1974 Wellesley College establishes the Center for Research on Women (CRW)

1976 CRW holds International Conference on Women and Development, the first such gathering in U.S.

1979 CRW founds the School-age Child Care Project (later to become the National Institute on Out-of-School Time)

1981 Wellesley College establishes the Stone Center for Developmental Services and Studies (SC)

1983 CRW launches Women’s Review of Books

1987 CRW founds the National SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Project on Inclusive Curriculum

1987 SC initiates the Open Circle program for social-emotional learning for grades K-5

1992 CRW researches and writes How Schools Shortchange Girls

1992 CRW launches major initiative on sexual harassment in schools

1995 The Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW) is formed by the joining of the Center for Research on Women and the Stone Center for Developmental Services and Studies

1995 The Jean Baker Miller Training Institute is established to examine and advance Relational-Cultural Theory

2001 WCW receives NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status from the United Nations

2002 WCW holds first-ever Human Rights Tribunal on Domestic Violence and Child Custody

2004 WCW organizes groundbreaking international conference on gender violence

2005-2006 WCW leads two projects on gender and science, technology, engineering, and math funded by National Science Foundation

2007 WCW and UNICEF cosponsor innovative conference in Bangkok on women’s rights and children’s rights

2009 WCW co-sponsors major policy research conference in Washington, DC

2009 WCW celebrates 35 years of research and action

For more highlights from WCW’s history, visit www.wcwonline.org/milestones.
The Wellesley Centers for Women kicked off its 35th Anniversary with a special celebration May 2, 2009 in Boston, MA. The Honorable Nancy Gerrier, U.S. District Court Judge, District of Massachusetts, served as special guest speaker. Tyne Daly, acclaimed actress and feminist activist served as mistress of ceremonies. The event, held at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, benefited from the support of Goodwin Procter and Nixon Peabody LLP. The event, held at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, benefited from the support of Goodwin Procter and Nixon Peabody LLP. The Honorable Nancy Gertner, U.S. District Court Judge, District of Massachusetts, served as mistress of ceremonies. The event, held at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, benefited from the support of Goodwin Procter and Nixon Peabody LLP. The event, held at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, benefited from the support of Goodwin Procter and Nixon Peabody LLP. The event, held at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, benefited from the support of Goodwin Procter and Nixon Peabody LLP.
WCW Co-sponsors Dynamic Research Policy Conference in DC

“ACHIEVING EQUITY FOR WOMEN: POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION,” a one-day conference held April 2nd in Washington, DC at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation’s Barbara Jordan Conference Center, brought key policymakers and leading researchers together to address critical issues facing American women. Organized by the Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW) and the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), the symposium focused on issues of retirement, Social Security, and aging; women in the economic recovery, early care and education; and health care quality, cost, and access.

The dynamic line-up of speakers—key policymakers and leading researchers—shared important insights and practical applications which the 200+ attendees could use. Among the speakers at the conference and closing reception were: HILDA SOLIS, Secretary of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor; ROSA DELAURIO, U.S. Representative, Connecticut 3rd District; CAROLYN MALONEY, U.S. Representative, New York 14th District; JARED BENNETT, PH.D., Chief Economist, Office of the Vice President of the United States; and TINA TCHEN, Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States and Executive Director, White House Council on Women and Girls.

The full list of speakers and the agenda can be viewed at: www.wcwonline.org/dcconference.

IN JULY, 2008 THE ROBERT BOWNE FOUNDATION TRANSFERRED THE AFTERSCHOOL MATTERS (ASM) initiative to the National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) at the Wellesley Centers for Women. The four components of this comprehensive initiative are: (1) the Practitioner Fellowship Program, which provides an inquiry-based year-long research and writing professional development experience for out-of-school-time practitioners; (2) the Afterschool Matters journal, which disseminates findings and experiences of the Practitioner Fellows and other relevant research from the out-of-school-time field; (3) the Edmund A. Stanley, Jr. Research Grantee program to foster high-quality, cutting-edge research that has lasting impact on the field; and (4) the Research Roundtables, periodic forums for connecting research and practice.

NIOST’s goals in acquiring the ASM initiative include generating additional funding support to enable the national expansion of the initiative, and to ensure the sustainability of ASM into the future.

NIOST scholars are pleased and excited to have received generous funding from the Robert Bowne Foundation to continue this project into the future and look forward to nurturing the growth and continuation of the initiative.
new publications

LANGUAGE, ACCULTURATION, AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE
Flavia C. Penna, Ph.D.
This review discusses the extant literature on acculturation, language use, and proficiency as it pertains to the academic performance of children of immigrant families in the United States. In particular, it explores the different associations found between bilingualism and academic performance, compared to English dominance/monolingualism and academic achievement. Key findings from the research on bilingual education are discussed as well. A summary of the limitations of the existing research are presented. This review concludes with a discussion of the immigrant paradox and recommendations for future research.

DISABILITY RIGHTS, GENDER, AND DEVELOPMENT: A RESOURCE TOOL FOR ACTION
Rangita de Silva-de Alwis, LL.M., S.J. Disability Rights, Gender, and Development: A Resource Tool for Action provides valuable insights on the theory and practice of human rights-based approaches to development. It contributes to this body of knowledge by designing innovative approaches to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) gender- and child-sensitive development activities. Building on existing expertise in other human rights conventions, with a focus on the linkages among the CRPD, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the resource manual is designed to provide an interventional analysis of the different treaties and build capacity among all stakeholders to use the normative frameworks of the different conventions within a holistic framework of interrelated rights.

