

Report

June 2005

Volume 50:2

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Family Focus On...

Multiple Meanings of Family

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"The truth is that families come in many different shapes these days, and all of them deserve respect," proclaimed an editorial that appeared several years ago in the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

In this issue, we explore some of those shapes and what they mean for family members. We also explore several new theories about the family and its continuing evolution.

As always, we welcome your comments.

NEXT ISSUE:

Aging

2005 NCFR Election Results Announced



Maxine Hammonds-Smith, CFLE



Patricia Hyjer Dyk



Suzanne R. Smith



Bahira Sherif Trask

The **President-Elect** for 2005-2007 and serving as President in 2007-2009 is **Maxine Hammonds-Smith, CFLE**, Family Life Specialist – Intergenerational Wellness and Active Aging. She was previously Professor of Family Studies, Texas Southern University. Her roles within NCFR include Chair-elect, Public Policy Committee; Co-Chair, Leadership Institute; Chair, CFLE University Review Committee; Chair, CFLE Review Committee; Secretary, Ethnic Minorities Section; Secretary, Education and Enrichment Section; Chair, 2002 Annual Conference Local Arrangements Committee; CFLE Outstanding Service Award; two-term President, Texas Council on Family Relations, Vice President for Program, Vice President for Membership, and Chair, Annual Conference Local Arrangements. She also organized the first chapter of the Texas Southern University Student Council, and served as Student Advisor. Additionally,

Maxine participated in the Carver Governance Training Seminar for Board Officers. Maxine will bring creativity and a willingness to market NCFR by promoting its vision, mission and goals, thus making NCFR the professional home for the next generation of family scholars and practitioners.



Stephen T. Russell

The **Annual Conference Program Chair-Elect** for 2005-2006 and serving as Annual Conference Program Chair for the 2007 Conference in Pittsburgh, PA is **Patricia Hyjer Dyk**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Community & Leadership Development and Dept. of Sociology, University

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President's Report

Resource Center Controversy

*You can please some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time;
but you can't please all of the people all of the time.*

Attributed to and modified from Abraham Lincoln who used the word "fool" instead of "please."

Over the past months in NCFR we have had continuing controversy about the Healthy Marriage Resource Center (HMRC). This center, funded by a co-operative agreement with the Administration on Children and Families of the Department of Health

and Human Services, is designed to be a web-based clearinghouse for information about programs to strengthen marriage.

Some NCFR members have deep reservations about the center because it only looks at opposite-sex, married couples and does not include other forms of committed relationships. I illustrate the range of comments received by e-mail about the center below.

Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

Mission Statement for the Report:

REPORT, the quarterly newsletter of the National Council on Family Relations, strives to provide timely, useful information to help members succeed in their roles as researchers, educators, and practitioners. Articles address family field issues, programs and trends, including association news.

President: Gay C. Kitson

Editor: Michael L. Benjamin

Managing Editor: Sasha A. Reese

Topics Feature Writer: Nancy Giguere

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NEWS DEADLINES: July 5 for September issue; October 3 for December issue.

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Opposition to the Healthy Marriage Resource Center

Among the comments of those opposed to NCFR's involvement in the HMRC is that the center is limited and biased by excluding cohabiting couples including lesbians and gays. Other correspondents are worried that the Bush administration could use the website to further its own aims by forcing the dissemination of misleading or biased information. Still others feel that a focus on marriage is taking an exclusionary position while NCFR's stance should be inclusive in promoting well being for all families.

Others fear that the board of directors voted to approve the decision to go ahead with the grant hastily with limited or misleading information. The board memo to the membership about the HMRC was also criticized for using the term "bipartisan" versus the term "non-partisan." Bipartisan means involving members of two political parties while non-partisan indicates that there is no party affiliation, bias, or designation. Others wondered how board members or the executive director could be recalled because of the decision they had made or how a vote of no confidence could be organized. Finally, some members considered resigning from NCFR in protest about the center.

Support for the HMRC

Those in favor of the HMRC noted that any research can be misused and that the board and staff seem to be alert to the issues and are developing processes to prevent such misuse. One correspondent observed that it was the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act during the Clinton administration that frames the current discussion about marriage; those opposed to the center should work with Congress to attempt to change the law. Others observed that the politics of NCFR members are wide-ranging and that any action that NCFR takes represents the views of some but not all members. Another observation was that no grant can cover everything and that if one segment of the membership opposes the work of others, this is not a good reason to cancel that work. There is also concern about the possibility of one group of professionals being able to mandate the topics that any other professional would be able to study. Still others indicated that they found the project promising and looked forward to benefiting from it in their own work. Other comments included a plea to get past the political issues on either side that could prevent NCFR from providing needed information about marriage. Another commenter concluded that sometimes we attempt to be so inclusive that an unintended consequence is excluding a large portion of population (in this case married, heterosexual couples). Another correspondent pointed out that marriage has been a central interest of some NCFR researchers since the beginning of the organization; this included Ernest Burgess, a founder of NCFR, who believed that one of the organization's goals was to improve the quality and stability of

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ELECTION RESULTS *continued from page 1*

of Kentucky. Within NCFR, she has been active in the Public Policy Committee; Chair, Family Policy Section; Board of Directors; Chair, Rural Family Focus Group; Annual Conference Program Committee; Publications Committee; Search Committee for Editor of Family Relations; Associate Editor of Family Relations and Journal of Marriage and Family; Long-Range Planning Committee; Chair, Student of the Year Award Committee; Membership Committee; TCRM Workshop Discussant & Presenter; Research & Theory Section; Board, Southeast Council on Family Relations. Patricia proposes a program examining families with the lens focused on safety and security. This topic addresses diverse issues encompassing physical, emotional,

spiritual, health-related, financial and professional dimensions in the community, national, and global contexts.

The following NCFR members were elected to serve as **At-Large Board Members** during the 2005-2008 term:

Suzanne R. Smith, Associate Professor of Human Development, Washington State University in Vancouver. Her roles within NCFR include Men in Families Focus Group Co-Chair; Student/New Professional Board Representative; Religion and Family Life Section; Affiliated Councils: President and Vice President of the Northwest Council on Family Relations, and Conference Program Chair. Suzanne remains committed to the Policy Governance Model currently in

place and will continue the work they have started defining the benefits or outcomes of this organization, who will benefit from these decisions, and the difference these decisions will make at an individual and societal level.

Bahira Sherif Trask, Associate Professor, Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware. Previously she was Secretary/Treasurer of the International Section. She believes it is vital to promote real cultural understanding within our diverse society, and through education, work to dissolve stereotypical viewpoints.

