In This Issue

A Letter from Lynn .......... 1
Everything’s Coming Up Daisies ............... 2
Child Care Council ........... 3
Jazzin’ Benefit ............... 3
Honoring Rising Stars ....... 4

Our mission and vision:
We envision creating model programs and services, based on research and best practice, that are affordable, available and of the very highest quality.

Director’s Note

Each spring the Week of the Young Child is celebrated nationally. It’s a wonderful time to recognize the important role early childhood education plays in the lives of young children.

In a time when more children have two working parents or reside with a single parent, it is likely that a child’s days are spent in early childhood programs vs. the family backyard or local park. In my childhood neighborhood, we played outside from dawn to dusk, exploring the park, the playgrounds, the streams. We captured tadpoles and watched them grow into frogs. In winter, we ice-skated after school until bedtime; it was a rare day spent inside the house.

On campus, our programs are increasingly focused on outdoor play as it relates to curriculum. Debb Schaub (Eagle’s Wing) is developing a tall prairie grass area, which has been shown to calm anxious children. She is also increasing outdoor art activities to help children reconnect with nature.

Jackie Leckwee and Jill Riley (Preschool Lab) have been hard at work creating a plan for the playground at the new building (we currently call it the Daisy Project), which you’ll read more about inside. With increases in childhood obesity and special needs children—including those with sensory integration challenges—our programs are researching new ways to help children relate to the outdoors and develop valuable skills that translate into interpersonal skills. The outdoors provide great opportunities for creativity, problem solving, learning and, most importantly, play that doesn’t involve gadgets but things that can be found and explored instead. Our new logo is inspired by our commitment to nature and play-based learning; check it out in this issue.

Help celebrate Week of the Young Child by getting children outdoors: exploring with them, building and playing; or by celebrating with us as we plan for a new facility that just happens to include plans for a very green and nature-oriented playground.

Lynn Edlefson, Director
As an alumna, it’s exciting to see positive growth in any area of campus where you’ve developed fond memories.

Well, I’m not really an alum, but my two oldest children are. Ten years ago, they attended the UW Preschool Lab on Linden Drive.

While I entrusted my children’s care to the able hands and creative minds at the lab, I watched as my kids learned and grew and explored with vigor. They enjoyed the indoor curricu-

This fall, children from the Preschool Lab will move to what is fondly referred to as The Daisy Project. While the existing Preschool Lab undergoes extensive renovations, the kids will move into this newly remodeled, 4,800-foot center in the Eagle Heights neighborhood. The students will stay for two years, then move back into their “new and improved” space on Linden Drive.

At that time—Fall 2011—The Daisy Project will be available for a whole new crop of children. This is exciting for many reasons: There will be room for increased infant/toddler care, plus a parent co-op preschool with room to expand mixed-age classrooms or play-based 4-year-old kindergarten programming in 2011–2013.

As a former UW–Madison employee and Campus Child Care client, I know the importance of high-quality, affordable child care that’s close at hand. Knowing that my children were well cared for, I was happier and more productive in my job and reaped the benefits of having my children nearby—including the occasional shared lunch!

My kids are in elementary and middle school now, and I’ve left the university to open my own business. However, I’ve remained a supporter of Campus Child Care for many reasons.

**First, campus families need quality child care.**

About 100 families are waiting for infant care at any given time. In my experience, the greatest morale boost for university parents is the long-awaited opening for your infant and the relief that comes with knowing you’ll be able to work on your research, teaching, or other responsibilities while your baby receives high-quality care. Even though I’m past this dilemma, I recall the anxiety that accompanies a new parent’s doubt about whether they can, in fact, work and parent well.

**The university has resources to help student parents, but limited access for infant care.**

The Daisy Project will provide 24 new infant/ toddler slots to help student parents complete their degrees while their children are nurtured. Just last week, the Office of Child Care and Family Resources received a plea of help from a grad student’s advisor, concerned that he would lose her (and her talent) due to a lack of infant care. The Daisy Project will help reduce instances like this.

**Faculty who are recruited to campus are informed that UW–Madison offers child care. What they’re surprised to learn is how long they’ll have to wait to get in.**

UW–Madison’s master plan for child care development delineates infant care as a priority. More care equals more faculty who are focused, efficient and effective in their labs and classrooms.

**And finally, I’m a supporter because I believe children need adequate space to develop—physically and emotionally—and The Daisy Project provides this.**

The Daisy Project is located in an established neighborhood that’s filled with mature trees, abundant trails and a large outdoor play space.

Recent research on nature and kids is compelling. Time spent in nature has been shown to reduce stress, improve physical health, and stimulate creativity.