IMPORTANCE OF RACE-ETHNICITY: AN EXPLORATION OF ASIAN, BLACK, LATINO, AND MULTIRACIAL ADOLESCENT IDENTITY
Linda Charmaraman, Ph.D. and Jennifer M. Crump, Ph.D.
This mixed-method study used a grounded theory approach to explore the meanings underlying the importance adolescents attach to their racial-ethnic identities. The sample consisted of 923 ninth through twelfth grade students from Black, Latino, Asian American, and Multiracial backgrounds. Thematic findings identified a broad range of explanations for adolescents’ racial-ethnic centrality, ranging from pride and cultural connection to ambivalence and colorblind attitudes. Open-ended responses also varied in their use of racial or ethnic terms to describe their backgrounds. While racial ethnic groups differed in reported levels of racial-ethnic centrality, few group differences were identified in participants’ thematic explanations, with the exception of distinctions within the Multiracial group and across gender. These findings highlight the diversity of adolescents’ attitudes to their racial-ethnic centrality as well as the many commonalities across groups of color, expanding prior work emphasizing mainly Black racial-ethnic identity. They also suggest the need to further explore differences across gender and among Multiracial subgroups, whose vulnerability may offset their commonalities.

PAM ALEXANDER has an article in press for the American Psychological Association’s journal, Psychological Trauma. “Childhood Trauma, Attachment, and Abuse by Multiple Partners” will be included in a forthcoming issue.

LINDA CHARMARAMAN authored “The importance of audience and agency for representation: A case study of an urban youth media community,” to be published in a forthcoming special issue of the Sociological Studies of Children and Youth: Children and Youth-Speak for Themselves. This article documented how under- and misrepresented youth of color claimed voice and agency by utilizing media as a cultural and technological tool to combat prevailing media stereotypes about urban youth.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Legislative Analysis and Mapping for Regional Partners, by RANGITA DE SILVA-DE ALWIS is being published by the United Nations Population Fund. The executive summary will be translated into Russian. This report grew out of the legislative analysis undertaken by the United Nations Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) Regional Office on new developments in the law relating to gender equality in each of the countries in the EECA. An additional paper, “Mining the Intersections: Advancing the Rights of Women and Children with Disabilities within An Interrelated Web of Human Rights,” was published by the Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal, Volume 10, Number (January 2009).


JEAN HARDSTY has authored Marriage as a Care for Poverty? Social Science Through a Family Values Lens, the second in a two-part report on the rightist roots of marriage promotion. This report addresses the flaws and mis-statements in rightist research, using marriage promotion as a case study. It was co-published in 2008 by Political Research Associates. Somerville, MA and The Women of Color Resource Center in San Francisco, CA. (Other publications are now for sale through the WCW Publications Department: 781-283-2510.)


“White Privilege: An Account to Spend,” and “White People Facing Race: Uncovering the Myths that Keep Racism in Place,” by PEGGY McINTOSH were recently published by the Saint Paul Foundation in Saint Paul, MN. The Foundation funded these papers and McIntosh spoke at the Foundation’s Facing Race, Anti-Racism Awards Ceremony when the papers were published in April.


JEAN BAKER MILLER is one of the biographers recently added to the Biographical Dictionary of Women Psychologists created by Brigitte Nolleke. This is an international, non-commercial, electronic dictionary of distinguished women psychoanalysts, scholars, and practitioners. A link to the U.S. portion of the index can be found at: www psychoanalysis enotes de indexes html. (usa biografien.html)

Lisa Fortuna, MICHELLE PORCH, and Margarita Alqtaia co-authored “A qualitative study of clinician’s use of the Cultural Formulation Model in assessing posttraumatic stress disorder” to be published in Traumatological Practice. This article describes use of the Cultural Formulation Model (DSM IV TR) to provide a framework for improving the diagnostic assessment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in culturally diverse patients. Data come from the Patient Clinician Encounter Study (Margarita Alqtaia, Ph.D.), a multi-site study that examines the process of clinical decision-making during an initial clinical intake session.

“Emergence of communication: words, grammar and first conversations,” authored by WENDY WAGNER ROBINSON and Kathleen McCartney, is included in Revised Infant Toddler guide to language development and communication. J.R. Lally, P.L. Mangione, & L.L. Young-Holt (Eds.), Sacramento, CA: California Department of Education.

“Measurement uncertainty in racial and ethnic identification among adolescents of mixed ancestry: A latent variable approach,” has been accepted for publication in Structural Equation Modeling. Authors are: ALLISON TRACY, SUMRI ERUKT, MICHELLE PORCH, Jo Kim, LINDA CHARMARAMAN, JENNIFER GROSSMAN, INECE CEDER, and Heidi vanherm.de/index.html?usa biografien.html.

