



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Gesell Institute Seeks Alumni in Tandem with Upcoming 60th Anniversary**

**New Haven, CT, February 1, 2010** – Nearing its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, New Haven based non-profit Gesell Institute of Human Development announces a national search for “Gesell Alumni” including patients of the Institute’s former clinic, students or teachers in the Gesell Nursery School, former medical fellows or employees, and participants in Dr. Arnold Gesell’s research studies. Gesell Alumni are invited to register with the Institute and share recollections, personal experiences, and vignettes either by calling 1-800-369-7709 x719 or registering on-line at [www.gesellinstitute.org/alumni.html](http://www.gesellinstitute.org/alumni.html).

“We have heard from a number of Gesell Alumni in recent months, each with a unique story about Drs. Gesell, Ilg, and Ames, and the influence Gesell theory and practice has had on their lives. Capturing these personal life experiences is one of the myriad ways we will be preserving the legacy of Dr. Gesell’s work,” asserts Dr. Marcy Guddemi, Gesell Institute Executive Director. “As part of our 2010 Conference, these qualitative interviews will serve not only to authenticate the time honored theory of Gesell, but to rekindle its relevance in regard to the challenges we face in early childhood education today.”

Plans are now underway to recognize this group of individuals as part of “Gesell Alumni Hall,” in tandem with the Institute’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 14, 2010. This will also serve as a kick-off event for an October 15<sup>th</sup> Early Childhood Leadership Conference entitled LEAD – Learn, Educate, Advocate, Do! This national conference will focus on the important role of child development in education, learning, and long-term school success. Gesell Alumni Hall will be highlighted at the conference, featuring Keynote speaker T. Berry Brazelton, MD, along with other distinguished researchers and practitioners in early childhood. On display will be some of Dr. Arnold Gesell’s original artifacts and writings, including some of his cinematographic data.

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Gesell Institute of Human Development is an independent non-profit organization that has been associated with how children grow and learn since 1950. The work of Arnold Gesell, PhD, MD, (1888-1961), founding Director of the Yale Child Study Center in 1911 and the Institute's namesake, had a profound influence on the field child development. Based on Gesell's pioneering work documenting infant and child growth and development during the first half of the century, Gesell programs and publications help parents and educators understand the ages and stages of childhood. Professional development and parent workshops cover a broad range of topics regarding child behavior, healthy growth and development, and positive learning outcomes. Community programs help create collaborative partnerships between parents and teachers to support school success.

For additional information about Gesell Institute or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.gesellinstitute.org](http://www.gesellinstitute.org). If you are a "Gesell Alumnus" who would like to take part in the historic October 2010 events, please call 1-800-369-7709 x719 or register on-line at [www.gesellinstitute.org/alumni.html](http://www.gesellinstitute.org/alumni.html). All verified alumni will receive a certificate of appreciation.

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