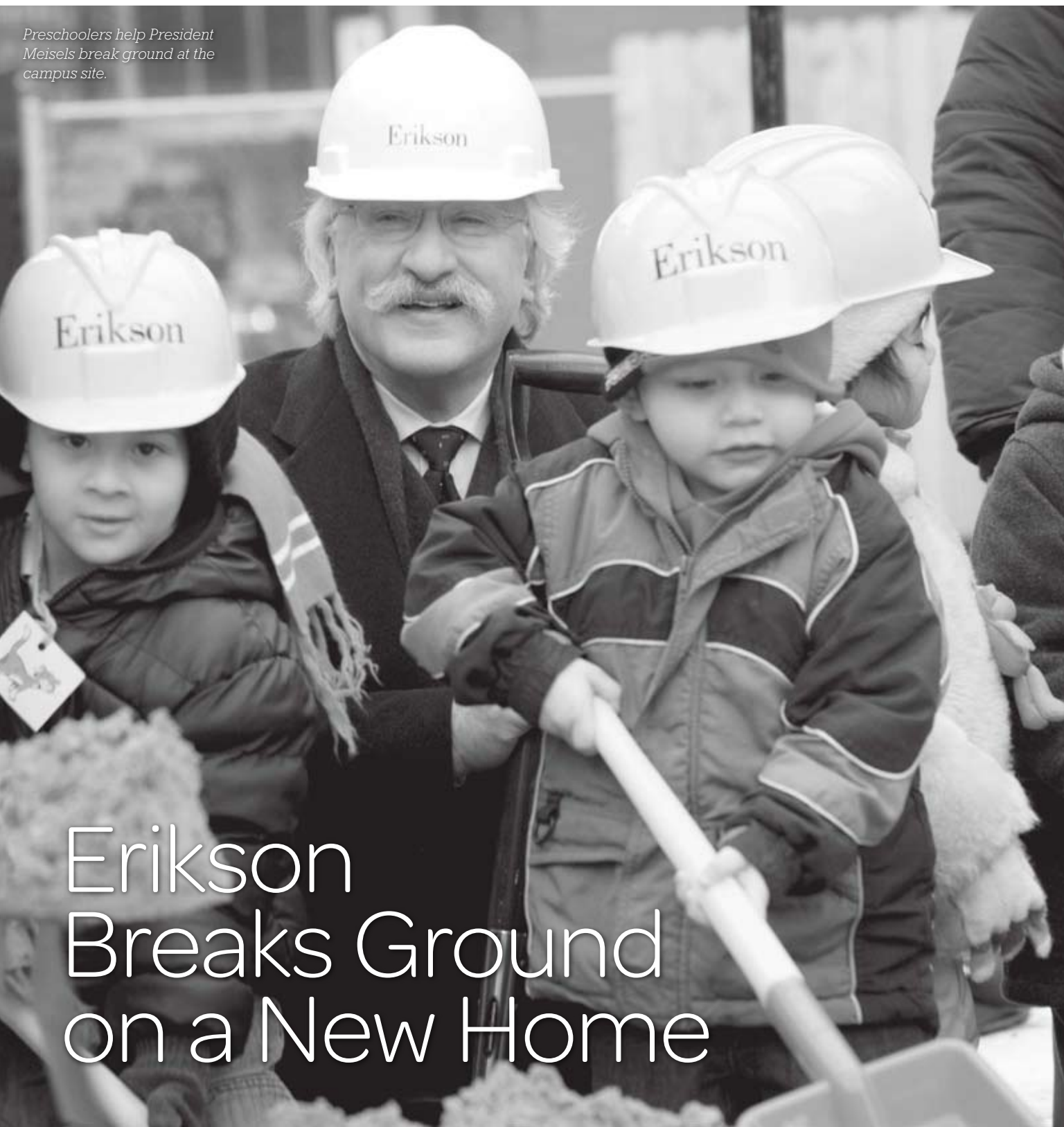


Erikson
A GRADUATE SCHOOL OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

In the Service of Children

WINTER 2007

Preschoolers help President Meisels break ground at the campus site.



