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**Students Engage through  
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THE MANN ENDOWMENT FUND, ESTABLISHED BY ALUMNI SIBLINGS **CAROL MANN** (FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE, 1971) AND **ROBERT MANN** (WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE, 1973), HAS SUPPORTED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY SINCE THE EARLY 1990S.

HERE, WE HIGHLIGHT RECENT EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE MANN'S' GENEROSITY. THROUGH SEMESTER-LONG EXTERNSHIPS, POLICY-ORIENTED TRIPS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. AND COLUMBUS, OHIO, AND ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES, STUDENTS GAIN A PERSONALIZED VIEW OF THE WAYS IN WHICH RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY CONVERGE TO IMPACT THE LIVES AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

**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 sixth year and has placed more than a dozen students in externships throughout the local Cleveland community. *The following students completed externships in 2008 and 2009:*

Reem Asaad, a senior majoring in anthropology and international studies and minoring in childhood studies and English, worked as an extern with Voices for Ohio's Children. Focusing specifically on the organization's Juvenile Justice Initiative, Reem studied alternatives to incarceration for juveniles in Ohio. She learned about rehabilitation programs,

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# students and the childhood studies program

## Schubert Center Announces Sears-Swetland Externship at the Cleveland Botanical Garden

The Schubert Center was recently awarded a grant from the Sears-Swetland Family Foundation to establish a new undergraduate externship opportunity at the Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG). Modeled after the Mann Child Policy Externships, the Sears-Swetland Externship will be coordinated by Jill Korbin in consultation with the CBG's Director of Education, Geri Unger. John Ruhl (Physics), Director of the Sustainability Initiative, is also participating in the project.

The externship will be awarded to an advanced CWRU undergraduate who is interested in the relationship between research and policy as it relates to environmental education for children and youth. Externship supervisors will work with the student to develop a research project that is meaningful to the student's education and related to the Schubert Center, CBG, and the Sustainability Initiative.

In creating a mutually beneficial student position that fosters collaboration between CWRU and the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Schubert Center is furthering its mission of informing child-relevant practice and policy through research. It is our hope that this externship will become an annual position that can continue to provide community-based learning opportunities for our students.

### STUDENTS ON THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

(LEFT TO RIGHT) BRITTANY ENGLISH, MAUREEN NAGEL, TESSA TURNBAUGH, REEM ASAAD, KELLY KANYA, AND BRIANNA GLENN



## Experiential Learning in Washington, D.C.

In March 2009, students in Molly Irwin's "Experiential Learning in Child Policy" course (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.

Students Reem Asaad, Brittany English, Brianna Glenn, Kelly Kanya, Maureen Nagel, and Tessa Turnbaugh were accompanied by the Schubert Center's Molly Irwin, consultant Gayle Channing-Tenenbaum, and Jessica McRitchie.



### Brisky Fellowship Recipient Focuses on Access to Services for Children with Autism

The Brisky Fellowship, supported by the Cora Unger Brisky Endowment, is awarded by the Schubert Center to graduate students in psychology conducting dissertation research on child-related issues. The 2009-2010 recipient of the Brisky Fellowship is Sarah Cain Spannagel, a fifth-year graduate student in child clinical psychology.

As the current CWRU representative to the American Psychological Association's Advocacy Team and the former Advocacy Chair of the Ohio Psychological Association, Sarah is passionate about public policy as it affects families. She is particularly interested in mandates for "autism parity" that require insurance companies to cover diagnosis and treatment of autism and related disorders. Her project, *The Impact of Access to Services and Symptom Severity on Parenting Stress and Stress-Related Growth in Parents of Children with Autism*, highlights the ways in which disparities in health care access negatively impact family functioning and children's health outcomes.

## Schubert Center Associate Director Named Armington Chair

Elizabeth Short, Schubert Center Associate Director and professor of psychology, has been named the Armington Professor for 2009-2011. Established by Elizabeth and Raymond Armington, this endowed professorship honors a tenured faculty member whose professional activity and personal character display "individual initiative tempered with appropriate concern for the rights of others."



In addition to her involvement with the Schubert Center, Dr. Short teaches undergraduate and graduate courses, practices developmental and clinical psychology, and is an active researcher focusing on the cognitive and academic consequences of learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, language disabilities, and reading disabilities in preschoolers and school-aged children. Her collaborative work with Dr. Lynn Singer has explored the academic, attentional, and behavioral consequences of bronchopulmonary dysplasia and prenatal cocaine exposure.

Dr. Short joins a list of faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences who have held the distinguished Armington Professorship, including Jill Korbin (anthropology) and Schubert Center faculty associates Sandra Russ and Lee Thompson (psychology).



## Faculty Associate Receives Grant to Support Research on Social Networks During Substance Abuse Treatment

Elizabeth Tracy, Schubert Center faculty associate, co-convenor of the Child Studies Alliance, and chair of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences' doctoral program, has received a \$1.1 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to examine the role of personal social networks among women who are undergoing treatment for substance abuse. This three-year study will contribute to the development of social network interventions as a component of substance abuse treatment.

