe on the trip.

Mann Child Policy Externships

The Mann Child Policy Externships offered through the Schubert Center and the Childhood Studies Program provide opportunities for undergraduate students to work with local organizations that design, implement, and advocate child-relevant policies. With support from the Mann Endowment Fund, the program is now entering its seventh year and has placed students in externships throughout the local Cleveland community. Thank you to our community partners for mentoring and supervising our students, and congratulations to the students who recently completed their externships:

Reem Asaad
Voices for Ohio's Children

Megan Carl
Voices for Ohio's Children

Emily Garvey
Voices for Ohio's Children

Kelly Kanya
Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau

Devyn Riggio
Cleveland Department of Public Health

Summer Wiggins
Voices for Ohio's Children

Nadra Williams
Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court

Andrea Wojtowicz
groundWork

Debra Zauner
Government Relations at University Hospitals

Mallory Zehe
Center for Families & Children

Mann Child Policy Externships and other experiential learning opportunities are made possible by the continuing support of the Mann Endowment Fund. The next deadline for student externship applications is March 30, 2011. For organizations interested in hosting a Mann Child Policy Extern, please contact the Schubert Center at schubertcenter@case.edu.

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Schubert Center Hosts Nobel Laureate James Heckman

The Schubert Center was privileged to host Nobel Laureate and Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, Dr. **James Heckman**. His talk on March 18, 2010 focused on the economic case for early childhood education.



A dedicated advocate for the rights and well-being of children, Professor Heckman is committed to the development of scientific tools for the evaluation of economic policy. His recent research focuses on the economics of human development, using models of human capacity formation. He is currently focused on conducting new social experiments on early childhood interventions and analyzing old experiments. Dr. Heckman takes a multi-disciplinary approach to provide policy makers with new insights into education, job-training programs, minimum-wage legislation, anti-discrimination law, and civil rights.

Professor Heckman's list of prestigious accolades includes the 2000 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. He is currently the Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, Professor of Science and Society at University College Dublin, a Senior Research Fellow at the American Bar Foundation, and Director of the University of Chicago's Economics Research Center and Center for Social Program Evaluation.

Professor Heckman's presentation was co-sponsored by Cuyahoga County's Invest in Children, the Ohio "groundWork" Campaign, and Voices for Ohio's Children. In addition to his lecture, Professor Heckman met with the Ohio Business Roundtable, the Plain Dealer Editorial Board, and others to make the case for economic returns on early childhood investments.

[Click here to access the video, photos, and other resources related to Dr. Heckman's visit, including a link to his interview on Ohio Public Radio's "Ideastream".](#)

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Experts Contribute to Schubert Center's Series on Girlhood

The Schubert Center presented the second event in its ongoing series on girlhood on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 with a lecture by invited speaker **David Wolfe**, PhD, ABPP on "Girls in Abusive Dating Relationships: Approaching a Better Understanding of Research, Practice, and Policy." **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.



David 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 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.

The Girlhood Series began in April 2010 with a lecture by a national expert on child welfare and juvenile justice, **Marty Beyer**, Ph.D. She was joined by psychologist **Jane Timmons-Mitchell** and attorney **Jill Beeler**, Director of the Juvenile Division of the Ohio Office of the Public Defender. Dr. Beyer's emphasis on adolescent development and family responsiveness in the context of the juvenile justice and foster care systems offers a compassionate and 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. By tailoring interventions to the strengths and needs of individual children and their families, Dr. Beyer's approaches are employed by agencies throughout the country.

Specifically addressing the case of girls in the juvenile justice system, Dr. Beyer writes that "supporting a girl's move away from negative behaviors requires an accurate picture of the girl's strengths and needs, and individualized services that will effectively meet those needs and build on her strengths." For her girlhood series lecture, Dr. Beyer discussed how knowledge of girls' cognitive, moral, and identity development can lend perspective to their offenses and inform the design of rehabilitation services.

The Series on Girlhood is sponsored by the Flora Stone Mather Alumnae Association. Briefs for the series are available [online](#) and by request. The third and final event in this girlhood series is on April 5, 2011, and will feature **Lucene Wisniewski, PhD**, from the Cleveland Center for Eating Disorders. Stay posted for details.

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Schubert Center Launches New Website, Enters the Worlds of Facebook and Twitter

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.
- 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.

Additional updates on relevant news, research, and events can be found on our new [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

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Brisky Fellowship Recipient Studies Playfulness and 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 graduate student in child clinical psychology.

Kelly M. Christian received her B.S. in Human Development from Cornell University in 2004 before entering Case Western Reserve's graduate program in



clinical psychology, where she received her M.A. in 2008. Ms. Christian's 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*, will be one of the first studies to explore whether playfulness relates to aspects of temperament, coping, emotion expression, emotion regulation, and actual play processes. Ms. Christian 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. Further, 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. Ms. Christian's future career goals include working in a clinical or medical setting where she can be involved in therapy, research, and teaching.

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Faculty Associate Accomplishments

Faculty Associate Awarded Funding for Research on Violence, Sleep, and Child Health



James Spilsbury, Schubert Center Faculty Associate and investigator at the Center for Clinical Investigation in the CWRU School of Medicine, has received a three-year, \$492,000 grant from the William T. Grant Foundation. Titled "Violence, Sleep, and Child Health," this study will investigate: 1) how the physical and socio-cultural characteristics of the home settings of children exposed to violence influence sleep and other health and behavioral outcomes, and 2) whether sleep disturbance is a key mechanism through which exposure to violence affects children's mental health.