Erikson Breaks Ground on a New Home

A Word from the President



Before you read this message, please flip this newsletter closed and take another look at the cover. Back with me? Good. What you see pictured is Erikson Institute's reason for existence.

These Head Start students are both a link back to our origins and a symbol of our future. My young hard-hatted helpers remind us exactly who Erikson serves and why we need to grow.

And we *are* growing. On Jan. 18 we broke ground on a brand new campus. It was one of the most significant—and thrilling—moments in the history of this Institute. Chicago has always been our inspiration, laboratory, training ground, and base of operations. Now, after 40 years of renting, we're taking ownership, putting down real roots with a very visible home in the heart of the city. It's exciting not just because we'll have more space (twice as much as now), but because of all the critically important initiatives we will launch and all the child development leaders we will nurture within that space.

It was an honor to have Illinois Speaker of the House Michael Madigan, Chicago's first lady Maggie Daley, and 42nd Ward Alderman Burton Natarus participate in this great moment and literally dig in to help us grow. Their presence symbolized leadership, teamwork, and steadfast support from both the city and the state—all signs of a strong future.

Alongside these officials, Board of Trustees chairman Dick Kiphart and founder Barbara T. Bowman enthusiastically took up their shovels and helped our pint-sized guests ceremoniously start construction on our new home. It's hard to say who was having more fun—us or the preschoolers.

It took years of hard work by the facilities committee and board chairs to make the dream of a new campus a reality. And it's a special day when you can see a dream coming true.

Together, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends of the Institute celebrated the potential of this building. We shared an exhilarating sense that we were experiencing a moment in our history that will take the Institute to a new level. Stay tuned to see what our bright future will bring to young children everywhere.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Samuel J. Meisels". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Samuel J. Meisels
President

WINTER 2007

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Erikson Heads (Far) East

Erikson is exploring an exciting opportunity to establish a master's program in child development and early education at East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai.

This would be the first American early childhood graduate degree program offered in China.

Under the proposed partnership, Erikson faculty would design a curriculum in early childhood theory that integrates Eastern and Western approaches. Erikson will also train ECNU faculty, who will teach Chinese-language courses in Shanghai and supervise students. Courses will be offered during the summer, in late winter, and via the Internet.

Faculty from Shanghai will travel to Chicago and work with Erikson faculty to prepare for their teaching responsibilities. In return, Professor **Jie-Qi Chen** and another faculty member will go to Shanghai each summer to lecture, discuss issues, observe, evaluate, and provide feedback. Chen will provide administrative oversight for the program.

If approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education, the program would enroll its first students in January 2009.

This partnership is an unmatched



Dean Frances Stott, President Meisels, and Professor Jie-Qi Chen took time to see China's sights while exploring program opportunities there in October.

opportunity for Erikson to spread expertise globally and play a significant role in the advancement of early childhood education in China. At the same time, Erikson will learn much from direct exposure to China's early education philosophy, policies, child care systems, parenting, and classroom practice. This joint venture has the potential to deepen Erikson's understanding of child development and early education while providing

new perspectives on educating early childhood professionals both here and in China.

Chen, President **Samuel Meisels**, and Dean **Frances Stott** visited ECNU last October to explore program opportunities. Meisels delivered four lectures to students and faculty at ECNU and also addressed an international conference that was taking place there.

Books Still Best

Old-fashioned storybooks are a better bet than electronic books for sparking the kind of interactions that form the foundation of preschoolers' literacy skills, Erikson's **Molly Collins** found in a recent study.

Collins and Julia Parish-Morris of Temple University examined the interaction between three- to five-year-old children and their parents while reading traditional books and while using electronic story devices. With e-books, more of the parents' questions or comments concerned process or behavioral issues related to using the e-book, such as "Press here." Traditional books inspired more comments about book content ("Do you see the frog?") and discussion that expanded beyond the story.

