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SPRING 2016

Woodward Childcare Consortium Expands Goals

The Kresge Foundation granted an additional \$160,000 to a Wayne State initiative to provide resources and professional development to neighborhood childcare centers. The Woodward Corridor Early Childhood Consortium was formed in 2010 by MPSI and the College of Education in response to the needs of nearby childcare providers. It currently has 23 preschools, childcare centers and community partners as members, serving more than 2,000 children birth to 5.

A \$246,000 Kresge Foundation grant in 2011 helped underwrite the development of the Consortium, currently led by Anna Miller, executive director of WSU's Early Childhood Centers and lecturer in the College of Education; Beverly Weathington, LMSW, coordinator of MPSI's Healthier Urban Families Outreach Program, and co-coordinated by MPSI's Director of Training Hilary Ratner, Ph.D.

“We all want to provide the best learning environment for as many children as possible”
– Dr. Ratner



What started as a response to the needs of a few Midtown Detroit childcare centers now impacts a broad range of care and education for young children. The Consortium provides free annual professional development conferences for all members, as well as individualized coaching for center directors. The next phase will increase on-site resources, create a data registry of families and teachers, and launch an interactive website, as it moves toward expanding the model.

The over-arching goal of the Consortium is to build community among centers.

“Directors say the programs let them share and network. They get to move beyond their individual centers to find solutions and grow,” said Dr. Ratner. “Many of these directors felt isolated. The Consortium provides connections and support.”

The interactions in which learning occurs are not static, said Dr. Ratner. Successful preschools prepare children for kindergarten, not just by teaching content but by strengthening the emotional and social skills children need to focus and fit into a group. “The kind of support a center requires to achieve this will vary,” she said. “We are sensitive to those differences

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Preschool AstroTots Lift Off on Project Night

The classroom was a hive of little astronauts and beaming parents. Proudly strutting about in orange jumpsuits adorned with NASA patches and oxygen tanks made of two-liter soda bottles, the preschoolers shared all they'd learned about outer space. “Those are planets,” a four-year-old girl explained, pointing to the *papier mache* balls hanging from the ceiling. “We live on a planet. It's called Earth.” Her friend piped in, “We all go around the sun.”

MPSI's Early Childhood Center (located on Earth) was a colorful, energy-fueled destination on Project Night, its first open house where families could interact with the many topics their children investigated throughout



Jamie Karagatsoulis, Director, MPSI Early Childhood Center, nature gazes with ECC preschooler during open house.

the year. More than 100 people attended, included many younger siblings who will one day attend the school. The happy crowd toured outer space, viewed handmade rocket

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photo by Alexander Vertikoff

Historic Preservation Lifetime Achievement Award

Freer House Executive Director William Colburn received the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's (MHPN) 2016 Lifetime Achievement award at a statewide awards conference in May. The prestigious honor recognizes those who,

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Lifespan Alliance Research Day, a chance for students from MPSI and the Institute of Gerontology to explain their work and compete for prizes, attracted dozens of interested visitors from across Wayne's campus. Judges faced a tough deliberation over a talented field in both oral and poster presentations. MPSI's winners: **Bryan Victor** (above left with board member Sue Madro) won Best Graduate Student Podium Presentation for *Coercive Sexting and Sexual Coercion among Adolescent Dating Partners*. **Laura Crespo** (above right presenting poster) won Best Graduate Student Poster for *Maternal Emotion Regulation and Children's Behavior Problems: The Mediating Role of Child Emotion Regulation Style*. Well done to all our trainees and undergraduate assistants.

Contemplate This – **Laurel Hicks**, a 2nd year trainee, was selected as a research fellow at the Mind and Life Institute in New York. She will discuss *People, Place, and Practice: Putting Contemplative Studies into Context*. The Institute is well-regarded and fellowships are highly competitive. "I'm hoping some great mentorship comes out of this," she said.



High Honor for Child Researcher – Affiliate faculty member **Chris Trentacosta** (Department of Psychology) won a prestigious Early Career Award from the American Psychological Association. The award recognizes members who have made significant contributions that benefit the psychological functioning or well-being of children, youth and families. Dr. Trentacosta researches emotional competence and self-regulation in parents and young children, especially a child's adjustment to school and risk of behavior problems.