Stephen T. Russell, Associate Professor of Family Studies and Human Development, University of Arizona. His NCFR service includes the Reuben Hill Award Committee; Extension Pre-Conference Planning Committee; GLBT-Straight Alliance Focus Group. Stephen believes the excitement of NCFR comes from its diverse membership (researchers, extenders, and practitioners). NCFR should continually develop innovative ways to provide national leadership or translating family research for practical purposes. New initiatives (like the Healthy Marriage Resource Center) must meet this goal while remaining open to and respectful of the diverse families and perspectives on families represented by NCFR members and the populations we study and serve. Stephen's ideas about "family diversity" often focus on characteristics of the individuals that make up families. He also believes that we need to focus attention on diversity in family characteristics, forms, and functioning.

National Elections Council members elected to 3-year terms (2005-2008) are:

Jay A. Mancini, Professor, Human Development, Virginia Tech; and

Catherine A. Solheim, Associate Dean, College of Human Ecology and Associate Professor, Family Social Sciences, University of Minnesota.

NCFR Section Officers Elected for 2005-2007 are:

Family Policy Section:

Suzanna D. Smith, CFLE, Chair;
Jacqueline Kirby Wilkins, CFLE,
Chair-Elect; **Christine Pegoraro-Schull**,
Student/New Professional

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 2*

marriage as rapid social change occurred. Another writer has been so concerned about the lack of representation of a wide range of views on current issues as to consider dropping membership in the organization and was pleased to see that NCFR was engaged on this issue.

Reflection of Wider Issues

The controversy about the HMRC reflects some of the divisions about political and social issues we see in the wider society about moral values, religion and politics, gays and lesbians, social security and welfare reform, abortion, unwed motherhood, and the right to die.

I personally find many of these discussions puzzling and confusing. We have moved beyond discussion and debate to divisive opposing positions on many issues. There frequently seems to be little attempt to find common ground; instead there is often a one-sided soliloquy of the view being propounded.

How we got to this point is difficult to understand. Some have said it is an outgrowth of Barry Goldwater's defeated bid for the U.S. presidency. As a result, some Republicans began to develop a broad-ranging set of beliefs that would brook little interference from others. Others have implicated the media with its continuing quest for fresh material and disparate views, which can help, push people to more extreme positions. Whatever the cause, the result seems to

be that views today are more solidly in opposition to one another.

A Common Ground

For NCFR, the upshot is that we need to find a common ground that accepts the long-term goals of the organization and recognizes the good faith of its members and elected and appointed officials and staff to reflect the wide variety of views of members.

Personally, I share many of the concerns of those opposed to the HMRC, but I believe that the center gives NCFR a much needed and desired opportunity for national visibility on the family policy stage. No research project covers all the issues one would like. In this case, NCFR's own website will provide information about other types of relationships.

To me, it seems more useful for those opposed to the center to stay in NCFR and attempt to change it than to leave the organization. The Elections Council has a continuing need and struggle to find people willing and able to run for national offices. A way to make your views known is to ask people you know if they are at a point in their careers at which you can nominate them—or if they would nominate you—for national office. Such efforts would be effective in getting one's views represented.

Gay C. Kitson
NCFR President
E-mail: kitson@akron.edu



Executive Review

National Healthy Marriage Resource Center

As many of you know, in September 2004, the National Council on Family Relations received a \$4.5 million award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families (ACF).

This five-year award will fund the creation of the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center. The first phase of this effort will be completed in June 2005 when the Center's web site "goes live."

Cooperative Agreement

The federal government has funded the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center through a cooperative agreement. A cooperative agreement is like a grant, "except it consists of direct involvement by federal staff in implementing the project."

The cooperative agreement requires that the Center work directly with federal government employees or its representatives. Work is initiated and carried out by staff of the Center's six partners or HUBS, but the federal project officers are involved along the way.

Operational Goals

The overall mission of the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center is to help individuals and couples that choose marriage for themselves to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to build and

sustain a healthy marriage. As determined by ACF, the project has an exclusive focus on heterosexual marriages. The Center's operational goals are:

1. To help individuals and couples gain access to information and services they need to form and sustain a healthy marriage.
2. To provide resources to practitioners and organizations wanting to implement healthy marriage programs and activities.
3. To provide resources and information for organizational leaders interested in building community healthy marriage initiatives.
4. To provide resources and information for policymakers and others working to strengthen marriages through public policy.
5. To provide research findings and reviews to individuals and couples, practitioners, organizational leaders, policymakers, and scholars.
6. To create awareness about the work of the Center.

The Center will offer academicians and researchers, as well as leaders of local community marriage initiatives, a centralized information hub for the exchange of

ideas, as well as providing information about services to individuals and couples.

The Center will also:

- Facilitate the cross-fertilization between research and practice.
- Provide family service professionals and community development specialists with access to the latest research.
- Allow researchers to connect with special or regional populations and emerging trends in the field.

Project Staff and Partners

The project staff of the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center is primarily located in NCFR's Washington, DC, office. Linda Malone-Colon, Ph.D., formerly of Hampton University, is the Project Director, and Derek Gwinn, M.A., CFLE, formerly of the University of Minnesota, serves as Research Associate. Michael L. Benjamin is the Principle Investigator.

The Center consists of six partners or HUBS: five major universities across the United States and a nonprofit in Washington, DC. Here's a listing of the HUBS, their project directors, and their major first-year task responsibilities:

- **Brigham Young University, Provo, UT**
Project Director: Alan Hawkins, Ph.D.
Task responsibility: Collect and summarize research, and create research summary database.
- **Child Trends: Washington, DC**
Project Director: Kristin Anderson Moore, Ph.D.
Task responsibility: Identify and summarize marriage-related legislation and policy for each state including scanning of marriage research conducted by think tanks and other research institutions.
- **Norfolk State University: Norfolk, VA**
Project Director: Colita Nichols Fairfax, MA, MSW
Task responsibility: Collaborate with the African American Healthy Marriage

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Donations

The following persons have contributed donations since January 1, 2005. Their generosity aids NCFR in continuing its programs and awards.

General Fund

Dianne S. Costa – Lewisville, TX
Curt Newell – Birmingham, AL
Nancy Schultz Rybski – Oro Valley, AZ
Andy Stoker – Denton, TX
David N. Yarbrough – Lafayette, LA

Felix Berardo Mentorship Award Fund

Barbara Brandon – Kilbourne, LA
Dr. J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr. – Eau Claire, WI
Terry L. Mills – Gainesville, FL
Mihaela Robila – Flushing, NY

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Initiative and identify and collect marriage and family syllabi.

- **Syracuse University:** Syracuse, NY
Project Director: Alan Taylor, Ph.D.
Task responsibility: Acquire marriage education curricula and community-based resources.
- **Texas Tech University:** Lubbock, TX
Project Director: Dean Busby, Ph.D.
Task responsibility: Build and maintain the Web site, and acquire data on premarital assessment instruments.