Previous research shows that this content-based dialogue during reading helps build certain language and literacy skills; those skills in turn predict better performance in school. This study shows that for all their bells and whistles, e-books do not encourage—and may actually restrict—the stimulating interaction shown to enhance literacy skills. "Parents should prioritize reading traditional books with children to promote reading skills and a love of learning," Collins concluded.

Associate No More

The Erikson Board of Trustees resoundingly approved **Jie-Qi Chen's** promotion to full professor in September.

A faculty member since 1994, she teaches courses on cognitive development and assessment in the master's program and on learning and teaching in the doctoral program.

Her research in early childhood teaching and learning and in alternative approaches to early childhood assessment won glowing endorsements from external reviewers who evaluated her work. "I view Dr. Chen's areas of research as having great potential for the future and her scholarly contributions to date to be significant, timely, and reflective of the highest standards of early childhood research," one reviewer wrote.



Bridging the Infant Mental Health Service Gap

Erikson has been tapped to provide high-quality infant mental health consultation to programs working with high-risk infants and families across Illinois.

A full 70 percent of infant/family programs in Illinois say they are not well-prepared to meet the mental health needs of the young children they serve, a study led by Erikson faculty showed.

To help close that service gap, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has contracted with Erikson to advise its Prevention Initiative programs, strengthening their capacity to address social-emotional concerns of clients.

The three-year project will pilot, refine, and roll out a model for consultation. **Samantha Wulfohn, Ph.D.**, director of the project, has recruited a statewide network of experienced infant mental health professionals who will provide individualized support to programs.

In the first year, consultants will work with about 18 programs in north-eastern Illinois and East St. Louis. The aim is to develop and refine the approach, then extend the consultation service to all 180 programs statewide in future years.

The ISBE Early Childhood Block Grant has committed \$200,000 to the project. The Irving Harris Foundation

has pledged to match the ISBE funding with \$100,000 annually for up to three years.

“Prevention programs are clamoring for this kind of support,” Wulfohn said. “The State Board of Education recognizes that if they support the social emotional needs of babies early in life, it promotes school readiness and advances learning in school.”

“Funding initiatives like this shows a lot of foresight on the board’s part.”

Murphy Leads Institutional Advancement Team



Caragary photo

Erikson welcomes Eileen B. Murphy, who joined the Institute in September as vice president for institutional advancement.

She brings to the Institute more than 16 years of experience in all facets of development and a solid foundation in nonprofit management. Most recently, she worked as director of development for the

60,000-member American Academy of Pediatrics, where she played a key role in an endowment campaign that exceeded its \$7.5 million goal during the academy’s 75th anniversary year.

In short order, Murphy has assembled a strong new development team. She recruited Debborah Harp, Erikson’s director of development operations, from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Other new staff include Magdalena (Magda) Slowik, associate director, annual fund and special events, formerly at Loyola University; Anne Volz, associate director, corporate/foundation relations and grants management, a recent transplant from New Jersey; Christopher Hawkins-Long, assistant director, data systems and operations, formerly with Anixter Center; and Lynn Hart, development assistant and liaison to the board of trustees.

With her team, Murphy will work to expand the circle of partners who support Erikson’s mission through increased funding support.

We can't wait for Saturday, May 19, 2007!

Kathy Richard photo

Please save that date for the

**Erikson Institute
Prism Ball**

*Help us celebrate our
40th Anniversary!*

Honoring

J.B. Pritzker

Chairs

Sunny and Gery Chico

Museum of Science and Industry

6 p.m. Reception

7 p.m. Dinner

*For more information, please call
Magda Slowik at 312-893-7113.*

thank you!

Erikson gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their recent grants. With this vital support, we are improving the lives of more children and families in Chicago and beyond.

The Chicago Community Trust

New Schools Project - \$60,000

The Educational Foundation of America

Writing Tutors Program - \$40,000

The Irving Harris Foundation

Harris Leadership Fellowships and Excellence Scholarships - \$547,704

Infant Studies Program - \$150,000

Illinois State Board of Education
Mental Health Consultation
Training - \$100,000

The Joyce Foundation

Herr Research Center for Children and Social Policy - \$75,000

McDougal Family Foundation

New Schools Project - \$50,000

Michael Reese Health Trust

Fussy Baby Network - \$30,000

Pearson Education, Inc.