The Best Offense is a Good Defense – MPSI Fellow **Hilary Marusak** added a PhD to her name after successfully defending her dissertation this spring. She presented to a packed auditorium of colleagues from many Wayne State schools and departments. Dr. Marusak studied translational neuroscience in SCANlab under mentor Dr. Moriah Thomason, with special interest in the neurobiological underpinnings of emotion regulation. Other recent honors include an oral presentation at the Society of Biological Psychiatry's annual meeting, and selection as a postdoctoral fellow at the American Cancer Society.

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through personal effort and involvement in historic preservation, have made a significant contribution to preserving Michigan's heritage.

"I am humbled and honored to be given this award," Colburn said. "I am just one of the many people who worked to lay the groundwork for the revitalization of Midtown, through historic preservation activism."

Colburn began working in historic preservation at age 21 as a buildings surveyor with the Detroit Urban Conservation Project. He joined the Preservation Wayne organization and soon rose to a leadership role as chairman and then founding executive director. During his 20 years with Preservation Wayne (now Preservation Detroit), Colburn transformed the WSU student organization into

Detroit's first full-time, citywide, nonprofit preservation organization.

Under Colburn, Preservation Wayne halted the demolition and restored the Mackenzie House, home of WSU's founder and first dean; spearheaded a 30-year effort to preserve and revitalize the E. Ferry Avenue Historic District; and completed the first comprehensive surveys of historic buildings on the WSU campus and surrounding community. This resulted in the inclusion of more than 20 buildings and three historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places. The group also conducted preservation workshops, tours, and research, and wrote publications. Preservation Wayne was the first organization in Detroit to receive a Preservation Honor award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"The 1970s to 1990s was an era when

many older and historic buildings on the WSU campus and surrounding neighborhoods were threatened with demolition and neglect," Colburn said. "The work of Preservation Wayne, together with other key individuals and organizations, helped to shift the WSU and Midtown area from clearance to preservation and restoration."

The Freer House, built in 1892, is ranked as one of the most important historic buildings in Michigan. Under Colburn, *giclee* reproductions were created of several paintings Charles Lang Freer had commissioned for the home; a highly popular series of educational events is held each year in partnership with the DIA; and the Freer House has tripled its membership. The home's gardens are currently being re-designed to better reflect Freer's vision, and a second floor gallery is under renovation.



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ships, played in a control center, studied worms in the compost pile, learned about dog breeds and marveled at the vegetable garden.

"I love it here," said Vivian Tawile, mom to 5-year-old Nabil. "It's amazing. Ms. Brown (Nabil's lead teacher), the student teachers, the classrooms, everything is amazing. I never knew these kinds of achievements were possible in preschool. So impressive." Nabil spent three years at the ECC and goes on to kindergarten this fall as his younger brother starts at the ECC.

Frank and Jodi Donner's daughter, Adele, will also matriculate to kindergarten as her 3-year-old sister joins the ECC three days a week. Adele's teacher made a special sign-in for little sis earlier this year to help her begin to feel comfortable in the classroom. "It's been a wonderful experience," Frank said. He would know; he and his wife are early childhood educators. "This ECC teaches children the way we think it ought to be done. The curriculum is presented by skilled and loving teachers who guide the students based on student curiosity and interest."

In February, the Center was awarded another five years of accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. NAEYC requires compliance with more than 450 criteria and meticulously accesses curriculum, staff, safety and the physical space. "The accreditation process takes time and effort," said MPSI's ECC Direc-

tor Jamie Karagatsoulis, "but it insures that we are offering the highest quality educational experience to each of our students."

Adele's father agrees. "We like that the curriculum is play-based, with no sacrifice of rigor," Frank said. "You don't need to be doing SAT prep with young children to get an excellent, developmentally appropriate education."

Sometimes that includes worms. The ECC is special to many parents because it encourages parental involvement. Frank and his wife are avid gardeners, so he helped set up a plant grow box with lights, and a worm compost heap. "I appreciate these real opportuni-

*Clockwise from left:
A thumbs-up for launch
from an ECC astronaut
with her rocketship;
discovering treasures like
worms and grubs in
the compost bin; little
gardeners describe how
new leaves form.*

ties to be involved in the learning community here," Frank said. "It's important to my wife and I that we are engaged as a family."