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A NEW MODEL: BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS TO ADVANCE A COMMON PLATFORM OF ACTION

Project Director: Rangita de Silva-de Alwis
Funded by: an anonymous source

...Women and children with disabilities face double, triple, and multiple discrimination, neglect, humiliation, and stigmatization. The disadvantages women and children with disabilities face in the Asian region are amplified by factors such as race, poverty, social status, and other identities. This Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which creates a paradigm change by conceptualizing disability as a human rights issue, provides a powerful framework to hold duty bearers accountable to the rights of all stakeholders including women and children with disabilities. This project will focus on the intersection of disability and children's rights, including children with disabilities in its programming. The project is intended to directly affect the lives of children in Cambodia, Nepal, and Bangladesh and will focus on Constitutional and law reform, new litigation based on multiple discrimination, and reporting to the international community. These domestic programs will be scaled up to a regional project in India and an Asian regional Force on Women, Children, and Disability will come out of the May 2009 program in Mumbai. This model illustrates the way in which an innovative model put into place in three countries can be replicated in other countries in the region and inform international norm creation.

CREATING A FAMILY COURT ADVOCACY TRAINING CURRICULUM FOR BATTERED MINORITY AND IMMIGRANT WOMEN

Project Director: Monica Driggers
Funded by: the Boston Women’s Fund

...The team will work with the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance to create the curriculum and to hold one pilot “train-the-trainer” session. The curriculum will be distributed to every domestic violence service agency in the Greater Boston area as well as courts, cultural organizations, and relevant professional organizations.

STUDY OF IMPACT OF 1:1 PC PROJECT

Project Director: Georgia Hall; Julie Domenhoy
Funded by: Educational Systems International Inc. (ESI)

...This participatory evaluation expands the Centers’ international and educational research by examining the impact of technology on teaching and learning in Cairo, Egypt. The project looks at the use of individual student laptop computers and smart-boards in public and private schools in Cairo, including President Mubarak’s designated Reform Schools. The results will be timely since many schools are interested in implementing or expanding 1:1 PC initiatives. A WCW researcher will be onsite in Cairo through the Spring of 2009 collecting data.

DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOLS: A COLLABORATIVE MULTI-LEVEL EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

Project Director: Nan Stein
Funded by: National Institute of Justice
Prime Organization for Award: Police Executive Research Forum

...This study is designed to help increase the capacity of schools to prevent Dating Violence/Harassment (DV/H). The long-term goal of this study is to help prevent dating violence, sexual violence, and sexual harassment by employing the most rigorous methods to evaluate strategies for altering the violence-supportive attitudes and norms of youth. The study will evaluate the relative effectiveness of a multi-level approach to DV/H prevention programming (in terms of knowledge, attitudes, intended behavior, behavior, and emotional safety of youth participants) for middle school students in 57 middle schools in a large urban school district.

ADOLESCENT RELIGIOSITY, FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, AND RISKS OF SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

Project Directors: Allison Tracy, Jennifer Grossman
Funded by: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Prime Organization for Award: Salem State College

...This research project is a longitudinal study of religiosity, family relationships, and sexual risk-taking, using secondary data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health). The main objective is to investigate a construct, shared religiosity with family, derived from adolescents’ and their parents’ responses to three religiosity items in the Add Health data set. The project will focus on Constitutional and new litigation based on multiple discrimination, and reporting to the international community. The disadvantages women and children with disabilities face in the Asian region are amplified by factors such as race, poverty, social status, and other identities. This Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which creates a paradigm change by conceptualizing disability as a human rights issue, provides a powerful framework to hold duty bearers accountable to the rights of all stakeholders including women and children with disabilities. This project will focus on the intersection of disability and children’s rights, including children with disabilities in its programming. The project is intended to directly affect the lives of children in Cambodia, Nepal, and Bangladesh and will focus on Constitutional and law reform, new litigation based on multiple discrimination, and reporting to the international community. These domestic programs will be scaled up to a regional project in India and an Asian regional Force on Women, Children, and Disability will come out of the May 2009 program in Mumbai. This model illustrates the way in which an innovative model put into place in three countries can be replicated in other countries in the region and inform international norm creation.

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short takes

New Postdoctoral Scholar Joins WCW

Corinne McKamey recently joined the Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW) as a postdoctoral research scholar. McKamey completed her Ed.D. at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2005. Her dissertation, “You gotta make Washington High like you,” qualitatively examined the ways that immigrant students from nearly 20 different countries described and constructed cultures of caring in their Boston public high school. One section of this work documented the ways that students collaboratively engaged with their teachers and peers about issues that students cared about—for example, legitimacy, gender and racial equality, and academic success. These cultures of care provided spaces for students with a diverse range of ethnicities, social positions, and experiences to express and attend to their individual and collective needs as learners and participants in a larger school community.

Prior to graduate school, Corinne was a secondary science teacher and curriculum developer in several public, urban schools in San Antonio, TX. During her graduate school studies, McKamey was a researcher on Harvard Project ASSERT (Assessing Strengths and Supporting Affective Resistance in Teaching)—a study that examined teachers’ beliefs about how race, class, and gender informed their relationships with students. More recently she has collaborated with Michelle Porche, WCW senior research scientist, on the Center’s SISTEM (Success in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) project. Funded by the National Science Foundation, SISTEM aims to increase understanding of the underlying factors behind the under-representation of girls and women in STEM fields. In addition, it is exploring factors related to the lack of under-represented minority boys in STEM. During her one-year postdoctoral post at WCW, McKamey plans to continue working on this project where she can further her interests in supporting urban students and science education. She is particularly interested in continuing to understand how school contexts shape and are shaped by students’ identity development, including students’ academic, ethnic, and gender identities.