Ounce Scale Validation Project - \$63,000

Pritzker Early Childhood Foundation

Fussy Baby Network - \$60,000

Stott Steps Down as Dean



Longtime Erikson Institute professor and administrator **Frances Stott** will be stepping from her role as vice president of academic affairs and dean as of August 31.

Stott has been a guiding force at the Institute since joining the faculty in 1979. She has founded and directed both the infant studies and doctoral programs and played a lead role in winning accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central

Association of Colleges and Schools.

While her vision and keen sense of Erikson's mission will be sorely missed at the administrative level, she will continue teaching half time after Sept. 1, sharing her extraordinary talents and knowledge of human development in the classroom as the Barbara T. Bowman Professor of Child Development.

"Fran has long been a font of wisdom, warmth, and support for everyone at this Institute," said Samuel J. Meisels, president. "In the classroom and out, she embodies the Erikson hallmarks of embracing multiple perspectives and complexity—so much so that she's widely known for her trademark reply to all questions: 'It depends.'"

"She holds people—faculty, students, and staff—together by her flexibility, insight, and accepting personality," observed Professor **Barbara Bowman**, the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development. For these traits, she is beloved by generations of Erikson graduates, many of whom have kept in touch with her for years.

Stott provided early notice of her decision to step down and teach part-time, allowing the Institute to mount a national search for a new dean and ensure a smooth and timely transition. A search committee led by Professor **Linda Gilkerson** looked closely at many candidates for the post. The Institute selected **Frances Rust, Ed.D.**, currently professor of teacher education at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education. This summer, Rust will become dean and senior vice president for academic affairs and will hold the Rochelle Zell Dean's Chair.

"Frances Rust is a committed and productive scholar in the field of teacher education," Stott said. "She is a master at applying knowledge to the critical problem of improving the learning of young children. We're confident she has the knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to lead Erikson into the next phase of its growth and development."

"Fran leaves large shoes to fill, so finding a new dean was a formidable task," Gilkerson noted. "Frances Rust stood out for her visionary and collaborative leadership, her scholarship, and her passion for high quality early childhood graduate education. Her strengths complement Erikson's teaching and research activities. We are delighted to welcome her."



Dan Dry photos



T. Berry Brazelton—one of America's most famous pediatricians and an Erikson life trustee—stopped by this fall to visit colleagues and chat with students and staff in the Irving B. Harris Infant Studies Program.

Standard Bearer

Founders' Award Winner Recognized for Professionalizing Child Care



Ted Lacey photos

Outstanding alumna Carol Brunson Day (center) celebrates her award with President Meisels and Professor Barbara Bowman.

CAROL BRUNSON DAY was the kind of preschool teacher who scrounged scarce art supplies, led her young pupils on explorations throughout the school, and even raised chickens to teach them about the life cycle of animals. And that was all in her first year.

"I thought the school building belonged to the kids. That's what Erikson Institute gave me: an enthusiasm for teaching, then and now," said Day (formerly Carol Brunson Phillips), a 1969 graduate.

Even after she stepped away from teaching, Day continued to bring energy, imagination, and high standards to the early childhood classroom—this time by working to ensure that other early childhood professionals were providing quality care and education.

As president and CEO of the

Council of Professional Recognition from 1985 until 2004, Day headed the Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program, which promotes assessment and improved performance of those who work in early childhood centers. The CDA credential was established in 1971, with significant input from Erikson faculty. Under Day's leadership, it has been widely adopted as a personnel qualification for child care center licensure; 15,000 professionals seek the credential each year.

For her leadership in professionalizing child care and advancing multicultural education, the Alumni of Erikson Institute presented Day with the 2006 Founders' Award at its annual meeting in November.

