

NEW NAME FOR THE SCHUBERT CENTER: THE SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES

In the fall of 2006, the Schubert Center for Child Development was renamed the Schubert Center for Child Studies. The name change reflects the expanding nature of interest in children and childhood in the field at large and at the Schubert Center.

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A Special Thank You

We say farewell to
Rick Settersten

The Schubert Center's Child Policy Initiative



The Child Policy Initiative builds on Case's existing strengths, including an undergraduate minor in Childhood Studies and a campus-wide network of Case faculty members who are engaged in child-related research from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives in the social sciences, medicine, nursing, dentistry, public health, law, and the humanities.

The overriding goal of the Child Policy Initiative is to develop a comprehensive, innovative program of multidisciplinary education, research, and communications focused on child policy. Specific objectives for each program component are:

EDUCATION Three new child policy courses were offered for the first time in the 2005-2006 academic year, and have now become permanent course offerings: Childhood Studies (CHST) 301, *Child Policy*, gives undergraduate students an overview of the policy-making process and introduces them to key child policy issues. Childhood Studies (CHST) 302, *Experiential Learning in Child Policy*, gives students an in-depth understanding of the child policy making process at the state and federal levels, and includes an experiential component through which they spend several days in Columbus or Washington DC meeting with policy makers and seeing the process in action. Childhood Studies (CHST) 398, *Child Policy Externship*, awards course credit to Mann Child Policy Externs for experiential learning opportunities in community agencies involved in child policy issues. In addition, in order to broaden students' exposure to child policy, policy modules have been developed and infused into existing courses related to children and childhood. These modules draw on the expertise of local child advocates and policymakers.

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undergraduate childhood studies program

CHILDHOOD STUDIES STUDENTS AND SCHUBERT CENTER STAFF MEET WITH THEN REP. TED STRICKLAND DURING THE 2006 SPRING BREAK TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC.

LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP ROW: MOLLY IRWIN, (THEN) REP. TED STRICKLAND, MAYA BROWN, GAYLE CHANNING TENENBAUM; MIDDLE ROW: KATHLEEN DOWDELL, CHRISTINA PEREIRA, ALLISON DEAL, ANDREA LONGSTREET; FRONT ROW: ANNA WEBB, SAVANNAH BARNETT, SOPHIA YOU, ANN ANDERSON



The Childhood Studies Minor, initiated in 1999, provides an educational opportunity for undergraduate students to pursue a wide array of interests related to children and the experience of childhood. The minor focuses on the life stages from infancy through adolescence, and also includes issues of parenting, gender, and the role of children in society and culture. As noted, the Schubert Center for Child Studies has developed three new child policy courses that are now permanent offerings in the undergraduate curriculum; student experiences in two of those courses (CHST 302 and CHST 398) are shared here.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN CHILD POLICY (CHILDHOOD STUDIES 302) was offered for the first time in spring 2006. Eight students enrolled in the class, and learned more about how child policy is created at the federal level. The highlight of the course was a trip to Washington DC. There, students met with House Representatives Ted Strickland, Chris Shay, and Stephanie Tubbs Jones. They also met with senior staff in the offices of Representatives Sherrod Brown, Ralph Regula, Tim Ryan, Deb Pryce, and Dave Hobson, and Senators George Voinovich and Mike DeWine.

The students also had the opportunity to learn about the policy making process from a number of organizations focusing on policy, advocacy, and research including the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office, Voices for Children, the Children's Defense Fund, and the Heritage Foundation.

Student Maya Brown has this to say about Experiential Learning in Child Policy (CHILDHOOD STUDIES 302): "When we went to Washington, I learned so much from meeting with congressional staff. I found out more about how the legislative process works and what kinds of questions to ask to understand policy issues. The experience also prepared me for the November election because I learned how to be a well-informed citizen; now I can make the best choices when voting for elected officials. I recommend this course to anyone who might be interested in policy. I think all of the students came away from the trip wanting to go back to DC, and energized about the differences we can make in child policy."



The Schubert Center is pleased to announce the availability of its new publication, *As Life Unfolds*, a compendium of research on children and childhood at Case Western Reserve University. This publication, which includes a directory of faculty researchers working on issues related to children, is available online at www.case.edu/artsci/schubert or in hard copy by request to the Schubert Center via email at schubertcenter@case.edu or phone 216.368.0540.



Rebecca Cohen, a recent Case graduate, was one of the first students selected as a Mann Child Policy Extern. Rebecca did her externship with the Center for Community Solutions, where she worked on the Ohio Early Care and Education Campaign. Her experience was so positive that after completing her externship and graduating from Case, she was offered a fulltime staff position at the Center for Community Solutions as the Campaign Coordinator of the Ohio Early Care and Education Campaign. Rebecca has become an expert on the importance of early care and education and its impact on children in Ohio and beyond (go to: www.communitysolutions.com/store/index.asp?DEPARTMENT_ID=68 to learn more about the Ohio Early Care and Education Campaign and to see the policy briefs that Rebecca has written on the subject).

