

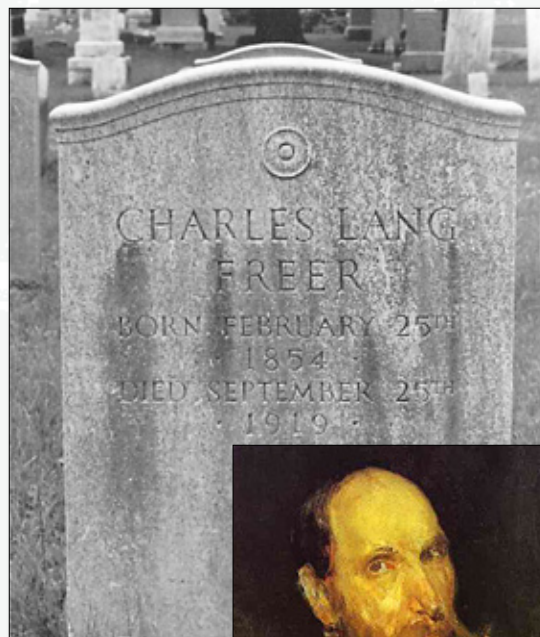


Timeline
*Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute
for Child & Family Development*



1916

Lizzie Merrill Palmer, wife of Senator Thomas Palmer, dies leaving \$3 million to establish an endowment for a school to train young women for the “functions and service of wifehood and motherhood and the management, supervision, direction and inspiration of homes.” Two years later, the Merrill Palmer Corporation is founded to carry out the terms of the will.



1919

Wealthy industrialist and art collector Charles L. Freer dies and his Detroit home is put up for sale. The Merrill Palmer Corporation purchases the Freer House for the Merrill Palmer School.



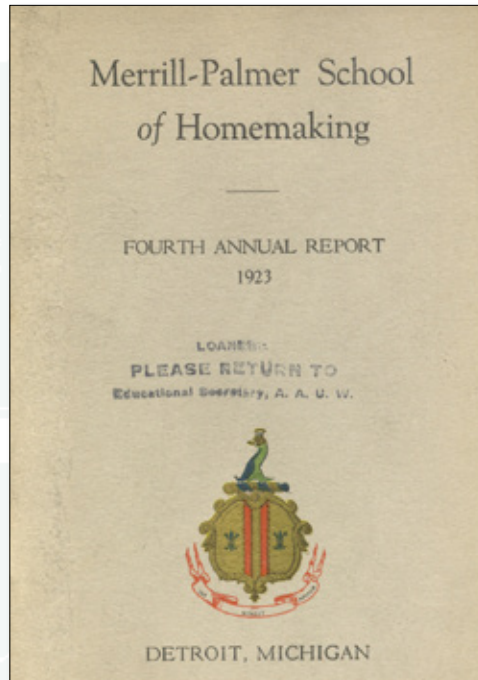
1920

Edna Noble White, dean of the College of Home Economics at Ohio State University, becomes the first director of the Merrill Palmer School for Motherhood and Homemaking. She identifies interdisciplinary study and direct engagement with children and families as foundational principles which guide the institution for the next century. Merrill Palmer researches malnutrition in young children due to World War I food shortages.



1922

Merrill Palmer opens the second nursery school in the United States to demonstrate the importance of studying and working directly with young children.



1923

The school begins a cooperative research project with Children's Hospital to investigate nutrition during pregnancy and early infancy.

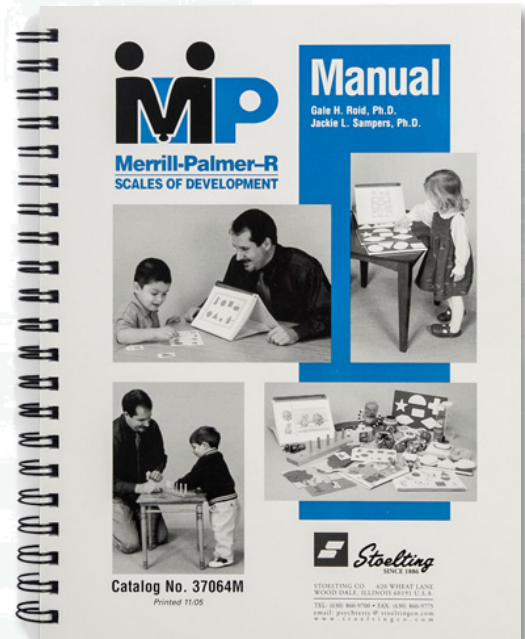
1924

Merrill Palmer School establishes one of the first community child guidance clinics in the country.



1929

Created rating scales for personality development and attitudes in young children. Versions of these scales are still used today.



