

The Children's Journal

News from Campus Child Care for parents, advocates and all who work to provide quality early care and education for children and their families.

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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.

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Message from Lynn



Happy fall! In this issue, you'll read about the new child care facility completed at #39 University Houses. The project, led by Angela Pakes Ahman, required hours of collaboration as the needs of Shorewood residents, Campus Child

Care, School of Human Ecology Preschool Lab, Division of University Housing, and housing residents were all considered. I think it's fair to say that Angela was a master at creating relationships to make all the moving pieces work and we are grateful for this lovely new facility.

You'll see the word "relationships" appear frequently throughout the newsletter. Relationships are the focus of our work in early care and education...by and between children and teachers, parents and children, parents and teachers...you get the picture. But none of these relationships are more important than the relationship a child has with his parents. You may have heard about the new Infant Mental Health Certificate Program developed on campus by Drs. Roseanne Clark and Linda Tuchman. This important program has a first-year enrollment of 40 Fellows with early intervention, early

education and clinical experience from all over the state, and—lucky me!—I'm among them. With "Early Relationships Matter" as the focus for our studies, we are learning from nationally known experts like T. Berry Brazelton, Winnie Dunn, Linda Gilkerson, Daniel Siegel and our own Richie Davidson. Additional colleagues from the Waisman Center are also participating and our rich experiences will only strengthen our relationships with the children and families that we serve.

Jen Dittrich-Templin from our staff received this brief note from a student parent a few months ago and it clearly speaks to the importance of relationships: "Hello, Jen. Thanks a lot. Sharing concerns with you makes me feel better and safe. Whenever I was frustrated as a mom and student at the same time, Child Care and Family Resources helped and saved me."

Our relationship with you, alumni, student parents, funders, faculty, staff and community is important to us because we create so many great things together that ultimately benefit the families in our community. On behalf of our staff, please know how very much we appreciate your ongoing interest in and commitment to our work.

Lynn Edlefson, Director

Staff Update



We say goodbye and THANK YOU to Sandra Brown, our UW Foundation liaison, who will be transferring to other duties with the School of Medicine and Public Health. Our new liaison is Dani Luckett (pictured), who will work with campus

child care and other student service units and programs. We are excited to work with Dani, who brings more than ten years of development experience to her new position at UW Foundation and

already has a great understanding of our operations and needs. Feel free to give Dani a call and introduce yourself! She can be reached at (608) 265-2713 or dani.luckett@supportuw.org.

We are proud to introduce new baby Nora Dittrich-Templin, daughter of our Parent Resource Specialist Jen Dittrich-Templin and partner Kris Templin. Nora was born on September 11 at 3 a.m. and she is *beautiful*! Jen will be on maternity leave through November. We plan on several office visits by Nora and her moms. Congratulations to Jen and Kris!



Chancellor Martin Actively Recruiting Next Generation at UW–Madison!

We appreciate your generous support!*

New Campus Child Care Initiatives

Professors Bernice & Loyal Durand

Ms. Lynn Edlefson

Evjue Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Terri J. Reda

Mr. Douglas N. Rose

Mr. Ken Rouse & Ms. Mary Rouse

Dean Gary D. Sandefur & Ms. Kathy Sandefur

Ms. Charlene E. Tortorice

Ms. Connie L. Wilson

Women in Philanthropy

Connie L. Wilson Child Care Center Fund

Ms. Lucy J. Mathiak

Mr. William J. Richner

Mr. John H. Torphy

Mr. & Mrs. William von Rohr

Ms. Connie L. Wilson

Classified Staff Child Care Grants

Professor Patricia A. Lasky

Mr. Gary D. Mitchell

*Donations received March 2010–September 2010

On September 14, 2010, an open house at the newly renovated child care center located at #39 University Houses hosted a group of campus and community teachers, parents, alumnus and leaders. Project Manager Angela Pakes-Ahlman highlighted the building’s history and the need for expanded child care on campus before introducing Chancellor Biddy Martin. Angela also cited the dual purpose of the facility to temporarily house the Preschool Lab while its new facility on Linden Drive is completed (fall 2012), then afterward accommodating expanded campus child care services.

Chancellor Martin thanked Angela, Darrell Bazzell and numerous staff involved in creating the much-needed facility. She spoke eloquently about the importance of quality care for our youngest, especially at this very uncertain time in our history. Chancellor Martin received nods of approval from all in attendance for her acknowledgement of the

importance of early care and education as a resource for faculty, staff and student parents, and for highlighting the positive impact campus child care creates on student parent graduation rates. The real highlight of the event came when Chancellor Martin engaged several of our younger scholars in cutting the ribbon to the new facility (pictured below).

We thank all who attended and have supported this center. Special thanks to the Preschool Lab teachers who provided tours of the facility, to architect Kate Edwards who came from Milwaukee to see her vision a reality, and to Professor Cyrena Pondrom for sharing with the group that she lived in #39 in the 1960’s!

If you were unable to attend but would like a tour of the facility or a copy of the natural playground plan, please e-mail Connie L. Wilson at clwilson@wisc.edu and we will make it happen.



Our Playground Vision for Building #39

Even first lady Michelle Obama has joined the national conversation about the disconnect between children and nature. Convergent trends including intensified awareness of the relationship between human well-being, the ability to learn, and environmental health; concern about child obesity; and media attention to nature-deficit disorder—are encouraging all of us to rethink how and when children play outdoors.