Rebecca had this to say about her experience, "The Schubert Center externship was a unique opportunity that provided me with real world experience at one of Ohio's premiere public policy organizations. I gained a greater understanding of the policy process, and made lasting contacts. Ultimately, the experience led me to pursue a career in public policy."

MANN CHILD POLICY EXTERNSHIPS (CHILDHOOD STUDIES 398)

Since spring 2005, in partnership with a number of community policy-making organizations, the Schubert Center has provided undergraduate students practical hands-on experience working with professionals who design and implement policies that impact the lives of children and families. Through Mann Child Policy Externships (CHILDHOOD STUDIES 398), students have been placed with local organizations active in social policy in the areas of child health, education, law, juvenile justice, mental health, and child welfare where they have the opportunity to apply concepts learned in the classroom to an organizational environment. The externships also provide valuable professional work experience. To date, six students have been placed in sites including the Alliance of Child Caring Service Providers, the Center for Community Solutions, Invest in Children, and Voices for Children of Greater Cleveland.

Alumni siblings **Carol Mann** (Flora Stone Mather College, 1971) and **Robert Mann** (Western Reserve College 1973) so valued their experiences as undergraduate students that they have generously provided support to today's undergraduate students. Since the early 1990s, the Manns have provided funding that allows students to engage in important and life changing experiences outside the usual classroom environment. Through their generosity, students have traveled throughout the world to participate in research projects on children. The Manns currently support the Mann Child Policy Externships as well as other experiential learning opportunities such as the 2005 Spring Break trip to Washington DC.



thanks and farewell Rick Settersten

Professor Richard Settersten, who served as Co-Director of the Schubert Center from 2000-2006, recently accepted a position as Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. Dr. Settersten's most recent book, co-authored with Frank Furstenberg and Ruben Rumbaut, *On the Frontiers of Adulthood: Theory, Research and Public Policy* (2005, University of Chicago Press) is part of the MacArthur Foundation Series. Rick's leadership of and contributions to the Schubert Center will be deeply missed.

The Schubert Center's Child Policy Initiative

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RESEARCH A compendium of research on children, *As Life Unfolds: Research on Children and Childhood at Case Western Reserve University*, is now available. This 2006 publication highlights research being conducted across the Case campus that focuses on children and childhood. Additionally, a series of in-depth, stand alone Research and Policy Briefs has been initiated. These briefs summarize new and ongoing child-related research underway at Case, and highlight implications for policy and practice. Please consult the Schubert Center website, www.case.edu/artsci/schubert, for information about the availability of these publications.

COMMUNICATIONS Regular forums are convened by the Schubert Center to stimulate an ongoing dialogue between members of the Case community and policy experts and advocates in Northeast Ohio. In addition, a directory of Case faculty with research expertise on children and childhood has been published in *As Life Unfolds* and also on the Schubert Center's website. This directory is part of the continuing effort to broaden public access to university resources and to better connect faculty who have common interests.

The Child Policy Initiative is supported by funding from The George Gund Foundation and The Cleveland Foundation. Student externships and other special educational experiences for students are supported by endowment income designated for this purpose by the Mann Endowment Fund held by the Schubert Center, College of Arts and Sciences.

MEET MOLLY IRWIN, DIRECTOR OF THE SCHUBERT CENTER'S CHILD POLICY INITIATIVE Molly Irwin recently assumed the Directorship of the Schubert Center's Child Policy Initiative. Molly's professional experience working to improve the lives of children and families spans more than 15 years, and includes work in local and state government, and the private sector. She served as Interim Director for the Cuyahoga County Early Childhood Initiative (now called Invest in Children), and managed its comprehensive external evaluation, working closely with program directors and staff, a team of national researchers, County elected and appointed officials, private stakeholders, and funding agencies. Her private sector experience includes managing the Program Planning and Evaluation unit at a health and human services consulting firm. Prior to coming to Cleveland, Molly spent three years working with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. She holds a Master's degree in Public Health (MPH) in the area of Maternal and Child Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham; prior to receiving her MPH, she served in the United States Peace Corps in Honduras. Molly is currently pursuing her doctorate in Social Welfare at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

MEET ANN ANDERSON, SCHUBERT CENTER ADMINISTRATOR Ann brings a wealth of child-related and educational experiences to her work at the Schubert Center. Her passion for early childhood development led her to positions as a remedial reading teacher, first grade and kindergarten teacher, and religious education program coordinator for a local church. Ann has also worked in higher education, most recently serving as an Outreach Program Officer and Director of a satellite campus for the Kent State University Regional Campus system. Ann holds an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Personnel from KSU, and has completed a year of law school at the University of Akron.