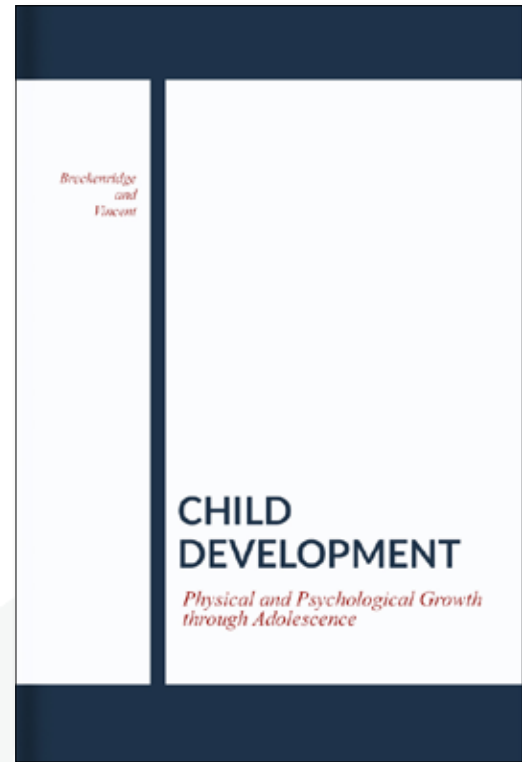
1931

Publishes the results of an eight-year research project on *The Measurement of Intelligence of the Preschool Child*.



1939

The Merrill Palmer School admits its first African-American student to the adult training program.



1943

The school publishes the landmark book, *Child Development: Physical and Psychological Growth through Adolescence*.



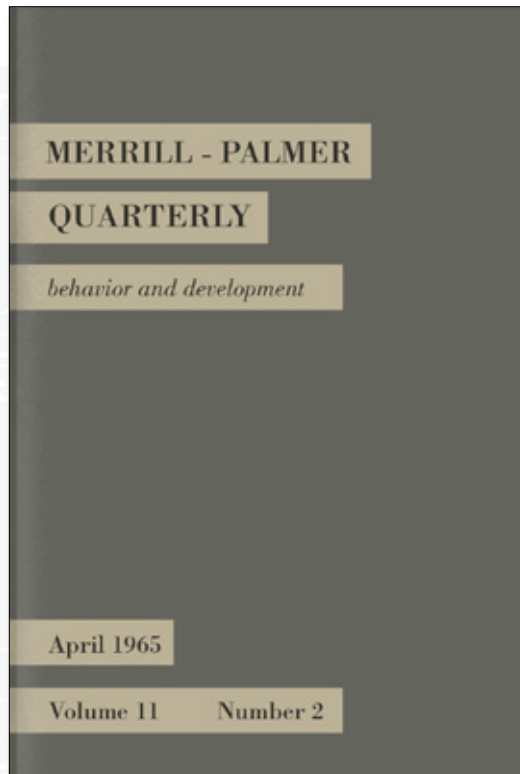
1945

First African-American child admitted to the nursery school program.



1949

Pauline Wilson Knapp teaches the first course on adulthood and aging. Three years later she is named director the Merrill Palmer School. The building adjacent to the Freer House that now houses the preschool and the Institute of Gerontology is named after her.



Portrait of Mrs. Rose Skillman.

1954

The Merrill-Palmer Quarterly commences publication with articles on Edna Noble White, aging scope and perspectives, and counselor training included in the first issue. *The Quarterly* becomes one of the most respected journals in the area of developmental science and is still published today.

1963

A large gift is received from Mrs. Rose Skillman and the Skillman Foundation to erect a new community-based building for the education and support of children and families. The Rose P. Skillman Center opens its doors to the community in 1965.



1964

Merrill Palmer plays a key role in developing philosophy and national standards for the Head Start program.



1981

Now called the Merrill-Palmer Institute (MPI), it becomes part of Wayne State University and continues emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches to child and family development, early childhood education, and community engagement, consistent with the university's urban mission.



1982

Professor Eli Saltz of the Department of Psychology is named MPI director, and professor Carolyn Shantz, Department of Psychology, becomes editor of the *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*.

1991

The Skillman Foundation provides a \$2.5 grant to create the Skillman Center for Children, co-directed by the Merrill-Palmer Institute. MPI hosts the "The Hundred Languages of Children" exhibit and conference on the innovative Reggio Emilia project and play-based approach to early childhood education.



\$850,000 ENDOWMENT

1994

MPI hosts the National Seminar Series with renowned author and pediatrician T. Barry Brazelton.

1995

The 75th Anniversary of MPI is celebrated with a Van Dusen fund-raising match that collects \$850,000 for an endowment.