- **University of Minnesota:** Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
Project Director: William Doherty, Ph.D.
Task responsibility: Identify existing and emerging community healthy marriage initiatives.

On-going Review Process

Our goal is to make available the most current and comprehensive research-based knowledge available, as well as to produce resources and information for organizational leaders and policymakers.

Over the recent past, NCFR has received other grants and a contract:

Center for Mental Health Services - \$21,968

Center for Mental Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services, 2000: Contract (\$21,968) to provide "Technical Assistance for Clinicians Regarding Resilience and the Family." Provided support for the publication of articles addressing issues related to "resilience and families" in *Family Relations*, Volume 51, Number 2, April 2002 and *Journal of Marriage and Family*, Volume 64, Number 2, May 2002. The articles in *FR* were: *Resilience and Families*; *Family Resiliency in Childhood Cancer*; *Linking Employment Status, Maternal Psychological Well-Being, Parenting, and Children's Attributions About Poverty in Families Receiving Government Assistance*; *Predictors of Children's Intervention-Induced Resilience in Parenting Program for Divorced Mothers*; and *A Family Resilience Framework: Innovative Practice Applications*. The articles in *JMF* were: *Family Resilience in Multiple Contexts*; *Integrating Family Resilience and Family Stress Theory*; *Resilience in Midwestern Families: Selected Findings From the First Decade of a Prospective, Longitudinal Study*; *Resilience Within the Family Networks of Lesbians and Gay Men: Intentionality and Redefinition*; "Beating the Odds" Versus "Changing the Odds": *Poverty, Resilience, and Family Policy*; and *A Panel Study of the Associations Between Maintenance Strategies and Relational Characteristics*.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation - \$121,305

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, in 2001 provided a grant (\$16,305) for the printing of "Public Policy Through a Family Lens." In 2002, received a grant for \$75,000 that created three policy briefs in 2003: "Competing Stressors and Tensions in Low-income and Working-poor Families," "Economic Stability and Financial Decision Making Processes," and "Promoting Effective Mothering in Low-income and Working-poor Families"; supported the development of the June 2003 issue of "Family Focus on the Working Poor" in the *Report*; and provided support for the special issue of *Family Relations* – March 2004, "Special Issue on Low-income and Working-poor Families." In 2003, NCFR received a grant for \$35,000 to convene a special session, "Newcomer Families in Emerging Gateway Cities" at the 2003 Annual Conference in Vancouver, convene a special study group on African American Men, April 2004, and to convene a special session, "Inequalities for Some; Privileges for Others" at the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment - \$25,000

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Department of Health and Human Services, 2003, "Advancing a Family Perspective on Substance Use and Abuse", \$25,000. Created a fact sheet "Substance Abuse and the Family: Considerations for Family Educators, Practitioners and Researchers", September 2004 and provided support for the March 2005 issue of "Family Focus on Substance Abuse Across the Lifespan" in the *Report*.

To achieve this goal, we have established a review process for documents developed by the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center. Alexis Walker, editor of NCFR's *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and Joyce Arditti, editor of NCFR's *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*, have agreed to submit all fact sheets and policy briefs generated by the Center to their review process and reviewers.

Reviews of the Center's publications will be consistent with the high quality you have come to expect from NCFR's peer-reviewed journals, and they will be conducted by authorities in the subject area. To ensure integrity of the research findings we are summarizing, we will engage the primary author to be a part of the review.

In addition, we plan to convene an advisory group of NCFR members nominated through the NCFR Sections. These experts will meet on an annual basis to review the progress of the Center.

Progress Report

To date, the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center has completed the following tasks:

- Web site design and structure.
- Development of protocol for approval of materials submitted by each HUB site. Materials will be approved by NCFR, the Center, and the ACF.
- Drafts of 40 research briefs.
- Definitions: Marriage education, community healthy marriage initiatives, and healthy marriage.
- Summaries of approximately eight pieces of state legislation.
- Summaries of approximately eight research articles.

Please note that we plan to convene an open forum on the Center during NCFR's 2005 Annual Conference in Phoenix. We look forward to seeing you there!

As always, I welcome your comments and feedback.

Michael L. Benjamin, M.P.H.
Executive Director
E-mail: mberjamin@ncfr.org



CFLE Directions

Family Life Education: A New and Emerging Profession?



Maybe it's just me, but America seems to be interested in family issues lately. I wrote in a recent *CFLE Network* article about family life education coming to prime time TV through shows such as "Nanny 911" and "Super Nanny." These shows feature real-life families beleaguered by out-of-control kids who rule the house. The nanny observes the family and then works with the parents and the children to establish new ways of operating – typically by getting the parents to take back control of the family. The methods used are basic parenting skills: establishing and sticking to a schedule, maintaining authority, rewards (typically praise) for good behavior, and a "naughty chair" where acting-up children spend a few minutes in time-out. None of it is rocket science, but I am frequently struck by how clueless many of these parents are.

The shows provide an excellent platform for promoting the concept of family life education. More than one episode has shown distraught parents lamenting the fact that no one ever taught them how to be a good parent. One mother, after learning an effective method for putting her kids to bed without having to lay down with them herself, commented that the approach "should be written up in a manual and given to every new parent upon the birth of their child." Apparently she had never visited the parenting section of her local bookstore or attended a parenting class through her local community education program or extension agency! The show also recognizes the reciprocal relationship between ineffective parenting and an unhealthy marital relationship.

Family issues are showing up in other places as well. *Newsweek's* April 25, 2005 issue "Your Family and Your Health" featured a series of articles focused on the role of family in health issues.

Dr. William Coleman, a pediatrician at the University of North Carolina's Center for Development is quoted as saying "You can't just focus on the child...The family is the strongest and most enduring influence in any person's life. You have to take that into account." According to Dr. Robert Ferrer of the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio, family forces may explain up to a quarter of the variation in individual health. "The 'family effect' has profound implications for patients, for doctors and even for policymakers." The *Newsweek* issue includes articles focused on the effect of a new baby on marital satisfaction, the parent's role in keeping adolescence from being a period of conflict, sex education, and more. All the articles are focused on the role of family in health issues but that includes both physical

and mental health. It is so refreshing and encouraging to see a national magazine recognize the importance of the family in society!