The quality and composition of an individual's social network (i.e., friends and family members who serve as role models for sobriety, versus those who facilitate continued substance use) are increasingly recognized as important factors in the rehabilitation process. It is also recognized that many women with substance dependence may be suffering from co-occurring mental illnesses such as depression or post-traumatic stress disorder—conditions that can make recovery even more difficult. By documenting the nature and evolution of the social networks of women with "dual disorders" as compared to those of women with substance dependence alone, Dr. Tracy and her colleagues aim to provide a more contextualized understanding of the types of support that women need as they progress through and beyond their treatment programs.

"We hope to find ways for social workers and other practitioners to help these women at different stages in their recovery," says Dr. Tracy. "Ultimately, we would like to help women emphasize their positive social contacts and avoid their negative ones."

## Conference Attendance in Denver

In April 2009, eight students in Dr. Elizabeth Short's "Child Psychology" course (PSCL 230) attended the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) in Denver, Colorado. Students were accompanied by Elizabeth Short, Jill Korbin, Molly Irwin, and Jessica McRitchie.

"The SRCD conference gave me great exposure to the world of child development," says Jack Brady, who attended the meeting along with Becca Berger, Anya Briggs, Cynthia Chu, David Lam, Beth Lute, Stephanie Onuoha, and Susannah Selnick. The conference provided the students with valuable professional experience: they were exposed to current research, observed best practices in how to present a paper, honed their networking skills, and were introduced to new research technologies.



PANELISTS FOR THE SCHUBERT CENTER'S APRIL 2009 RESEARCH SHOWCASE SESSION, "THE ECONOMY AND CHILD AND YOUTH WELL-BEING: CRITICAL ISSUES FOR RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY." (LEFT TO RIGHT) DAVID MILLER, ERICKA THOMS, JOE GAUTNER, AMY HANAUER, JAMES LALUMANDIER, MOLLY IRWIN, AND JILL KORBIN.

### CHILD STUDIES ALLIANCE FOSTERS MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DIALOGUE

The Child Studies Alliance, co-convened by Jill Korbin and Elizabeth Tracy (MSASS), was established as part of the University's strategic planning process. Membership in this group began with the Schubert Center Faculty Associates and has expanded to include more faculty members across campus.

The Alliance has been meeting to discuss opportunities for coordinating and facilitating child research across the University that is connected to the Cleveland community and that will enhance child well-being in multiple domains, including dental, physical and emotional health. All faculty and researchers working with children are welcome to join this group. For more information on becoming an Alliance member, contact Jessica McRitchie, or visit the Schubert Center website at [www.case.edu/artsci/schubert/](http://www.case.edu/artsci/schubert/).

## Students Engage Mann Child Policy Externships

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examined cost variations among the programs offered, and produced a policy brief comparing the costs of institutionalization and community-based rehabilitation. In addition, she had the opportunity to attend legislative meetings and see advocacy in action.

"This has been an extraordinary experience," Reem says. "I have been able to learn about the legislative process, and how legislation impacts people's lives. This externship has shown me that learning is ongoing and doesn't end when I leave the classroom." Reem is continuing her externship with Voices for Ohio's Children this fall. She hopes to pursue a career in law and ultimately run for public office.

A 2009 graduate with a double major in psychology and economics and a minor in childhood studies, **Gennifer Gibbs** has completed

two Mann Child Policy Externships—first with the Center for Community Solutions, and more recently with The Village Network. As an extern with The Village Network, Gennifer analyzed the history, implementation, and implications of the controversial Adam Walsh Act, which was designed to increase protection for children from sexual and other violent crimes. She created a policy brief, presentation, and talking points outlining the problematic aspects of the law, and proposed changes that would address these issues.

"There is no substitute for the experiential learning opportunities provided by the Mann Child Policy Externship," Gennifer says. "I not only learned firsthand about the policy-making process, but I also learned how I can

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### SCHUBERT CENTER GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

The Schubert Center welcomes two new graduate assistants to its staff. **Hillary Melchior**, who holds a B.A. in international studies and Germanic studies from Indiana University, is pursuing a master's in public health and a Ph.D. in anthropology at CWRU. Her research in psychological anthropology examines the culture and politics of identity as they relate to the high rates of depression among adolescent Turkish-German girls in Berlin.

**Aura Newlin**, also a Ph.D. student in anthropology, received her B.A. in ethnomusicology from the University of Wyoming and her M.A. in anthropology from CWRU. Her dissertation field research is in Papua New Guinea, where she will explore the intersections of research, policy, and practice within the new national malaria control campaign.

The Schubert Center also says goodbye to graduate assistants **Meghan Halley** and **Nadia El-Shaawari**, who are now conducting their doctoral fieldwork in anthropology. Meghan is in Tanzania studying the role of adolescent initiation rituals—and the new state policies that affect them—in shaping adolescent sexual behavior. Nadia is working with Iraqi refugees in Egypt, exploring the ways in which refugees' mental health is influenced both by the uncertainty of their displacement and by their interactions with the international institutions and policies that now govern their lives. The Schubert Center thanks Meghan and Nadia for their excellent work, and we wish them the best in their research.

