



# Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies

University of Kansas

Annual Report 2001-2002

Research-based solutions for the challenges of human and community development, disabilities and aging

# The Life Span Institute

## at a Glance

### **Who: Investigators, research and administrative staff, graduate and post-doctoral students**

The LSI brings together 121 scientists who are affiliated with twenty-two academic departments to study human development from its genetic origins through the final stages of life. These investigators are supported by 350 research and administrative staff members, including 65 graduate research assistants.

The Institute has two affiliated multidisciplinary graduate/doctoral programs, the Child Language Doctoral Program and the Gerontology Graduate and Doctoral programs, and several post-doctoral training programs.

### **What: Research, training, technical assistance, direct services and leadership**

The Life Span Institute's 12 centers have more than 100 programs and projects active at any one time that constitute basic and applied research; training, and direct services, consultation, and technical assistance.

Research informs everything that the Institute does and ranges from groundbreaking studies in cellular and molecular biology of the early stages of development to designing school wide models to improve classroom behavior and learning.

Last year, 1,692 nursing, allied health, medical students and residents and 28,726 service providers, practitioners, individuals, and families learned more about disabilities and development through Institute training and 6,431 Kansans benefited from direct services and technical assistance.

### **When: History**

When the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies was established in 1990, it had a distinguished heritage of 67 years as the Kansas Bureau of Child Research, 35 of those years under Richard L. Schiefelbusch for whom the Institute is named. When the Gerontology Center, among others, joined the Bureau to form the Institute in 1990, Kansas became home to one of the premier research institutes on human and community development, disabilities and aging in the world.

### **Where: Administrative and Research Locations**

The Institute's central office is in the Robert Dole Human Development Center at the University of Kansas in Lawrence with components at the John T. Stewart Children's Center and Malott Hall; in Kansas City at the Juniper Gardens Children's Project and the University of Kansas Medical Center's Ralph L. Smith Research Center and Institute for Child Development, and at the Life Span Institute in Parsons.

Much of the work of the Institute is accomplished in and directly benefits underserved Kansas City neighborhoods and rural Kansas counties. Several projects are statewide, and are increasingly multi-state, national or international in scope.

### **How: Funding**

The Life Span Institute attracts more combined federal, state, and private dollars than any other designated research center at the University of Kansas, drawing \$18.9 million in sponsored project support in 2002. Each state dollar brings in nearly six and a half external dollars.

#### **The Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies**

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**ENDOWMENT**

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# Welcome



Despite our long history, which dates back to the designation of the Bureau of Child Research in a 1921 Kansas state statute, we have not routinely provided an annual report for our various stakeholders. However, with this report the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies (LSI) has a new tradition. We have a wonderful story to report, one that should bring pride to our investigators and staff, to the University of Kansas, to those many agencies that support our work with grants, to the citizens of Kansas, and most importantly to those present and future generations who have and will benefit from our research and development efforts, our training and service, and our leadership.

The LSI mission—to find research-based solutions for the challenges of human and community development, disabilities, and aging—is both broad and ambitious. We attempt to achieve this mission through a federation of research centers that in total represent a multi-dimensional commitment of hundreds of extraordinarily talented scientists and staff. This report is only a sample of their accomplishments during the past year.

It's tempting in an annual report to describe the LSI with lots of impressive numbers—and we have included lots worth bragging about. Nevertheless, perhaps reflecting on the weakness of such an approach, Albert Einstein noted that “a lot of what can be counted doesn't count, and a lot of what counts can't be counted.” We agree. And so we've tried, in this inaugural report, to exemplify the incalculable impact of the Life Span Institute at the University of Kansas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.F. Warren".

Steven F. Warren, Director

Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies

# The Centers

Mental retardation, the aging brain, how we learn to talk and think, the independence of individuals with physical disabilities in society—these are among the big themes that drive the work of the twelve Centers of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies.

The work of the Life Span Institute—research, service, training, and technical assistance—is accomplished by affiliated researchers through projects funded by competitive federal, state, and private grants and contracts.

