

# Schott Fellowship News

**Architects of Change**

Volume 3 Issue 5 May 2007

## ***Schott Fellows Convene Massachusetts Leaders to talk about Immigrant Children***



On Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 2007 Fellows researching immigrant children held their community roundtable. Jennifer Amaya-Thompson, Mary Police, Ronna Schaffer and Vanessa Otero, with much assistance from Marta Rosa, Fellowship Advisor, and the 2007 fellows, hosted what proved to be an insightful event.

Dr. Miren Uriarte, Director of the Mauricio Gaston Institute, began the day by providing the audience with a “picture” of immigration in Massachusetts. Dr. Uriarte spent some time on the phenomenon of the “1.5” (the children of immigrants).

Panelists were asked to highlight the key issues around immigration and provide recommendations to support children and families. Reverend Chen Imm Tang, Director of the Office for New Bostonians, cited English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), discrimination, housing, and education as key issues. Her elements for success included increased access and the affirmation of the immigrant heritage.

Alix Cantave, Associate Director of the Trotter Institute, concentrated on the condition of the Haitian immigrant population. His recommendations included increased access to family organizations, in-state tuition for all and Haitian instruction.

Dr. Elena Letona, Executive Director of Centro Presente, answered the question, “Why are immigrants here?” with a historical account of worldwide economic and employment trends. Her recommendations included increased family support, the restoration of pride, and justice for low wage workers.

Hannah Gebreteansae, Technical Assistance Specialist with Region I Head Start outlined the early education needs of immigrant families in the state. Her recommendations included increased family supports and increased teacher training.

The audience was then divided into groups to address the question, “What policies would make a difference for young immigrant children in Massachusetts?” During lunch, Ali Noorani, Executive Director of Massachusetts Immigrant Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition described the New Bedford raids and the work being done to alleviate the effects on the families and children involved.

Using the May 2<sup>nd</sup> roundtable and other experiences, the 2007 Fellows will present a series of policy recommendations to support immigrant children and families in Massachusetts by September 2007. For more detailed information about this event, please contact the Schott Fellowship at [schottfellowship@yahoo.com](mailto:schottfellowship@yahoo.com).

**The next alumni meeting will be on July 9, 2007 at 10:00 am at Cambridge College Room 308. Please plan to attend!**

**Subject: A Focus on Race led by Marcia Farris and Marie Enochy.**

## **Testimony for the Support of Preserving Protection for Parents of Infants**

Valora Washington testified before the Joint Committee on Children, Families and persons with Disabilities on May 9, 2007. Below is an excerpt of her testimony.

S. 73 and S. 115 would preserve current protections from work requirements for parents of children between the ages of 1 and 2 receiving benefits under the state's Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) program. If the protection is removed, these parents would be subject to a 20-hour weekly work activity requirement. Parents who do not comply and cannot demonstrate "good cause" for not doing so would lose their assistance. I submit this testimony in support of continuing the protections in S. 73 and S. 115.

I *fully support* encouraging parents of young children to work and to participate in education or training. Most parents, including, or perhaps particularly, the very lowest income parents will do so with adequate encouragement and support. However, it is *not advisable to impose a hard and fast work requirement on these parents* given the current situation in Massachusetts with regard to child care availability and quality. as well as what we know about the importance of the very early years of life.

For a full copy of the testimony please contact the Schott Fellowship office at [schottfellowship@yahoo.com](mailto:schottfellowship@yahoo.com) or call 617-873-0678.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 5 & 6, 2007 - Negotiation Training 10:00**

**July 9, 2007 - Alumni Meeting 10:00 to 3:00**

**July 10, 2007 - Fellowship Meeting 10:00 to 4:00**

**July 31, 2007 - Fellowship Meeting 10:00 to 4:00**

The Schott Fellowship in Early  
Care and Education  
Be an Architect of Change

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Cambridge, MA 02138  
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# **The Schott Fellowship** in Early Care and Education