Dr. Spilsbury's study will follow a sample of 150 children from low-income neighborhoods and families in the Cleveland area who have been referred by police to a mental health services agency for treatment of trauma. Employing both qualitative and quantitative methods, the study will assess these children's health and behavior, and document their sleep patterns and environments. Through this study, Dr. Spilsbury aims to identify aspects of sleep (including the broader sleep environment) that may be modified to improve the physical and psychological health of children exposed to violence and other traumatic events.

Grant Supports Interdisciplinary Research on Adolescent Schizophrenia

Psychiatry professor and Schubert Center Faculty Associate **Robert Findling** is part of a team that has been awarded a four-year, 1.25 million dollar grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Using innovative techniques for collecting, modifying, and analyzing cell tissue associated with schizophrenia, this interdisciplinary study will contribute to our understanding of brain cell function in adolescent schizophrenia patients. Dr. Findling, Dr. Paul Tesar, and Dr. Robert Miller will share direction of the project.



Schizophrenia is a severe psychiatric disorder whose causes are not well understood, and whose manifestations are often amplified among adolescents. "We hope to understand the underlying cause of schizophrenia in much greater depth," says Findling. "If we can decipher why the cells aren't functioning properly, we may be able to develop treatments that can restore function to vulnerable patients suffering from schizophrenia."

Faculty Associate Receives Funding for the Development of an International Measure of Children's Rights



Brian Gran, associate professor of sociology and Schubert Center Faculty Associate, 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'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. This study seeks to advance knowledge on human rights in general and on children's rights in particular through the introduction of the Children's Rights Index, an international measure of children's rights for over 160 countries for 2004.

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. The Children's Rights Indices can be used by national governments and international nongovernmental organizations. This study will also host an interactive website with maps containing country-specific information on children's rights.

Faculty Associate Awarded Funding to Address Childhood Hypertension and Obesity

Marilyn Lotas, Schubert Center Faculty Associate and 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.

Other Faculty Associate Awards and Honors

Professor of Pediatrics and Schubert Center Faculty Associate **Leona Cuttler** was a 2009 recipient of the Health Policy Research Award for Independent Scholarship, an honor conferred by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. Dr. Cuttler and her co-authors were recognized for their report, "Obesity in Children and Families Across Ohio," which was incorporated in the "Healthy Choices for Healthy Children" legislation introduced to the state legislature last November.

Susan Ludington, Schubert Center Faculty Associate and Professor of Pediatric Nursing, has been inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International's 2010 International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor recognizes nurses "who have achieved long term, broad national and/or international recognition for their work and whose research has impacted the profession and the people it serves."

Professor of Nursing and Schubert Center Faculty Associate **Faye Gary** was the recipient of the Medical Trailblazer Award presented by the Greater Cleveland chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a national civil rights organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Gary was selected for her perseverance, hard work and determination as a community and global human rights medical advocate in educating the underserved.

Two Schubert Center Faculty Associates were among the eight recipients of the 2010 Mather Spotlight Prize for Women's Scholarship. **Claudia Coulton** of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and **Faye Gary** of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing were chosen by their schools for their outstanding research and scholarship.

Schubert Center Faculty Associate **Barbara Lewis** of the departments of communication sciences and pediatrics received a Diekhoff Award for her outstanding contributions to the education of graduate students through advising and classroom teaching.

Associate Professor of History and Schubert Center Faculty Associate **Renée Sentilles** received the Jackson Award for outstanding advising and mentoring of undergraduate students. She was also the recipient of the Jessica Melton Perry Award for Distinguished Teaching in Disciplinary & Professional Writing, which recognizes teachers' contributions to the development of student writing within academic and professional fields at CWRU.

Schubert Center Faculty Associates **Patrizia Bonaventura** and **Lisa Koops** were among eight College of Arts and Sciences Faculty to receive grants from the 2009-2010 W. P. Jones Presidential Faculty Development Fund to support their scholarly activities.

David Crampton, Schubert Center Faculty Associate and associate professor of social work, recently participated in a panel 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.

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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 of the Friends group will serve as ambassadors of the Center within their network, help the Center make relevant connections in the community to enhance our mission and provide advice and counsel on the work of the Center. Membership will consist of long-time and more recent supporters, representing a variety of backgrounds, but all connected by their interests in child well-being and the mission of the Center.

For more information about supporting the Schubert Center, please contact Jessica McRitchie (jessica.mcritchie@case.edu, 216-368-0540)

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Schubert Center Staff Announcements

We are pleased to announce that **Gabriella Celeste** will be continuing with the Center in the role of Child Policy Director. Ms. Celeste's broad experience with and knowledge of issues facing children and adolescents make her a tremendous asset to the Center. In this capacity she will also continue to teach child policy and direct our Mann externship program.

Molly Irwin, former Director of the Schubert Center Child Policy Initiative, is now based in Washington, D.C. as a social science research analyst at the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. We wish her the best of luck in her exciting new position.

Graduate Assistants

The Schubert Center welcomes back **Nadia El-Shaawari**, who has returned from 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.

Aura Newlin is a Ph.D. student in anthropology. Her dissertation field research will be in Papua New Guinea, where she will explore the intersections of research, policy, and practice in efforts to control malaria and lymphatic filariasis.

Sarah C. Miller is pursuing a M.P.H. and a Ph.D. in anthropology. Her research interests include traditional birth attendants, reproductive health and prevention of mother to child HIV transmission.

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Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Schubert Conversations on Children in Research and Policy

Early School Progress in Children with Extreme Prematurity

H. Gerry Taylor, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Pediatrics

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011

Schubert Conversations on Children in Research and Policy

Children's Development of Mathematical Skills

Lee Thompson, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychology

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

Schubert Center Series on Girlhood

Entering the 21st Century: Best Practices for Girls with Eating Disorders

Lucene Wisniewski, PhD

Cleveland Center for Eating Disorders

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