The postdoctoral program at WCW has three full-time research trainee positions sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The program provides systematic research training for candidates who want to develop expertise in research on childhood and adolescence and investigate variations in race and ethnicity, gender, and social class and how these intersect with risk and resiliency factors in human development. McKamey is the final postdoctoral trainee selected under this NICHD grant.

Appointments

Judith Jordan, Ph.D., director of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at the Wellesley Centers for Women, has been elected to Fellow Status in the Psychotherapy Division of the American Psychological Association (APA). Fellow status in APA is awarded to psychologists in recognition of outstanding contributions to psychology.

Nan Stein, Ed.D., senior research scientist at the Wellesley Centers for Women, has been invited to participate in a new collaborative project between the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The organizations are creating a national network of experts who can help shape media and policy approaches to national issues concerning violence against women. The network will be part of the Rapid Response Project, which is designed to quickly provide accurate research and context to legislators, reporters, and policymakers. The Rapid Response Project will: (1) provide research-based support for national statements on violence against women; (2) inform the national media discussion about violence against women; and (3) prepare for issues that are likely to arise in the near future.

The Women’s Sports Leadership Project

The Women’s Sports Leadership Project, led by Laura Pappano, writer-in-residence at the Wellesley Centers for Women, is a new initiative at the Centers. The project’s overarching goal is to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on gender disparities in organized athletics for the purpose of articulating a new vision of female leadership that legitimates and connects athletic experience to off-the-field skills. In connecting athletics with economic, social, and political power, this project seeks recognition that organized athletics has a democratic role and responsibility to promote gender equitable policies and practices.

The project includes research components related to:
- Collecting and analyzing data on ticket prices for college sports
- Considering the implications of athletic rule differences between men’s and women’s “versions” of sports
- Articulating legal barriers that remain (despite passage of Title IX)
- Articulating and gaining broad recognition for the burdens and value of the female athletic experience

Traumatic Stress & African Refugees in New Hampshire

Michelle Porche, Ed.D., senior research scientist at the Wellesley Centers for Women, and colleagues Lisa Fortuna and Stanley Rosenberg, have released the final report of the Community Dialogue and Needs Assessment for Addressing Traumatic Stress among Resettled African Refugee Youth in New Hampshire (www.wcwonline.org/nhrrefugee). The project utilized interview and community dialogue strategies for integrating youth, family, provider, school, and community knowledge and expertise towards addressing refugee mental health needs especially as it relates to trauma and in the context of resettlement. Youth and their families were seen at the center of this dialogue as critical informants and participants in intervention planning. This is part of an ongoing effort for dissemination of results locally to stakeholders and more widely to resettlement and practitioner audiences. Results will be used to develop pilot intervention projects for resettled youth and families.

FAIR GAME NEWS.com

FairGameNews.com is a news website dedicated to reporting on and commenting/blog-ging about gender equity issues in sports, and connecting via the web individuals interested in the importance of athletics to social, political, and economic fair play. Laura Pappano, writer-in-residence at the Wellesley Centers for Women, has taken the lead on making this online tool a reality. FairGameNews.com will also offer Wellesley College students the opportunity to develop online journalism, writing, and technology skills. Take a look and post a comment.

continued on page 10
Enhancing Youth Workers Professional Development in NYC

Over the past two years, the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) in New York City has convened a series of meetings with stakeholders representing academia, technical assistance providers, community-based organizations (CBO), DYCD staff, and other city agencies. Facilitated by Ellen Gannett, M.Ed., director of the National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) at the Wellesley Centers for Women, and NIOST trainer Marta Criccelli, these meetings offered the opportunity to think collectively about how the City’s professional development system for youth workers might be strengthened. The information will guide the RFP process for the Department of Youth and Community Development, outcomes, and expectations for youth programming and will develop professional development training opportunities for youth workers in DYCD funded CBOs. The end result is the development of a set of core competencies for youth work professionals in elementary and secondary programs.

New Online Training for Out-of-School-Time Providers

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) at the Wellesley Centers for Women is pleased to announce that interactive online training for the powerful evaluation tool, Survey of Afterschool Youth Outcomes (SAYO), is now available for purchase on NIOST’s website.

SAYO measures outcomes in eight areas that research suggests are linked to long-term positive development, and academic and life success. SAYO uses brief pre- and post-participation surveys to collect data from day-school teachers and afterschool staff in a “menu” approach. SAYO and the Assessing Afterschool Program Practices Tool (APPT) comprise the Afterschool Program Assessment System (APAS), which allows users to focus on evaluating specific, observable practices rather than more general quality characteristics.

SAYO surveys are easy to administer and the SAYO training offers step-by-step instructions that show program staff how to collect data effectively and responsibly, and how to analyze, interpret, and use their results for long-term program improvement. For more information, visit www.niost.org or call 781-283-2547.

Ellen Gannett presented on APAS and Workforce Issues at the Beyond the School: Our National Conference in San Francisco, CA in February and at the National AfterSchool Association Convention in New Orleans, LA in April. She presented on After School Quality (ASQ) for Summer Programming at the National Conference on Summer Learning in Chicago, IL, also in April. In March, Gannett was a presenter during Harvard University’s Outreach and Outreach in Mathematics and Engineering symposium for administrators and educators in Massachusetts and the Greater Boston area.