Over dinner, fellow alumni, family, and friends paid tribute to Day's remarkable accomplishments. Her

mother, Burnece, began by sharing a letter Day wrote more than 30 years ago describing her first days as a brand-new kindergarten teacher in Los Angeles. Confronted by a nearly barren classroom and the prospect of losing her first class due to low enrollment, Day wrote of liberating crayons from other classrooms and digging up an ancient tape recorder to provide her 17 students the richest experience possible. "I'm definitely going through an adjustment period," she wrote with dry understatement.

Day has gone far since that first classroom experience. At the award presentation, her college roommate Julie Ellis commented, "I was always



"I thought the school building belonged to the kids. That's what Erikson Institute gave me: an enthusiasm for teaching, then and now."

impressed with her career, but I used to think she was just a kindergarten teacher. Then one time she came back to Chicago to speak and I went to see her. There were people lined up and sitting on the floor in this giant hall at McCormick Place to hear her speak. That's when I realized who she had come to be."

With long interest and expertise in African American heritage, Day has published extensively in the areas of diversity, multicultural education, and cultural influences on development. She held a Ford Foundation/National Research Council postdoctoral fellowship to conduct research on early development in African American children. As a U.S. Department of Education Mina Shaughnessy Scholar, she studied ways to stimulate anti-racist consciousness and behavior in adults. She has published extensively on topics related to professional development, diversity, and culture.

She also was the liaison for the international exchange between the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and the early childhood community in the United States. Now the head of her own consulting firm, Day became president of the National Black Child Development Institute in January.

"When I think back of what I'm most proud of in my career, I can trace it all back to Erikson Institute," Day told the audience after receiving

her award. She cited some of the lessons that became bedrock principles for her:

- Children's parents are fundamental partners; you can't do your job if you don't have good relationships with those parents.
- Good classroom practice is a function of how you interact with children. It's a decision you're making, not a product of copying a curriculum.
- As Erik Erikson said, an individual is organism, ego, and member of society, meaning he or she is at once universally human, uniquely individual, and a cultural being. "I was able to be a leader in thinking about cultural issues because I never relegated the child as a cultural being to the background," Day said.

"I'm absolutely certain these things are still taught at Erikson today. What I learned here continues to inspire and challenge me," she said. "I'm grateful to [Erikson founders] Barbara Taylor Bowman and Lorraine Wallach and [former faculty member] Dorothy Anker, who had a great, great impact on my life and enabled me to stay in the early childhood field all these years." ■

The Erikson Impact

15,000

professionals annually seek the CDA credential, established with Erikson input and administered by Day for 20 years.

Barbara Bowman, Maggie Daley, and Head Start students from Albany Park Community Center launch construction. Children like these will be the ultimate beneficiaries of Erikson's new campus.

Erikson Breaks Ground on a New Home

Chicago's first lady Maggie Daley declared it "an important moment for Chicago and an important step for our children" when she and other distinguished guests joined Erikson leaders to symbolically break ground on a brand new campus January 18.

Fittingly, a few of those children—eleven Head Start preschoolers equipped with toy hard hats and tiny shovels—helped Erikson president Samuel J. Meisels, board chairman Richard Kiphart, Speaker Mike Madigan, Daley, and others flip the first shovels of earth during ceremonies at the site of Erikson's new home.

After 40 years of renting, the Institute is purchasing a spacious, custom-built facility. Erikson will own three floors in a 10-story high-rise on Illinois Street, between Clark and LaSalle streets. The building, developed by the Alter Group, will be ready for occupancy in August 2008.

"This is one of the most significant moments in our history—the moment we break ground on what will be the first campus we have ever owned," President Meisels told an enthusiastic crowd of trustees, faculty, staff, and friends of the Institute. "It's not only a milestone for Erikson but a statement of accomplishment for the early childhood field as well.

"We couldn't be more excited about the opportunities for growth that this building allows," added Meisels, who has held the Irving and Neison Harris President's Chair at Erikson since 2001.

The building will provide much-needed space to accommodate Erikson's growing academic programs, research activity, and new clinical initiatives, all aimed at giving children the best start in life.