Although Chancellor Martin cut the ribbon at the front of the facility, the playground is still in need of a good amount of help! Our new tree-lined play space at #39 University Houses (facing the community gardens) allows us to create a “nature playground” that provides children with less plastic, more active learning with a lot of physical activity and a focus on relationships with one another and with the outdoors. We want to re-create the kind of outdoor play that many of us remember but few of our children relate to as their child care playgrounds have been overtaken with a variety of molded plastic forms. As Richard Louv states, “no one among us wants to be a member of the

last generation to pass on to our children the joy of playing outside in nature.”

We’ve been meeting with the staff at the new facility, parent and Associate Professor Beth Larson (Kinesiology), Dan Watts, our great “playhouse builder” and Gerry Slater (Milwaukee expert in natural playscapes), to develop the space with lots of nature activities that encourage inquiry, movement, science and learning within outdoor classrooms.

If you are interested in helping us develop this nature play space, please contact us! Or, if you have community contacts for building volunteers, builders/contractors or can help with fundraising, please let us know.

We are grateful to the Evjue Foundation and the UW Child Care Council who have generously contributed to the playground fund to get our project started.

Thank you for your interest and support!



It's All about Relationships for Friend Joan Pulver



One of our supporters, Joan Pulver, told me that she's "led a charmed life." By this, she explains that she had a happy childhood; had a rich married life (nearly 50 years!) with her husband, Glen Pulver (former Dean of UW Extension who passed away in 2000); has two great daughters, Julie and Jodi, and grandchildren; and friends around the world from Boston to Brazil. She is full of stories about relationships and how both she and Glen spent a lifetime bringing people together. These mutual beliefs in caring for one another, helping others, and love of children sparked her interest in supporting campus child care initiatives. But, there's more....

The Pulvers started their family here at UW–Madison in 1956 within #39 (Unit F) in University Houses, when their daughter Julie was only a year old. "In those days," tells Joan, "faculty lived in the apartments and there were no (child care) services for graduate students."

Boy, how things have changed. Today, building #39 where the Pulvers once lived has been renovated

to accommodate early care and education for 60 children, including infants, and is one of the eight centers that serve campus families. On a recent tour, Joan was able to see that her old apartment number is still preserved within one of the center's entrance doors!

Joan is deeply connected to UW–Madison. She talks proudly about the important contributions of her husband and the many graduate student and faculty friends they made over the years. Joan states that she appreciates the creative inquiry curriculum for children's early learning in our campus children's centers *within the context of the child's relationships* with peers, family and teachers. And, like many, she is concerned that technology is replacing children's outdoor, active, creative play, thus her support for the natural playground at #39.

If you know Joan, you are fortunate. At nearly 80 years of age, she is an active world traveler, loves to dance and possesses a profoundly positive attitude. Joan believes in the power of relationships, community and learning...all essential in early childhood education. Thank you, Joan, for your support!

Development Updates

You likely know me as the individual who organized the annual Jazzin' fundraiser, but I also work with the UW Foundation in developing our four campus child care accounts. Many of you may not realize that 100% of your private contributions provide direct support to our programs and services. **100%!** Our four private accounts allow us to be responsive to the many unique needs and situations that arise for UW parents and their children. In short, you are responsible for refining the supportive climate that brings and retains so many families to our campus.

All gifts of any size make a difference. Personal checks, payroll deductions or credit card donations via our website (<http://occf.wisc.edu/giving/giving.htm>) can all be accommodated and are greatly appreciated.

For more information about any of our funds or how you can help support campus child care initiatives, please email Connie Wilson at clwilson@wisc.edu.

Jazzin' Highlights

Jazzin' 2010 moved back to campus last June and hosted the largest crowd ever. Retiring teachers Rita Kehl and Heather Watts were honored at the Memorial Union event that raised \$10,748.62 for campus child care.

Additional recognition went to Ms. Gertrude B. Wilson, our "96-year young" volunteer extraordinaire, who received a well deserved Special Achievement Award for her long and outstanding support to UW–Madison campus child care programs. A truly amazing woman who always enjoys coming to Jazzin', Gert was escorted by daughters Connie and Sally. Not a dry eye was in the house as Gert received a standing ovation as award presenter Lucy Mathiak stated, "It usually takes a village to raise a child, unless you are Gert, with her multi-tasking skills and talents."

A special thanks to all the event patrons who we enjoy seeing each year; to staff



L to R: Andrew Stabler, UW student, Honoree Gert Wilson, and UW Letters & Science Assistant Dean Lucy Mathiak

Connie L. Wilson, Jen Dittrich-Templin, Jordan Hanson and Annette Montgomery; to emcee Laura Shere; and to the many individuals, departments and organizations on campus and in the community who made the event a success. We look forward to seeing you next year!



Jazzin' 2010 Sales Leaders



[L to R: Eden Inoway-Ronnie, Steve Lund and Mo Noonan Bischof]

Bascom administrators, Eden Inoway-Ronnie, Steve Lund and Mo Noonan Bischof, led the pack for the second year in a row for TOP Jazzin' sales. The inclusion of Inoway-Ronnie pushed them over the top (!) for an all-time record of \$625 in raffle sales...Will the Division of Student Life be able to overtake these three in 2011?



[L to R: Barbara Lafferty, McBurney Disability Resource Center; Laurie Cox, International Student Services; Lisa Aarli, Associated Students of Madison; and Tonya Schmidt, Student Assistance and Judicial Affairs]

Members of the Division of Student Life “pulled” together to make a difference on raising money at this year’s Jazzin’ event. Next year’s goal is to pass the Inoway-Ronnie/Lund/Bischof leaders! We shall see....