

First Annual Children's Conference Draws Leaders

Nearly 100 participants, including scholars from across the country, attended the first annual conference of the law school's Center on Children and the Law in December.

"Defending Childhood — Developing a Child-Centered Law and Policy Agenda" was headed by UF's David H. Levin Chair in Family Law **Barbara Bennett Woodhouse**, and held at the UF Hotel & Conference Center.

"We were quite pleased with the conference's success," Woodhouse said. "It allowed scholars from a variety of fields — including law, medi-



Presentations were well-attended, and participants enjoyed the breakout sessions.



Jaap Doek (right), Chairman of the U. N. Committee on Rights of the Child and Professor of Child & Family Law at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, was featured conference speaker. Also presenting were Levin Chair in Family Law **Barbara Bennett Woodhouse** (second from right), Director of UF's Institute for Child Health Policy **Elizabeth Shenkman** (far left), Chesterfield Smith Professor of Law Professor **Nancy Dowd**, and Indiana University Professor of History and Law **Michael Grossberg**.

cine, sociology, history, psychology and education — to meet others with similar priorities and to share perspectives on critical issues facing children and youth."

Jaap Doek, Chairman of the U. N. Committee on Rights of the Child and Professor of Child & Family Law at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, was a featured participant, along with 17 other national scholars — including representatives of Cornell and universities of Virginia, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, George Washington, Indiana, Ohio State and Northwestern. Six UF faculty and 15 from the College of Law also were featured.

"All the comments I heard were very, very positive," said law school Director of Conference Planning **Barbara DeVoe**. "The presenters and the way the program was done were praised. They particularly enjoyed the breakout sessions and the give-and-take on areas of specific interest."