Daley, who received an honorary doctorate from Erikson in 2005, said she was delighted to celebrate the growth of "this school that I and so many others deeply admire." She added, "I can't say how thrilled I am about this new home that will help you continue your important work."

Kiphart, a key adviser on the project, noted, "Building this campus for Erikson demands big commitments, and I'm not just speaking of financial commitments. It demands commitments to our children—to those who depend on us to give them a good start in school and in life. It's this vision of giving each child a good start that brought us to Erikson in the first place and brings us here today."

Professor Gillian McNamee, who has been part of the Erikson faculty for more than 25 years, echoed that theme. "Luckily for the Erikson family, we have a strong history in breaking new ground. Our founders Barbara Bowman, Maria Piers, Lorraine Wallach, and Irving Harris were visionaries who broke new ground by creating a new kind of institution of higher education dedicated to the study of children. Today we break ground on a new building that will house generations of scholars and students who will



Erikson will own the first three floors of this new high-rise with a dedicated entrance on LaSalle Street shown in this view.

build on the creativity and commitment that has marked our first 40 years. I am sure our founders—particularly Barbara—would say, "You haven't seen anything yet! We are just getting started!"

Madigan offered congratulations and told the crowd his wife, Shirley, an Erikson trustee, was disappointed that she was unable to attend the groundbreaking. "For my part, I'm pleased that the state of Illinois can participate in this truly worthwhile project." Referring to the state's commitment of financial support for the campus, he said, "Here taxpayers can see a concrete example of government giving something back that will do a world of good."

Burton Natarus, alderman for the 42nd Ward, noted, "This is very thrilling, to see this property developed into something so meaningful. It's great to walk into a room and see so many people willing to come together and work on an important project like this."

Meisels thanked the Board of Trustees, particularly the facilities committee, for its advice and support throughout the long process of planning and negotiating for this new campus. Kiphart also acknowledged the cumulative effort of all who have nurtured the Institute with leadership and advice over the years, from founding board president and patron Irving Harris to recent board chairs Kathy Pick, Virginia Bobins, and Susan Wislow.

"We wouldn't be here today without them. It has taken a lot of work to get this far and there is much more to do, but it's truly exciting to break ground and see this becoming a reality." ■

"It's not only a milestone for Erikson, but a statement of accomplishment for the early childhood field as well."



Building a Dream

In just 18 months, Erikson's long-held dream of a new campus to accommodate our growth and future plans will be a reality.

At 75,000 square feet, the new campus will be nearly double the size of current rented quarters. The campus also provides the school with a prominent street-level presence and a dedicated entrance with its own address: 451 North LaSalle Street.

Features of the campus include:

- additional classrooms and seminar spaces featuring high ceilings, natural light, and the latest learning technology;
- expanded space for the Edward Neisser Library and Learning Center with a computer training room, an information commons, and group study rooms;
- increased space for the new Herr Research Center for Children and Social Policy;
- specialized space for clinical activities;
- Erikson's own two-story lobby entrance with dedicated elevators; and
- lounge areas, student lockers, team rooms, and other amenities for students and staff.

Designed by Martin F. Wolf, senior principal with Solomon Cordwell Buenz & Associates, the building will feature environmentally conscious design elements and operating technology. Gensler Architecture will design the interiors.

The central downtown location perfectly meets Erikson's needs, with proximity to public transportation, parking, and key partners such as the Chicago Public Schools administration and Loyola University.

"Finding a site that met Erikson's geographic, demographic, and transportation needs was a challenge," noted David "Buzz" Ruttenberg, who cochaired the Board of Trustees facilities committee with James Roche. "We worked with U.S. Equities Realty to analyze some 40 properties. We are all pleased with the outcome. The Alter

Group is a great partner and contractor, and the site is ideal. It offers great visibility for Erikson's future."