Each Center draws together a distinct group of researchers from diverse fields and backgrounds who have a common interest in investigating specific problems of human development, disabilities and aging.

Together the Centers represent a broad range of approaches to human problems from preconception to the end of life.

While scientific innovation requires specialization, it also increasingly demands collaboration. The Life Span Institute provides the infrastructure that supports this through project development and management; administrative and technical support; research design and measurement; data storage and analysis and dissemination.

**Center descriptions begin on page 8.**

# *Scope of Influence: International Leadership*

## **September 11th in China**

On September 11, Life Span Institute Director Steven Warren watched the World Trade Center towers collapsing on CNN from a hotel room in Beijing, China. He was preparing to lead a delegation across China for the American Association on Mental Retardation and the People to People Ambassador Program.

While there was momentary discussion of canceling the trip, the delegation went on, discovering a rapidly developing country that is beginning to face up to the challenges of supporting meaningful lives for children and adults with disabilities.

The trip was meant to build bridges between disabilities professionals in the U.S. and China. The terrorist attacks magnified the importance of that mission—that mutual understanding, trust, and friendship among people around the world are more important now than ever.

“The events of September 11 showed the dark side of the human spirit.” Warren said, “The mission of the Life Span Institute speaks to its highest aspirations. The best response we can make is to redouble our efforts to enhance human development across the life span and the planet.”



*El Comercio*

## ***Chancellor Hemenway visits Peruvian disabilities pioneer***

Clearly moved by the happy, engaged children at Centro Ann Sullivan del Perú, Chancellor Robert Hemenway paid homage to KU alumna Liliano Mayo on his visit to Lima on June 26, 2002.

Mayo started the internationally renowned school for people with cognitive disabilities in a garage in 1979.

Without the Center, Mayo, and her many Life Span colleagues who volunteer as consultants, trainers, administrators and fundraisers, the prospects for poor Peruvians with cognitive disabilities would be bleak.

The Center serves 350 people through 21 different clinical, professional and parent programs and serves as a model for programs in eight other countries.

## Community Connections

### More than 11,000 served

Kim Osbourne of rural Benedict is one of the 11,000 Kansans who got help from the ATK (Assistive Technology for Kansans) project this year. ATK, directed by Parsons Life Span Associate Scientist Sara Sack and Senior Scientist Chuck Spellman, offers people with disabilities on-site assessment, service coordination, an equipment loan bank, a low-interest consumer loan cooperative, and an equipment reuse/recycle program.



IMPACT, Inc.

### A Head Start for Families

A Juniper Gardens Children's Project team led by Judy Carta, Life Span senior scientist, found that the federal Early Head Start program teaches families how to help their children learn during the critical first three years of life. The team followed 200 families for six years as part of a national evaluation of the program that was launched in 1995 to supplement Head Start. "Several of the families faced daunting difficulties," Carta said. "Many were single, had not finished high school, had problems with depression, illegal drugs and domestic violence, and yet were able to overcome these challenges and become good parents."

## The Next Generation

### Beach Center co-directors inspire Korean couple's mission

Jiyeon Park had published five papers as well as her dissertation by the time she left KU for her native Korea with her Ph.D.—an unequaled achievement even in the number one ranked special education program in the U.S. Park and her husband, Doo-Sik Kim, a lawyer specializing in disability rights, hope to recreate the success of their mentors, Ann and Rud Turnbull, co-directors and founders of the Beach Center on Disability. The Turnbulls are special education professors and Rud is a lawyer and noted authority on disability law and policy. They pioneered several family-centered research-based approaches to help children with disabilities that Park has begun to implement in Korea.

### Vietnamese Ford Fellow joins Research and Training Center for Independent Living

Hoang-Yen Thi Vo, as one of the first three Vietnamese Ford Fellows, could study anywhere in the world. She chose Director Glen White's Research and Training Center for Independent Living, known internationally for its policy, behavioral, and community research to support the independence of people with disabilities. Vo founded the first Vietnamese organization for people with disabilities in Vietnam, a country that has only begun to recognize that people with disabilities like Vo want to and can work and live independently.