Tracy Gladstone made two presentations on preventing depression in at-risk children at the National Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Denver CO in April. Both were part of a symposium entitled Prevention of Depression in Youth Importance of the Family Context.


Linda Hartling served as the co-facilitator of the Human Dignity & Human Needs Studies Workshop on Human Rights and Violent Conflict held at Columbia University in New York, NY in December, which attracted more than 50 scholars, activists, and practitioners from across the country and around the world. She was also moderator of the evening program which was open to the public.

Judith Jordon served on a panel opened by Heba Helalawi, the 4th Data Driven Dialogue on the Meditation and Psychotherapy: Cultivating Compassion and Wisdom conference organized by Harvard Medical School’s Department of Psychiatry in Boston in May.


The Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at the Wellesley Centers for Women held its Relational Mindfulness Workshop at Wellesley College in March. This workshop explored how mindfulness, as it is evolving from Buddhist psychology, can contribute to Relational Cultural Theory (RCT) and the practice of psychotherapy.

Sallie Deppen and Nancy Mackay from the Open Circle program at the Wellesley Centers for Women presented a workshop, “What’s Emotion Got To Do With It? Linking Social and Emotional Development with Academic Success,” at the Massachusetts School Counseling Associations in April.

Laura Pappado co-author of Playing With the Boys: Why Separate Is Not Equal? Sports, joined with documentary filmmaker Theresa Moore-Guccione to Three Title IX at Thirty-Five to speak on, “A Historical Perspective on Women’s Athletics” at Yale University in February. The talk was sponsored by WISER-Yale’s Women’s Intercollegiate Sports Endowment and Resource, and included a discussion with student athletes about their passion in sport. Pappado, a former Unicyclist Yale field hockey player, is currently working on The Women’s Sports Leadership Project at WISER.

Flavia Pérea presented at numerous conferences during the fall semester on her work with immigrant and minority children, families, and communities in the area of public and community health. She presented on two panels at the American Public Health Association annual conference, San Francisco, CA in October, “Success stories—Community-based public health efforts to combat poverty, politics, policy, and public health” and “Massachusetts Public Health Reform: Eliminating Disparities and Creating Health Equity.” In December, she co-presented two papers on health education at the Medical Education for the 21st Century—Teaching for Health Equity in Havana, Cuba. Also in December, she co-presented an asset-based approach for teaching public and cultural self and real development at the National Institutes of Health Summer: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities in National Harbor, MD. In April, Pérea presented a study of language and the education of immigrant children, at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Denver, CO.

Michelle Porche, Corinne McKamy, and Judy Chu presented “High School Students’ Masculinity and Feminine Gender Identity; Toronto, Canada in August, 2009. At this meeting, Porche will also co-present “Past Traumas and New Adjustments: African Resettled Refugee Youth in Rural New Hampshire.”


Ellen Gannett and Nancy MacKamey are the authors of “Making the Most of Mindfulness: Bringing the Benefits of Mindfulness to the Classroom,” which can be found in this issue of Mindfulness in Education in Washington, DC. Stein also presented “Mindfulness and Psychotherapy: Cultivating Compassion and Wisdom” at the American Educational Research Association Convention in New Orleans, LA in April.

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Laura Pappado co-author of Playing With the Boys: Why Separate Is Not Equal? Sports, joined with documentary filmmaker Theresa Moore-Guccione to Three Title IX at Thirty-Five to speak on, “A Historical Perspective on Women’s Athletics” at Yale University in February. The talk was sponsored by WISER-Yale’s Women’s Intercollegiate Sports Endowment and Resource, and included a discussion with student athletes about their passion in sport. Pappado, a former Unicyclist Yale field hockey player, is currently working on The Women’s Sports Leadership Project at WISER.

Flavia Pérea presented at numerous conferences during the fall semester on her work with immigrant and minority children, families, and communities in the area of public and community health. She presented on two panels at the American Public Health Association annual conference, San Francisco, CA in October, “Success stories—Community-based public health efforts to combat poverty, politics, policy, and public health” and “Massachusetts Public Health Reform: Eliminating Disparities and Creating Health Equity.” In December, she co-presented two papers on health education at the Medical Education for the 21st Century—Teaching for Health Equity in Havana, Cuba. Also in December, she co-presented an asset-based approach for teaching public and cultural self and real development at the National Institutes of Health Summer: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities in National Harbor, MD. At this meeting, Porche will also co-present “Past Traumas and New Adjustments: African Resettled Refugee Youth in Rural New Hampshire.”


Ellen Gannett and Nancy MacKamey are the authors of “Making the Most of Mindfulness: Bringing the Benefits of Mindfulness to the Classroom,” which can be found in this issue of Mindfulness in Education in Washington, DC. Stein also presented “Mindfulness and Psychotherapy: Cultivating Compassion and Wisdom” at the American Educational Research Association Convention in New Orleans, LA in April.

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I am not talking about the sexualization of children way back in the late 1960s, when I began my work on the image of women in advertising. The first version of my film “Killing Us Softly,” made in 1979, included an ad featuring a sexy little girl and the slogan “You’re a Hakiton woman from the very begin- ning.” I knew something was happening, but I had no idea how bad it was going to get.