## Hellos & Good Wishes DIRECTOR OF THE CHILD POLICY INITIATIVE



**MOLLY IRWIN**, Director of the Schubert Center Child Policy Initiative, was awarded a Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Executive Branch Policy Fellowship for the 2009-2010 year. This highly competitive and prestigious national award gives fellows the opportunity to apply research on child development to public policy in Washington, D.C.

Molly will be working in the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. As an Executive Branch Policy Fellow, she will provide advice and guidance to programs and work in partnership with research teams within the federal government. We look forward to welcoming Molly back to the Schubert Center after the completion of her fellowship, and we wish her well in this exciting development in her career.



The Schubert Center welcomes **GABRIELLA CELESTE**, who is stepping in as Interim Director of the Child Policy Initiative. For more than 20 years, Gabriella has devoted her career 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 pediatric AIDS programs in San Francisco.

After completing her Juris Doctorate at the University of Michigan Law School, Gabriella 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. Now back in her hometown of Cleveland, Gabriella has served as Director of Cuyahoga County's Office of Early Childhood and Director of the Alliance of Child Caring Service Providers. In this capacity, she has worked with partners at the county and state levels to improve policy and practice within various children's services.

## Students Engage through Experiential Learning CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

develop my skills to make a bigger difference in the future." Inspired by her experiences as a Mann Child Policy Extern, Jennifer plans to go to law school and pursue a career in policy.

**Caroline Sonnefeld**, a 2009 graduate with a double major in anthropology and economics, worked as an extern for Voices for Ohio's Children. Concentrating on the enrollment of children in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Caroline researched the underlying reasons for under-enrollment in these programs, reviewed successful enrollment campaigns elsewhere that might serve as models for Ohio, and helped to develop outreach strategies and training materials for improving enrollment in underserved communities.

Caroline notes that "the externship experience not only allowed me to work on an issue that I care about, but also helped me solidify my goal of working in the field of public health." She has applied to graduate schools to pursue a master's degree in public health.

In addition, three students completed Mann Child Policy Externships during the summer of 2009: **Megan Carl** and **Emily Garvey** worked with Voices for Ohio's Children, and **Kelly Kanya** worked with Social Advocates for Youth at Bellefaire JCB, a youth and family services organization. The three presented results of their externships on September 22 to launch the 2009-2010 series of Schubert Conversations on Children in Research and Policy.

## 2009-10 seminar series **SCHUBERT CONVERSATIONS ON CHILDREN IN RESEARCH AND POLICY**

The purpose of this seminar series is to bring together research, practice, and policy related to children and childhood. Seminars include a presentation by a Case Western Reserve University researcher as well as commentary from members of the practice and policy community. All seminars run from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm and take place at the 1914 Lounge in the Thwing Center on the CWRU campus. A light lunch is provided. For further information about this series, visit the Schubert Center website: [www.case.edu/artsci/schubert/](http://www.case.edu/artsci/schubert/).

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

**Student Experiences: Bridging Undergraduate Education and Child Policy** • Schubert Center Mann Child Policy Externs will discuss their 2009 Capstone/Externship experiences

Reem Asaad, Placement at Voices for Ohio's Children  
Emily Garvey, Placement at Voices for Ohio's Children  
Kelly Kanya, Placement at Social Advocates for Youth, Bellefaire JCB

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009

**The Impact of Foreclosures on Neighborhoods, Families, and Children**

Claudia Coulton, Ph.D., Lillian F. Harris Professor of Urban Research & Social Change; Associate Dean for Research and Training, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences; Co-Director, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009

**Preschool Assessment: Sensitivity to Individual Differences**

Elizabeth Short, Ph.D., Armington Professor, Department of Psychology; Associate Director, Schubert Center for Child Studies

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010

**Overview of Case Western Reserve University's National Children's Studies Center**

Dorr G. Dearborn, Ph.D. M.D., Mary Ann Swetland Professor; Chairman, Department of Environmental Health Sciences; Professor of Pediatrics

### TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010

**College Student Mental Health Issues**

Eileen Anderson-Fye, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

### TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010

**Hypertension in Children: Screening in the Cleveland Public Schools**

Marilyn Lotas, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Professor, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing; Associate Dean for the Undergraduate Program in Nursing

Jill E. Korbin, Ph.D. DIRECTOR | Jessica McRitchie ADMINISTRATOR | Elizabeth Short, Ph.D. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR | Gabriella Celeste, J.D. INTERIM DIRECTOR, CHILD POLICY INITIATIVE  
Molly Irwin, M.P.H. DIRECTOR, CHILD POLICY INITIATIVE | Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, M.S.W. CONSULTANT | Donald Freedheim, Ph.D. FOUNDING DIRECTOR | Hillary Melchior GRADUATE ASSISTANT



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