Jeanne Lockridge, vice president for administration and enrollment, who has managed all phases of the campus project, said the facilities committee's expertise was invaluable. In addition to Ruttenberg and Roche, committee members included Lewis Ingall, Richard Schuham, Lee Harkelroad III, Sara Crown Star, and successive board chairs Virginia Bobins, Susan Wislow, and Richard Kiphart.

"Their reputations in the field, their attention to detail, and their toughness were essential. People in the industry knew how well represented we were and respected their knowledge, so they respected what we were asking for. We could not have done this without them," Lockridge said.

Early in the process, the committee determined that it was more cost effective to buy than rent and to build rather than remodel existing space to meet Erikson's specific needs.

"Tax-exempt financing and the future real estate tax exemption Erikson will receive from owning afforded Erikson the ability to purchase almost double the amount of space it currently leases, at a much lower cost than leasing comparable space," said Geoff Euston, senior vice president of U.S. Equities Realty.

"It took innovation and a lot of creative thinking to make this deal work financially and from a design standpoint," noted Michael Alter, president of the Alter Group. "It's been a great honor and privilege to be involved with such a great institution and to be part of building your new home," he added. ■

Challenge Grants Power Erikson Fund Drive

Aiming to exceed last year's success, three generous Erikson supporters have once again combined to provide a \$75,000 matching gift challenge to the Erikson Fund.

Susan and Richard Kiphart, the Circle of Service Foundation, and Exelon Corporation each pledged \$25,000 to match new or increased gifts to the Institute's annual fund drive. By leveraging the value of contributions dollar-for-dollar, the challenge provides extra incentive for others to give for the first time, or give a bit more.

Other donors did rise to the challenge, contributing \$116,000 in new or increased dollars, bringing in more than enough to claim the entire match. With this strong boost, the drive raised \$295,347 by late January—well on the way to the \$350,000 goal.

Exelon has provided a challenge gift to Erikson's annual appeal every year since 2003–04.

"Exelon is strongly committed to improving education in the communities we serve," said Katherine K. Combs, senior vice president, corporate governance, and deputy counsel and a member of the Erikson Board of Trustees. "Erikson's work makes a real difference in area schools. We're pleased to support that work and encourage others to do the same."

Last year, the Kipharts and Circle of Service Foundation joined in to bolster the challenge.

"Erikson Institute is a great institution. I believe in its work and I want it to thrive, so I want to see it bring in the funds it needs to accomplish its mission," said Richard Kiphart, principal at William Blair and Co. and chair of the Erikson board. "Also, I believe you give because you can. When good things happen and

you've been fortunate in life, as I have been, you support the organizations you believe in.

"I've been around long enough to know that unrestricted gifts are the best. They help an organization meet its needs," he added. He hopes that the renewed challenge will encourage others to give what they can to meet those growing needs.

Circle of Service Foundation is also pleased to provide a boost to Erikson's work to improve early childhood education. "Education is the root of the continuing success of our society. Erikson is the educator of the educators," noted foundation president Michael P. Krasny.

The need for early childhood expertise is strong, and Erikson is growing in response to that need. We continue to expand and adapt our academic programs to provide the best possible education and provide scholarships to keep these programs within the financial reach of students.

We partner with a wide array of schools, agencies, and community organizations to develop and implement effective programs and services for children and families, and we conduct applied research to understand which programs work best and why. We also educate law and policymakers to shape effective early childhood policy. All this requires a steady stream of vital, unrestricted gifts.

"We're delighted that these good friends of Erikson continued to support the Erikson Fund by renewing the challenge this year," said Eileen

Murphy, vice president for institutional advancement. "The match is often that little extra push that persuades people to give, or if they already give, to dig a little deeper. That helps us build a broader base of support that's critical to expanding Erikson's work in the service of children." ■

Please consider making a gift to support our work. Use the envelope in this issue or give online at www.erikson.edu/support

The Erikson Impact

1,668

parents have been helped by the Fussy Baby Network since inception.

100%

of teachers' attention is focused on learning—not discipline—in classrooms supported by Erikson's New Schools Project.



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Friday, May 18, 2007

For details, see www.erikson.edu/profdev