Rapid advances in technology have made readily available to most American children devices and methods of communica-
tion that, if imagined at all, belonged to the world of science fiction. Not that long ago—dial-up, internet, cell phones, handheld computers, email, text messaging, video games, hundreds of cable channels, and more. Among other things (some quite marvelous), these devices make pornography not just accessible, but inexorable. Twenty percent of all Web sites are pornography sites and twenty-five percent of all search engine requests are for pornography.

Images that previously belonged to the world of pornographic are now commonplace in family magazines and new-
papers, in TV commercials, on billboards, online. Today’s children are bombarde with graphic sexual content that they cannot fully process or understand and that can even frighten them. Developmentally incapable of interpreting it as adults, children are encouraged to dress and behave like strippers and porn stars. F.C.U.K. is the name of an international clothing chain popular with young people.

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I BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY SOME OF THE CHANGES THAT NEED TO HAPPEN WILL HAPPEN IS WITH WOMEN LEADING THE WAY.

### HOW WERE YOU INTRODUCED TO THE WORK OF THE WELLESLEY CENTERS FOR WOMEN (WCW), AND WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?

As a Wellesley graduate, I’d heard about the Centers since their founding in 1974—it was the Center for Research on Women. But it was my work as a top-notch researcher that grew from these questions. The Center for Research on Women’s issues? What makes WCW unique? What accounts for these successes? What was the most important thing you learned? The WCW narrative is a testament to their dedication and commitment to social change.

### WHAT MAKES WCW UNIQUE?

Several things... we were the first and are still the largest research center in the country focusing on women’s perspectives and experiences. Furthermore, it's rare for an undergraduate college to have a research center and at the same time, compared to university-based research centers, we're quite large, with an annual budget of $7.5 million dollars. Of course, growth for its own sake has no particular value. But growth because we’re asking important questions and addressing pressing issues is meaningful.

### WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THESE SUCCESSES?

The fact that we've built a strong reputation is key. This comes from our top-notch researchers and innovative programmatic and policy-related work. The Centers have made a major difference in the field of women’s research and policy development, and training of the kind of thing that Wellesley should be doing. Nobody else posed the idea of admitting men. The faculty voted “yes,” but the treasurer said “no.” Since it was going to be a woman's college, President Barbara Newell and Dean Alice Hitchman decided it was appropriate for Wellesley to have a center that would focus on issues of importance to all women in a time of rapid social change.

### DURING THE 35 YEARS SINCE THEN, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY HAVE BEEN WCW’S MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT?

Women have made a great deal of progress in almost every area. However, we have not achieved the goals or the gains envisioned in the optimistic mood of many feminists in the late 1960s and 70s. One area where the Centers have made a major difference is in the field of research. We have conducted research on a wide range of topics, from the impact of school policies on students to the role of gender in shaping social policies. We have also focused on the role of race and ethnicity in shaping gender roles and stereotypes. Our work has been instrumental in shaping public discourse and informing policy decisions. We have also been involved in providing training and support to those working in the field.

### CLEARLY, LOTS OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, WHICH ISSUES DO YOU SEE AS MOST PRESSING NOW—FOR THE CENTERS, AND FOR THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT?

I am hopeful that some of the changes that need to happen will happen with women leading the way. The Centers have made a significant contribution to the field of women’s research and policy development, and training. Their focus on gender equity and social justice is crucial for creating a more equitable and just society. The Centers continue to be a leader in this field, and I believe that their work will continue to be instrumental in shaping the future of women’s research and policy development.
than half of what the average white male receives. Single mothers are especially vulnerable to job loss, and victims of domestic violence show lower employment rates than other women. So improving the economic security of women and families remains a major concern.

In terms of work-family balance and the equal sharing of responsibilities for daily living, we still have a long way to go. Too often things like childcare are assumed to be the responsibility of the individual when solutions lie in community wide responses. Gender-segregated stereotypes are still strong, even if slightly less pervasive, and equity in education has not yet been achieved. This must be a major concern for all of us who care about the future of our nation.

Unfortunately, gender violence, in all aspects of the lives of women and girls, remains a critical barrier, not only to physical and psychological health, but to employment and education. Our work on family violence in the U.S. military led to the new policies and programs on prevention and intervention for the Navy, and in 2004 we held an international conference on understanding violence against women. Continued work on the causes, consequences, and prevention of gender-based violence is urgently needed, not only in the U.S. but around the world.

WHAT INITIATIVES DO YOU SEE THE CENTERS UNDERTAKING?
We’ll continue to work on the matters of social policy, economic security, and the educational concerns we have focused on since our founding, including those I’ve just mentioned. We’ll be doing more international work. We’ve built strong relationships with the U.S. Department of State, agencies of the U.N., non-governmental organizations, and legal advocates across the globe. We’re not trying to become an international research center in a traditional sense, but rather we are and will continue to work as part of the global women’s movement. We want to ensure that our work in the U.S. is informed by work being done in other parts of the world, and at the same time be helpful to women in other countries by sharing what we’ve learned here.

We’re reaching beyond our present concentration of work with women leaders across Asia to do more in the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia, pursuing the question of women’s human rights in a way that’s focused and intellectually sound.