This leads me to another issue – identification of family life education as a new and emerging profession. In following up recently with the Department of Labor (DOL) on the status of NCFR's application for a Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) for family life educators, I spoke with a DOL representative at length about family life education. He had received our packet of information back in September, but hadn't looked at it yet, so I had to educate him as to what it was all about. During our conversation he looked online at the internal Census Bureau listing of occupations. This is a

CFLE Directions continued on page 7

Following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated since January 15, 2005. (* - Provisional)

CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS

Florida

Andrea Bowen
Sandra Symonds
Olga Viera

Indiana

Sara Bloomquist
Amanda Vipperman *

Kansas

Anna Bartko *
Sara Tillet *

Maine

David Sanford *

Maryland

Gina Costa
Kristen Tadmowski *

Michigan

Jennifer Gibbs
Lisa Groat *
Dr. Larry Martin

Minnesota

Robin Hanson *
Kathleen Klumb
Virginia Maldonado *
Susan Spellacy *

Mississippi

W. Deyampert, III *

Nebraska

Diane Domeier *

New Mexico

Lynn Gomez *

North Carolina

Charlene Bell *

North Dakota

Ashley Bossert *

Oregon

Chaille Shipp *

Pennsylvania

Rachel Neely

Tennessee

Kari Blodgett *

Texas

Michelle Clark *
Leslie Guditis *

Utah

Marlene Heaton
Sarah Taylor *
Naomi Weeks – Upgraded to Full Certification

Washington

Crystal Luckeroth

West Virginia

Kathleen Coffers *

Military

Laura Cobb – Upgraded to Full Certification



Annual Conference



Phoenix: The Place to be this Fall

Join your colleagues and friends in sunny and historic Phoenix this fall for the 2005 NCFR conference to be held November 16-19, 2005. The theme of the conference is *The Multiple Meanings of Families*. The program is packed with informative, interactive sessions. Special features are:

- Round Robin reception for book authors.
- Slide show on the multiple meanings of families.
- Small group discussions will be held after each plenary.

- Field trips will take advantage of the culture and recreational areas that abound in Phoenix.
- Come a day early for the pre-conference workshops.

The conference opens on Wednesday, November 16, with a plenary on the *New Meanings of Old Age in Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. Plenary speakers are **Vern Bengtson, Maxine Hammonds-Smith, and Fernando Torres-Gil**. Vern, who holds an endowed chair at the University of Southern California, is internationally known for his global perspectives on the

changing meanings of old age. Maxine is coordinator of the Horizons Intergenerational Wellness which is a community-based coalition, co-author of a well-known textbook on child and adult care, a leader in promoting healthy retirements, and a host of a weekly radio show entitled "Your Health." Fernando, associate dean at the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research and director of the Center for Policy Research on Aging at UCLA, is a national expert on public policy issues concerning health

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CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 6*

listing of actual job titles that people use to identify themselves when completing the U.S. census. "Family life educator" did not appear anywhere on this list. His comment to me was "If your constituency doesn't even identify themselves as family life educators, why would we create a new category?" His advice was to make the case that family life education is a "new and emerging profession." The Department of Labor is more likely to consider listing family life educator as a Standard Occupational Classification if they believe it is a new and emerging profession.

So we have some work to do. We need CFLEs and those trained in family to be recognized for the important work that they do. In many states the courts mandate divorcing parents to attend parenting classes. Others offer discounts on marriage licenses to couples who complete a marriage education program which, unfortunately is often referred to as "counseling." The US military is combating the high divorce rate of military families by teaching couples basic relationship skills.

We need family life educators to be recognized as appropriate providers for these services. In many cases the approved providers include psychologists, therapists, clergy, and social workers, some of

whom may have had training in family life education, but many of whom do not. We need to pay attention to legislation related to these issues and be sure family life educators are included where appropriate.

As another way to show the prevalence of family life education, we will be gathering data on the number of students enrolled in family-related departments throughout the country. We want to enlist the aid of family programs throughout the country in determining job opportunities and employment rates for family graduates.

In addition, I am asking all professionals involved in family life education to send me examples of the work that they are doing. Ideally I am looking for brochures and flyers that advertise parenting classes, workshops on money management, relationship skills, sex education, etc. I plan to send the Department of Labor a box filled with real-life examples of how family life education is occurring throughout the country.

Keep your eyes open. Once you start looking you'll be surprised to see how much family life education is occurring in your community. And how much

attention it receives in the media – through talk shows (Dr. Phil, Oprah), magazine and newspaper articles, TV shows etc. It might come down to a matter of semantics. Family life education

I am asking all professionals involved in family life education to send me examples of the work that they are doing. Ideally I am looking for brochures and flyers that advertise parenting classes, workshops on money management, relationship skills, sex education, etc.

is occurring throughout the country in many different settings, on many different levels and under many different names. It's just not called that. We need it to be identified as FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION when possible and we need to educate the public about its value.

Perhaps with the information on graduate and employment rates, sample flyers and brochures, and examples of family life education in the media we can build a case for family life education as a "new and emerging profession!" I welcome any suggestions as to how we can best build this case for the Department of Labor and for the public at large.

Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE
Certification Director
E-mail: dawn@ncfr.org

ANNUAL CONFERENCE *continued from page 7*

and long-term care, gerontology, ethnicity, human services, rehabilitation and disability. He has served in several positions in the federal government. Discussion group follows. All are invited.

Thursday's plenary features **Judith Halberstam**, professor of literary and cultural studies at the University of California, San Diego. Judith is internationally recognized for her scholarship on gender, sexuality, and desire. She will speak on *Forgetting Family: Queer Studies and Anti-Oedipal Discourse*. Discussants are **April L. Few**, assistant professor, department of human development, Virginia Tech, and **Stephen Marks**, professor, sociology, University of Maine. A brown bag follows. All are invited.

Thursday night from 5:30 to 7 p.m. is the **Round Robin Reception for Book Authors**. Come and learn about the processes and advantages of writing books. This session features a free light buffet. Book authors have until June 1 to sign up to participate. E-mail me at jgilgun@umn.edu to signal your interest in presenting your book.

Friday's plenary speaker is **Phyllis Moen**, who holds a McKnight professorship at the University of Minnesota in sociology. A leading expert on work and family, Phyllis will speak on *Beyond Mystiques: The Multiple Meanings of Work and Family*. Discussants are **Shelley MacDermid**, professor, child development and family studies at Purdue, and **Kevin Roy**, assistant professor in child and family development at the University of Maryland. Brown bag follows. Come and be ready to talk.

The closing plenary on Saturday morning is *Multiple Learnings from Work with Families of 9/11*. **Pauline Boss**, **Andres Torrens**, and **Lorraine Beaulieu** will talk about their work in New York City with families who lost loved ones in the terrorist attack that took place on September 11, 2001. Pauline is professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota and internationally recognized for her research on ambiguous loss. Andres is director of Outpatient Mental Health at the Roberto Clemente Center, located in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Lorraine is founder and director of Project Union Outreach, New York. All three have con-

sulted with and worked directly with survivors of 9/11. Brown bag follows.

