



Children's Studies Program and Center

March 11, 2010

Brooklyn College of the City University of New York

Contact: Professor Gertrud Lenzer, Director (718) 951-3192

glenzer@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Children's Studies News Release

Children's Studies Welcomes Professional Leaders and Models In Careers with and For Children and Youth as Guest Lecturers For the New Children's Studies Major Capstone Course

Throughout the Spring 2010 semester the Children Studies capstone course, *Children's Studies 91: Professional Perspectives and Children's Studies*, will be the platform for distinguished and honored guest speakers.

This required capstone course is offered for the first time as a part of the requirements for completion of the new Children's Studies Bachelor of Arts degree program introduced in the Fall 2009 semester and offers an in-depth examination of careers in child-related professions and occupations by sectors, institutions and public and private agencies. Specific career areas relating to children and young people include arts, child services, pediatrics, public health, children's literature and media, education, and law. The course is a seminar focusing on research-based issues relating to professional practice, policy, and advocacy combined with distinguished speakers. The CS 91 course is co-taught by Gertrud Lenzer, Founding Director of the Children's Studies Program and Center and Professor of Sociology and Children's Studies, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, and Joseph Grochowalski, Substitute Instructor and Senior Research Associate in the Children's Studies Program and Center.

In the tradition of pioneering work in this field, Professor Lenzer, who founded the first interdisciplinary liberal arts Children's Studies program in the nation in 1991, has carefully designed this cutting edge approach to pedagogical and curricular development that brings the curriculum out of the classroom and extends it into the real world application of career exploration in a focused and deliberate manner tailored for our Children's Studies students. Professor Lenzer said, "The capstone course, with its research and guest speakers, provides not only insights into a wide world of careers, but each speaker serves as an inspiring role model of professional superb achievement, leadership, and passionate engagement in the world of knowledge and on behalf of the children." New synergies are developed as the guest speakers share their knowledge and resources for not just information, but also for volunteer/internship/research opportunities, referrals, and future employment. This creates a nexus between educational achievement and opportunities for application of that knowledge through participatory action and participation in the variety of occupations in the field of Children's Studies. At the same time, Children's Studies is strengthening its reputation and relationship with these organizations and is increasingly being sought out for consultation and collaboration.

The presentations are exclusively open only to students enrolled in the course. Those interested in enrolling in the Children's Studies minor, concentration, or major should contact the Program Director, Gertrud Lenzer or the Program Coordinator, Elise Goldberg at the information provided on this news release. The Spring 2010 semester guest lectures include:

- **February 3rd**- Pamela Brown, Magner Center Career Alumni Mentor Program Coordinator, Pre- Law Advisor/Adjunct Faculty Economics department. Topic: The Keys to Effective Leadership in the 21st Century.
- **February 24th**- K. Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH, Assistant Commissioner, New York City Department of Health. Topic: Professional Perspectives in Pediatric Medicine and Public Health.
- **March 3rd**-Joyce Burrell, MEd, Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY), New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). Topic: Government Child Welfare Agencies—foster care, juvenile justice; the Child Ombudsman; Office of the Child Advocate, Child Advocacy Centers.
- **March 10th**- Honorable Bryanne A. Hamill, Judge, Kings County Family Court, New York City. Topic: Professional Perspectives and Opportunities in the Court Systems: Attorney for the Child, Guardian at Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocate.
- **March 15th**-Sherry M. Cleary, MEd, Executive Director, New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, City University of New York. Topic: Focus on New York: professional agencies, organizations and opportunities.
- **March 17th**- Jane Golden, MSW, Assistant Executive Director for Child Welfare Policy and Foster Care, The Children's Aid Society, New York. Topic: Report on Child Welfare Service Activities of the Children's Aid Society.
- **March 24th**- Sharon Dunn, Ph.D., Arts Education Consultant, New York City; Honors College, CUNY. Topic: Professions and careers relating to the arts, music, museums and arts education.
- **April 12th**- Thomas I. Kennedy, MA, Senior Vice President for Advocacy, Covenant House, New York City and Washington. Topic: Professions and occupations relating to advocacy for and support of children, adolescents, and young people.
- **April 21st**- Wendy Lamb, Vice President and Publisher, Wendy Lamb Imprints, Random House Children's Book, together with invited author. Topic: Literature for Children and Young people.
- **April 28th**- Simone Ek, Senior Advisor, UN CRC Sweden. Topic: Perspectives and career opportunities in the United Nations, UNICEF, and international non-profit organizations.
- **May 5th**- Ashley Fenwick-Naditch, Producer, Sesame Workshop. Topic: Children's media and production.

The Children's Studies program addresses the educational goals and career objectives of many undergraduate students who are interested in working with children and youth, and who are seeking alternative pathways to careers in related professional fields. Courses, including *Professional Perspectives in Children's Studies*, prepare graduates for post-graduation education or training and for their future success in various fields.

Children's Studies Program and Center
Brooklyn College of The City University of New York • 2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11210-2889 • Telephone (718) 951-3192 • Fax (718) 677-6154