



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Crista Marchesseault

E-mail: cristam@gesellinstitute.org

Voice: 203-777-3481 x704

Gesell Institute Announces and Welcomes Three Prominent Advisors

New Haven, CT, June 21, 2010 – Renowned early childhood experts from Bank Street College, Texas State University, and the U.S. Alliance for Childhood have joined other distinguished professionals from around the world on the Advisory Council for Gesell Institute of Human Development, a New Haven based, independent non-profit organization focused on the education and support of parents and teachers worldwide. The next annual Council meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2010, in conjunction with the Institute's 60th anniversary and national Early Childhood Leadership Conference being held at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale.

Rima Shore, PhD, Chair of the Educational Leadership Department at Bank Street College of Education in New York City, accepted an invitation to join the council in March. Shore holds a PhD from Columbia University and currently directs the Adelaide Weismann Center for Innovative Leadership in Education. The center's primary goals are to support the enrichment of Bank Street's current activities in educational leadership, develop new programs to meet pressing educational needs, and develop a line of documentation and research that will support the renewal of Bank Street's programs and the field of educational leadership. As director of the LDRS (Lab for the Design and Redesign of Schools) Consortium, Shore also oversees a middle school reform initiative encompassing 28 schools in Brooklyn, NY. She is the author of *What Kids Need: Today's Best Ideas for Nurturing, Teaching, and Protecting Young Children* (Beacon 2002), as well as *Rethinking the Brain: New Insights into Early Development*, and many other monographs and articles.

Kathleen Fite, EdD, Professor of Education at Texas State University-San Marcos, served as a Visiting Scholar at Gesell Institute in September 2009 and accepted an invitation to join the council the following April. Among a number of academic pursuits and research projects,

--MORE--

Fite currently teaches doctoral classes in the Educational and Psychological Services Department as well as both graduate and undergraduate courses in Curriculum and Instruction at Texas State. She was awarded a developmental leave from Texas State in order to study the contributions made by Dr. Arnold Gesell (1888-1961) to the understanding of how children develop, grow, and learn in the context of today's academic pressures on young children and other negative implications of *No Child Left Behind*. Fite also serves on the Executive Board of the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI), a global community dedicated to promoting the optimal education and development of children in a changing world started in 1892.

Joan Almon, Executive Director of the U.S. Alliance for Childhood, is the most recent addition to the council, having joined in May. Almon was a Waldorf early childhood educator for over thirty years and served as founding Chair of the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America. She has also served on the Council of the Anthroposophical Society in America and was a General Secretary of the U.S. Society. She is currently Executive Director of the U.S. Alliance for Childhood, a broad-based advocacy group that brings together educators, health professionals, and others to work on common concerns, such as the need to restore creative play and other healthy essentials to childhood. Almon co-authored *Crisis in the Kindergarten: Why Children Need to Play in School*, a ground-breaking report outlining the importance – and disappearance – of play in the U.S. Kindergarten classroom. Almon will be a keynote speaker at the Institute's October conference on this very topic.

Gesell Institute of Human Development is an independent non-profit organization 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. For additional information and resources, visit www.gesellinstitute.org. For conference details and registration, visit www.gesellinstitute.org/events.

###