Special sessions abound. The presenters are incredibly productive and influential scholars. Here are some of them:

- *Working with Mexicans and Mexican Americans: Cultural and Contextual Perspectives*, **Mark Roosa** and **Larry Dumka**, professors at Arizona State University, Department of Family and Human Development
- *Research Update: Peer Relationships in Childhood*, **Rick Fabes**, **Carol Martin**, and **Laura Hanish**, professors at Arizona State University, Department of Family and Human Development Research on Families
- *Using Internet Surveys and Ethnographies*, **Carl Ridley**, **Rodney Cate**, **Brian Ogolsky**, and **Dawn Collins**, professors at University of Arizona, Human Development and Family Studies, and **Heather Haberman**, Ph.D. candidate, University of Minnesota.

The pre-conference workshops will bring a lot of conference participants to Phoenix a day or so early. These workshops include:

- *Promoting the Safety of Women and Children When Women Separate from Violent Partners*
- *Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop*
- *Work-Life Summit*
- *Extension Family Life Specialists Workshop*
- *Public Policy Leadership Training*

The local arrangements committee is planning events that take advantage of what Phoenix has to offer. With a group or on your own, you can visit desert preserves and Camelback Mountain, the Phoenix Center for the Arts and the Pueblo Grande Museum, and even the Grand Canyon.

Other special sessions sponsored by sections and groups include:

- *The South Asian Tsunami/Earthquake: Making Meaning After Catastrophic Natural Disasters*
- *The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*
- *The Policies and Politics of Sexual Identity* (followed by talk-back session)
- *Working With Program Officers to Develop Proposals for Federal Agencies*
- *Family Violence*
- *How Can NCFR and Its People Serve*

Communities and Other People (a session spoken in Spanish with English interpretation)

- *Aging*
- *Native American Elders*
- *Margaret Arcus Award Address presented by William Doherty*
- *Marie Peters Award Address*
- *Advocating for Families: Training Workshop on How to Talk to Decision-Makers*
- *Update and Discussion on the Healthy Marriage Resource Center*
- *Leadership Training*
- Focus groups around such topics as qualitative family research, adoption, internet research, and many others

Other special features of the conference include:

- On-going slideshow on the multiple meanings of families. Please send any photos or other graphic memorabilia to me at jgilgun@umn.edu. Deadline is **June 1**. Everyone is invited to participate.
- Slideshow on the diverse history of NCFR developed by **Leonor Boulton-Johnson**, professor of family studies and African-American Studies, Arizona State
- Networking for students and new professionals
- Reception for newcomers to NCFR
- The NCFR President's Reception
- Employment matching services
- Cyber Café
- Family Movie Night
- University receptions with free food
- The dance sponsored by NCFR Students/New Professionals
- Exhibits of book sellers and various family organizations.

There's so much more to say about this conference. Many people have worked and thought hard about how to make this conference informative and interesting, but it won't be the same if YOU are not there.

Plan now to come for the most meaningful, uplifting professional experience of the year. Register early. We want to personally welcome each of you in sunny Phoenix!

Jane Gilgun
Program Chair
E-mail: jgilgun@umn.edu

Cindy Winter, CMP
Conference Director
E-mail: cindy@ncfr.org



Affiliate Connection

AOC Happenings

As your newly elected President of the Association of Councils, I'd like to thank each one of you who has entrusted me with this position. Following the great leadership of Raeann Hamon is no small task. However, with her gracious and kind support along with other great leaders, like Lane Powell and Arminta Jacobson and the staff of NCFR, I am eager to do my very best.

Every two years the Distinguished Service Award to Families is presented at our annual conference. 2005 is the year for this prestigious award. This is the only award presented through the National Council on Family Relations where the recipient does not have to be a National Council on Family Relations member. I encourage you to submit names of people you believe deserve this honor. Please send names to Raeann Hamon at rhamon@messiah.edu.

If you know of anyone who would like to be nominated for the Association of Council's Conference Program Leadership position please let Raeann Hamon know this as well.

The Association of Councils Pre-conference Leadership Training workshop is now seeking ideas for beneficial roundtables and possible presenters. Ideas we are discussing are a notebook on successful ways to begin new councils and ideas on how to maintain the momentum, how to develop strong boards, membership and growth, fundraising, publicity, the benefits of becoming a Certified Family Life Educator. Any ideas for this preconference will be welcome. Please send your ideas to Arminta Jacobson at Jacobson@coe.unt.edu

As I sit on the National Board and represent the Association of Councils I would like you to be aware of the e-mail discussion from members of the sections and others who have sent comments to the NCFR office—both pro and con—about the Healthy Marriage Resource Center

(HMRC). NCFR Board of Directors appreciate that people have taken the time to make their concerns known. If you have not weighed in on the issues and would like to do so, please do so at info@ncfr.org or by contacting any board member (their names and e-mail addresses are available on NCFR's website).

The board strongly believes that the dialogue needs to continue. The first in-person opportunity was at the April board meeting in Washington, DC when the board met with the Section chairs. Other opportunities for dialogue are planned for the annual conference in Phoenix.

The Board of Directors states a key point to keep in mind about the Healthy Marriage Resource Center is that it is based on a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Children and Families for a specific, limited purpose. NCFR has received similar outside monies in the past to undertake other projects about specific types of families (including gay and lesbian family, families with chronically ill children, and low income and working poor families) and family pro-

cesses (resilience in families). No such grant, contract, or agreement can cover all issues. Although it is only one area of interest for NCFR, marriage has been and continues to be an important issue for the organization and many of its members.

The cooperative agreement is an ongoing process and board agenda item. The board continues to monitor the issues carefully and welcomes participation in the discussion.

Speaking of learning more about the National Council on Family Relations, I encourage you to visit www.ncfr.org. It is an exciting place to visit and to learn. And don't forget to go to the left hand column and scroll down to AOC. There you will find pertinent info about us from the national office.

I wish each and every one of you a Happy Summer. Next *Report* I will share with you the exciting opportunities for Certified Family Life Educators in the business world.

Marcie J. Brooke CFLE
President, Association of Councils
E-mail: Marcie.Brooke@spps.org

Texas Council on Family Relations

"Promoting Healthy Families – Caregiving Across the Lifespan" was the theme of the Annual Conference of the Texas Council on Family Relations held in friendly Ft. Worth, March 31- April 1. Throughout the conference, participants were informed about public policy and legislative issues, particularly relevant to older adults and their caregivers, and challenged to action. Lynda Taylor Ender, Director of Senior Source, Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas, opened the conference with an overview of bills moving through the Texas legislature. Dianne Pingree, chair of the TCFR Public Policy Committee, updated the participants on topics of particular interest to TCFR members from state legislative hearings that she had been attending.