The framing of many women’s issues as human rights issues is a relatively new and critically important framework. Human rights are broader than civil and political rights. Our programs using law and policy-making to support the rights and the welfare of women and children are important and very exciting for all of us! An essential part is women’s leadership. I believe that the only way some of the changes that need to happen will happen is with women leading the way.

WHAT ABOUT FUNDING FOR THESE NEW INITIATIVES?
It’s very much needed. Despite the fact that we’ve been quite successful in getting some of our international work going, it’s still a struggle to keep it funded. We need people with expertise in Africa and Latin America so that we can successfully extend significant work in these areas. We also need the infrastructure, the administrative support for this work. That kind of support is especially important as we do more internationally, because all sorts of issues such as travel, visas, and transferring funds are more complex and expensive.

We also need an economist who can bring the perspectives and insights of this field to our research. New work and investments in scholars such as an economist often require seed funding. Our track record is strong in this respect. For example, 19 years ago when issues of sexual harassment in schools were barely acknowledged, we appealed to our individual donors for funds to help bring Nan Stein, one of the few in the country with expertise in this area, to the Centers to investigate the ways these issues played out in classrooms. The generous support of WCW friends provided initial start up funds for her research. Almost 20 years later Nan is still pursuing issues of gender violence and bullying in schools, work that has been funded by grants from private and governmental programs for many years.

The international work of Rangita de Silva de Alwis is another, more recent, example. Rangita came to WCW three years ago with only partial funding, but with many innovative and exciting projects in mind. Because we had a generous Keon International Understanding Fund to draw on, we were able to supplement Rangita’s salary for the first year so that, too, was able to fund her work from outside sources. An initial investment in cutting-edge work is critical, once the work is started and the findings disseminated, major funding can be secured by writing proposals to governmental agencies and private foundations.

YOU HAVE AN AMBITIOUS ANNIVERSARY GOAL OF RAISING $5.5 MILLION TO PURSUE INITIATIVES LIKE THOSE YOU’VE DESCRIBED. IN THIS ECONOMICALLY DIFFICULT TIME, WHY SHOULD PEOPLE GIVE TO WCW?
It’s always a hard sell to generate funding for research and policy action projects, because you don’t see immediate results. When you fund hungry children or provide protection and support for battered women, you’re touching someone’s life directly and making an immediate difference. This work is important, but it is a bandage, you’re solving an immediate problem, but you’re not necessarily preventing its recurrence. Solid research and good action programs can help us get at the heart of problems and better understand them. This knowledge and insight can empower advocates, activists and policymakers to take action—action that addresses root causes and prevents rather than merely treats problems.

No matter how tight the economic times or how difficult it is to raise money, I believe that it’s never been more important to do this work. There is more awareness, more public discussion, and more hope for social change today than there has been in some time. We all need to invest our money wisely, and an investment in the kinds of work we do here is an investment that will both save money in the long term and make a positive difference in many, many lives. Our work has never been more relevant or more needed. We need to seize these new opportunities.

WHAT DOES THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROVIDE FOR CITIZENS OF THE WORLD?
RD: We are marking the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and all that has grown from it—most especially the nine human rights treaties. The Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) are two of the most important progeny of the UDHR. They are also the two conventions that shape and define most of the human rights work that we are engaged in here at the Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW).

When I examine each of the human rights treaties in a holistic framework, I see the core values that interrelate and form the overarching themes of all of the human rights norms. These constitutions are as follows: 1.) equality of all persons; 2.) participation—the participation of all persons including women, children, and persons with disabilities; 3.) non-discrimination, which means all of these rights are equal, there is no hierarchy among rights, and lasting, accountability. These treaties can be used to hold accountable all duty bearers and stakeholders so that rights holders have a remedial cause of action. These values shape and transform our work here at WCW.

NOT EVERY COUNTRY OR COMMUNITY HAS THE INFRASTRUCTURE OR THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES THAT REFLECT THE TREATIES. HOW DO YOU USE THESE FRAMEWORKS WHEN YOU WORK WITH GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES TO PROMOTE WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS?
RD: We look at the treaties in a very strategic and operational way in order to actualize the rights at a concrete level. We first do a needs assessment in consultation with our partners on the ground—that are the most urgent pressing needs, what
are the most vulnerable communities, what are the emerging new developments in law and policy, what are the opportunities and entry points for reform, what is the most compelling issue, and what, to some extent, is the issue that will have the most transformative impact?

As an example, the Asia Cause Lawyer Network (ACLN) was born out of the need for women human rights lawyers who can address women’s human rights in and outside of the court. This network augments their voices, scales up their work to a regional level, provides a clearinghouse of information and builds a platform for very cutting-edge work that they do individually and collaboratively on the domestic and regional level.

CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THE CENTERS’ NEWEST WORK ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, WITH DISABILITIES?

RD: Yes, the unique work of the ACLN: the Women and Children: the Human Rights Relationship in Asia program, and the China Gender and Law projects provided us with valuable incubators for some of our newest initiatives. For example, we have chosen two members of the ACLN network, the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, the Forum for Women, Law, and Development in Nepal, and Mekea Strey in Cambodia, with whom we are exploring the intersections and the multiple grounds of discrimination against women with disabilities.