Five-year-old Aubrey runs excitedly around the outdoor courtyard, talking about her favorite places. "We worked hard on this project," she says pointing to the compost pile. "We found grubs and worms. I found a whole fat one in the dirt!"

Mom Andrea laughs at her daughter's excitement. "She's a little nervous," she said about the transition this fall to kindergarten. "I'm nervous, too."

Aubrey's been an ECC student since she was 2 ½. They live around the corner and walk or bike to school. "It was so easy and good," Andrea adds. "But change is part of life, isn't it? Aubrey is attached to the school, the teachers, the friends, and that's good. But she's also so ready for whatever comes next." That foundation is exactly what a successful preschool experience should provide. You don't have to be an astronaut to aim for the stars.

Giant Step Unites Diverse Teens; Returns to Campus

We're back! The Giant Step Teen Conference returns to Wayne's campus after a three-year hiatus during renovations to the student center. Giant Step helps all teens get to know each other and see what they have in common. This free event, in its 33rd year, is the longest running conference of its type in Michigan, and possibly in the United States. About 300 ninth and tenth graders from across southeast Michigan are expected to attend.

Giant Step now offers CE credits for counselors and educators who chaperone the students. "We know how busy these professionals are," Coordinator Cheryl Deep said. "We offer the credits while the teens are in discussion. It's been quite a success."

Students come from a wide range of neighborhoods, cultures, ethnicities, schools and incomes. "They sit in small groups with teens they've never met before," said Cheryl. "And they start the day looking very uncomfortable." A trained facilitator fosters discussion on topics like bullying, social status, and future plans. By the afternoon, prejudice and bias start to vanish. "The morning's wary teenager has a new attitude and a table of new friends," she said.



Earn while your students learn!
Counselors, Educators & Social Workers can attend our professional development workshop and earn **CEs** and **SCECHs**

QUESTIONS? Contact conference coordinator Cheryl Deep at cheryldeep@wayne.edu

Giant Step, Oct. 25, 8:30 am – 1 pm Wayne State Student Center



Giant Step is pleased to announce PNC Bank as this year's exclusive lunch sponsor

"Beneath culture, zip code, religion, and skin color – teens have many life issues in common," said Dr. Peter Lichtenberg, director of

MPSI, the host of Giant Step. "If we remember the similarities, we erase the distrust and potential hostility."

Giant Step is free to all students!



Donations are the backbone of our organization. If you believe in what we do and would like to help sponsor Giant Step, please complete the below form. Let's Take a Giant Step together toward *Inclusion, Harmony and Acceptance*.

- \$50 each to Sponsor-a-Teen for a total of \$_____
- Sponsor a Table-of-Teens for \$350

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Freer's "Points of Contact" with Korea

Charles Lang Freer's interest in "points of contact" between Asian and Western art provides the Freer House with a rich vein of topics to explore for its lecture series. Freer's interest in Asian cultures also provides opportunities to partner with a wealth of diverse communities in metro Detroit as we build our audiences and programs. Through this, the Freer House has created unique events focusing on Freer and Japan, China, Egypt and India. The Spring 2016 Lecture highlighted Freer's great interest in Korean art and ceramics.

With active and dedicated leadership provided by David Roden, Honorary Consul General of Korea in Michigan, the Freer House secured a wonderful group of community based sponsors and invited Louise Allison Cort to speak on, *Charles Lang Freer and the Discovery of Korean Ceramics*. Ms. Cort is curator of Ceramics, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian. Her DIA lecture, in partnership with the Friends of Asian Arts and Cultures, was preceded by a special Korean style luncheon at the Freer House, catered by Wasabi restaurant in Midtown, for sponsors and special guests.

A post lecture reception, open to Freer House members and the general public, hosted 75 visitors with guided tours of the house, and a photo exhibit of Freer's prized

ceramics and works of Korean art.