Michael Benjamin, Executive Director of NCFR closed out the conference by challenging participants to address the critical questions surrounding caregiving across the lifespan and its intersection with public policy:

- 1) What public policies are in place that support the field of family relations?
- 2) Where are the gaps in public policy across the generations?
- 3) Are we futuristic in our thinking about the field of family relations?
- 4) Who moved my "cheese"? – the picture will never be the same.
- 5) Are we keeping our eye on the ball: What's the game?

Texas Council continued on page 10

Messiah College Council on Family Relations

The 2004-2005 academic year has proved very exciting and productive for the Messiah College Council on Family Relations (MCCFR), a student-led affiliate of NCFR. With a board of 11 officers, MCCFR has made great strides in providing Human Development and Family Science department students with opportunities for family-oriented educational, social, and service-based activities.

Education and experience are central to developing the skills and knowledge needed to successfully serve families. For this reason, MCCFR has focused much attention on helping students share and explore their career interests, goals and options by sponsoring events such as "Opportunities in Human Development and Family Science" and two "Family Science Professionals in the World" seminars. During these events, students learn what opportunities are available in the field and discover what Messiah College Family Science alumni have achieved with their degrees and related experience. In addition to attending campus-sponsored events, 11 undergraduates represented

the department at the National Council on Family Relations conference in Orlando. While MCCFR recognizes the positive impact of educational opportunities, it also values the unifying effect that social activities provide for the students and faculty in the Human Development and Family Science department.

Social events help to bridge the gap between students and faculty and create an environment that fosters education as well as mentorship, respect and friendship. Since September, MCCFR organized seven social events. At the annual "Meet and Greet", current and prospective students had the chance to meet with and speak to upper-class students and professors. Two more annual events that are very popular with both students and faculty include the Human Development and Family Science Department Christmas Party and the HDFS Retreat held in the spring. Both of these events allow students, professors, and professors' families the chance to mingle and relax as the semesters are ending. Furthermore, MCCFR began another tradition with the

introduction of "Fun Activity" nights held once per semester. As a result of this successful idea, 24 students enjoyed two nights of bowling. Finally, in honor of Marriage Week, MCCFR sponsored a catered dinner in which students heard humorous and inspirational stories about their professors' marriages and families. Just as MCCFR values the significance of education and social interaction, it also believes that serving others is fundamental to helping families and becoming a well-rounded person.

The Messiah College Council on Family Relations develops service activities for students in the department to participate in because it values the impact that service can have in the lives of those in need. In October 2004, MCCFR volunteered at the annual Building Strong Families Conference by greeting students and professionals, introducing speakers and preparing participation packets. In addition, 15 members brightened the faces of hospital residents by Christmas caroling at Hershey Medical Center. Furthermore, students were invited to participate in MCCFR's service day trip to a local agency during Messiah College's annual service day in April. Finally, the officers of MCCFR decided to raise money for a local pregnancy center by selling MCCFR T-shirts campus-wide.

*Samantha Beattie, Secretary
Messiah College Council on Family Relations*

TEXAS COUNCIL *continued from page 9*

- 6) Who will speak for the profession?
- 7) Where will the leadership come from?

Outstanding concurrent sessions were energized by students from a number of universities including Louisiana Tech University (LTU), Texas Tech University (TTU), Texas Woman's University (TWU), and University of North Texas (UNT). Nedra Johnson (TWU) was honored as the Undergraduate Award Winner and Amber L. Brown (UNT) was honored as the Graduate Award Winner of the TCFR Student Paper Competition. Each winner presented an overview of her paper and was presented with a monetary award.

TCFR Awards were presented at the closing luncheon. The Meritorious Service Award, which acknowledges and encourages outstanding services and support to families and to family life in Texas, was presented to the Center for Parent Education (CPE) and its founder and director for over 13 years, Dr. Arminta Jacobson. The purpose of the CPE is to respond to the needs of families through research,

advocacy, resources and leadership for professionals interested in meeting the needs of parents and families.

Dr. Maxine Hammonds-Smith was honored as the recipient of the 2005 Moore-Bowman Award. The Moore-Bowman Award recognizes professionals whose contributions to family well-being in Texas have been truly outstanding. Dr. Hammonds-Smith has been a Texas educator for over 20 years and has held many TCFR offices and worked on numerous committees.

Miriam Mulsow and Lane Powell extended an invitation to the 2006 TCFR Conference scheduled for April 6-7 in Lubbock, TX. The theme will be "International Families: Family in the Global Community." Current plans are for a reception on Thursday night and conference sessions throughout the day on Friday. Mark your calendar now!

*Jo Ann Engelbrecht, President
Texas Council on Family Relations
E-mail: Jengelbrecht@mail.twu.edu*

In Memoriam

Thomas Paul Spahos, CFLE
Thomas Paul Spahos, CFLE, of Macon, Georgia, passed away March 7, 2005. He had been an NCFR member and CFLE since 1995. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and attended Emory University Law School. He received graduate degrees from the University of Georgia and the University of South Carolina. Mr. Spahos worked as a social worker, counselor and therapist.

AOC Student Survey Results

College students have become an increasing audience at NCFR during the last several years; however, the Association of Councils (AOC) would like to see more student participation at the national conferences. 68 percent of NCFR's affiliate councils are student organizations from undergraduate and graduate schools. Even though there is a large representation of students in the AOC, the numbers are not seen at the November conference. The AOC set out to understand the lack of student participation by asking the big question, "What are the factors that make it most likely for you to attend NCFR?" The AOC also wanted to understand the opposite truths, "What factors make it least likely that a student attend NCFR?"

In February of 2005, the AOC created a student survey and sent it out to affiliate councils, mainly universities, via e-mail. Within a month's time, 107 students responded to the national survey. The survey consisted of 10 questions evaluated by a rating scale, and 2 open ended questions. In reviewing the factors that make it most likely for a student to attend NCFR, several significant responses were found. The number one encouraging factor was funding or scholarships obtained to attend the conference. The opportunity to network with professionals and time available to attend the conference

was second and third. Other factors that determined if students attended the conference were the opportunity to present research, sessions on career exploration, graduate school recruitment fair, and the availability of practical learning experiences. The opposite question, "What factors make it least likely for you to attend NCFR?" was also asked. Not surprisingly, the number one response was the high cost of travel and conference fees. The number two response was that the conference information does not directly apply to students, but mostly to professionals. A majority of participants also stated that the conference event was too long and difficult to take time off from school; for most students, the November conference occurs just three weeks before finals.

Several significant findings were discovered from the AOC survey. Cost of attending the conference was the main influencing factor for students in deciding whether to attend or not. The information gathered from the survey will be used to encourage affiliates and universities to provide fundraising and/or grant opportunities for students who are interested in attending the conference. The AOC will also use the information when it joins with other NCFR program boards to provide more sessions directed toward college students. The ability to hold the

student sessions in a shorter period of time, such as on Friday and Saturday, may also increase the attendance of students to the conference.

