

# Children's Studies Newsletter

## Children's Studies Program and Center

September 2011

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### 20th Anniversary of Children's Studies!

**2011 marks the 20th anniversary of the Children's Studies program at Brooklyn College!**

In 1991 Brooklyn College became the founding institution of the interdisciplinary field of Children's Studies. Hailed as "pioneering" by the *New York Times*, the Children's Studies program at Brooklyn College has been emulated at many universities and colleges both in the United States and abroad since its inception.

Please visit "[The Founding of Children's Studies](#)" page on our website for more information.

### New Horizons III: The Future of Children, Youth, and the Public Good

Please view our latest publication, [New Horizons III: The Future of Children, Youth, and the Public Good](#), which details the news, events, and activities of the Children's Studies Program and Center from 2009-2010. This edition also features the students from our first graduating class of Children's Studies majors!

### Changes to Children's Studies for Fall 2011!!

Fall 2011 will be the introduction of the [new Children & Youth Studies minor](#) in **Pre-Professional Explorations: Focus on Children in Social Services and the Law!**

This new 12-credit program is being offered for liberal arts majors with an interest in the relationship between social services, law, and issues affecting children and youth. The minor has been designed to prepare students for professions and professional studies in law, social work, and graduate study in children's studies, child advocacy, and related fields.

We have also made some changes to our existing programs. Please view the changes to our [Major](#), [Concentration](#), and [Minor](#) programs!

### Violence Against Children Initiatives

The interdisciplinary field of Children's Studies and the Children's Studies Center has chosen Violence Against Children as a major focus within its overall human rights of children framework. Our *Third Child Policy Forum of New York* officially instituted this Violence Against Children Initiative of the Children's Studies Center with its focus on the "Implementation and Monitoring of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and

Child Pornography OPSC."

You can find more information on Violence Against Children Initiatives on [the Human Rights of Children](#) section of our website.

This fall we are holding an invitation only **20th Anniversary and National Consultation Event - Social Justice for Children: To End Child Abuse and Violence Against Children**. More details on the event will follow.

### Children's Studies Welcomes Back Assemblymember William Scarborough



Assemblymember William Scarborough will be joining the Children's Studies faculty again this Fall to teach **CHST 3320: Children, Public Policies, Advocacy and Legislation in New York State**. The course is an in-depth analysis of children and young people in different institutional contexts from education, health and mental health, to child welfare to children in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. This course includes an emphasis on corresponding legislation and its implementation by public as well as by not-for-profit and private agencies in New York State and City.

Alongside the coursework there will be a series of distinguished guest speakers, including:

- Honorable Diane Savino, Chair, New York State Senate Committee on Children and Families
- Honorable Amy Paulin, Chair, New York State Assembly Committee on Children and Families
- Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner, New York City Division of Youth and Community Development
- Cynthia Dames, Child Abuse Specialist, Cynthia Dames and Associates
- Regent Geraldine Chapey, New York State Board of Regents
- Fatima Goldman, Executive Director, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
- Dennis Walcott, Chancellor, New York City Public Schools
- Richard Buery, Executive Director, Children's Aid Society

More distinguished speakers will be added at later dates. Changes to this schedule can be viewed on the '[Distinguished Guest Speakers in the Children's Studies Program](#)' link on our website.

### UNCRC and OCA Updates!

In April, Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee [issued a letter](#), co-signed by 28 Assemblymembers and 2 state Senators, to President Barack Obama and the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The letter urges the President and Senate to approve the international treaty that gives universally recognized norms and standards for protecting and promoting children's civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

Assemblymembers William Scarborough and Barbara Clark were among those who signed the letter; both assemblymembers have worked closely with Children's Studies. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has become part of the framework for our Children's Studies program. We have worked closely with other organizations to help ratify the UNCRC in the United States and we also provide our students with an extensive background of information on the UNCRC.

In June, the New York State Assembly passed a bill (A.0644A) that would [establish a new Executive Office of the Child Advocate](#) to ensure the safety of children in the state's child welfare, juvenile justice, and child care systems. The Children's Studies website has extensive information on [legislation for an Independent Office of the Child Advocate for New York](#).

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