PHOTOS FROM THE OCTOBER 10TH PANEL DISCUSSION **ELECTION 2006: WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR KIDS?** **1** AMY NICHOLLS SWANSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VOICES FOR CHILDREN OF GREATER CLEVELAND, ADDRESSES AUDIENCE. **2** MOLLY IRWIN, DIRECTOR OF THE CHILD POLICY INITIATIVE AT THE SCHUBERT CENTER, INTRODUCES THE PANELISTS. **3** LORI MCCLUNG, SENIOR FELLOW AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF POLICY, PLANNING, AND PROGRAMS AT THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS, VISITS WITH FORMER EXTERN SAVANNAH BARNETT. **4** SCHUBERT CENTER FOUNDING DIRECTOR, DR. DONALD FREEDHEIM. **5** PANELISTS LISTEN AS ZACH SCHILLER, RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF POLICY MATTERS OHIO, SPEAKS. (LEFT TO RIGHT: STEVE STEEL, ZACH SCHILLER, LORI MCCLUNG, WILLIAM DENIHAN, AMY NICHOLLS SWANSON) PHOTO CREDIT: JANINE BENTIVEGNA PHOTOGRAPHY

Case Conversations On Children In Research And Policy

This continuing seminar series fosters interdisciplinary discussions and relationships among Case faculty, students, staff, and members of the wider community interested in children and childhood. The Schubert Center is off to a good start with this year's offerings. In September, Drs. John Kennell and Susan McGrath spoke to a capacity audience about the history and success of doula-supported labor and delivery in the US. Kristen Brooks, a certified doula and nurse midwife also spoke about the policy implications of this important work.

In October, the Schubert Center co-hosted a panel discussion with the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development that focused on November election issues affecting children and families. Over 70 students, staff, faculty, and community members joined in discussing issues including county health and human services funding, early care and education, primary school funding, and minimum wage and taxes. The panel was moderated by Amy Nicholls Swanson, Executive Director of Voices for Children of Greater Cleveland. Panelists included: William Denihan, Chief Executive Officer of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board; Lori McClung, Senior Fellow and Associate Director of Policy, Planning, and Programs for the Center for Community Solutions; Zach Schiller, Research Director for Policy Matters Ohio; and Steve Steel, Director of Field Organization for the Ohio Fair Schools Campaign.

In November, Dr. Leslie Heinberg spoke to another capacity audience about the issues contributing to pediatric obesity and her experience with successful treatment plans. Ann Stahlheber, of Community Health Services of the Cuyahoga Country Board of Health added a discussion about the policy issues involved and other programs occurring locally to address childhood obesity.

SEE SEMINAR SERIES SCHEDULE ON BACK PAGE >

The Schubert Center for Child Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at Case Western Reserve University promotes multidisciplinary research on children and childhood. Our goal is to build and enhance connections among research, policy, and educational initiatives at the University and with the community. The Schubert Center's focus is on children and childhood from infancy through adolescence in local, national, and international contexts.

2006-07 seminar series CASE CONVERSATIONS ON CHILDREN IN RESEARCH AND POLICY

For further information about this series, please visit the Schubert Center for Child Studies website: www.case.edu/artsci/schubert

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

Doula Support: What's Good for Mother is Good for Baby

John H. Kennell, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics; Susan K. McGrath, Ph.D., Psychologist

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006

Election 2006: What's at Stake for Kids? A panel discussion of the election issues affecting children and youth

Co-sponsored with the Center on Urban Poverty & Community Development, MSASS

Moderator: Amy Nicholls Swanson, Executive Director, Voices for Children of Greater Cleveland

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2006

Fighting the Rising Tide of Pediatric Obesity

Leslie J. Heinberg, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Children with Psychiatric Problems: Achievements and Challenges of Pediatric Psychopharmacology Research

Robert L. Findling, M.D., Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Psychiatry

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007

Making a Little Go a Long Way: The Effects of Incentive Programs on Student Performance

Eric P. Bettinger, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007

Children's Health Policy

Participants to be announced

Jill E. Korbin, Ph.D. DIRECTOR | Molly Irwin, M.P.H. DIRECTOR, CHILD POLICY INITIATIVE | Eileen Anderson-Fye, Ed.D. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (on leave until Fall 2007) | Ann Anderson, M.Ed. ADMINISTRATOR | Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, M.S.W. CONSULTANT | Donald Freedheim, Ph.D. FOUNDING DIRECTOR | Susan J. Zull, The Write Solution EDITOR | Michelle McTygue DESIGN



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