# Products of Research

## A pacifier to nurture the brain

Premature infants often have trouble sucking and swallowing. As toddlers, they may have problems learning or talking. Sucking and swallowing may influence learning and speaking, according to Life Span researcher Steven Barlow, chair of speech-language-hearing and director of the Communication Neuroscience Laboratory.

“Neurons that fire together, wire together,” he explained. When an infant uses oral and facial muscles during sucking and feeding, a rich source of sensory information is generated that helps neurons in the developing brain build connections. Barlow believes that these connections may be important to the oromotor skills and higher brain functions that allow speech and learning later in life.

To ensure that happens, Barlow, in collaboration with Don Finan at the University of Colorado,

developed the Actifier. The Actifier is a computer-controlled pacifier that will be used to diagnose and treat problems that affect brain development. The device takes neurophysiological and biomechanical readings as it locates key muscles in an infant’s mouth so that tiny motors can gently tap them to encourage that critical sucking response.

Barlow will know more about the Actifier’s effect on the development of premature infants in the next few years. Barlow and his colleagues will study 390 premature infants using the Actifier in Topeka and Kansas City up to their second birthdays—the time when brains are busiest in building connections.

If all goes according to plan, the Actifier could be manufactured and used routinely in neonatal wards to prevent many developmental disabilities within the decade.



The Actifier induces sucking in premature infants so that they can learn to nurse and leave intensive care sooner, but it may have more profound significance in detecting and treating developmental disabilities.

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## Diagnosis: SLI

“Yesterday she walk to my house.” Children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI) often don’t use the past tense and drop “do” and “be” as in, “He like me?”

Mabel Rice, child language doctoral program director, with MIT’s Kenneth Wexler developed the first test to diagnose a language disability that usually escapes traditional testing—and treatment. Clinicians using the Rice/Wexler Test of

Early Grammatical Impairment can diagnose SLI in children ages 3 through 8 using books and toys in about an hour.

Rice estimates that 7.6 percent of all children have SLI. Without early diagnosis and treatment, many of them would have problems communicating all their lives.

The test is available through the Psychological Corporation, San Antonio, Texas.

# Drug breakthrough for devastating disorder

The child hits himself in the head a thousand times an hour with the force of a boxer.

His violent, persistent self-abuse is called chronic aberrant behavior (CAB) and can also include eye gouging, hair pulling, and picking skin down to the bone.

While less than 25 percent of people with developmental disabilities show this baffling behavior, they require a disproportionate share

## *Writing our futures?*

A ten-year study of cloistered nuns showed that those who expressed many ideas in few words in their early writings were much less likely to have Alzheimer's disease in old age.

University of Kentucky professor David Snowden, who directed the widely publicized Nun Study, sought out Susan Kemper, distinguished professor of psychology and Life Span and Gerontology Center senior scientist, because of her earlier work on "idea density" being a good marker of education and general knowledge.

Ultimately, Kemper and Snowden could predict which sisters would show the brain damage of Alzheimer's disease (confirmed at autopsy) from analyzing their youthful autobiographies—with 85 to 90 percent accuracy. The implications and findings from the Nun Study are at [www.mc.uky.edu/nunnet](http://www.mc.uky.edu/nunnet).

of services and supports. They have also often suffered through a variety of non-drug treatments including physical punishment and restraint.

Older medications used to treat CAB had significant side effects or worked inconsistently. A five-year clinical trial of the medication risperidone by Life Span researchers Stephen Schroeder, retired Life Span director, Jennifer Zarcone, Life Span assistant scientist, Dean Williams, Life Span associate scientist, and Jessica Hellings, associate professor of psychiatry, shows that the drug reduced CAB significantly for even the most severe cases—with few side effects.

Janssen currently markets the drug as *Risperidal*<sup>™</sup>, an effective treatment for schizophrenia. The KU research finding means Janssen could seek FDA approval for expanding the drug's use to treat CAB.