## **What is the Schott Fellowship?**

We are now accepting applications for a one-year fellowship for early care and education professionals in Massachusetts. The fellowship offers twelve professionals the opportunity to engage in public policy, build their leadership skills and focus on social justice for children and their families. The fellowship in 2008 will focus on these topic areas:

- 1) Transportation: Transporting young children to early care and education programs as well as on field trips has been a constant challenge. What policies do you think should be created to deal with transportation issues?**
- 2) Quality Rating Systems: Many states are enacting quality rating systems. How should Massachusetts respond to this?**
- 3) Young Children in Public Schools: Increasing numbers of young children are in public schools. What additional solutions would be effective policies for these children?**
- 4) Men in Our Profession: What are the policy issues and solutions?**
- 5) Family Child Care: What policies would better support the needs of family childcare in Massachusetts?**
- 6) Preschool Boys: Are early care and education programs structured to maximize the success of boys? How can our policies better serve young boys, especially young boys of color who have higher suspension rates from preschool programs?**

## **Who should apply?**

Candidates:

- Should be mid-career professionals with at least five years of experience working with or on behalf of children and families. Senior school administrators, early childhood program leaders, child or family advocates are encouraged to apply.
- Should demonstrate both commitment and experience working within communities of color and/or in economically underserved communities.
- Should have experience doing public policy projects and recognize the role and potential of public policy to promote educational equity and opportunity for all.
- At the time of applying, must be employed by an agency that works with or on behalf of children and families, and that agrees to provide the Fellow with two days each month to participate in fellowship.

## **Why a Fellowship in Early Care and Education?**

The aims of the Schott Fellowship in Early Care and Education are to engage, support and sustain a diverse group of senior leaders in early care and education; to strengthen public policy and policy advocacy; and to help leaders develop skills to be change agents both within their organizations and in society.

## **About The Schott Fellowship**

Schott's goal is to develop and strengthen a broad-based and representative movement for young children in Massachusetts. We seek to build public will and improve public policy for young children.

**How do I apply?** Download an application at [www.schottfellowship.org](http://www.schottfellowship.org)

For a printed application contact Valora Washington, Ph.D., Fellowship Director

**Schott Fellowship**

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**Application deadline is September 15, 2007**

# Workshop on Mediation and Negotiation

The 2007 Fellows will have a two day workshop on mediation and negotiation on June 5 & 6, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Cambridge College. Participants must be able to attend for both days. Alumni are welcome to attend. To confirm your intent to participate, please contact Jessica at 617-873-0678 or e-mail [schottfellowship@yahoo.com](mailto:schottfellowship@yahoo.com)

## Principals' Fellowship Culminating Event

On May 8, the Principals' Fellowship had their culminating event at the First Parish Church in Weston. The meeting focused on lessons learned in pre-kindergarten programs in three school districts: Boston, Framingham and Cambridge. Each of the Fellows gave an overview of their school districts and talked about the various community organizations.

Jason Sachs, the Director of Early Childhood at Boston Public Schools, provided the Principals with an overview of preschool in the Boston Public Schools, emphasizing the importance of a strong curriculum in preschool and kindergarten. Anna Cross, Director of Family Support Programs at Framingham Public Schools, described strategies being used in Framingham to support families and make preschool a larger priority.

After an authentic Brazilian lunch, Thomas Fowler-Finn, Superintendent of Cambridge Public Schools, emphasized the productive collaborations of the Cambridge schools with various community organizations. Over the course of the Fellowship year, Fellows participated in numerous site visits and interviews with the Fellowship evaluator, Winnie Hagan. Winnie shared with them the themes from the evaluation information that had been collected over the past academic year.

In closing, consultant UT Saunders facilitated dialog with Fellows about the past year and how Fellows will continue to build pre-kindergarten to grade three alignment over the years ahead.

**Congratulations to all the Principals' Fellows for a productive year.**