2005

The Skillman Center for Children is integrated into Merrill-Palmer. The name of the institute is changed to the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child & Family Development (MPSI) to emphasize the commitment to community outreach.



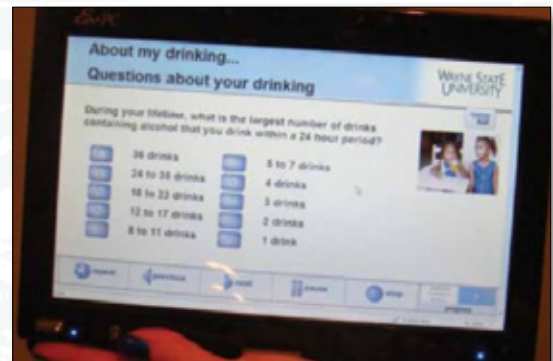
2008

Peter Lichtenberg is named as director of both MPSI and the Institute of Gerontology, creating a Lifespan Alliance developmental science campus at Wayne State University.



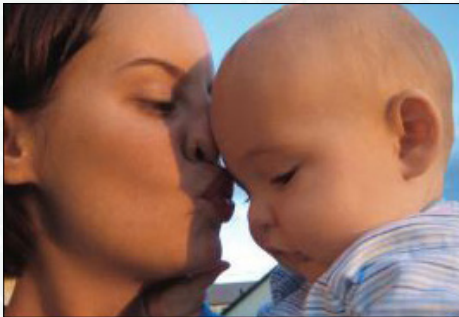
2011

The Early Childhood Center at MPSI is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), reserved for only the most highly qualified preschools that meet or exceed more than 400 separate criteria in staffing, curriculum, physical environment, and parent, child and school relationships.



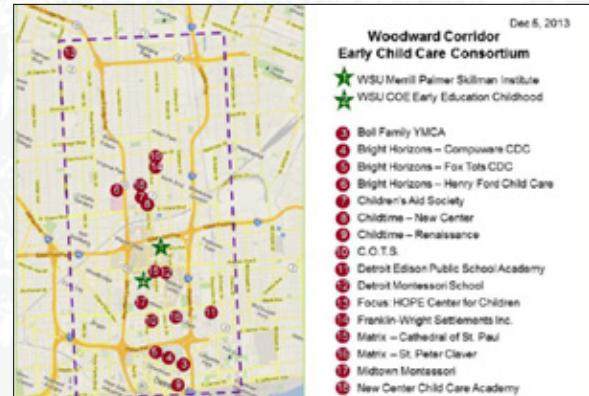
2011

The National Institutes of Health awards \$1.7 million to MPSI faculty member Steven Ondersma to test a new approach to reducing substance abuse in pregnant women through the use of low-cost computer-based interventions.



2012

MPSI's Infant Mental Health program launches the nation's first dual-title degree program to allow Wayne State University's graduate students in nursing, social work and education to learn about infant mental health and to conduct research and clinical work.



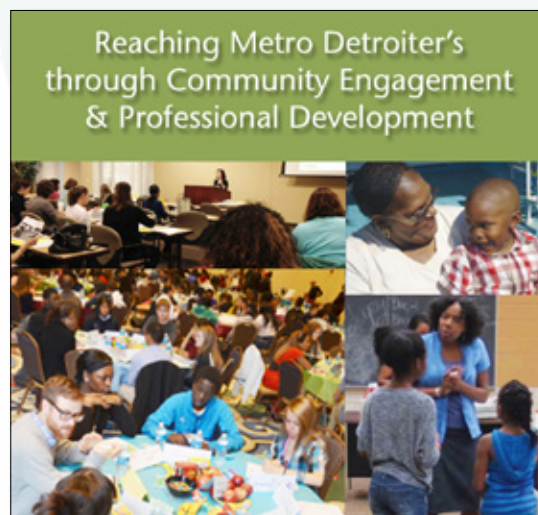
2012

A Kresge Foundation grant expands the Woodward Corridor Early Childhood Consortium, founded by MPSI and the College of Education to assist nearby preschools and childcare centers in sharing best practices and improving quality.



2013

The annual Giant Step Teen Conference (hosted by MPSI) observes its 30th anniversary of uniting teens from diverse Detroit neighborhoods so they can understand and respect each other. Nearly 6,000 teens have participated since 1983. "We enter as strangers and exit as friends."



2014

MPSI's community program reaches 8,000 people in metro Detroit with trainings on child and family issues for parents, educators and children.



For information on supporting the work of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, contact:

Kelly Cronin
Major Gifts Officer

313-664-2608
kellycronin@wayne.edu