## *Formulas for success*

When Susan Carlson, professor of nutrition, needed someone to interpret infant behavior, she called on Life Span infant development researcher John Colombo, professor of psychology.

Carlson noticed that infants who were fed formula enriched with fatty acids spent less time looking at pictures. Colombo knew that this was a good thing. Babies with more developed brains need less time to comprehend.



*Lawrence Journal-World*

Edie Nichols of Overland Park, left, credits risperidone for the dramatic improvement in her 16-year-old daughter, Kelli. "There is so much inside that mind waiting to come out and risperidone has helped make that happen." Kelli, who has autism along with chronic aberrant behavior, was one of the first participants in the KU risperidone trials.

Carlson and Colombo's collaboration showed how two fatty acids found in breast milk were needed for optimal development—especially for premature infants. They believed that DHA and ARA should be included in commercial formulas.

Eventually, their research along with other studies resulted in *Enfamil LIPIL*<sup>™</sup> and *Similac Advance*<sup>™</sup>, infant formulas that were released earlier this year by Mead Johnson Nutritionals and Ross Products respectively.

# Passages

## *Appointments*

**Steven F. Warren** became the second director of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies on August 1, 2001. Dr. Warren is internationally recognized for his contributions to understanding language development in children and leadership in the field of developmental disabilities. He came to KU in January 2000 to direct the Kansas Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Center. He is also a professor of human development and family life. Previously, he was associated with Vanderbilt University's John F. Kennedy Center for Human Development for 17 years as deputy director and professor of special education.

**Michael L. Wehmeyer** was appointed director of the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities in May 2002. He is also associate director of the Beach Center on Disability and associate professor of special education.

Yale research psychologist **Todd D. Little** became the scientific director of the Research, Design, and Analysis Core Support Program of the Life Span Institute and associate professor of psychology in July 2002.

**Glen W. White** assumed the directorship of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living February 1, 2002. He is also the associate director of the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities and associate professor of human development and family life.

## *Retirements*

**Stephen R. Schroeder**, the first director of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies, stepped down from that post on August 1, 2001 and retired from the University of Kansas on October 31. He took over at a critical juncture in 1990 when the Bureau of Child Research and Gerontology Center were incorporated into the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies and steered its growth to one of the largest and most respected research and development centers on disabilities and human development in the world.

**James F. Budde**, founder and director for 21 years of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living stepped down as director and to become the Center's director emeritus in February 2002.

**Joseph C. Delquadri**, assistant scientist at the Juniper Gardens Children's Project, retired September 11, 2001, after a 27-year career at KU. He was one of the originators of ClassWide Peer Tutoring that was recognized as an outstanding contribution to education by the American Psychological Association last year.

## *Milestones*

The Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development, directed by **Stephen B. Fawcett**, professor of human development and family life, was 25 years old in 2001. The creative research group came together in 1976 to provide teaching, research, and service on how communities can bring about change related to community and public health, child and youth development, and community development. A major recent innovation is the Community Tool Box, a web site that offers comprehensive and integrated support for building healthy communities that was used by more than 50,000 people last year.

## *Deaths*

**Donald M. Baer**, Roy A. Roberts distinguished professor of human development and family life and of psychology, died Monday, April 29, 2002. He joined the KU faculty in 1965 and had planned to retire in June. Baer, long associated with the Life Span Institute, was one of the founding fathers of applied behavior analysis.