For more information on the survey findings, please contact Jeff Bright, AOC Student/New Professional Board Member at jbright@pobox.com

As a side note, all of the respondents of the survey were entered into a drawing for a \$25 Barnes and Noble gift certificate. Congratulations to Brian Higginbotham from Auburn University who won the certificate.

Jeff Bright
AOC Student/
New Professional Board Member
E-mail: jbright@pobox.com

ELECTION RESULTS

continued from page 3

Family Therapy Section:

Carmen Knudson-Martin, Carolyn Y. Tubbs and Richard S. Wampler, Nominating Committee

Feminism & Family Studies Section:

Lee Ann DeReus, Chair; **Aine M. Humble**, CFLE, Vice Chair; **Karen R. Blaisure**, CFLE, Secretary/Treasurer; **Sandra J. Bailey**, CFLE, Newsletter Editor; **Margaret Manoogian, Elizabeth A. Sharp and Lisa Taylor**, Student/New Professionals

International Section:

Shulamit N. Rittblatt, Chair; **Yoav Lavee**, Vice Chair; **Mihaela Robila**, Secretary/Treasurer

Religion & Family Life Section:

Linda Behrendt, CFLE, Chair-Elect; **Martin J. Erickson**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Mandy L. Swanson**, Student/New Professional

Research & Theory Section:

Ronald M. Sabatelli, CFLE, Chair-Elect; **Valarie King**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Jennifer L. Hardesty**, CFLE, Student/New Professional; **Kristine M. Baber and Bonnie L. Barber**, Nominating Committee



ON THE NET

Access NCFR's website at: www.ncfr.org

To reach NCFR headquarters: info@ncfr.org

To reach specific staff members:

Michael L. Benjamin mberjamin@ncfr.org **John Pepper** pepper@ncfr.org

Lynda Bessey lbessey@ncfr.org **Sasha Reese** sasha@ncfr.org

Dawn Cassidy dawn@ncfr.org **Jeanne Strand** jeanne@ncfr.org

Nancy Gonzalez nancy@ncfr.org **Judy Schutz** judy@ncfr.org

Pat Knutson-Grams pat@ncfr.org **Amanda Tempel** amanda@ncfr.org

Cindy Winter
cindy@ncfr.org

To reach NCFR President **Gay Kitson**: kitson@uakron.edu

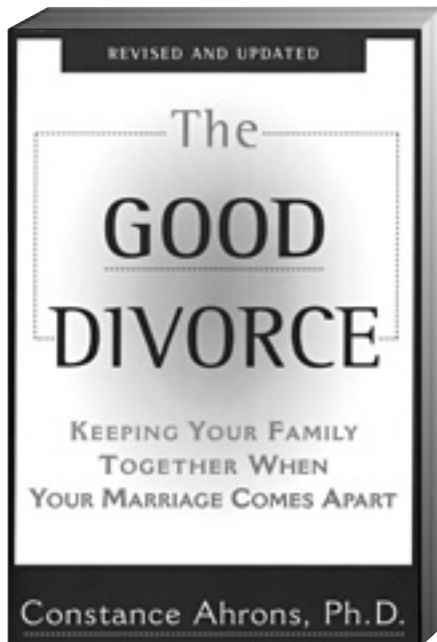
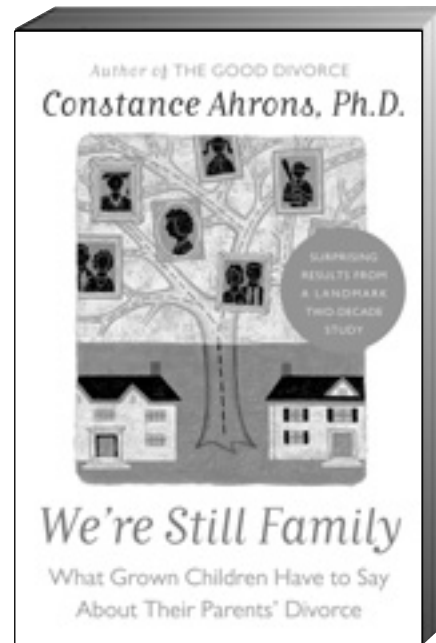


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Section News

Family Therapy Section

In order to support the Section's students and young professionals, the Family Therapy Section gives awards for the best poster presentations at annual conferences. In 2004 the awards went to Hye-Sun Ro and Richard Wampler from Texas Tech, and Brandt Gardner from Oklahoma State and Karen Wampler from Texas Tech. Congratulations on a job well done. Please find below the brief abstracts of their poster projects.

What's Wrong with These People? Stereotyping Couples in Therapy, by Hye-Sun Ro and Richard Wampler, Texas Tech University.

Using the Georgia Marriage Q-sort, this study examines expert and novice therapists' stereotypes of clinical husband/wife. Four naïve coders, using the Georgia Marriage Q-sort, coded videotapes of first therapy sessions for 17 couples. The coders' ratings of clinical husbands/wives were then compared to (a) MFT faculty ratings of the "typical" clinical husband/wife, (b) MFT student ratings of the "typical" clinical husband/wife, and from the Georgia Longitudinal Study data, (c) an expert panel's rating of an "ideal couple" and (d) naïve coders' ratings of a non-clinical sample of 136 couples. Results indicate that the naïve coder's ratings of an "ideal couple" or actual non-clinical couples than to MFT faculty and students ratings of a "typical" clinical couple. Those results imply that regardless of the level of expertise, therapists in general hold negative stereotypes of husband and wife behaviors when treating couples. Furthermore, the fact that MFT students' ratings of a typical clinical wife's behavior were a closer match to the ideal wife's behavior than faculty's ratings of a typical clinical wife implies that years of experience might actually exaggerate the existing bias towards women in clinical setting. Implications for the future research and training in MFT are discussed.

A Dynamic Systems Exploration of Affective Self-organization Processes During Marital Interaction, by Brandt C. Gardner, Oklahoma State University, and Karen S. Wampler, Texas Tech University.

This study utilized a dynamic systems perturbation experiment to explore the self-organization properties of 23 married couples' affective experience during marital interaction. According to dynamic systems theory, patterns are hypothesized to emerge and stabilize as a result of the reciprocal interactions between elements of a complex system. The affective climate generated by two spouses was hypothesized to be such a system.