According to campus teachers, children who are engaged with nature are less impulsive and better able to handle peer relationships than when they lack these experiences. It makes sense; making real connections with nature translates into real connections with people, versus a life lived indoors in cramped quarters.

I hope you will join me in supporting these new child care initiatives on campus—especially The Daisy Project.

As a parent of Preschool Lab “grads,” I can testify that UW child care instruction is top notch, and soon they’ll have a new building and a whole lot of nature to back them up.
Child Care Council

The Child Care Council is a group of university colleagues who are committed to child care on campus. We meet twice a year with the UW Foundation. Last year, Alan Fish gave us an update on expanding infant and toddler care on campus. He told us about a proposal, supported by Paul Evans in Housing and Darrell Bazzell in the Vice Chancellor’s Office, to renovate one of the university housing buildings (#39) into a center that could accommodate approximately 24 infants and toddlers. We finally had a viable proposal with several positive benefits to this particular plan:

❖ It is located in one of the most beautiful areas of Madison, close to campus without traffic worries, and with outdoor space to spare.
❖ Parents can visit at lunch, a major consideration for nursing moms.

❖ Students can easily access the facility for service-learning and internship experiences, and research opportunities.
❖ Its size is perfect—small enough to provide a real sense of family but large enough to have efficiencies of scale in terms of management and staffing.
❖ Plus, this facility incorporates two existing programs into new space and expands capacity at the same time.

The council extends its whole-hearted support for this proposal and has taken steps to begin raising funds for the start-up costs. If we all work together, this can be a much-needed addition to our existing campus child care.

by Char Tortorice

Summer Institute: “It’s Only Natural”

Since 2003, the Office of Child Care and Family Resources has participated in a collaborative professional development activity for early education teachers called “Summer Institute.” To date, over 800 early education teachers in Madison and surrounding communities have benefitted from this advanced training.

Our partnership with the City of Madison Community Services Office plans a two-day, one-credit course—June 18–19 this year—with a focus on sustainability and creating environments for rediscovering nature’s way of teaching. Our keynote will be provided by Louise Cadwell, well known for innovation in early education. Cadwell believes in the power of young people’s innate understanding that all living things are interdependent and interconnected, helping to develop real world, authentic engagement with the environment.

If you would like more information on this year’s institute, please feel free to contact OCFR at (608) 890–0436.

Get Your Jazz On!

Most of you know that it’s the time of year I start reminding you about Jazzin’! This is the major fundraiser for UW-Madison child care programs. Please join us for our 12th year of fun with food and smooth jazz by the Jan Wheaton Quintet. The event will be held on Thursday, June 11 at the High Noon Saloon from 5–8:30 p.m.

A raffle and silent auction will again be part of the program, a fun event that benefits campus child care! If you are unable to join us, please check out the silent auction and bidding on our Web site in advance of the actual event date. For more information about the event or help with any accommodations, please call Jordan at (608) 890–0436 or visit ocffr.wisc.edu/jazzin.html.

By Connie Wilson

Child Care Council Members
Sandra Brown
Martha Casey
Maureen Dembski
Bernice Durand
Lynn Edlefson
Lori Kay
Pat Lasky
Lorraine Meisner
Cyrena Pondrom
Terri Reda
Louise Root Robbins
Mary Rouse
Kathy Sandefur
Susan Woods Sveum
Char Tortorice
Connie L. Wilson
Sue Zyhowski
12th Annual Jazzin’
Thursday, June 11
5–8:30 p.m.
High Noon Saloon
Madison, Wisconsin

Featuring music by the
Jan Wheaton Quintet, as well as a raffle and silent auction, food, and fun!

Rising Stars Honored at Jazzin’ on June 11!

How do you make a child care center happen? . . . With the help of your friendly campus administrators! Thanks to the support of Darrell Bazzell and Alan Fish, we’re planning for a newly renovated facility in 2011–2013.

Children are growing up in a rapidly changing world characterized by pressure to succeed in all areas . . . What’s the “secret” of campus child care? Our early education teachers! They strive to provide the best models for play-based early learning that preserves the wonder of discovery—and they love kids!

This year, we are proud to introduce eight of our “Rising Stars”—teachers who inspire children with rich early learning experiences while emphasizing cooperation, sharing, kindness, and community. They are Katie Goeser, Amanda Grefshiem, Stephanie Hook, Sharon Radbil Cooper, Kelly Quirt, Mollie Lamers, Heather Davis, and Krista Dignan.

Help us appreciate and congratulate these committed administrators and early education leaders whose creativity, commitment and energy continue to inspire our children and their families.