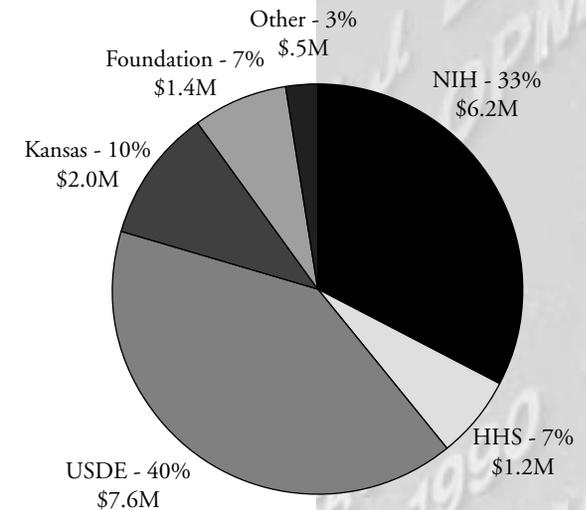
# Financial

From FY 2001 to FY 2002, external funding increased \$3.3 million or 21 percent, from \$15.6 to \$18.9 million—the largest annual increase in the history of the Life Span Institute. While this is due in part to the addition of the Center for Physical Activity and Weight Management (10 projects at \$1.4 million), 35 other new projects increased the funding base by \$1.9 million. These include two major initiatives that target behavior and learning problems in Kansas schools and several that examine problems in language development. The Life Span Institute attracts more combined federal, state, and private dollars than any other designated research center at the University of Kansas.

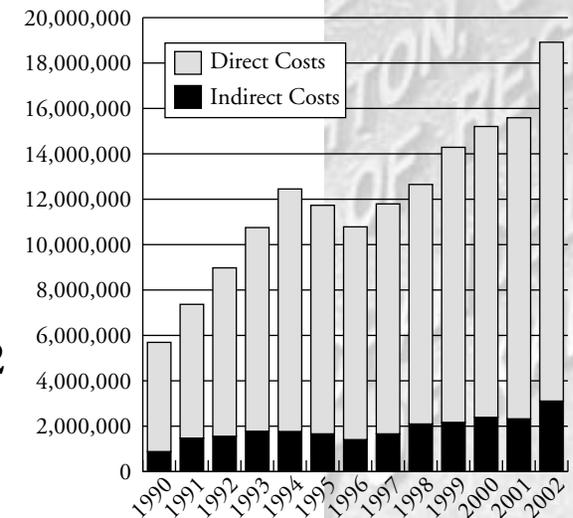
The U.S. Department of Education and the National Institutes of Health remain the leading funding sources at \$7.6 million and \$6.2 million respectively. With the addition of \$1.2 million in Health and Human Services Department funding, federal grants account for nearly 80 percent of the Institute's overall external funding.

The Life Span Institute continues to leverage external funding at an increasing rate. In 1990, every dollar the state of Kansas invested in the Institute yielded more than \$3 in external support. By 2002, every dollar the state of Kansas invested in the Life Span Institute yielded nearly \$6.5 in external support.

## LSI Funding by Agency FY 2002 \$18.9 Million



## LSI Funding History External Grant Dollars FY 1990 to 2002



# The Centers of the Life Span Institute

## Kansas Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Center

The Kansas Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (MRDDRC) is one of 14 national research centers dedicated to the scientific investigation of the causes, prevention and treatment of developmental disabilities supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Research is conducted in the lab, in clinics and in the community as investigators from the biological and behavioral sciences seek solutions to the challenges of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Some MRDDRC investigators are pinpointing how problems in the prenatal or even the preconception environment can waylay brain development. Others study how environmental factors influence the developing brain's potential.

What we still don't know about developmental disabilities is staggering and costs us as a nation approximately \$300 billion a year. The need for fundamental, systematic research on disabilities is as critical now as when the NICHD research centers were established 35 years ago. The MRDDRC remains at the forefront of this national effort.

**Administration:** Steven F. Warren, Ph.D., Director; Paul D. Cheney, Ph.D., Co-Director  
**Contact:** 785 864-4295, mrddrc.ku.edu, MRDDRC@ku.edu

## Kansas University Center for Developmental Disabilities

More than 35 years ago, as the Institute's research on developmental disabilities took root, efforts began to translate this research into practice through what is now known as the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD).

Virtually all of the Institute's direct service, technical assistance, and post-doctoral, pre- and in-service training are associated with KUCDD. These include clinics to diagnose and treat children with disabilities, a statewide project that gets farmers the assistive technology they need to get back to work after disabling illnesses or accidents, and training childcare providers and social workers to support individuals with disabilities.

KUCDD affiliated programs, administered through several of the Centers, benefit thousands of Kansans in every part of the state each year.