Together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), we developed a resource tool, Disability Rights and Gender and Development. Portions of it have been translated into Nepalese, Cambodian, and Bangla, and the UNFPA and DESA have distributed the manual widely among different UN agencies and UN country offices. This manual also served as an important resource for our recent, very exciting programs. In partnership with the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, WCW developed the first conference on implementing the CRPD in Bangladesh held in January. For the first time, this initiative rallies women, children, and disability rights groups together to focus on revising the current disability welfare law, to challenge discrimination based on multiple grounds of gender and disability, and to build common cause on reporting to human rights treaties on the status of women and children with disabilities.

The conference was a tremendous success. High ranking government members including the Attorney General of Bangladesh and the Ministry of Social Welfare participated. The program and recommendations that grew from the conference created the impetus for the government to initiate the law revision process in compliance with the new treaty. Our partners are working with the government in leading the law revision process. Immediately after the Bangladesh conference, WCW collaborated with the Forum for Women, Law, and Development—the premier women’s human rights organization in Nepal—to mobilize the women’s, children’s, and disability rights movements at a conference there. The symposium brought together various representatives of Nepal’s new Constituent Assembly, including the Speaker of the Constituent Assembly, parliamentarians from different minority ethnic communities, and two parliamentarians with disabilities. A major result now is that the new Constitution includes disability as a prohibited ground of discrimination. And provisions in the Civil Code that discriminate against women with disabilities, both on the grounds of gender and disability, will be challenged in court.

In May, we worked with Mekea Strey, an NGO fighting for women’s rights in Cambodia, and its titular head, Mu Sochua, the former head Minister of Women’s Affairs, to build a coalition similar to the ones in Bangladesh and Nepal. Here we aim to build momentum for both the passage of the disability law that was recently forwarded to parliament and the implementation of this law on behalf of women and children with disabilities. We are also developing guidelines and recommendations for the decrees and sub decrees that will flow from this law. We are also working on important recommendations that look at violence against women as both a cause and consequence of disability and disability as a determinant of poverty. In most of these countries, the face of poverty is often that of a woman with disabilities.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS TO MOVING THIS NEWEST HUMAN RIGHTS WORK FORWARD? RD: Our work at WCW aims to advance the local to the global. The goal is to scale up the domestic pilot projects to a regional program in India and then to inform the CEDAW, CRC, and CRPD treaty bodies to examine the recommendations made at the domestic and regional levels, and to analyze the interconnectedness and cross-cutting nature of the treaties, so that the treaty body recommendations can be animated by a bottom-up process. Next February we will publish a report on this new model and will work with our partners to distribute it in different regions of the world. Our goal is to adopt and replicate this model as a best practice.
In November, RANGITA DE SILVA-DE ALWIS, LL.M., J.D. served as a moderator at the Conference on Legislative Reform to Achieve Human Rights held in New York, NY. Presentations provided an opportunity for representatives of participating organizations to showcase their current work on legislative reform and discuss challenges and opportunities to achieve human rights, specifically those of children, and the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Earlier that month, her work was presented at the Dialogue on National Monitoring of Human Rights Treaties, also in New York, NY.

In January, de Silva-de Alwis traveled to Bangladesh and Nepal for the disability rights conferences outlined in the previous article. The following month, she presented a discussion on Women’s Rights Advocacy in China at The Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations: Social Policy, Culture, Belief, and Gender in a Changing Asia program in Cambridge, MA.

As a member of the advisory board of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), de Silva-de Alwis attend the Workshop on Gender Equality and Human Rights Evaluation Guidance held in February in New York, NY. In April she attended the Geneva meeting held on Mainstreaming Disability and MDG Policies, Processes and Mechanisms. The UNEG is a professional network that brings together the units responsible for evaluation in the UN system, including the specialized agencies, funds, programs and affiliated organizations, decided to develop guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality perspectives into evaluation within the UN system.

In March, de Silva-de Alwis attended the International Conference on Violence Against the Girl Child held in The Hague. The conference focused on violence against the girl child in the home and family. In May, she traveled to Cambodia for work to build disability rights coalitions before then traveling to India for the Asia Cause Lawyer Network Steering Committee Meeting and Seminar on Disability Rights for Women.

PAM ALEXANDER, Ph.D. traveled with a group of Wellesley College faculty in January to Mysore, and Mumbai, India on a trip sponsored by the Bernstein Fund for Global Education. The focus of the trip was to develop research partnerships with Indian scholars and practitioners in each individual’s area of interest. With contacts facilitated by Dr. R. Indira from the University of Mysore, Alexander met with several women’s agencies that focus specifically on helping women who are victims of domestic violence, including Mahila Samakhya Karnataka and Shakhti Dham. She also met with Teesta Setalvad who is a Mumbai-based civil rights activist and the Women’s Centre in Mumbai.

NAN STEIN, Ed.D. traveled to Sundsvall, and Österund, Sweden in May for the Mid Sweden International Network for Gender Studies (MING) inaugural meeting focusing on women’s health and welfare. There Stein presented one of three open lectures on “What a difference a word makes,” and she participated in several network meetings, school workshops, and consultations with scholars. The objectives of the MING network include constituting a creative interdisciplinary meeting place for researchers interested in health and welfare from a gender perspective in a broad, interdisciplinary sense, in order to improve and develop knowledge in this area of research, including strengthening internationalization in the network.
Shaping a better world through research and action.