In addition to Mr. Roden, 'Freer and Korean Art' co-sponsors included: the Consulate of Korea in Chicago; Mr. & Mrs. David T. Provost (chairman and CEO, Talmer Bank and Trust); Timothy and Jeannie Ha, (managing director, Talmer Bank and Trust); Jeremy and Jiyong Lee; and Drs. Todd and Sook Wilkinson. Guests included Myeoung Hyun Lee and Julius Gyu Hwang of the Korean American Community of metro Detroit, and Do-Hee Morsman, administrator of U-M's NAM Center for Korean Studies.



ABOVE ART: Ewer, Goryeo period, Stoneware, celadon glaze. Korea, Jeolla-do province. Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution.

GROUP (left to right): David T. Provost, Christine Provost, Timothy Ha, Jeannie Ha, Jeremy Lee, Jiyoung Lee, Betty Roden, David Roden, Sook Wilkinson, PhD, Todd Wilkinson, MD, Da Som Jeong



photo Rick Bielaczyc

BELOW: William Colburn shares Freer House decorative paint treatment research with Freer Sackler member group



Freer and Sackler Gallery Makes First Group Visit to Detroit

For the first time, the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C., sponsored about a dozen members and donors to visit Detroit. Their four-day stay coincided with Louise Allison Cort's lecture on *Freer and Korean Ceramics* at the DIA. The group also saw Cranbrook, two local private collections of Asian art, and toured the Freer and Hecker Houses, the DIA, Pewabic Pottery, and the U-M Museum of Art. For many, it was a first opportunity to explore the Detroit history and legacy of their museum's founder, Charles Lang Freer, and to have an in-depth exploration of the Freer House, coined by Dr. Thomas W. Brunk as "the original Freer Gallery of Art." Whitney Kellaher, Freer/Sackler Gallery membership coordinator, praised the "fantastic trip to Detroit." Louise Cort said the group left feeling, "thrilled and inspired" by the historical connections and present-day partnership between D.C.'s Freer Gallery of Art and Detroit's Freer House.

The Freer House thanks the following for hosting our guests: Ken Gross and Gerhart Knodel; Greg Witkopp, Cranbrook; Birgitta Augustin and Ken Myers, DIA; Steve McBride, Pewabic Pottery; and David Weinberg and Nancy Hauri.



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The Freer House
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and tailor our support to meet the need.” Ultimately, Dr. Ratner would like to see a Community of Practice emerge in which the fragmented resources from child care centers, teachers, families, and community organizations coalesce into a strong neighborhood system of support for young children.

Bev Weathington agrees. She is a “change agent” for the consortium, supporting change among directors, teachers, staff and parents. She and Dr. Ratner interview directors regularly to assess attitudes toward the Consortium; Bev also coaches interested directors on ways to deepen parent engagement.

Engaging Parents and Teachers

“We meet them where they are,” Bev said, “literally and figuratively.” Coaching occurs on-site at the centers and reflects individual concerns. “We address parent engagement on a deep level, not just increasing attendance at the parent-teacher conferences. We try to integrate the parents and make them part of the school, working collaboratively. Teachers want parents to be invested in

their child’s education. We discuss how to create an atmosphere where parents are a welcomed part of their child’s academic and socio-emotional learning experience.”

Bev concedes that time is always an issue with working parents, so during on-site coaching, she works with the director on creative options. Maybe parents stop in the classroom for an hour before pick-up, make calls at home, or connect through the computer. “Children take great pride in having their parents understand what they do. Teachers take pride in providing an enriching learning environment,” Bev said. Engaging parents and involving them in the process is a logical extension. “It enriches everything.”

Quality Counts

Executive Director Miller is on the faculty at the College of Education and has worked with young children and their families in the Detroit area for more than 30 years. She conducts upwards of 10 professional development trainings each year and is highly sought after for her expertise in early childhood. “The Consortium is an opportunity to bring more evidence-based teaching strategies into preschool classrooms,” she said. “We will

also invite Consortium members to visit our own Early Childhood Centers to see how we implement best practices.”

Both Wayne centers are accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), two of only four in Detroit to meet all the criteria. The Wayne centers are also two of only four in Detroit to garner the highest 5-star rating in the government’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). “The Consortium supports center directors in working toward implementing best practices in their programs,” Anna said. “High quality early childhood care and education programs provide children experiences and ‘tools’ to go to school ready to learn.”

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