**Administration:** Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D., Director; Glen W. White, Ph.D., Associate Director; David P. Lindeman, Ph.D., Parsons Director; Travis Thompson, Ph.D., Kansas University Medical Center Director  
**Contact:** 785 864-4295, KUCDD@ku.edu

## The Life Span Institute at Parsons

For more than 40 years the University of Kansas has maintained research, service and training programs on the campus of the Parsons State Hospital, including a component of the Kansas Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Center and a major division of the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities.

This Institute, located in rural Southeast Kansas, has an exemplary record of service to the State of Kansas particularly in the areas of assistive technology, early childhood, and training for community-based organizations and agencies.

LSI at Parsons also conducts research into some of the most perplexing challenges of profound mental retardation.

**Administration:** David P. Lindeman, Ph.D., Director  
**Contact:** 620 421-6550, parsons@ku.edu, www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu

## Juniper Gardens Children's Project

The Juniper Gardens Children's Project began in 1964 when citizens from the northeast Kansas City, Kansas community joined with faculty from the University of Kansas to address child development concerns in that low-income community. The goal: to help schools and families devise solutions to specific problems in education and parenting.

The Project has grown over the years from a small, community-based research initiative housed in the basement of a liquor store to a unique internationally recognized research center that includes multiple community sites, projects, and investigators.

The Project is particularly recognized for its contributions to the development of effective approaches to learning and classroom conduct problems in both special and general education.

In 1996 JGCP was given the Research Award of the International Council for Exceptional Children in recognition of its outstanding research contributions.

**Administration:** Charles R. Greenwood,

Ph.D., Director  
**Contact:** 913 321-3143, www.jgcp.ku.edu

## Beach Center on Disability

The Beach Center's particular expertise in families who have members with disabilities was inspired by the son of the Center's founders and co-directors Rud and Ann Turnbull. According to his parents, "J.T." has not only "survived but prevailed" despite multiple disabilities.

The Beach Center was named for Ross and Marianna Beach in 1988 in honor of their significant roles in advocating for families affected by disabilities in Kansas and throughout the world.

The Beach Center focuses on the outcomes of policies and practices for families who have members with disabilities. More recently, the Beach Center expanded its focus through research on positive behavior support strategies in the classroom and has also initiated projects in self-determination, school-to-work transition and assistive technology.

In 1999, the Turnbells received the Historic Century Award from the American Association on Mental Retardation for "changing the course of history" for people with mental retardation.

**Administration:** H. Rutherford Turnbull, III, LL.M., LL.B., J.D., and Ann P. Turnbull, Ph.D., Co-Directors  
**Contact:** 785 864-7600, beachcenter@ku.edu, www.beachcenter.org

## Research and Training Center on Independent Living

The Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) was formed in 1980 to develop systematic approaches

to enable individuals with physical and/or intellectual disabilities of all ages to live independently, control their lives and shape their futures.

The RTC/IL develops research-based tools and products that allow people with disabilities to affect public policy and private business practices. For example, the Center maintains an online database of disability/independent living research written for the layperson at [www.getriil.org](http://www.getriil.org). Get RIIL (Research Information for Independent Living) helps individuals demonstrate to government and business how to accommodate to the needs of people with disabilities.

The RTC/IL increasingly focuses on the needs of people with disabilities in developing countries, as well as minority and rural communities in this country.

**Administration:** Glen W. White, Ph.D., Director **Contact:** 785 864-4095, [rtcil@ku.edu](mailto:rtcil@ku.edu), [www.rtcil.org](http://www.rtcil.org)

## Gerontology Center

In 1990 the Gerontology Center merged with the Bureau of Child Research to form the Life Span Institute.

Center researchers are interested in all areas of aging, but are distinguished by seminal research in communication, public policy, studies of long-term health care and housing alternatives, and aging in minority populations.

The Center coordinates an interdisciplinary graduate concentration in Gerontology for students enrolled in any master's or doctoral program at the University as well as a multidisciplinary graduate program that offers both master's and doctoral degrees in gerontology.