Participant spouses were asked to identify and discuss for 10 minutes a recent incident where they felt hurt or offended by their partner. At 10 minutes, the marital affective system was perturbed when spouses were signaled to open an envelope inviting them to share with their partner a time when they felt cared-for or supported for an additional seven minutes. Immediately following their conversation, spouses engaged in a recall procedure where they watched the split-screen video of their conversation and provided

a continuous rating of their affective state during that conversation via a computer. Using a recent graphical development in dynamic child development research, each spouse's data were plotted on a 5-by-5 state space grid. Pre-perturbation and post-perturbation graphs were developed for each couple. Eight raters individually sorted the resulting 46 graphs into groups by shape, from which a proximity matrix was developed and cluster analysis applied. This resulted in five groups of graphs: disorganized, neutral, male positive, female positive, and positive.

The majority of these couples' affect patterns resembled an attractor state, localized in a specific region of the state space. Furthermore, the perturbation was successful in moving all but six couples into a different affect pattern during the final seven minutes, suggesting that the affective climate in marital relationships is a complex, dynamical system with self-organizing properties.

Volker Thomas
Chair, Family Therapy Section
E-mail: thomasv@purdue.edu

Family and Health Section

Plans for this year's conference are well on their way. The theme is *The Multiple Meaning of Families*, and the Family and Health Section plans on sponsoring/co-sponsoring three special sessions. The speaker for one special session co-sponsored by the Aging Focus Group of our section will be Msgr. Charles Fahey. Another special session will be on Health Care Needs of Native American (Navajo) Elders and Families. Dr. Carol Ashton, Chair of the Department of Nursing at Idaho State University will be the speaker, and plans on having a Native American Elder help with her presentation. The third special session will be on violence in the family and presented by Jackie Campbell.

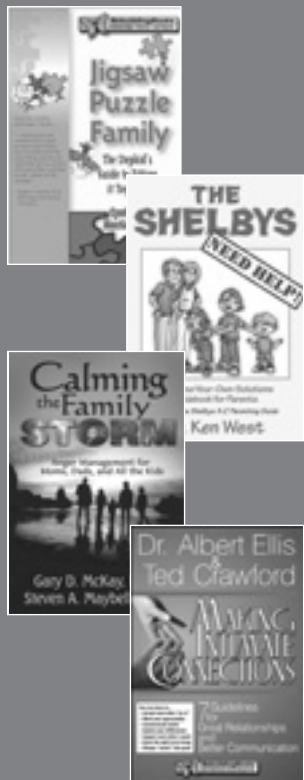
Special thanks are due to Christine Price, Jennifer Hardesty and Whitney Brosi who

have diligently helped arrange these special sessions. Please note these opportunities that will be available at NCFR in 2005.

In addition to these special sessions, the section will sponsor a number of interesting symposiums (elderly families, women's health, culturally diverse families, families raising children with chronic illnesses/disabilities, families with adolescent and young adult members, and work and the family), four roundtables, and more than 20 posters. Plan on attending these opportunities while in sunny Phoenix and I know you will not be disappointed.

Barbara Mandelco
Chair, Family and Health Section
E-mail: Barbara_Mandelco@byu.edu

Resources for Empowering Families



Jigsaw Puzzle Family: The Stepkids' Guide to Fitting It Together

Cynthia MacGregor

\$12.95/120 pages

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For kids struggling to fit together the confusing puzzle of their newly blended family. Engaging stories and positive suggestions for dealing with a new stepparent and new stepsiblings, a new house with new rules, and other tough challenges and changes.

The Shelbys Need Help: A Choose-Your-Own Solutions Guidebook for Parents

Ken West, Ph.D.

\$16.95/272 pages

Parenting isn't easy, but learning parenting skills can be *fun* in this creative blend of vignettes and sound advice. Helps parents teach responsibility and the consequences of misbehavior.

Calming the Family Storm

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Gary D. McKay, Ph.D. and Steven A. Maybell, Ph.D.

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William J. Doherty, Ph.D., LMFT, Licensed Psychologist

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2005 NCFR Annual Conference

Conference: Nov. 16-19, 2005; Pre-conference Workshops: Nov. 15-16

Hyatt Regency Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ

Program Chair: **Jane F. Gilgun**, University of Minnesota

Local Arrangements Co-chairs: **Leonor Boulton Johnson**, Arizona State University;

Patricia Merk, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Plenaries

- ♦ **Vern Bengtson**, Univ. of Southern California; **Fernando Torres-Gil**, Univ. of California-Los Angeles; **Maxine Hammonds-Smith**, Consultant on Aging and Intergenerational Wellness, Houston, TX - ***The New Meanings of Old Age in Cross-cultural Perspectives***
- ♦ **Phyllis Moen**, Univ. of Minnesota - ***Beyond Mystiques: the Multiple Meanings of Work and Families***
Discussants: **Kevin Roy**, Univ. of Maryland and **Shelley MacDermid**, Purdue Univ.
- ♦ **Judith Halberstam**, Univ. of California-San Diego - ***Forgetting Family: Queer Studies and Anti-Oedipal Discourse*** Discussants: **Stephen Marks**, Univ. of Maine; **April Few**, Virginia Tech
- ♦ **Pauline Boss**, Univ. of Minnesota; **Lorraine Beaulieu**, NY-Project Union Outreach, **Andres Torrens**, Roberto Clemente Center, NY - ***Multiple Learning From Work With Families of 9/11***

Special Sessions

- ♦ **Carl Ridley**, Univ. of Arizona, **Rodney Cate**, **Brian Ogolsky**, and **Dawn Collins**, Arizona State Univ., and **Heather Haberman**, Univ. of Minnesota - ***Research on Families Using the Internet Surveys and Ethnographies***
- ♦ **Mark Roosa** and **Larry Dumka**, Arizona State Univ. - ***Working With Mexicans and Mexican-Americans: Cultural and Contextual Perspectives***

Research Update

- ♦ **Richard Fabes**, **Carol Martin**, **Laura Hanish**, Arizona State Univ. - ***Peer Relationships in Childhood***

Plus

- ♦ **Round Robin Book Authors Reception in the Exhibits on Thursday, November 17**
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For further information contact NCFR: Toll-free phone: 888-781-9331;
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CALENDAR

June 13-15, 2005

Promoting Sexual Health Across the Country, Across the Lifespan, Guelph Sexuality Conference. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Visit www.open.uoguelph.ca/sexconf for further information.

June 23-26, 2005

Sizing Up America: Obesity Causes, Effects, and Solutions, American Association of Family & Consumer Science's 96th Annual Convention and Exposition in Minneapolis, MN. For more information, visit: www.aafcs.org

June 23-26, 2005

9th Annual CMFCE/Smart Marriages Conference, Dallas, TX. For more information, visit www.smartmarriages.com

November 16-19, 2005

The Multiple Meanings of Families, NCFR 67th Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency, Phoenix, AZ. For more information, contact NCFR: 888-781-9331, or visit the NCFR website at: www.ncfr.org

Upcoming Family Focus Topics

September 2005 - **Aging**

December 2005 - **Family Strengths**

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