Center staff members also work with a wide variety of public and private agencies

in developing programs for older persons and their families and assist agencies and organizations with evaluations of programs and public policies.

**Administration:** Rhonda J. V. Montgomery, Ph.D., Director **Contact:** 785 864-4130, [gerontology@ku.edu](mailto:gerontology@ku.edu), [www.ku.edu/~kugeron](http://www.ku.edu/~kugeron)

## Child Language Doctoral Program

The Child Language Doctoral Program was established in 1983 as the first specialized degree program of its kind. The Ph.D. program focuses on the interdisciplinary academic preparation and research training of child language specialists. The internationally recognized faculty's diverse approaches to the study of how children communicate and speak offer students a wide choice of research tools, facilities and field sites.

In 2001, Director Mabel Rice, along with MIT's Kenneth Wexler, introduced the first diagnostic test for Specific Language Impairment.

**Administration:** Mabel L. Rice, Ph.D., Director **Contact:** 785 864-4570, [childlang@ku.edu](mailto:childlang@ku.edu), [www.clp.ku.edu](http://www.clp.ku.edu)

## Merrill Advanced Studies Center

The Merrill Advanced Studies Center, founded in 1990 with an endowment from Virginia Urban Merrill and Fred Merrill, is a catalyst for scholarship on disabilities and policies that shape university research.

Merrill conferences and publications establish new directions and build collaborative projects in both science and policy. World-class experts often meet as a group for the first time at Merrill conferences and go on to develop national projects that answer key questions in science.

The Center publishes books on topics relevant to developmental disabilities and makes policy papers available online and in print. The Merrill web site at [merrill.ku.edu](http://merrill.ku.edu) has fact sheets and discussions on science and policy for the general public.

**Administration:** Mabel L. Rice, Ph.D., Director **Contact:** 785 864-4804, [merrillcenter@ku.edu](mailto:merrillcenter@ku.edu), [merrill.ku.edu](http://merrill.ku.edu)

## Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development

The Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development was formed in 1976 to study how communities can initiate and sustain positive behavioral changes related to public health and development issues.

The Work Group has assisted with community initiatives in many critical areas, including substance abuse, adolescent pregnancy, youth development, rural health, health promotion, and neighborhood development in urban communities.

Many years of the Group's work has been distilled into an Internet site, the Community Tool Box at [ctb.ku.edu](http://ctb.ku.edu). This site provides comprehensive technical assistance, consultation, and distance learning to connect people, ideas and resources for promoting community health and development.

**Administration:** Stephen B. Fawcett, Ph.D., Director **Contact:** 785 864-0533, [kuworkgroup@ku.edu](mailto:kuworkgroup@ku.edu), [ctb.ku.edu](http://ctb.ku.edu)

## Institute for Child Development

The Institute for Child Development is a multidisciplinary center within the University of Kansas Medical Center established in 2000.

The Institute conducts major research, service and training programs affiliated with both the Kansas Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Center and the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities.

The Institute's Developmental Disabilities Center operates twelve screening clinics that bring teams of specialists together to diagnose and develop treatment plans for children with developmental disabilities.

**Administration:** Travis Thompson, Ph.D., Director **Contact:** 913 588-5900

## Center for Physical Activity and Weight Management

The Center for Physical Activity and Weight Management joined the Institute in 2001 and supports research, training, and clinics for weight loss and weight maintenance. The Center is interested in the "metabolic syndrome," abnormal values for blood lipids, glucose, insulin, and blood pressure that accompany overweight and obesity, as well as in genetic causes of obesity such as Prader-Willi syndrome that is characterized by mental retardation and life threatening levels of obesity. The Center's Energy Balance Laboratory features a whole-room indirect calorimeter that measures energy expenditure precisely under a variety of experimental conditions.

**Administration:** Joseph E. Donnelly, Ed.D., Director **Contact:** Kim Johnson 785 864-0797, [kim@ku.edu](mailto:kim@ku.edu), [ebl.ku.edu](http://ebl.ku.edu)

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